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EDITORIAL

MORE LOVE, THICKER SKIN NEEDED

Online Editor Katie Axtell says people should spend more time helping one another succeed and less time being offended. Read more inside.

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NEWS

SUMMER FUN INCLUDES BEING SAFE

Avoiding heatstroke and food poisoning, and staying hydrated are just a few things everyone needs to be aware of during Oklahoma's scorching summer months. See more.

NEWS, p. 7

SPORTS

OCCC ROWING TEAM PLACES IN FESTIVAL

The college's dragon boat and traditional rowing teams recently competed in the Sandridge Energy Stars and Stripes River Festival.

SPORTS, p. 8

COMMUNITY

CAPITOL STEPS TAKE THE STAGE AUG. 22

Loaded with comedy, costumes, original music numbers and of course, mild innuendo, the performers will present 'Mock the Vote' at the VPAC.

COMMUNITY, p. 10



PIONEER

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JULY 10, 2015

PIONEER.OCCC.EDU

COVERING OCCC SINCE 1978

Class dismissed



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

Chemical engineering major Michael Nwanebu walks to his car after class on June 30. Summer semester ends July 24.

Calendar shows art

BROOKLYN JOHNSTON
 News Writing Student

In the past year, art students have been able to see replicas of their work on view in campus offices and elsewhere around the area by means of OCCC's art calendar.

The calendar was originally a promotional product created by former President Paul Sechrist, said art Professor Doug Blake.

Each page of the calendar depicts a piece of art made by a student, he said.

For August 2015, Tracy Logan has a black-and-white still life from Drawing I pictured.

It depicts a rolling pin on a draped table that also contains a round loaf of bread and a small black stylized figure of a bear.

For June, Sahid Alpizar has a photograph of the shadowy underside of a wooden pier, extending outward from a sandy beach into a blue body of water. The picture was taken in the Photography II class.

See **ART** page 9

Academic progress tracking available

Starfish, a retention solution software, is being installed in all labs and service areas

JORGE KRZYZANIAK
 Editor
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This fall, OCCC students will be able to keep track of their academic progress with just a swipe of their student IDs by using Starfish, software the college recently purchased for approximately \$80,000.

Starfish is a "retention solution" software system that integrates campus labs with all student services to track a student's academic records, said E-Student Services Director E.J.

“It gives students the ability to use resources all over campus, talk to people and have it tied to their own academic record.”

—E.J. WARREN
 E-STUDENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

Warren.

She said it's expected to increase student success, and, in turn, drive up the number of students who graduate at OCCC.

“It gives students the ability to use resources all over campus, talk to people and have it tied to their own academic record,” Warren said.

The software, which will be

downloaded to specific computers placed in certain areas on campus, will keep a record of every lab and student service — including Financial Aid and Advising — visited by students, she said.

Starfish will log time spent in those areas and the reason for each visit so students can be paired with tutors and services that can assist them when needed, Warren said.

She said it also will allow advisers and professors to better track their students' time, progress and possible academic pitfalls. Information from previous visits is stored on students' accounts and the accounts can be noted to assure smoother, swifter progress than before.

“It's just constant communi-

cation.

“And, if a few months later you come back (to an area) for help, it's OK if you don't remember who you talked to because it's all on your account.”

She said internal testing of the new system began the week of July 6. Faculty is currently being trained on the new software.

“We've been building the system and we've had really good stuff going on.”

She said the first phase of the Starfish rollout will begin this summer.

“The goal is to have half of the labs and half of student services using Starfish by August.”

Stacey Trump, a physical science lab assistant, said she sus-

See **TRACK** page 9

OPINION

EDITORIAL | More energy needs to be focused on helping others

Being offended too commonplace

The most common phrase spoken in today's society seems to be along the lines of, "that offends me."

Sexual orientation, race, religion, flags — the number of offensive lifestyles, materials, and phrases has reached a point where simply stating something is offensive is offensive.



KATIE AXTELL

The dictionary defines offensive as "causing someone to feel hurt, angry, or upset; rude or insulting; very unpleasant."

Perhaps I'm misunderstanding this simple definition, but how is it possible for one's sexual orientation to offend someone who doesn't know said person?

How can the religion I practice and live by offend you if I'm not trying to preach to you or bash you for your differences? How can history be offensive?

The people of today, at least in this country, are so quick to say when they are offended, but also expect the world to be OK with their beliefs, opinions and way of life. I'm thinking there are some hypocritical and backwards people plaguing humanity.

Humanity in America is becoming washed with offensive ignorance. The recent issues arising with the Confederate flag and gay marriage are proof. The flag was General Lee's battle flag. Roger Chapman's

book "Culture Wars: An Encyclopedia of Issues, Viewpoints, and Voices" states the flag was never adopted by the government of Confederate states.

Yes, the flag was adopted by the KKK as their symbol, but that doesn't mean it changes the history and what it represents. I adopted a dog but I'll always stay human. An adoption of an object doesn't necessarily change the definition or meaning of such object.

Our country's history is small, but deep. To embrace it and learn from it, one must know it. Picking and choosing what to believe from an expansive past can only get you so far in the future.

Too many people are quick to take offense at something they know nothing about just because they see and hear myths, rumors and gossip about it. Before deciding if you truly are offended, try learning about that which offends you.

As far as sexual orientation goes, I am still trying to put together how one can be offended by one person loving another. With the ever decreasing amount of love and compassion we are seeing, why not let love shine?

Along with allowing more love to be expressed, thousands of children are being given homes they need by gay couples.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute shows an astounding number of children worldwide without families.

"There are 17,900,000 orphans who have lost both

Cats.

What it's like to work when you have a cat.



Trained Thinking 110 © Nathan Scroggins 2015

parents and are living in orphanages or on the streets, and lack the care and attention required for healthy development."

According to Lifelong Adoptions, the number of children being adopted by gay couples is increasing. "As reported on the 2000 Census, about 65,000 children lived with same-sex parents. In 2012, 110,000 live with gay parents."

Children are finding homes and hearts are being filled. I fail to see how that is bad. The right for people to marry who they love was passed. And the world needs a little more love.

Instead of paying so much attention to other people's lives and searching for things to be offended by, let's work more toward helping heal the world and the poverty, hunger and wars that are decimating the supply of compassion.

—KATIE AXTELL
ONLINE EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Permanent collections include art from the Middle Ages and more

Shawnee museum offering free admission through Aug. 31

To the Editor:

Admission into the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art will be free to everyone through the end of August thanks to Ad Astra Foundation, Avedis Foundation and St. Gregory's Abbey contributions.

The museum's permanent collections include Egyptian, Greek and Roman objects, art from the Middle Ages and Renaissance through the early 20th century, and large holdings of Native American, African/Oceanic and Eastern cultural artifacts.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the presence

of St. Gregory's Abbey in Shawnee, Volume 6 (Gospels and Acts) of the Saint John's Bible Heritage Edition is on display at the Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art until October 2015.

Summer camps also are available. To learn more, visit the museum's website at www.mgmoa.org.

The Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art is located on the campus of St. Gregory's University, 1900 W MacArthur St., in Shawnee. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 1 to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

For accommodations on the basis of disability or more information, call the museum at 405-878-5300.

