Troubleshooting

Homeless student finds ways to cope

Amy and her teenage son have lived in several places since her husband died in 2013

The student, who asked to remain anonymous and will be called Amy for this story, said life had never been exactly easy. For years, Amy had been a full-time caretaker to her husband, a double amputee. She also was coping with her own injuries from a car wreck at the time.

Then, she said, she awoke one morning to find her husband having a heart attack. Amy said she tried to save him but couldn’t. Paramedics later said by the time she found him, it was already too late.

Still, she said, she continues to have post traumatic stress from that incident. Amy had been out of the workforce for years and, suddenly, her family’s one source of income was gone forever.

She said her set of marketable skills was limited and, more than anything, the responsibility of caring for her teenage son rested solely upon her.

“I literally was found, in the middle of my life, disabled,” she said — and it wasn’t long before she and her son had to leave their home with their futures uncertain.

Homeless student finds ways to cope

Oklahoma City offers many helpful resources

BRYCE McELHANEY
Editor
editor@occc.edu

1,481.
That was the countable number of homeless people in the Oklahoma City area in 2014, according to homelessalliance.org.

Though the state’s homeless population has declined significantly since 2010, Oklahoma City’s homeless population had increased by 20 percent in 2013.

See ALLIANCE page 7
Reality TV needs religious views

I've always been a huge fan of reality television. I grew up watching "Jon & Kate Plus Eight," "Little People Big World," "Cake Boss" and "19 Kids and Counting." I still watch these shows and have added "Duck Dynasty" to my list. It seems like every week some star of a reality show is on every social media outlet for something they said, something they posted, or even what they think.

Most recently, Phil Robertson, patriarch of "Duck Dynasty," made a speech at a prayer breakfast about atheists. Of course, this sparked a major controversy and involved everyone who has a Facebook page. This isn't the first time the Robertsons or stars of reality television shows have been ridiculed for having conservative beliefs.

"The Duggars, a family with 19 kids and the stars of "19 Kids and Counting" have been under fire the past couple of months because people believe they discriminate against the LGBT community. A petition to take the show off the air has been started by www.change.org and has about 188,000 signatures of the 500,000 they are trying to get. The Duggars, like any other family on television such as "Duck Dynasty," are allowed to have opinions. They are allowed to believe homosexuality is wrong and they're allowed to express those opinions on television or social media. Just because the Duggars don't support the LGBT lifestyle does not mean they should be taken off the air.

The LGBT community is allowed to have their opinions and are allowed to express their opinions, as well. Just because the LGBT community has differing views than the Duggars does not mean the Duggars should lose their show.

Over the last few years, there has been a decreased tolerance for those with a different opinion. This has drastically altered what we see and hear each time we turn on the television. Each day, someone throws a fit because someone else has an opinion they find offensive. Where is the limit? When does it end? When is everyone going to grow up and realize how childish it is to keep limiting and censoring what we say because the opinions don't match up? Everyone is trying to become more open, more accepting, but really, we're being conditioned to have a view that offends no one, and really not even have an opinion. As Americans, we have freedom of speech, religion and press. Part of what makes us a "melting pot" is our different backgrounds and different views. We should be allowed to openly express our opinions without being shut down by someone of a different viewpoint. It is possible to have a civil discussion without pulling the victim card.

You can have your beliefs and I can have mine, but you don't need to interfere with my television schedule simply because a family has Biblical beliefs that differ from yours.

—Lauren Daniel
Online Editor

Non-profit news group hosting public forum on poverty

To the editor:

I'm an OCCC journalism graduate with a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma. I now work for Oklahoma Watch. I want to tell you about an event you might be interested in attending — a public forum on Thursday, April 16, on the challenges of low-income neighborhoods in south Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma Watch is a non-profit news organization located at OU’s Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication. Those two organizations are sponsoring the event. The question-and-answer forum with local leaders will focus on the needs and concerns of south Oklahoma City communities and is tied to a mobile-video news project "Talk With Us: Poverty in Oklahoma City Neighborhoods."

The forum is from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church gymnasium, 123 SW 25th St., Oklahoma City. It is open to the public. Those interested in attending are encouraged to RSVP to events@oklahomawatch.org and come with questions. Oklahoma Watch Executive Editor David Fritz will moderate a discussion with civic and community leaders about issues they see and deal with in south Oklahoma City. The panelists include:

—Oklahoma City Councilwoman Meg Salyer. Salyer took office as the Ward 6 council member in November 2008 and was re-elected to a third term in March.

—Attorney Michael Brooks-Jimenez. His legal services team focuses on defending the rights of Hispanics. The project is made possible by a grant from the Online News Association Challenge Fund for Innovation in Journalism Education. It features virtual conversations between low-income residents and public leaders about issues facing some of the city’s struggling areas. For more information visit oklahomawatch.org and talkwithus.net.

