Students earn college credit in high school

OCC offers concurrent enrollment to area juniors and seniors

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Four days remained until high school graduation. U.S. History students at Western Heights strove for points to determine their grades and to satisfy the final requirements of their high school curriculum. This high school course also would earn them their first college credits — and it all hinged upon one stuffed monkey.

While these students are still in high school, they’re also earning college credit by meeting certain academic requirements, taking in-depth courses and, in this case, performing their own satirical take on the Scopes “monkey trial” of 1925, said their teacher, Charles Winwood.

“A monkey’s intelligent,” he said during the performance. “This monkey’s intelligent. He’s going to [the University of Oklahoma].”

Winwood’s students, earning “dual credit” — credit earned in a high school class that applies to both their college and high school curriculums, Rogers said, while others take college-level courses on OCCC’s campus or online.

Rogers said students are responsible for paying for books, fees and any tuition costs beyond six credit hours.

She said there are two ways to earn credit through concurrent enrollment.

Some students, like Winwood’s students, earn “dual credit” — credit earned in a high school class that applies to both their college and high school curriculums, Rogers said, while others take college-level courses on OCCC’s campus or online.

Nominations sought for Hall of Fame

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What do a television anchor, nursing professor and artist have in common?

All have been inducted into OCCC’s Alumni Hall of Fame.

Alumni Relations Coordinator Randy Cassimus said nominations are being accepted through Aug. 26 for the next group of inductees.

He said the committee that oversees the nominations — made up of members of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association as well as previous inductees — goes through nominations of those who have made great strides in their post-college lives.

“What the selection committee looks for are people who have made great strides in their post-college lives.”

See NOMINATIONS page 9

Summer jams

Cartography major Jacob Smith sits outside of OCCC’s Main Building on June 16. “I’m waiting for a ride, listening to Three 6 Mafia,” Smith said. “I love hip hop.”

Cartography major Jacob Smith sits outside of OCCC’s Main Building on June 16.
Part-time profs deserve more

While state colleges in Oklahoma brace for budget cuts and colleges nationwide are under increased scrutiny about tuition, amenities and sexual assault — there is another issue at hand that needs attention: the overuse of part-time professors.

OCCC has 258 part-time professors compared to 157 full-time. President Paul Sechrist said at the May 19 OCCC Regents meeting there was a time when that ratio would have affected the college’s accreditation.

“That’s no longer the case, but it does indicate that we’re relying heavily on part-time faculty for teaching students, which is not terrible but it’s something that we always need to consider,” Sechrist said.

Adjunct professors make about $680 per credit hour and typically teach six credit hours, with some teaching up to nine if necessary. A full-time professor’s course load is usually 15 credit hours per semester. Adjuncts average $22,403 in annual salary at OCCC according to the 2014-15 FY Budget and Staffing plan — that is, if they worked full-time which they are not allowed to do.

Without much divergence nationwide, even taking into account Oklahoma’s low cost of living, adjuncts make about double the poverty line of $11,770 for a single individual and $20,090 for a family of three by the standards of the U.S. Department of Health.

Adjunct Union and many other activist groups such as New Faculty Majority are working to improve what they consider sub-standard pay and working conditions for part-time professors.

A U.S. Department of Education statistic shows 75.5 percent of the 1.8 million professors in the U.S. are off the tenure track, and half of those are part-time adjunct professors.

Some part-time professors will say the pay isn’t their reason for teaching. Instead, it’s their passion for the work. In a small survey of some adjuncts at OCCC one professor reflected that very feeling:

“I have found my brief tenure at OCCC to be rewarding beyond my highest expectations. I knew this academic institution is highly regarded in the community but I had no idea how committed the college is to our students. We truly make students the priority here! … I love teaching. I love that magical moment when a person experiences an insight that changes their life or makes life more fulfilling.

“I am grateful to have the opportunity to work as an adjunct and potentially leave someone better off than they were previously. OCCC is the perfect environment to offer wisdom and guidance to students who are open and receptive.”

Such professors are passionate about what they do, and the higher education system in general is taking advantage of them. Indentured servitude was the practice of temporary debt slavery to someone capable of paying for your passage from Europe to pre-Revolution America.

The process of taking out massive college loans and then overworking, underpaying, and underemploying people working on or possessing master’s and doctorate degrees is an open problem that everybody who works in higher education is aware of.

Major systemic reform is the only solution but since Congress is not known for being proactive, the best thing adjuncts can do is join together and speak up.

—Grant Swalwell
Online Writer

A child dies in a hot car every 10 days in the U.S.

To the Editor:

Heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash vehicle-related death for children. On average in the U.S. a child dies from heatstroke in a vehicle every 10 days. The Oklahoma State Department of Health offers the following safety tips:

• Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle for any length of time, even if the windows are open.

The temperature inside a vehicle can rise to more than 140°F when the outside temperature is 101°F and a child’s body temperature can increase three to five times faster than an adult’s body temperature. Even in cool temperatures, cars can heat up to dangerous temperatures very quickly.

• Check the back seat to ensure all children are taken out of the vehicle when reaching the destination.

Make sure the child care provider has a system in place to prevent leaving children alone in their van or bus.

• Keep vehicle doors and trunks closed and locked.

More than 50 percent of cases of children dying in hot cars occurred when a distracted caregiver forgot that a child was in the back seat.

Fasten a note on the vehicle dashboard, or place something needed for the day, such as a purse, briefcase, or cell phone, in the back seat so you will check the back seat and see the child before leaving the vehicle.