—DELAYNNA TRIM
CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

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.

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name if the request is made in writing.

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

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

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

BUSINESS REVIEW | OCCC Financial Aid, Testing Center come through

Thanks for finally getting it right

Recently I cracked under pressure and dropped a summer math class that would have allowed me to graduate in the fall. It was weak. I was weak. My constitution faltered.

Yet as I was sitting in five o'clock traffic listening to an NPR reporter I've heard a thousand times and still not learned his name, a woman with a thick Indian accent came on the airwaves.

She started talking about growing up with a dirt floor and no food, and how, now, she's a nuclear engineer.

My knuckles turned white on the steering wheel. As I lay awake at night contemplating the state of my discontent, I also realized that according to the formula set by the federal government, dropping that class also meant I might not be able to receive financial aid. The next day after a hurricane of paperwork, I was re-enrolled in the same class and back on track to academic success.

For the first time I can recall in my time as a student here, the OCCC bureaucracy helped me, instead of discouraging me from ever coming back by telling me I have to wait in that other line — again.

Then, a few days later, something even more im-

pressive happened. I went to the Testing Center, locked my belongings in a locker, signed in, sat down in the VIP room with my test, completed it and left.

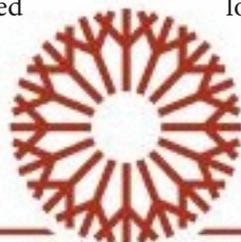
I was amazed. There were no complications or cumbersome rules that contribute nothing to security or academic integrity, as there have been in the past. There was no need to make me suffer possible kidney damage because I needed to use the bathroom but still had an unanswered question on my test. In the past, I'm guessing, the mindset was that I could possibly run into somebody with the specific information I needed or that may have pre-emptively taped notes hidden in the paper towel dispensers, somehow.

I don't know if Financial Aid and the Testing Center had some sort of epiphany — maybe a religious experience, or is now staffed by androids but, regardless of the cause, it's working. I had great experiences for the first time at both areas.

Thumbs up to both places for finally getting it right.

Rating: B+

—GRANT SWALWELL
STAFF WRITER



OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



'Doodle Jump' an app favorite

I'm a self-admitted lame app user. I never get new apps. I use the same few apps over and over — and over.

After having a smartphone for a little more than a year, I find that old apps die hard. Many of the apps I continue to use have been around for ages and are still wildly popular among smartphone users.

Some of these apps are pretty standard, such as Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and FaceTime. Some apps also are the dominant of their type, like the ESPN app (which is lame but still better than their website), Apple's Podcasts app and the Weather Channel app.

However, when it comes to games, there are very few standards. Many games have a very short half-life, and quickly find their way out of the spotlight, e.g. "Flappy Bird."

So when a game dominates the cellular medium, it can make as many waves as games made for Xbox and Playstation consoles, and is played for years on end. Thus is the case of "Doodle Jump."

"Doodle Jump" is a simple game, as many popular mobile games are. The point of the game is to tilt your phone so the jumping character continues to climb the platforms. Sometimes you have to tap the screen to shoot at monsters. Like I said, not complicated.

Sure, the game gets harder the higher you go up. More monsters, fewer platforms to jump on, these platforms move. But ultimately, the purpose of the game stays the same: jump on platforms, climb higher and higher until you fall.

Co-creator Igor Pusenjak claims the game has had more than a quarter of a billion downloads across all platforms. If his statement is true, the game would be played more than all versions of Nintendo's "Mario" franchise.

Even if it isn't true, the game has definitely been downloaded tens of millions of times, which is still a lot.

You can find this time transcending game on your local mobile app store for free, and for \$.99 to remove ads.

—CLAYTON MITCHELL
SENIOR WRITER

FROM THE VAULT REVIEW | The Steven Spielberg thriller celebrates its 40th anniversary

'Jaws' is the perfect classic movie

A few weeks ago, I went to my local Cinemark theater for the 40th anniversary of "Jaws." For many years, "Jaws" has been considered a perfect summer film that expertly delivers a true thriller experience.

"Jaws," based on Peter Benchley's 1974 novel of the same name, was released in 1975 and directed by Steven Spielberg.

The story is centered around a giant great white shark that attacks many beachgoers on Amity Island, a fictional summer destination. As a result of these attacks, local police chief Martin Brody, played by Roy Scheider, goes on a hunt for the shark. Brody is assisted by oceanographer Matt Hooper, played by Richard Dreyfuss, and shark hunter Quint, played by Robert Shaw.

Though this film seems very simple, it is quite intricate. To me, every part of this film is perfect. The performances given by Scheider, Dreyfuss and Shaw are amazingly well done.

As the film progresses, you become more and more connected to Scheider's common-man police chief,



Dreyfuss's witty oceanographer and Shaw's pirate-like shark hunter.

Aside from acting, Steven Spielberg did a fantastic job directing the movie. Despite going over budget and past schedule, Spielberg managed to save the film. Several mechanical sharks suffered

malfunctions during filming, pushing Spielberg to switch to a minimalistic Hitchcock style of suspense, showing things from the shark's point of view.

Added to this is John Williams' legendary theme, that is simple, yet terrifying. Williams' theme is so unique and memorable that it has become synonymous with almost anything shark related.

"Jaws" is pretty much the film that created the summer movie season, and it did so for a reason. It has remained a cult classic for years on end because it creates a perfect sense of suspense and fear in its viewers.

It is an important part of film history and will always be one of my all-time favorite movies. I couldn't care less about criticisms of the movie because, in my mind, it did its job perfectly. It is entertaining,

engaging and just one hell of a movie.

Rating: A+

—HARRISON LANGSTON
SPORTS WRITER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

APP REVIEW | Application taking away social-building skills for today's youth

Snapchat nothing more than ego booster

I'm patiently waiting for the day when I get to witness that one sad person who walks into a pole or door because he is more focused on his phone than on what's right in front of him. Sometimes, when I sit by myself in an airport or cafeteria, I people-watch and hope that day will be the day.

It hasn't happened yet, but with the growing population becoming more and more involved with the newest app, social site and interweb, I'm certain it will happen soon.

Keeping watch for the latest social media fad and new social app is nowhere on my to-do list.

Being a full-time student, mom, wife and keeping a job takes up most of my time as well as being my main focus.

So when my sister and my best friend finally talked me into getting a semi-new social app, I wasn't surprised when I was disappointed.

First, calling Snapchat a social app is pointless.

There are only 34 spaces available to add text. Twitter even has more than that, and that site even irks me at times when I want to pour my heart out to all seven people who may or may not care to take the

time to read it.

Second, it takes way too long to send all 394 pictures that I take of my son each day to each one of those seven followers individually when it only takes a few minutes to upload all 719,050 pictures for the whole world to like, comment, share, save, and stalk.

And last, it's a sham. The app says you can share the picture or video and choose the time limit for the receiver to view it and then it disappears. Gone for good. Those are all lies.

The break of dawn, no make-up on and pre-coffee picture I sent to my sister didn't seem to disappear at all. It spread. Like a disease. An embarrassing, start-buying-more-makeup-and-oversized-sunglasses type of disease.