—Lindsay Welchel
OCCC Graduate
Wacky weather totally worthwhile

If you’ve lived in Oklahoma for more than a week, it’s not difficult to grasp the craziness of the weather here. People from many other places claim the weather where they are from is the most unpredictable in the entire world. Frankly, experience makes me disagree.

I have fond memories of these times. At a camp in the summer of 2008, I remember it being sunny all day, then suddenly becoming cloudy and raining torrentially for about 45 minutes, and then becoming clear and sunny again. In fact, people at that camp from other states were bewildered by what had happened. I was not.

Then again this year, highs were in the 70s in January, then snow dominated February and early March, with mid to late March ravaged by storms and tornadoes. On the other side, there are things about Oklahoma’s weather that are predictable. Such as the fact that if you live in Moore long enough, a tornado will probably destroy your home at some point. Sorry Moore, but it’s true.

Having lived in Oklahoma for my entire life, I feel like I should understand it could be over 100 degrees for 100 straight days during the summer and be able to reach below zero the following winter — and that there also will be a tornado during that same winter. Realistically, that is just normal, but it still befuddles me from time to time.

The weather here can destroy entire areas, ruin your daily commute to work for a week with ice, or directly set you on fire. But at least it is more entertaining than watching the same program day in and day out.

—Clayton Mitchell
Sports Writer

T-ball a big hit with moms and kids

The sun is finally starting to shine. The smell of fresh grass in the air. Birds are singing the spring songs.

It is finally that time of year and my son is finally that age to begin my family ritual of being immersed in baseball.

Being in this foreign, flat land of nothing, finding a good team to sign him up for T-ball was proving to be a bit of a disappointment.

After the season had already started, my hopes of my mini-me following in the footsteps of my family tradition were smooshed.

Then my sister-in-law came along and had us sign up for her stepson’s team in the Putnam City Optimists league.

I was ecstatic, but hesitant to trust this league to be all that I remember mine to be.

Now, after one game and one practice, seeing my son having the time of his life, I am more than happy to have him be a part of the team.

A large part of that happiness is being able to contribute my own experience and coaching skills.

I’m not one of those moms who will calmly sit on the side lines. I’m the crazy jumping lady going up and down on the side lines screaming and cheering during the games — even if my son is only two months shy of being five years-old.

During practice, my husband and I both are able to contribute to the children acting like chickens running around with their heads cut off and herding them to where they need to be.

We are able to be a part of the team and able to come home as a family with dirt, chalk and grass stains alike.

For any parents who are looking for a wonderful and friendly league to sign their children up for softball, baseball, or football, my recommendation would be Putnam City Optimists.

More information for them can be found on their website pcosports.com.

Rating: A

—Katie Axtell
Community Writer

Tornadoes: Fine Art or the Land of Nothing?

Putting a tornado into a category can almost be like putting music into a category. It seems like there is no way to put it into any category. It is certainly not fine art. It is not the land of nothing. It is surely not all of these.

Tornadoes are simply a part of Oklahoma weather.

—Clayton Mitchell
Sports Writer

Darn you ‘Duet’

I don’t get frustrated easily. For me to lose my cool, it takes a long series of failures. If I mess up a job interview, I’m calm, but if I fail at the exact same menial task literally dozens of times in a row, I understand how some people will chainsaw a stranger’s car in half.

“Duet” is an app designed for frustration. It will have people grinding their teeth until they spit powder. It is more discouraging than trying to walk a tightrope on ice skates.

“Duet” is an extremely simple and minimalistic game. Two balls, one red and one blue, sit at the bottom of the screen waiting for the player to rotate them right and left to dodge the obstacles flying at them from the top of the screen.

It seems easy enough at first, but when one ball moves left, the other moves right. The player has to watch the flying obstacles, move one ball out of the way, and make sure the obstacle doesn’t hit the other ball afterward.

It is not easy. The entire game is counterintuitive, and after playing through several levels, the obstacles become ridiculous. Some of them will split in half when they approach the balls, some of them will rotate, and some of them are actually false decoys that will trick you into smashing a ball into another real obstacle.

Oh, and the smashing is wonderful. If a ball hits an obstacle, it will splat against it and the level starts over. However, when the player performs the level again, all the splatters from the previous failures are still on the same shapes.

The splatters are probably the worst part of the game. I could literally twist and dodge my way through a crazy level with my heart racing, see the final obstacle coming up, and notice a red splatter on the right corner of it from where I died last time.

And I got to watch myself make the exact same mistake as I did before, with the exact same timing, coating the old red paint with some fresh red paint. This happened constantly.

“Duet” reminds us all of the futility of life, the way history repeats itself, and the fact that even when a person succeeds, another series of failure is right around the bend.

That all being said, it is more fun than “Tetris” and more addictive than meth. “Duet: There Is No God.”

—Jake McMahon
Videographer
Music recording program makes melodies come to life

For most Mac owners, GarageBand is a cute little program to record music on. When I first bought my MacBook Pro, I thought this program was incredible. To think there was a way to finally record my horrible cover songs and share it with the world was amazing.