If transporting children and cargo, such as groceries, take children from the vehicle first.

Make sure the child care provider has a system in place to prevent leaving children alone in their van or bus.

• Keep vehicle doors and trunks closed and locked.

Up to one-third of heat-related deaths among children occurred when a child was playing in an unlocked vehicle and became trapped inside.

• Keep vehicle keys out of reach and out of sight.

Teach children not to play in or around vehicles.

• Teach children that vehicle trunks are not safe places to hide. Show children how to use the emergency trunk release if they become trapped inside.

If anyone sees a child alone in a locked, parked car, it is now permitted by law, to forcibly enter the vehicle to rescue the child. Call 911 immediately for emergency assistance.

To receive more information on summer car safety, visit http://ips.health.ok.gov and click on Factsheets and then click on Kids in Hot Cars. Additional information can be found at the Kids and Cars website: www.kidsandcars.org.

—Oklahoma State Department of Health

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

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, OK 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.
**Free music at your fingertips**

I’m an avid fan of all music — big band, pop, rock, metal, movie scores, but especially free music.

When a friend recommended an album to me, I followed the link to give it a listen. It was there that my wonderful relationship with Noisetrade.com began.

Noisetrade features albums from indie artists who are looking to broaden their fan base and share their music with the world. Every album is available for free download or you can donate any amount you choose via PayPal. The display is organized, attractive and professional.

It’s simple: browse the bottomless sea of indie albums and when you find one you like, create an account (which only requires your country, email address and a password). Click download and a code is sent to your email for the full album download.

Well-known artists also post their music to pique the interests of indie music fans, such as Jon Foreman of Switchfoot, Fun, The Oh Hellos and Ingrid Michaelson, who have free albums online now.

I’ve found some of my favorite artists on Noisetrade: The Native Sibling, Jillian Edwards, Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors, Sleeping at Last and Let There Be Hope, to name a few.

Most of the artists I’ve come across have three times the talent of mainstream musicians, leaving me to deduce that the indie world is largely undiscovered and underrated.

Before you imagine all the hipsters recording live albums in organic coffee shops, let me tell you that Noisetrade hosts a variety of genres. Hip hop, rap, R&B, alternative and classical are just a few tabs on their music bar. They also have an indie book section which I haven’t even begun to venture into.

A word of caution, though. Because any artist can share their music, there is a slew of poorly-recorded albums and half-decent singers online. I can usually determine which ones are the best by their album art. In this case, it’s perfectly all right to judge an artist by the album cover.

Noisetrade is full of incredible vocal and musical talents. Artists get publicity; listeners get free music. It’s a beautiful system. Did I mention it’s free?

**Rating:** A+

—Darla Kilhoffer

**Community Writer**

**Pretty ‘Adaline’ film is pretty lame**

I am a man of exquisite tastes. I am very picky, especially when it comes to the media I consume.

So when my girlfriend decided to drag me to see “The Age of Adaline,” I thought, the premise seems interesting enough. Maybe it will be all right.

First, let me commend the movie – for outstanding shots and camera work. Again for decent acting and casting. And one last time for Blake Lively being able to keep that old-timey voice for the entire movie.

Now for my story analysis, which I will warn now, is full of spoilers.

The movie starts with a good idea, a girl who cannot age, and has to shut herself in from people to keep her weird secret.

However, the reason she can’t age is because when she died in a car accident in her 20s, she was struck by lightning, which restarted her heart in a way that changed her DNA so that she could not age. Better still, the writers tried to justify this by claiming they knew that’s what happened because it was discovered by a scientist in the year 2035.

I’m not necessarily a man of science, but this was some made-up, fake crap.

Then, when she is about to move and change her identity, she meets a boy who finally wins her heart. They begin a relationship, and he invites her to his parents’ 40th anniversary party, only to discover that she had dated his father 50 years earlier, and she left before he could propose to her.

She tries to run away and dies again in a car crash, and when her heart is restarted by paramedics, she is again able to age. She decides to come clean to her boyfriend about his dad, and he is not freaked out and stays with her.

This movie seems like it was written by a 14-year-old girl who doesn’t understand how science works. It is really only good for laughing at its disconnect from reality and how predictable it is.

**Rating:** D+

—Clayton Mitchell

**Senior Writer**

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**The Raddest Reddit App**

If you’re even the least bit Internet savvy, chances are you know what Reddit is. Depending on your views and ideologies, this website is either a safe haven where you discuss your favorite things with like-minded people, or a hivemind mentality capable of accomplishing ridiculous things.

Regardless, one problem that a lot of people have is finding a dependable mobile app for all their Reddit needs.

They range from the incredibly cheap and limited versions to feature-filled paid versions. Alien Blue is a paid Reddit app for iPhone that has more or less every feature you could imagine.

You can do pretty much anything you could on the desktop version of the site with this mobile version.

Users can subscribe and unsubscribe from sub-Reddits, set different accounts, block and filter select content — and there’s even a night mode that turns the screen black and the text white to make it easier on your eyes at night when you’re in bed holding your cellular device mere inches from your mug.

Filtering out the unwanted content is what makes this app so valuable to me.

I’m able to more or less delete any zealous and annoying militant atheist posts, and posts about games I could really care less about (League of Legends, anyone?).

One thing that does occur from prolonged exposure to this app is that you’ll find yourself using it more than the desktop version of Reddit, and that’s OK.

Compared to other Reddit apps on the marketplace, this app is king.

It’s snappy, clean, I would even go so far as to say, elegant.

There is a free version of this app and a paid version that’s $1.99.

