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EDITORIAL

ALTAR-LEAVING MOVIE SCENES WAY OUTDATED

Videographer Jake McMahon says Hollywood has beaten the runaway bride scene to death — that it has no place in today's society.

OPINION, p. 2

NEWS

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL A SWEET TIME

About 1,200 were at OCCC's annual Halloween bash on Oct. 24. Many campus clubs set up tables with games and goodies. Read more inside.

NEWS, p. 6

SPORTS

EMPLOYEES SET, SPIKE, SERVE IN TOURNAMENT

A recent volleyball tournament was a great success, says Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright. Read more about the event.

SPORTS, p. 8

COMMUNITY

AUTHOR SHARES HIS PERSONAL WAR STORIES

"The Things They Carried" author Tim O'Brien spoke to a large crowd in the VPAC Theater Oct. 21. Turn inside to learn more about what he had to say.

COMMUNITY, p. 10



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER

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COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Bridge Program students pose behind OCCC's International flags that hang on the second floor of the Main Building. (Front row, l-r) Delaram Chehlnabi, Reham Abdulrahman, Maria Morfin, Le Tran, Fang (Helen) Wang, Kha Tran, Chung (Talia) Luu, Phuong Nguyen. (Back row) Edjar Tita, Wendy Elguera and Ji Wook Yoon.

It's a small world at OCCC

From China to Peru, students from many countries represented

CLAYTON MITCHELL
 News Writing Student

Hanging from the railing on the second floor of the Main Building are 53 flags from countries around the world, from China to Peru and many in between. Each flag represents a country where at least one OCCC student is originally from.

One thing many of these students have in common is that English is not the first language they learned to speak. Many also share the experience of an American education system that is different from

what they knew at home, and they are having to adapt.

Modern Languages Professor Abra Glenn-Allen Figueroa said many international students experience primary and secondary school similar to what a student would experience in the U.S. However, towards the end of secondary school is where the system changes for some.

High-stakes tests in high school often determine whether a student can go to college.

"In Cambodia, the final year of high school is spent studying and taking three big tests," said Sixma Kouch, who is from that southeast Asian country.

"The first two tests are taken at your

See **COUNTRIES** page 9

Rules for test center outlined

CAILEY CHRISTY
 News Writing Student

Some 1,800 students each week use the Testing Center for exams in their classes, said Linda Little, Testing and Assessment Services director.

Of those, about 12 individuals per week forget to bring their student ID card, she said. They are turned away without being able to take their exam.

However small the number, Testing Center employees would like to see it reduced to zero.

Kelli Frass, testing and assessment assistant, said forgetting a student ID card is just one problem that can cause frustration for test-takers and Testing Center workers as well.

Now that mid-terms have passed, and finals loom, Frass had some advice for students planning to use the center for testing purposes.

It is better to bring less to the center since students are not allowed to bring anything into the room while they test. Free lockers are available but there are a limited number of

See **CENTER** page 9

Last Day to drop classes without refund nears

LAUREN DANIEL
 Senior Writer
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The average college student takes around 12 hours each semester, which is considered a full load according to collegeview.com. Throw in work, a family, hanging out with friends and finding time for yourself, and you may have a recipe for failing.

Sometimes classes suffer, which can result in a student failing a class, or even dropping out of college. About 53 percent of people attending community colleges drop out when the load gets too heavy, according to collegeview.com.

Registrar Alan Stringfellow said a better op-

See **DROP** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | Movies reduce women into trophies

Outdated gender roles ridiculous

It's something we've seen in hundreds of movies. A man loves a woman but can't bring himself to tell her how he feels. Maybe he hurt her or maybe he just didn't recognize his feelings until it was too late. But he missed his shot and now the woman he loves is going to marry another guy.

He must stop the wedding.

This plot made perfect sense in the Hays Code era. If two people got married, it was extremely difficult to get a divorce. Not only difficult, but socially unacceptable. They would lose friends, careers.



**JAKE
McMAHON**

People would stay in horrible marriages for a lifetime just to avoid the divorce. A marriage was serious business.

Things aren't like this anymore. Divorces are still hard, but, these days, nobody cares if you're a divorcee. Almost everyone either has gotten a divorce or will get one. In this millennium, a divorce is way more pleasant than a bad marriage.

My question to the friend-zoned guy who wants to stop the wedding is, why bother? Sure, you could ride a horse down to the chapel and scream out your love to her, but why not watch Netflix until she gets back from her honeymoon? She won't disappear because she has a new ring. If she loves you, she can leave him after the wedding.

The clergyman in "The Invention of Lying" got this exactly right in the wedding scene: "Brad, do you agree to stay with Anna for as long as you want to, to protect your offspring for as long as you can?"

I think I know why people still use the "Stop the wedding" plot. Obviously, it's easy for lazy screenwriters, but it goes deeper than that.

In this age, men still think of women as toys in a lot of ways. Owning women is, after all, the only reason marriage was invented.

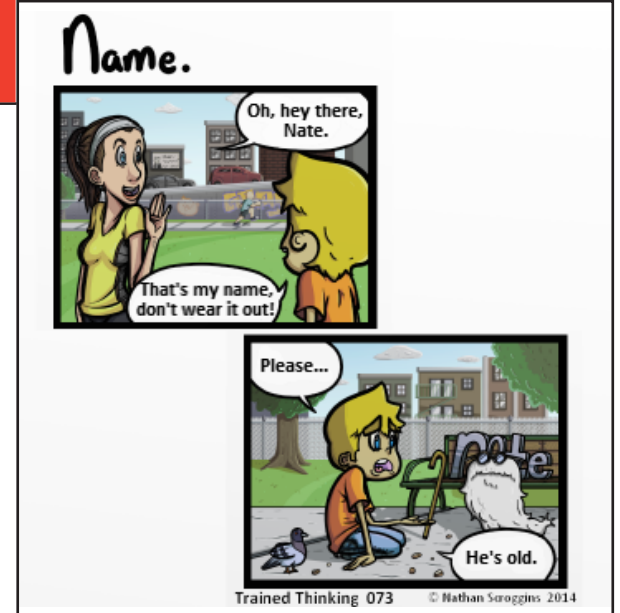
Because of old movies, we still have woman-owning left over as a part of our culture. So, a guy who steals a woman from another man can be the alpha male our primitive brain areas still want us to be.

