

HISTORY: Professor Tom Easley retires from police department, now teaches History PG. 7

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIONEER



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PROFESSIONAL NURSING LABS:

Cameron Butler, nursing major, practices nasogastric tube insertion at the nursing lab.

“It’s a suctioning procedure for nursing school — once you get out on the field that relieves pressure for patience,” Butler said.

For more information about a nursing degree visit the college website at <http://www.occc.edu/academics/programs/nursing.html>.

Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer

Contributions of African Americans noted

Professors talk about importance of Black History Month for all students

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In America, every year February is called Black History Month, or National African American Month.

It is a time for U.S. citizens to reflect on the achievements of black Americans and recognize the significant role of African Americans in U.S. history.

Despite its good intent, political science Professor Sharon Vaughan has reservations about relegating the history of any group to just one month.

Black history should always be celebrated, she said.

“I have mixed emotions about [Black History Month],” Vaughan said. “We have this month whether it’s Black History Month, Women’s History Month, things like that.”

“And I think it’s a good way to learn because sometimes we have good speakers, we have programs to educate people, but it should be Black History Month every month.”

Vaughan said whenever she always reminds her students about the history all communities have contributed to

develop the American history.

“Our (history) books need to diversify,” she said. “Our books are getting better, but they don’t tell all of our history.”

“You know we have a very diverse college here. If everything is just ‘dead white men’ in

class, in the books, it is pretty boring for you.”

Vaughan said there are many influential African Americans in the U.S.

“Of course, we have a president, Barack Obama, so he has to be on the list,” she said. “But I would think that there are a lot of other

See **HISTORY** page 9

City bus expands evening hours

LENORA LAVICTOIRE
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Night students will now have the option to take a bus home.

Beginning Jan. 25 an Embark bus will run to and from the college until midnight.

Central Oklahoma’s public bus service, Em-

bark, will add the new route— the 13N as well as extend their existing route 5 hours.

Embark Spokesman Michael Scrotgins said that the company is adding the new routes to a night service that was introduced in January 2015 that included routes N23 and 11.

He said the evening service has been very popular, which is why Embark decided to add more routes.

See **BUS** page 9

EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | Writer says everyone must read digital news from reliable sources

Sources should be considered before posting

The world we live in today is becoming increasingly digitized. It's arguable that some of the most important, motivating events to happen during a day occur through your cell phone. You might read



SPENCER GRANT

a post that could make or break your day, and that's the honest truth. Sure, you might be some staunch advocate of "technology doesn't rule me, I still use this old flip-phone," but most people would beg to differ.

One thing that's become increasingly blurred and screwy is the way people receive their news. Ever since Facebook declared it wanted to aggregate news, it seems like the general populace has given up on trying to determine if their news or the outlets they receive it from are reputable.

There's no better proof of this than the person on your Facebook newsfeed who shares an Onion article thinking that it's actually a legitimate, serious, non-

satirical news outlet. Or maybe there's your racist uncle who only likes and shares posts from Fox News, or your friend who just found out what Reddit is, and is suddenly a socialist, quoting Marx and sharing everything from Bernie Sanders' official Facebook.

Specific Facebook pages, or other online content aggregators, are profiting from people who share their biased posts and claims simply based on the fact that it supports their own political ideologies, be they left or right.

Let's face it, when it comes to actually caring about where your news comes from, the country has gone to the dogs. People only share news and opinions that are relevant to their interests, or reinforce their own ideas. How can a person's intellect grow if they aren't exploring, considering, or at the very least acknowledging, that there are other ways of thinking?

Automatically assuming that threats made on the internet are real can also bring with it new dangers. There have been various instances in institutions around the country of students creating fake Twitter accounts and Facebook posts to try to incriminate the other ethnicity for hate crimes that didn't even

happen. One example is the New Jersey student who created a fake hate group Twitter for her campus. Of course, this pales in comparison to the overall problems of institutional racism that much of America still grapples with, but it's important to bring attention to how this problem is being exploited maliciously.

Of course, there's also the fact that people can post on forums like 4chan that they are about to go on a shooting rampage and no one will believe them until the next day, when they actually carry out their plot. It's unrealistic to think the NSA and all of their spying are able to detect things like this, but it's also unrealistic to expect every single 13-year-old's on the internet's threats to be taken seriously.

At the end of the day, it's really not that hard to tell which news sources are simply propaganda machines, and which at least make some sort of effort to remain unbiased and factual. Every news source is biased a little bit, because there's someone supporting all their endeavors.

Still, would it kill students to take a moment to formulate their own opinion? Probably not.

—SPENCER GRANT, ONLINE EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Health department stresses importance of iron supplement for pregnant women

Importance of folic acid for expectant mothers

To the Editor:

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) Office of Screening and Special Services is committed to informing Oklahoma mothers of the benefits of making folic acid a healthy habit this new year. January is National Birth Defects Prevention Month and the Folic Acid Awareness Campaign is aimed at raising awareness of the benefits of taking a multivitamin with 400 mcg of folic acid before, during, and after pregnancies. Folic acid is an essential B-vitamin

that the body needs to make new cells.

Everyone needs folic acid every day. It is very important for women because it can help prevent up to 70% of Neural Tube Defects (NTDs). NTDs are serious birth defects that occur when the brain and spine are forming during the first 28 days of pregnancy before most women know they are pregnant.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 3,000 pregnancies are affected by

a NTD each year in the U.S. From 1994 to 2011, 709 infants in Oklahoma were born with a NTD.

As a result of increasing efforts to supplement folic acid, the prevalence of NTDs in Oklahoma declined from 10 per 10,000 live births in 1994 to four cases per 10,000 live births in 2011.

OSDH's folic acid efforts include: providing multivitamins to family planning clinics at the local county health departments, providing education about birth defects and folic

acid to health care professionals and community members, and providing free folic acid educational materials.

OSDH Office of Screening and Special Services recommends taking a multivitamin with 400 mcg of folic acid, eating fortified foods, along with a healthy diet. "Diet, life-style choices, factors in the environment, health conditions and medications before and during pregnancy all can play a role in preventing or increasing the risk of birth defects," said Sharon Vaz, director of

Screening and Special Services and Program Manager for the Oklahoma Birth Defects Program.

For more information on folic acid or how to raise awareness of preventing birth defects please contact the OSDH, Office of Screening and Special Services at (405) 271-6617, or visit <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/35728-birth-defects-prevention-month> to join the social media campaign.