My 17-year-old self happily played sensitive acoustic guitar and slapped some reverb on it, and called it good. I have several forgotten audio files to prove it, but now things have changed.

Ever since I downloaded Logic Pro X, my life has gotten significantly better. The program made me realize how many different ways you can distort, flange, echo and reverse echo until you make a catastrophic acid trip condensed into an mp3 file.

Nowadays, I pull out the MIDI keyboard, create complex three chord progressions, add some sick beats on there and pretend like I’m the next J Dilla.

Sure, I’m still making horrible music, but I’m enjoying it a little more with all the finer details the program offers.

GarageBand is kept very simple, like the nature of a Mac. Logic takes a little longer to figure out, but it’s worth discovering all the nooks and crannies.

I’ve owned the program since last fall, but I’m still finding things about the program I haven’t touched before.

Recently, I’ve been going through an EDM bass phase. Last month, it was ukulele. Just last night, I found a dubstep option — too bad it’s not 2010.

The point is, owning two banjos, a ukulele, a couple of guitars and, of course, a MIDI keyboard is more satisfying when you own Logic Pro X to record it all on. It’s nice to have acoustic instruments, but I have to tell you, the MIDI keyboard tops it all when using Logic Pro X.

The amount of drum machines, synthesizers, pianos and arpeggiators is seemingly limitless with a plethora of options.

If you’re willing to invest in the $200 program, I can confidently say you won’t regret it.

Rating: A

—BRYCE McELHANEY
Editor

‘Hugo’ pushes film boundaries

Over the weekend I had time to watch one of my favorite movies directed by Martin Scorsese. No, I did not watch “Goodfellas” or “After Hours,” though they are both excellent.

Instead I decided to watch the historical adventure family drama “Hugo.”

The film stars Asa Butterfield as Hugo Cabret, a young orphan living a secretive life in the walls of an early 20th century Paris railway station where he maintains the station’s clocks.

Living in hiding, Hugo works on repairing an automaton his father was working on before he died.

But the automaton is missing a heart-shaped key.

And without the the key, the automaton cannot function.

Convinced the automaton contains a message from his father, Hugo goes to great lengths to fix it.

Hugo begins stealing parts needed for his automaton, but a toy shop owner (Ben Kingsley) catches Hugo and confiscates his blueprints.

Hugo befriends the toy shop owner’s goddaughter Isabelle (Chloë Grace Moretz) and together they set out to uncover the mystery surrounding Hugo’s automaton.

This is one of the best movies about movies. But there is more to “Hugo” than paying homage to classic films.

While showing us the world of the past, the film also pushes the boundaries of modern filmmaking.

Although 3D has been abandoned and reserved for superhero movies, back in 2011, “Hugo” was the movie that convinced me 3D could be the next step for filmmaking.

3D technical gibberish aside, Thelma Schoonmaker’s editing is spot-on amazing as usual.

The music, cinematography, writing, acting and everything else, combine to create one sensational film.

“Hugo” was made by some of the best filmmakers who I hope never stop making movies.

Overall, “Hugo” is more than a terrific movie — it’s a filmmaker’s love letter to the origins of cinema.

The film is currently available to watch on Netflix Instant.

Rating: A+

—ETHAN COOPER
Photographer

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of April 3 through April 5
www.newyorktimes.com

1. Furious 7
2. Home
3. Get Hard
4. Cinderella
5. The Divergent Series: Insurgent
6. It Follows
7. Woman in Gold
8. Kingsman: The Secret Service
9. Do You Believe?
10. The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
11. American Sniper
12. Run All Night
13. McFarland, USA
14. While We’re Young
15. Focus
16. The Gunman
17. Detective Byomkesh Bakshy
18. Danny Collins
19. Fifty Shades of Grey
20. The Spongebob Movie: Sponge Out of Water
OCCC vice president inducted into hall of fame

LAUREN DANIEL
Online Editor
onlineeditor@occc.edu

Marion Paden’s parents picked her up from Will Rogers World Airport and dropped her off at the front door of South Oklahoma City Junior College.

Paden was living in Texas at the time and working for Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas, as the Student Life Director, but decided it was time to apply for a job in Oklahoma.

Now, 32 years later, Paden is the Enrollment and Student Services vice president and longest serving Chief Student Affairs Officer in the state.

Every day, she looks out her office windows that were once the doors she walked in when she first arrived at OCCC.

On April 7, Paden became the first woman from OCCC to be inducted into the Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame.

OCCC President Paul Sechrist nominated Paden for her contributions to the campus and the community.

“I was honored to recommend Dr. Paden for induction,” Sechrist said. “Her long and distinguished service as the chief student officer at OCCC and in the state of Oklahoma certainly makes her worthy.”

“Fit” is very important to the life of a college student and even to an employee, she said.

Paden said she believes it’s her job to give back to people every day. She believes in the Biblical expression, “To whom much is given, much is required.”

“I really do believe that you are given certain gifts in your life and it is your responsibility to use them wisely and generously,” she said.

