

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER



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NOV. 13, 2015



Lights, camera, action: Theater major Brittany Davis, right, gets used to being on camera in Professor Rick Allen Lippert's Acting for the Camera class. Lippert said it's a great class for those pursuing an acting career or anyone who thinks acting in front of a camera is in their future. "I always use big expressions in theater that are not necessary in video or film, so I decided that I needed to tone it down," Davis said. "I'm taking this class to teach me how."
Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer

Speaker explores Middle East tension

LENORA LAVICTOIRE
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu



Joshua Landis

The partitioning of Syria into religious enclaves, each represented by its own armies and militias, may be inevitable, said Middle East expert Joshua Landis in a speech on campus Nov. 10.

Landis is the director at the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma's College of International Studies.

Landis's lecture explained what is happening in Syria and the Levant, a term used to describe the area in northern Middle East which includes Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, and northern Iraq.

He spoke from the perspective of what he called a "narrow" argument about identity and nationalism.

"What's happening in the Levant is something very similar (to what happened in Europe after World War I)," Landis said.

"What we are watching is a great sorting out."

He said in Europe the driving out of minorities was more along ethnic lines, but in the Middle East it follows religious lines.

"Religion has become the dominant marker for national identity," he said.

He said Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims are developing along religious lines into two different identities. He said he does not think America can stop that process.

Landis's lecture titled "ISIS, Syria, and Identity in the Middle East" packed the 280-seat Bruce Owen Theater.

Students who couldn't find seats lined the walls of the theater and perched on steps to hear the man OCCC President Jerry Steward called "a leading expert on Syria."

Landis compared what is happening in the Levant to what has happened in nation-states in Europe after what he called the "empire-destroying war" — World War I.

He said the post-war nation-states were drawn during the Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and came out of multiethnic, multireligious empires.

Landis said what took place next and is still taking place today in eastern European countries such as Ukraine, is the expulsion of minorities.

"The borders of Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, so forth, do not get changed in the great sorting out of World War II," he said.

OCCC clubs note problems, successes with guidelines

From event planning to meeting expectations, campus organizations often feel overwhelmed

DARLA KILHOFFER
Online Editor
Onlineeditor@occc.edu

Student Life Coordinator Kendra Fringer said when designing OCCC's club manual over the summer, she researched what other area two-year state colleges were doing in relation to their on-campus clubs.

In addition, she said, Student Life had full- and part-time faculty look over the material from a sponsor's standpoint. Fringer said she also gave the manual to student leaders to see if the requirements were functional.

"We asked students across the board with varying schedules and life responsibilities whether or not these things are functional," she said.

Fringer said Student Life received feedback that students were comfortable with the expectations.

Still, several students say they are experiencing difficulties with club guidelines. One of the main areas where that seems to be happening is with event scheduling.

According to the club manual, large event requests — which include events with special speakers and banquets — must be submitted eight weeks prior to the event.

Small event requests must be submitted two weeks prior to the event and two to four weeks must be allowed for purchase orders to

“It’s very stressful because we’re also students in college. I can safely say that, as of now, I’ve definitely spent more time dealing with Student Life than dealing with homework”

—OCCC STUDENT CLUB MEMBER

be generated.

One club member, who asked to remain anonymous, said planning things that far in advance is difficult.

"At the same time that you're hosting or you have an event coming up in a couple of days,

See RULES page 9

See LANDIS page 9

EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | University of Oklahoma President David Boren's tax plan would be only a temporary Band-aid

Oklahoma needs real education reform — now

I have found myself asking this question multiple times since I have been at OCCC: Will OCCC stay open in a political climate that insists that “increasing educational attainment” is a main priority, all the while voting to cut funding for Oklahoma higher education year after year?



LENORA LAVICTOIRE

Hopefully you, possibly being connected in some way to the college and therefore, concerned about your future education or employment, have heard about University of Oklahoma President David Boren's proposal to increase Oklahoma's sales tax by 1 percent to fund higher ed and K-12 education.

The petition to gather signatures to get the “penny tax” on the November 2016 ballot is generating steam.

This increase would bring Oklahoma City's sales tax from 8.375 percent to 9.375, making it the fourth highest city sales tax rate in the nation, according to the Tax Foundation.

Boren's plan would raise around \$615 million a year,

with the majority going to give teachers a \$5,000 raise.

Did I mention Oklahoma teachers make some of the lowest salaries in the nation? Their low pay is a reflection of our abysmal K-12 funding. Oklahoma ranks 49th in the nation on what is spent per pupil.

So what is the plan, Oklahoma legislators? To continuously raise sales tax so you can continue to be re-elected on a “no more taxes” platform?

I feel cheated and duped by Oklahoma tax policy. We have obviously reached a place where reforms are an absolute necessity. Boren agrees. He has said “the education crisis trumps the tax policy question.”

But does it? Is a Band-aid tax to schools going to increase when we need it to? No, it won't.

We'll be back here in a short while with another ballot initiative.

I'm not interested in staying in a state where the goal is to only get above last, or third from last place.

I want to be educated in a state that says “education matters” and actually means it. I want to be educated in a state where we think we have the best and brightest people looking for an education and we help deliver that to them and meanwhile, reap the economic rewards of an educated workforce.

“All political power is inherent in the people; and government is instituted for their protection, security, and benefit, and to promote their general welfare; and they have the right to alter or reform the same whenever the public good may require it,” the Oklahoma State Constitution reads.

So what about or general welfare? Our benefit? All I see is industry and business paying low taxes while demanding an educated workforce.

In Gov. Mary Fallin's February State of the State address, she spoke of her priorities being justice system reform, education and health care.

“We've set the bar high in every area we can think of,” she said. “We may not meet some of these goals. But for the first time in state history, we will truly hold ourselves accountable as a state government.”

Are we? According to the Oklahoma Policy Institute, Oklahoma continues to lead the nation in cuts to education.

I suppose we will have to wait and see what happens in the FY 2017 budget and the legislative session.

So, Oklahoma legislators, what's good?