This doesn't really explain why this plot is in romantic comedies, though. Romantic comedies aren't for men. If they were, they'd have more fart jokes. How does wedding-stopping appeal to women?

The answer is deceptively simple. Women just like the thought of two hot guys fighting over them. Stopping a wedding is the ultimate, most dramatic way two men can publicly say, "We both love this special woman in front of you in the beautiful dress, and we're willing to humiliate each other to prove it! Look at her! She's so pretty and smart!"

Somehow, the wedding-stopping scene is equally degrading to both genders. Maybe, in its own sick way, that makes it progressive. Tvtropes.org describes it this way:

"A Wedding Day trope, focusing on the bride who abandons her groom at the altar, either to be with



her new flame or to celebrate her independence. This often occurs at the climax of the movie, and is frequently treated as being a heartwarming and positive affirmation of the power of True Love/Independent Women for the would-be bride. The fact that it's also a humiliating, heartbreaking, psychologically-scarring betrayal for the would-be groom tends to be glossed over. Often occurs after the priest has said, "Speak now or forever hold your peace."

It's not that the romantic comedy has no place in film. If my girlfriend has to watch "Mad Max" with me, I'm fine with watching "Bride Wars" with her. But the wedding-stopping scene needs to be retired. It makes women into trophies and turns love into a flexing contest.

It was nice for a while, but now it has rabies and we need to shoot it by the barn.

—JAKE McMAHON
VIDEOGRAPHER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Influenza shots recommended for anyone over the age of six months

State Health Department says flu cases reported

To the Editor:

The Oklahoma State Department of Health Acute Disease Service has announced the first laboratory-confirmed cases of flu in Oklahoma. One case is in an Oklahoma County resident who is under the age of 5; the child was not hospitalized for influenza. The other case is a Tulsa County resident who is also under the age of 5 and was hospitalized for influenza.

According to the ADS, the percentage of influenza-like illness among outpatients remains low. Although it is early in the season, lab confirmation of flu indicates sporadic cases are occurring in the state. An annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone

six months and older.

"If you haven't done so already, now is the time to get your flu shot before influenza activity is elevated," said Epidemiologist Laurence Burnsed, M.P.H. "Persons who have the flu can spread it to others even before they feel sick.

"The flu vaccine provides protection for the individual who receives it and reduces the chance of spreading the flu to persons who have not been vaccinated, including babies too young to receive a vaccination."

In addition to getting a flu shot, the OSDH offers these prevention tips:

- Frequent hand hygiene using soap and water, or alcohol-based products such as hand gels when hands are not visibly soiled.
- Make "respiratory hygiene" a habit, including use of tissues to cover coughs and sneezes, then disposing of them and performing hand hygiene at once. When tissues are not readily available, use your sleeve, never your hands.
- Stay home from work, school and other public places if you are ill.

Visit the OSDH site at www.health.ok.gov for more information.

—OKLAHOMA STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

PIONEER

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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 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

BUSINESS REVIEW | For the price of an amusement park, reviewer expects more

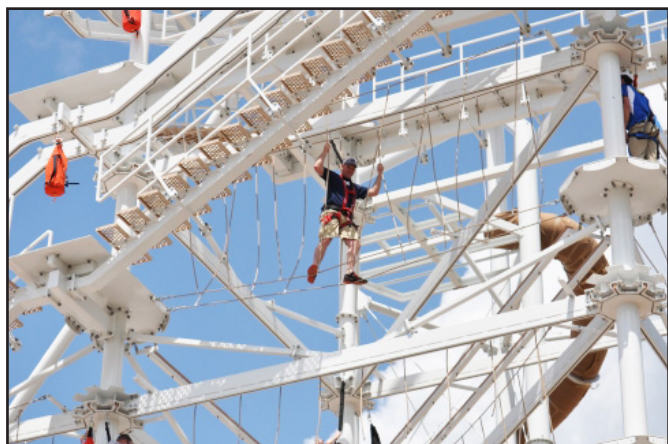
Riversport Adventure too much

It's no secret downtown Oklahoma City is thriving. An area most people used to avoid is now an area where popular restaurants, shops and unique places like the Boathouse district exist. I never thought the Oklahoma River would be a popular spot to hang out, with its murky water and mediocre scenery, but apparently it has become quite the happening place.

After doing some research and being tired of doing the same activities, my friends and I went to OKC Riversport Adventure located in the Boathouse District at 725 S Lincoln Blvd right outside of Bricktown.

After parking, we found the small trailer selling passes for the attractions and paid the hefty \$50 fee for the Extreme Day Pass. This included SandRidge Sky Zip, Sky Trail and Sky Slide, Rumble Drop, Air Express Zipline, Extreme Air Jumper, Cloud Bounce, Sky Tykes, Kids Zip, Bungee Trampolines, Climbing Walls, Adventure Climb, Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Boarding and more.

The Sky Trail, basically a ropes course, and Sky Slide, a metal tube slide, barely took any wait time,



going across the Oklahoma River, you feel like you're in a giant swing gliding in mid-air.

If you're scared of heights, don't waste your money. Because the wait was so long for the zipline, we only did it once. We could have done it a few more times, but because we had already been there close to five hours and were getting hungry, we left.

The OKC Riversport Adventure is open from 1 until 8 p.m. most days, so it is possible to do quite a few of the activities.

I don't think it was quite worth \$50 — the price of an amusement park ticket — but it was still fun. I would go back, but only if the price were lower.

Rating: B-

and we did those first.

Teetering on ropes two or three stories high on the white metal structure was exhilarating, but I felt secure while attached to the harness. The Sky Slide was pretty high up and went really fast.

The SandRidge Zipline was my favorite, because while

—LAUREN DANIEL
SENIOR WRITER

BUSINESS REVIEW | Customers can get everything from vitamins to vegan offerings near OCCC

Health food store offers something for all

If you're like me and love natural medicines, teas, spicy chocolate, juice bars and natural beauty products, you might want to check out the Health Food Center at 7301 S Pennsylvania Ave. — just five minutes from OCCC.

I absolutely love alternatives to medicine and this store has everything from vitamins to apple cider vinegar. This includes Yogi, my favorite brand of teas. There is a huge aisle dedicated to teas of all different flavors and brands.