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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

MUSIC REVIEW | Everyone should spend a moment remembering an influential artist

There's 'a hole in the world tonight'

On Jan. 18 was a sad day for the music world. Glenn Frey, 67, one of the founding and current members of the Eagles passed away.

The Eagles are one of the greatest and oldest rock and roll bands in history and one of the first groups to cross-over into another genre, scoring decades of hits. They have been nominated and won numerous awards. This year, The Eagles were scheduled to be honored as inductees at the Kennedy Center but the event was postponed due to Frey's failing health. He never recovered from complications due to rheumatoid arthritis, acute ulcerative colitis and pneumonia.

He co-wrote and sang on most of the Eagles hits, including "Take It Easy," "Tequila Sunrise," "Lyn' Eyes," and "Heartache Tonight," just to name a few. He also co-wrote "Hotel California" and "Desperado" with Don Henley.

Frey was born on Nov. 6, 1948 in Detroit. His first credited gig was playing guitar and background vocals for Bob Seger, and the two remained friends throughout their careers. The Eagles themselves



started as a backup band for Linda Ronstadt.

I attended the Oklahoma City concert this past summer entitled "The History of the Eagles." Frey took the audience on a trip in time through song, starting with their first hit. He commentated a brief history of what was going on in their careers and announcing who was in and who had left the band during that time period. Over the years the group was made up of Frey, Henley, Bernie Leadon, Randy Meisner, Joe Walsh and Timothy B Schmit.

We "wonder why the right words never come" when we need them to express the impact of this man's voice, the lyrics he wrote and the history this band leaves to our society.

"Be part of something good, leave something good behind. The curtain falls, I take my bow. That's how it's meant to be, it's your world now." Glenn Frey.

Rating: A+

—**GEORGIA WOOD**
COMMUNITY WRITER

SERIES REVIEW | Maine ... not so much

Oregon is a nice place to hang out

Being rich in family I was lucky enough to travel over the holidays, spending a few days in Oregon and Maine. Being at similar latitudes, the climate is comparable depending on area.

The contrast between the two states was interesting.

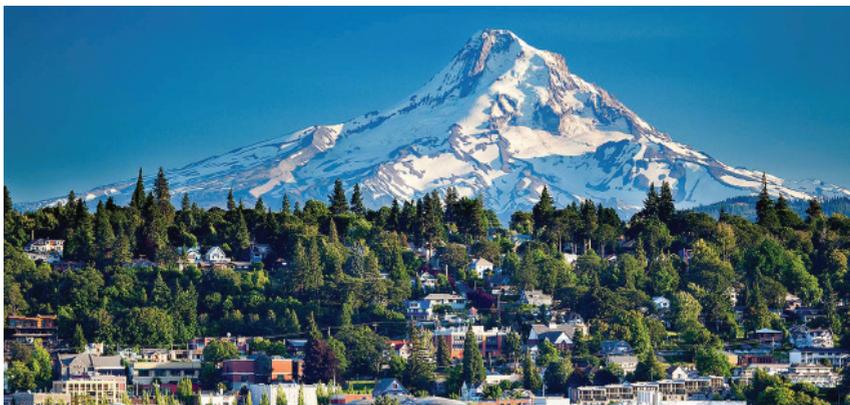
Oregon being in a state of growth, attracting taxpayers and tax vacuums from around the country. Maine on the other hand has a huge drug problem, bad public health, bad education, besides the statistics the feeling of decay is in the air everywhere you go. Shuttered businesses, struggling families.

While Oregon has a midwestern level of smiles and eye contact. Part of that could be attributed to west coast versus east coast dynamics, but I've noticed economic recessions and depressions translate into more literal depression, lack of hopes brought on by lack of opportunities. In a bull economy more people feel that their lives are getting better. In Oregon, people just seem to enjoy being in a nice place to live, and

not being California.

If I was born and raised in small town Maine, I'd be lucky to have the drive to get the heck out, more likely I'd take up opiate abuse. If I grew up in small town Oregon, I would be a great snowboarder and be way to chill.

Oregon was good to me, and I wish the best for it, as a state. I might even move out there, but it



would be nice to have my degree and move as a professional and not a burnout. Lot of that going around in Portland, but they just don't stigmatize the downtrodden, which sadly brings in more

of the downtrodden from places where they aren't as well cared for.

If I WAS homeless, I'd like to be homeless in Oregon.

Rating: A+

—**GRANT SWALWELL**
PODCASTER



'OCCC' app disappoints student

Some people may be surprised to learn OCCC has an official app, called "OCCC", brought to you by STRAXIS technologies.

Intrigued I set out to learn which of its features work. The app only crashed twice before opening to what seems to be a series of smaller apps set to a pleasant OCCC background. Not to mention that the 'Campus News' button has not seen an update since July, 'Campus Events' draws a blank. The 'Campus Map' button does an interesting Google Earth type view allowing you to search for individual departments. You can check up on the OCCC Twitter feed by using the app.

The app also has a 'Polls' feature showing innocuous questions about social media. Next is the 'Multimedia' feature, allowing you to check up on Youtube, Instagram, Facebook, etc. You can check the weather at OCCC as well. There is a built in OCCC directory. The non functional handbook section is fitting for a lawless place like OCCC.

Should you want to share one of these pages? The bottom menu bar allows you to share things through a variety of mediums.

Additionally, people can submit a contact form (after filling out a form) for... concerns. The 'pics' section has quite a few nice stock images. All in all STRAXIS did a pretty okay job, most of the features work.

The app could even prove useful in a situation where you have your smartphone, data or internet, but somehow can't get to your web browser. The more complex functions like Mineonline or Moodle are roughly the same as if you tried to open one with Safari, probably not gonna happen.

Though the OCCC app isn't a total waste, it is probably not worth the space in your phone's hard drive.

Rating D+

—**GRANT SWALWELL**
PODCASTER

COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | Writer says dinosaur flick didn't live up to expectations

Animated dinosaurs disappoint in film

Growing up in the late 1990s to early 2000s, there wasn't anything more important to me as a kid than a Pixar movie.