—LENORA LAVICTOIRE
COMMUNITY WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Oklahomans need to take steps to avoid fire losses, official says

State health department advises being wildfire ready

To the Editor:

As cooler weather, frost advisories and strong winds are predicted for the state later this week, the risk for wildfires also poses a threat to Oklahomans.

Aside from property damage, wildfires also may cause health concerns for those with respiratory conditions such as asthma, emphysema, bronchitis or chronic heart disease.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health recommends limiting outdoor activity for people living in close proximity

to a fire-stricken area to avoid inhalation of smoke, ashes and other pollutants.

Children and older adults have an increased risk of suffering complications from smoke caused by a wildfire as it often contains a mix of gases and fine particles from burning vegetation, building materials and other pollutants.

OSDH Emergency Manager Darrell Eberly encourages families to have a plan for evacuation in the event they are forced to leave their homes quickly.

“Wildfires can occur anywhere,” Eberly said. “They can start in remote areas, or even in your own backyard.”

In effort to protect homes and property, OSDH encourages homeowners to make a few minor adjustments to prevent the risk of fire.

This becomes increasingly important as a growing number of housing additions are being developed near wooded areas.

Homeowners are encouraged to trim all branches that

overhang the house. Branches around the chimney and driveway should be trimmed within 15 feet.

Lower branches should be pruned 6 to 10 feet up to prevent ground fires from spreading to the top.

Other tips to protect a home from wildfire include:

- When temperatures are above freezing, place a hose (at least 100-foot long) on a rack and attach it to an outdoor faucet.
- Remove leaves and other

debris from the roof and gutters.

- Avoid placing firewood piles too close to the home.
- Plant low-flammable plants in areas next to the home. Avoid coniferous plants when possible.
- Install a metal shield between the home and an attached wood fence.

For more information about preparing for a wildfire or other event, visit www.ready.gov.

—OKLAHOMA STATE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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7777 S May OKC, OK 73159	phone: 405-682-1611, ext. 7307	email: editor@occc.edu
Pioneer Online: pioneer.occc.edu	Facebook: www.facebook.com/OCCCPioneer	Twitter: @OCCCPioneer

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Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the PIONEER, the college or the publisher.

The PIONEER welcomes letters to the editor and encourages the use of this publication as a community forum. All letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature.

E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the

author's name if the request is made in writing.

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

TV SHOW REVIEW | Those who are tired of bleak 'Walking Dead' episodes will enjoy lighter tone

'iZombie' ridiculously corny

Looking for some brain candy to keep your mind occupied while you do something repetitive? Try iZombie.

Yeah, I know, the name starts with a lowercase i, and yes it's a show on the CW. But this is a show based on a comic book, so if you're judging it too harshly, it's probably your fault for having standards.

The premise is pretty ridiculous.

The main character is Olivia "Liv" Moore. Get it? Live more? Yeah, they made that pun.

Anyway, Liv is a medical student who becomes a zombie after a freak zombie massacre at a boat party. Her corpse-like pallor and newly found hunger for brains compel her to take a job at the local morgue where free meals are a perk of employment.

The medical examiner Dr. Ravi Chakrabarti just happens to be the only guy in the world who believes zombism is a real condition.

He encourages Liv to eat the brains of murder victims which, in addition to keeping her from freaking out and going into "full on zombie mode" has the side effect of letting her experience some of the victim's memories.

Soon Liv, posing as a psychic, is helping police



solve murders.

Of course Liv is not the only zombie out there, and not everyone can work at the all-you-can-eat brain buffet like Liv.

Things get interesting when Liv meets Blaine Debeers, a drug dealing

rich kid, turned zombie, who also was at the boat party. Blaine envies Liv's ability but doesn't let his conscience get in the way of a good meal, or making the most of his condition by cornering the market on brains for the local zombies.

The show is pretty corny at times, especially when Liv is trying to protect Major Lillywhite, the ex-fiance she still loves, but can never tell she is a zombie.

Other times zombism seems to serve as a serious stand-in for poverty, drugs, disease and anything else that causes someone to hide things from the people they care about.

Even so, iZombie knows how to poke fun at itself. If you have watched too many bleak episodes of "The Walking Dead," iZombie's lighter tone is a nice palate cleanser.

Rating: A

—AMAR MOLINAS
WEBMASTER

EVENT REVIEW | Trick or Treating has never been so boring and uneventful

Bah humbug to Halloween of today

Pumpkins are rotting, dentists' schedules are over-booked and three-pound candy bags are now on sale. All those add up to one thing — Halloween has just passed us by.

Every year my husband and I set up a mini haunted house at our home. Parental high-fives, emergency bathroom runs and crying children are the goals we have for that one night each year.

This last Halloween has given us a checkmark of accomplishment on those goals, but there is still a slight feeling of disappointment — a little like the feeling one gets after getting to eat only one piece of candy before the entire spare bag goes to trick or treaters.

Sadly, Halloween just doesn't feel the same as it once did. Kids are starting to get out earlier and go home sooner. The lack of candy stashing and stealing spawns are dwindling each year.

The Halloween spirit-stealing vampire seems to be eating past its capacity — leaving the only-one-piece-of-candy houses, haunted-house-only individuals, and helicopter parents who only allow kids to go a few houses down the street. That all sucks when you



live at the dark end of the street like I do.

In my trick-or-treat days, the streets were flowing with ghouls, skeletons, princesses and superheros. We needed body bags for the amount of candy we had — and that was after a dump or two in the spare bag back at the car. What hap-

pened to giving Christmas a run for its money when it comes to decorations?

Giving my son the same experience as I had when it came to the spirit of Halloween seems like a dying dream. People have lost their sense of scare and spirit.

But fear not, my Halloween loving groupies! Next year is a new year, another chance at bringing back the traditional and old-fashioned frights of joy.

Let us come together and show this new generation just how awesome that one day is because these last few Halloweens will just not do. Prepare yourself toddler parents, for your diaper and pull-up expenses are not zeroed out just yet.

Rating: C-

—KATIE AXTELL
EDITOR



Google Drive puts Microsoft to shame

Apps designed for organizing, sharing and productivity are usually garbage.

Google Drive however, is not such an app.

For me to recommend an app it needs a lot of things — functionality, vision, and functionality.

