More education equals more money

Those with an associate degree earn $7K more than those without

LAUREN DANIEL
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Students have different motives for getting a college degree; however, most of the drive behind those motives is one thing: money — and rightfully so.

Studies done by the National Center for Education Statistics concluded that people ages 25 to 34 who were working full time with higher levels of education had higher median annual earnings or, in plain terms: the higher your education, the more you are likely to earn.

The median income in 2011 for young adults with a bachelor's degree was $44,970 compared to $37,950 for those without a bachelor’s. Median income is the midpoint of all the salaries.

Depending on the level of education — associate degree, high school diploma or GED, no high school diploma — the income changes.

Those with an associate degree, on average, $7,000 more than someone with only a high school diploma or GED. There are two types of associate degrees — applied science or technical degree, and a university parallel associate degree.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist

See INCOME page 9

Fresh food vending machine installed

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For OCCC students seeking health-conscious snack options while on campus, a new vending machine that dispenses fresh food was installed in the General Dining Area Feb. 25, said Financial Accounting Director Brenda Carpenter.

See VENDING page 9
OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer hopes lawmakers will push for even stricter regulations

Bills call for no texts while driving

It's typically not too hard to spot someone who is texting and driving. Many times, they're having trouble staying in their lane, throwing their brakes on at the last second, don't notice when the light turns green, don't use their turn signal — the list is endless.

These are not characteristics of all people under the influence of technology but I think you could agree that most fit the description.

If you are one of these people, shame on you. Everyone on the road should not have to fear for their lives because you feel the need to send a text.

During the week of Feb. 21, two texting and driving bills passed in the Oklahoma Senate Public Safety Committee and are now on their way to being considered by the Senate as a whole.

The first bill, Senate Bill 442, is geared toward making composing, sending or reading a text while driving illegal. There will be fines for each time a person is caught using his or her phone to send or read texts while driving.

The first offense will be up to $30 and up to $50 fine for each offense after that.

There would be some exceptions to the bill such as: law enforcement officers, emergency personnel, emergency calls being made to law enforcement, hospitals, fire departments, doctors, health clinics and licensed individuals who are amateur radio callers.

The second bill, Senate Bill 1601, prohibits the use of a wireless device in a school zone when the speed limit reduction is in effect. An exception applies to emergency vehicle drivers or those contacting emergency authorities.

Senate Bill 1601 would have a fine of up to $250 and a fine of up to $500 if an accident was caused from cell phone use.

Oklahoma is not one of the first states to attempt to pass bills related to all drivers texting and driving. In fact, our state is actually one of the last.

According to www.textinganddrivingsafety.com, 39 states and the District of Columbia have laws against texting while driving.

The staggering statistics about texting and driving make me wonder why all states don’t have laws prohibiting the behavior.

Texting while behind the wheel makes having an accident 23 times more likely. In 2011, around 1.3 billion crashes — which is around 23 percent — of automobile accidents involved cell phones.

I completely agree with these new bills and fully anticipate they will pass in the Senate. However, I think they will be extremely hard to enforce.

Bill 442 does not address cell phone use outside of texting.

I think cell phone use while driving is a threat, whether it is texting or calling someone. I don’t think there is a way just to limit a particular use of a technological device that has so many capabilities.

This would be a huge inconvenience to people who do not have hands-free devices and I happen to be one of those people. I believe the safety of Oklahomans should be put above our needs to constantly be in communication with one another.

Lawmakers should reconsider their bill to include all cell phone use, not just texting.

—Lauren Daniel

Editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Criteria includes professional competence and more

Excellence in Teaching award nominees due March 28

To the editor:

The President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented during the spring of each year to a full-time faculty member who exemplifies teaching excellence.

The office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs administers the process of receiving nominees and developing recommendations to the President.

To be considered for this award a faculty member may be nominated by a fellow faculty member, by a current or former student or by a staff member.

Nominations will be accepted from all members of the college community. OCCC staff and faculty must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their name if the request is made in writing.

The recipient of the award will be announced during commencement exercises. At that time, the recipient will be presented a plaque and cash award of $1,000 and a certificate, for a total of $1,500.

The awardee must be a full-time faculty member, currently teaching at the college or the publisher.

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

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

The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscurity. Letters should be no more than 250 words. Students must list their major. OCCC staff and faculty must list their work title.

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

—Felix J. Aquino

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Vol. 42 No. 24

PIONEER

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

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COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

FOOD REVIEW | Reviewer says diet chocolate better than real deal

Skinny Cow treats tasty, low-cal

People who are on diets often think they can’t eat sweets or splurge every once in a while. I think one of the most depressing things is being on a diet and not being able to eat my favorite candy bar, let alone a piece of chocolate.