Snapchat, you have failed. You have not only failed to provide a useful app, but also the young generations growing up are now too focused on selfies and snap chatting pointless, non-verbal, non-communicational chats, thus taking away social skills.

Rating: D

—KATIE AXTELL
ONLINE EDITOR



MOVIE REVIEW | Moviegoers treated to a reminder of the creatures who once ruled the planet

'Jurassic World' action-packed film

After a long gap between "Jurassic Park" movies, the latest film "Jurassic World" hit theaters recently with largely positive audience reviews, but underwhelming paleontologist reviews.

If you don't know what a paleontologist is, it's basically a dinosaur scientist.

There's always someone out there who will complain that something is not scientifically accurate. In the case of Hollywood, those cries are largely ignored for the most part, and thank goodness for that.

I don't want to pay money to see a scientifically accurate movie. Imagine how boring those would be. How the hell are we supposed to know what dinosaurs looked like anyways? They've kinda been extinct for a few million years. But I digress.

The movie is fantastic and action filled, with multiple dino and human deaths. In fact, it's a lot more brutal than I remember the first three being. A few more curse words and I'm sure it could have warranted an R rating.

The plot centers around a genetically modified dinosaur with extreme intelligence who (of course) manages to escape and wreak havoc.

As things quickly start going downhill, Chris Pratt

and his team of velociraptors set out to track down the rogue dino.

There also is a plot involving two brothers being sent to the renovated theme park by their mom because her sister is a head scientist there, but this plotline seems largely irrelevant and not nearly as kickass as Chris Pratt's escapades.

Without giving too much away, Pterodactyls do escape and pick people up and drop them all over the place, and there is definitely a T-Rex showdown at the end, more than likely an homage to the "Jurassic Park" movies

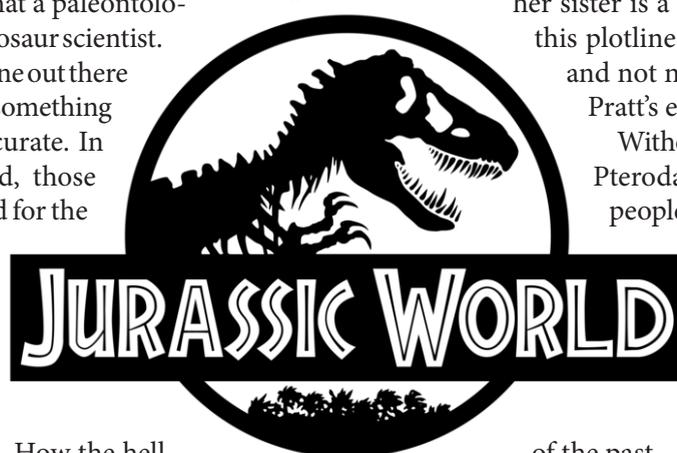
of the past.

While director Collin Trevorrow is no Steven Spielberg, the movie is still solid. There is a definite shift in this movie toward more action-oriented scenes, and less attention is paid to storyline, characters and all that jazz.

At the end of the day, "Jurassic World" gives us what no other film series really can: a thrilling depiction of the creatures that were masters of our planet for millions of years before us.

Rating: A

—SPENCER GRANT
STAFF WRITER



TOP 20 MOVIES

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

1. *Jurassic World*
2. *Inside Out*
3. *Terminator: Genisys*
4. *Magic Mike XXL*
5. *Ted*
6. *Max*
7. *Spy*
8. *San Andreas*
9. *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*
10. *Dope*
11. *Mad Max: Fury Road*
12. *Avengers: Age of Ultron*
13. *Love & Mercy*
14. *Pitch Perfect 2*
15. *Insidious: Chapter 3*
16. *I'll See You in My Dreams*
17. *Faith of Our Fathers*
18. *Tomorrowland*
19. *The Overnight*
20. *Home*

Stolen truck traced to college parking lot

CLAYTON MITCHELL
Senior Writer
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A stolen vehicle recovered in an OCCC parking lot, an injury accident on campus, and stolen headphones from a VPAC cubicle office kept campus police busy in recent weeks.

A report received by the Pioneer July 7, shows on May 29, Officer Jeremy Bohannon assisted Oklahoma City Police Officer Daniel O'Neill in a search for a stolen vehicle that had been tracked by GPS to the OCCC campus.

O'Neill said the 2006 Dodge Ram was stolen from Express Credit Auto at 1 W I-240 Service Road. He said a GPS tracker had been placed on the vehicle before it was stolen.

O'Neill's report stated the truck was stolen around 1 p.m. as it was being prepared for sale. Salesperson Brent Morgan said he left the vehicle unattended for a few minutes with the keys in the door.

Morgan told O'Neill after the vehicle was taken, he and other employees searched the GPS through their online database, and after determining its location, remotely disabled the truck so that it could no longer be driven.

Bohannon and O'Neill met with Morgan in Lot A. Morgan showed both officers the temporary license plate,

which the suspect had altered to show a date of 08-15-15.

The suspect was identified through security footage as "a black male, approximately 5'11" tall, 175 pounds, athletic build, with short hair and a full beard," the report shows. Security surveillance footage showed the suspect park the stolen vehicle in Lot A, and enter the Main Building at around 4:30 p.m. The suspect visited the bookstore and the Financial Aid area, before returning to the stolen truck and appearing to alter the paper tag.

The man then attempted to leave in the truck, but it would not start because it had already been remotely disabled.

The man then walked toward the bus stop on the east side of campus, then walked off campus just before 5 p.m., according to the security camera footage.

The OCPD report shows Morgan did not report the vehicle as stolen at the time of the theft, but was given information to be able to press charges against the suspect if he is identified.

The OCCC report said Financial Aid employees would be interviewed on June 1 to attempt to identify the suspect.

Financial Aid employees declined to comment on the case.

Master Sgt. Gary Knight of the Oklahoma City Police Department, said, as of July 8, no one had yet been identified and the case remains open.

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

An injury accident at the intersection of Faculty Circle and Regents Boulevard on the north side of campus June 9 required an EMSA call, according to Officer Tim Harris.

A report received by the Pioneer July 7, shows at approximately 1:30 p.m. Harris was dispatched to the wreck involving a Lexus SUV and a Nissan Altima.

The driver of the Nissan, a visitor to campus, appeared to have some small facial scrapes from a deployed air bag, the report showed.

The driver of the Lexus had a bump on her head, so EMSA and Oklahoma City Fire Rescue were called.

The Lexus driver was transported by a family member to a hospital to be examined. The driver of the Nissan said he was fine and would not need medical assistance.

The driver of the Lexus was ticketed for failure to yield at a stop sign.

Officer Bruce Funderburk responded to a call from the Visual and Performing Arts Center about stolen headphones on May 26, according to a report received by the Pioneer July 7.

Funderburk arrived at VPAC Room 161, and met with Box Office Specialist Keith Leftwich, who said his headphones had been stolen from his office cubicle. Leftwich said he had access to and had already seen security footage from his office, and determined the headphones were taken about 12:39 a.m. on May 23, by a contract employee.

