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EDITORIAL

SCHOOLS NEED TO COVER MORE HISTORY

Videographer Jake McMahon says students should be learning about current historical events such as Sept. 11. Read his thoughts inside.

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NEWS

OCCC BOAT TEAMS ROW TO DRUM BEAT

The college has two Dragon Boat teams made up of faculty, staff, students and community members. Find out more about the fun on pages 6 and 7.

NEWS, p. 6 & 7

SPORTS

WELLNESS CENTER TO GET UPDATE

Outdated workout equipment will soon be a thing of the past in OCCC's weight room. Turn inside to find out what to expect.

SPORTS, p. 8

COMMUNITY

GET THE 411 AT UPCOMING TRANSFER FAIR

Students can learn more about the transfer process and meet reps from other colleges from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 24. Read more about the fair inside.

COMMUNITY, p. 10



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PIONEER

SEPT. 12, 2014

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



Study time

Diversified Studies major Mariah Garner and Physics major Emilia Baker study together in the break area in the Arts and Humanities building located just inside AH Entry 2. There are a number of tables and study areas located throughout the campus.

ETHAN COOPER/
 PIONEER

Caution urged when signing for money

College official says borrow only what is needed; pay it back

BRYCE MCELHANEY
 Editor
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Community colleges enroll about 40 percent of all undergraduate students in the nation. Only 17 percent of those students use federal loans, but with college costs rising faster than available grant aid or family incomes, more students need to borrow to help fill the gap, according to a report by acct.org. Many students who take on debt have trouble making their loan payments.

Student Financial Aid Director Sonya Gore said she's still waiting for the official Department of Education FY '14 report on student loan default rates, but

is anticipating it to be around 21 percent for OCCC students — a decline from FY '13's 26.2 percent default rate.

Gore said her calculations are based on the 520 OCCC students who have defaulted on their loans in FY '14. She said 2,455 OCCC students entered into a repayment process during that time. Students who are in danger of default are given a chance to enter into a repayment process before the loan actually goes into default, she said.

Gore said those numbers are based on a Department of Education report dated Oct. 1, 2011, through Sept. 30, 2013.

"That's the number of students who actually went into repayment at that time," she said. "Right now, we're waiting to get our official three-year ... default rate (report).

"(The Department of Edu-

cation) released the unofficial ... default (report) and it's right at 21 percent, which is pretty good for what our history has been."

Gore said the defaulted loan amounts average \$2,424, ranging from \$60 to \$9,500.

"Most of those students (who defaulted) did not graduate," she said. "... It's typical across the nation ... that these students attended a semester, and dropped

out and never stayed in touch with it," she said.

Gore said the best thing students can do to prevent defaulting on their loans is to keep in touch with their loan service providers.

"Over the history of student loans, the service providers have changed and many times

See **LOANS** page 9

President says he benefitted from loans

BRYCE MCELHANEY
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President Paul Sechrist said federal loans are a fact of life for many students — as they were for him when he was in still

attending college.

"As long as one does not borrow too much, borrowing some may make the difference in getting the degree, as it did in my case," he said.

See **SECHRIST** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer wonders why public schools don't teach anything past WWII

Schools lacking in history area

I was eight years old when the Sept. 11 attacks happened. See, some people belonging to the terrorist group al-Qaeda hijacked four airplanes. Two were crashed into the World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon, and a fourth plane heading to Washington DC was brought down in a field in Pennsylvania by some of the brave passengers on board.



**JAKE
McMAHON**

None of this was taught to me in school. None of it. My teachers had almost 10 years to tell me about it, and I graduated without a single teacher telling me what the president's "War on Terror" was. But they sure talked my ear off about the Battle of Saratoga.

I only found out what happened on Sept. 11 because I happened to be curious. I asked my parents. They gave me a rough explanation and I went on my way. Because of that 10 minutes they spent talking to me, I was 10 minutes smarter than anyone I went to class with.

It's not that the Battle of Saratoga isn't important. Heck, it was the turning point of the Revolution. It got France on our side, for Pete's sake. It is, however, kind of harmful when we fixate on the past to the

point of ignoring our present. School turned us all into Uncle Rico from "Napoleon Dynamite." — always thinking about '82.

I'm not sure what today's third graders are being taught. Hopefully they're learning about 9/11 by now, but that's not good enough. Today's third graders need to know what's going on in Russia and Ukraine.

History repeats itself, so we need to learn it. Unfortunately, history is useless if you don't tie it in with what we're dealing with now. If we don't tell kids how Saratoga led up to this, history just becomes another fantasy story that has nothing to do with us. Christopher Columbus might as well be Frodo Baggins. For whatever reason, grade school history all seems to have the blurry World War II cutoff.

Many schools have a "Current Events" elective class where they can read a local newspaper while the football coach/teacher takes a nap at his desk. That's not a class. It's one step above watching Spongebob to learn marine biology.

Obviously, real history teachers can't teach current events because standardized tests don't include what happened in the past week. However, standardized tests rarely fall on the last day of class. They are normally at least a few weeks earlier.

I propose that as soon as standardized tests end, history classes devote the rest of the class to recent events, even if it's five days.



If today's children were taught about current events, two trends would take place. The first trend is, children would start caring about history. If ancient history is "Lord of the Rings" to these kids, then imagine how excited they would be to find out that "Lord of the Rings" not only has a sequel, but it never ended. In fact, they're part of it now.

Because of this first trend, a second will follow. When these kids are of voting age, they might actually vote. They might even vaguely care what is happening in the world.

At 21 years old, I'm just now starting to care. If I'd had a head start, who knows — maybe I'd know what I was talking about.

—JAKE McMAHON
VIDEOGRAPHER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | State official says when life-changing events occur, families need to be ready

National Preparedness month a reminder to have a plan

To the Editor:

Oklahomans are familiar with the toll disasters can bring in just moments. These disasters can often be life-changing and cause residents to react with additional stress and anxiety. When emergencies occur, it's also important to remember the impact disasters have on children and youth.

In observance of National Preparedness Month this September, the Oklahoma State Department of Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Service encourages parents to help reduce the effect of disasters on children by doing a few simple things.

For example, consider adding kid-friendly supplies to the basic emergency kit. In addition to survival items such as water and a flashlight, consider things such as books, games, a favorite toy or comfort item and even medical items such as infant/child fever

reducer. Those with babies should consider a three-day supply of formula, diapers, antibacterial wipes, non-perishable baby food and sealable plastic bags for soiled items.

Scott Sproat, Emergency Preparedness and Response director at OSDH, encourages parents to keep communication open with their children when responding to an event.