Another section I love is their snacks, specifically the different types of chocolate. A brand called Madécasse is a chocolate from Madagascar made with heirloom cocoa. This is, according to the wrapper, a rare variety that meets the highest flavor standards.

I got the Cinnamon and Chili Pepper. On first bite, I was a bit



disappointed. I'm not the biggest fan of dark chocolate, but this one in particular tasted weird to me. However, as I kept eating it, it became almost addictive. After a few chunks, the back of my throat had a pleasant warm tickly feeling from the sakay chili pepper.

As much as I liked the chocolate and all the other snacks in the store, it's not exactly something you can buy a lot of if you don't have quite a bit of money. In my experience with health food stores, the products are of high quality; therefore, they are fairly pricy. With this

in mind, the chocolates are something I get as a rare treat.

In addition to loving snacks and drinks, I also have allergies. The store has a huge variety for those who are gluten, wheat, milk and soy free. If you are a vegetarian or even vegan, this store has a lot of meat substitutes and many of the products are indeed vegan.

The store also has protein powders and other meal substitutes.

All in all, I love this store. Just keep in mind the products are pricy, so don't be surprised to see a bar of chocolate that's \$6.

But, believe me, it's worth it. Just make sure it sounds interesting to you or you might not like what you get.

Rating: A

—CANDICE SCHAFER
COMMUNITY WRITER



VSCO Cam better than Instagram

Camera phones are incredibly reliable and feed my appetite for instant gratification.

While a bulky \$500 camera can create quality images, phones can take somewhat great pictures and enable you to post them online instantly.

The best way to give my phone's images the look I desire is with the phone app VSCO Cam.

VSCO Cam is a free photo editing app available for iPhone and Android.

The app gives you more options for editing pictures than Instagram and the results are really impressive.

All photos I've seen by those who use VSCO are more pleasing to look at than pictures edited with Instagram.

This app has many presets along with custom adjustments to give you full creative control over your images.

It also doesn't take long to get used to the app's functions.

After editing my first picture, things became very simple and I got the hang of the rest of its logistics.

And the photos you create can easily be transferred to other social networks.

After editing photos in VSCO Cam you can upload them straight to your Facebook, Twitter or Instagram account.

Depending on how you want your image to look, it could take about three minutes to edit and upload the image online.

So if you're looking for an app that takes three seconds to apply a filter, then VSCO Cam isn't for you.

But if you want to put in more time to creatively alter your photos then you will certainly enjoy this free app.

If you do decide to download VSCO Cam, there are plenty of short walk-through videos on YouTube that can show you how to use the application.

Overall, VSCO Cam is easy to use and gives my images a look I can't find with any other app.

I recommend the VSCO Cam app to anyone who enjoys photography and capturing imaginative pictures.

—ETHAN COOPER
PHOTOGRAPHER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

BUSINESS REVIEW | At \$1.55 for two ounces, Bedré can get rather pricy

Chocolate factory in Davis worth drive

On a recent hiking trip to Sulphur, Oklahoma, I discovered some delicacies on the way. No, not the rotten egg-stenched mineral water at Sulphur springs.

The delicacies were sweet, salty, bitter and soft, yet crunchy. It was the chocolate-covered delights from the Bedré Fine Chocolate Factory in nearby Davis.

Though it was a long shot from Willy Wonka, the Bedré Chocolate Factory was still magical. As soon as I walked into the frigidly air conditioned building, I was greeted by two women — whom I'm assuming were Swedish — with trays of chocolate samples.

The samples included chocolate turtles, caramel chocolates, and chocolate potato chips and bugles, which I personally didn't enjoy, but appreciated its weirdness.

I dodged the samples and searched for the true prize: chocolate-covered coffee beans. The coffee beans, exquisite and delightful, featured two types of chocolate: regular milk chocolate and white chocolate.

The coffee beans were very addicting, and gave the sensation of warm coffee traveling through my mouth as they crunched and disintegrated. It's a guarantee to make any coffee and chocolate enthusiast salivate.

In spite of the beautiful chocolates with amazing flavors, beauty comes with a price. Most of the chocolate seems to be priced by the ounce, at \$1.55 per two ounces.

I don't know about you, but I like my chocolate in bulk amounts, which can get pretty pricy. A two-pound box of chocolate meltaways cost \$23.95, which includes dark chocolate mint, milk chocolate hot fudge, dark chocolate espresso, and many others.

Though the prices are high, Bedré seems to focus on quality, as well as variety. Overall, my trip through Davis will not be forgotten because of this chocolate factory gem, and will become a tradition every time I go hiking in Sulphur.



Davis and Sulphur make for a good and quick get-away from home. Sulphur has the nature, but Davis has the chocolate.

Rating: A

—BRYCE MCELHANEY
EDITOR

MUSIC REVIEW | Band offers an eerie glimpse at creepiness and chaos

Primus makes 'Wonka' very tasty

So the band that has sailed the seas of cheese, shaken hands with beef and tasted of the famed "Pork Soda" has re-formed to help us explore some more rare delicacies with their newest record.

"Primus and the Chocolate Factory with the Fungi Ensemble" is the album that was always meant to be: sweet on its surface, but dark and crunchy at its center.

Welcome to a world of pure imagination. Primus brings us an

album strictly of covers of songs from the 1971 film, "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory."

Almost recklessly psychedelic, Primus' take on these classics offers an eerie glimpse at all the creepiness and chaos we'd suspected to be taking place during the midnight shift at Wonka's chocolate factory.

The album at times has a woeful tone that conveys the epic loneliness of Wonka's characters, a subtext that has always yearned to be explored.

Other times, its songs take on an air of the macabre. Primus though doesn't trade musicianship for lame attempts at freaking out the squares in the manner others have in covering songs from the chocolate factory.

The songs here are deeply textured and have



suddenly become far more interesting.

Hot, devilish sax and hypnotizing xylophones lead listeners galloping along over the bouncy basslines of tracks like "Golden Ticket" and "I Want it Now."

Even before this album, I'd always imagined frontman Les Claypool's thumping basslines to singularly represent the genre of music that an Oompa Loompas would actually listen to. Finally those orange, little

freaks have a whole album just for them.