The free version offers all of your basic amenities as expected, but lacks a few features that the paid version provides.

If you’re scared of in-app purchases, have no fear; the $1.99 upgrade fee is the only one available within this app.

If you’re a heavy Reddit user like myself, there’s no excuses for not having this app if you own any sort of i-device.

—Spencer Grant

**Staff Writer**
MOVIE REVIEW | Horror flick stands out in an over-saturated market

‘Insidious 3’ worthy of big screen viewing

In recent years, there have been very few horror movies that stand out in this ever-growing, almost oversaturated, genre of film. While not a masterpiece, “Insidious: Chapter 3” is definitely worth spending your time and money on.

Set before the haunting of the Lambert family, seen in the first two films, “Insidious: Chapter 3” is centered around the haunting of teenager Quinn Brenner following the recent death of her mother Lilith. There are many things to praise in this film. To start, the performances are fantastic.

Lin Shaye reprises her role as Elise Rainier, everybody's favorite psychic, and is just as fantastic as before. Dermot Mulroney plays Sean Brenner, the father of Quinn, and turns an otherwise clichéd character into someone you actually care about.

The most surprising performance to me was that of the main actress Stefanie Scott.

In short, Scott plays a relatable character that you actually feel attached to and she does it very well. I'm surprised that I had never heard about Scott before because she is an excellent young actress.

Aside from the great performances, the direction is excellent. James Wan, director of the first two films in the series, handed the reins over to long-time writing partner Leigh Whannell for this entry.

To my surprise, this is one of the most well-directed horror films in years. From the genuine scares to the dynamic cinematography, Whannel definitely delivered.

However, the film does have its flaws. To me, it has some pacing issues and feels especially slow in the second act.

Also, near the end of the movie, some of the dialogue is too cheesy for me to enjoy. In the last 20 minutes or so, it feels very rushed and almost childish.

The only other complaint I have is that the main demon of the film is never fully explained, leaving you with a desire for more information.

Overall, “Insidious: Chapter 3” is a well directed and entertaining horror film featuring great performances and genuine scares. Though it has flaws, it is worth the visit to your local theater.

Rating: B+

—Harrison Langston
Sports Writer

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of June 19 through June 21
www.newyorktimes.com

1. Jurassic World
2. Inside Out
3. Spy
4. San Andreas
5. Dope
6. Insidious: Chapter 3
7. Pitch Perfect 2
8. Mad Max: Fury Road
9. Avengers: Age of Ultron
10. Tomorrowland
11. Entourage
12. Love & Mercy
13. I’ll See You In My Dreams
14. ABCD 2
15. Cinderella
16. Me and Earl and the Dying Girl
17. Home
18. Far From the Madding Crowd
19. Dil Dhadakne Do
20. Poltergeist

Submit your review idea to the Pioneer editor at EDITOR@OCCC.EDU
Regents approve final FY ’16-’17 budget

Eight vacant full-time faculty positions will no longer be funded in the latest plan

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A number of faculty and employee positions have been defunded in the recently approved OCCC FY 2016 Budgets and Staffing Plan, said Business and Finance Vice President John Boyd.

OCCC Regents unanimously passed the latest financial plan on Monday, June 15.

Boyd said eliminating several positions at the college will save the college $940,535.

According to the latest E&G report, eight full-time faculty, two exempt staff positions, 10 non-exempt (hourly) staff positions and two STEP, or student, positions were removed from the budget.

Eight part-time faculty positions were added to make up for the full-time positions that were eliminated, Boyd said.

In May, the final budget agreement to cut higher education funding by 3.5 percent was reached in the Oklahoma Legislature.

This was a reduction of roughly $891,000 from the state, giving OCCC just more than $25 million in state tax dollars.

That was still a better outlook than what OCCC had originally been prepared for, Boyd said.

He said the tentative budget first presented to the board in May assumed a cut to state appropriations of 6.5 percent that would have reduced the college's funding by approximately $1.6 million.

At the time, OCCC President Paul Sechrist told the board it was a financial plan that allowed for “the worst case scenario.”

(See the Pioneer article about the fees at: http://pioneer.occc.edu/index.php/news/1-latest-news/4125-some-programs-likely-to-see-fee-increases.)

Some course-specific fees that Boyd said will only apply to some students are set to increase this fall.

In a February interview, Boyd said a $5 increase would apply to the science lab fee, application fee and the international student status maintenance fee.

The applied music lesson fee also will increase by $75 to $125.

Boyd said even with the bump in tuition, new fees and changes to some existing fees, it would be unfair to say students bear the brunt of the college budget. Students should not be upset, he said.

“I think that both the college and the students share equally in trying to cover our costs,” he said.

Approximately 47 percent of the school’s funding comes from the state, he said. After the tuition increase, Boyd said, about 42 percent of the school’s money will come from its students.

The remainder comes from the district, grants and other avenues.

Some of the measures left in the full version of this year’s financial plan were kept in place to prepare for continued cuts from the state, he said.

“We have reason to believe that fiscal year ‘17 will be worse than fiscal year ‘16,’” Boyd said while the perception at the legislative level may be that higher education is overfunded, OCCC is one of the most efficiently run campuses in the nation.

“Our state allocation is (approximately) $91,000 less than the state allocation received in FY 2007,” he said.

“We’re back below 2007 levels in terms of funding, but our overall enrollment since 2007 has increased by 10 percent,” Boyd said.

Boyd said the state now allocates what translates to roughly $2,700 per student.