"It's important to have a family disaster plan and it's just as important to talk with your children about disasters," Sproat said. "According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children can cope more effectively with a disaster when they feel they understand what's happening and what they can do to help protect themselves, family and friends. Provide basic information to help them understand, without providing unnecessary details that may further trouble them."

Once the family is safe, children may still be frightened or confused. To reduce the amount of stress, the following steps may be taken:

- Limit the amount of intense media coverage.
- Be aware of changes in sleeping, eating and other behaviors which indicate stress. Seek professional support if they continue.
- Help children return to normal activities including school, sports and other extra-curricular activities.
- Make a point of recognizing and assisting other families affected by the disaster. This can give the child a sense of control, security and empathy.

Start preparing your family today by downloading, printing and completing a family plan by visiting www.ready.gov/make-a-plan.

—STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SERVICE

PIONEER

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

name if the request is made in writing.

The PIONEER has the right to edit all letters and submissions for length, libel and obscenity. Letters should be 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 <http://pioneer.occc.edu>.

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

PRODUCT REVIEW | Progressive Insurance has become a bit too nosy

Snapshot device a tiny, twisted narc

After reviewing things that impress me and some things that I've enjoyed, I wanted to challenge myself to write about something I hate. This is difficult as there is so little I hate aside from intolerance and music by The Eagles.

However, after much deliberation I've pinpointed an evil that irks me as much as Don Henley's disgusting, neutral melodies — Progressive insurance company's Snapshot device.

The Snapshot device is a tiny, filthy robot; a twisted narc that monitors your driving and tattles on you to your insurance company.

It plugs into your car, collecting GPS data and sitting mostly in silent judgment. It remains hidden under your dash and prefers to stay just quiet enough for you to forget it's there. Any time you brake hard

How it works—A little device is the key to saving



though, the confounded contraption will audibly ridicule you with a loud, nagging beep.

It's as if this thing's designed to test your threshold for road rage, pushing you closer to the breaking point with its every chirp.

The incessant beeping of this terrible thing draws sputtering vows of unspeakable viscousness from me like I'm possessed.

My morning commute leaves me ashamed of the beast I've become.

And still the Snapshot mocks me. I now find myself refusing to use my brakes at all.

Fearful of the beeping, I meet the challenge of every yellow traffic light, sometimes with breakneck acceleration.

I drift far into crosswalks and intersections, losing almost all regard for human life.

Beneath the robotic gaze of this cruel, new master, I bear down with my tiny car upon anything unlucky enough to turn or swerve into my direct path.

You think I'm joking but I'm not. Please forgive me for the carnage I cause and for my utter disregard for the rules of the road for I cannot stop.

I simply cannot endure another infernal beep from this thing. To Snapshot, I give my harshest rating yet.

Rating: B-

—**JORGE KRZYANIAK**
SPORTS WRITER

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Open 24 hours, Hurts on Campus Corner perfect for late-night snacking needs

Donut shop pricey but wonderful

I don't care who you are, how old you are, or where you live, we all have one thing in common — donuts. They're the best breakfast food, the best snack food, and even the best late-night snack food.

Recently, I was told about a new 24-hour donut shop on Campus Corner near the University of Oklahoma, Hurts Donuts.

So, one night after work, my friend and I drove to 746 Asp Ave. in Norman to get an after-dinner snack.

The building was a little difficult to find because it is hidden in a back alleyway. If there had not been a giant lit bandaid on the front, we would have driven right past it.

When I got out of the car, an overwhelming smell of fresh donuts greeted my nose, made my mouth water, and my stomach grumble.

The store had a typical college bakery atmosphere with sorority girls and frat guys everywhere sitting at tables.

Hurts had a great selection of donuts in their case, overflowing with around 20 flavors of highly creative donuts, plus cinnamon rolls, sausage rolls and kolaches.



The first donut I tasted was a typical yeast donut coated with vanilla icing and topped with Cinnamon Toast Crunch. It was divine. My taste buds were so happy while tasting the sweetness of the cereal mixed with the creamy icing and the flavorful yeast donut.

I couldn't leave without getting a dozen donuts to take home and share with my family the next morning.

I finally settled on getting a Reeses cake donut, Butterfinger cake donut, Fruit Loop topped donut, an M&M cake donut, an Animal Cookie, and

a few more.

The donuts were really good, making me happy that I went there. However, I will admit their prices are a bit expensive. Specialty donuts are \$2 and a maple bacon long john is \$3.

A dirty dozen costs \$15, so by the time I left, I had spent almost \$20 on fried dough.

If you're on OU's campus, stop by and get a donut — if you have a few bucks to spare.

Rating: A-

—**LAUREN DANIEL**
SENIOR WRITER



Music apps cater to each listener's moods

If you're like me, you prefer your life to function like a movie.

You like to jump out of bed, lip-synch Top 40 hits into your toothbrush and pretend you're Brad Pitt in his early acting career as you comb your hair back and practice pickup lines in the mirror.

Music is always essential when living life like a montage, so it's important to keep around the apps that cater to all your audio needs.

Slacker Radio is a free app dedicated to finding "the perfect music for any moment" as it organizes stations to suit a certain mood, according to its website at www.slacker.com.

Woke up on the wrong side of the bed? Slacker Radio serves up the Flaming Lips' hit "Do You Realize?" when users select the station constructed for a Euphoric Morning.

In the mood to relax and recharge? The Burn One Down playlist features hits like "Blueberry Yum Yum" by rapper Ludacris and "Prototype" by OutKast.

The Internet radio service also offers a search engine so users can construct their own playlists.

While Slacker functions similarly to Pandora, it's easy to use and fun when you're in the mood for a certain genre or type of song but aren't sure what to listen to.

If you're a fan of more traditional radio stations, Oklahoma City's newest hit radio station, Now 96.5, offers an app featuring a listening experience similar to listening live.

Unlike most radio stations, Now 96.5 prides itself on being all about the music, as it lacks any live DJs and streams music selections specific to "generation now."

Since 96.5 doesn't offer a variety of music options while playing for a certain audience, the app is definitely more handy for younger users.

However, it's an easy way to find something catchy to listen to, as it keeps up with the most popular artists and maintains consistency with current chart toppers.

Both Slacker Radio and Now 96.5's music apps provide good tunes for whatever you're feeling — and, at free of charge, that's the best soundtrack a life modeled after the movies can ask for.

Now if only you could afford hair and make up.