It's a novelty, suited for lovers of 1971's "Wonka" or of Primus or both, but this album is not for everybody. I don't expect this to become the dance album of the year or the go-to vinyl for all occasions.

It is however playful, cathartic, nonsensical and strange.

I cannot wait to hear this blaring from people's cars as I go about my days.

"A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men," said Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka in "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory."

Rating: B+

—JORGE KRZYZANIAK
SPORTS WRITER

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Oct. 24 through Oct. 26
www.newyorktimes.com

1. *Fury*
2. *Gone Girl*
3. *The Book of Life*
4. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*
5. *The Best of Me*
6. *Dracula Untold*
7. *The Judge*
8. *Annabelle*
9. *The Equalizer*
10. *The Maze Runner*
11. *Addicted*
12. *The Boxtrolls*
13. *Guardians of the Galaxy*
14. *Left Behind*
15. *St. Vincent*
16. *Meet the Mormons*
17. *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*
18. *This Is Where I Leave You*
19. *Kill the Messenger*
20. *Birdman: Or the Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*



TUITION IS GOING UP. FORTUNATELY, SO ARE YOUR PROSPECTS.

As a member of the Air National Guard, you'll receive up to 100% college tuition assistance. Plus, you'll develop the real-world skills you need to compete in today's economy. And because you serve part-time, you can work or go to school full-time. All while receiving a regular paycheck and affordable insurance coverage.

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OKLAHOMA
**AIR NATIONAL
GUARD**

Halloween carnival fun for kids of all ages

KATIE AXTELL

News Writing Student

About 400 transformers, superheroes and princesses swarmed the college union during the evening of Oct. 24 in search of Halloween activities, sponsored by student clubs and Student Life.

The annual carnival also attracted 750 adults, including the parents supervising the children plus the students staffing the booths, said Kendra Fringer, coordinator of Student Life. She provided the count in an email message.

The Mullens family, dressed up as Goldilocks and the Three Bears, said they attend every year.

"We enjoy the games and activities for the kids" said Mrs. Mullens, the mother of the family.

With almost 20 clubs offering different activities and games, there was no shortage of amusement for the children.

The Student Media Club offered a painting station with newspaper hats kids could color.

The Enactus Club had a table full of printed Halloween drawings with crayons and markers for any age to decorate.

The Physical Therapy Club, all dressed as the Avengers, supplied many pumpkins for a pumpkin ring toss.

Music filled the college union with Michael Jackson's "Thriller," Wii dancing by Upward Bound and musical chairs sponsored by HOPE volunteers. HOPE is the acronym for the Hispanic club.

A DJ supplied music and laughs for a dance floor full of critters, fairies, and kids of all ages in a hoola hoop contest.

There was a continuous flow of candy from each booth including the Advocates of Peace fishing wall and the bucket toss by Phi Theta Kappa.

In addition to the candy, the Student Emergency Medical Science Association, Nursing Club, and College Poets and Writers handed out popcorn, snow cones, and other treats.

The Biotechnology club offered tables where the children could accessorize themselves with glow-in-the-dark bracelets to go with the face painting done by the Native American Student Association.

When the kids were tired from all the games, the Gamers Guild was there with a Wii set up with Super Smash Brothers Brawl for the youngsters to play.

At the end of the night, the parking lots were filled with Upward Bound's balloons attached to the wrists of fun-filled and sugar-saturated children.

A total of \$421 was donated to United Way.



Above: James, 3, looks for Halloween snacks at OCCC's Halloween Festival Oct. 24.



Below: Ryann, 3, dressed as Snow White, colors a pumpkin drawing at OCCC's Halloween Festival Oct 24.

Below: Riley, 4, dressed as Captain America, decorates a newspaper hat at the Student Media club booth.



PHOTOS BY ETHAN COOPER

it's a small world

Iranian student shares personal beliefs

JORGE KRZYZANIAK
Sports Writer
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Many people view a college campus as a place where all students can engage in a free exchange of ideas. But this isn't true for everyone.

One such student met with the Pioneer recently to talk about her home country of Iran and her experience as an international student. She did not want to appear on camera and asked to remain anonymous because she worries for her family. For this story, she will be called Anne.

"This is my thoughts. This is who I am, what I think, and they're going to judge me. And I'm OK with that but I worry for my husband."

Anne said her husband's family holds to the most traditional values of Iranian culture — values that generally keep Iranians from voicing opinions too loudly.

She grew up in Tehran, the capital city of Iran. She acknowledged a sordid history has taken place between the governments of Iran and the U.S. but did not want to discuss politics.

"When I came here, Iranians told me, never ever talk to other Iranians about politics. Don't make a relationship. They are bad."

These are sentiments left over from the revolution in Iran in 1980, Anne said. Those who supported the Shah (the last monarch of Iran) before and during the revolution, and those who support the new, religiously governed state, remain diametrically opposed.

She said sometimes people who had loved the Shah look down on her for being born after the revolution took place. She said that troubles her even now.

Anne told of meeting an Iranian man by chance at a museum in Oklahoma.

The man spoke of the city he'd lived in: Shiraz, once the ancient capital of Cyrus the Great (who lived from 559 to 530 BC). He told her about his visits to the castles of Cyrus the Great. He told her he wished he could still live there.

"He said, 'I would love that' but he can't because

“It really breaks my heart that Iranians do not support each other. We are all alone. We have to protect each other.”

—ANNE
IRANIAN STUDENT

of the revolution,” she said.

“It really breaks my heart that Iranians do not support each other,” she said. “We are all alone. We have to protect each other.”

Anne said before moving here, the assessments she'd heard about the U.S. were divided as well.

“There are two different kinds of people because of the revolution,” she said. “Some people like Shah. After the revolution, they like Islamic [rule].”

“Those people that like Shah, they would say, ‘It's freedom. It's great,’ all good stuff. The others would only say bad things.”

“The nice people, they love the U.S.”

Anne was determined, though, to find out for herself.

“Most people said it's freedom in the U.S. and I feel that. It's freedom. I've never traveled a lot around the country but I love people . . . I feel freedom. I like people, the way they are happy, the way they help each other.”

She said she likes Oklahoma specifically because people here are usually more friendly than in Tehran.

Even so, she said, she's heard all kinds of misconceptions about Iran from Americans.