Skinny Cow products have changed my life. They offer six different types of low-calorie chocolate candy, which includes Dreamy Clusters, Heavenly Crisps and Divine Filled Chocolates.

The chocolate doesn’t taste low calorie at all. I would even go so far to say that it tastes better than regular chocolate. Even when my family is not watching our eating habits, we still prefer Skinny Cow chocolate over regular fattening candy bars.

The Dreamy Clusters are probably my favorite. The clusters are caramel and crispy rice pieces covered in either milk or dark chocolate. For only 120 calories, the pouch of Dreamy Clusters includes five pieces, which makes you feel like you are eating quite a bit.

The Heavenly Crisps come in milk chocolate and peanut butter flavors. The milk chocolate flavor reminds me of a Kit Kat and the peanut butter flavor reminds me of Reese’s Sticks Wafer Bars, which are per serving.

In addition to their delicious chocolate candy, Skinny Cow also makes frozen snacks such as ice cream sandwiches, ice cream bars and ice cream cups. Skinny Cow is available in individual packaging, or in packs of six, all for around $5 at most local grocery stores.

Rating: A

—Lauren Daniel
Editor

PRODUCT REVIEW | It’s difficult to decide which is worse — logo or drink

Blue Voltage just doesn’t Dew it

Combine lemon with lime and you get Sprite. Combine every soda flavor and you get Dr. Pepper. Combine anything yellow with fructose and you get Mountain Dew. Combine Mountain Dew with blue raspberry and you get Voltage, a bubbly, sticky nightmare.

First of all, blue raspberry is just another joke from the smug suits at the advertising companies. It’s nothing but a color to offset whatever red or pink nonsense flavor happens to be shelved next to it. You’ll never see a standalone blue raspberry candy. Also, every product that calls itself “blue raspberry” tastes like the same thing: non raspberries. I’ve never eaten a blue raspberry (they actually exist), but I’m sure they don’t taste like watermelon Splenda.

However, if you’ve always wanted to drink a Jolly Rancher, Voltage is for you.

The Voltage logo is honestly more annoying than the flavor. Beside the fact that they abbreviated the word “Mountain” wrong, there is a crack of blue lightning behind the mighty peak of Mount Dew. It had to be lightning — like Gatorade — instead of maybe a raspberry.

If kids chug this horrible substance at soccer practice like they do Gatorade, the outcome won’t be good. Mountain Dew Voltage, the drink that makes fat dreams, should be illegal.

Mountain Dew seems like the first step toward the future we see in horror films. I don’t mean like “The Road Warrior.” I mean the advanced future where everyone wears the same clothing and feeds on the same protein liquid.

Mountain Dew is well on its way to becoming humankind’s sole nutrition. If you love Mountain Dew, you need to try it sober.

In Voltage’s favor, it is fun. If I saw Voltage on the shelf when I was 9, I would have lost my mind. It looks cool. It looks extreme. I even felt a slight giddy delight when I watched the blue liquid cascade across the ice in my cup. But when I tasted it, the fun ended.

Some rules are timeless. Don’t talk to strangers. Don’t eat yellow snow. And never drink blue soda.

Rating: D

—Jake McMahon
Videographer

Financial Aid FACTS

Financial Aid advisers want to help

What do you mean I’m no longer eligible for financial aid? Often students forget that continued eligibility for financial aid includes making satisfactory academic progress. In other words, students have to make good enough grades and complete enough classes to keep moving toward successfully completing a degree or certificate in a time period that’s acceptable to Federal rules. In student terms this means eight out of 12 credits must be successfully completed which gives little room for failing or withdrawing from a class.

Case in point: Suzy Student is enrolled in four classes, totaling 12 credits. She is struggling in her math class and feels certain she will not make a passing grade. Around the mid-term test, Suzy withdraws from her math class to avoid a failing grade. Unfortunately, she also is having a tough time in English but decides to stick it out. At the end of the semester Suzy is happy to learn she has earned a “B” in two classes but to her dismay, she failed her English class. Although her withdrawal prevented an “F” on her Suzy’s GPA, the “W” grade had the same impact as an “F” on her pace of progress. Suzy successfully completed six of the 12 credits, which does not meet the criteria for satisfactory progress.

Because Suzy did not meet satisfactory progress, she received a letter in her OCCC student email. The letter explained that Suzy was on Financial Aid Warning status due to failure to progress. Suzy is an adult and she does not like being warned. Her letter said something about needing to successfully complete her classes in the next semester or risk losing her eligibility for financial aid. Suzy thinks blah, blah, blah!