—**SIALI SIAOSI**
ONLINE EDITOR

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Reviewer says Oklahoma City eatery needs to make many improvements

Whiskey Cake a great place to be seen, but not eat

When my family comes to visit, two things are guaranteed to happen — we'll eat well and drink plenty.

That said, I thought taking my family to a hip Oklahoma City restaurant would be a good idea when they visited during Labor Day weekend.

It wasn't.

While Whiskey Cake Kitchen & Bar warranted first place in the Oklahoma Gazette's "Best of OKC" contest as the best national or regional chain restaurant, it earned an F as far as my family's eating experience was concerned.

Having lived in Norman two years, I'm used to hipsters with handlebar mustaches and girls who add Easter egg dye to their hair products.

However, as native southern New Mexicans, my family members were awestruck and offended at the atmosphere and menu options offered at Whiskey Cake.

Whiskey Cake, which is located at 1845 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City, just outside of Penn Square Mall, is a self-asserted scratch kitchen that prides itself on its farm-fresh entrees and fancy cocktails.

Upon entering the restaurant, one might think they've entered someone's inner-city loft — but, it's

just a terribly decorated restaurant.

The only accurate comparison I can think of consists of a crafty housewife's Pinterest account vomiting do-it-yourself projects all over Whiskey Cake's walls.

For whatever reason, there are antique couches and coffee tables inconveniently placed throughout the dining area, providing ample tripping opportunities for children and elderly folks making their way to the bathroom.

Other quirky decor items include upside down empty light bulbs holding kale plants and tacky plastic chickens perched upon distressed wooden dressers.

Whiskey Cake's food options were anything but traditional and featured entrees such as lamb, duck and brisket burgers — prompting my father to beg the question, "Where the hell are the steaks?"

And while I don't discredit the entire waitstaff at Whiskey Cake, I will say that our waiter in particular made the experience especially terrible.

He spoke softly, licked his lips at inappropriate times and kept describing food and drink items we never asked about — not to mention his ridiculous uniform featuring old man suspenders and discarded plastic 3D glasses.

While Whiskey Cake might be an ideal venue for



city slickers seeking an opportunity to look cool on social media sites, it's definitely not a place to take your family when they're hungry for something familiar.

Whiskey Cake might have the potential for an A, but my experience left me wanting no more.

Rating: F

—SIALI SIAOSI
ONLINE EDITOR

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Norman pub perfect for making memories with friends

McNellie's affordable, has great vibes

There are many great places to grab some food and drinks around Norman, but only one place comes to mind when quality and atmosphere are mentioned. McNellie's Abner Ale House, or more popularly known as McNellie's, is the ideal place to get some reasonably priced burgers and fries.



The restaurant keeps the week interesting with Monday Pint Night, Tuesday Trivia, Burger Night Wednesday, Live Music Thursday and Follower's Friday, which is where you tag your friends on social media with a hashtag with two f's, or #ff, to get special prices on their Boulevard Wheat brew.

I've visited McNellie's most frequently on Wednesday nights — burger night. The old pub styled restaurant has burgers and fries for \$4. The fries are salty and the burgers are juicy. What more could you want?

Beer, you say? Well, they have that too. An apparent wide selection of brews that will keep you and your friends occupied for the night with 200 beers and counting, according to www.mcnelliesnorman.com.

"We are proud of our beer selection. It is one of the largest in the region. We offer a collection of

hard-to-find draught and bottled beers from all over the world, and an extensive scotch selection," according to the website.

The atmosphere is probably what I enjoyed most next to the food. It's a narrow, wooden floored, two story filled pub with

a semi-rowdy gathering of regular people and college students.

Even the staff at McNellie's was very personable and inviting during the visit — running around the tables with food, drinks and smiles to make sure everyone was having a good time.

Going to this joint on any given night of the week should be a promising experience for someone looking to have a good time with some friends.

McNellie's is a red-painted brick building wedged right next to Syrup and Guest Room Records on 121 E Main Street. Just follow the sound of laughter and look through the glowing window to watch memories being made.

Rating: A

—BRYCE MCELHANEY
EDITOR

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Sept. 5 through Sept. 7
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *Guardians of the Galaxy*
2. *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*
3. *Let's Be Cops*
4. *If I Stay*
5. *The November Man*
6. *As Above, So Below*
7. *The Giver*
8. *When the Game Stands Tall*
9. *The Hundred-Foot Journey*
10. *Lucy*
11. *The Expendables 3*
12. *The Identical*
13. *Intro the Storm*
14. *Boyhood*
15. *Cantinflas*
16. *Frank Miller's Sin City: A Dame to Kill For*
17. *Magic in the Moonlight*
18. *Ghostbusters*
19. *A Most Wanted Man*
20. *How to Train Your Dragon 2*

New nursing professor happy to be back at OCCC

LAUREN DANIEL
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When Jennifer Brumley enters the Nursing Process III classroom, students will be getting more than a professor. They'll get a professor with real-world experience.

Brumley worked at The Oklahoma Heart Hospital South as the Critical Care Educator for a year and a half prior to coming to OCCC. She also taught at the hospital, she said, but instead of educating students, she was educating nurses.

After graduating from OCCC in 2002 with an associate degree in Nursing, Brumley said, she couldn't wait to come back.

"It's just a fantastic program.

"The simulation lab is amazing, and they put out really high-quality students.

"I'm very excited actually," she said. "It's a lot of fun. It's different teaching people who are learning nursing as opposed to nurses who have already established their practice."

While her area of expertise is in critical care, she will be teaching Nursing Process III, which focuses mainly on medical surgery.

Brumley will begin teaching when the course reaches that subject.

"I'm going to teach hepatic, which is liver, and I'm going to teach oncology, so that's what I'm excited about this semester," she said.

In the meantime, she is still very much a presence in the classroom.

So far, Brumley said, she has been shadowing professors and is becoming more involved in the course through clinical sites. She said she also is anticipating helping with other subjects.

"I'll do some cross teaching. I'll probably go do some lectures for [Nursing Process IV] on the things I know very well.

"I am here to facilitate students' learning and hopefully get them started in a great profession," she said.

Brumley said she never questioned if OCCC would be a good place to work.

"I just feel very at home here.

"I had a nice warm welcome from everybody and I'm enjoying it so far."

To contact Brumley, email jennifer.s.brumley@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7342.

For more information about the nursing program, call 405-682-7507, or visit www.occc.edu/academics/programs/nursing.



LAUREN DANIEL/PIONEER
Jennifer Brumley

Student reports backpack, personal items stolen from lab

LAUREN DANIEL
Senior Writer
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Recent crime reports include a stolen backpack and a stolen name plate.