“Some people say, ‘where are you from? You have a pretty accent.’”

Sometimes when she tells people she's from Iran, she said, their tone changes. Some even physically pull away and a look of disgust comes over their faces. Anne said she tries not to take it personally.

“But some people, they hug me,” she said, “They give me love, so my love is going to go higher for people.”

Anne, in her mid-20s, has only been in the U.S. for two years. However, she has fallen in love with Oklahoma and is impressed by the opportunities

offered here.

“You can find jobs easier than in Iran,” she said. “For example in Iran, a taxi driver could be educated in civil engineering but could not find a job. He drives a taxi. He cannot pay for rent. It's really hard.”

“But here, if you're educated, you're going to make money and if you're not educated you're not going to make a lot of money but you can live with that money. In Iran, it's easy to be educated there but it's really hard to have a good job and support your life.”

She's been impressed with more than the socio-economic benefits of living in the U.S.

“The other thing is drive-thru. It's great.”

Anne said American restaurants astonish her.

“They give you free water,” she said. “In Iran you have to pay for water. The other thing is you can get refills for Cokes. That's great. Iran; no. You have to pay.”

Anne said the first time she ordered a sandwich in the U.S. was in a Subway restaurant. She said she was nearly overwhelmed by the process because of the number of options. But, she said, American restaurants cannot replace all the comforts of home.

She misses her mother's cooking and some of the more traditional Iranian foods.

Kaleh Pacheh, the food she misses most, has proven almost impossible to get stateside without an intensive process of shopping and preparation.

Kaleh Pacheh, literally translated, means head and hoof soup. It is a hearty soup made from the head and hooves of a cow, sheep or goat and seasoned with onions, garlic, spices and herbs. It takes more than a day to prepare the head and hooves and, she said, it is a painstaking task to clean them.

There are other things she misses about Iran as well. “You don't have sidewalks,” she said, “I came here. I was so alone. So bored,” she said,

“In Tehran . . . we have taxis, bus, metro, subway. Then I came here and nobody was out on the street.”

“It was so hard for me.”

Anne said she gets frustrated when restaurants close early in the evening. She misses all-night cafés, bustling streets and sometimes even the smell of exhaust that permeates the city of Tehran. Otherwise, Anne said, she is happy in Oklahoma and at OCCC.



Iran

Capital: Tehran

Population: 77.45 million (2013)

GDP: 368.9 billion U.S. Dollars (2013)

Size: 636,400 sq miles

Official Languages: Persian

Currency: Iranian Rial

Government: A supreme leader (elected) and a president (voted in).

Religion: Sunni and Shi'i are the two largest branches of Islam, with the overwhelming majority of Iranians practicing Shi'i Islam. About 90 percent of Iranians practice Shi'ism, the official religion of Iran. By contrast, most Arab states in the Middle East are predominantly Sunni.

Details: Iran, also known as Persia, officially the Islamic Republic of Iran, is a country in Western Asia. It is bordered to the northwest by Armenia and Azerbaijan, with Kazakhstan and Russia across the Caspian.



—google.com

SPORTS

EVENT NEWS

Taking the plunge



ETHAN COOPER/PIONEER

Blue Water Divers instructor Shane Norwood helps students Heather Hines, Cory Hughes and Ben Franks enter OCCC's diving well on Oct 3. Blue Water Divers offers instruction at OCCC from 6:30 to 8 p.m Tuesdays and Thursdays every other week. For more information about Blue Water Divers and scuba certification, visit <http://bluewaterokc.com>. The pool and diving well are free to students with a valid OCCC ID. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/rf/wellness.

COMMUNITY | A spring competition is being planned, says Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright

Employees compete in volleyball tourney

JORGE KRZYZANIAK

Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

At 5 p.m. Oct. 23, two teams gathered under the gaze of James Brown, OCCC sports attendant, to compete in a volleyball tournament in the school gymnasium.

Unlike the majority of athletic events taking place at OCCC, however, no students were involved, said Recreation and Fitness Director Michael Shugart.

The 6-on-6 employee volleyball tournament was for OCCC employees only, Shugart said.

Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright said the event was well received by its participants.

"We had two full teams out there so they played the best of five ... After that we decided to mix the teams up and just played for fun."

Wright said the style of tournament play may change with more participants as the event recurs but, he said, each team that enters is guaranteed to play at least five games.

On Oct. 23, one team emerged as the clear victor, he said. "We did best out of five and one team won three out of

the four games — 3 to 1."

The teams didn't have names, Wright said. He said the winners took home no other prize than the thrill of victory this time. But he said the next tournament may yield a greater award.

"Usually, if we have more teams, the winners will get some intramural championships T-shirts."

The next employee volleyball tournament is now just months away, Wright said. He said he expects to see some of the same athletes crashing the nets next semester.

"We'll do it in the spring too," Wright said, "We normally do it in the spring."

"Last spring we had four teams. This is the first time doing it in the fall. In the spring there should be a few more teams."

Volleyball courts are set up and available for practice from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays in OCCC's gym.

Follow the Pioneer for information about registering for the next employee volleyball tournament and for all OCCC sports news.

For more information about Recreation and Fitness, contact Wright at matthew.j.wright@occc.edu.



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 OCCCID 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.

Countries: OCCC is home to many international students

Continued from page 1

school, but the last one is taken in one school in the city with everyone who has the same last-name initial as you. That test lasts two and a half days," Kouch said.

"If you fail the test, you have to repeat the year, but if you pass, then there isn't any sort of graduation. You would just enroll in university."

As in Cambodia, many countries end secondary school with a final test, which is very important for moving on to university.

"In the French-speaking part of Cameroon, where I am from, you take a final test called the 'Baccalauréat,' which you must pass to go on to university," said Edgar Tita, who is from that

African country.

Universities are also different in other countries, with many being career-specific.

"You go to a university for what you want to do," said Kha Tran, who, along with her sister Le, is originally from the southeast Asian country of Vietnam.

"If you want to be a scientist, teacher, or even an athlete, you go to a school with everyone else who wants to do the same thing."

The same is true in Cambodia, Peru and Cameroon, among many others.

"In Peru, getting accepted at the schools is very hard," said Gustavo Ravello, who is studying engineering at OCCC.

"For the engineering school, only 30 students are accepted

out of about 10,000 applicants."