Here at OCCC, the Financial Aid Office wants to help students successfully complete their degree plans. Students are encouraged to seek out Academic Advisers to assist with successful completion of coursework. Also, a good grasp of the full consequences of failing or withdrawing from a class empowers students to make good decisions. To learn all the facts about Satisfactory Academic Progress visit our webpage at: http://occc.edu/financialaid/pdf/sap.pdf. Students who are uncertain about how their grades or withdrawals may impact their Financial Aid eligibility may contact a Financial Aid Adviser.

—Sonya Gore
Student Financial Aid Director
**COMMENTS AND REVIEWS**

**SERIES REVIEW | TV show is competition entertainment with a big dose of ferocity**

**RuPaul takes viewers to drag queen heaven**

On Feb. 25, America became far fiercer than it’s ever been.

With the premiere of its sixth season, “RuPaul’s Drag Race” sped into our living rooms with another gaggle of glitter-clad men wearing over-the-top outfits and five pounds of circus makeup.

The competition, which premiered on Logo TV in 2009, pits drag queens against one another in various acting, modeling, singing, dancing and other entertaining challenges to test their “charm, uniqueness, nerve and talent.”

For those unaware of drag culture, “RuPaul’s Drag Race” can read as a show glorifying men in dresses; however, the show’s creativity proves that it’s much more than a Saturday night out in San Francisco.

Some competitors have spent years performing as drag queens and they’ve got the blisters on their feet to prove it.

In its premiere episode, RuPaul stunned audiences everywhere as only seven contestants were revealed to compete. Later on, RuPaul informed viewers that “two big openings are better than one,” and announced that the remaining seven queens would appear on the second episode.

In part one of the premiere, RuPaul kept close watch on her first flock of queens as they posed for a photo challenge and then debuted personalized costumes tailored after TV shows such as “Duck Dynasty” and “Dancing with the Stars.”

**RESTAURANT REVIEW | Customers can make their own creations or order from a specialty menu**

**Hideaway Pizza best pie joint around**

It’s basically a fact that pizza is the most popular food among college students. The problem with pizza is that if it’s cheap, it tastes bad, and if it tastes good, it’s too expensive.

Hideaway Pizza provides the perfect balance between price and taste. There are a few starters that I would recommend everyone purchase when eating at Hideaway.

The first starter you must try is the “Garlic Knots” — bread in knot shapes brushed with garlic, butter, parsley and baked until they are golden brown. It’s $5.95 for six knots.

The other starter I highly recommend are the “Fried Mozzarella Sticks.” They are crispy and golden brown with the freshest mozzarella cheese. They cost $6.95 for a plate of eight.

Although their starters are great, the real reason everyone goes to Hideaway is for the pizza.

Hideaway’s crust is irresistible because it has just the right amount of crunch and fluffiness. I am a big fan of crust and their crust is by far my favorite of any pizza place in Oklahoma.

Their Hideaway red sauce, which is their own secret recipe, is simply great pizza sauce. Not only is it extremely tasty, they also put the perfect amount on each pizza.

Hideaway offers a vast array of specialty pizza combinations, such as “The ATW” and “Mama Mia Meatball.” They also offer specialty veggie pizzas such as the standard “Margherita-old world” and “Hideaway style.”

Small specialty pizzas are $12.95, mediums are $16.05 and larges are $20.65.

Customers also can create their own pizzas all the way from the crust to the toppings, which are $8.95 for a small, $10.95 for a medium and $13.95 for a large. However, additional toppings cost extra.

Hideaway also offers sandwiches, baked pasta and dessert.

If you are looking for a great place to go with friends to get some delicious pizza on a budget, Hideaway is the perfect place.

To find a location near you, visit www.hideawaypizza.com/locations.

**Rating:** A+

—Lauren Daniel

**Editor**

**TOP 20 MOVIES**

Weekend of Feb. 28 through March 2

www.newyorktimes.com

1. Non-Stop
2. Son of God
3. The Lego Movie
4. 3 Days to Kill
5. The Monuments Men
6. RoboCop
7. Pompeii
8. Frozen
9. About Last Night
10. Ride Along
11. American Hustle
12. Endless Love
13. The Wind Rises
14. Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues
15. The Wolf of Wall Street
16. Philomena
17. Lone Survivor
18. 12 Years a Slave
19. Gravity
20. The Nut Job
NATIONAL EDUCATION FOR WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP TAKING APPLICATIONS THROUGH MARCH 14

Female students encouraged to apply for institute

LAUREN DANIEL
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The National Education for Women’s Leadership Institute will be held May 16 through 20 on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. The institute is for women who are interested in politics and helping the community, said Lauren Schueler, N.E.W. Leadership assistant director.

"... The institute is for women [who] are politically minded ...," Schueler said.

"We’re looking for people who are looking to go into some kind of public service or non-profit work — something that’s going to be of benefit to the public."

Schueler said the N.E.W. institute brings in around 50 women leaders from all over the state to provide students with insight about their future careers.