“We’re one of the lowest funded (colleges) in the state, so we do good with the money that we have,” he said.

“We’ve not cut any programs. We’ve not cut any services. We’re trying to soak up that cut in state appropriations plus cover our mandatory cost increases.”

Boyd said if the trend in cuts to state appropriations continues, OCCC will have to decide what it’s willing to give up and students may have to decide how much they’re willing to sacrifice to maintain the resources and quality of education made available.

He said tuition costs at OCCC, which remain low in comparison to schools nearby, could never reflect the high value of the education OCCC provides its students.

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Textbooks purchased with bogus checks and inappropriate videos watched in the Welcome Center highlighted OCCC’s recent crime reports.

Campus police reports noted an incident from May 29, where a person purchased more than $2,400 in textbooks at different times on the same day with false checks.

The suspect entered the bookstore at 11:08 a.m., and purchased three science textbooks and one computer-science textbook worth $861.31.

The suspect paid for her books with a check from IBC Bank issued to her, Officer David Madden’s report said.

At approximately 2 p.m., the same suspect reentered the bookstore with another woman, this time purchasing a business management textbook, and five more science textbooks, this time totalling $1594.25.

The suspect again paid for her books with a check issued to her from IBC Bank, and left.

On June 1, bookstore Coordinator Kim White notified bookstore manager Brenda Reinke the checks had not cleared, according to the report.

Upon contacting IBC Bank, White learned the funds were not available to cover the checks. According to the report, Reinke attempted to contact the suspect but was unsuccessful, leaving a message with the suspect’s sister saying the books must be returned that day by 8 p.m., or the police would be contacted.

The suspect’s sister then said she needed copies of the receipts to bring the books back, and retrieved them later in the day.

On June 11, Madden attempted to contact the suspect but again was only able to reach the suspect’s sister.

She told him her sister was at work and could not be reached, and Madden asked her to have the sister contact him.

The crimes were captured on an area surveillance camera, and the suspect and her sister identified through inmate photos posted at the Oklahoma Department of Corrections website. Both names were redacted from the report.

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

A person was reported to be viewing pornography on a computer near the Welcome Center at around 3:49 p.m. on June 17.

Officer Daniel Piazza responded and reportedly found a person viewing pornography and asked the person to leave the campus. The name was redacted from the report.

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

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

To contact campus police, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747. For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-7872.
CSI, painting, more learned at summer camps

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he outline of a body, a powdery substance and a note wait to be analyzed at a classroom crime scene.

Next door, the buzz of voices clash with the clicking of keyboards as different worlds are created.

In yet another room, mini Picassos are swirling and twirling paintbrushes to re-create 100-year old paintings.

Crime Solver, Humanoid Robotics I, and Art of Picasso are just a few of the many classes children in OCCC’s College for Kids program are taking this summer.

In 2007, Community Outreach and Education opened up College for Kids, said Director Jessica Martinez-Brooks.

She said the academic enrichment program is for children first through the eighth grade.

The various classes range from art to math to music, with robotics being one of the most popular classes, Martinez-Brooks said.

“Our cyber camp and our engineering camps and robotics camps are our most popular classes,” she said.

“We partner with Techjoynt for some of our robotics classes. They do some gaming classes as well.”

She said the number of children enrolled in OCCC’s College for Kids program has increased each summer since it opened.

“Last year’s total was 4,221 and the total enrollment as it stands right now just for this location is 4,242.”

Despite being almost halfway through the summer program, Martinez-Brooks said there are still classes available. The cost is $39 per class or $99 for all day.

Martinez-Brooks said College for Kids also was given a grant to purchase the instruments for the music theater camps from the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, an American progressive rock band that tours nationally each year.

“All of our music theater camps do a big performance on the Friday of the last day of camp,” she said.

“They perform music from around the world. I think that’s one of the good things about a lot of our instructors.

“They are very culturally sensitive and trying to expose the kids to populations and demographics they might not get to see everyday at their school . . . .

“I think it’s an important component of critical thinking and moving into a global environment.

“What’s great about these classes is that [the students] get exposed to some potential degrees that they might be interested in . . . . It’s almost like a career discovery type class.”

Martinez-Brooks said she strives to keep the cost of the program down so everyone can afford it. Pricing has remained the same since 2008, she said. And, OCCC receives help.

“Oklahoma City Public Schools actually helps provide the staffing and instruction for those classes so there’s no cost to the students if they come from Oklahoma City Public Schools district,” she said.

They also partner with the Food Bank and John Glenn Elementary to provide lunch, Martinez-Brooks said.

“It’s always been a priority for us to make things as affordable as possible.”

Martinez-Brooks said a majority of those enrolled are returning students.

“I have one kid who’s been with me since he was in first grade and now he’s going into the sixth grade,” she said.

“It’s nice to see them grow up, mature and have these adult conversations with you. You talk to them and say hi and you just establish this bond and this relationship with the kids coming in.”

She said one hope as an outreach program is to establish a relationship between the kids and the college.

“We are here . . . . to expose your child to some different programs we feel are valuable,” she said.

Martinez-Brooks said parents can still sign their children up for classes, but the cut-off for a class is 5 p.m. the Thursday before the week it starts.

“It is very worth it,” she said. “There are just not a lot of places for kids to go in the summer that are not only academic enrichment programs, but also a place where parents feel comfortable dropping their kids off.

“I think we have built that environment here at the FACE Center.”

For more information or to enroll, contact the FACE Center at 405-686-6222, visit occc.edu/summercamp or enroll in person at 6500 S Land Ave.