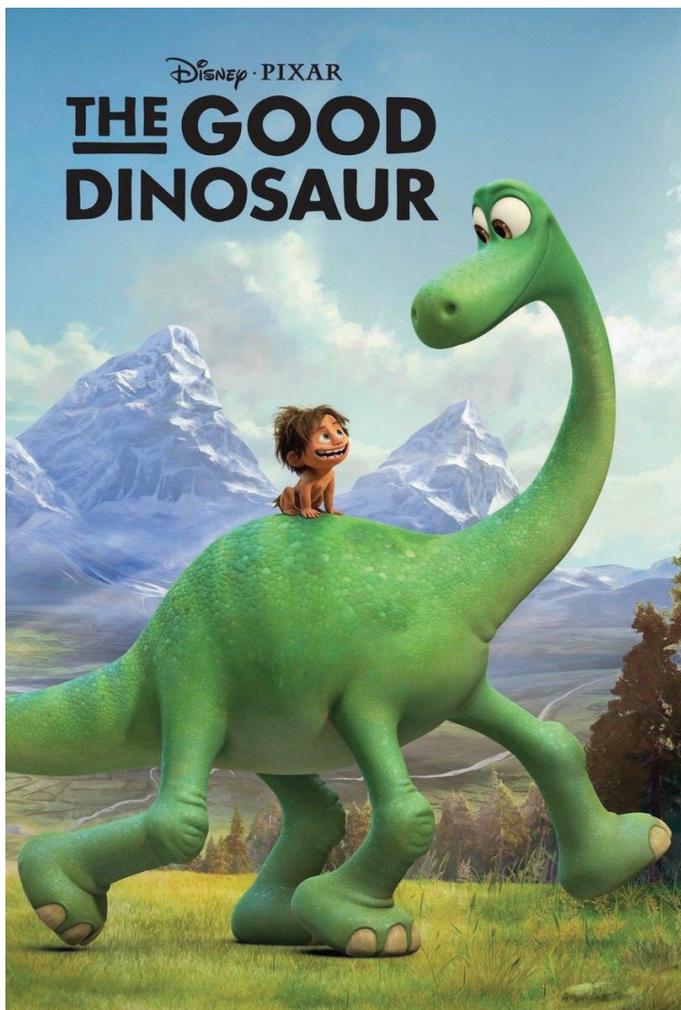
From Toy Story to Monsters Inc., the acclaimed film studio's output was always a very big deal to me, and I had to see any movie they released.

Fast forward to 21-year old adult me in 2016, and absolutely nothing has changed at all. I can safely say that this is probably the case for most people my age, and it's not something to be ashamed about. Last year, for instance, my mom and I saw Pixar's wonderful new film "Inside Out," and I definitely cried.

So, after seeing the trailer for Pixar's second 2015 movie "The Good Dinosaur," I had to say I was pretty dang excited. When the movie released in late 2015, it received mixed reviews and I heard from numerous people that it wasn't that good.

Because of this, I didn't get around to seeing it until a couple months after. The film follows a troubled dinosaur who gets separated from his family and spends the film trying to get back home, tackling his fears along the way.

The animation in "The Good Dinosaur" is magnificent, which is something that is expected of Pixar at this point, but it's wonderful even to their standard. The dinosaur traverses rivers, forests and storms en route back to his family, and the animated wildlife is absolutely stunning. The dinosaurs themselves are overly cartoony, and it's very cool the way they contrast with the super realistic backdrop.



However, my issue with this movie is the story. It's so simple and generic for a studio usually does anything but. In comparison to the aforementioned "Inside Out," this movie seems like the most basic and bland kids movie imaginable.

It's still a movie that's fun to watch, and I don't regret seeing it by any means, but it's one of the rare instances where I left the theater after seeing a Pixar movie feeling disappointed.

While it is still a children's movie, we've come to expect so much more from Pixar when it comes to their storytelling. Their movies, unlike most animated children's movies, are universal, regardless of age. And, when it comes to this dinosaur movie, good is a bit of an overstatement.

Rating: C-

—IAN MANERA
SPORTS WRITER

TOP 20 MOVIES

Weekend of Jan. 22
through Jan. 24
www.newyorktimes.com

1. The Revenant
2. Star Wars: Force Unleashed
3. Ride Along 2
4. Dirty Grandpa
5. The Boy
6. The 5th Wave
7. 13 Hours
8. Daddy's Home
9. Norm of the North
10. The Big Short
11. Sisters
12. The Forest
13. Brooklyn
14. The Hateful 8
15. Spotlight
16. Room
17. Joy
18. Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip
19. Airlift
20. Ipman 3

SHOPPING REVIEW | Writer says boots are fashionable and comfortable

Ankle boots great for all outfits, fashion

I'm not much of a shopaholic like my girlfriends. I seriously hate going to the mall. And when I go shopping, I know exactly what I'm looking for, so I'm in and out.

But one store I can always count on for cute shoes and a good deal is Charlotte Russe. I'm always looking to save some money; you know the whole broke college student life.

During Christmas break I decided it was time for a new pair of boots so I drove to the mall, and went to Charlotte Russe. They were having a buy one, get one for \$8 on all shoes and jeans! Seriously, I felt like a kid in a candy store.

I think I tried on 15 different pair of shoes, from long boots to high heels to booties. The store worker was really nice and patient with me. They always are. That's another reason I like going to this store.

After an hour of looking at shoes, I decided to purchase light brown ankle

boots. I liked the two zippers on each side giving them a different look. I wear them all the time. They're really comfortable and match a lot of my wardrobe. You can dress them up or dress them down.

Because of the great deal, I had to get a second pair for \$8. They're black booties, simple and classy. They have a



black quilted design on the back. The heel is low and chunky making them easy to walk in. I usually wear these for church on Sundays.

Remember how I said I was the worst at making fashion decisions. Well, I went ahead and bought a third pair of shoes and got jeans for \$8. I took advantage of the great deal.

I have to admit I haven't worn the brown knee high boots since I bought them. I just haven't found the perfect outfit for them yet.

But the jeans I love. They're boyfriend jeans with rips on them. I think they're super stylish.

I walked out of the store with three pairs of shoes and jeans for \$112. I saved 50 bucks. Charlotte Russe is great store to check out if you're looking for a great deal.

Rating: A+

—ERIKA FIERRO
STAFF WRITER

CHILI COOK-OFF: Who will be the new champ?

OMAR GONZALEZ
News Writing Student

A competition for the title of best chili chef will be held on campus Wednesday, Feb. 3, to raise money for student scholarships.