Mobile Drive allows users convenient access to 15 gigabytes of free storage, viewing, moving, attaching and saving files.

Mobile Drive has the option to take a picture from within the app and save it directly to drive. It also can scan documents and save them as a PDF.

Back in high school, where printer and Internet access were tightly controlled, just moving your files around could be a nightmare — due to storage, file types, bad Internet connections.

Google Drive simplifies things instead of making them more complicated.

It integrates many tools and features into an accessible mobile package.

Group editing of the same document simultaneously is neat.

An office linking all their computers together on drive is spectacular.

What Microsoft doesn't want you to know while it pushes its Onenote Office 365 garbage, is that Google beat them to the game.

They took Microsoft Office, made it better, and put it online for free with a bunch of other tools.

Using the Chrome browser, one can add further extensions and features to the drive.

Google Drive makes it so that if your computer has an Internet connection, you have access to phenomenal sharing, storage and creative abilities.

These days, tech people are realizing the app market is flooded with widgets so now, the trick is to integrate apps combining features and information, while also reducing steps, loading screens and complexity for various tasks.

Google is, as usual, ahead of the curve.

Products like Google Drive now being totally usable from almost any smartphone isn't just flashy, it is innovative.

Other apps do similar things, but Google Drive brings what would be 10 apps down to 1.

—GRANT SWALWELL
PODCASTER/BLOGGER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

BUSINESS REVIEW | Reviewer hoping building curse doesn't affect current tenants

Norman pub a bit pricey but ideal for any occasion

Pub W is a public house situated in the heart of bourgeoisie Norman, in the Brookhaven Village community. The house also has taken up business in a building that has already been several other restaurants that have ultimately failed.

I'm hoping the curse doesn't affect its current tenants, because Pub W is excellent. Don't let the hoity toity reputation of West Side Norman dissuade you, Pub W is the real deal.

First of all, it has an excellent beer selection. That's on tap, as well as bottled. All the menu items are huge and appetizing, although I admit, I've only ever deviated from the chicken tender platter a few times. There's an upper level that I haven't explored yet, and it's a great, relaxed atmosphere to



sit back with family or friends and a few drinks and watch OU play on a Saturday.

It can feel a little bit claustrophobic at times inside, as everything is pretty well crammed together, especially when local legend Calvin, aka "the sooner guy" hovers around your table asking if you would like to buy a copy of the Norman Transcript.

However, there are multiple flat screen TVs that can be seen from just about any viewing angle, which helps.

If you need a breather, there's a patio that allows smoking, but really isn't ideal around this time of year, obviously.

Though it is fantastic for game day, there usually is always a pretty decent crowd for other sporting events as well. I watched the Women's World Cup

soccer final there and the atmosphere was great.

The house fits a lot of needs of the community as well, which I can definitely appreciate. Long day at work? Just got into an argument? Or just need something to drink? There's a bar for that. Looking for some place for Sunday lunch after church? The pub is modern enough to afford a casual or slightly formal meal.

The only knock is on the prices. Eating here more than once a week could definitely be financially ruinous, with most entrees starting at \$10.

Pub W is located at 3720 West Robinson Ave. You can get more information about the menu and prices at pubwnorman@ehsrg.com.

Rating: A-

—SPENCER GRANT
SENIOR WRITER

VIDEO GAME REVIEW | Generic storyline is a major disappointment for gamer

With bugs fixed, 'Battlefield' worth \$25

I've reviewed apps, mobile games and even video game consoles. I suppose now it's time for me to review an actual video game — "Battlefield 4."

I have been a pretty big fan of the "Battlefield" franchise, but had lost interest in the series right before "Battlefield 4" came out.

Previous "Battlefield" games were great to me in all aspects. I was attracted to them originally because of the critically acclaimed multiplayer game modes. The single-player story modes also were very well thought out and extremely enjoyable.

At the time, however, it looked way too similar to its predecessor, "Battlefield 3," so I was unimpressed.

When "Battlefield 4" came out in October 2013, its multiplayer modes did not work properly and did not for months. Luckily, in 4, it works fine and similarly to previous "Battlefield" games, it is very enjoyable. My only complaint is, again, that it is too similar to "Battlefield 3."

Now for the rough part of the review. The single-player story mode of this game has many problems.

The first major problem is its length. The story is extremely short, with only seven missions. However, each individual mission takes hours.

The story also is very generic. Without giving any spoilers, you will hate all the characters in the game and, by the end, they all die. Oops.



The single player mode also is filled with glitches. One mission took a long time to finish because the mechanic of swimming was broken. Swimming 20 feet took 10 minutes.

Later in the same mission, immovable computer generated characters stand in

front of some important stairs, and can only be moved by perfectly placing a grenade right between their feet.

It is safe for me to say that if I had purchased this game at full price at its release, the broken multiplayer and terrible single player would have led to me melting it in the oven.

However, buying the game for \$25, once most of the multiplayer bugs had been fixed, made it worth the money.

Rating: B

—CLAYTON MITCHELL
VIDEOGRAPHER

Have you recently seen a movie, read a book or dined at an area restaurant?

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TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Nov. 6
through Nov. 8
www.newyorktimes.com

1. Spectre
2. The Peanuts Movie
3. The Martian
4. Goosebumps
5. Bridge of Spies
6. Hotel Transylvania 2
7. Burnt
8. The Last Witch Hunter
9. The Intern
10. Paranormal Activity: The Ghost Dimension
11. Our Brand Is Crisis
12. Crimson Peak
13. Woodlawn
14. Sicario
15. Steve Jobs
16. Suffragette
17. Scouts Guide To The Zombie Apocalypse
18. Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
19. Pan
20. Miss You Already

College admin still looking at fee waiver issue

KATIE AXTELL
Editor
editor@occc.edu
GRANT SWALWELL
Podcaster/Blogger

Using tuition fee waivers for recruiting or marketing purposes is a thing of the past as college officials continue to look into an incident where an OCCC fee waiver turned up for sale on Craigslist earlier this year.

At that time, the \$2,300 waiver, being advertised for \$700, was discovered to have originated in the Marketing and Public Relations office.