A student's backpack was taken after he left it unattended in the Math Lab.

At approximately 4 p.m. on Aug. 26 OCCC student Quinton Mountain, 21, reported his backpack had been stolen from the lab located on the second floor of the SEM Center.

According to the report, Mountain said about an hour after he entered the lab, he left his backpack unattended at a table to go to the bathroom. When he returned, he said, the backpack was missing.

The backpack was worth approximately \$300. It



in his early- to mid-20s, approximately 6 feet tall, wearing a hat, white tank top, shorts, and boating shoes.

Additional information is available in a supplemental report that was requested but not provided.

Physical Science Division Secretary Jennifer Gilbertson reported the nameplate on her office door in 2E6-SEM was missing.

At 9:45 a.m. Aug. 27, Officer David Madden was called to the Science and Math Division office to meet with Gilbertson.

According to the report, she was not sure when she had last seen the nameplate, but noticed it was missing on Aug. 25.

Madden said the area was not able to be seen on surveillance video.

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.



Row Triple-C prepares for October regatta

JORGE KRZYZANIAK

Sports Writer

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Lyndsie StremLOW has recently taken on an endeavor that, she said, gives her something wonderful to look forward to each week — paddling on the Oklahoma River.

The English and Humanities Division Secretary has joined Row Triple-C, the college's riversport organization made up of two competitive dragon boat racing teams.

"This is really special," StremLOW said. "And getting to be out on the water is really awesome."

StremLOW said she has never participated in any of OCCC's athletic opportunities and had never considered dragon boating before.

"I've never done anything like [paddling] ... but this is way fun," she said.

OCCC first became involved in the sport last spring, said Web Development and Social Media Supervisor John Richardson, who has participated both years.

This year, when it came time to form a team, the response was so overwhelming, Richardson said, that OCCC decided to form two teams.

"We were thrilled with the response," Richardson said. "... Since we have two teams now we want at least twice as many supporters."

Both dragon boat teams are affectionately named after well-known dragons, he said. One is known as Abraxas, named for the famous dragon of Persian lore, while the other team is known as Falkor, named for the lovable Luck Dragon featured in "The Neverending Story."

Richardson said the teams consist of 11 athletes per boat; 10 rowers and a drummer. The teams also share a coach who stands at the back of the boat and steers during competition. Coaches are provided by the dragon boat league and the boathouse district, he said.

OCCC business major and student worker Summer Cole, said she enjoys being part of the team. She paddles for Team Falkor.

"I love it," she said. "It's a really positive environment."

Cole said her teammates and Row Triple-C's coach inspire each other to bring out the best in themselves. It's competitive but it's not aggressive, she said.

Cole said there's a positive side to keeping things light-hearted.

"I look forward to improving my technique," she said. "But mostly I look forward to the social interaction. We laugh and we joke around a lot."

Richardson said, at the end of June, OCCC's first-ever dragon boat racing team competed in the Stars and Stripes River Festival of OKC, where they came in 9th place out of 19 teams.

Now, he said, Row Triple-C is gearing up for a new season.

He said both teams will represent OCCC at the season's first regatta in October. He said he hopes to see a huge turnout for this year's competition. It will be Thursday night, Oct. 2, at the Boathouse District located on the Oklahoma River, just south of downtown Oklahoma City and the Bricktown Entertainment District.

Free parking is available in designated areas adjacent to the boathouses and

Row Triple-C
DRAGON BOAT TEAM



Riversport Adventures according to <http://boathousedistrict.org>.

Student Life Director Erin Logan paddles for Team Abraxas. She said it would be great to have a big crowd there in October representing OCCC.

"We would love to see people come out at the regatta and cheer us on," Logan said.

Richardson said Abraxas and Falkor have already begun their regular practice on the Oklahoma River in preparation for October's regatta.

"Practice lasts 90 minutes," he said. "Now it's challenging because it's so hot outside even in the evening."

Practice is from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, Richardson said. "We start [by] doing some calisthenics. Then we'll get into the boat and do drills, many of which aren't timed," he said.

"The last thing we do are timed sprints, either 100-meter or 200-meter. Sometimes we just go all out for three or four minutes."

StremLOW said she doesn't mind the workouts.

"It's really hard ...," she said, "but it's so fun I don't even notice it."

Richardson said he is pleased with "just (being) there to compete and have some fun. The experience leading up to the regatta is what it's all about," he said. And it seems the fun never ends.

There is no winter season for dragon boaters, Richardson said. The culmination of all the teams' effort is tested only once at the end of the fall season with October's regatta and once again in June.

Because of its popularity, Richardson said, Row Triple-C is already looking to expand.

"We do have hopes ... to add a rowing team for the spring season," he said. "We don't know if we'll have two dragon boat teams and a rowing team or one dragon boat team and a rowing team but we're pretty committed to having two teams at this point."

The expansion is just a matter of funding now, he said.

For more information about Row Triple-C, visit the website at www.occc.edu/dragon. For more information about forming or joining a dragon boat team, visit <http://boathousedistrict.org>.

Anyone can create, join a dragon boat team

Dragon boating is the world's fastest-growing water sport, and it's a great way to get on the water with family, friends or colleagues. The oversized canoe has a dragon head and tail, and everyone paddles to the beat of a drummer.

Each Riversport Dragon Boat League season includes a 90-minute practice one day a week for 10 consecutive weeks under the supervision of a boathouse coach. Choose a time slot — whatever day works best for your team of 11 to 15 paddlers. Or, join by yourself and be placed on Team Riversport. No previous paddling or boating experience is required. The participation fee includes all lessons, event entry fees, coaching and equipment.

The fall season culminates with the OGE NightSprints during the Oklahoma Regatta Festival, Oct. 2 through 5.

Teams can participate in one season or sign up for both seasons and compete for the 2014 league points trophy.

Teams also have unlimited access to the fitness facilities in the Chesapeake and Devon Boathouses and are invited to take group fitness classes at no extra charge. Must be 18 years or older to participate.

For more information and to enroll your team, contact Karen Colwell by email or call 405-552-4040.

—<http://boathousedistrict.org/riversport-adults/dragon-boating/dragon-boat-league>

Dragon boat racing rules

A standard contemporary dragon boat is made up of 22 people. 20 paddlers in pairs, one drummer or caller, at the bow of the boat facing the paddlers, and one sweep or tiller, at the rear of the boat. The caller directs the group through hand signals, and voice calls, in effort to encourage the crew to perform at their peak. Dragon boaters are paddlers not rowers, paddling in a canoeing style. The dragon boat paddle has a standardized, fixed blade surface area and distinctive shape derived from the paddle shapes characteristic of the Zhu Jiang (Pearl River) delta region of Guangdong Province, China, near Hong Kong.