For years, physics Professor Tad Thurston has won the title for best chili, said Librarian Ann Raia, co-chair of the Faculty Association Scholarship Committee. But this spring, Thurston will be one of the judges to decide the new winner.

"Everyone wants to knock Tad Thurston out of number one," Raia said. "But he is not putting in chili this year... So it will be interesting to see how many people bring a chili to try and take a top spot."

The chili contest is sponsored by the Faculty Association Scholarship Committee which plans all kinds of events to raise money, Raia said. All proceeds from this event will be allocated to the committee, headed by history Professor Jeffrey Carlisle. The committee will choose the scholarship winners from the nominations received.

When it comes to the average amount of money raised, Raia said this year's revenue is hard to guess.

"This time we are not doing a silent auction, until the garage sale," she said. "So most of the time, our tally includes both of those things. But I think we get pretty close to \$1000 on the food."

They are hoping to do that well this time.

Why a chili cook-off? Raia said it's fun and all the proceeds can go to scholarships.

"The thing about selling food is that it is pretty much a full return on investment because it's all donated by faculty

and students.

"We've talked about doing new events in the Performing Arts Center... singing, dances, like an '80s dance-off kind of thing, but there's money we have to put up for that. So we have to make sure to make money for it to be worth it."

Librarian and co-chair Tricia Sweaney said: "It's too much of a gamble to try something new. We spend the majority of the money that we raise on students for scholarships so..."

"...We haven't been able to make the jump," said Raia, finishing Sweaney's thought.

Sweaney urged everyone to join the festivities which will begin about 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3, outside of the Communications Lab.

"Come buy chili or a hot dog to support student scholarships... come out and spend money on chili," Sweaney said. "It's always really good, and you will have a lot of fun."

Due to the event's rising popularity, chili-enthusiasts are

encouraged to arrive as early as possible during the lunch hour to have a wide array of options to choose from.

For \$3, customers can get either a bowl of chili from any of the participants or a hot dog with chili on top. For \$2 customers can purchase a hot dog and \$5 will get you a bowl of chili, as well as a hot dog.

Sweaney said students have to be endorsed by a professor to be considered for a scholarship.

"It is a faculty-nominated scholarship so faculty have to put in a letter as well as the student having to do a short application process. A faculty member may choose to nominate a student, or if the student's comfortable with a faculty member, they can ask to be nominated....Faculty involvement is a must on this one."

One of the previous scholarship recipients, Aaron Cardenas, works in Student Life as a student employee. He said winning a Faculty Association scholarship gave him encouragement.

"Professor Stephen Morrow nominated me for the faculty scholarship," Cardenas said. "I was a part of his Advocates of Peace class and I put in a lot of work so he felt I deserved to be recognized for that."

"It was around early December when it came in the mail and I learned that I had won the scholarship. My sister was very proud of me."

Cardenas said the \$300 from the faculty-nominated scholarship was used to buy books for his classes this semester.

He encourages more students to apply for scholarships on campus, even those that require essays.

"I think a lot of people get scared when it comes to the scholarship process," Cardenas said. "Writing essays is not as hard as people make them. If they never try, they'll never get anything. Coming away with it, I feel very accomplished and that I was recognized for my hard work. It encourages me to do better in school."

On April 11, the scholarship application information will be sent to faculty members. The deadline for applications is on Wednesday, April 27.

"We're hoping the scholarship winners should be announced by May 13," Sweaney said.

Raia said they hope to give six or eight scholarships of \$300 to \$400 each.

For seven years, the chili cook-off has been a growing activity of interest in the homegrown culture of OCCC, as attendance rises steadily each time, Raia said. This event is also a perfect volunteer opportunity for students.

"If anybody wants to volunteer, they certainly can," Raia said.

For more information, contact Raia at ann.f.raia@occc.edu or Sweaney at tricia.l.sweaney@occc.edu.



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History prof retires as Norman police captain

GEORGIA WOOD

Community Writer

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Adjunct history Professor Tom Easley says he always remembers the day when he thought he had killed a man in the line of duty. It happened in 1995, just two days after the Oklahoma City bombing.

Since then, after almost 32 years as a Norman police officer, Easley has retired and now is teaching two sections of American history at OCCC, twice the teaching load he managed while still working on the force.

His interest in teaching history arose after he completed his bachelor's degree in law enforcement from the University of Oklahoma and started working as a Norman cop.

In 1995 he got hurt on the job. He said he twisted his ankle during a chase, but that's when it occurred to him that he was in a field where it was possible he would get hurt a lot, maybe even lose an arm, a leg or an eye.

Easley said he can now laugh about the injury but it wasn't so funny at the time.

"I was called out to Andrews Park in Norman because there was a man there who was, shall we say crazy and off his meds.

"He was doing everything from washing dishes to polishing the lawnmower at the same time."

Easley was sent to corral the man.

"I was chasing him and went to jump over the drainage ditch, when my foot slipped and I fell into the ditch," Easley said. "I couldn't move for a moment. As I'm lying in the ditch, the man comes riding back by on a stolen pink bicycle and yells at me, 'Hey I bet that hurt.'"

Easley said it was hard to resist the impulse to pull out his service revolver and shoot the guy.

That's when Easley decided he needed a backup plan for his life.

Easley figured when he retired he didn't want to do anything the law enforcement.

"I didn't want to be a security officer or a bank guard, nothing in that field," he said. "Not that law enforcement wasn't good to me, but it was beginning to damage my health.

"From there I took the slow route. I took one class per semester for five years from OU and received my master's degree in history in December 2000," Easley said.

Easley said his most frightening experience in law en-



Tom Easley

Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer

forcement was also one of the funniest.

"Because no matter how ugly, cops tend to put humor to everything," Easley said.

He was called to a second story apartment just north of Campus Corner in Norman. It was April 21, 1995. He and another officer, Michael Thomason, arrived on the scene at about the same time.

They forced their way to the doorway of the bedroom where Shawn Metcalf was holding his estranged wife hostage with a knife.

He believed she was seeing another man, Easley said.

"I told myself if he brings the knife up, I'm going to have to shoot him," Easley said. "Metcalf asked whose clothes were on the floor and wanted the closet checked.

"Officer Thomason opened the closet and a naked man ran out right past me.

"Metcalf pulled the knife up and I pulled the trigger," Easley said. "I heard a distinctive pop. I figured he was dead."