The contract employee was identified, and upon being interviewed, confessed to taking the headphones, and gave them to police.

Some information and names were redacted from the reports under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan who said names are redacted "according to OCCCPD 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.



Writing for the Web class to be offered this fall

TIFFANY FEESE
News Writing Student

The Internet is taking over the news industry, said The Oklahoman's Energy Editor Adam Wilmoth, to an OCCC News Writing class June 30.

"People want their news," Wilmoth said. "They want their news immediately. They want the news that they're interested in. You don't have as [many] people getting up in the morning, flipping through the newspaper and reading it cover to cover."

OCCC journalism professor Sue Hinton knows the importance of learning online writing skills.

"It's our goal to send people into the workforce with skills that will make people want to hire them," Hinton said.

Wilmoth will teach a Writing for the Web class at OCCC in the fall. He said he is excited and thinks it will be a good class.

"Writing for the web is for everything," Wilmoth said. "If you're going to be a professional communicator, if you're going to be in this business, if you're going to reach people, you're going to be doing it through the web."

He said web publishing has advantages over print. "The immediacy, getting the headline out there, is a big benefit of writing for the web."

In print newspapers, Wilmoth said, it's difficult to see who is interested in what type of stories.

"Online, we know exactly how many people click on [a story]," he said. "We know how long they stay on it. We know if they click on it and the lead is boring ... and they don't bother to read the whole story."

Students listened intently as Wilmoth spoke about his job as energy editor with the business section of The Oklahoman. He covers the oil and gas industry that plays a dominant role in the state's economy.

"I wasn't really looking for that, but it was open, and I got in and I loved it," he said. "Everything that I write about directly affects me, my family, people around me — and I just really enjoy that."

The main difference in writing for the web and writing for the printed newspaper is that every tool is different, Wilmoth said. An online journalist can reach a broader audience by using Facebook, Twitter and other digital tools, he said.

"If we use those tools properly, it can help us be better communicators."

Wilmoth also spoke on the importance of accuracy as a journalist.

"While the Internet is giving us more flexibility, it's also (giving us) a lot of misinformation," he said.

"Anybody can have a blog. Anybody can post on Facebook. We are professional communicators. We are professional journalists. We have to hold ourselves to a different (and higher) standard."

Hinton later said Writing for the Web may be added to the curriculum for journalism and broadcasting students.

"Everybody who is writing is going to be writing for the web," she said. "That's true not only for journalists and broadcasters, but also it's true for advertisers, for people who work in online publications of any kind, even business and issue-oriented websites."

"We feel particularly lucky to have someone with Adam Wilmoth's credentials who's available to teach the class."

Writing for the Web will be offered as a journalism class on Monday nights during the fall semester. It is listed under JB 1003. For more information, contact Hinton at 405-682-1611 ext. 7331, or at shinton@occc.edu.

Service learning trip taken to Dominican Republic

DANIELLE RUTLEDGE
News Writing Student

Two TRiO students went on a service-learning trip to the Dominican Republic from May 13 through 20 where they worked with a tribe of native people who live in a national park.

OCCC sophomore Aaron Kimberlin and recent graduate Lisa Shaw were selected to represent the college on this Caribbean island of Hispaniola which the Dominican Republic shares with Haiti.

The students were chosen because of their civic and academic engagement on campus, Shaw said.

The Oklahoma Study Abroad Project, created by the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges, selected 11 students from different community colleges around Oklahoma to travel and study abroad, Kimberlin said.

Kimberlin is a bio-chemistry major who said he plans to work in some area of dentistry.

Shaw said she will be attending the University of Oklahoma in the fall. Her long-term goal is to attend law school.

The village where they served is called El Castillo. It is located within the Valle Nuevo National Park that has been there since the late 1990s, Kimberlin said.

Kimberlin said the villagers of El Castillo have to survive and abide by the regulations of the government or the village will have to be removed from the park.

He and Shaw presented a project over climate change and sustainable agriculture to students of El Castillo.

Kimberlin also said one of projects they did was to build some crowns around trees to make them grow up healthy.

"Studying in political science allowed me to take classroom knowledge and apply it to real life," Shaw said.

Kimberlin said the greatest opportunity was being able to take what he learned in the Dominican Republic and return to his own community.

"I will be able to utilize my skills to do a learning project here," he said.

A foundation called Jose Delio Guzman is dedicated to helping the community of El Castillo find sustainable ways of living inside Valle Nuevo.

The village receives outside resources through the foundation for improving the education and infrastructure of the community, he said.

"To preserve the natural habitat, they are

allowed to farm which is the kind of thing they are able to live on," Kimberlin said.

Kimberlin noted that El Castillo is less developed than the U.S. To see people in the community making the things they need impressed him.

Going to the store to buy things is something Americans take for granted. He said it gave him appreciation for what he has because he feels advantaged to live in such a developed country.

"The resources they have are limited because of their isolated location in the mountains," Kimberlin said.

Shaw said she had an amazing time traveling as a group with the other students from other colleges.

"Because we are all major-centric, sometimes we look at things the same way [within our groups.]

"It was a great opportunity to be within a mixed group of individuals," Shaw said. "It was really a huge benefit."

Not only did Shaw and Kimberlin participate in the service learning project, but also both students had some fun experiencing landmarks of the Dominican Republic.

The Valle Nuevo national park is home to mountain peaks ranging over 10,000 feet and the tallest waterfall in the Caribbean named Salto Aguas.

"Seeing the waterfall was exciting because it gave us an opportunity to travel deep into the area and be surrounded by beautiful natural resources," Shaw said.

"On the way to the waterfall was like a four-wheeling adventure."

Kimberlin said the highlight for him was seeing the waterfall and taking the opportunity of jumping into the freezing cold waters of Salto Aguas.

"The spring water at the base was so cold that when we jumped in the water, we needed to bring a change of clothes," Kimberlin said. "The trip was a great opportunity."

For more information about TRiO, visit www.occc.edu/trio/index.html.

“It was a great opportunity to be within a mixed group of individuals.”

—LISA SHAW
OCCC GRADUATE



PHOTOS PROVIDED

ABOVE: A group of students pose in front of the Salto Aguas Blancas waterfall in the Dominican Republic. They traveled there on a Service Learning trip.

LEFT: Recent OCCC graduate Lisa Shaw snaps a selfie during a service learning trip to the Dominican Republic.



RIGHT: OCCC Sophomore and TRiO student Aaron Kimberlin was recently chosen to attend a service learning trip to the Dominican Republic.



Heat exhaustion can be deadly

KATIE AXTELL
Online Editor
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More than 30 children died last year from heat stroke, kidsandcars.org reports.

Vehicular heat stroke is a common cause of heat-related deaths with children and dogs, according to kidsandcars.org.

Even with cracked windows or parking in the shade, the car's temperature can drastically increase in a short amount of time.

And, children and pets — although more prone to heatstroke — are not the only victims.

Numbers obtained between 2006 and 2010 from the the National Health Statistics Reports show, "Exposure to excessive natural heat, heat stroke, sun stroke" were the underlying cause or contributed to the cause of death for 3,332 people."

