

PIONEER

School offers classes to jail

ERIKA FIERRO

Staff Writer

staffwriter4@occc.edu

Getting a good job is hard, even without a criminal record. It's much harder with a history of jail time and no high school diploma.

That's one reason OCCC is offering GED classes in the county jail, halfway houses and mental health facilities. The goal is to give people a better shot at work on the outside.

The college added these locations in the summer of 2015, said Alan Dale, OCCC's College and Career Readiness Program manager.

OCCC acquired the additional alternative high school education sites from Oklahoma City Public Schools. The district wanted to steer away from adult education and offered the program to OCCC, Dale said.

The acquisition includes only "clients," or inmates of the facilities partnered with OCCC, such as the Oklahoma County Jail, said High School Equivalency Instructor Rodrick Whetstone.

"Typically inmates in the class are required by the state to get their GED," he said. Once a person is released, the person can attend any of the other GED classes offered around the city. OCCC offers one of the largest GED programs in the state, Whetstone said.

Dale said OCCC has the unique opportunity to provide these adults, who have made one too many mistakes, a chance to turn their life around.



STUDENTS pictured left to right: Michael McCurtain, Charles Mize Jr., Jaun Saldana, and Eduardo Rodriguez listen intently to their teacher in pursuit of their GED. *Erika Fierro/Pioneer*

"By teaching them necessary basic skills and providing a chance to take their GED test, we hope it's the beginning of a better life for them, their families, and the community," Dale said.

Whetstone said he teaches at two correctional facilities, Center Point Inc. and the Oklahoma County Jail. He also has GED classes at NorthCare, a mental care

facility and Community House, similar to a halfway house. All are located in Oklahoma City.

Though the class setting is atypical, what matters is inmates getting to class, learning the material to

See GED pg. 9

Why international students are drawn to OCCC

HUNG TRAN

Senior Writer

seniorwriter@occc.edu

Living in a different country is not as easy as many people might imagine. Financial issues, homesickness, a language barrier, culture shock, and loneliness are among the largest struggles many international students have to face in America.

The U.S. is appealing to international students who are pursuing higher education.

OCCC's enrollment records show that the number of F-1 international

student visas for students enrolled in the Fall of 2015 increased to 492 students from 385 in the Fall 2014 semester.

School records note that international students attending OCCC hail from 53 separate countries.

China, Nepal, Vietnam, South Africa, South Korea, Cameroon, Kenya, India, Bangladesh and Nigeria make up the top 10 nations for sending international students to the college.

There is a variety of reasons that foreign students might decide to study in American or in the state of Oklahoma in particular.

Public relations major Ke Le Ki,

from China, said he views America as a country that provides a good higher educational system that is important for his future career.

Nursing major Thaysarye Moo, from Myanmar, said she has been in America more than seven years with her family after coming to reunite with her uncle.

"I think starting at OCCC is easy and also there are many international students from many different countries studying here," she said.

Moo said from her point of view, America ranks high in many categories. High working standards and the high quality of education were attractive

to her.

Modern Language Professor Abra Figueroa said the main reason that foreign students travel to the U.S. is for the opportunity of high quality in education.

"We still are the leaders in the world in education, especially in university level," she said.

Figueroa said Oklahoma has appealing factors such as afford

See CHALLENGE pg. 9

EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | Yet another medical marijuana petition will soon be circulating and supporters will be asked to sign again

Petitioning for pot has seen its perils



GEORGIA WOOD

When leaders only want to be in charge or want to be seen more than they actually want to get something done, everybody suffers.

I learned this firsthand when I became involved with the Green the Vote movement this spring.

GTV is an organization out of Tulsa that set out to petition the state to legalize medical marijuana. Some 125,000 signatures were needed to get a bill on the

ballot. Only around 75,000 were collected.

And why did they fail? I believe there were a few different issues.

Oklahomans for Health is another grassroots organization based in Oklahoma City. They tried the same thing last year with a slightly different petition.

OFH was planning to petition the state in September but decided to wait until spring. GTV, with time running out, drew up a petition similar to one OFH submitted the previous year with a few minor changes. It failed miserably.

Neither group could concentrate on anything aside from who was going to be the one to get this done.

It was a competition. GTV was so focused on what OFH had done wrong and devolved into petty arguing. They lost sight of the goal.

Everyone wanted to be in charge of the movement. If you get involved in something of this nature, it does become your movement, but you can't tear down what someone else has already built. There is actually a way to join a group and be a leader while still showing respect for others and to get the task accomplished.

OFH will start petitioning again in the spring, making it the third attempt to get this bill on the ballot. This creates another problem. People are not going to stop their cars while driving to work when they see a petition site to sign another petition because they think they have already signed it. No. This will be a new one.

OFH's petition is closer to other petitions around the country. It is not as lax as the GTV petition. There are more restrictions on how many plants distributors and individuals can have. I believe this bill would have had a better chance at collecting the signatures it needed if GTV had not gone forward with their petition.

OFH has their work cut out for them. They will have to get the word out that they are once again

collecting signatures but now also spread the word to the ones who have already signed that they need to sign yet again.

The biggest problem though may lie in the medical portion of the medical marijuana legalization effort.

Some among the younger generation do not want to support the medical marijuana movement because they would rather support legalization all the way across the board.

They want marijuana to be legalized but if they have to see a doctor to get it then they lose interest.

The same holds true for the medical professionals.

The doctors I have spoken to do not want to be responsible for deciding who gets a prescription and who doesn't because they don't want the state holding them responsible for the so called drug getting into the wrong hands. They say, if you want it in the state, then legalize it all together.

The laws are changing but they won't change by themselves. Know about the efforts being made to create change in your own area. We have to speak up. We have a voice for a reason. Use yours. Get involved and when you do, focus most on getting things done.

—GEORGIA WOOD
COMMUNITY WRITER

LETTER TO THE EDITOR | Herman Manning, the first African-American to fly and the first to fly coast to coast, to be featured on film

History center celebrates first African-American flier

To the Editor:

The Oklahoma History Center will present a film documentary on James Herman Banning, the first African-American to be licensed to fly and the first African-American to fly the United States coast-to-coast.

The film will be presented at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13.

Pat Smith, one of the creators of the film and co-writer of the book "On Freedom's Wings," will be present to answer questions and discuss the

traveling exhibit associated with Mr. Banning.

James Herman Banning was born on an Oklahoma homestead in 1899.

When he was 6 years old, one of his pastimes was flying homemade kites.

At approximately the same time, the Wright brothers were preparing for their first flight at Kitty Hawk.

As he grew up, Banning knew that his destiny included flying. However, the racial attitude of the times prevented him from being allowed into any flying

school. After piecing parts of wrecked and retired planes together, Banning finally was able to venture into the skies. Overcoming the racial and financial barriers, his goal of being the first African-American to be licensed by the Department of Commerce and flying the "crate" from coast-to coast would soon become a reality.

The film and the traveling exhibit, called "The Greatest Story Never Told: A Living History," were produced last year from Oklahoma Humanities

Council funding. More recently, Lonnie Bunch, Director of Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, expressed that his museum would be using this project and linking the Banning website to theirs.

More details on this pioneering aviator at <http://jhbanning.com/on-freedoms-wings/>

—STEVE HAWKINS
OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER

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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 |

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

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

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

E-mail letters should include all but the signature. The PIONEER will withhold the author's name if the request is made in writing.