When Paden found out she would be inducted into the Women’s Hall of Fame, she said she was surprised because she looks up to many of the women who have been inducted or will be inducted and considers it an honor.

“I knew I had been nominated and they called me and said ‘congratulations,’” she said. “I had done some research on the website and I looked during her college transition gave her the desire to help students.

“People didn’t know us and so I’ve done a lot of outreach in the community,” she said.

Paden said she was dedicated to helping people become more comfortable on campus in an effort to have more adult students enroll.

For more information about the Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame, visit www.ok.gov/ocs/Oklahoma_Women’s_Hall_of_Fame.
Oklahoma City bombing remembered 20 years later

KATIE AXTELL
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Nearly 20 years have passed since the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, and the memory of the event still lives on.

Computer Science Professor Al Heitkamper reflected on where he was at 9:02 a.m. April 19, 1995.

"I was in Choctaw teaching class and, all of a sudden, the building shook really bad … . Someone said something happened so we turned on the TV.

"It was a really interesting time," Heitkamper said. "A very scary time. It was the first major domestic attack we’ve ever had.”

Computer Science Professor Vicki Gibson also was teaching that day.

"I was in Lawton at the time teaching high school," Gibson said. "We had TVs in our rooms, but the administration wouldn’t let us turn them on.”

Gibson said the teachers there tried to keep the knowledge of the attack from the students.

"It was sad," she said. "The teachers were all out in the hall running them down and talking to them. We kind of had to keep the students from what was going on.

"I feared that [one] of my students would have somebody in the building and not know about it.”

Education major Michele Bolin was living in Illinois, but said she still remembers the shock the day it happened.

"I was at work," Bolin said. "I was shocked that it happened and knowing there was a daycare there.

"I had just had [my daughter] and I just couldn’t imagine what it would be like having a child there.”

Physical Therapy Assistant major Nathanael Taylor said he was born a few months after the bombing, but knows people who were injured in the attack.

"There’s a lady [at the VA] who was there," Taylor said. "She went to open up a door, and the bomb went off and the door completely slammed and crushed her wrist. She was able to get out just fine, but she lost her shoe and her wrist was shattered.”

Heitkamper said he remembers another person who was injured in the bombing. He said she was running the federal credit union program that he was also working with at the time.

The next section of the bill, Section 1C, requires that history textbooks be evaluated to ensure that they appropriately teach about the bombing and its effect on Oklahoma history.

An example of this is the American Pageant, a college-level textbook published by Cengage Learning, which is commonly used in Advanced Placement U.S. History courses in high schools. The book contains a picture and graphic to go along with a paragraph about the bombing.

The book mentions Timothy McVeigh as the responsible party. McVeigh’s motivations for the bombing, specifically the 1993 Waco Siege of the Branch Davidians compound, and that his execution was the first by the federal government in roughly 40 years.

Some students feel that is not enough.

Erica King, Aerospace Engineering major, said while she was in high school, very little was taught about the bombing.

"They should definitely teach more about it,” she said. "I hardly remember any of it.”

Psychology major Ryan Harter said the subject is covered appropriately.

"Heifer attended ASTEC Charter Schools in Oklahoma City.

"We never went to the memorial museum in school," she said. "But every year in middle school and high school, there was a … day about it.

"One day of thoughtful remembrance is appropriate. Focusing on the negative things too much inhibits progress.”

Andrea Bonilla, diversified studies major, who also attended ASTEC, agreed.

"I think that schools do a sufficient job of teaching about that day," she said. "By the time students enter high school, they’ve been taught about the event a few times, so it makes sense that it’s mostly just a day of remembrance.”

Oklahoma City Public Schools social studies curriculum is overseen by Peter Brown. OKCPs curriculum directors have their curriculum maps and plans on okcpssecondarycurriculum.weebly.com. For more information, Brown can be reached at pdbrown@okcps.org.

To find other school systems’ curriculums, visit your local school system’s website.

Area schools teach about April 19, 1995, event

CLAYTON MITCHELL
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

April 19 will mark the 20th anniversary of the 1995 bombing that destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City.

Killing 168 people, it is the most deadly case of domestic terrorism in American history, and was the most deadly terrorist attack until 9/11.

In July 2010, House Bill 2750 went into effect, requiring by law that Oklahoma schools teach about the bombing as part of their history and social studies core curriculum.

When former Gov. Brad Henry signed the bill into law on April 6, 2010, he said it is important for school children who had been born after the bombing to learn about one of the events that has shaped Oklahoma’s history more than most others.

"We owe it to the victims, the survivors and all of the people touched by this tragic event to remember April 19 and understand what it meant and still means to this state and this nation,” Henry said at the bill signing ceremony at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum.

The museum has become a gateway for students to learn about the bombing.

The museum exhibits dedicated to different parts of the bombing, including a room that plays a recording of what it sounded like from a nearby building, scientific findings of how the building’s structure was impacted by the explosion, and a remembrance area for those injured or killed.