Although a report has not yet been completed, OCCC President Jerry Steward said nothing similar will ever happen again.

Steward said tuition waivers are now going to be honored only for the person to whom

they are awarded. And, he said, there will be tighter criteria.

He said he made several decisions the day the waiver was brought to his attention.

“... We aren't going to do any more tuition fee waivers and honor them for anyone who isn't the direct recipient,” Steward said. “It's got to be for the person it's directed to.”

“I also directed that we're suspending providing any tuition fee waivers as a promotional item. There's got to be criteria of why we're giving a tuition waiver, what it's based upon.”

Steward said he is waiting for the comprehensive report from Acting Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services Lisa Fisher.

Fisher declined an interview, directing questions to Bloomberg regarding the Craigslist tuition waiver.

Steward said future awards will not be honored if they are sold on Craigslist or other venues.

“Tuition fee waivers have their place,” he said. “They're allowed so we can help certain students, but we have to be thoughtful and deliberate and logical in the way they're awarded. It won't be based upon marketing.”

“In the future, I anticipate we'll have much tighter ... more logical criteria we use for tuition fee waivers.”

“If someone decides to put it on Craigslist or something like that, it won't be honored. It is absolutely not right.”

In July, an Open Records request turned up emails between Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordell Jordan and Teresa Coker from News9 where Jordan had provided Coker with guidelines

for a promotional fee waiver certificate for use in a 'Duck Week' charity fundraiser in Piedmont, as well as permission to use the OCCC logo on the waiver.

The certificate, bearing the OCCC brand, ended up in the hands of Oklahoma City resident Steve Graham, who while unable to redeem it, attempted to sell it on Craigslist. He said it was donated to his church.

When brought to the attention of school officials, the tuition fee waiver program was put under review, and Executive Vice President Steve Bloomberg indicated his intent to launch an investigation into the incident with a report to be released Oct. 1.

As of presstime, the report is not completed, said Executive Vice President Assistant Brendan Hill. He said more time-

“Tuition fee waivers have their place. They're allowed so we can help certain students, but we have to be thoughtful and deliberate and logical in the way they're awarded.”

—JERRY STEWARD
OCCC PRESIDENT

sensitive issues have come through the office of Bloomberg, delaying its completion.

The Pioneer will continue to follow this story and update as more information becomes available. To read the original story that ran July 3, visit the Pioneer Online at <http://pioneer.occc.edu> and search for Craigslist.

Hit-and-runs, grand larceny reported to campus cops

SPENCER GRANT
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Two vehicle hit-and-run accidents, a grand larceny and a found bag of marijuana were among the incidents reported to campus police in recent weeks.

OCCC student Kaitlynn Maxwell, 21, witnessed a hit-and-run which she reported to campus police at around 9:15 p.m., Oct. 27.

Maxwell said she saw a car that looked like a police car back into another car and then drive away.

The suspects whose names are redacted from the report, were identified by campus police as two 21-year old men, both students.

The men were identified through surveillance footage located of them checking into the Wellness Center.

A couple of days later, on Oct. 29, Student Tessa Perkins, 20, also reported a hit-and-run to campus police. Perkins said a car backed out of a parking space and hit her car.

Perkins told officers she pulled into another parking spot while the other driver fled the scene.

Campus police were able to confirm the hit-and-run through security footage although the other driver has been identified.

Stolen books were reported to campus police at around 9:11 p.m., Oct. 26.

Bookstore Director Brenda Reinke, 54, said a woman, 41, came into the store and took two books valued at around \$650 without paying.

The suspect removed the books around 8:45 p.m. and 8:58 p.m.

She was identified using video surveillance footage. The woman's name was redacted from the report.

A visitor to the college recently found a bag of what was believed to be marijuana on campus.

At 11:07 a.m. Oct. 28, Brandi Ray-

burn, 25, contacted campus police to report she had found the marijuana.

Campus collected the baggy, booked it as evidence and sent it to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation office to be destroyed.

EMSA was contacted and examined the student, but he refused to be taken to a hospital. He signed a refusal form, and EMSA left the college at 9:30 a.m.

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 OCCCPD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld.”

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



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Ethical dilemmas surround water use

ABBEY CONNELL
News Writing Student

It's a dilemma — in a drought — to decide which businesses must reduce their water use and by how much.

That was the task assigned to the 31 audience members who attended English Professor Angela Cotner's presentation on water and ethics on Oct. 21.

Rather than lecturing for 50 minutes, Cotner led students in an interactive discussion about how to curtail water use in a hypothetical town in California, a state suffering from severe drought.

In a second scenario, the audience analyzed the best way to provide water to a village in rural Africa that lacked access to clean water.

Cotner helped her audience think critically about these two water issues and the ethical ways they could be solved.

"I like how what we talked about could be applied," said Matt Lopez, an entrepreneurship major.

"It wasn't just philosophical, it had practical implications."

Cotner had the audience decide which businesses in the imaginary town should be required to restrict their



water usage and asked them to support the reasoning behind their decision.

"You need to decide which businesses are more important to the community," she said.

As the groups of five or six discussed what cuts to make, they faced the dilemma of deciding what would be the most ethical.

Some groups proposed one business should be spared a water reduction because it donated to an elementary school while another should not be spared because it did not contribute to the community in an equally vital way.

Most groups agreed that one business should be spared from severe water reductions because it produced income

from tourism, donated to the community garden, and provided a hangout spot for the community.

Limited access to clean water is a crisis in rural areas of certain African countries and some South American countries, Cotner said.

"The access to clean water is so critical," Cotner said.

In the second scenario, the audience had to decide whether a non-profit organization should use a charity or a business model for drilling water wells.

In either situation, the groups began with a \$25,000 donation.

Again, the audience had to think through not only what was the most efficient method, but also the most ethical.

Although the charity model would provide quicker results, most groups concluded that the business model would have a more positive lasting effect than the charity model.

Cotner asked audience members to consider why people often fail to agree on what is ethical.

Cotner said some ethical theories argue that the consequence of an action make it ethical or unethical, while other theories say the intent of actions determines if an action is ethical or not.

For example, the \$25,000 donation for the African water project came from a deceased woman who did not specify what she wanted it to go toward.