The sweep, known also as the helmsman or steersman, controls the dragon boat with a sweep oar rigged at the rear of the boat, normally on the side and off center.

Dragon boat racing distances can be 200- to 2000 meters. Along with the paddlers, drummer, and sweep, rides a flag puller. The role of the flag puller is to reach out and grab the flag at the finish line to signal that the boat has finished the race. If the flag puller misses the flag, the boat's finish is disqualified.

— <http://sportsvite.com/sports/DragonBoatRacing/rules>

Teams Abraxas, Falkor race to the finish



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Above: Team Abraxas stays in rhythm by listening to the beat of their drummer. Coach Robert Golliver said dragon boat teams are not rowing teams, but paddling teams. Dragon boats use paddles, which are not attached to the boats. Rowing only occurs when oars are used, which are attached to the boats. Being on a dragon boat team can teach timing, technique, and teamwork.



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Above: OCCC Dragon Boat team Abraxas is named after a famous dragon of Persian lore. Left to right: Psychology major Sarah Trosper, Auto Mechanics major Phillip Bueno, Business major Rosana Hance, Friend of Alumni Association Brent Logan, Student Life Director Erin Logan, Web Development and Social Media Supervisor John Richardson, Nursing professor Traci Boren and Coach Rob Golliver.



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

Above: OCCC Dragon Boat team Falkor is named after the Luck Dragon featured in the movie "Neverending Story." Back row, left to right: Marketing professor Natalie Jordan, Public Relations major Kelsey Jones, OCCC Graduate Erin Peden, English Professor Markus Zindelo, English and Humanities Division Secretary Lyndsie Stremlow, Business major Summer Cole, Pre-engineering major Prince Muhindo. Front row, left to right: Coach Robert Golliver, Cooperative Alliance Program Specialist Travis Ruddle, Nursing major Sarah Mathews, Service and Engagement Faculty Liaison Stephen Morrow, Student Life Programs Assistant Jill Robertson.

Below: Team Falkor practices on the Oklahoma River. To keep the rhythm so the boat doesn't go in looping circles, dragon boats have a drummer sitting at the front. "Everyone else is following along on that beat," said Coach Robert Golliver. "That's when everyone knows to lean forward [or] lean back."



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

SPORTS

Spike!

Occupational Therapy Major Lizzie Jennings and Political Science Major Makayla Fuqua play volleyball together in OCCC's gym.

"I come to college to work hard but I go to the gym to play hard," Jennings said. The Wellness Center is located on the first floor of the Main Building and is free to all students with a valid student ID. Balls are available on-site. For more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness Office at 405-682-7580 or visit www.occc.edu/rf.

ETHAN COOPER/
PIONEER



SPORTS | Facelift in store for workout space

Wellness Center getting new equipment

JORGE KRZYZANIAK
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

OCCC's Wellness Center, while free to students, is due some updating.

Community Development Vice President Steven Bloomberg said that is about to happen. He said most of the weight room equipment has served its purpose.

"While the current equipment there is functional, it isn't up to the high standard that we hold here anymore.

"It's not on the same level as the equipment in most health clubs ... and it's not as good as what you'd find at most major universities."

Bloomberg said Recre-

ation and Fitness employees recently toured the University of Oklahoma Health Center and were impressed by their Hoist equipment.

He said, as a result, the college decided to go with the same brand.

Sports and Recreation Specialist Eric Watson said he was drawn to the brand after learning it offers an integrated smartphone feature — an app that allows users to scan a barcode which then brings up a video demonstrating how to properly use the equipment.

It also recommends the optimal weight or resistance setting for that individual's workout, he said.

According to Hoist's web-

site, hoistfitness.com, the app can help build workout routines specific to the gym itself or to an individual's goals. The app also can track personal progress and workout history.

Watson said the change is great for other reasons as well. He said new equipment tends to be more user-friendly and helps isolate muscles better during workouts.

"That will allow people to just get a better benefit," he said.

Bloomberg said the Wellness Center also will undergo a remodel so the space is more functional.

Watson said a reallocation of space will allow for more cardio equipment and

an improved weight room experience as well.

Bloomberg said he is hopeful the update can be done by the end of the semester but said there is no definite date yet.

Watson said there is a firm dedication on the college's part to implement the upgrades and improve the Wellness Center.

He said there are numerous parties involved in making decisions so forming a consensus takes time.

"It's a process," Watson said.

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

EVENT NEWS

Fall 2014:

- Students with a valid OCCC ID can use the Aquatic Center free of charge. The Aquatic Center features two pools, and an 18½-ft deep diving well with 1- and 3-meter spring boards and 5-, 7- and 10-meter platforms. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/RF.

- OCCC Group Fitness classes are offered at a variety of fitness levels and are spaced conveniently throughout the afternoon and late evening hours. Discounted group fitness passes are available. See more at www.occc.edu/rf/cr-group-fitness.

- The Recreation & Fitness Center is open to students, faculty, staff and community members. The center features a 15,000-square-foot gym with two basketball courts and one recreational volleyball court, a cardio room with three treadmills, two cross trainers and two recumbent bikes as well as a weight room featuring a complete circuit of Cybex equipment and free weights. Students with a valid OCCC ID can use the facilities free of charge. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/RF or call 405-682-7860.



Scan the QR code with your smart phone to be directed to a list of OCCC Intramural events, complete with the most current updates.

(Free QR code reader apps can be found online or in app stores on smart phones. Follow the directions for the app you download.)

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

Loans: Students can stay out of default by tracking lenders

Continued from page 1

that's what confuses students," she said.

It's a problem for students who don't know their service provider, Gore said.

"Someone [could have] bought a big group of student loans and their service provider has changed yet again," she said. "It's not uncommon for students that have loans that started 10 years ago to have three different service providers over that period of time, so they lose contact with them ..."

However, Gore said, there's still hope for students who haven't kept in contact with their service provider.

"The National Student Loan Data System (or nslds.ed.gov) is where we send all students to. That has their entire history of any student loans that they've received," she said.

Gore said the history also includes grants students have received. In addition, she said, the site monitors a stu-

dent's lifetime eligibility limits and other loan information. She said the history doesn't include alternative or private loans.

Gore said staying in college until graduation is key to preventing student loan default.

"Typically, they're first-year students," she said. "They're very young and they have no knowledge about what they need to do."