Victoria, 7, and Isabella, 7, paint pictures in the FACE Center’s cafeteria for the Picasso Art camp on June 17.

ABOVE: Shireen, 11, and Olivia, 10, examine evidence in the Crime Solver camp on June 17.

LEFT: Zach, 11, plays a video game called "Roblox" in the Humanoid Robotics camp on June 17.
Fourth of July activities planned statewide

This Fourth of July, a number of celebrations will take place in and around the metro area. All are free and offer a variety of fun activities, food and music. Those include:

- **Bricktown’s 4th Fest**
  www.bricktown4thfest.com
  Bricktown’s 4th Fest features live music from 4 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, July 4, on the Chevy Stage at the corner of Sheridan and Oklahoma. The fireworks extravaganza show begins at 9:30 p.m. Free parking will be available beginning at 7 p.m. in the Redhawks parking lot east of the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark.

- **Celebration in the Heartland**
  www.cityofmoore.com/events/celebration-heartland
  1903 NE 12th St., Moore
  Moore's free festival is from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, July 4 at Buck Thomas Park, with a fireworks show beginning at dark. Food vendors, a children's tent and inflatables will all be featured, with live music performances from 2 to 7 p.m. in the south pavilion.

- **Freedom Festival**
  www.cityofbethany.org/2015/05/family-fun-festival-2015
  Eldon Lyon Park
  7400 Block on NW 36th St., Bethany
  Freedom Festival kicks off with a parade at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 4, and features food vendors, carnival rides and games, a petting zoo and a concert that starts at 6 p.m. A digitally mastered fireworks display starts at 9:55 p.m.

- **Freedom Fest**
  www.cityofyukonok.gov/city-departments/parks-recreation/events
  Chisholm Trail Park
  500 W Vandament, Yukon
  Freedom Fest kicks off at 5 p.m. Friday, July 3, with live music and free ice cream. A fireworks show starts at 10 p.m. The festival starts at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 4, with the Cherry Bomb Triathlon.
  Events continue throughout the day, featuring a hot dog-eating contest, obstacle course, a performance by the OKC Philharmonic and a 10 p.m. fireworks show.

- **Liberty Fest**
  www.libertyfest.org
  2300 S Broadway, Edmond
  The LibertyFest Route 66 parade in downtown Edmond starts at 9 a.m. ParkFest begins at 6:30 p.m. at the University of Central Oklahoma campus, featuring inflatables, games, entertainment, food vendors, free watermelon, and a fireworks show at 10 p.m.

- **Norman Day Celebration**
  www.normanok.gov/parks/4th-july-norman-day-9
  Reaves Park
  2501 Jenkins Ave., Norman
  Norman's park festival features pony rides, food vendors and a fireworks show beginning at 9:45 p.m.

- **Red, White and BOOM!**
  www.okphilharmonic.org/rwb
  State Fair Park
  333 Gordon Cooper Blvd.,
  Oklahoma City
  Bring a lawn chair or blanket to the State Fair Park at 8:30 p.m. Friday, July 3, for a free concert and fireworks show. The evening features the Oklahoma City Philharmonic with special guests Joel Levine and soloist Emily Drennan. Concessions will be available.

Firework safety encouraged

**SPENCER GRANT**
Staff Writer
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In 2012, there were upwards of 8,000 firework-related injuries. In 2013, there was a nearly 30 percent increase, up to 11,400, according to a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission report.

Mustang Fire Chief Carl Hickman said while it’s legal in some cities, including Mustang, to shoot off personal fireworks, it’s best to leave that to professionals.

“We always encourage everyone to attend professional fireworks displays,” he said. “If you decide to do your own, avoid combustible materials and have a fire extinguishing agent at the ready.”

Hickman said Mustang Fire Department is “kept pretty busy” this time each year responding to calls stemming from fireworks.

In 2011, 1200 structural fires were caused by fireworks, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

It’s against Oklahoma State law to launch fireworks within 500 feet of any church, school, hospital, unharvested crops, or anywhere fireworks are being stored or sold, according to Title 68, article 16, section 1627. Fire Departments aren’t the only places kept busy around this time of year.

Integris Burn Center said they receive numerous patients each holiday season who have suffered some sort of harm through the personal misuse of fireworks.

The Burn Center has issued a list of precautions to take when you’re using or find yourself around fireworks:

- Make sure you read and follow the directions on the fireworks to prevent any accidents.
- Never mix alcohol and fireworks.
- Fireworks should always be pointed away from the handler’s body, and away from any other people in the immediate area.
- Trying to reuse old fireworks is also never a good idea. The same thing goes with creating your own fireworks, or experiment with combining fireworks.

Integris Burn Center recommends immediately taking someone who is severely injured by fireworks to the emergency room. For smaller burns directly to the skin, run cold water over the area, then see your personal physician ASAP.

For more information about firework safety, visit www.consumeraffairs.com.

Independence Day celebration dates to 1777

**HARRISON LANGSTON**
Sports Writer
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For almost two and a half centuries, Americans have celebrated an historically significant holiday. July 4 is a national holiday that is considered a tradition among Americans. On this day, people cook out, drink beer, and watch fireworks. It is an all-around fun day, but sometimes, people forget the reason why we celebrate.

In the late 18th century, America was still broken up into colonies under the British Empire. After several conflicts over taxation, proper representation in government and other issues, Americans decided to break things off with Britain.

The American Revolution began in 1775, but, according to the U.S. Office of the Historian, the Declaration of Independence was not finalized and adopted by the Continental Congress until July 4, 1776.