It is possible, Cotner speculated, the she might have preferred it to be used toward an orphanage the woman had visited earlier in her life.

A philosopher focused on intent would say the ethical thing would be to put the money toward the good intent of the donor, Cotner said.

However, a philosopher focused on consequences would say the money should

go toward what would do the most good for the most people.

"It was way more interactive than I thought it would be," said John Tran-Nguyen, a computer engineering major.

He said he learns better from interactive teaching.

OCCC Librarian Dana Tuley-Williams introduced Cotner and told students about OCCC Reads, a project designed to bring the college community together to discuss a particular book.

Portions of this year's book, "Water Matters: Why We Need to Act Now to Save Our Most Critical Resource," will be presented by different professors throughout the year, Tuley-Williams said.

She also gave out scavenger-hunt sheets to the audience.

If students go to every filtered water station on campus and write down the word for "water" that is labeled at each station in different languages, they can pick up a prize water bottle at the library assistance desk on the first floor of the library, Tuley-Williams said.

For more information, contact Cotner at aconter@occc.edu or Librarian Rachel Butler at rbutler@occc.edu or visit www.occc.edu/library.

Campus police officers help student in need of wheels

LENORA LAVICTOIRE
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

Early this semester, a young man near the OCCC Coffee Shop was looking for directions when Campus Police Lt. Daniel Piazza happened along.

The officer said the man was very polite and happy to be on campus. After Piazza gave him directions, the man shook his hand and walked away.

Something made the young man turn around, shake Piazza's hand again and thank him for being at OCCC.

"You don't have to thank me for being here," the officer told him. "We're glad you're here."

Piazza said he noticed the man was quite sweaty on that warm August day, so he asked him where he was coming from and how he got to the college.

The student told him he had walked from his home. Piazza said his home was about 3.5 miles from the

“... If you do it for recognition, you're doing it for the wrong reasons.”

—LT. DANIEL PIAZZA
OCCC CAMPUS POLICE

school, a walk that took the student about an hour and a half each day. The student said he would be at the college four days a week.

The student then told Piazza that he owned a bicycle, but was not riding it because it needed new tires, brakes and maintenance.

"At first I thought maybe we could fix his bike but after he kept telling me all the problems it had I thought, 'we'll just buy him a bike.'"

Piazza got the man's name and information.

"When you look at [him] and you see just how hard he is trying to be here and how thankful he was for being here ...," Piazza said. "I talked to a couple of guys and they were for it."

With the help of OCCC Campus Police Sgt. Jeremy Bohannon and Sgt. Bruce Funderburk, Piazza was able to help the young man.

"We got him a bike, got him a helmet, got him some stuff to chain it up. A few little odds and ends

like that," Piazza said.

Within a week of their first meeting, Piazza said, the officers called the student to the campus police department office to give him the bike.

He said the student was speechless and possibly a little overwhelmed.

Piazza said the student did take the bike and is using it.

"It's a happy ending," he said.

Piazza said he does not like talking about the charitable act.

"We really didn't do it for any type of recognition because if you do it for recognition you're doing it for the wrong reasons.

"That's why we do things like that and we don't say anything ... You feel for people and that's why you help them out."

The Pioneer was not able to contact the young man. Piazza said that due to unfortunate circumstances, the student has since had to withdrawal from the courses he was taking at the college.

it's a small world

Venezuelan student happy to be in Oklahoma

SPENCER GRANT
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Sometimes, it's not a bad idea to start over. Just ask Vanessa Essis, 35, who is completely reinventing herself after coming to the U.S. from Venezuela.

Essis said she worked as a pharmaceutical representative in Venezuela, but is now focusing only on her studies as a full-time student in the U.S.

She said she is still adjusting to Oklahoma weather.

When she first came to Oklahoma, her arrival was right on time with the Moore tornado of 2013, which, she said, was terrifying.

"I don't like the spring here because there are tornados.

"In my country, it is very tropical because we're on the coast, but there is nothing there like a tornado."

Aside from that, Essis said, she has been enjoying her time in Oklahoma.

One of the things she enjoys most is the affordability of most things, such as cars.

"In Venezuela, you only owned a car if you were very rich," she said.

She said the traffic here is much less congested as well.

When she lived in Caracas, Essis said, the traffic ran her about two hours late every day.

Essis said she is impressed by the friendliness of Oklahomans and the number of Latin friends she had made while here.

"I love Oklahoma, really," she said. "Oklahomans are very friendly."

She said her only troubles have arisen from Craigslist, which puts her in the same boat as a lot of other Americans.

Essis said while she was able to find all the furniture she needed at the site, she wasn't as lucky when it came to selling something on Craigslist.

She said she realized she might be caught up in a scam when she listed a washing machine for sale on Craigslist.

Essis said she received a call from a person in Michigan interested in buying it.

This was great, but there was a catch — the person wanted her to ship the washer.

Essis then received a check in the mail for almost \$500 more than she had agreed to sell the item for.

"I called them but they did not answer me," she said.

Essis went to the police with the check, only to learn that it was a false check.

Aside from that one incident, she said, life in Oklahoma and at OCCC is great.

Essis said she loves Language Professor Abra Figueroa's classes, and has been making progress with her goal of learning fluent English.

She said she already has a degree in marketing, but plans to also major in nursing at OCCC.

Essis said she is mainly happy to be in the U.S. because Venezuela is currently in turmoil.

"My country right now is a disaster," she said.

Essis said Venezuela has been collapsing under the heavy weight of scandal recently — primarily within the government sector.

"There are many problems with the political model — communism at it's worst."

Essis said, although things have been going downhill for about 15 years, it's recently gotten worse.

"... Only in the past year has it gotten very bad," she said.

She said she enjoys her ability to move around freely here.



MELISSA SUE LOPEZ/PIONEER

Vanessa Essis

"In my country, there are lots of restrictions," she said. "In Venezuela, it's hard to find jobs and to travel," she said. "Traveling is harder than it was 10 or 15 years ago."