The Financial Aid Office will direct students to nslds.ed.gov when they need advising, she said.

"We'll pull up their information, print it out and hand it to them.

"It shows their loan debt, who they received loans from, gives them their enrollment status history and any grants they have received that are federal grants."

Gore said the Financial Aid Office makes it a point to tell students what to expect when taking out student loans, such

“We always tell students to get free money first.”

—SONYA GORE
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID DIRECTOR

as encouraging students to borrow only what they need.

"For a student to receive a student loan, or request a student loan from us at OCCC, they are required to go to nslds.ed.gov to review their loan history there," she said.

"[They're] required to look at what their loan debt is and then required to go to another site that does a calculation of what their payment would be."

The data system also monitors enrollment status, which is extremely important when it comes to student loans, Gore said.

"Students that are enrolled in at least six hours of coursework (can have) their loans automatically deferred for in-school deferments," she said.

"A lot of times that can be a place where students wind up in default — when they decide

they're going to take a semester off.

"If they take a semester off in the fall, [following] a summer off, they're going to exceed the six-month grace period, enter repayment and not even be aware about it" she said.

Usually, Gore said, students have to be 90 days delinquent before they even look at being placed in default.

She said the main thing students can do is monitor the nslds.ed.gov site, make sure they know who their service providers are and stay in contact with them.

Often times, those loans are not being serviced by the original provider, Gore said.

"If students have multiple loans out there from different schools or from a long period of time ... [they may] have two groups of people or even sometimes four groups of people to stay in touch with," she said.

There are other alternatives to help students get through

school without loans, Gore said.

"We always tell students to get the free money first. Unfortunately, we have a great number of students that fall in that gap who don't qualify for any federal grants," she said.

"We always encourage students to look at all the scholarships that are available in the communities that they live in and apply for those.

"Every department offers some type of tuition waiver. That's basically free money."

Along with encouraging students to apply for OCCC's work-study program, Gore advises students to do their best to stay away from loan debt.

"(Students should) just borrow what they need and monitor what they're borrowing, because it's pretty easy to just see that there's \$4,000 available to you, but you only need \$1,000."

For more information, visit the Financial Aid office in the Main Building, or call 405-682-7525.

Sechrist: Those who take on debt need a good-paying job

Continued from page 1

Sechrist said he took out student loans that he paid back once he started teaching so he understands the need firsthand.

"Without the availability of student loans, I would have not been able to complete my degree when I did."

Forty-three percent of OCCC graduates leave with student loan debt averaging \$8,151, about the same price as a used car, he said.

"Cars depreciate in value. A college education is still the best general pathway to a higher paying job and a satisfying career."

However, Sechrist said, student debt is real debt and must be paid back.

Therefore, he said, it's important students make sure their career goals match the amount

of debt they take on.

"Connecting college majors to careers is another step — including making sure that when one takes on debt to go to college, there is a plan in place to secure a job that pays enough to pay back the loan and also to pay other costs, like housing and transportation, for example," he said.

"The good news is that almost all careers that require a college education pay more than jobs that do not require a degree."

Taking on a large amount of debt without having a plan to pay it back may result in negative consequences, he said, including defaulting on the student loan.

Sechrist advises students to avoid taking on more debt than they actually need to make it through college.

"In short, borrow as little

as possible," he said. "[Also], avoid default if you can. Default on a student loan only as a last resort.

"Generally, the debt will not be forgiven even through bankruptcy.

"It is always unfortunate to have a student or former student default on a student loan. While it is the intention that a college education will lead to gainful employment, that is not always the case."

In an email, Sechrist said FY 2013 data shows more than half of OCCC graduates leave with no student loan debt.

"... Fifty-four percent of those who graduate with an associate degree have zero debt," he said. "Of the 46 percent who

FY 2012-13 Student Loan Debt			
FY 2012			
PROGRAM	NUMBER	BORROWED	MEDIAN DEBT
Associate Degree	1,484	37.4%	\$11,000.00
Certificates	194	28.0%	\$6,250.00
ALL	1,679	36.3%	\$8,625.00
FY 2013			
PROGRAM	NUMBER	BORROWED	MEDIAN DEBT
Associate Degree	1,410	45.9%	\$9,291.00
Certificates	308	27.9%	\$7,011.00
ALL	1,718	42.7%	\$8,151.00

have borrowed, the median average debt is \$9,291.

"(Of) those graduating with a certificate of mastery, 72 percent graduate with no debt at all. Of those certificate graduates with debt, the debt is \$7,011 (median average).

"Combining all graduates last year, 57 percent have no

debt at all. Of the remaining 43 percent who did acquire debt, the average is \$8,151."

He said that is a noteworthy accomplishment.

"I know that our students often choose OCCC because of its affordability and the option to either not go into debt at all, or borrow as little as possible."

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Study buddy



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Nursing Major Hoa Chu and Civil Engineering Major Chon Tran relax in a comfortable area located on the second floor of the Keith Leftwich Memorial Library. For more information about the resources located in OCCC's library, visit www.occc.edu/library or call 405-682-7564.

COMMUNITY | Academic Advising and Transfer Coordinator says event for those moving to a university

Students invited to transfer fair Sept. 24

LAUREN DANIEL
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

It's never too early to start thinking about the future — especially when it comes to transferring to a four-year university, said Javier Puebla, Academic Advising and Transfer coordinator. Puebla said students can learn more about the process and meet representatives from other colleges at the Transfer Fair from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Sept. 24 in the Main Building lobby.

He said about 30 universities from around the state, and even some from North Texas, Kansas, and Missouri will be represented at the event.

"As far as Oklahoma institutions, all are usually represented, especially all the big ones — University of Oklahoma, University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University," he said.

"We have Langston (University) ... and several private schools: Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma Baptist and Oklahoma Christian."

Puebla said students will be able to talk to recruiters from specific universities and find out more information about degree programs that interest them.

In addition, he said, OCCC Graduation Services will have a booth where students can do a degree audit and find out what steps they need to take in

order to complete their degree or transfer.

Puebla said the Transfer Fair will give students a chance to get information for multiple schools in one place, saving them time.

Although Puebla said the transfer process is typically similar for all universities, it can get involved.

"The transfer process is really a longer one [that] starts when students start contemplating their options," he said. "That's why, even if you're not ready to transfer, ... it's important that you start this transfer process by going to something like this and get the wheels going so you can start thinking about what you have to choose from."

Puebla said whether students are just starting their college career or in their last semester, everyone can find something helpful at the fair.