"So, it’s a lot of networking for young women with elected officials, women that are working in the non-profit sector, business, lawyers, all kinds of things like that," she said.

The women also will participate in skill-building activities, such as learning their strengths, Schueler said. She said students can learn how to form an effective team by learning what they are good at and what others can help with.

"One of the skill building workshops [is] ... they do a strengths finder ... and [learn] how you build a team around having various strengths and working to put people on your team that have different strengths than you, so you have a very well-rounded team," she said.

Schueler said students will collaborate on running a mock campaign.

"The students are split up into two teams and they actually get to see what it’s like to do the logistics of running a campaign, not necessarily being the candidate, but working on the field team, working with a budget for a campaign, doing the communication work, putting out press releases, and getting the message out there, speech writing — all of those things that kind of factor into a campaign," she said.

Schueler said the institute also allows students to participate in an action project, which requires them to choose an important issue in politics, such as education reform, teen pregnancy and female incarceration.

However, she said, the ultimate project for the institute is when the students get to participate in a mock senate hearing.

"We give them a house or senate bill from the state legislature, and they have to work through that. The ultimate project is to present their side in front of a mock senate hearing, advocating for their side, or saying why they oppose the bill."

Although the institute provides opportunity to grow personally and educationally, Schueler said it also provides professional growth for students.

Networking is a huge part of the N.E.W. Institute, she said. The women all stay together, which allows them to get to know one another and make connections that could change their futures.

"We rent the Alpha Phi house here at OU, and we all stay together at the Alpha Phi house for the five-day period. Schueler said the program is not the easiest to get into. She said more and more women apply every year, but only 35 are accepted.

"We accept approximately 35 undergraduate women from all over the state of Oklahoma, so it’s really any undergraduate woman, any major," she said. "It doesn’t matter if they’re non-traditional students, just that they’re enrolled in an undergraduate program at a two-year institution or a four-year institution in the state."

The application can be found on the N.E.W. Leadership website at www.ou.edu/carlalbertcenter/leadership/newl-about.

Schueler said besides basic information, applicants are required to submit a résumé and must answer three short essays, all less than 350 words.

Applications are due Friday, March 14.

The institute is free for those accepted. Students will only need to pay for their transportation to the OU campus, Schueler said. She urges students to apply for the N.E.W. institute.

"I think student should take advantage of this opportunity, because it’s a fantastic opportunity to not only work with powerful women from all over the state of Oklahoma, but also to network with future leaders that they could potentially work with when they move on to their career in the future," she said.

Schueler said it’s a great opportunity for students to lay groundwork early.

"[It helps them] springboard into their careers."

To fill out the application, or for more information, visit www.ou.edu/carlalbertcenter/leadership/newl-about or contact Schueler at 405-325-4934.
Spring break destinations a short drive away

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Spring Break begins March 17, and there are a few affordable destinations within driving distance of Oklahoma City for students planning last-minute trips, said Angela Hendricks, certified travel agent and travel specialist of Bentley Hedges Travel in Oklahoma City.

“We just don’t have anything available for spring break unless they’re [driving], and we can certainly help with hotels and sightseeing and fun things to do,” Hendricks said.

“So if you want to drive … Galveston is really a cool place to go. They might have some space left on some the cruises.”

She said there are places closer to home as well.

“Tulsa has an aquarium. They’ve got lots of cool nightlife there.”

Hendricks said using said a travel agency is much more beneficial than booking a trip with an online resource. She said the agents at Bentley Hedges Travel have personally visited many destinations so their feedback is firsthand and reliable.

Travel Consultant Michele Ward of Break-Away Travel in Oklahoma City said for those wanting to get out of Oklahoma, “South Padre is always cheap” and is within driving distance.

Ward said ski destinations are options to consider as well.

“Taos is always good (and) Santa Fe because it’s an easy drive,” Ward said. “Durango, Colo., is another one.”

Ward said destinations such as Keystone, Colo., offer inexpensive condos, perfect for groups of students traveling together.

The nearby states of Louisiana and Kansas also are great destinations, she said.

“New Orleans is always fun,” Ward said. “Kansas City and the Country Club area is similar to Bricktown [in Oklahoma City] or the Riverwalk in San Antonio.”

For a more family-friendly destinations, Ward said, St. Louis is a great place to visit.

“St. Louis is kinda fun — (there’s) a lot of stuff to there,” she said. “You have the Busch Garden Area, the Arch … .”

With Dallas three hours away, Austin six hours away and a number of desirable destinations surrounding the Metro, both agents said OCCC students should have no trouble finding an ideal getaway for spring break.

FUN THINGS TO DO IN THE STATE

Blue Bell Creamery, Broken Arrow
Take a 45 minute tour of the Blue Bell Creamery for a small cost of $3 for adults, or $2 for seniors and children from ages 6 to 14. Tours are available from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, but must be made by appointment. To make an appointment, call 918-258-5100.