Easley said the woman ran past him saying "You didn't have to shoot him."

Then Easley said he heard Metcalf ask: "Where am I hit?"

"It scared me to death," Easley said. The man did survive and the woman later thanked Easley for saving her life.

Easley said the department learned a lot from the experience. Easley said it was the only time he ever fired his weapon at someone.

The trauma was greater than he anticipated.

Today, Easley said, a police officer would be given several weeks off to process the event, but not in his case.

"I was off for only three days, and two of them were my regularly scheduled days off," he said.

He knows trauma often is in the mix when the public comes in contact with the police.

"When most people encounter a police officer, they are not having a good day and we try to keep that in mind," Easley said. "In fact it is probably the worst day of their lives."

Easley said most police officers want to serve the community.

"I hate when a mother tells her child, 'If you don't behave that policeman will take you to jail,' because we don't want kids to grow up being scared of the police," Easley said. "We want to be there to protect them."

Easley said being a professor is harder than one might think.

"I did work as an undercover agent, worked narcotics, but teaching a night class is really brutal," Easley explained. "After 9 p.m. everyone (in the class) starts passing out and I can't keep them awake."

Easley has been teaching history on campus about 15 years now and he said he really enjoys it.

Easley said he has been married to his wife, Rebecca, since 1978. She is a math professor at Cameron University in Lawton. They are talking about moving away, someplace they have never lived.

He said his long term goal is to do nothing full time.



Tom Easley in uniform

it's a small world

West African student plans to be a nurse

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Nursing major Allow Tuissindjong said the main reason he decided to come to study in Oklahoma was because one of his uncles is living here, so that made it is much easier for him to adapt to a brand new life in another country.

The life in America is completely different from his country, Burkina Faso, he said.

Tuissindjong said in his country, there is a shortage of high schools as well as facilities and spaces for students, so that usually over 100 students have to study together in a same and small classroom with only one teacher.

He started learning English when he was in a senior in high school, but just for grades in class, and he also did not have many chances to practice lessons in his country, he said.

“At that time I don’t believe, I don’t think that I could come and live in an English speaking country,” Tuissindjong said.

Therefore he faced problems communicating with people in

the first few months in America, he said.

Tuissindjong said there are many other international students in Oklahoma who are from Africa who helped him solve problems when he first came to America.

Oklahomans are really nice and kind, he said, and he likes the way most of people in this state believe in God.

“I like this because when you believe in God, it is easier for you to accommodate to the life,” Tuissindjong said.

He said he chose OCCC because it is a good start for his education in nursing program.

“The size of each class is good for learning. That is why I like OCCC, and the teachers give their time to listen to students and give correct lectures for students,” Tuissindjong said. “The first thing that impressed me when I came here [OCCC] is the way people help me and talk with

me,” he said.

Tuissindjong said this is also the first time in his life he has a personal adviser who gave him advice and help in making studying decisions when he applied for OCCC.

In Burkina Faso, students

never have a consultant to assist them in education.

He plans to get a bachelor’s degree in Nursing program at the University of Central Oklahoma after graduation from OCCC so that he can go back his country and use knowledge

to help old and poor people, Tuissindjong said.

“In my country, the nursing [system] is not like in here,” he said. “Most of [The nurses] in my country don’t get a degree at college, just a degree at senior high schools.”



Allow Tuissindjong

Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer



Burkina Faso

Capital: Ouagadougou

Population: 16.93 million (2013)

GDP: 683.95 USD (2013)

Size: 105,869 mi²

Official Language: French

Currency: West African CFA franc

Government: Semi-presidential System

Religion: Islam

Details: A landlocked country in West Africa around 274,200 square kilometres (105,900 sq mi) in size. It is surrounded by six countries: Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo, Ghana and Ivory Coast.



SPORTS



On the court: Daniel Smith, diversified studies, takes advantage of the great basketball courts on campus. "I'm only taking one class on campus, the rest are online classes. After class I spend most of the time playing basketball and occasionally I work out," Smith said. Balls are available for check-out at the Wellness Center desk. For more information, call 405-682-7860, or visit www.occc.edu/rf/index.html.

Intramural basketball league begins

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer

sportswriter@occc.edu

OCCC's sports will kick off Feb. 3 with Intramural Basketball league, said Sports Assistant Matthew Wright.

However, two students practicing in the gym said they wish they could play, but don't have time.

"I work all the time and I have an apartment I have to pay for. We're up here every day playing during school hours, but that's the only time I have," said Pre-Allied Health Science major Devin Britcher.

Health Science major Rudy Olvera echoed Britcher, saying "I haven't heard anything about the intramural basketball, but I live an hour away and I work so I probably wouldn't be able to."

Olvera has played in previous intramurals, and said he would play if he had a chance.

"If I had the time, I would definitely participate in that. We participated in the indoor soccer and it was tight. If

I had more time, I would totally play in this."

Recreation and Fitness will have two basketball intramurals this semester, and the first one, which tips off at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3, in the Wellness Center Gym, will be a 5-week long league that is played every Wednesday.

Wright said that the first basketball league is much different than the open run basketball, which will take place later in the semester, in that the time constraints are much less strict.

"The basketball league has students staying on the same team for the 5-week period, and we'll play full length games. These will be 40 minute games and people will need more than 5 or 6 players for substitutes."

In comparison to the open run basketball, Wright said, which "has 15

minute games and students will have to run in and out to set up new games."

While the time constraints are a big change, the biggest difference between the two intramurals is the teams will not change throughout the 5 week period.

This 5-week period is a big commitment, and some students just don't have the time.

Wright said it's very important to register on IMleagues.com to ensure that you get placed on a team you'll want to play on for the entire intramural season.

Students can register themselves or they can register a team with their friends.

For more information about the intramural basketball league or any of the other intramural sports on the schedule for the spring semester, contact Wright by e-mail at matthew.j.wright@occc.edu or students can call the Recreation and Fitness office at 405-682-7860.



GETTING TO KNOW:

LAURA
SWAIN
RECREATION
AND FITNESS
COORDINATOR
SINCE 2014



Q: What do you do here at OCCC?

A: I'm the Recreation and Fitness Coordinator. Truly, I've been doing it for over a year, I was the acting coordinator and they made me permanent back in August.

Q: What's your favorite part about your job here?

A: I really enjoy watching people come in and work out. Truly, it makes people happy when you do something for yourself.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: I have a garden, and I love to play golf. We have a place at the lake and we like to fish and water ski. Anything with the water, I love.