According to an article from The Huffington Post, the first Independence Day celebration was held in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777. At the time, we were still at war with Britain. Americans needed something to boost morale, so the sky was illuminated with fireworks. Following this celebration, people in all parts of the country began celebrating.

As the years went by, Independence Day became so popular and so widely celebrated that, according to history.com, Congress changed it to a federal holiday in 1941.

In early Independence Day celebrations, the fireworks were not that elaborate. Now, according to the American Pyrotechnics Association (APA), it is estimated that more than 14,000 fireworks displays take place each Independence Day.

According to a letter in the National Archives, John Adams, one of America’s Founding Fathers and second U.S. president, predicted that Independence Day would be celebrated by Americans in a variety of ways “from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more.”

So far, it seems as if John Adams’ prediction has held up, seeing as after almost 240 years, millions of Americans still value this tradition.

Independence Day is known for being a day of fun, games, food and fireworks, but it also is a significant day in our nation’s history.
SPORTS

Wellness Center gym set to upgrade

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Soon, OCCC’s Wellness Center will sport 10 new pieces of cardio equipment and 19 new pieces of other equipment, said Recreation and Fitness Acting Director Mike Shugart.

Shugart said the equipment, manufactured by Octane Fitness and Hoist Fitness, is being purchased through 2nd Wind Exercise Equipment.

Some of the new equipment includes treadmills, a variety of ellipticals, a leg press, biceps curl machine and several free weight benches. Currently, OCCC’s Wellness Center has around 25 machines students can use, he said.

Those fall into three categories: cardio machines, selectorized machines and free weights.

Shugart said the type of machine a students would use depends on what he or she is hoping to achieve.

“If somebody’s trying to lose weight, they’re going to … go on the cardio equipment, but if somebody’s trying to build muscle, they’re going to be using the machines and the free weights.”

Civil engineering major and international student Khoosheh Eghbal said she has been using the facilities in the Wellness Center for most of the three semesters she has attended OCCC.

Eghbal said that she enjoys equipment such as the cable machine and the squat rack when she works out but wishes there was a better variety.

“I would say they’re missing a lot of stuff for upper body working out,” she said.

Eghbal said everyone could benefit from the area.

“Diet and working out are not part of [everyone’s] schedule,” she said.

“It’s something that you need to get used to, to plan every day, go to workout. I think it needs a little more attention.”

Shugart said when the equipment arrives and is set up, he plans to have a grand re-opening of the Wellness Center. The date will be announced later, he said.

For more information, call 405-682-7860, visit the Recreation and Fitness office on the first floor of the Main Building or go to their website at www.occc.edu/rf.
Enroll: High schools offer opportunity to earn dual credit

Continued from page 1

while also attending their regular high school classes.
OCCC Bursar Cynthia Gary said, in an email, 527 school seniors and 118 juniors attended classes at OCCC in the fall 2014 semester.
In the 2015 spring semester, those numbers increased to 615 high school seniors and 142 juniors.

The challenges and benefits

Winwood said success in concurrent enrollment courses requires ambition and dedication beyond the effort generally required to complete high school. Students who enter into Advanced Placement classes are typically those who are pushing themselves to succeed in other areas also, he said.
“I’ve found this working against them to an extent. These students are some of the elite students.”

Student Aubree Goodgion said earning college credit in a comfortable, familiar environment prepared her for the advanced course work she’ll face without overwhelming her. However, she said, getting into the AP class took hard work.

Goodgion said she enjoyed the class but said it was difficult.
“Considering it’s my first college class and I might walk out of here with a B, I’m pretty happy,” Goodgion said.

Winwood said, for most of his students, concurrent enrollment offers opportunities to pursue higher education

They may otherwise not have.
“T he problem here is not that they’re not smart enough,” he said. “It’s that it’s a poor district. He said financial hardships create additional issues within a family that students may have to overcome or work around.

Winwood said OCCC has a contract with schools in Oklahoma City’s low-income areas to send college professors like Winwood into high schools to teach these courses.

“It really gives … an opportunity for students who don’t have the transportation,” Winwood said.

“They wouldn’t be able to take concurrent classes if they didn’t do that.”

Gary said concurrent enrollment programs give students confidence to achieve their college goals.

She said it’s hard to say how much exactly concurrent enrollment programs contribute to the overall success of OCCC or its students. But, she said, some measure of benefit is undeniable.

“It’s a jumping board, definitely, because it gets [the students’] feet wet,” Gary said.

“It gives parents the opportunity to have their kids come and only pay the fees.

“So a lot of people take advantage of that and continue on,”

Winwood said concurrent enrollment also makes financial sense for the schools.

“When I first started thinking about it, I thought it might be a waste of funds to pay a college professor to come here and teach the class,” he said.

“At Capitol Hill, there were only four (students).”

I thought about my salary as (an adjunct) professor for just four students.

“But I realized, for a high school, it’s a money saver ….”

Rogers said concurrent enrollment benefitted her when she was a student also. She said she earned a few college credits during high school.

When she applied for college scholarships, Rogers said, she had the advantage of starting with a 4.0 GPA.

“It opens up the door for more opportunity,” she said. “I hope more students take advantage.”

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROS:

—Dual enrollment gives students an idea of what full-time college coursework will be like, says ecampustours.com. By trying a few classes while still in high school, your child can get used to the academic environment before he or she leaves the comfort and support of home.

—Your child may be able to take classes that aren’t offered at his or her high school.