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum- OKC
Native American objects, Western paintings, firearms, cowboy gear, shopping and dining are all options at this museum. Admission is $12.50 for adults, $9.75 for seniors and students with valid ID, and $5.75 for children over 4.

Oklahoma City Zoo- OKC
Boasting animals great and small, the OKC Zoo also offers rides, concessions and shopping for an exciting day. Admission is $8 for adults and $5 for children ages 3 to 11.

Sam Noble Museum of Natural History- Norman
Carnivorous plants, reptiles and amphibians,iped animals in the Hall of Natural Wonders, art, shopping at the Excavation Museum Store, and dining at the RedBud Cafe. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $3 for children ages 6 to 17, and free to OU students and children 5 and under.

Oklahoma City Museum of Art- OKC
This museum has a current exhibition: “Come on Down” by Lisa Hoke. Collections of American art, European art, and photography. Films, a museum cafe and the museum store. Admission is $12 for adults, $10 for seniors, college students and children ages 6 to 18 and $5 for military.

Oklahoma Route 66 Museum-Clinton
This museum offers special changing exhibits focusing on Route 66, a 50’s diner and a gift shop. Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors, $1 for students (ages 6 to 18) and free for children 5 and under.

Jenks Aquarium- Jenks
Feed and touch small sharks and stingrays, see thousands of freshwater and saltwater fish, eat lunch at the Snack Bar, and browse the Aquarium Gift Shop. Admission is $13.95 for adults, $11.95 for seniors and military, $9.95 for children ages 3 to 12 and free for children 2 and under.

Sod House Museum- Aline
Built in 1894 by Marshall McCully it is the only sod house remaining from the thousands that were once on the prairies of Oklahoma. Admission is $4 for adults, $3 for seniors, $2 for children ages 6 to 18 and free for children under 6. Located at 4628 State Highway 8 in Aline, Okla.

G. W. Exotic Animal Park-Wynnewood
A sanctuary for unwanted and abused exotic animals, this park is a memorial to human loved ones. Visitors can see over 500 animals of over 100 different species, visit the G. W. gift shop, and camp at the G. W. Lake resort. Admission prices vary. For more information, visit www.gwzoos.org.

Toy and Action Figure Museum - Pauls Valley
Visit the Toy and Action Figure Museum to see more than 13,000 action figures and hundreds of drawings done by cartoonists. March is “Turtle Power Month,” which features the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Admission is $6 plus tax for children and adults, $4 plus tax for seniors, and children 2 and under are free.

—www.travelokc.com
Child Development Center cultivates curious minds

Carson, 1, rides through the Outside Classroom at the Child Development Center and Lab School while his classmates play on various other toys. Children at the center range from six weeks to age 3 in the infant and toddler classes and older 3-year-olds, and 4- and 5-year-olds in the preschool classes.

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Lab Supervisor LeeAnn Townsend said the children at OCCC’s Child Development Center and Lab School have been busy studying about families, simple objects and recipes.

The children at the center range from 6 weeks to 3 years in the infant and toddler classes and older 3-year-olds, and 4- and 5-year-olds in the preschool classes.

Townsend said the Child Development Center uses the "Project Approach" in its curriculum. She said each class has a specific project to follow.

"[We] take things that the children have already had some real-life experiences with and then, find out what they already know about it," Townsend said. "The research shows that if children are studying things they already know a little bit about, [it’s] meaningful knowledge that they’re learning," she said. "They’ll retain it because it’s something they can [already] sort in their brain."

She said one toddler class is currently completing a project over simple objects, such as balls, while another class is studying families.

She said the toddlers working on the family project are beginning to recognize they have families both at home and at school.

Child Development Teacher Heather Pierce said the projects are based on the children’s interests.

“So, we see what they’re interested in in the classroom and we try to go more in depth with those interests.”

Pierce said a student in her class has a new baby sister so studying families seemed like a good idea.

“[We] take things that the children have already had some real-life experiences with and then, find out what they already know about it,” Townsend said.

"So we’re talking a lot about family, like, how families are different, how they’re the same, where they live, things that they eat, things that might be different, — how everyone’s family is different," Pierce said. " … We’re also talking about our school family — how there are different kinds of families.”

Child Development Teacher Connie Pidgeon teaches a preschool class. She said the center is much more than a place for children to stay while their parents work.

" … They can enroll here when they’re 3 or 4 or 5 months old, and then end up coming to me when they’re 3 years old and staying with me until they’re 5 — until they age out and go to kindergarten. So basically, they could stay with me for three years.

“Continuity of the care is really important — for them to have the same teacher.”