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

MOVIE REVIEW | Living up to its name, this film is surprisingly offensive

We don't need dirty grandpa

Listen – I've seen some very bad movies in my life ... those movies that I spend money on and I'm sitting in the theater thinking, "why the hell did I spend money on this?"

Never has this feeling been relevant than while I was watching "Dirty Grandpa," a new comedy starring Zac Efron and Robert De Niro.

De Niro's character (the grandpa) tricks his grandson (Efron's character) into driving to Daytona Beach for spring break, allowing the grandpa to live out his wild fantasies with a bunch of college students.

It's not very hard to find a comedy with a similar kind of story. They're everywhere. My issue with this though, is that usually, these kinds of movies are at least funny. "Dirty Grandpa," however, not funny at all.

Every single time De Niro's character, Dick (get it?), opens his mouth, you're assaulted with incredibly offensive language. I can't overstate this, either. Literally, every single time. No matter what

the context or what's happening in the film, you can bet your bottom dollar his character is aiming slurs at gays, or minorities, or anyone really.

I love comedies and I understand that they can be offensive, but this was just so incredibly over the top it was hard to even manage a chuckle. It was much more fitting to just stare at the screen like I was watching a train wreck that didn't stop for the entire hour and 42 minutes of runtime because that's what it felt like.

Efron's character is ultimately an afterthought, even though his story in the film is just as ridiculous.

In a nutshell, nothing about the movie is believable or funny, and nothing about it is worth spending any amount of money on.

Rating: F

—IAN MANERA
SPORTS WRITER



Strong: an app with muscle

If you are looking for an app to track your progress in the weight room, try the 'Strong' app for the iPhone.

There are tons of fitness apps out there. It seems like they all claim to be the best, the greatest, the only fitness app you will ever need, when really they do a lot of different things that will be more or less useful depending on what you are trying to accomplish.

A lot of people use apps like MyFitnessPal, and it is just about the best app for diet tracking and calorie counting. It is not very useful for anything else though.

There are lots of other apps, too many to name, that will track how many steps you take each day, or how far and how fast you ran, monitor your heart rate, etc. If you are doing resistance training though, none of these apps is going to help you very much.

Strong is great for bodybuilders, weightlifters, powerlifters or just the ordinary person who primarily uses weights to exercise.

The best thing about the app is its simplicity. It's easy to create a profile and enter in workout plans that you can save and use over and over.

It's easy to add exercises to a workout from the apps predefined list, or add new custom exercises defined by the user. Just pick the exercise and set the weight, number of sets and number of repetitions.

When doing a workout, it is easy to change the exercises on the spot. Weight and reps can easily be changed each set, and it's easy to add or take away sets. There are other apps that will let you pick exercises and create workouts, but most of them do not offer this kind of precise control.

The only caveat with this app is that it is only a tracking tool. You won't find the exercise instructions and anatomy guides present in some apps.

For those with a little experience, this actually helps streamline things. There are no distractions, and the graphs and charts of progress are really useful.

—AMAR MOLINAS
WEBMASTER

RESTAURANT REVIEW | Pho Van serves many delicious soups at a cheap price

An OKC 'pho' restaurant worth a try

Today, there are more and more American people coming to the Vietnamese restaurant.

Because of this, there is one word Americans can now proudly pronounce correctly in Vietnamese whenever asked ... "Pho."

It is pronounced like "fuh" and otherwise known as rice noodle soup.

However, choosing a good restaurant in Oklahoma is a tough decision, especially as the number of Vietnamese restaurants are mushrooming around the Asian district along Classen between NW 23rd and the expressway.

If you are looking for an awesome restaurant to hang out at, I would certainly like to suggest Pho Van, located on 5701 N. Western Avenue.

I assert here that you will never find yourself disappointed.

Perhaps the most attractive thing about Pho Van is its affordable price compared to its nearby rivals.

The restaurant is also really clean with a nice, big open interior – just the type to make its customers feel relaxed immediately upon stepping inside.

Pho Van offers the freshest and most delicious spring rolls, tasty noodle soups, and the most awesome fried rice.

Two months ago, I bought some orders of spring rolls — pork, shrimp, chicken and vegetarian — and brought them to my work. After they sampled the

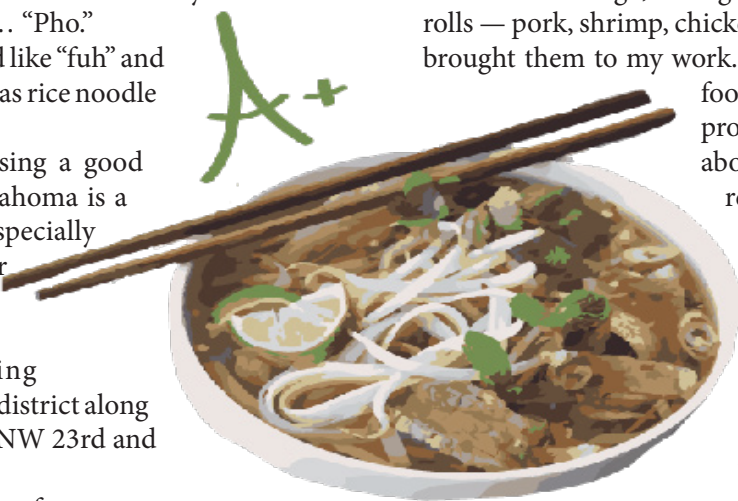
food, my coworkers and my professors kept asking me about the address of the restaurant. They totally loved the food from Pho Van.

Might I mention that the restaurant is rated 4.9 out of five on Google and also has a lot of compliments on Yelp — the app touted as the compass for good-restaurant hunters?

The most important thing about Pho Van that I want to share is that they are serving vegetarian "Pho" with vegetable broth, giving vegetarian people one more nice place in Oklahoma City to add into their go-to list.

Rating: A

—HUNG TRAN
SENIOR WRITER



COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

MOVIE REVIEW | 'Dear Zachary' tells son of his father

An intense documentary adventure

"Dear Zachary: A Letter to a Son About His Father" is a documentary and an emotional rollercoaster.

I like to watch documentaries and this is one of the best documentaries I've seen.

And even if you're not into documentaries, watch it! You won't regret it.

This cinematic scrapbook was created by Kurt Kuenne, after the cold-blooded killing of his close friend Dr. Andrew Bagby.

Andrew and Kuenne had been friends since the age of 7.

Andrew was the only child to David and Kathleen Bagby.

'Dear Zachary' chronicles Kuenne's travels across the country to meet the important people in Andrew's life who knew him best. From college friends, coworkers, to distant cousins, they all had nice things to say about Andrew.

"Charismatic," "a great story teller," and "full of life," were some of the descriptions provided by his loved ones. Andrew had a lot of people that loved him.

One of Kuenne's goals was to capture Andrew's personality. He accomplished it perfectly. I was not expecting to cry at all. I'm not a crier but I had tears running down my face at this point. It was just so sad but I couldn't turn it off.

David and Kathleen, Andrew's parents, and everyone that knew Andrew were sure Shirley Turner, ex-girlfriend of Andrew, had killed him after he broke up with her. There was plenty of evidence against Shirley but she fled to Canada before she could be arrested.

Some time later David and Kathleen find out that Shirley is carrying Andrew's baby but of course, to find out if the baby is Andrew's, they would have to wait until he's born.

David and Kathleen moved to Newfoundland, trying to win custody of the only grandchild they would ever have.

Shirley named the baby, Zachary. Hence the title "Dear Zachary."

Kuenne knew he would give Zachary the video someday once it was finished.