Q: What kind of sports have you played throughout your life?

A: As an adult, I played softball for years and years on a couple different teams.

Q: What sports teams do you root for?

A: The University of Oklahoma and the Dallas Cowboys. Right now [regarding the Super Bowl] between the Denver Broncos and Carolina Panthers, I'm rooting for the Broncos.

Q: Why do you think it's important to be fit?

A: Well, I think there's different aspects of your life that you have to take care of. Part of the things you have to take care of are your mental attitude, your physical attitude, and your spiritual attitude.

HAVE SPORTS NEWS?

Email sportswriter@occc.edu or call 405-682-1611, ext. 7676, to get your sports news in the Pioneer

History: Professors talk Black History Month

Continued from page 1

people that we need to think about. We need to think about the Black Lives Matter movement. I think they're important. I think they have an important voice ... on police brutality, on racism."

Vaughan said leaders in the 1960s Civil Rights movement also deserve acknowledgement.

"Maybe I'm out of fashion but I still respect John Lewis.

"He was my representative when I lived in Atlanta, Georgia," she said. Lewis, at age 75, continues to represent his congressional district in Washington, D.C.

"You know he marched with Dr. (Martin Luther) King and he was the leader of the student movement for Civil Rights," Vaughan said. "So I think when John Lewis speaks, a lot of people still listen. I think a lot of people still respect Jesse Jackson, he has been a leader of the Civil Rights movement."

Everybody should celebrate Black History Month so that they can be educated about history, she said. "You

know African Americans are an important part of our history. They built this country on the back of slave labor."

Vaughan said she knows many of her African American students don't know a lot about their history, so she wants to tell them.

"Even when I taught at Morehouse, Morehouse is an all-male, all African American college, and many of them did not know much about their history," she said.

Vaughan said the situation the African American population is facing in America now is discouraging, with higher unemployment and the higher poverty compared to other minorities.

History Professor John Ehrhardt said he thinks celebrating Black History Month is a good thing.

"The truth is, in spite of the fact that the Civil War ended slavery and Constitutional Amendments gave African Americans civil liberty, they didn't really for most of the next 100 years get to enjoy those civil liberties, didn't get to enjoy their freedom, didn't get

to participate fully in the public life of this country," he said.

"I think one of the good things about Black History Month is that it reminds not just African Americans but all Americans of the struggles that they had to go through in order to finally get rights like the right to vote, and the right not to be segregated," Ehrhardt said. "So it reminds us of the fact that sometimes we have to struggle in order to actually allow all members of society to enjoy the promise that is America."

There has been much progress in the U.S. since the 1960s for the African American community, starting with the ending of segregation, Ehrhardt said. However, he said, the community still faces disproportionate problems with poverty, lack of education, incarceration or imprisonment, and still face a lot of informal discrimination.

Ehrhardt said the event is one of the helpful solutions to create better lives for the African American population, but it is a slow process.

"[...] We have had African American

History Month and Martin Luther King Day for a long time and clearly not all of the problems African Americans face have been totally resolved," he said. "But it certainly doesn't do any harm to remind people once a year of the struggles occurred and achievements. It is not just about struggles. This month reminds people of very significant achievements that black individuals have made to this country."

People who are interested in learning more about the Black History Month can attend several events which take place in Oklahoma City in February:

Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City, will celebrate the Black History Month from 1 to 4 p.m., Feb.6.

University of Central Oklahoma, 100 North University Drive, Edmond, will held several events such as meetings, a debate, and Miss Black UCO (?) during February. Check times and dates at www.uco.edu/studentlife/diversity/programsandevents/bhm.asp for more information.

Bus: affordable bus passes, flexible schedules

Continued from page 1

Route 13N will reach OCCC every hour, and "pulse," or converge with all four other of the night busses, every hour at the Downtown Oklahoma City Embark Transit Center located at 420 NW 5 Street., said Scrotgins.

For OCCC's northside residents, the extended hours of route five means that they will be able to take the 13N, connect at the Transit Center, and take route five as far north as Mercy Hospital, located at west Memorial Road and north Meridian Avenue.

Students, faculty, and staff can buy discounted Embark passes at the OCCC Bookstore. The pass is \$30 and valid for 30 days.

English Professor Stephen Morrow uses his pass to be environmentally conscious and ride the bus everyday.

"I really worry about climate change," said Morrow, "I want my children and their children to be Oklahomans, so I try to drive as little as possible."

He tries to watch his carbon footprint as much as possible, though he said is aware that his effort is very small.

"I know that the carbon atoms I keep out of the atmosphere are not going to tip climate change one way or the other,"

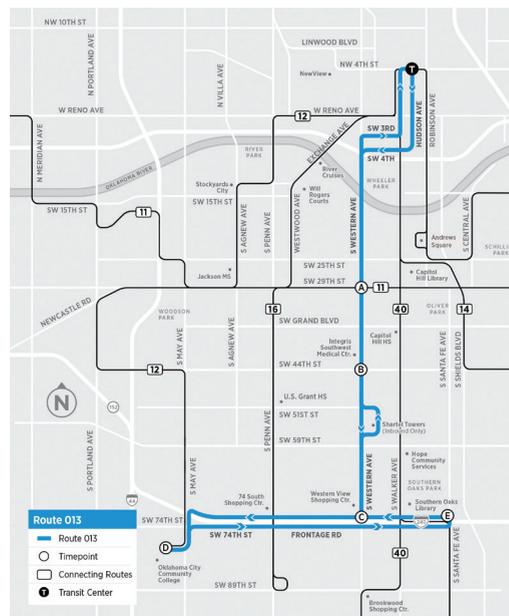
Morrow said.

"If I know I am not going to make a practical change in the atmosphere, why do I do it? Because at least I can be a conscious person living the best life I can," Morrow said.

The Environmental Protection Agency might disagree with Morrow that a small change can be effective. They estimate that a typical passenger vehicle emits, on average, 4.7 metric tons of carbon dioxide every year. Additionally, cars can emit other greenhouse gases as well. Methane, nitrous oxide and emissions from leaking air conditioners are less frequent, though have a higher global warming potential, according to an EPA report.

Nevertheless, Morrow said that since he started riding the bus nearly seven years ago things have been falling into place in his life.