Toddler Teacher Carrie Sitz said she tries to help her class understand the importance of being helpful.

“[In infant and toddler classes], we probably may focus a little on the toddlers also looking out for the little ones and helping the little ones if they need it — be kind of a big helper to them.”

Pierce said not all of the learning takes place indoors either.

“Looking outside, you’d see what you may call a playground,” she said. “In fact, the staff refers to this as the ‘outside classroom’.

“Research shows that children this age learn through play. So that’s what we do.”

The CDCLS is located at 6500 S Land Ave. in the Family and Community Education Center.

According to its website, “The CDCLS is recognized as one of the nation’s outstanding centers. It is licensed by the State of Oklahoma with a three star rating which is renewed annually. The Center is also accredited nationally by the Academy, a branch of the National Association of the Education of Young Children.

“The teaching staff is experienced in working with children of various ages and backgrounds. The Child Development Teachers hold Bachelor Degrees in Child Development, Early Childhood Education or a related field. A number of our Child Development Teachers also hold Master Degrees in these fields.”

OCCC’s Child Development Center and Lab School provides services for community members as well as scheduled childcare exclusive for OCCC students.

For more information about the CDCLS, call 405-682-7561, or visit www.occc.edu/childdev.
SPORTS

Students given free use of local YMCA

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If your spring break plans include staying fit, Earlywine Park YMCA Director Paul Urquhart said their facilities are open to anyone with an OCCC ID from Monday, March 17, through Sunday, March 23, while the OCCC campus is closed.

With valid identification, Urquhart said, OCCC faculty, students and staff can access everything the Earlywine Park YMCA has to offer.

“They’ll be able to come in and [use] the pool, the fitness center and the rec classes,” he said.

He said anyone visiting the YMCA from OCCC needs to check in at the welcome desk each day before using the facilities.

“They’ll only be able to come March 17 through the 23,” Urquhart said.

Urquhart previously allowed OCCC students and faculty to use the Earlywine Park YMCA’s Aquatic Center when the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics hosted its swim meet at OCCC.

Along with its state-of-the-art Aquatic Center, Urquhart said, the Earlywine Park YMCA boasts free weights and cardio machines as well as several group fitness classes.

He said the fitness classes include kick-boxing, yoga, Pilates, and Zumba plus a number of water aerobic courses.

Some OCCC students have already expressed interest in visiting the Earlywine Park YMCA during spring break.

“I live near there,” said business management major Chad McKee.

McKee said since he has access to the Earlywine Park YMCA and lives around the corner, he might consider checking out the facilities.

Khari Huff, Recreation and Fitness coordinator, said the Earlywine Park YMCA is the only YMCA facility allowing OCCC this opportunity.

Huff said childcare will not be provided.

She said it also is important that anyone using the Earlywine facilities consider themselves representatives of OCCC while there.

Urquhart said the Earlywine Park YMCA is located at 11801 S May Ave and is open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information about using the Earlywine Park YMCA, contact Paul Urquhart at 405-378-0420 or contact the Campus Recreation office at 405-682-7860.

For more information about the facility, visit www.ymcaokc.org/locations/earlywinepark

Getting fit

Shamra Tracy, a literature major gets fit in the ‘Sets & Reps Combo’ class. Those in the class perform a variety of exercises such as land aerobics, and sets and reps with weights. To learn more about this class or others offered by OCCC, visit www.occc.edu/rf.

SPORTS | OCCC Recreation and Fitness area will be closed during spring break

• March 17 - 23:
  Spring Break. OCCC will be closed. Earlywine Park YMCA will allow OCCC students with a valid ID to use their facilities during this time. Call 405-378-0420 for more information.

• March 24 - April 21:
  Intramural Kickball. Team Registration deadline is March 23. Individual registration deadline is April 7. Call 405-682-7860 for more information.

• March 26 - April 23:
  Intramural 4v4 Football. Team Registration deadline is March 24. Individual registration deadline is April 9. Call 405-682-7860 for more information.

• March 28 - May 2:
  Intramural 7v7 Soccer. Team Registration deadline is March 26. Individual registration deadline is April 11. Call 405-682-7860 for more information.

• Spring semester:
  Visit www.occc.edu/rf/swimming-diving to enroll in a number of events held in the college's Aquatic Center.
Income: The higher the degree, the more money earned

Continued from page 1

said an applied science or technical (associate in applied science A.A.S.) degree allows students to go straight into their career after graduating, versus transferring to a university for a parallel program.

“[Transferring to a four-year institution] is less important for students who receive an A.A.S. (applied) degree,” Sechrist said.

“These programs are not designed for transfer but for preparation for a professional or technical occupation that requires an associate degree as the minimum degree level.”