Venezuela

Capital: Caracas

Population: 30.41 million (2013)

GDP: 438.3 billion USD (2013)

Size: 353,841 sq. miles (912,050 million km²)

Official Language: Spanish

Currency: Bolívar

Government: Federal Presidential Republic

Religion: Roman Catholic

Details: Venezuela is a country on the northern coast of South America.

Along its Caribbean coast are tropical resort islands including Isla de Margarita and the Los Roques archipelago. To the northwest are the

Andes Mountains and the colonial town of Mérida, a base for hiking Sierra Nevada National Park. Caracas, the

capital, is to the north. —World Bank



SPORTS



MMA Future Fighter: Jaquel Thompson, computer science major, trains in the OCCC gym for an Ultimate Fighting Championship competition while his friend looks on. "I've been in martial arts since I was 8, so I just love coming to the gym to work on the Muay Thai bag ...," he said. In February, Thompson will compete in his first UFC fight. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

New intramural soccer very popular

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

Indoor soccer this fall is so popular, every slot on every team was filled before the season started, said Matthew Wright.

Wright said this is the first semester he has tried to do indoor soccer, which isn't really indoor soccer at all.

"This isn't 100 percent traditional indoor soccer, because in indoor soccer you would have walls to play off of, and there's no out of bounds," he said. "Here, it's a combination between indoor soccer and futsal, which is an indoor game that's played on a basketball court-type surface."

While Wright said the game of futsal is soccer at its core, there are some differences.

"It's essentially soccer," he said. "When the ball goes out, instead of throwing it in, you would kick it in. But, it's really just soccer on a smaller size. It's four-on-four and then each team has a goalie. But besides that, it's soccer. There's corner kicks, there's goalies, etc."

Indoor soccer has been added to the lineup of intramural sports due to soccer's popularity.

"There's always been a lot of people on campus that wanted

us to do soccer," he said. "I just tried to do indoor this year because we already do outdoor flag football in the fall.

"We just had the indoor space to do it during the cold months, and I knew it would be popular. Soccer is getting more popular every year."

Wright said the proof is in the pudding when it comes to soccer's popularity on campus, because the fall season of futsal is already filled up with teams.

"We have six teams signed up and each team has eight people on it," he said. "Spots for teams are totally full this semester."

"We limited the teams to eight because we don't want people coming out just to sit on the bench since there's only four people playing at a time."

Wright said he is thinking about having another futsal season next semester due to the overwhelming popularity.

"I'm going to take a look into next semester and maybe a lot more teams," he said.

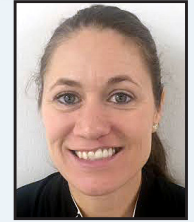
"Right now this season is from 2 to 5 p.m. on Fridays, so next semester we might add another hour so we can have more people."

For more information about intramural indoor soccer or any of the other intramural sports on campus, contact Wright at 405-682-1611, ext. 7684, or at matthew.j.wright@occc.edu. The Recreation and Fitness center can be contacted at 405-682-7860.



GETTING TO KNOW:

ALISHA
JACKSON
PiYo
INSTRUCTOR
SINCE 2015



Q: What do you do here at OCCC?

A: I teach PiYo, which is a mixture of pilates and yoga. It's a bodyweight exercise class.

Q: What's your favorite thing about working here at OCCC?

A: The variety of people. I like working with the younger students, to the older crowd that's just here to get up and get moving.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: I'm kind of a gym junkie, so I work out a lot. I'm a personal trainer, too. I'm crafty, so I love repurposing furniture and pallets and paint. Pinterest hobbies, you know. My kids keep us busy.

Q: Are you currently involved with any sports or have you ever been?

A: I was a high-level competitive gymnast for 14 years. Then I went to cheerleading, in high school and college. I tried co-ed softball, which was my first ball sport, but it wasn't really for me. I'm more of the fitness type.

Q: What sports do you watch? Favorite teams?

A: We follow baseball a lot, as well as NCAA wrestling. We didn't think we'd like wrestling as much as we do. My favorite baseball team is the Cubs. Football, too. I like college football more than pro football, even though I play fantasy football. We've had our fantasy football group for 12 years.

Q: What's your favorite thing about fitness?

A: You feel much younger than you really are, that's the main thing for me. I keep it going because I don't want to feel how old I actually am.

Q: Do you believe that people should keep up with a healthy lifestyle? Why?

A: Yeah, it's definitely important. It keeps you out of the doctor's office. Pharmacy companies hate that, because it keeps people out of the office because you can get the same benefits that you would get from a doctor by living a healthy lifestyle.

Landis: Almost 300 pack theater to hear Middle East expert

Continued from page 1

“It’s the people who are changed.

“The people are sorted out in order to fit the borders of these nation-states and it’s very long and bloody.

“There’s lots of ethnic cleansing.”

In Syria, he noted, President Bashar al-Assad and much of

his regime is comprised of Alawites, a branch of Shia Muslim, who make up around 10 to 15 percent of the population, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Yet, he said, a large majority of the Syrian population is Sunni, hence the ability of Sunni extremist group ISIS to take control of much of the country.

Landis said the U.S.’s attempt to ally itself with “moderate” rebel forces may be a futile effort to turn the tide toward religious tolerance and mutual acceptance.

Landis said neither the U.S. or European Union states are willing to put forth the vast amount of money and soldiers that Syria would need to become stable again.

In Europe, he said, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Ukraine, all had large minority populations before World War II.

Landis told those in attendance that, after the war, those minority populations declined greatly due to ethnic cleansing and that the process of “sorting out.”

The speaker was brought

to the college by Student Life Coordinator Travis Ruddle, Political Science Professor Sharon Vaughan, and Steward.

Landis said OCCC has a special place in his heart because his wife is an alumna of the college.

To read more of Landis’s writing, visit his blog the “Syria Comment” at www.joshualan-dis.com/blog.

Rules: Campus clubs struggle with some Student Life rules

Continued from page 1

you have to be ready to start submitting for an event you’re going to have in a month,” he said.

The club member said he also had dealt with misinformation, repeatedly lost paperwork and confusing rules since the beginning of the semester.

“It’s very stressful because we’re also students in college,” the member said. “I can safely say that as of now, I’ve definitely spent more time dealing with Student Life than dealing with homework.”