Along with the warmer weather comes higher risks for heat exhaustion and heat stroke, according to webmd.com.

Drinking plenty of fluids and staying hydrated is one way to help avoid heat stroke.

Sweating helps keep body temperature down, but without being hydrated, the body cannot produce enough sweat to keep cool, MayoClinic.org suggests.



Psychology major Deisy Jaquez said fluids help her deal with the heat.

"I just drink lots of water," she said. "It helps to stay feeling cool."

Wearing loose fitting and lightweight clothing also can help you stay cool during the hot days, according to mayoclinic.org.

Too tight or excess clothing affects the body by not allowing it to cool properly.

Wearing fewer clothes leaves a larger amount of skin exposed to be damaged by the sun.

The website reports that wide hats and sunglasses also are ways to help prevent over exposure along with sunscreen having an SPF of at least 15. Sunscreen should be applied at least every two hours, or more, when swimming.

Mayo Clinic advises staying in air cooled places to help avoid heat stroke.

Nursing major Fatema Abdul and her sister Zaina Abdul said they try to stay inside as much as possible.

"I really don't like the sun," Fatema said. "I stay inside and eat a lot of ice cream to stay cool."

Although summer sports and outdoor activities claim many victims of heat stroke, Mayo Clinic reports that by taking precautions, the probability of too much heat exposure can be decreased.

- Take it easy during the hottest parts of the day with cooling breaks and enough fluids.

- Become acclimated to the heat by partaking in activities during the cooler parts of the day and limiting time spent in the heat. Those who are not acclimated have a higher chance of heat stroke.

Knowing the symptoms of heat stroke also is important.

Webmd.com lists the most common signs being confusion, dark-colored urine, dizziness, fainting, headache, cramps and nausea. Heat stroke is a medical emergency. Seek medical help if any of the symptoms are present.

For more information about staying safe in hot weather, visit webmd.com, mayoclinic.or and kidsandcars.org.

Water is found in fruits, veggies

KATIE AXTELL
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Water. It's bland, tasteless — and necessary, especially with heat indexes increasing.

Although drinking water is still very important, there also are a number of foods that offer a high enough water weight to help keep hydration rates up.

Cucumbers have a whopping 96.7 percent water. According to health.com, cucumbers have the highest water content of any solid. Eating one is almost like drinking a glass of water, except crunchier.

Health.com lists the following fruits and vegetables for helping keep hydration levels up and helping with liquid intake. Their water percentages are:

- Iceberg lettuce: 95.6
- Celery: 95.4
- Radishes: 95.3
- Tomatoes: 94.5
- Green peppers: 93.9
- Cauliflower: 92.1
- Watermelon: 91.5
- Spinach: 91.4
- Star fruit: 91.4
- Strawberries: 91
- Broccoli: 90.7
- Grapefruit: 90.5
- Baby carrots: 90.4
- Cantaloupe: 90.2

Many of the foods can be made into salads, snacks, and shakes to help battle the summer heat.

Expert encourages safe food handling

DARLA KILHOFFER
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With all the outdoor fun and cookouts, it's easy to forget about keeping your summer snacks safe from bacteria. ServSafe certified OCCC food service worker Kendra Green said people need to wash their hands often — especially when working with chicken — and wear gloves if possible.

She also recommends making sure meat is fresh before cooking it.

"Check the dates first before you even started grilling it," Green said. "Make sure the temperature on the grill isn't too hot so you sear the outside and don't get to the middle."

Janelle Goodwin of FoodSafety.gov said when people don't prepare food properly,

they are at risk for getting sick.

"This definitely puts them at risk for foodborne illnesses, foodborne pathogens such as lysteria, campylobacter, salmonella, things like that," she said.

Goodwin encourages everyone to follow FoodSafety.gov's Grilling like a P.R.O. campaign. P.R.O. is an acronym for these steps: place the thermometer, read the temperature and off the grill.

"I would say that the most common mistake is not using a food thermometer," she said.

"Because foodborne pathogens cannot be seen or detected by scent or smell, the food thermometer is the most important thing to have in the home."

Steaks, roast and chops



should reach an internal temperature of 145 degrees with a three-minute rest time: remove

meat from heat and temperature should remain at 145 degrees for three minutes, Goodwin said. She said ground beef such as hamburgers should reach an internal temperature of 160 degrees and poultry should be 165 degrees.

Using separate dishes for cooked meat and raw meat is crucial for preventing cross-contamination, Goodwin said.

"You don't want to mix plates that held raw meat or poultry with ones that hold cooked meat or poultry," she said.

Food also cannot sit out indefinitely. Goodwin said you should only let food sit in 90 degrees or higher tempera-

tures for one hour or less. If the temperature is below 90 degrees, the food can sit out for up to two hours.

In addition, she said, cold food should be kept under 40 degrees. Goodwin recommended several ways to keep snacks cool when a refrigerator is not available.

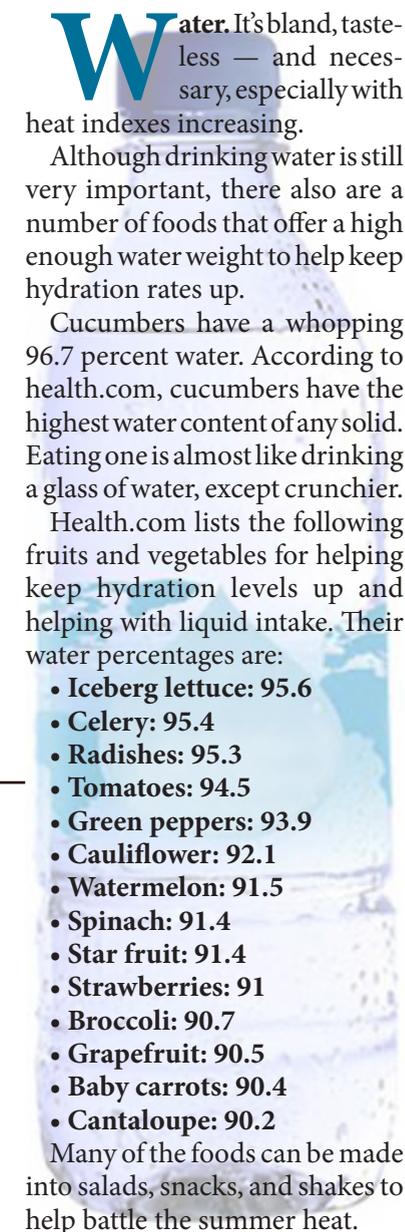
"Pack small portions, keep ice with you at all times," she said. "Pack ice bags, blocks of ice just to keep that temperature below 40."

Whole fruits and vegetables make a great packable snack and don't require refrigeration, Goodwin said.

She said as long as they haven't been cut into, they're shelf stable.

Even fruit that has been cut into can pose a risk.

"You can't see this type of bacteria and it's definitely



SPORTS

EVENT NEWS

Building Stamina



JAKE MCMAHON/PIONEER

Nursing major Ellynn Wirth uses the elliptical machine while watching the television in OCCC's gym on July 1. "I want to be healthier," Wirth said. "I almost died in October ... I had a kidney infection." Students with a valid OCCC ID can use equipment in the Wellness Center as well as take classes and use the gym free of charge.