Some examples include associate of applied science in nursing (R.N.), film and video production, biotechnology research assistant, physical therapy assistant, certified occupational therapy assistant, and licensed paramedic.

“The earning potential of an applied associate degree actually is greater than the average bachelor’s degree,” Sechrist said.

In 2011, the median income for people with a bachelor’s degree was $44,970, which is 50 percent higher than those with only a high school diploma.

People with a bachelor’s degree also earned 21 percent more than those with only an associate degree.

“Although students who receive an A.A.S. degree do not have to transfer, Sechrist said, he recommends students earn an A.S. or A.A. transfer and complete a bachelor’s degree.

“It is very important to transfer and complete a four-year bachelor’s degree to receive the full benefit,” he said.

“Essentially these transfer degrees are the first two years of a four-year degree program.”

Frederick Kordsiemon, mechanical engineering major, plans to transfer to the University of Oklahoma after completing his associate degree.

“I want to, as soon as I come out, be able to find something that will fit me, that will suit me and something that I enjoy also something that…will work…,” Kordsiemon said.

Many students start out at OCCC to save money or acclimate themselves to the college pace.

Sechrist said while earning an associate degree before earning a bachelor’s degree does have some benefits, students in the job force with an associate degree and bachelor’s degree are looked at no differently than those with only a bachelor’s degree.

“Having an associate’s degree before you do transfer does have some advantages, but it is not essential if in fact you transfer and complete the bachelor’s degree,” he said.

“However, if a student has to drop out of college or for some reason, never completes the bachelor’s degree, having an associate degree is significantly better than having no degree at all.”

Vending: Fresh food selections available in new machine

Continued from page 1

Carpenter said the new machine dispenses fresh food and beverages, including deli sandwiches, hamburgers and milk.

“We have healthy selections in there,” she said. “We have milk, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, sandwiches ….

“It’ll be available 24 hours a day.”

Carpenter said the new vending machine accepts both cash and credit cards to make it convenient for evening students.

“We’re going to track the sales on it and see how it goes,” she said.

She said students should see the machine for what it is — a convenience.

“Vending machines are what they are,” she said. “They dispense things in a hurry …

She said the sandwiches in the machine run around $3.50.

“We try to keep the prices in line with what would be charged in the cafeteria or in the bookstore.

“… Anything out of a vending machine is going to cost you more.

“We try to keep our prices competitive.”

Carpenter said this isn’t the first time a fresh food vending machine has been available.

“My concern was that we had a fresh food machine once before, and we had problems with the food getting stale and old in it … so we had it removed,” said.

“’We’re giving it another try since we received complaints about nothing being available in the evening.’

Carpenter said the vending machines that were already available have healthy food.

“We got a negative rating on our [current] vending machines, which I totally disagree with,” Carpenter said.

“There are healthy selections in those vending machines … you don’t have to buy the high fat chips or the high sugar candy … you can buy a granola bar.”

She said she worked together with Consolidated, OCCC’s third-party food vendor, and Imperial, a local vending machine company, to have the fresh-food machine installed in the College Union.

“The problem with a fresh food machine is, of course, the fresh food,” Carpenter said.

“The food is actually made … in kitchens and they’ll keep an eye on it to make sure it stays fresh.”

She said the new vending machine will be serviced frequently to ensure the freshness of the food.

Carpenter said it’s important that OCCC students take advantage of the new vending machine because otherwise it will be removed.

For more information, contact Carpenter at 405-682-7367 or email her at bcarpenter@occc.edu.
OCCC looking for talented people

SIALI SIAOSI
Staff Writer
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If you sing in the shower, strum air-guitar or dance like no one is watching, OCCC’s Got Talent is looking for you.

The Future Alumni Network, also known as the FAN Club, is sponsoring a talent contest on May 7 in the Bruce Owen Theater.

“OCCC’s Got Talent is a spring fundraiser [for the OCCC Foundation Scholarship Fund] …,” said Randy Cassimus, Alumni Relations coordinator.

“It’s a talent show that is open to students, faculty, staff and graduates.

“It’s an opportunity for any of the [contestants] to win some pretty fabulous cash prizes.”

Cassimus said contestants can audition for OCCC’s Got Talent by visiting www.occc.edu/talent.

He said the deadline for the online application is March 25.

“We’re really excited because we think it’s going to appeal to the entire OCCC family,” Cassimus said.

“We’re encouraging any and all to enter.”

Cassimus said he encourages all acts to audition, including singers, dancers and comedians. He said the performances can consist of anything as long as it adheres to the regulations found on the OCCC’s Got Talent webpage.

Some OCCC students expressed excitement at the opportunity to display their talents.

“I didn’t know we were having a talent show,” said public relations major Carlton Thompson.

“I might enter. I might play drums. I’ve been playing drums since I was in the sixth grade … Now I play for the Oklahoma City Thunder Drummers.”