The museum states on its website that educating people about the bombing in particular, as well as violence prevention in general, is their top priority. The website also states that its leadership was integral in helping pass House Bill 2750.

Section 1B of House Bill 2750 allows use of resources provided by the museum to help educate students. One of the ways the museum does this is by allowing schools to apply for the Educational Enrichment Grant, which if accepted, would allow schools to bring students on field trips to the museum free of charge.

The museum states on its website that educating people about the bombing in particular, as well as violence prevention in general, is their top priority. The website also states that its leadership was integral in helping pass House Bill 2750.

Section 1B of House Bill 2750 allows use of resources provided by the museum to help educate students. One of the ways the museum does this is by allowing schools to apply for the Educational Enrichment Grant, which if accepted, would allow schools to bring students on field trips to the museum free of charge.

"She told us a story about how she was sitting at a table having a staff meeting and all the people were at the other end of the table. After the bomb went off, she looked up and there was nothing left there. She was the only person.”

Taylor said although it is taught in school, the history of what led up to the event should hold more importance.

"The bombing itself is a very short subject,” she said. "It’s a very traumatic subject. However, I do think what happened before the bombing, the events that led up to [it], are significant.”

For more information, or to pay tribute to those who died, survived and changed from the bombing, the website for the Oklahoma City Memorial can be found at oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org.

The Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum with a garden, reflecting pool and sculptural memorial commemorating victims of the 1995 Murrah Building bombing, is located at 620 N Harvey Ave. For information, call 405-235-3313.

For more about the bombing, visit www.history.com/topics/oklahoma-city-bombing.
Oklahoma’s homeless has many faces

A total of 58,158 college applicants indicated on federal financial aid forms for the 2012-'13 academic year they were homeless — up 8 percent from 53,705 in the previous year, according to federal data.

The Count

Each year, Oklahoma City takes one day to count and survey people who are homeless in the city. The intention of this count is to provide a snapshot picture of homelessness in Oklahoma City, of both the number of people and their characteristics. A large team of community volunteers from more than 14 organizations survey people in emergency/homeless shelters, transitional housing facilities, hot meal sites, crisis facilities such as hospitals and the jail, encampments, and various street locations.

The Point-In-Time count yields valuable data to help service providers understand how many local people are homeless and what kinds of needs they have. This information aids in planning Oklahoma City’s services and programs to feed and shelter the population as well as to help them find affordable housing, access transportation, receive rehabilitation and counseling, find employment, improve their skills through education and training and ultimately end their homelessness.

Results

In 2014, there were a total of 1,481 “countable” homeless individuals in Oklahoma City. It’s estimated that a community’s annual number of homeless is four to five times its one-night census — in this case, 5,924 to 7,405 people who are homeless in Oklahoma City every year.

This survey does not attempt to count people who are considered “couch homeless,” people who are homeless but temporarily staying with a friend, relative or acquaintance. The number of couch homeless is uncertain, but the Oklahoma City Public School District has 2,185 homeless children enrolled in the 2014-15 academic year, the majority of whom (83 percent) are couch homeless.

Statistics

In Oklahoma City in 2014, people who are homeless reported:

- 12% were chronically homeless by HUD’s definition
- 14% are a member of a homeless family with children
- 33% report mental illness
- 33% report substance abuse
- 12% claimed to be veterans
- 12% reported being a victim of domestic violence
- 9% are 17 years old or younger

The Point-In-Time count was a joint project of the City of Oklahoma City, the Coalition to End Poverty, and the Homeless Alliance.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

City Care
citycareinc.org/
City Rescue Mission
cityrescue.org

The Homeless Alliance
www.homelessalliance.org/
Hope Community Services
www.hopecscl.org
Upward Transitions
www.upwardtransitions.org

Neighborhood Services Organization
nsooke.org
OKC Metro Alliance
okmetroalliance.com
Red Rock Behavioral Health
www.red-rock.com
YWCA
www.ywcaoke.org

Grace Rescue Mission
405-232-5756
Salvation Army of Central Oklahoma
salvationarmyokc.org
Sunbeam Family Services
sunbeamfamilyervices.org
Latino Community Development Agency
lcdao.com

LOCAL RESOURCES

Those in need of assistance can call Heartline by dialing 2-1-1. They will take your information and refer you to one of the service providers listed below.

Phoenix House
405-525-0201
Greater Oklahoma City Urban League
www.okcmetroalliance.com

Alliance: Homeless resources offered through state agency

Continued from page 1

according to a national report by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Homeless Alliance, located on 1724 NW 4th St. in Oklahoma City, is an example of the resources available to the homeless. Communications Director Kinsey Crocker said the mission is to rally the community to end homelessness.

Crocker said it’s a broad goal since there’s not one easy solution so the focus is to look at gaps in services.

“We work with other nonprofit government agencies and community partners to help (prevent) homelessness,” she said. “We look at [the] best practices used around the country and try to bring new initiatives around Oklahoma City.”