Fringer said Student Life follows OCCC policy regarding travel, reimbursement and purchasing requests, so it may take time for those requests to be completed.

“Those are policies and procedures put in place by the institution, not Student Life,” she said. “We just fulfill and follow those.”

Baptist Collegiate Ministry President Andrew Pierce said his club hasn’t experienced the same issues. However, he said, to expedite matters, BCM did send their fall meeting schedule to Student Life during the summer.

Pierce said in other matters, such as providing supplies, making room reservations and setting up tables, Student Life has done a good job.

Christians on Campus club sponsor James Kennedy said his club has had only one issue with Student Life so far this semester. Kennedy said when BCM planned an event in conjunction with the University of Oklahoma Christians on Campus at the beginning of the semester, some BCM members were not able to attend due to a mandatory Fall Leadership Workshop meeting at

OCCC.

“We had a competing event and there was nothing we could do about it, though we had this thing planned for months,” he said. “It’s challenging, but that being said, you realize you’re going to be a club on a college campus and they provide some resources. They also provide money so there are certain requirements that should be met.”

One of those requirements is that a club representative must attend most of the monthly TLC (The Leadership Council) meetings to receive funding from Student Life of \$250 a semester.

Pierce said he thinks the funding is a good thing to get in return for voting on campus issues at TLC meetings.

“We’re really [grateful] about the money that they give us that allow us to put on free lunches,” he said.

Oklahoma Biotechnology Association President Thi Lam said she also appreciates Student Life’s help with fundraising and event planning. She said though they made no requests for additional funds, Student Life provided the club \$2,000 — an addition to the club’s fundraising efforts — that will allow eight OBA members to attend a cell biology conference in San Diego soon.

She said Student Life has also accommodated several last-minute requests and always responds to the club quickly. Lam said OBA has had the most trouble with the TLC meeting requirements.

As a club of only 15 people, she said, it’s difficult to make it to mandatory meetings every two weeks.

“We’re always having trouble trying to get on top of them, getting someone to go, especially since our club is so

small,” she said. “We had to miss one and we thought, ‘Great — are we going to be in trouble?’”

Health Professions Club President Caleb Hill said his club has had no problems planning events and attending TLC meetings. The club is comprised of nearly 100 students and has a TLC representative who attends all the meetings, Hill said.

Student Life Director Erin Logan said TLC meeting requirements were set years ago by former Enrollment and Student Services Vice President Marion Paden. She said TLC was designed to get a broad range of student voices.

According to the OCCC Club and Organization Manual, clubs that miss two or more of The Leadership Council meetings will not be granted funding the following semester.

For comparison, Rose State College has a governing student body, called the Student Senate, which is similar to OCCC’s Leadership Council. The senate is an elected board, while OCCC’s council is a mandatory group of club representatives.

One club member, who asked to not be named, said the expectations and timelines for club requests have been accurate so far.

He said it would be a nightmare to try to navigate through all the guidelines and higher authorities without Student Life.

“They help in the sense that there is one place for us to go,” he said. “Student Life, they speak on our behalf and try to make sure we keep getting money.”

Clubs receive \$250 each semester but can request

additional funds for travel or special event speakers, Logan said.

She said the only additional task OCCC clubs are required to do is turn in an accountability report at the end of the semester to list how their club money has been spent.

Logan said that requirement is in place because Student Life is being held accountable by the college for every dollar spent.

“We didn’t really change any of the rules,” Logan said. “The rules are all the same — we’ve just organized them a bit differently.”

“We need to be able to show that the clubs deserve the amount of money we’re giving them and that we should continue to get funded to provide clubs that money.”

For more information about Student Life, clubs and organizations, visit www.occc.edu/studentlife/index.html.

“We didn’t really change any of the rules. The rules are all the same — we’ve just organized them differently.”

—ERIN LOGAN
STUDENT LIFE DIRECTOR

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CAMPUS COMMUNITY



Give a little bit: Nursing major Trang Le, right, donates blood during the recent campus drive on Oct. 28. “I want to help,” Le said. OCCC students and staff donated units of blood during the two-day drive hosted by the Oklahoma Blood Institute. For more information on the blood drives at OCCC, contact Student Life at 405-682-7523 or studentlife@occc.edu. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

One-stop office covers all needs

AARON CARDENAS
News Writing Student

College life can be particularly tough for students looking to achieve a bachelor’s degree without the help of parents or trust funds.

Tucked away in a cushy nook between Registration and Financial Aid is the newly combined Graduation, Employment, and Transfer (G.E.T.) office — a one-stop shop for an easier transition to a four-year university.

“The G.E.T. office is a good spot for students to start the transfer process and think about what school they want to transfer to,” said Javier Puebla, Transfer and Academic Advising coordinator.

“You don’t have to be graduating this fall or spring to come ask questions. You can start planning for your future by preparing yourself in making purposeful decisions about what courses you take that line up with your degree program at another university.”

Transfer tours to major state universities are offered at no expense to the student, Puebla said. Destinations include the University of

Oklahoma, University of Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma City University.

Tours are personalized according to the majors of the students who go on the trip, Puebla said. Free lunch also is provided.

Criminal justice and forensics major Marta Seitz said she has toured UCO and OU.

“One of the major benefits is being able to tour the schools,” Seitz said. “Everyone is nervous when they are transferring. The G.E.T. office takes care of that and eases the pressure.”

Seitz’s advice to students is to take advantage of the opportunities to get connected now and know the options.

“Attend G.E.T. workshops and tours,” she said. “The school is here to help you.”

Seitz said she has used OCCC’s transfer services to get acquainted with faculty and staff at UCO, where she plans to transfer after graduation this upcoming spring.

Not everyone plans so far ahead.

One OCCC graduate said he relied heavily on word of mouth through professors and other stu-

dents to aid in the transfer process.

“(English Professor) Nina Smith gave me advice in the transfer process,” said Gabriel Wiseman, art education major at University of Central Oklahoma. “I felt I had all the advice I needed because she’s really good at her job.”

“I feel that if I didn’t have a professor walking me through the process, I would have used the G.E.T. office ... if I knew it was a thing.”