SPORTS | OCCC's team placed at the regatta despite difficult training conditions in its first season

Rowers come in third at festival

HARRISON LANGSTON

Sports Writer

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Recently, one of OCCC's rowing teams took third place during the Sandridge Energy Stars and Stripes River Festival.

OCCC's dragon boat and traditional rowing teams both competed in the festival on June 27 at the Oklahoma City Boathouse District on the Oklahoma River.

English professor Markus Zindelo rows for both teams. He said this is his third season on the dragon boat team and his first season on the rowing team.

"Both rowing teams — the only community college ones in Oklahoma — did fantastically in the regatta," he said.

Zindelo said the dragon boat team placed second in the first heat, racing 200 meters in 1.01 minutes. In the finals, the dragon boaters came in third among 16, less than two seconds behind the first place team.

Row Triple C rowers came in first in under two minutes in the first heat, he said. Advancing to the finals, the OCCC rowing team came in third among eight "landlubber" level teams.

Zindelo said he is proud of all the teams.

"Many on the dragon boat team were brand new to the

sport, but, as a team, they rowed 18 seconds faster than the Row Triple C teams did last year," he said.

This was the traditional rowing teams' first season, Zindelo said.

"Due to weather conditions, they only had the chance to practice on the river nine times," he said.

Zindelo said he is appreciative to the college for forming the teams and supporting them.

"I know this event was transformative in the lives of the students who participated, and it was amazing to take part in," he said.

Stephen Morrow, Faculty Liaison for Student Engagement, is a member of the dragon boat team. Morrow said both teams are made up of faculty, staff, and students. He said there were two things that made the preparation process difficult.

"... Building up the stamina," he said. "Very close to that is learning to be in unison."

He said his team practiced once a week for two hours to prepare for the competition.

Morrow said winning was not the main goal.

"It's nice to do well, but the whole point is to represent the college and to build ... team camaraderie with faculty, staff, and students."

For more information, visit www.occc.edu/dragon/.

Row Triple-C
DRAGON BOAT TEAM



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 OCCCID can use the facilities free of charge. For more information, visit www.occc.edu/RF or call 405-682-7860.



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

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

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

Track: College-wide tracking system to be implemented soon

Continued from page 1

pects Starfish will be a dramatic improvement over the current system used in her lab.

“The system that we have now shuts down often and we don’t ever get any results back — how many students are actually here or how long they spend — and they don’t sign out so we really don’t know what they’re studying,” she said.

Warren said the components of the software will be gradually introduced.

She said among the first pieces of the software OCCC will use is the Early Alert system — an “early warning and student tracking module that collects information and manages concerns in a way that respects different groups’ unique workflows, so they can engage more deeply with more students,” according to the Starfish website.

Starfish will notify students

when they are at risk and direct them toward assistance to get them back on track.

Warren said this type of engagement was always one of the goals in finding new software.

“We wanted something that faculty could ... participate in,” she said. “They’ll be able to give kudos to students (through the Starfish system) and they’ll be able to raise concerns for students.

“Tutors will be able to go in and set tutoring sessions ... and students will be able to raise flags themselves and ask for tutoring help.”

Warren said setting out to find new software took some unique vision.

“You kind of have to recognize what you can’t do but what you would like to do,” she said.

“You have to ask yourself where do we want to be and where are we now?”

She said the decision to purchase the Starfish software

“We were looking for a holistic software that would be useful to students all across the entire campus.”

—E.J. WARREN

E-STUDENT SERVICES DIRECTOR

came at the end of a two-year search conducted by a project team headed by Warren as an initiative funded by OCCC’s Planning and Research department.

“We have a software now that’s in some of the labs and in some of the student services but it’s not robust enough to do all the things that we wanted to do with it,” she said.

Warren said her team carefully reviewed six other software systems before the choice was made.

Part of that process entailed extensive communications with other colleges that use

Starfish systems, she said.

“We asked them about their implementation, their customer service, their satisfaction with the software, the feasibility of it and how well it worked on their campus.”

Warren said she spoke with other community colleges to discuss the relevancy of the software to two-year schools versus four-year universities.

“You don’t always have the same goals,” she said.

“When we talked to a lot of the community colleges it was really to ask them what they’re doing, why they chose it and how they’re using the software.

“We were looking for a holistic software that would be useful to students all across the entire campus.”

Warren said, as a company, Starfish holds a philosophy that encompasses everything the college was seeking.

“The Starfish philosophy talks about what success is,” she said.

“It’s a moving target that entails academic achievement and it requires engagement and it must be measured.

“It really fell into what we felt our goals and our long-term vision were to make sure that we’re offering students everything we can to connect and be engaged here.”

Starfish offers many components, Warren said, but OCCC is currently only activating what suits the school’s urgent needs and goals for the near future. To keep users from becoming overwhelmed, she said, components of the Starfish software will be added in separate phases.

“Starfish will do a lot more than we’re initially turning on but we’re turning it on in phases to get more out of it.

“If you tried to turn it all on at once, it would be like drinking out of a fire hydrant.”

For more information, visit StarfishSolutions.com or email Warran@ejwarren@occc.edu.

Art: OCCC uses student art on calendars to promote college

Continued from page 1

The calendar is used to promote Visual Arts and Graphic Communication classes, now called Digital Media Design, Blake said.

He said the Arts Division is waiting on confirmation that the 2016 art calendar will be approved for publication.

The art for the calendar can be of any medium: painting, photography, mosaic, sculpture or pottery, Blake said.

There is only one stipulation: the art must come from one of OCCC’s art or digital media classes.

This means art majors or non-majors can submit a piece for the calendar, he said.

The professors in these areas can suggest work, but students have to submit it themselves, Blake said.

Students can submit work they think is good even without a professor suggestion, he said.

All submitted work goes to Professors Randy Anderson and Blake.

The professors take photographs of all the pieces submitted. They then curate them into one cohesive calendar.

“We are looking for a diverse group of art pieces,” Blake said.

“So instead of judging each piece on its own, we see what would best show off the range of our classes.”

The point is to advertise OCCC’s Visual Arts and Digital Media Design classes to potential and current students, he said.

Once the pieces are chosen, Anderson edits the photos so they all look uniform and then an on-campus designer puts them together in calendar form.

So far, the calendars have been encased in a clear, plastic CD case, with each art piece on a separate sheet.

The front of each page con-

tains the month, a small rendition of the art, the artist’s name and the class.

The back side shows a larger copy of the artwork.

Blake said no format has been set for future years.

He said the calendars, mostly used for distribution at conferences, high schools and given to beneficiaries who visit the college, shows that OCCC is proud of its students and wants to show them off.

OCCC’s art calendar is filled with student work made from a variety of mediums such as painting, photography, mosaic, sculpture and pottery. All pieces are created by students in art or digital media classes. The desk calendars are used mostly for distribution at conferences, high schools, and given to beneficiaries who visit the campus, said art Professor Doug Blake.