Crocker said some examples of the programs are operating the WestTown homeless resource campus, which is located near the Homeless Alliance.

She said the campus includes two buildings — a one-stop social service building and a day shelter.

“It’s a safe, warm, dry place for people to go to during the day.”

The day shelter is open five days a week and averages about 275 people per day, Crocker said. The shelter provides lunch and breakfast, showers, phones and computers. A lot of different services and agencies try to engage people in programs to help end their homelessness, she said.

“About half of the people who go there are unsheltered, meaning they don’t go to one of the overnight shelters here in Oklahoma City,” she said.

Homelessness is a complex issue, Crocker said, so one agency addressing every single issue wouldn’t work.

“We wanted to bring multiple agencies under one roof, so if you’re in a crisis and you’re homeless, you don’t have to navigate the system — you’re not driving around trying to access all these agencies, she said.

“[Instead], you can come to one building and get their resources under one roof. That’s the resource building on campus.”

There are about 1,400 people who are homeless in Oklahoma City, Crocker said.

“A lot of those people blend in . . . You wouldn’t necessarily recognize them if you passed them on a street corner.”

—Kinsey Crocker
Homeless Alliance Communications Director

“There are about 1,400 people who are homeless in Oklahoma City. A lot of those people blend in. You wouldn’t necessarily recognize them if you passed them on a street corner.”

—Kinsey Crocker
Homeless Alliance Communications Director

For more information about shelters and resources, contact The Homeless Alliance at 405-415-8410, or visit www.homelessalliance.org, cityrescue.org, www.jesushouseokc.org or www.homelesshelterdirectory.org.
SPORTS

Peddling
General Studies major Timothy Niemiec exercises on April 2 in the Fitness Center located in OCCC’s Wellness Center.

The center provides numerous fitness areas free to students with a valid OCCC ID. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/rf/wellness.html.

SPRING 2015:
• 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. Classes are free to OCCC students with a valid ID. 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.

SPORTS

Popular flag football games return in spring

CLAYTON MITCHELL
Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

One of OCCC’s most popular intramural sports, flag football, is making a return to the intramural lineup for the spring semester, said Intramural Sports Assistant Matthew Wright.

Not on the original spring sports roster, Wright said the new sport was added after spring break, along with weekly basketball tournaments, as a way to finish the semester of intramural sports in a strong way.

“I’m going to try to do another flag football season here in a couple of weeks,” he said. “That’s going to be on Thursday nights, but I’ll have more info on IM Leagues for that.”

Flag football eliminates the danger that contact football has by allowing players to pull flags from around an opposing player’s belt to take the place of a tackle.

Any sort of excessive physical contact will result in a penalty.

Wright said the field behind the Aquatic Center will be used for the games. The field is smaller than regulation football fields because of the less competitive nature of intramural sports.

Wright said that while the games will have a downs system for possession like normal football, the system will be somewhat different.

“There are three sections of 18 yards,” he said. “You get the ball at the 10, and you have four downs to make it to the 18-yard line.

“Once you cross over, you have four downs to get to the next 18-yard line, and then four downs to get into the end zone.”

Students can sign up at imleagues.com/occc, or by visiting the Recreation and Fitness office on the first floor of the Main Building.

Teams must have seven players to participate. The season will last until the end of the semester.

For more information, contact Matthew Wright at 405-682-1611, ext. 7684, or matthew.j.wright@occc.edu, or contact the Recreation and Fitness office directly at 405-682-7860.

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

(Scan the 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.
Life: One OCCC student struggles with daily homelessness

Continued from page 1

For the most part, the two of them were able to stay with family and friends. But not always. With her son sent away to relatives one summer, Amy made the choice to take lodging at an area shelter.

“I don’t want to drag my family or friends down in this process,” she said. “There’s places you can go that are funded for those purposes. So, I did stay at the Family Rescue over the summer.”

She said when a new school year approached for her son, the two moved in with friends again. Soon she began school too, at OCCC.

Alongside the work she did in class, she said she worked to get herself and her son into a permanent home.

She said it was only a “little sprint” from September 2014 to the beginning of March 2015 that she and her teenage son were able to live in Section 8 housing in Oklahoma City.

Amy said that didn’t last long. “We got into housing but we just had to move out,” she said.

Amy had found her new neighborhood more frightening than the prospect of homelessness when a gunfight erupted in front of her house one night. Afterwards, she said, she and her son eagerly forfeited their new home.

“I told [housing authorities] that I’d rather not have Section 8 if it means I’m going to stay somewhere that’s unsafe,” she said. “I got out on Friday. By that Monday two people had been shot in that area, and one was dead.”

Currently, she and her son are staying with friends and family again, and staying as close to their respective schools as possible, she said. Things aren’t easy, Amy said.

“Getting back and forth to school is difficult even though I have a car.”

And, she said, with a child, things become even harder.