Morrow rides his bike to and from the transit center everyday. He said add-



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\$21 Value Card Tarifa valor de \$21	\$21	-	-
All-Day Unlimited Todo dia ilimitado	\$4	\$2	-
7-Day Unlimited 7-dias ilimitado	\$14	\$7	-
30-Day Unlimited 30-dias ilimitado	\$50	\$25	-
Reduced Fare: ages 60+, persons with disabilities, medicare cardholders and children ages 7-17. Tarifa Reducida: mayores de 60 años, personas con discapacidades, miembros de medicare y niños con edades entre 7 y 17 años.			
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ing a healthy commute to his routine feels great.

Morrow also said he takes the opportunity of downtime on the bus to read. "I've probably added at least 30 titles to my annual reading by taking the bus," he said.

Most of all, Morrow has fallen in love with not having to drive.

"I just enjoy it, I like being chauffeured. I don't wanna get on the highway

at 7 a.m. and put up with all the pick up truck drivers," he said.

All Embark busses are equipped with wi-fi, a necessity for any student, said Scrotgins.

"That'll be a good tool for them to continue some of their study, go ahead and do some homework, and get it done before they get home," he said.

To plan your bus ride visit www.embarkok.com or call 405-235-RIDE.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY



ME TIME: Michelle Warren and other students stopped by to make their own custom coffee mugs on Jan. 21 in the General Dining Area lobby. Warren, an emergency medical technician major, is a single mother of six children and full time student. Even with her busy schedule, she took the time to create a mug. "I try to do something for my self every day. It was nice being with other adults doing arts and craft, instead of with children." Warren said. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

Bluegrass players talk history

GEORGIA WOOD
Community Writer
communitywriter@occc.edu

The history of bluegrass music is rooted in the hills of Kentucky and Tennessee, said Josh Williams, guitar player in the band Rhonda Vincent and The Rage. The group performed the genre to a packed house in the VPAC Theater on Jan. 22.

Williams, along with other members of the band, conducted a master class at noon that day.

Vincent's daughter Sally Berry, who has been traveling with the band since September, led the class because her mother wasn't feeling well.

"She was diagnosed with strep throat and needed to save her voice," Berry said by way of explanation.

The group took turns sharing information on bluegrass history as well as offering a brief history on when they started playing. An intimate group of 15 attended the session.

"I got my degree in sociology but minored in Bluegrass," Berry said. "I wanted to play music for a living but I wanted something to fall back on also.

Williams, from Kentucky, said he plays all bluegrass instruments. Most notably, he plays the dobro, an instrument shaped like a guitar but played horizontally like a steel guitar.

Williams spoke about how bluegrass artists were known for not using drums for percussion, instead using guitar and bass, among other tricks,

He demonstrated putting a beat strum on a dollar bill woven between the strings of his guitar.

"To play bluegrass, you have to have an open mind and a closed nose," Williams said, referring to the nasal sound in

the vocals. He said all members of the band had started at a young age playing in bands with their family. Most were around the age of nine when they started playing bluegrass.

Band member Brent Burke also spoke. He is known as one of the greatest dobro players in the world of music, according to the group's website. He is the newest member of the band joining in 2012.

Oklahoma is home to a piece of bluegrass history, said Rodger Harris, who spoke before the evening concert. Bill Grant's Bluegrass Festival, which is held every year in Hugo, is known as the oldest festival of its kind and has been held annually since 1938.

On Jan. 23, local recording artist Blake Parks from Duncan played with the Oklahoma Bluegrass band Steelwind at Hillbillies in Oklahoma City's Paseo District. He said he plans to keep the sound alive for the younger generations. "It's a lost sound," Parks said. "I started playing at the age of 12 with my family. When we start to play, people turn their heads.

"When they get a taste of bluegrass, they love it. We are actually having an album-release party coming up in April at the Blue Door in Oklahoma City."

Music Professor Michael Boyle said bluegrass music is just starting to catch hold in colleges.

"Bluegrass is more improvisational than the music taught here at OCCC," Boyle said. "We have rules we teach and, with bluegrass, you have to learn to break those rules.

"Actually rock 'n' roll has just started to creep into academics. A bluegrass program won't be started in Oklahoma anytime soon."

For more information about OCCC's Performing Arts Program, call Kurt Leftwich at 405-682-1611 ext. 7746.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Dance with Mariachi Los Caporales Feb. 6

Mariachi Los Caporales will take the stage at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6, in the Visual and Performing Arts Theater. Founded in 1993, Mariachi Los Caporales has become one of the most popular groups in the San Antonio area. The group consists of an 11 piece ensemble. The group's focus is to preserve a rich, vibrant, traditional style. They have been rewarded with national recognition and success. For more information contact the OCCC box office. You can call the box office at 405-682-7579 or visit the Performing Arts Webpage at www.occc.edu/pas

Voter Registration begins Monday, Feb. 8.

Tables will be set up in the College Union for students 18 and up to register to vote. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. Monday, Feb. 8, and continue from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. everyday until Friday, Feb. 12. For more information contact the Student Life office 405-682-7523.

'Water Matters' series continues Monday, Feb 8.

Professor Stephen Morrow will discuss human rights and social justice in regards to water from noon to 1 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 8, in College Union room 1. Bring your lunch and participate or come to listen. For more information contact the office of student life at 405-682-7523.

Metropolitan Opera Rising Stars Feb. 11

The Metropolitan Opera Rising Stars, known as the launching pad for the Opera stars of the future, will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, in the VPAC theater. For more information contact the OCCC box office. You can call the box office at 405-682-7579 or visit the Performing Arts Webpage at www.occc.edu/pas

Connect with Christians on Campus

Join the Christians on Campus from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. every Monday night in the Main Building, Room 1X5. For more information call or text 405-314-7739.

Socrates Cafe every Wednesday

The Agnostics Atheists & Freethinkers club will meet from 6 to 7 p.m. every Wednesday in the Main Building, room 2N7. Socrates Cafe brings together members to discuss interfaith issues and encourage critical thinking about world issues and everyday life. Explore philosophical mind experiments, discuss philosophy, metaphysics, spirituality, religion and more. For more information email aaf@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.

JOB

HELP WANTED:

Seeking full time, part time, & seasonal nursery and garden center employees. Horticulture and/or retail experience preferred. Must be able to work flexible hours, including weekends. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. and work outdoors in various weather conditions. Apply at K&K Nursery 17550 S. Sooner Road Norman, OK.