"For those who are not close to graduating, it's the perfect opportunity to start thinking about where they want to end up," he said. "A lot of students think of going through the motions of you know, step 1, step 2, step 3, and starting with an associate degree, but not realizing where they're going to end up ..."

"The sooner a college student can start that dialogue, — whether it be internal or with academic advisers, professors, parents, friends — about where they want to go to pursue their bachelor's degree, the more opportunity they have to better prepare for that, and make better use of both their time and money

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Suicide Awareness event set for Sept. 16

Suicide Awareness Week is Sept. 15 through the 17. In conjunction, OCCC will host a Brown Event at 12:30 p.m. Sept. 16 in CU3 where those attending will learn about recognizing the warning signs of suicide. Information tables also will be set up from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. outside of the Communications Lab located on the first floor of the Main Building. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Sandi Patty to perform Sept. 16

Grammy winner Sandi Patty will perform at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater. Patty's contemporary Christian music has gone platinum and won Billboard Music Awards. Ticket prices range from \$35 to \$45. Tickets can be purchased online at occc.edu/tickets or by calling 405-682-7579.

Constitution Day celebration Sept. 17

A Brown Bag luncheon celebrating Constitution Day will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17, in CU3. Bring your lunch and enjoy some history. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

"Integrating Research" workshop scheduled

The Communications Lab and Student Life will host a Brown Bag luncheon about academic research from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22, in CU3. The workshop also will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23, in VPAC room 146. Prizes, a free snack and collaborative learning are all a part of the workshop. For more information, call 405-682-7523 or visit www.occc.edu/comlab.

Walk to End Alzheimer's disease Sept. 27

OCCC will host a service trip for the Walk to End Alzheimer's from 6 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark. Students will help with set up, tear down, and registration. They also will help pass out water and encourage participants. Students who volunteer for the event will be given eight hours of service for Civic Honors or Academic Service Learning. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue. Email your event to editor@occc.edu or drop by AH 1F2.

as they prepare for it," he said.

Puebla encourages all students to attend the fair. He said after they get information from the university of their dreams, students can go on a transfer tour with OCCC at www.occc.edu/transfercenter/events.

"If you make a connection, or at least figure out there are some schools you'd like to attend, we do offer transfer tours to some schools," he said.

Students also can enter raffles for laptops and other prizes at the Transfer Fair. Puebla said the incentive to attend is high and the reward worthwhile.

For more information about the Transfer Fair, contact the Transfer Center at 405-682-7519, or visit www.occc.edu/transfercenter.

CLASSIFIEDS

Pioneer classified advertising is free to all enrolled OCCC students and employees for any personal classified ad. Ad applications must be submitted with IDs supplied by 5 p.m. Fridays prior to the next publication date. For more information, call the Ad Manager at 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or e-mail adman@occc.edu.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1994 White Saturn model SC1. Body type CP, 169,000miles. Asking \$800.00. Call 405.212.6027 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 or for the games in the man cave. \$30. Text 405-818-0083 for more information.

MISCELLANEOUS

LOOKING FOR ROOM TO RENT: Close to campus. Male roommates only. Call Nahtali-Noel Nhungho at 832-738-2527 or email nahtali-noel-e-nhungho@my.occc.edu.

LOOKING FOR ROOM TO RENT: Male, 23, full-time stu-

dent looking to rent a room close to campus for no more than \$250-\$300 a month from May 17 to the end of the fall semester. Email john.white336@occc.edu.

FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED: Room with bathroom. Washer/dryer, Internet, cable. Close to OCCC. Big room. All amenities. Nice neighborhood. \$450 a month, all bills included. No drugs, no alcohol. Call 405-317-4002.

SPACE FOR RENT: Use the Pioneer to reach out to thousands of potential customers. Email adman@occc.edu.

WANT TO RENT A ROOM: 21-year-old male Looking for a room to rent. Call or text Roman at 770-301-2791 with information and price.

FOR SALE: Bed liner for standard long bed pickup w/ tailgate liner. \$45. GC. Text 405-818-0083.

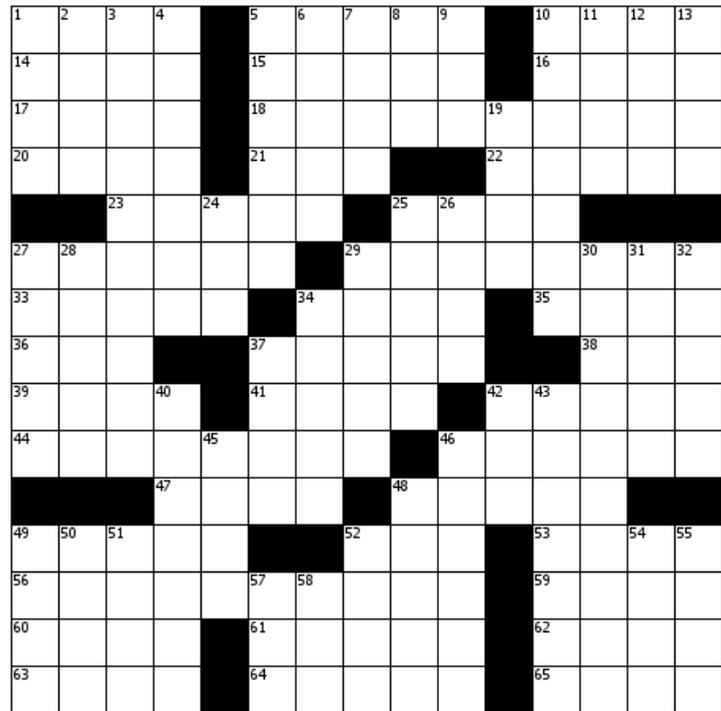
FOR SALE: Neiman Marcus Robert Rodriguez collection size 14 strapless cocktail dress. Never worn. Tags. \$50. Text 405-818-0083.