Many American students receive something in the U.S. that these students could not in their home countries: financial aid.

"There is no financial aid at all in Cameroon. Universities are really only for the rich people," Tita said. "It is even harder there because private universities are much better than the public ones, but only the richest people can afford to go there."

Kouch said that things in Cambodia are a little different.

"In Cambodia, there is some financial aid, but it's only for the smartest or poorest kids. Because of that, many people can't afford to go."

On the other hand, for students in China, the U.S. system

is familiar.

"The system is very similar in China; there are elementary, middle, and high schools, just like in the U.S.," said Sigmund Zhang, a student from the southern area of China, located in far eastern Asia.

Su Guan, another Chinese student at OCCC, cited more similarities.

"Schools have competitive sports teams like here in the U.S. There are even colleges like OCCC in China, and universities that you can go to, which are considered more desirable than colleges."

Guan, along with Zhang and their friend Richard Wang, spend much of their time outside of classes in the World Languages and Cultures Center.

In the WLCC, students can study one of many foreign languages through Rosetta Stone for free on their computers.

Students also can watch foreign television and many foreign films in the WLCC. But most importantly, students can find many students there who are learning about and adapting to American culture.

For more about the ESL Bridge Program, contact Figueroa at 405-682-1611, ext. 7326, or email afigueroa@occc.edu.

For more about the WLCC, call 405-682-7560, or visit them on the second floor of the Main Building.

For more about international admissions, contact David Orsburn at 405-682-7884, or by email dorsburn@occc.edu.

Center: Testing Center outlines its rules, lists holiday hours

Continued from page 1

the biggest lockers that would hold a suitcase-sized book bag.

The center's doors are locked one hour before closing, so no tests can be started after this time.

A student ID is absolutely required to take a test in the Testing Center.

The main test center is for student use. Students are able to take OCCC academic tests for their various classes. Some professors strictly use the Test-

ing Center for their courses.

The testing and assessment portion of the center offers six different tests, including the GED and ACT. Since these tests are for students and non-students alike, a government-issued ID is accepted for these.

Finals week hours for the test center have been released for the fall 2014 semester. Monday, Dec. 8, through Friday, Dec. 12, the center will be open from 8 a.m. until 11 p.m. There will be no admittance after 10 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 13, the center

will open at 8 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. with no admittance after 4 p.m. The center will be closed Sunday, Dec. 14.

For more information, call 405-682-7531, or visit the website at www.occc.edu/acs/testingcenter.

Drop: Registrar says it's better for students to drop than fail

Continued from page 1

tion is for students to withdraw from classes they are failing.

OCCC students have until midnight Friday, Nov. 7, to withdraw from 16-week courses without a refund. They have until midnight Friday, Nov. 21, to withdraw from 8-week classes with no refund.

After those dates, students will not be able to drop for any reason unless they file an appeal. The appeal process is tedious, Stringfellow said.

"After that date, there's really no method by which a student can withdraw outside of an emergency that would prevent a student from completing classes," he said. "They can submit an appeal to go before a committee and we can review it, but there's really no standard

way a student can withdraw at that point," he said.

Stringfellow said students can withdraw from a class in two different ways. After logging in at MineOnline, select classes, and choose the option to withdraw from the class or classes. Stopping by the Registration Office is also an option.

"If you're on campus, just stop by registration and fill out a registration form," he said. "The bottom portion of that allows you to withdraw from classes. You can use one of the computers to look up the sections that you're currently enrolled in, or once you get over to the registration clerk or assistant, they'll be able to help you out with identifying the sections you're enrolled in."

When students drop a class, NR (Not Recorded) will be on

their transcript until the end of the semester when grades are recorded, Stringfellow said. Once grades are posted, the student's transcript will have a W (Withdraw) for the grade of the course. That shouldn't hurt students and their future education plans, Stringfellow said. "It doesn't necessarily look bad," he said. "If you have a large number of them, they could impact whether you get into a special program that might require a certain number of successfully completed courses."

"I have had, and it hasn't been here at OCCC, a situation where a student tried to get into a program in another state and the Ws were impacting [eligibility]."

"It could impact it that way. It doesn't impact them in any

way in terms of their cumulative GPA, or any of their GPAs, but it could impact their financial aid."

If a student dropping a class receives financial aid, Stringfellow said, it's a good idea to meet with someone from the Financial Aid office.

A percentage of completed classes is something financial aid checks, so dropping a class could mean losing assistance. However, Stringfellow said, this does not apply to all students.

"Not every student who's withdrawing needs to do that, just those students who may have a number of Ws or a number of Fs, because those are the two things that negatively impact the successful completion," he said.

Stringfellow said students

who do not receive financial aid also may want to meet with an academic adviser or a faculty adviser, although it is not required. Every situation is different, he said.

Stringfellow said the sooner students drop classes, the better.

"If you're going to withdraw, I'd do it as soon as possible," he said. "I wouldn't wait until the last day."

"It's going to be a busy day and things happen — flat tires, things which might impact you getting to school to withdraw ...," he said.

For more information about withdrawing from a class, contact the Registration Office at 405-682-7512. To drop a class, visit MineOnline at <https://datatelwa.occc.edu/WebAdvisor>.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Class actors

Theater Arts majors Bethanie Hamilton and Logan Hackworth act out a scene from a play in the Arts and Humanities Building on Oct 22. Hamilton said the two were doing a class assignment.



ETHAN COOPER/
PIONEER

COMMUNITY | Tim O'Brien says being sent to Vietnam changed his personal perspective

War story author shares personal tales

CANDICE A. SCHAFER
Community Writer
Communitywriter@occc.edu

Tim O'Brien said he best identifies as a writer who enjoys sitting in front of his computer in his underwear writing stories when he spoke at the VPAC Theater Oct. 21 to a large crowd.

The event originated a year ago when the OCCC Library's chose "The Things They Carried" as the 2014-15 OCCC Reads book. Faculty members have been encouraged to use the book in their courses, and copies of the book were distributed free to students, faculty and staff.

The author told audience members he also is a father, a son and an Army veteran from the Vietnam War.

O'Brien said, since he was a boy, he has been a believer of the power of stories.

"They help us understand not just where we've been, but where we are and where we may be going ...," he said. "Stories, in the end, help us feel a little less alone."