While they waited for the legal process to run its course, the new grandparents had to be civil with the mother of their grandbaby, who they believe to be the murderer of their son.

The story continues but I do not want to ruin it because you have to watch it for yourself.

Yes, the story is sad but at the end I was in awe of the distance friends and family will go for a loved one.

Rating: A+

—ERIKA FIERRO
STAFF WRITER



BOOK REVIEW | Reviewer finds profound teachings far better suited to crushing enemies than closing deals

Way of the warrior unfolds one book at a time

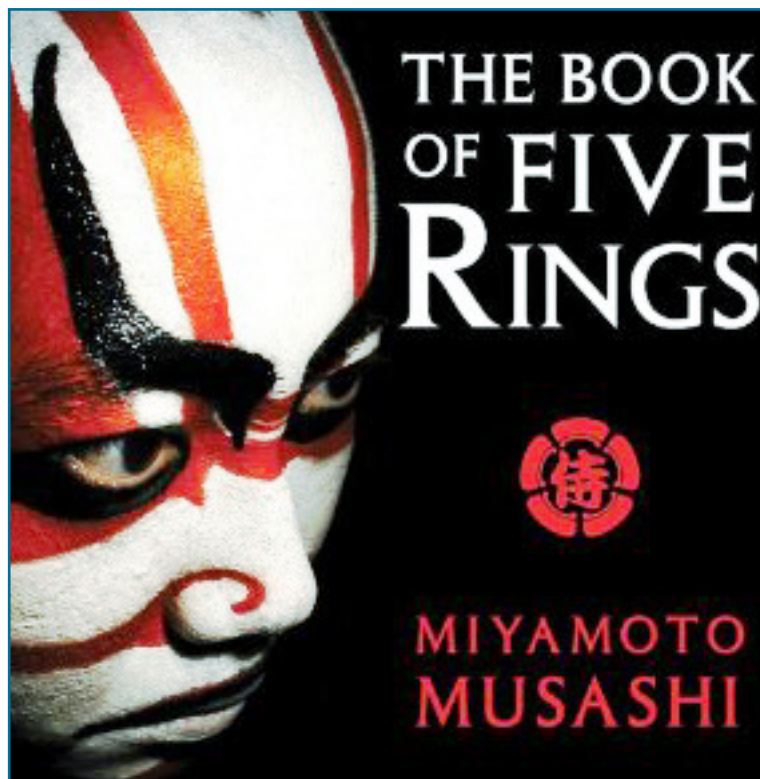
Not being able to rest until my numerous enemies are defeated, I've been looking for a copy of Miyamoto Musashi's "The Book of Five Rings" for a while. I was thrilled to have finally found one in the famous Powell's bookstore in Portland, Oregon.

"The Book of Five Rings" is divided into a forward by the author – translating for the long dead Musashi, then a forward from Musashi, and then five books. I have only made it through the first, the book of earth.

Musashi, in his words, starts with earth so everything else will have a strong foundation to stand on.

He talks directly to the reader, assuming the reader is reading for the right reasons, frequently talking trash on people reading his book for business advice.

His methods are fundamental and down to earth to the point of being



transcendental in a world of overcomplicated belief systems and fighting styles.

Grasping Musashi's style takes a peculiar mix of intuition, interpretation, and being literal as Musashi is refreshingly frank.

He's a man who won 60 duels with mostly a wooden bokken, opened his own school, and retired to the wilds to write his book.

Musashi does not mince words and was surely a harsh man.

I feel sympathy in his words, for those who struggle in their pursuit of the way. The way of the warrior that is.

He is very particular about his way, but his style and philosophy are filled with adaptability. He stresses discipline in training, but also in ethics; to have a strong base to build on. Thus, I have only read the book of earth, and will feel comfortable moving on to the next four when I feel more grounded.

Rating: A+

—GRANT SWALWELL
WRITER

Arrest made on drug complaint

HUNG TRAN

Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Recent reports from campus police include two arrests, a suspicious substance, vandalism and harassment.

On Jan. 25, OCCC Police Officer David Madden was dispatched to the SEM Entry 1 in response to a disturbance.

Madden reported when he arrived on the scene he spotted a visitor, Marqus Anthony Hart, 22, who was screaming and cursing on the phone.

After reportedly running a warrant check and finding three warrants for Hart's, Madden searched Hart's belongings and arrested him.

In a Black n Mild wrapper found on Hart's person, Madden discovered four small pills, which were found to be Alprazolam— a schedule IV narcotic under the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substance Act.

Also, under the chair where the suspect was seated, a pink, oval pill marked p500 was found which the suspect stated was just Tylenol. The officer identified the pill was Acetaminophen and Pro-

oxyphene Napsylate 500 MG — also a schedule IV narcotic.

Before being transported off campus, Hart admitted to having other items hidden on him.

Hart reportedly instructed Madden toward these items. A methamphetamine pipe and a small zip-lock bag containing methamphetamine was found in Hart's right sock, and \$100 was found in his left sock.

Inside of a deodorant stick, a small zip-lock bag of methamphetamine and additional cash were also discovered.

Hart was transported to the Oklahoma County Detention Center for multiple counts of possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance and for possession of drug paraphernalia.

At 10:10 a.m. on the same day, Officer Andrew Schmidt was dispatched to Parking Lot C after receiving a motorist assist call.

According to the report, the motorist, OCCC student Lorraine Ortiz, 40, told police that she had locked her keys, driver license and insurance in her vehicle.

Schmidt found that the student had warrants out of Oklahoma City and Cleveland County.

Ortiz was placed under arrest and transported to Oklahoma County Detention Center after the warrants had been verified.

According to another report, on 11:25 a.m., Feb. 1, an OCCC professor contacted police about a student, who he believed, was possibly carrying drugs on campus.

The professor was quoted in the

police report as having said he noticed the student, whose name was redacted, was holding a "suspicious baggie" in the Social Sciences Center hallway.

Officer Jeremy Bohannon and Police Chief Dan Piazza responded after receiving the call. The suspect was then identified as a 19-year-old female student. The officers located the student sitting at a desk doing homework.

Bohannon reported the package, suspected at first to be a bag containing drugs, was

revealed to contain Sweet Tarts candy, which the student was eating while doing homework. The report states police informed the professor of the bag's contents shortly thereafter.

At 9:09 a.m. the same day, a conflict between two college students was also reported to the OCCC police office.

Based on the report, two men, 18, and 20, whose names were redacted, were physically pushing each other and aggressively slapping each other's hands while playing basketball. Officer Schmidt reported the incident took place after one student allegedly insulted the other.

Neither party was charged but both were given notification that a student misconduct investigation would take place.

On Jan. 25, an occurrence of vandalism at the college's Capitol Hill Center was reported to campus police. According to the record, a female student, Ninfa Segovia, 30, said that a patron, who was working for a church on the same street as the center, damaged her car.

The suspect, whose name was re-

dacted, was located by campus police Officer Schmidt. The suspect admitted that he made a scratch on Segovia's vehicle. However, he reported that it was just an accident because he had suffered a drop in blood pressure that caused him to lose his balance beside the vehicle. The suspect also offered to pay for any damages on the car.

Both parties' insurance information was collected and the picture of the damage to Segovia's car was taken before Schmidt left the scene.

On Jan. 29, an 18-year-old female student reported to campus police that she was being harassed by a man whom she had encountered on campus.

Based on the report, the student, whose name was redacted, said the harassment had taken place over the past few weeks.