Outside of the transfer tours, Puebla said, the G.E.T. office offers degree audits to show students how far along they are in their program and what classes they need to graduate.

G.E.T. also offers one-on-one transfer advisement to make sure the student’s degree plan aligns with his or her career plans.

Students can get information from the G.E.T. office by dropping by first floor in the Main Building. Puebla said the office sends out notices about transfer services through OCCC email.

For more information, call 405-682-7519, or email to: transfer@occc.edu.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Blues concert by OCCC musicians on Nov. 17

The Student Holiday Blues concert presented by OCCC musicians will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, in the Bruce Owen Theater. It’s free. For more information, contact the Arts Division office at 405-686-6278.

Prospective Teacher Academy to visit OCCC

Students pursuing teacher careers can learn about certification requirements, scholarship and mentoring programs, students teaching, and the transfer process at either 11 a.m. or noon on Wednesday, Nov. 18, in CU 3. The Prospective Teacher Academy is facilitated by the University of Central Oklahoma College of Education, but students transferring to other universities are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact the Graduation, Employment, and Transfer Office at 405-682-7567.

Health Care Specialist to speak on Nov. 18

Blue Cross and Blue Shield Community Relations Specialist Tonya Coffey will educate students, faculty, and staff about health care at noon on Wednesday, Nov. 18, in CU2. For more information, contact the Student Life Office at 405-682-7523.

Broadway star to perform with OCCC

Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre production of the musical “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum” will premier at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, with performances Friday, Nov. 20, Saturday Nov. 21, and at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, in the Visual and Performing Arts Theater. Students, faculty and staff receive free admission with their valid OCCC ID. General admission is \$35 and other students, teachers and military are admitted for \$8 with a valid ID. Television and Broadway star Robert Picardo will be featured along with OCCC theater and music students. For more information, contact the OCCC Box Office at 405-682-7579.

Tuition Waiver applications due Friday, Nov. 20.

Tuition Waiver applications for spring 2016 are available until 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20, in the Financial Aid Office. Students need to attach an Academic Transcript and be enrolled for at least six hours in the spring semester before submitting their application to the Financial Aid Office. For more information, call Student Financial Support Services at 405-682-7525.

New Political Club at OCCC

Your votes and opinions matter, so learn about the political process while helping shape a better future by joining the Political Club on campus. For more information or to register, contact political science Professor Nate Vanden Brook at nvandenbrook@occc.edu or political science major Tony Nguyen at tony.d.nguyen@my.occc.edu.

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.

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—Rosaldo Martinez

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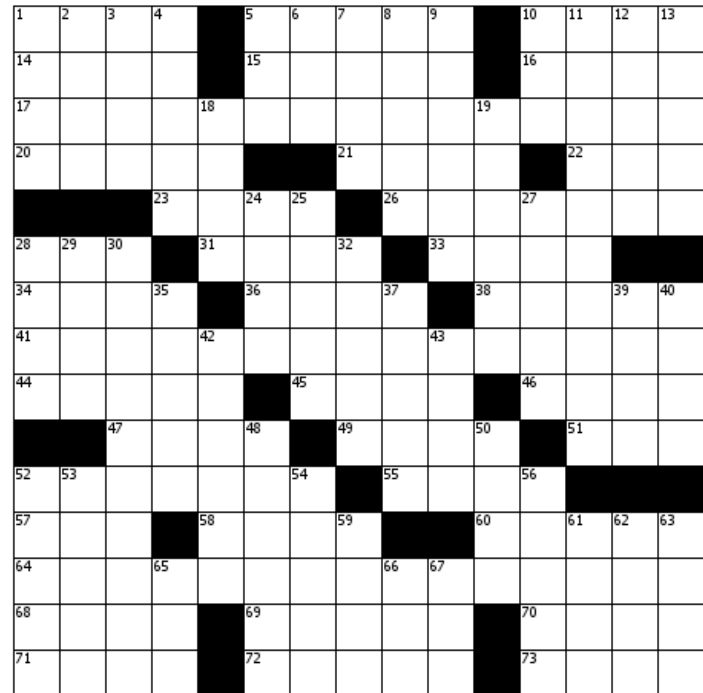
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across

1. They often have big heads when drawn
5. Where some get a date
10. What the nose knows
14. Veg out
15. Contract player?
16. Mayoral assistant
17. "Eat" at college?
20. Get-go
21. Crosscut
22. Author expelled from West Point
23. Like Yorick
26. Initial beguiler
28. It's measured in minutes
31. Ready for surgery
33. Procrastinator's opposite
34. Tackle
36. Word of woe
38. Low man at the Met
41. "Eat" at Mary's place?
44. Stockpile
45. Flora pet
46. Twist around
47. Speech impediment
49. Anagram of 47-Across
51. Place for wallowing
52. Fair barkers
55. Workout gait
57. A Little Woman
58. End of a 1/1 song
60. Jib and spanker
64. "Eat" at an abrupt red light?
68. Shades
69. Line on a spine
70. Least favorite drop
71. Gray sea eagles
72. Pitcher of milk?
73. Tube trophy



Down

1. Low woman at the Met
2. Type of shark
3. Benevolent group
4. Virgil called it a gift of heaven
5. Clumsy clod
6. One, for little ones
7. Mends
8. Pizarro's foes
9. Put on board
10. Galley item
11. Disseminations
12. Nickel finish
13. Put back to 000
18. Over
19. Strip (archaic)
24. Kind of contract
25. Piece of the past
27. Thunderous sounds
28. Turkish title
29. Clean a pipe
30. Old troops on horseback
32. They may be worn in the woods
35. Pine dripping
37. Clown's prop
39. Sooty matter
40. Follow rules
42. Hockey stat
43. Pride's place
48. Hallucinogenic cactus
50. Affix for public notice
52. Buried booty
53. "My Cherie ____" (Wonder song)
54. It has a mobile home
56. Focus of some tests
59. New newts
61. One thing among several
62. Good farm soil
63. Moving well
65. Gender-changing suffix
66. Foreman's superior?
67. "Comprende?"



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<http://pioneer.occc.edu>



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