FOR SALE: New size 26 jeans. Never worn. Brands include Vans, Levi's and Zumiez. \$10 per pair. Text 405-818-0083 for pictures.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

1. Burrito's kin
5. Pesto ingredient
10. African antelopes
14. Willa Cather's "One of ___"
15. Elicit chuckles from
16. Sound on Old MacDonald's farm
17. Times that are distinctive
18. Cooked salad
20. Bewildered condition
21. Start of a J.F.K. quote
22. Corn oil products
23. Bellows
25. Greek meeting place
27. Find not guilty
29. Haphazard
33. Earth's outer layer
34. LSD, colloquially
35. Middle of a doughnut
36. Sundial hour
37. Behave theatrically
38. Banned pesticide
39. Carter of "Gimme a Break!"
41. Weather map regions
42. UFO, on jetfighter's radar
44. Turkey's largest city
46. Walk of life
47. Length of a calendar
48. Draw new boundaries
49. Balls of Dutch cheese
52. Coal container
53. Kiddies
56. Variety
59. Matinee _____
60. Large number
61. Tout's tip
62. Mythical monster
63. Taxi feature
64. Said of a beaver
65. Be lacking in



Down

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Secured with slanted driven nails | 19. Sticky, wet stuff | 42. Crashing sound |
| 2. Distinctive atmosphere | 24. Natural intelligence | 43. Ceremonial speech |
| 3. Patchwork bed cover without a design | 25. Narrow vents | 45. Not distant |
| 4. Bony | 26. Ocean occurrence | 46. Core of a circle |
| 5. Volcanic rock | 27. Grape seeds | 48. Get the soap out of your hair |
| 6. Accumulate | 28. Has a bawl? | 49. Cause for stitches |
| 7. Pout | 29. Frown with displeasure | 50. Scandinavian capital |
| 8. Belief | 30. Mixed collection of items | 51. Computer operator |
| 9. Grazing place | 31. Doo-wop number | 52. Ice mass |
| 10. Hungarian meat stew | 32. Put a damper on | 54. Shredded |
| 11. "The Whole _____ Yards" (2000) | 34. French romance | 55. Vehicle on runners |
| 12. Take apart | 37. Corsica neighbor | 57. Definite article |
| 13. Snow or water gliders | 40. Install, as floor tiles | 58. Wingless, extinct bird |

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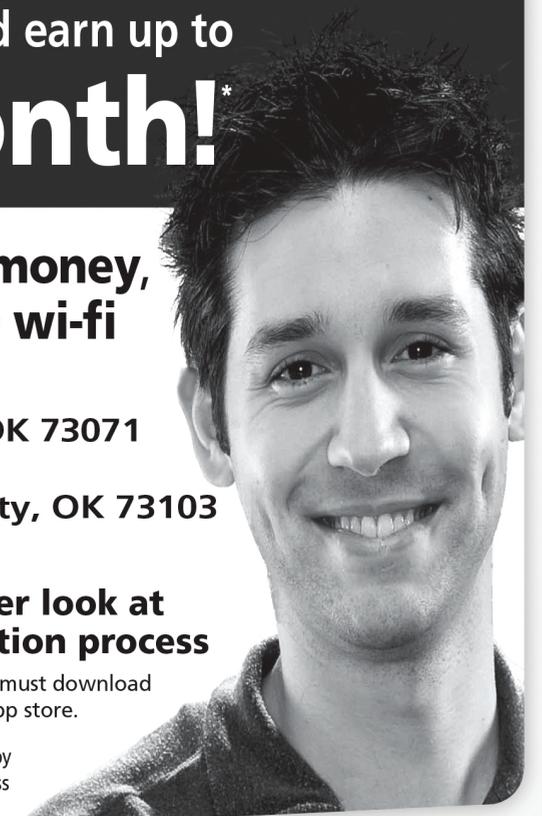


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Outdoor studies



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Arts Education major Gabriel Wiseman reads a book outside of the Arts and Humanities Building on Sept. 2. "I'm actually supposed to be practicing speech for my public speaking class," Wiseman said. OCCC offers a number of outdoor areas with seating where students can gather.

Hispanic Heritage month to be celebrated

JORGE KRZYZANIAK

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

Hispanic Heritage Month, a celebration paying tribute to generations of Hispanic Americans who have influenced and enriched the nation begins Monday, Sept. 15.

Hispanic Heritage Month has been observed across the U.S. since 1988 when Ronald Reagan enacted the law that extended Hispanic Heritage Week (observed since 1968) into a 30-day period, according to hispanicheritagemonth.gov.

The date of Sept. 15 is significant to Hispanic heritage as it marks the anniversaries of independence for five Spanish-speaking nations: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. On Sept. 16, Mexico celebrates its independence and on Sept. 18, Chile celebrates its own.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, those claiming Hispanic heritage make up more than 17 percent of the nation's total population.

Almost 10 percent of Oklahomans are of Hispanic descent and those of Hispanic heritage make up a significant percentage of OCCC's student population; 13.6 percent, according to census data at petersons.com. Those considered Hispanic or Latino make up OCCC's second largest cultural representation.

Student Life Coordinator Kendra Fringer revealed some details about OCCC's plans to observe Hispanic

Heritage Month beginning Sept. 15.

"Student Life will be doing slideshows that we'll be able to project onto the screens around the college (and) on the TVs in the large areas," she said.

Fringer said the slideshows will display "significant and important contributions from individuals from Hispanic and Latino cultures.

"And we'll be able to highlight the wonderful things that the Hispanic population and culture have done to help America," she said.

Fringer said Student Life will enlist the help of the school's student workers in arranging their events on campus to promote the learning experience.

"The office of Student Life has always tried to observe cultural holidays to the best of our ability," she said.

"We really wish and hope for students to take action and be involved and lead the cause. That's why we do the slideshows and then we talk to our clubs and student representatives to see what they want to do.

"We let them take the charge and really get ownership of the holiday or the event," Fringer said, "and then we support them and what they'd like to do."

Fringer said she thinks it's important that everyone gets to see what the community is made of and to take time to appreciate a community's diversity.

"Contributions from all the different cultures and backgrounds are important," she said.

OCCC's Community Outreach Coordinator and faculty sponsor to the campus club HOPE (the

Hispanic Organization to Promote Education), Paul Burkhardt said that even though the semester is new and that campus clubs are still forming, it is expected that HOPE will take part in the month's celebration. Burkhardt expects HOPE to be just as active off campus as on.

"We generally participate in the Fiestas de las Américas," Burkhardt said.

Fiestas de las Américas festivities are held in Oklahoma City's Capitol Hill District and includes a parade, live music, folkloric dance, authentic food and children's activities. It showcases the city's cultural diversity and traditions, according to <http://historiccapitolhill.com/fiestas-de-las-americas>.

This year's outdoor event will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, along SW 25th Street.

Burkhardt said he's also been in contact with the Plaza Mayor Mall (formerly Crossroads Mall) and something may be in the works for HOPE to participate in a Hispanic Heritage Month event there as well.

He said HOPE will be active in advancing the Hispanic community as much as they are celebrating it.

"We focus now on mentoring and tutoring out in the community," he said.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to get involved in the observation of Hispanic Heritage Month. For information contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

For more information on the Festival de las Américas, visit www.historiccapitolhill.com.