Comments? Opinions? Let us know! E-mail the editor at editor@occc.edu
Let your voice be heard!

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Totally tutoring



JAKE McMAHON/PIONEER

Business major Jonghyeok Yang is tutored by engineering major Deven Thompson for his English Comp II class on July 1 in the Communications Lab. "I'm helping him with citations," Thompson said.

COMMUNITY | Nationally recognized 'Capitol Steps' performing at the VPAC

Political parodies for political life

TIFFANY FEESE
News Writing Student

DARLA KILHOFFER
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu



Loaded with comedy, costumes, original musical numbers and, of course, mild innuendo, the Capitol Steps presents "Mock the Vote" — a performance of political parodies.

KGOU public radio station and OCCC have teamed up to bring the nationally-recognized Capitol Steps to the OCCC Visual and Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 22.

Program Manager Jim Johnson said it's a group that used to all be congressional staffers and many are still involved in the political process. Now, they have included professional actors and comedians into the group, he said.

The Capitol Steps typically creates a one-hour radio program of their best skits for KGOU to air annually on July 4 and New Year's Eve, Johnson said. Listeners can tune in to KGOU-FM 106.3.

The performance at OCCC will

provide a unique setting for the audience as the group performs various skits, impersonations and songs, Johnson said.

"This live performance gives us the opportunity, gives any of their fans the opportunity to actually see it go down on stage," he said.

"There's a lot of witty music ... where they'll take a familiar melody and then they'll put the topical jokes, the political satire, and mix it into that melody."

Johnson said the Capitol Steps come from all walks of political life, so the comedy is not biased toward one specific party.

"I think they (evenly) poke ... fun at both parties or different politicians," he said. "They also have some pretty good impersonations, like former President Clinton or Obama or Bush. So they're a lot of fun."

OCCC's Cultural Programs Director Linda Bosteels said the Capitol Steps performed at the college years ago and seemed like a natural choice for one of this year's events.

"We decided on the Capitol Steps because they're very current," she said. "It's almost election year and they're very good. In fact, they're hysterical, I think. We thought it would be a great opportunity to bring them back to Oklahoma City."

Computer Programming major Josue Maldonado said he's definitely interested in seeing the show.

"Yeah, I think it's kind of cool," he said. "That's awesome. I love political satire."

Diversified studies major Shannon Murray said she would be interested in the performance as well.

"It'd be interesting to see other people's point of view," she said.

To hear a sample of the Capitol Steps' parodies, visit www.capsteps.com. For more information, visit occc.edu/pas or call 405-682-7579. Tickets can also be purchased for \$35 to \$45 at www.tickets.occc.edu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Fall tuition fee waivers applications available

Tuition Fee Waiver applications for the fall 2015 semester are now available in the Financial Aid Office. Completed applications must be submitted before 5 p.m. Monday, July 20. An academic transcript must be attached to the waiver form and eligible students must be enrolled for at least six credit hours for the fall semester. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

AAF club to hold Disbelief Discourse

The Agnostics, Atheists and Freethinkers club will host a Disbelief Discourse at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 21, in room 1C3 in the Main Building. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the club at aaf@my.occc.edu.

Christians on Campus to meet Mondays

Christians on Campus will host a Bible study at noon Monday, July 20, in room AH1C5. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Christians on Campus at christiansoncampus@my.occc.edu or club president Kaie Huizar at kaie.huizar@gmail.com.

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 technology, humanities, science and musical theater camps. Classes are held in weekly periods from June 1 through July 29. For more information, contact Community Outreach and Education at 405-686-6222 or occc.edu/summercamp.

Students can get fit for free all summer

Group Fitness Classes will continue during the summer and are free to all OCCC students with a valid OCCC ID. The Wellness Center summer hours are effective 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 summer camps. For more information, contact the Recreation and Fitness Center office at 405-682-7860.

New Student Orientation sessions continue

OCCC will hold many free New Student Orientation sessions from June through August. Upcoming sessions are from 9 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, July 14, and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, July 16, in rooms CU2 and CU3 in the College Union. To register for an orientation session, email the Student Life office at studentlife@occc.edu or call 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.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

windows need repair. High miles. One owner. \$1,900. 405-812-4082.

FURNITURE

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.

AUTOMOTIVE

FOR SALE: 1997 Isuzu 4x4 Trooper; 5-sp. Runs great. Body in GC. Leather seats, CD player, premium speakers, Draw Tight hitch system can pull 5k pounds. Power

MISCELLANEOUS

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.

**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**

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For Your
Hard Drive.**



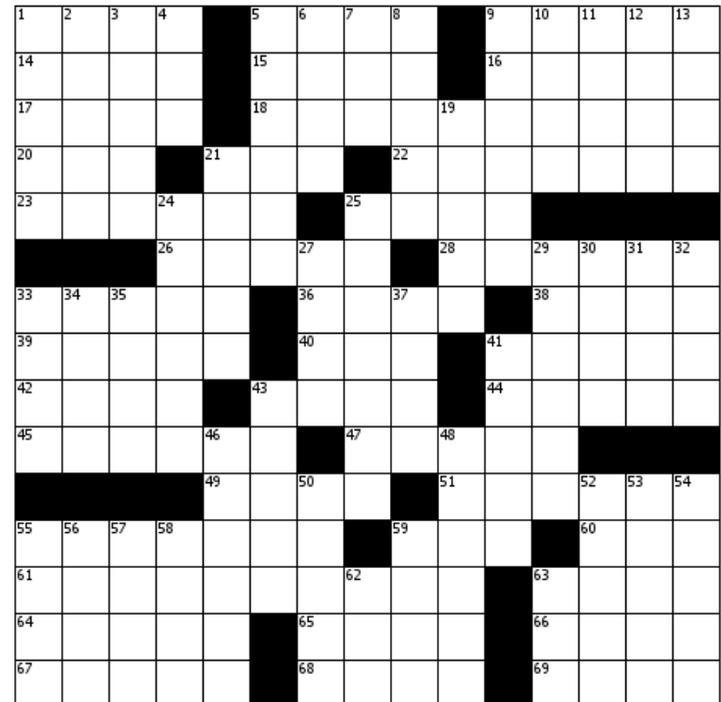
Available at Planned Parenthood.
www.ppfaf.org/ppfa

 **Planned Parenthood**
1-800-230-PLAN

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across

1. Served perfectly
5. Sch. groups
9. Receded
14. Hand gesture
15. Curve
16. Pass along
17. Over again
18. Printed material
20. _____ Howard of "Happy Days"
21. Brief sleep
22. Reduces
23. Dictator
25. Besides
26. Highly skilled
28. Camera support
33. Pebble
36. Table parts
38. Perform alone
39. Mamas' mates
40. Mess up
41. Item of value
42. Quiz
43. Path
44. Detroit products
45. Expand
47. In the know
49. Greet
51. Early car (2 wds.)
55. Point winners
59. Come in first place
60. Pub
61. Slept through winter
63. Completed
64. Make up for
65. Shoemaker's tools
66. Machu Picchu native
67. Track events
68. Foal
69. Viewed



Down

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Prize | 21. Lymph _____ | 46. "_____ Something About Mary" |
| 2. Narrow boat | 24. Canal country | 48. Among |
| 3. Makes level | 25. Unending | 50. Singer _____ Hayes |
| 4. Morning dampness | 27. Urgent request | 52. Keyboard wood |
| 5. Roof of the mouth | 29. Published | 53. Jousting weapon |
| 6. Journey | 30. Mail | 54. Staircase part |
| 7. Deed | 31. Butter alternative | 55. Counterfeit |
| 8. Seashore find | 32. Connect the _____ | 56. Quote |
| 9. Blackboard cleaner | 33. Rushed | 57. Band instrument |
| 10. Wagers | 34. City transportation | 58. Housing payment |
| 11. Melancholy | 35. October birthstone | 59. Wishing _____ |
| 12. Deserve | 37. Flourished | 62. Pair |
| 13. Coloring agents | 41. Baseball great Hank _____ | 63. Spotted cube |
| 19. Takes a break | 43. Acquire knowledge | |



Everybody thinks they can see everything in front of their vehicle...not me.