“I’ve taken his education on myself in getting him to and from school because there’s no set place where he can get on the bus every day or walk from school since it’s always changing.”

She said maintaining a focus on academics during this transitional period has been strenuous for both of them.

“The hardest part is having that place in time where you can just push all of that situation out of your mind,” she said. “It is an ever-pervading thought that gnaws away at you, not knowing what you’re going to do or where you’re going to stay.”

“Not only are you dealing with the personalities at school. You’re dealing with the personalities of the people in whatever situation you’re in outside. Those combined make it difficult to get an education,” Amy said. “If you’re staying with somebody or you’re in a shelter, there’s multiple distractions.”

She said OCCC has in many ways become a rare place of solace; something somewhat crucial to academic success.

“Here you have the study rooms on campus and you have the library, and there’s different areas around like the couches and things that allow you to kind of pull yourself out and get yourself into a more comfortable environment with less distractions.”

“This becomes home.”

Amy said the campus has offered more resources than she can recall.

“Student Support Services is definitely helping with counseling, and they help with hooking you up with different organizations and resources around town.”

“I am grateful that OCCC has understanding professors too,” she said. “They’re willing to work with you when you have life difficulties. I don’t ask for any breaks.”

“I want my education and I want to do whatever is required of me but I also want them to understand.”

Student Support Services also can help students work out transportation issues, Howard said, working out bus routes, schedules and fees. And students who might otherwise go hungry can be directed to local food banks, she said.

Amy said, while there is help out there, being homeless is humbling to the point that taking help is sometimes difficult. Sometimes, it’s impossible, she said.

“It leaves you powerless. It sort of makes you feel helpless.”

Amy said she doesn’t talk about it much. Judgment and pity are often just more unwanted side effects of the situation, she said.

“It’s not that I’m out there partying and drinking or doing drugs and not paying my rent,” she said.

“It’s just that there were real-life situations.”

Amy said she and her son are pushing on though and new things are certainly developing.

“Basically, my next step is just to try to get into a house,” she said.

“I’m doing everything else necessary to just function for daily living but the stability is key to education.”

“You have to be somewhere stable. You need a place where you can process your school work rather than just the horrible stuff.”

Amy said for now, Section 8 isn’t on the table for her.

“Because of the shooting I got out of the home that Section 8 provided before a year was up — so they are terminating me,” she said. “And I’m appealing that action.”

Recently Amy has applied to enter low-income housing near OCCC and is awaiting a decision on whether she and her son will be accepted.

New resources have come to light, she said, and during her last interview with the Pioneer, she said things were looking up.

April 17 last date to drop with a refund

The last day to drop classes without a refund for the 16-week semester is by midnight Friday, April 17.

Students have two options: they can visit the Registration Office to fill out a form or can log in to their Mineonline account to drop the class online.

Students who receive Financial Aid should talk with an adviser in that area before dropping.

To contact Financial Aid, call 405-682-7525 or visit www.occc.edu/financialaid/index.html.

For more information, contact the Records and Registration Services at 405-682-7522 or visit www.occc.edu/records/index.html.

It’s a connected world. Do your share.

For 30 ways to help the environment, write Earth Share, 3400 International Drive, NW, Suite 2K (ALM), Washington, DC 20008.
Education to help with racism

KATIE AXTELL
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

With the recent events producing racial tension on college campuses, The Leadership Council held a meeting to get a feel for OCCC’s take on race relations. The Leadership Council is comprised of a representative from each of the clubs on campus, plus at-large members through application.

Guest speaker Myron Pope, vice president of Student Affairs at University of Central Oklahoma, asked attendees students, faculty and campus club representatives questions to gauge the level of racism on campus.

Native American Student Association club president Samantha Harris said people’s concepts of some clubs are wrong. “People think you need to be Native American to be in the Native American club, but they don’t. You can join any of these clubs. You don’t have to be a certain race.”

Black Student Association president Simone Mathenia said the same is true for her club. “People feel like they have to be black to be a part of [Black Student Association], but we have another student who is from outside of the U.S.,” she said.

“We’re trying to branch out and let them know we welcome everybody.” Many of the attendees addressed the issue of an education system needing to have classes on diversity to help with the issues of today, including Michelle Hester, the Future Alumni Network club representative.

“We have to make sure each of us understands diversity,” Hester said. “If we can get a class that is mandatory across the U.S. on diversity I think that can make a huge difference.”

“I think we do a fantastic job of keeping open lines of communication. I love seeing groups working together.”

Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services Marion Paden said she didn’t know the level of racism on campus.

“The Leadership Council is the formal mechanism for which students provide input to the administration of the college.”

Student Life representatives said any student or faculty member on campus who has faced discrimination should report that to Student Life.

Comments can be submitted anonymously online or with the comment card boxes located around campus.
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.

FREE: Your ad here. Students can place non-business classified ads for free. No more than 7 lines. Submit your ad to adman@occc.edu with your name, student ID and valid phone number.