She reported that the man had contacted her several times since the first week of class and that she did not want to continue having any more conversation with him. It is reported that the woman has attempted to make it clear to the man that she no longer wishes to be contacted by him.

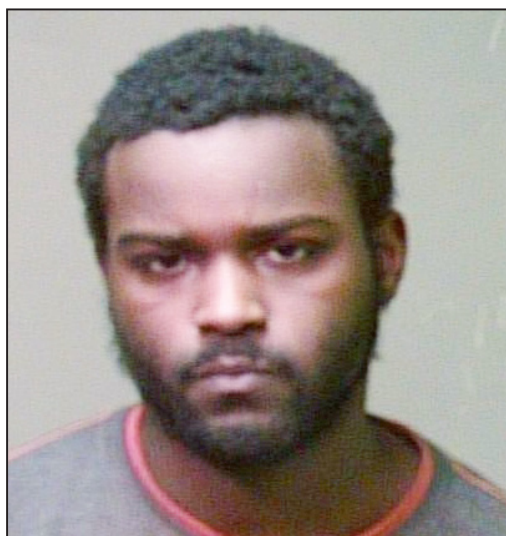
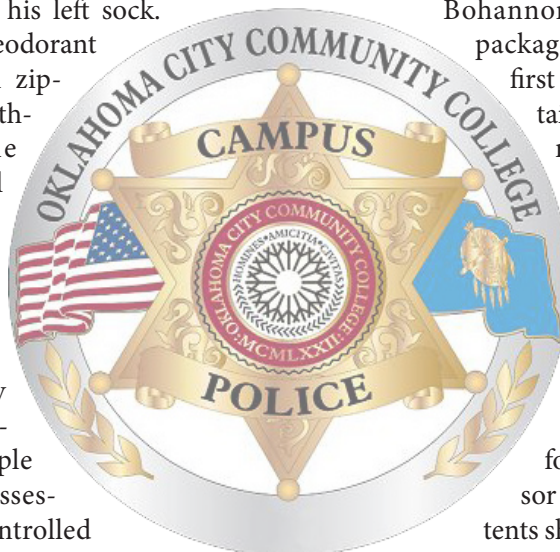
The woman also provided police with the suspect's name and telephone number, allowing them to identify the man. A police investigation is pending.

Some information was redacted from the reports under the direction of Marketing and Public Relations Director Cordel Jordan, who said names are redacted "according to OCCCPD Standard Operating Procedures involving information released and information withheld."

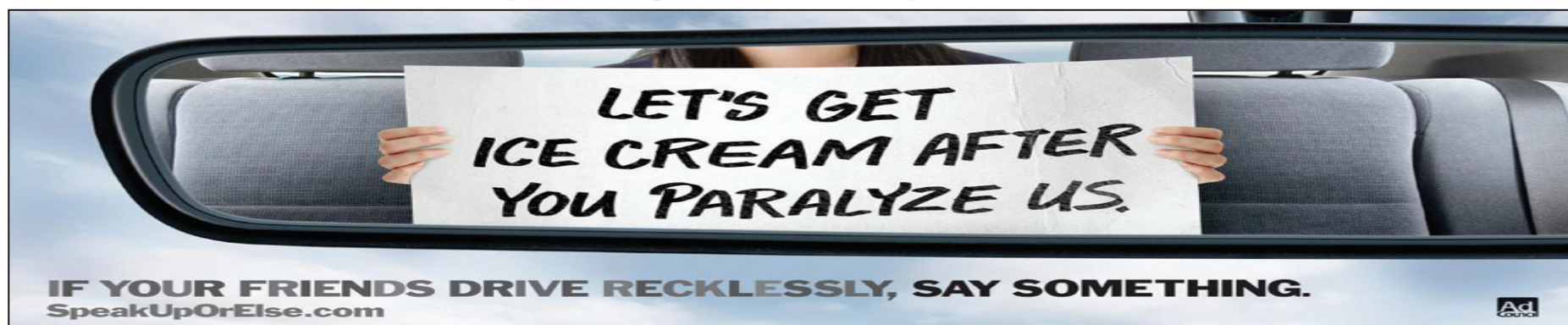
To obtain a copy of the procedure, email cjordan@occc.edu.

To contact campus police, call 405-682-1611, ext. 7747.

For an emergency, use one of the call boxes located inside and outside on campus or call 405-682-7872



ARRESTED: Marcus Anthony Hart was arrested on campus Monday, Jan. 25. Photo provided by Oklahoma Department of Corrections



College blues band to bring the noise

BYRON PIERCE
News Writing Student

The OCCC blues band is gearing up for the first concert of the semester at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb 16, in the Bruce Owen Theater on campus. Admission is free.

The ensemble of five musicians includes four students and a former professor. The band members are: twin sisters Kia Shorter – piano/rhythm guitar/vocals, and Tiffane Shorter – bass/vocals; Benjamin Matyjasek – percussion; Marta Seitz – lead guitar; and Richard Rouillard – vocals, along with band director Terry Isaacs, who is the adjunct instructor for the class.

This semester's blues band has quite a set list of goodies in store for the Feb.

16 show.

Blues enthusiasts of all sorts are sure to hear a couple of familiar favorites, Isaacs said. Songs like "Peggy Sue" and "Jailhouse Rock" will have the audience enjoying upbeat tempos, while classics like "Ain't That a Shame" and "In My Life" will offer a more melancholy flavor.

The diversity of the songs to be performed can be found when comparing the two songs "Twenty Flight Rock" and "Southern Nights," Kia Shorter said.

"One of the most popular songs of the blues repertoire is 'Sitting on Top of the World,'" Rouillard said. "I will be doing the vocals for that song as well as 'Take Me Back Baby' and 'Southern Nights.'"

All of these musicians have different experience playing with OCCC's blues

band. Both the Shorter sisters have been a part of the band for at least three semesters while Seitz and Matyjasek are both new to this semester's collaboration, Isaacs said.

"Richard Rouillard is back," exclaimed Tiffane Shorter. "It's exciting because he brings a lot of the traditional blues that add to the variety within the genre."

Rouillard is a retired professor who has performed with the group in the past, Isaacs said. Isaacs explained the benefits of being a member of the band.

Many of the students that participate in programs like the blues band go on to more advanced musical forums like the Academy of Contemporary Music at the University of Central Oklahoma,

Isaacs said. These students experiencing the mechanics of a working band have a better understanding of what is to be expected on a professional level.

Isaacs encourages all students interested in the blues genre to audition for the band during the first week of each semester. Auditions are usually held from 3 to 5 p.m. usually on Tuesday, Isaacs said.

"Anyone is welcome, you don't have to be a music major," he said. "If you play an instrument, or if you sing, come on in."

For more information, contact the Division of Arts at 405-686-6278, that's 686-6ART, or Terry Isaacs at Terry.L.Isaacs@occc.edu.

State capitol hosting Higher Education Day

RACHEL A. COFFMAN
News Writing Student

Higher Education Day at the state Capitol is generally overlooked by the people it needs the most attention from, political science Professor Nate Vanden Brook said in a speech to OCCC student leaders Feb. 5.

Those missing voices are the students of OCCC or any other college or university that receives funds from the State of Oklahoma, he said.

About 20 student leaders attended The Leadership Council meeting, to listen to Vanden Brook speak about the importance of Higher Education Day.

He urged all students to register through Student Life to go to the Capitol on Feb. 16 and talk to their elected representatives about the importance of funding for colleges.

Shuttle-bus service from the campus to the Capitol and back will be provided once every hour beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing until 5 p.m.