Then, O'Brien told a story of his own of an emotional time in his life when his father was dying in

a hospital.

"I could've and I should have held my father in my arms and told him that I loved him," he said. "I didn't do it for a whole bunch of small-town reasons. We were a family where fathers and sons didn't use that word often, if at all."

O'Brien said, through storytelling, miracles can happen — things that couldn't happen in real life. For instance, he said, his father would be able to reach out even in death and tell his son he knows he loves him. O'Brien said that is the reason he writes fiction.

War — the subject of O'Brien's book — brought about another personal story.

O'Brien said being drafted into the war in 1969 at the age of 19 wasn't something he had planned. He said he was brought up Methodist and was taught not to kill.

During the war, O'Brien said, he found himself conflicted. On one hand he said, he could be sent to jail or even executed if he didn't kill. But on the other, his morals were being put to the test.

"I was a guy who hated cub scouts and the outdoors," he said. "In the war, I was miserable both physically and morally, because of these so-called truths."

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Persuasive writing lecture on Nov. 3

A lecture discussing persuasive writing will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3. This lecture is a partnership between Student Life and the Communications Lab and will be located in CU3. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

Presentation to address revising, editing papers

The Communications Lab and Student Life have partnered to bring a presentation on revising and editing papers. The event is from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5, in CU 3. For more information, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523.

ESL Conversation Groups aim to help fluency

English as a Second Language will host conversation groups designed to help strengthen the fluency of those who may not speak English as their first language. The groups are a safe place where participants can have fun while gaining self confidence. The groups are held from 12:30 until 2 p.m. each Monday in VPAC room 146 and from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. each Thursday in VPAC room 146. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/comlab/eslg.html or contact Senior Communications Lab Assistant Lydia Rucker at 405-682-1611, ext. 7105.

"Psychology for (and about) Everybody!"

Join the Psychology Club on Wednesday, Nov. 5, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Bruce Owen Theater as McGraw-Hill Education author Dr. Laura King discusses her thoughts on the topic of psychology. King also is the author of the psychology textbook "An Introduction to Psychology." For more information, contact Professor Allen at 405-682-1611, ext. 7212.

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

After the war, O'Brien said, he realized he didn't know himself as well as he had thought.

"I thought I was a good guy — kind, patient, non-violent — and then I found other truths about myself that had been hidden," he said.

"I was capable of violence. I was capable of incredible bitterness and cynicism, which stays with me to this day."

O'Brien's book allows readers to view what a war is like through the eyes of a scared young man who didn't know what he was doing.

O'Brien's speech put the book in perspective and allowed audience members to get a small glimpse of his life and an understand how the book came to be.

For a synopsis of the book, visit www.sparknotes.com/lit/thingscarried/summary.

To check out a copy of "The Things They Carried," visit the OCCC Library.

A complete listing of books available there can be found at www.occc.edu/library.

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.

2527 or email nahtali-noel-nhongo@my.occc.edu.

LOOKING FOR ROOM TO RENT: Male, 23, student looking to rent a room close to campus for no more than \$250-\$300 a month through fall semester. Email john.white336@my.occc.edu.

FOR SALE: Calpak Lightweight 20-Inch Rolling Shopper Tote from www.Overstock.com Item #14496686. Large polka dots in orange, brown and green. Used once. Asking \$20. Email for picture: 4allmypets@gmail.com.

FOR SALE: This space. For just \$8 per week, your business could reach hundreds of perspective clients. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or email adman@occc.edu for more information.

FURNITURE

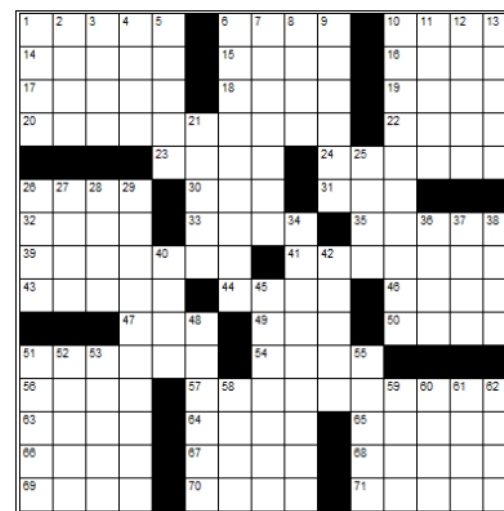
FOR SALE: 40" CRT television in excellent condition. Big screen makes it great for a gaming TV. \$30. Text 405-818-0083.

MISCELLANEOUS

LOOKING FOR ROOM TO RENT: Close to campus. Male roommates only. Call Nahtali-Noel Nhongo at 832-738-

ACROSS

- 1. Extols
- 6. Sheltered spot
- 10. Flat float
- 14. Map within a map
- 15. How old we are
- 16. Type of sword
- 17. Drive
- 18. Fog
- 19. Principal
- 20. Hard brownish-red earthenware
- 22. Desire
- 23. Stop for a horse
- 24. Renter
- 26. Views
- 30. Eastern Standard Time
- 31. French for "Summer"
- 32. Aquatic plant
- 33. Untruths
- 35. Hunger for
- 39. Letter carrier
- 41. Disgraced
- 43. Follow as a result
- 44. Trade agreement
- 46. Bell sound
- 47. Not bottom
- 49. Prompt
- 50. Countercurrent
- 51. Poor handwriting
- 54. Historical periods
- 56. Gossip
- 57. Not gifted
- 63. Hindu princess
- 64. Violent disturbance
- 65. Drench
- 66. Therefore
- 67. Skin disease
- 68. Small goat antelope
- 69. Biblical garden
- 70. Dregs
- 71. Provide



DOWN

- 1. Enumerate
- 2. Initial wager
- 3. End ____
- 4. Bambi was one
- 5. Chaff
- 6. Leaving
- 7. Provoke
- 8. In order to prevent
- 9. What's left behind
- 10. Compensate
- 11. 3-banded armadillo
- 12. Pretend
- 13. Basic belief
- 21. Pincer
- 25. Carve in stone
- 26. Identical
- 27. Distinctive flair
- 28. Auspices
- 29. Greeting
- 34. Fills up
- 36. Among
- 37. Sell
- 38. Jittery
- 40. Cat sound
- 42. Pilfer
- 45. Polish remover
- 48. Not singular
- 51. A sloping mass of loose rocks
- 52. Common beet
- 53. Cooktop
- 55. Marsh plant
- 58. Agreeable
- 59. Middy
- 60. Feces
- 61. Brother of Jacob
- 62. Expunge

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Military women the focus of Veterans Day celebration

BRYCE MCELHANEY
Editor
editor@occc.edu

Veterans Day is a day to honor the men and women who have served in the military, said Student Life Director Erin Logan. But this year, OCCC will focus on the women, she said.