FOR SALE: This space for $8 per week. Place your business classified today and reach thousands of potential customers. Up to seven lines. Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7674, or email adman@occc.edu.

IT PAYS to ADVERTISE

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE for ONLY $32 a week!
—get your advertisement message to 5,000 prospective customers with a business-card size ad—

Call 405-682-1611, ext. 7307, or e-mail: adman@occc.edu

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. An alloy of copper and zinc
6. Mantle
10. Kind of school
14. Bud
15. Hodgepodge
16. Angel’s headwear
17. Love intensely
18. Nonexistent
19. Creative work
20. Original
22. Anagram of “Tine”
23. Former Italian currency
24. Worn away
26. Contributes
30. Slice
31. 18-wheeler
32. Jump
33. Part of a foot
35. Chafers
39. Belly
41. Polatable
43. Not fresh
44. Boom
46. Urgent request
47. Type
49. Euro forerunner
50. Skirt lines
51. Scour
54. Part in a play
56. “... de jour = Meal of the day
57. Powered by electricity
63. Hindu princess
64. Compassion
65. Draw forth
66. Therefore
67. Send forth
68. Cyphers
69. Observed
70. Dash
71. Amount of hair

DOWN
1. Fiber source
2. Go on horseback
3. Affirm
4. Slave
5. Pitter
6. Harmonious
7. Emit loud sound cries
8. Dossier
9. File cover
10. Record player
11. Noisy
12. Wash out with a solvent
13. Modelled
14. Recess
15. Break in friendly relations
16. “What a shame!”
17. Money owed
18. Early 20th-century art movement
19. Pellagia
20. White blood cell
21. Competent
22. The original matter (cosmology)
23. Oceans
24. Blend
25. Grownup
26. Religious outreach
27. Custodian
28. French for “After”
29. Cazrophony
30. Cooktop
31. Construct
32. City in Peru
33. Smell
34. Naked
35. Pores
36. To tax or access

Donate plasma today and earn up to $300 a month!

Who knew I could earn money, save lives, and get free wi-fi at the same time?

1327 E. Lindsey St, Norman, OK 73071
405-447-9977
716 NW 23rd St, Oklahoma City, OK 73103
405-521-9204

Scan for an insider look at the plasma donation process
To scan and view content, you must download a QR code reader from your App store.

*Applicable for eligible, qualified new donors. Fees vary by weight. New donors must bring photo ID, proof of address and Social Security number.

PIONEER | PIONEER.OCCC.EDU
CLASSIFIEDS

Virus Protection For Your Hard Drive.

Available at Planned Parenthood
www.pfplanner.com
Planned Parenthood 1-800-230-PLAN

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.
Police arrest man for outstanding warrant

JORGE KRZYZANIAK
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

OCCC police recently made one arrest and solved a recent campus mystery, according to reports from the campus police department.

An OCCC student was arrested on campus after running a stop sign on Keels Boulevard. It’s reported that Malcolm Rshad Lewis was found to be driving with a suspended license when stopped by Officer Zachary Andrews.

A call from Andrews to the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Office confirmed Lewis had previously been cited for driving while his license was suspended and that he had “an extensive traffic record,” resulting in a warrant for his arrest out of Oklahoma City.

Lewis was booked into the Oklahoma County Jail, charged with Driving While Suspended. His vehicle was impounded by campus police.

OCCC offers many areas throughout campus for students to study or relax.

OCCC choirs to pay tribute to Oklahoma City bombing

TYLER ADAMS
News Writing Student

To pay tribute to the solemn occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Murrah Building bombing, OCCC’s three choirs will be performing Mozart’s Requiem, said choral music program Director Ron Staton.

The concert will take place at 7 p.m. April 19, 20 years after 168 people lost their lives to an act of domestic terrorism in Oklahoma City.

The performance will take place in the Visual and Performing Arts Center. Tickets are free.

“Typically we do two concerts a semester,” Staton said. “Doing the Mozart requiem is really advanced and time consuming.”

For that reason, there will be only one concert this term. About 150 students make up the three choirs, who will all be singing together.

The choirs will perform along with the Westminster Orchestra of Oklahoma City, Staton said.

OCCC’s Symphonic Community Choir members are comprised of OCCC students and also members of the community who enroll and sing for pure enjoyment, Staton said.

The concert choir is open to all OCCC students who wish to enroll.

The chamber choir requires students to audition for membership. Auditions are held the first two days of each semester, Staton said. It is comprised of some of the elite singers of OCCC.

Staton credits adjunct voice Professor Josh Phelps for the idea of performing the tribute concert.

Student Ezell Potter is a symphonic choir member.

She said she has sung a requiem before, “but never one this hard.”

“It’s pretty tough,” she said.

Not only is the requiem in another language, but the dead language of Latin, which isn’t anyone’s first language anymore.

Potter said for her it’s mostly “just memorization.”

She said she is a regular church attendee, which has given her some occasional weekly practice of singing in Latin.

For more information contact rstaton@occc.edu or jpotter12@cox.net.