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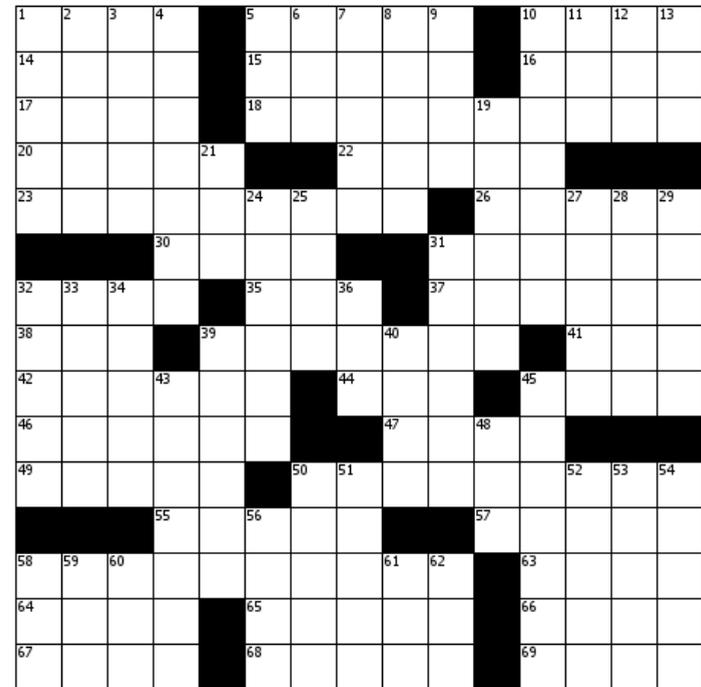
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across

1. Gym allies
5. Plant protection
10. Sing the praises of
14. Arcade flub
15. Microphone inventor Berliner
16. CD player ancestor
17. Sporting wings
18. Picnic fare
20. Place for plaster?
22. Doppler device
23. Lollapalooza
26. Bound for the barn
30. List reducer
31. Period in power
32. Steals, ironically
35. Part of a moving picture?
37. Gridiron quorum
38. Fossey focus
39. Tired camper's convenience
41. Roadside retreat
42. Wholesale's antithesis
44. Gospel singer Grant
45. Scuba diving hazard
46. Asian anthropoids
47. Linguist Chomsky
49. Court show that won 15 Emmys
50. Object used in some pranks
55. Eye emphasize
57. Ease
58. Long-haired equestrian
63. Cut and paste
64. "Diamonds & Rust" singer
65. Polio battler
66. Place to get the shaft?
67. Girl of kiddie literature
68. Kind of aircraft
69. Stays in the hand



Down

1. Penicillin target, sometimes
2. Spicy rice dish
3. It might be false
4. Progress, so to speak
5. Sound heard after littering?
6. Thurman of Hollywood
7. Petrol purchase
8. Unlikely to rain
9. Thundering group
10. In vogue, or words after "all"
11. Crude discovery
12. It could be created by swamp gas
13. Kind of badge or cup
21. Park it
24. Only Adam and Eve lacked them
25. Word with hand or rags
27. Up in arms
28. Improve, as writing
29. McLain, baseball's last 30-game winner
31. Trust
32. Yule tune
33. Place to take your glasses
34. "She loves me" unit
36. Brady Bill opponent
39. Top banana
40. Potent start?
45. Allegories
48. Alias indicator
50. Assembly line item
51. Crow group
52. Song on a 45
53. Only state bordered by just one other
54. They can be broken into bits
56. Jimmy Durante trademark
58. "Great Society" pres.
59. Battery buy
60. Lion's refuge
61. Zip
62. Vague amount



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Photo provided by Josh Fisher Photography

Foundation paints student's truck OSU orange

MADI PERRYMAN
News Writing Student

You can't miss the bright orange truck plastered with OSU Cowboys decals parked in the Health Professions parking lot on campus. It belongs to Hunter Brown, Westmoore graduate of 2013.

The dream truck was decked out by the Make-A-Wish Foundation after Brown learned he had leukemia during his sophomore year of high school.

It was April of 2011, when Brown came down with what he thought was just a stomach virus but which would turn out to be much more and would change his life drastically.

A trip to the doctor revealed that Brown had leukemia, which is cancer of the blood.

"When we got the results, the doctor sent me to Children's Hospital in Oklahoma City to run more tests and

confirm the diagnosis," Brown said.

The results did not change and on April 6, 2011, Brown began his battle with leukemia.

Brown's first admission to Children's Hospital lasted 10 days. This is when he began treatment and it was followed by many more stays.

Brown said the hardest part of it all was keeping a positive attitude, especially when times were really bleak.

"Not having any energy to do what I have always done and wanted to do was the hardest part physically," he said. For a 16-year-old, it was a nightmare.

When the Make-A-Wish Foundation heard Brown's story, they wanted to do something great for him. In August of 2011, Brown's navy blue 1995 Chevy Silverado got a brand new make-over.

Knowing Brown was a huge Oklahoma State University fan, Make-A-Wish painted the truck based on the

Cowboys. Brown knew Make-A-Wish Foundation was re-doing his truck but he didn't know what they were doing or when they would be done.

Representatives of the foundation surprised Brown at a Moore War football game between two Moore high schools and unveiled his lifted, orange truck with OSU decals.

Brown said his initial reaction was that he couldn't believe that it was really his truck. Within minutes he was driving his tricked-out truck across the track in front of all his classmates who were cheering him on.

Jeff Summers, CEO for Make-A-Wish, was responsible for re-designing Brown's truck and Ashley Morey and Lyndon Shumaker were Brown's wish-granters.

Brown underwent treatment for leukemia for three and a half years.

"My family and God are what really got me through it all," Brown said. "They were there with me every step of the way."

Brown is now in remission and stopped receiving treatment on July 20, 2014.

The nursing major plans to graduate from OCCC in May.

Brown continues to give back to cancer patients through car shows.

"Rides for Wishes" are car shows held at different locations in Oklahoma City such as Fort Thunder and Hooters. The car shows are hosted by Oklahoma Car shows and are fundraisers open to the public. The proceeds go to Make-A-Wish Oklahoma.

The first show raised over \$2000 for the foundation, Brown said.

For more information on "Rides for Wishes" contact Hunter Brown at 405-227-7199.