"This year, we're doing a women-in-the-military theme," she said.

OCCC will celebrate Veterans Day with a two-hour program at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 11 in the College Union rooms, which will include food and music, Logan said.

Philosophy professor and Student Life Faculty Liaison Stephen Morrow said Veterans Day is a day to remember all the people who have served for the



country.

"It gives our OCCC community a chance to think about and respect those veterans here on campus," he said.

As an Air Force veteran from the Vietnam war, Morrow said, he believes going to war is a very deep moral question.

Morrow said Veterans Day is always a quiet day for him, though he plans to bring it up in his classes.

"It's a day of mixed emotions for me," he said. "We do have to respect all of those who served, but at the same time, being a militaristic country is something I think we should do a more thoughtful reflection on."

Disability Support Specialist Todd Rudat said he enjoys seeing the Vietnam veterans in particular come out and get the "welcome home" they didn't get during that era, he said.

Rudat served six years in the Marines as a Korean

linguist and cryptanalyst from 1985 to 1991, he said.

"From a veterans standpoint, it's this formal day where you get to recognize each other," he said.

"From a community or citizen standpoint, it's another day of reminding people that there's this whole population of people that did make some sacrifices for the greater good of the community."

Rudat said veterans still have needs that aren't necessarily being met.

"[It's important] to recognize that they don't all come back the way they left," he said. "It's a day to recognize what we can be doing to help ...," he said.

Logan said Veterans Day is an opportunity for others to celebrate soldiers and veterans and to recognize the sacrifices they have made, she said.

"I think Veterans Day is a very important holiday that we celebrate to really recognize the freedoms that we have based primarily on the lives that we're given," she said.

For more information on celebrating Veterans Day at OCCC, call Student Life at 405-682-7523 or email at SLstaffDL@occc.edu.

Whooping cough still affecting hundreds yearly

CURTIS GREEN
News Writing Student

Most people don't think of whooping cough as a fatal disease, but it can be.

"Two hundred fifty-five deaths in the U.S. have been caused by whooping cough since 2000," said nursing major Brandy Butler. She said the disease also is known as pertussis.

Butler was the spokeswoman for a group of nursing students who researched the topic for a Sept. 22 Brown Bag Lunch lecture.

The main objective for the speech was to educate students about pertussis and how to prevent it. She said the best prevention is timely vaccinations.

Her fellow group members were Carrie Arter, Gabriela Jimenez, Kristi Phillips, Shaquanna Alexander, Terra

Corley, Abibatou Chatman and Melissa Bell.

"Health care professionals are constantly watching the spread of the disease, which sometimes is confused with acute bronchitis," Butler said.

Pertussis is a disease that primarily affects the lower respiratory tract, Butler said. "It is most dangerous to children."

It causes violent and rapid coughing over and over until the air is gone from the lungs, she said. Then you are forced to inhale with a loud whooping sound, hence the name.

"The best prevention is to get the DTaP immunization," Butler said.

"The shot is required, but certain people are allowed to forgo it," Butler said. But, she said, medical professionals highly recommend getting it, especially for children.

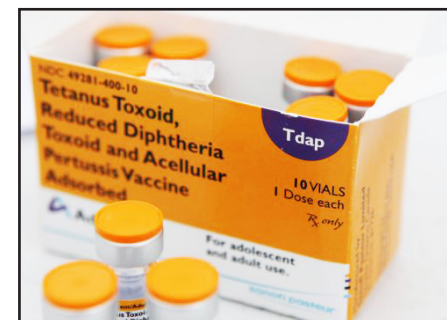
In 2012, pertussis was diagnosed in 48,277 people but decreased in 2013 down to 28,639 cases. So far in 2014, it is at 17,325, according to the Center for Disease Control.

"Pertussis is highly contagious, being a bacterial disease," Butler said.

It can spread through the air from a cough or sneeze, she said. Pertussis also can be transferred if patients cough into their hand and touch another person.

"The name pertussis is from the bacteria *Bordetella Pertussis* and it damages the cilia in the lungs and causes inflammation," Butler said.

Symptoms appear in five to 10 days and can last for three weeks. The early symptoms are runny nose, low-grade fever and the cough, she said. The traditional symptoms are fits of rapid coughs followed by the whoop sound,



vomiting and exhaustion.

"The Centers for Disease Control is currently researching new laboratory methods against the disease."

She said they have found patients can get the full-blown disease only once, while other times, a milder version will occur.

For more information, go to the Centers for Disease Control's website, at www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about.

Fire alarms, harassing texts keep campus police busy

LAUREN DANIEL
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Officials recently responded to two fire alarms within a two-day period

The first occurred the morning of Oct. 14. After a report of an odor of smoke in the College Union area and a confirmation of smoke in the air, the Oklahoma City Fire Department was dispatched to campus.

Officer Gordon Nelson said he manually activated the fire alarm because the smoke had not activated it. The General Dining Area, and the Health Professions Center were evacuated. According to the report, the Campus Alert System was not used because the alerts are campus wide and the affected area was all that needed to receive the alarm. Additional information is available in a supplemental report that was requested but not provided.

At about 5 p.m. Oct. 15, a fire alarm went off in the EMS Lab in Room 110 of the Health Professions area. The report shows Professor Matthew McClure was using a smoke machine in one of his classes when it set off the fire alarm. McClure was told he could not use the machine again until it is approved.

James Wasson, Internet Technology system administrator, reported receiving harassing text messages on Oct. 16.

Wasson said he did not know the per-

son texting him and sent a screenshot to campus police. According to the report, Sgt. Daniel Piazza ran the telephone number. Nelson called the number and left a message. Additional information is available in a supplemental report that was requested but not provided.

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.