KIDS AND CARS.ORG

Love Them, Protect Them

Comments? Opinions? Let us know! E-mail the editor at **editor@occc.edu**

Retired dean dead from cancer at 67

GRANT SWALWELL
Podcaster
pioneermedia@occc.edu

“Kind.” “A great professor.”
“Witty and intelligent.”

Those are just a few of the comments left at a virtual memorial page about former Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Dean Annmarie Shirazi. Shirazi, 67, died June 19 from cancer.

OCCC employees were notified of Shirazi's death in a June 23 email sent out by Human Resources Vice President Angie Christopher.

Shirazi worked at OCCC for 29 years, from 1975 to 2004. She attended Southern Connecticut State University before completing her doctorate in educational psychology at Oklahoma State University in 1975, and, in 1990, founded the Oklahoma Association for Institutional Research, a non-profit organization for the facilitation of effective planning, which still hosts at least two conferences a year.

At one time during her OCCC career, Shirazi taught psychology classes. A quick look on the popular RateMyProfessor.com shows she was well-liked by students.

One student said Shirazi was “Extremely nice and listens to everything you have to say and remembers you.”

Another said, “This lady was an outstanding professor, probably the best I have ever had.”

Former co-worker Telecommunications Systems Help Desk Analyst Dorene Hansen reminisced about Shirazi on the virtual memorial.

“I would stop and chat with Annmarie in the mornings when I made my reports deliveries to her



Annmarie Shirazi

desk in our younger years,” Hansen wrote. “She was a dean, but very approachable by anyone. She was so proud of her children and talked about them often.

“As we aged, our offices grew farther apart, but it was always a special time to run into her in the hallways.”

Career Transitions Employment Coach at OCCC, J.P. Johnson, said she became close to Shirazi after she learned they shared the same birthday. She said they knew each other for 25 years.

“She was never arrogant.

She was patient, kind, and respectful to everyone she met, and treated everyone the same from janitors, to students, to governors, and even to the college and company presidents she advised.”

Johnson said Shirazi's death was a shock.

“She was diagnosed with stage four cancer and about a month later was gone,” she said.

Shirazi accomplished much in her lifetime, Johnson said in an email.

“She hosted many, many international students in her home while she was a single parent as well. She also served on the Advisory Board of Career Transitions and coached Nora Pugh-Seemster through her dissertation.

“She wrote grant proposals for many grants before OCCC had grant writers, and helped me and others structure and crunch numbers for grant proposals for years.”

Web Development and Social Media Supervisor John Richardson said he got to know Shirazi over the course of their careers at OCCC. He reflected on Shirazi's approachability and empathy, also men-

tioned by her other peers.

“She always focused on her students — and we say that a lot around here, but I truly believe Annmarie lived it,” he said.

Richardson said he was shocked to hear of her cancer diagnosis two weeks before her death.

“I think she'd like to be remembered as a good parent,” he said. “I remember a while back (when) her kids were a little older than mine and she brought me a car seat, and told me to give it back to her when I was done with it. That's just who she was.”

Shirazi's memorial at www.corbettfuneral.com reads:

“She was active in the Pilot International Club of Oklahoma City and the Oklahoma City Literacy Council. She was also devoted to comforting and serving people. She was very active in volunteering at her church, St. John the Baptist in Edmond, with Mercy Hospice services, and the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network (RAIN) team of Oklahoma.

“Annmarie's friends and family described her as compassionate and selfless, always putting the needs of others before her own. Anyone who met her can attest to this. She was a great lover of animals, especially giraffes, dolphins, and basset hounds.

“Annmarie was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her sister Maryellen; daughter Saarah; son Sam; son-in-law James; stepson Shaan; grandsons Jamison and Jarrett; granddaughter Jen-eieve; nieces Tracy and Dana; nephew Matthew; and cousin Julia Avery.”

The family asks that those who want to honor Shirazi's memory consider making a donation in her name to The Lustgarten Foundation, a research organization committed to developing early detection tests and treatments for pancreatic cancer, at www.lustgarten.org/donate.

To send a sympathy card to Shirazi's family, contact Christopher at 405-682-7810 or achristopher@occc.edu.

May flood damage estimated at nearly \$1,600

ZACHARY SCOTT
News Writing Student

Flood damage that occurred on May 23 cost OCCC nearly \$1,600, said Facilities Management Director Chris Snow.

He said the biggest problem involved replacing water-soaked ceiling tiles and drying carpeted areas.

Crews had to be brought in to assess the damage, Snow said. He said it took a total of six hours to address the immediate need, and a total of 66 worker-hours for them to resolve all issues.

The areas that were most

flooded were the Social Sciences Center, Aquatic Center, Transportation Technology Center, and Bursar's hallway, said Administrative and Systems Specialist Kevin Brannan, who had inspected the flood damage.

Brannan said the FACE Center and the Main Campus buildings were most affected.

In the FACE Center, he said, rooms 28 and 32 had the largest number of damaged tiles, which were replaced by the Amalgamated Inspection and Repair crew.

In total, 32 ceiling tiles in the FACE Center were changed,

Brannan said.

WFF personnel, the custodial contractor who services the main campus as well as the satellite location at the FACE Center, along with workers from Facilities Management, began addressing the flooding on the main campus on the evening of May 23, Brannan said.

“The volume of water was more than the college's drain systems could handle,” said Snow, when explaining how the Bursar's hallway and Aquatics Center had flooded.

Brannan said extraction crews abated the water and fans were set up to facilitate

the drying process.

Post-storm inspection discovered 12 ceiling tiles in the Social Sciences Center and the Library were heavily damaged or collapsed due to the rains. A.I.R. crew members were dispatched to replace these, he said.

Snow said detailed carpet cleaning was required in the Transportation Technology Center after it had suffered damage from the water.

Brannan said there was no noticeable damage to the main campus's exterior besides debris that was brought in by the flooding. He said there also

was no notable damage to the exterior of the FACE Center either.

For more information on the OCCC flood damage, email Snow at csnow@occc.edu, or call 405-682-7575.

**QUESTIONS?
COMMENTS?
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