—College courses can give your student a closer look at his or her area of academic interest. If your child is currently loving AP history, a college course next year on the Civil War or the Great Depression will help him or her explore that period in greater depth and precision.

—Taking a college class as a high school senior can help your child find his or her area of interest before the pressure is on to declare a major.

—if your student didn’t qualify to take AP courses, or if those courses weren’t available at your child’s high school, taking a college-level class will help him or her demonstrate the ability to handle more difficult coursework, according to ecampustours.com. This ability is something every college admissions officer wants to see.

—Due to the large number of online and virtual classes offered by many schools, dual-enrollment courses may be conducted right at your child’s high school, says ecampustours.com. Ask your student’s guidance counselor about dual-enrollment options in your area.

—Perhaps the biggest benefit of dual enrollment is that your student can start accumulating college credits, helping him or her graduate on time or even early.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT CONS:

—if a course is already available at your child’s school, it might be best to take it there. If the college course won’t give your student something above and beyond what’s available at his or her high school, take a pass.

—if a college class will interfere with your child’s regular coursework or extracurriculars, it may not be a good idea. A college course should enhance a student’s résumé, but not at the expense of other résumé-enhancing activities.

—Dual-enrollment courses are real college courses for real college credit. The grades will go on your student’s permanent record. Before enrolling, make sure your student is ready for the demanding work a college class will require, or it could hurt his or her chances at college acceptance down the line, recommends Florida’s Valencia Community College. Furthermore, if a student fails a dual-enrollment course, it could mean he or she won’t graduate high school on time.

—if your child is considering a dual-enrollment program for the purpose of earning college credits, be sure of the value of the credits. For each college where your child may apply next year, check to see how many credits (if any) a dual-enrollment class would earn your child. The credit policy will depend on the school.

—www.studypoint.com

Nominations: OCCC seeking next Hall of Fame inductees

Continued from page 1

is someone who has made some sort of significant achievement in business, or their profession, or done something in the community that has been significant,” he said.

“Also someone who has potentially been of great service, at present or in the past, to the college. It can be any of those things that would help

somebody rise above and get selected.”

Cassimus said the nominations pour in each summer and must be whittled down to roughly six to eight inductees. The event has been held since 2006, he said.

“This will be my fourth year of doing it, and there have been anywhere between 20 and 40 nominations,” he said. “Just somewhere in there.”

These alumni have their place in history honored, by being inducted into the Hall of Fame, and at the Alumni Hall of Fame Banquet. This year’s banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, in the Visual and Performing Arts Center Theater, Cassimus said. He said it is an important night to honor the inductees with the royal treatment.

“The banquet is where they can invite their families and friends to come and watch them be honored,” he said.

“They get their awards, and we have videos for them that play during the course of the banquet.”

Cassimus said the banquet is mandatory for those inducted.

“We have unfortunately had one or two issues where the person was not going to be able to be here to accept it so we threw [the names] back in the pool for next year,” he said.

“We do like them to … be here because it’s an opportunity for them to really be celebrated …”

Nominations can be submitted online at www.occc.edu/foundation/alumni.html.

For more information, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7478, or email rcassimus@occc.edu.
Free Dodgers tickets for blood donors

The Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI) is giving two free Dodgers general admission ticket vouchers to “early bird” blood donors for July 17 or Aug. 2 games. To be considered an “early bird”, blood donors must give blood only on a Monday or Tuesday at a participating donor center. For a list of participating donor centers, contact OBI at 877-340-8777 or visit obi.org.

Students can get fit for free all summer

Group fitness classes will continue free to OCCC students with a valid OCCC ID. The Wellness Center summer hours are May 29 through Aug. 21. The weight and cardio rooms are open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; and closed Saturday and Sunday. The gym is open 6 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. Monday through Friday; 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 5:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday; closed from 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekly. For more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness Center at 405-682-7860.

‘Cat on a Hot Tin Roof’ coming to OCCC

Reduxion Theatre Company presents the two final performances of Tennessee William’s drama, “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, June 26 and 27, in the VPAC. Students and faculty can pick up $10 discount tickets at the Box Office with a valid OCCC ID. To purchase additional tickets, visit reduxiontheatre.com or call 405-682-7579.

College for Kids offering variety of classes

OCCC’s Community Outreach and Education program offers a variety of weekly children’s camps and classes throughout the summer. The College for Kids program includes classes such as math and information tech, humanities, science and musical theater camps. Classes are held in weekly periods June 1 through July 29. For more information, contact Community Outreach and Education at 405-686-6222 or occc.edu/summercamp.

ICD-10-CM to update medical classifications

The International Classification of Disease, 10th Version, Clinical Modification course will update training in classifying and reporting diseases in all medical settings. The course will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday, July 6 through 9 and July 20 through 23 at OCCC’s Professional Development Institute. For more information or to enroll, contact Francine Gissay at 405-682-7856 or occc.edu/pdi/icd-10-cm.html.

New Student Orientation sessions continue

OCCC will hold many free New Student Orientation sessions from June through August. The upcoming session is Monday, July 6 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in rooms C2 and C3. To register for an orientation session, e-mail Student Life office at studentlife@occc.edu or call at 405-682-7523.

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

**FURNITURE**

**FOR SALE**: Free 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.

**AUTOMOTIVE**


**miscellaneous**

**FOR SALE**: 19" CRT television in fair condition. Great for a gaming TV or in a child’s room. $25. Text 405-818-0083 for more details.