TLC members learned that next fiscal year state funds could drop by \$1 billion. If this occurs, Vanden Brook said,

state revenue would have declined by 12.5 percent at OCCC during a four-year period.

"Students may ask, 'How does this directly affect me?'" Vanden Brook said. "I'm here to tell you that the statistics are not pretty."

He cited possible budget cuts that OCCC might experience.

Money to help pay for student newspapers and other student services provided throughout campus might be reduced. For another example, the free printing of 10 pages per student in campus computer labs might be cut.

Employees could see a decrease in salary. For another thing, tuition would definitely increase, which directly affects every student's pocketbook, Vanden Brook said.

OCCC is the fourth largest college in Oklahoma, said Aislinn Burrows, a representative from the college president's office.

Its funding is included and lumped with other public universities.

The bigger the college is, the bigger the target it makes for funding cuts, she said.

Vanden Brook said students should

talk to their elected state senator and state representative.

"Let them remember who you are and where you come from," Vanden Brook said. "Remind them that every \$1 you receive (in state funds), the state will receive a \$4.50 return (in taxes paid by higher wage earners). That's an investment incentive."

"Showing up to Higher Education Day at the Capitol shows the representatives that you are not just a number," Vanden Brook said. "Allow them to put a face to

the name.... Show the representatives that there is a story to your name."

Being politically active will benefit students and higher education, he said.

Professors are encouraged to allow students to attend without being penalized for missing class, Vanden Brook said.

For more information about Higher Education Day at the state Capitol, contact Burrows at (405) 682-7502 by phone or by email at aislinn.v.burrows@occc.edu.



it's a small world

Spanish student teaches high school history

HUNG TRAN
Senior Writer
seniorwriter@occc.edu

Antoni Mateu, from Spain, said he arrived in America last July because of an agreement between the Spanish government and Oklahoma state.

According to the agreement, teachers from Spain who meet enough requirements in teaching experience have a chance to teach in Oklahoma public high schools and primary schools, he said. Mateu applied and was hired.

"The longest time I can stay here is three years, but if I want to stay here three years, the Oklahoma City Public School District has to renew the contract with me every year," Mateu said, "I have a visa which only allows me working at OKCPS, so I cannot change my work."

In Spain, he said, most of the English lessons he was taught were mainly focused on grammar and vocabulary, not speaking and pronunciation skills.

Mateu said he is currently teaching world history at

U.S. Grant High School in southwest Oklahoma City. He is taking one class at OCCC this semester.

At first, he said he faced a lot of problems in lecturing to his students; however, most of his students are young Latinos, so he can explain difficult words and terms in Spanish. He said that is the main reason OKCPS wants to hire Spanish teachers, because they can help hispanic students to learn easier. He said working here brings him a good opportunity to practice his speaking skills because most of his students are more fluent in English than he is.

"They help me practice English. Sometimes, some of them make fun of me, but some of them really help me," he said, "But, I like to say to them 'please don't make fun of me, help me to improve my English.'"

Mateu said he was born and raised in Caimari, a town, located on Mallorca Island, located off Spain's southern coast.

Though it's part of Spain, things are different from the mainland, he said.

"When people from abroad

think about Spain, they might think about flamenco, or some kinds of music. We actually don't have those kind of things.

"My island, until the '60s, most of the people here worked in agriculture, but nowadays very few people work in agriculture because the city starts focusing on tourism," he said.

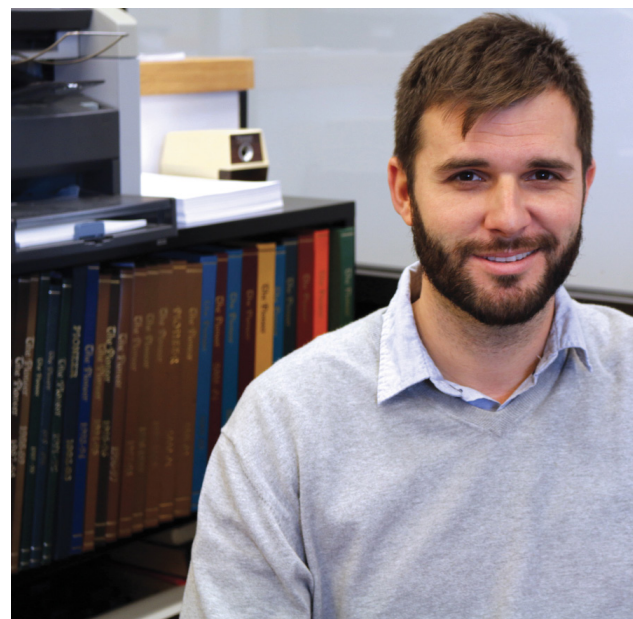
Mateu said his island attracts many European visitors from Germany, United Kingdom, Sweden and others. He said in Mallorca most businesses operate only for six months from April to September because of the weather condition.

"In the winter, it could be really cold and sometimes it has snow so that people do not want to go to the beach for travel," Mateu said.

He said he views his island like a paradise with beautiful beaches, many exquisite landscapes, and ancient Roman buildings.

Mateu said Oklahoma is a unique place compared to some other places in the U.S. he has travelled to.

The huge reliance on cars in Oklahoma surprised him



MELISSA SUE LOPEZ/PIONEER

Antoni Mateu

the most.

"Oklahoma City is a really spread out city. You need a car to go everywhere," he said. "In another city like San Francisco, for example, people are more like Europeans. You can go walking wherever you want, and you don't need a car as much as you do here."

Mateu said he likes many things about Oklahoma, such as beautiful landscapes, neighborhoods of the city with pretty houses, backyards and front yards.

"Oklahomans are really nice and friendly," he said.

"In Mallorca, in Spain, it is not that easy like here to meet people," he said. "Sometimes, people at my hometown if they don't know other people, it is really difficult to make a group of friends. I have been here only for six months and I have met many American people, and they invited me to go to their home, to some parties. I think the thing that impressed me the most to me in Oklahoma is the need of the car."



Mallorca Island, Spain

Population of Mallorca: 869,067 (Jan 1, 2010)

GDP of Spain: 29,863.18 billion USD (2013)

Size of island: 1,405 mi²

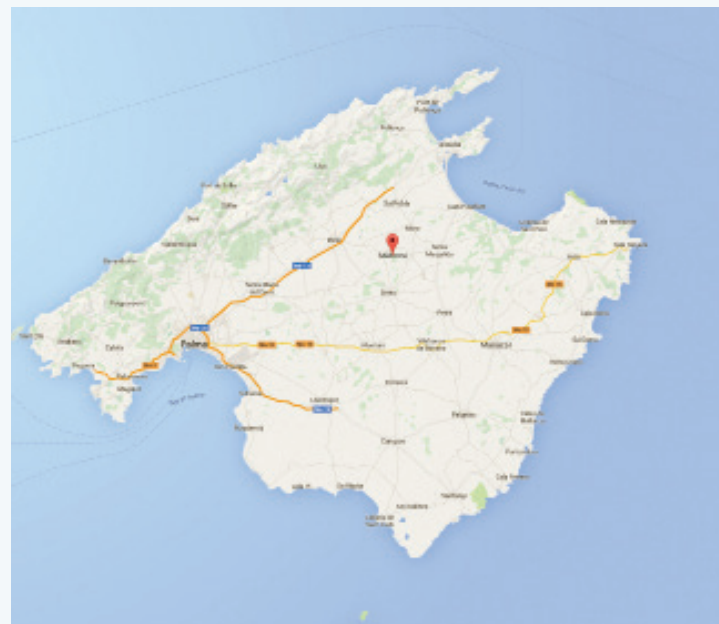
Official Language: Spanish

Currency: Euro

Government: Social, democratic government

Religion: Predominantly Catholic

Details: Spain, on Europe's Iberian Peninsula, is really 17 autonomous regions, each with its own geography and culture. Mallorca Island, in the Balearic Islands, is one of those regions, and has been an autonomous region of Spain since 1983. The capital of Majorca, Palma, was founded by Romans.