“I’ve played marching snare for a long time,” he said.

Theater major Alexis Ward said she would sing if she were selected to compete in OCCC’s Got Talent.

“Almost is Never Enough’ (by Ariana Grande) would be my song of choice,” she said.

Business marketing major Zachary Williams said he would sing a soulful song for the talent contest as well.

“I would probably sing a Boys II Men song …,” Williams said.

“Back to One’ is a classic — everyone knows that one,” he said. “I’ve been singing since I was 6.”

Philosophy major Judy Triana said if she entered the contest, her talent would be acting. She said she would either perform a dramatic monologue or a comedic skit.

“I’m a great liar,” Triana said.

“I like the joy that [acting] brings to people, especially comedy … You can [have] the worst day ever and it goes away once you watch your favorite show.”

Cassimus said there are two ways to win the talent contest.

One grand prize winner will be selected by the panel of guest judges and the second grand prize will be awarded to the finalist who raises the most donations for the OCCC Foundation Scholarship Fund.

For more information about OCCC’s Got Talent, contact Cassimus at 405-682-1611, ext. 7478, or visit www.occc.edu/talent.
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.

### AUTOMOTIVE

**FOR SALE:** 1994 White Saturn model SC1. Body type CP, 169,000 miles. Asking $800.00. Call 212.6027 for more information.

### FURNITURE

**FOR SALE:** 40” CRT television in excellent condition. The big screen makes it great for a gaming TV in the kids’ room. $30. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**FOR SALE:** Bed liner for standard long bed pickup w/ tailgate liner. $75. GC. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures or more information.

**FOR SALE:** This space. For just $8 per week, you could advertise your business here. For more rate information, email adman@occc.edu.

**TUTIOR WANTED:** Part-time tutor wanted for Accounting I and Macroeconomics. Pay is negotiable. This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to make extra money. Text 405-443-8448.

**FOR SALE:** 40" CRT television in excellent condition. The big screen makes it great for a gaming TV in the kids’ room. $30. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

**FOR SALE:** Collector’s Item! “Star Wars” Hayden Christensen autographed photo in plastic protector & Certificate of Authenticity. $60. Text 405-818-0083 for more information.

**FOR SALE:** HP office jet all-in-one printer. New color and B&W cartridges. Power cord. Works great. $50. 405-602-6499 or 405-568-5996.


**FOR SALE:** New size 26 jeans — never been worn. Brands include Vans, Levi’s and Zumiez. $10 per pair. Retail for $40 each. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

**FOR SALE:** 1994 White Saturn model SC1. Body type CP, 169,000 miles. Asking $800.00. Call 212.6027 for more information.

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Oklahoma poetry discussion focus of Brown Bag

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Local poet Karen Kay Knauss said she plans to share the beauty of the Sooner State as she presents her new book “77 Pieces of Poetry About Oklahoma” during an upcoming Brown Bag Lecture Series.

Knauss said she wrote the book after numerous thefts recently reported to campus police.

Numerous thefts recently reported to campus police

LAUREN DANIEL
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Several thefts were recently reported to campus police.

At 3:55 p.m. Feb. 22, Cultural Programs Director Lemuel Bardeguez reported eight mini-mag flashlights had been stolen from his office in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Bardeguez said the flashlights had been placed in a cubicle located in VPAC 161 the night before an event on campus.

Officer Jeffrey McIntire told Bardeguez he would review surveillance video and contact Bardeguez if there were any new developments.

A few days later, Bookstore Director Brenda Reinke reported there had been a theft in the bookstore at 12:40 p.m. on Feb. 26.


Officer Daniel Piazza checked video surveillance and confirmed an unidentified white man arrived on campus in a dark-colored compact car. He was let out near the campus Plaza, entered Main Building Entry 2, then entered the bookstore. The report shows the suspect stayed briefly, then left the bookstore. He pulled a book out of his jacket after being out of view from the bookstore. The suspect exited the building through the Arts and Humanities Entry 2. The incident is still under investigation.

OCCC student Taylor Click, 20, reported her white Samsung Galaxy S III with a clear cover had been stolen at around 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 27.

Click told Officer Jeremy Bohannon she had let someone she met on Facebook borrow her phone while he left campus. The suspect never returned. Click said she tried to contact the suspect through Facebook but the suspect had blocked her. Click said the phone did not have a security passcode.

Bohannon sent a text to the phone to return the phone to the OCCC Police Department immediately, but there was no response.

Click was told to contact her wireless provider to suspend service and track the device if possible. The case is still under investigation.

Some names were redacted on the reports under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan who said names are redacted “according to OCCC PD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld.”

To obtain a copy of the procedure, email cjordan@occc.edu.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-7872.