**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.

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**WEEKLY CROSSWORD**

**Across**

1. Walked upon  
5. Decrease  
10. Peer type  
14. Tortoise’s opponent  
15. Zodic sign  
16. October birthstone  
17. Face shape  
18. Ancient Peruvians  
19. Depend  
20. Narrate  
22. Spoke  
24. Kidnapper’s request  
27. Remove  
28. Recommend  
31. Not fancy  
33. Flat  
34. Heel  
35. Spanish title  
40. Atom part  
42. Came in  
43. Decree  
44. Rested  
45. Nobility unit  
46. Cozy retreats  
48. Hails  
49. Informal speech  
53. Shoelace hole  
55. Boring  
57. Beginning  
61. Shakespeare’s river  
62. The Devil  
65. Staff member  
66. Richard ____ of “Pretty Woman”  
67. Overact  
68. Horse’s gait  
69. Glimpse  
70. Underground drain  
71. Building extensions

**Down**

1. Nurse god  
2. Talk irrationally  
3. Spoken  
4. Designer Oscar ____ (3 wds.)  
5. E.T., e.g.  
6. Storage box  
7. CBS rival  
8. Serious injury  
9. Towards the sunrise  
10. Termite, e.g.  
11. "Phantom of the ____"  
12. Shoppers’ delights  
21. Paving material  
23. Principle  
25. Reach across  
26. Aged  
28. Casino city  
29. Always  
30. "Family ____"  
32. Contradictive contraction  
34. Pine  
36. Margin  
37. Metallic rocks  
38. Landlord’s income  
39. Summer coolers  
40. Beagle breedkeeper  
42. Lighten  
44. Pig’s home  
47. Flavorful seed  
48. Miles ____ hour  
49. Fawn’s fathers  
50. Embarkment  
51. Idolize  
52. Dressed to the ____  
54. Hermit  
56. Employed  
58. Female  
59. Golden calf, e.g.  
60. New Jersey team  
63. Pull behind  
64. Chewed down

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Comments? Opinions? Let us know! E-mail the editor at editor@occc.edu
Summer food programs offer free meals

SPENCER GRANT
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Just over half of the students in public schools in the U.S. qualify for free and reduced lunch, according to a January New York Times article.

For many of these students, that may be the only meal they receive all day.

In the 2013-2014 school year, more than 300,000 students in the state of Oklahoma received a free or reduced lunch daily, according to the Food Research and Action Center.

One program that has been making an effort to combat child hunger is the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City. The center has a summer food program available to anyone from the ages of 5 to 18, according to their website.

Candice Hillenbrand, associate director of Financial Development there, said, since 2012, more than 200,000 meals have been served.

“I’m also the food program coordinator and I am absolutely passionate about it,” she said. “I think kids deserve three square meals a day and that’s what we aim to do.”

Since starting the program in 2012, Hillenbrand said, they have more than doubled their sites. She said the YMCA has partnered with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma for this event.

The locations are:
— Bethany YMCA: 3400 N Mueller Avenue, Bethany, 405-789-0231.
— Downtown YMCA: 1 NW 4th Street, Oklahoma City, 405-297-7700.
— Gethsemane Lutheran School: 8811 W Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, 405-721-1167.
— Maclang Park: 2234 NW 117th St., Oklahoma City.
— Midwest City YMCA: 2817 N Woodcrest Drive, Midwest City.
— North Side YMCA: 10000 N Pennysylvania Avenue, Oklahoma City, 405-751-6363.
— Rankin YMCA: 1220 S Rankin Street, Edmond, 405-348-9622.
— Rockwell Plaza YMCA: 8300 Glade Avenue, Oklahoma City, 405-621-5858.
— Shartel Church of God: 11600 S Western, Oklahoma City, 405-691-1216.
— Sunset Elementary: 400 W 8th St., Edmond, 405-340-2990.
— Village United Methodist Church: 2501 W Britton Rd., The Village, 405-751-8116.

For more information on locations and times, visit http://ymcaokc.org/foodprogram/summer-site-locations.

Feed the Children, located at 3333 N Meridian Ave. in Oklahoma City, also offers a summer meal program, said Domestic Programming Manager Clint McKnight.

“Oklahoma ranked dead last on the list of kids who ate free and reduced in the school year, but not in the summer,” McKnight said. “With our headquarters right here in Oklahoma, that’s unacceptable.”

McKnight said, last year, Feed the Children’s summer food service program helped serve almost 9,000 on-site meals and almost 200,000 take-home meals.

“We had only 11 sites in 2014, and this year we already have 55,” he said.

According to their blog, they single-handedly increased the number of kids fed in the state of Oklahoma by 30 percent.

McKnight said they feed all ages.

“We know people come with their families and we’re ready to feed them as well,” he said.

In addition, McKnight said, they also provide free books for children.

Visit www.feedthechildren.org for more information.

Moore Public Schools also is offering free lunches at various locations Monday through Friday, from July 6 through 24.

Dubbed Summer Food Fest 2015, the district is entering its eighth year for offering the program.

According to their blog, they single-handedly increased the number of kids fed in the state of Oklahoma by 30 percent.

For more information, call 735-4030 or e-mail pamhart@mooreschools.com.

For a complete listing of programs offered in the state, the Oklahoma State Department of Education offers a Summer Food Sponsor Locator at https://cnp.sde.ok.gov/SponsorLocator/default.htm.

Visitors can find a summer food program in their area by using an interactive map located at the website.

“SFSP is the single largest Federal resource available for local sponsors who want to combine a feeding program with a summer activity program.”

“It was created to ensure that children in low-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast,” the site reads.

Make sure you don’t leave baby behind in a hot car.