SPORTS

Cardio Time:

Shopia Sanchez Torres, visual arts major, gets her cardio going using one of the gym exercise bikes, located at the Wellness Center. "I'm focusing on losing weight," Torres said.

"Gym memberships are super expensive and it is great that at this college we have a free gym for students."

Melissa For more information about the Wellness Center gym call 405-682-7860 or visit www.occc.edu/rf/index.html. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

**GETTING TO KNOW:**

**JONI
HARDIN
SETS AND
REPS
INSTRUCTOR
SINCE 2016**



Q What is your job description?

A: "I teach a Sets and Reps class. It's weight lifting and we work the entire body. We do squats, chest, back, shoulders, biceps, triceps and then a cool down."

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

A: "My favorite part of the class is helping other people reach their fitness goals. I'm a big people person and I really enjoy being around other people and helping people."

Q: What physical activity have you been involved with throughout your life?

A: "I've been involved in the fitness area. I like hiking, biking, and swimming. I've been active my whole life."

Q: What are your favorite sports teams?

A: "We root for Oklahoma State University. My family likes OSU and my husband went there. We root for the University of Oklahoma as well, but mainly it's OSU."

Q: Why is it important for students to maintain a healthy lifestyle?

A: "People are living longer now. They want to continue an active lifestyle if they want to live longer, they want to be healthy and continue to be able to do the things they want to do."

Low turnout at intramural volleyball

IAN MANERA

Sports Writer
sportswriter@occc.edu

Intramural volleyball is the newest intramural underway at OCCC; however, sign ups have not gone as expected, said Sports Assistant Matthew Wright.

The intramural, which is held every Thursday night at 5:30 p.m. in Wellness Center gym, hasn't had any online sign ups, making it difficult for Wright to gauge interest.

"It's normal 6 vs. 6 volleyball. There's no variation on the volleyball rules," said Wright.

Wright doesn't think the month-long intramural will garner enough interest to play a full season, but that won't be an issue.

"Last year, we only had enough people for two teams. So, we had the same people come out every week, and they would play on different teams and they'd play for fun," said Wright.

"We'd have two teams of six and we'd play a little three game series, which would take about an hour."

Wright said he just has to go with the flow because he's not really sure what to expect each week due to the lack of online activity.

"People just haven't been signing up online," Wright said. There's way more people that just walk on and play, and don't even sign up online. That's something I'd like to get away from because it makes it much tougher to schedule the games."

"It just makes it tough when we don't have people signing up, because there's interest but we don't know how much," he said.

OCCC students weren't aware they

could even sign up online, and admitted it is much easier to just show up the day of, rather than going through the whole process online.

"In the future, I might try to do the sign ups on paper so people don't have the excuse of not having a computer or not wanting to log into a computer in the Communications Lab to sign up," said Wright.

Wright said he will keep the online registration going this semester, and urges students to register for any intramural they plan on playing in at IMleagues.com.

For more information about intramural volleyball or any of the other intramurals, contact the Recreation and Fitness office at 405-682-7860.



HAVE SPORTS NEWS?

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

GED: OCCC offers classes to the incarcerated

Continued from page 1

take the exam. This improves the odds of not returning to the system they're currently in, Whetstone said.

Classroom norms are not always followed by these students.

"The population I serve is challenging at times, but I enjoy being there for them," Whetstone said. "A lot of them come into it (placing) no value on education at all so I try to turn that around."

When this reporter attended a GED class at Center Point correctional facility, the students were actively engaged during the math portion of the class and asked questions without any hesitations.

Whetstone said many of the students are challenged by low education achievement in the past, combined with being out of school for many years.

"Some students dropped out of high school in 11th or 12th grade and I have others who dropped out in 8th, so they have more ground to cover."

During a class break, inmate Juan Saldaña, 33, of south Oklahoma City, said math is his hardest subject. Whetstone was demonstrating multiplying fractions.

Saldaña said he dropped out of high school in the 10th grade. He plans on taking the GED exam as an inmate so that when he's released he has a better chance of finding a good job.

Saldaña said he has five children to think about.

Math is also a difficult subject for inmate Michael McCurtain, 48, of

Shawnee, who dropped out halfway through his junior year in high school.

McCurtain said instructor Whetstone breaks the problems into steps which helps him understand and learn the subject better.

Whetstone said he tries to make adjustments for their situation.

"I want them to feel comfortable because most of them haven't been in a school type setting in 10 to 15 years," Whetstone said.

McCurtain said he arrived at Center Point Inc. in December. McCurtain is serving time for forgery and domestic abuse.

Inmate Michael Burks, 39, from Enid, is serving time for burglary and probation violation.

Burks said this would be the first year he misses his children's birthdays. This made him reflect on his future and the actions he will need to take in order to accomplish his goals.

"I plan on getting my GED, going to college, bettering myself and my family," Burks said.

Although he's not certain what he would major in, he thinks majoring in graphic design could be a possibility.

"I need a career, not just a job," Burks said.

Burks said he's been in the class since November of 2015 and the most challenging subject for him has been writing and grammar.

At the beginning of the English portion of the class, Whetstone starts with a 10-minute timed writing assignment.

"I have it set up where they write a



STUDENTS: Inmates at Center Point Inc. correctional work toward attaining their GED. *Erika Fierro/Pioneer*

paragraph every class period so when they get to the test, they're not overwhelmed," Whetstone said.

The organization of the curriculum and incorporation of activities are essential to student engagement, Whetstone said.

He said when a student finishes a paragraph, the student gets a sticker.

"I've told the class that if they think it's too juvenile that we won't use them," he said. "But the students are excited to get rewarded for their accomplishment."

Five subjects are tested in the GED test but reading, math, and writing are the focus in his classes, Whetstone said. "If we get them high on the reading and writing then they should do okay on science and social studies."

Whetstone said approximately 45 to 55 students are enrolled in his spring semester classes, most of which are men.

Whetstone was hired onto the OCCC staff in July.

Supplies such as workbooks, paper and writing utensils are provided to students.

Dale said the program is funded through a five-year continuation grant.

"State budget cuts in respect to education would not affect the program because it's funded through a grant," he said.

OCCC Professional Development Institute continues to offer GED classes to anyone 18 years or older. Registration for orientation and practice tests are offered every two weeks.

For more information contact the OCCC Professional Development Institute at 405-682-7562 or visit the office located at 7124 S. I-35 Service Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73149.

CHALLENGE: Students from afar can feel isolated here

Continued from page 1

able tuition fees, safety and low cost of living.

"Also, some foreign students are looking for freedom, not in every case, but in some cases," she said.

Figueroa said American students can benefit from the presence of international students because many young Oklahomans do not have opportunities to travel outside America. Interacting with out-of-country students gives American students a chance to learn about other places directly and gain a unique perspective, she said.

"I think Oklahoman young people

here are very curious about other countries and really enjoy their friendships with international students," Figueroa said.

Multicultural English professor Mark Zindelo said foreign students all differ in their reasons for coming to study in America.

"They are coming from so many different backgrounds and so many different countries," he said.

Zindelo said many of these students have chosen Oklahoma City because the city is a fairly safe place.

Living and studying in America, however, can be very difficult for international students, Zindelo said.

"English is just one of the problems they are facing," he said. "Even though a lot go to schooling in their home country. Maybe they study English for a long time, they haven't studied it at the rate of speech -- Americans talk sometimes really fast. And they are not used to hearing that."

Zindelo said foreign students struggle sometimes to understand their classes and can find following their teachers challenging.

"Some other challenges are, of course, culture shock, food and homesickness," he said.

Zindelo said the biggest challenge of all is being in a different environment

where there is nobody who is a friend, or no one be there for them - which often makes international students feel isolated and alone.

"There is one thing that I love about them so much, is that they work so hard," he said.

"American students study hard too, but international students are working three times that hard."

Zindelo said he is also impressed by the way international students talk about their country.

"They make me dream of a different life and living a different life," he said.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY



CORRECTION: In the Feb. 5 Pioneer, the wrong photo was ran with the caption below. Above is the correct photo. Madison Pawnee, nursing major, listens to Daniel Mujuni, Christians on Campus staff, center, and club President Aletheia Kennedy, right, as she signs up for more information about the organization. “I came to talk to them because I would like to know more about God on campus and church,” Pawnee said, “I think more Christians should be at school and be able to talk about God.” Christians on Campus meet for their Solid Ground ministry series 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. every Monday in the Main Building room 1X5. They also meet for Bible studies from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. every Tuesday in the Main Building room 1C5. For more information text 405-314-7739. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

G.E.T. a job Tuesday, Feb. 23

Employers from around the Oklahoma City metro will discuss employability skills and career opportunities within their companies from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23 in College Union room 2. For more information contact the OCCC Graduation Employment and Transfer Office at 405-682-7519.

Spend a day with the FAA Friday, Feb. 26

Students can shadow employees of the Federal Aviation Administration from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26. Students who are US citizens are welcome to join in for shadow day at the FAA headquarters in Oklahoma City. Shadowing students can be any major, but must be U.S. citizens. The registration deadline is Friday, Feb. 19. For more information contact employment services at 405-682-7519.

Ping pong tournament Friday, Feb. 26

Anyone is welcome to participate in the ping pong tournament from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, in the Recreation and Fitness Center. The tournament, and all Intramural sports, are free to all students, faculty and staff. For more information email Matthew Wright at matthew.j.wright@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.

Popular dogs-in-prison program in jeopardy

GEORGIA WOOD

Community Writer

Communitywriter@occc.edu

The dog-training program, Friends for Folks, at Lexington prison is at risk because of budget cuts in the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, despite being featured in the popular film “Dogs of Lexington,” produced by OCCC students.

The documentary focuses on the dogs and their inmate trainers at the prison about 20 miles south of Norman.

The film was produced by faculty and students of OCCC’s Film and Video Production program in 2013.

Friends for Folks allows rescue dogs to become pets or service animals after being taught obedience skills by inmates at the prison. The program is supported by outside donors who pay for dog food and other supplies, according to the film.

Lee Fairchild, program coordinator and case manager at Lexington Assessment and Reception Center, said he can no longer spare the time to coach the inmates in training the dogs.

“With the shortage of staff and my case load being doubled, I am not able to do as much with it as I used to,” Fairchild said, “I am doing my best to keep it open.”

Terri Watkins, spokeswoman for the corrections department, said the program is still in place for now.

“I don’t know where that information came from,” Watkins said, “I understand Lee’s frustration.”

She pointed to the state revenue shortfall as a factor in the decision-making process.

“I mean there is a \$900 million budget downfall going on, but the program is still being utilized. Even though no one is overseeing it, the prisoners are still working with the dogs.”

Watkins said no new dogs are being taken into the program.

Lisa Billy, Oklahoma State Representative confirmed that. “There’s a long waiting list of dogs trying to get into that prison, but because of budget cuts they cannot take them in,” she said.

Since “Dogs of Lexington” was filmed, the program has taken off all over the country, according to the Dogs of Lexington website. It has spread into other

parts of the country and the world, adopting names such as Paws in Prison, Paws Forward, and Paws for People.

Dr. John Otto, a Norman veterinarian who works with the Friends for Folks program, touted the benefits in teaching patience and other skills to the incarcerated dog trainers that help them function in society after leaving prison.

“Because of budget cuts, the program has become more of a kennel,” Otto said sadly.

He said he believes Fairchild lacks the manpower he needs to make the program as successful as it could and should be.

Greg Mellott, OCCC film and video professor and producer and director for the film, expressed his regret that the seemingly successful program could fall victim to budget cuts.

His students filmed the movie, often creeping along the ground with their cameras to get a dog’s-eye perspective.

He said the program was based on Dominican nun Sister Pauline Quinn’s Washington State test version. Quinn’s vision was to place dogs in the hands of qualified prisoners, and give the dogs a chance at adoption. After the film was

released, other prisons decided to buy into the concept.

“The program has raised over \$385,000 for a new kennel and classroom facility to be built at the Mabel Bassett Women’s Prison in McCloud,” Mellott said.

At Mabel Bassett, they are set to break ground on a new facility after Dr. Derrill Cody donated \$100,000. Mellott said, as a result of watching the “Dogs of Lexington” movie, Cody said he felt he needed to do something.

“The program has caught on in many states,” Mellott said. “Arkansas, Texas, California, West Virginia, Tennessee, to name a few, have started programs since 2012 in their state prisons. It has even spread into the UK as of 2015.”

He said it would be unfortunate to know the program that inspired the film has been abandoned in the face of Oklahoma’s state budget crisis.

“Dogs of Lexington” can be watched on YouTube. For more information about the Film and Video Production program at OCCC, contact Mellott at gmellott@occc.edu.

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

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

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Nothing Will Ever Be the Same.

Smoking gave me throat cancer at 39. Now I breathe through a hole in my throat and need this machine to speak.

—Rosaldo Martinez

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FOR HELP CALL 311

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, Thomas F. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner



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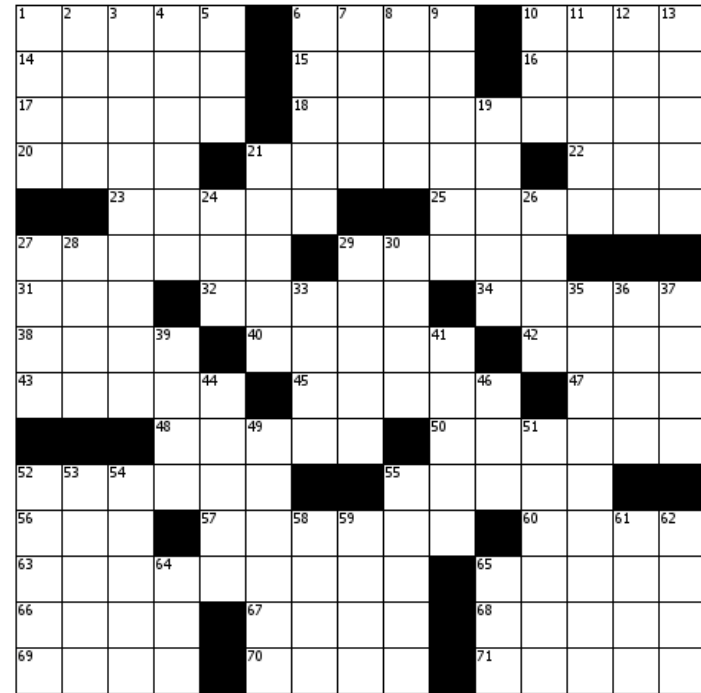
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WEEKLY CROSSWORD

Across

1. Trumpet's sound
6. Borders
10. Price markers
14. Fine fabric
15. Rocker ____ Clapton
16. Milky gem
17. Sworn statements
18. Hawaiian export
20. Yew or willow
21. Gambling hall
22. Baby's seat
23. Moe and Curly's pal
25. Writer ____ Hemingway
27. Nova ____
29. Italian staple
31. Brief sleep
32. Growl
34. Civic group (abbr.)
38. Operated
40. Deport
42. Hurt
43. Fundamental
45. Faithful
47. Support
48. Wrangler
50. Walk cautiously
52. Of the mail
55. Railroad station
56. Pierre's buddy
57. Sailor
60. Williams and Kennedy
63. Custodian
65. "Ave ____"
66. Now and ____
67. River sediment
68. List entries
69. Caroled
70. Abolishes
71. Lymph ____



Down

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Spot of ink | 21. Long-legged bird | 46. Cup edge |
| 2. Teller of falsehoods | 24. Oil-drilling equipment | 49. Make glad |
| 3. Gazelles | 26. Space agency (abbr.) | 51. Couch ____ |
| 4. Microwave again | 27. Deliberate slight | 52. Treaties |
| 5. Printers' measures | 28. Spanish house | 53. Nebraska metropolis |
| 6. Settle a debt | 29. Preceding | 54. Warning signal |
| 7. Purple flower | 30. Associate | 55. Pub missiles |
| 8. Short skirt | 33. Car part | 58. Similar |
| 9. Play parts | 35. Dispersed | 59. Merge |
| 10. Blouse | 36. Akron's state | 61. Roosevelt coin |
| 11. Orchard fruit | 37. Hand over | 62. Brashness |
| 12. Parties | 39. Soil | 64. Liverpool's country (abbr.) |
| 13. Nodded off | 41. Consumed | 65. Hr. part |
| 19. Heart artery | 44. ____ Guard | |



<http://pioneer.occc.edu>

Winner winner, chicken chili dinner

OMAR GONZALEZ
News Writing

The new champion chili cook at OCCC is ...

Professor Reeca Young, program director for the Occupational Therapy Assistant program, Young won for her Kickin' Chicken Creamy White Chili.

The annual chili cook-off is sponsored by the Faculty Association as a fundraiser for student scholarships. It was held Feb. 3 just outside the general dining area on campus.

"Incredibly successful" is how Librarian Tricia Sweany described the event. She is a member of the FA Scholarship Committee and co-chaired the event. The exact amount raised was \$1,128.74, which surpassed expectations.

This time around, competition was as fierce as it was delicious. Ten entries were made available, with humorous names such as "The Force Awakens" and "Not Bob's Chili."

The crowd favorite, it seemed, was the latter, as it sold out fast, said Librarian

Ann Raia, the other event co-chair.

When the winners were announced, Young expressed her surprise at taking first place.

"I was shocked, honored, and excited to hear I had won," she said "All of the entries smelled and looked delicious!"

"My recipe was a combination of a couple I found through searching the Internet, and tweaked a little to my family's particular taste preferences."

Second place was awarded to Professor Jeremy Fineman for his Four Day Chili, a spicy vegetarian concoction. Fineman teaches art.

"The origin of the recipe is made up as I go," Fineman said in an email. "I always cook a vegetarian chili, so I experiment with different veggies, tasting along the way and adding more spices when necessary."

"I was surprised to win, as I thought most people fancy a meat-based chili."

Third place was awarded to biology Professor Raul Ramirez and his Spicy Beer Chili. The winners unseated

the perennial chili champion, physics Professor Tad Thurston, who served as a cook-off judge this year.

The hallways were jam packed on cook-off day, drawn by the enticing aromas of homemade pots of chili that complemented a brisk cool day, full of sunshine. Student volunteers from history Professor Jeff Carlisle's class served customers hot dogs, chili and baked goods, all donated by faculty and staff.

Carlisle chairs the FA Scholarship Committee.

Sweany recalls her initial reaction to the good sales: "Whoo-hoo!"

Sweany said usually they can expect anywhere from \$600 to \$700 raised on food, with other events from the past, such as a silent auction, adding to the total. This time, their expectations were nearly doubled.

"We're happy with that," Sweany said. "I think it's the most we've made on food."

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



Tad Thurston, professor of physics and one of the judges of the OCCC chili contest, is next to the 2016 winner, Director of Occupational Therapy Assistant program, Reeca Young for her chili. *Melissa Sue Lopez/Pioneer*

Stormchaser meteorologist back at OCCC

TREY BELL

Staff Writer

staffwriter2@occc.edu

Former OCCC student and KWTW News9 Chief Meteorologist David Payne spoke to about 240 students Feb. 9 morning in the College Union about severe weather and weather safety.

Payne discussed previous severe weather events, a forecast of this year's severe weather season, and how to be safe in severe weather.

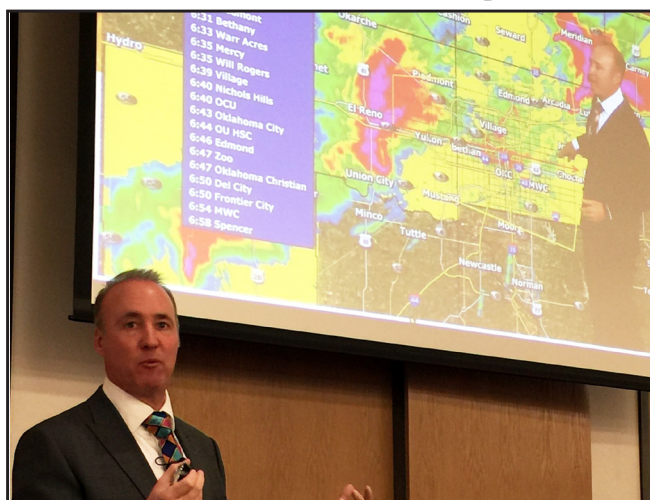
He opened by talking about last year. "We had a lot of severe weather," Payne said, "We peaked intensity on May 6."

Severe weather can happen anywhere, Payne said.

"The official definition of a 'Tornado Emergency' is a large, violent tornado," he said, "but in all situations, it's an emergency, and it's a tornado."

Payne focused also on flash flooding.

"Areas that didn't flood 15 years ago are now having flooding problems," Payne said.



"It only takes 6 inches of water to knock an adult off their feet, and just 2 feet to pick up a car," he said.

He said flooding kills more people in the U.S. annually than any other weather event.

Payne also gave the audience an outlook into this year's spring.

"I think our severe weather season will be a little delayed this year, but not by much," he said.

Payne closed by giving the audience severe weather safety tips, "You always want to be on the lowest level of a building. If you don't have a storm shelter, go to an interior closet or bathroom."

He said it's also important to cover as much of your body as possible to protect against flying debris.

Payne said that when severe weather strikes, viewers can stream News9 severe weather coverage right on their smartphones.

He said the most important advice he can give is to always have a plan.

"Pay attention to the weather year round," Payne said. "Get things lined up now so when it does occur, you're ready. We're always going to have severe weather in Oklahoma."

To learn more about severe weather and what to do when it strikes, visit News9's website at news9.com/weather.