



# PIONEER

## Cafeteria offers students food for thought

RAVEN DIAZ

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Though most college students don't receive the recommended four and a half to five servings of fruits and vegetables a day, Oklahoma City Community College Cafeteria, Food Service Director Dave Cordova is working on a turnaround.

The cafeteria is branching out with more organic, cultural, and locally grown foods, Cordova said.

"We are trying to offer healthier options," he said. "The management before me may not have offered healthy food, but that is something I am trying to change."

Students may soon see more weekly specials that include a grilled chicken caesar wrap, grilled veggie wrap with hummus, a veggie pizza, or a grilled veggie panini.

Cordova said he wants to give students more of a restaurant feel when they order from the cafeteria. He said the food should be more representative of the diverse culture on campus so he is working to bring traditional dishes from other cultures to the menu.

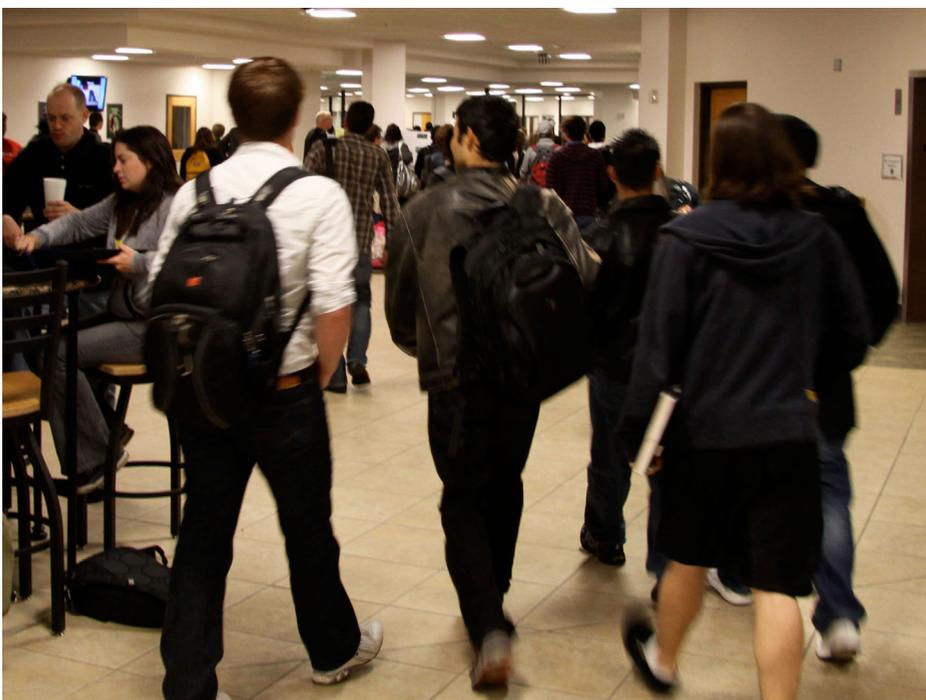
For Hispanic Heritage Month, Cordova has panned out a whole menu featuring authentic Hispanic foods



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Food Service Director Dave Cordova serves up hot, wholesome food. *Aaron Cardenas/Pioneer*

## Budget balanced with spending cuts, new programs



Main Building bustles with activity on a busy day. *Pioneer Archive Photo*

VICTOR POZADAS

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Despite cutbacks in state appropriations, the Oklahoma City Community College budget has been stabilized through spending reductions and some creative financial strategies, the college's chief budget officer said.

In an August 15 meeting, Chief Financial Officer John Boyd addressed the Board of Regents on the Year-End Budget Report. Boyd said the college was "diligent in pursuing reductions to expenses" during the past year.

"I'm pleased to stand here today and say that we ended up the year with a positive margin," he said.

Boyd said school administrators have taken steps to get the budget where it needed to be. Those steps

included selling shares of Prudential stock that were owned by the school. "The time was right to go ahead and move on that, so we sold those shares in fiscal year sixteen," he said.

Boyd said fee collections exceeded expectations for the year. "The college did take proactive measures under the leadership of president Steward and with the leadership of the president's cabinet we reduced our non-personnel budgets at least three times last year looking for ways to cut our costs"

Boyd said the college maintained its accounts receivable at a 15 percent level. "We've exceeded our plan by over seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars," he said.

The child development center saw an increase in enrollment, which con-

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# EDITORIAL/OPINION

EDITORIAL | Oklahomans already have every right to ranch and farm

## Right to farce: SQ 777 is a bad idea



Come November 8, Oklahoma voters will have the opportunity to vote on State Question 777, also known as the “Right to Farm Amendment”.

The ballot title reads:

“This measure adds Section 38 to Article II of the Oklahoma Constitution.

The new Section creates state constitutional rights. It creates the following guaranteed rights to en-

gage in farming and ranching:

- The right to make use of agricultural technology,
- The right to make use of livestock procedures, and
- The right to make use of ranching practices.

These constitutional rights receive extra protection under this measure that not all constitutional rights receive. This extra protection is a limit on lawmakers’ ability to interfere with the exercise of these rights. Under this extra protection, no law can interfere with these rights, unless the law is justified by a compelling state interest – a clearly identified state interest of the highest order.”

The ballot question seems simple. In the way it is written, a “yes” would be in favor of the right to farm and ranch. A “no” would be against the right to farm and ranch.

Right? Wrong.

The bounds of SQ 777 go much deeper than the simple right to farm. The state question is misleading, as Oklahomans already have every right to farm and ranch.

SQ 777 doesn’t grant any right that does not already exist.

Instead, the proposal bans the Oklahoma Legislature from passing any laws that interfere with agricultural and ranching practices. This means that Oklahoma ranchers and farmers would be free from safety regulations regarding water and food quality, laws prohibiting inhumane animal practices, and prevention of environmental damage.

The amendment would also make it much more difficult for lawmakers to apply any basic ethics towards farming and ranching.

Supporters of SQ 777 say that “the Right to Farm protects family farmers and ranchers and ensures that we can pass on our farms to the next generation.”

The Oklahoma Right to Farm website says the Right to Farm will help Oklahomans “by giving farmers and ranchers another ‘tool in their toolbox’ to defend themselves from unwarranted laws and regulations in the future.” On the rhetoric of “helping the family farmer,” SQ 777 has built a network of support with large organizations that have historically harmed the family farmer.

Family farmers did not write the Right to Farm question.

The language of SQ 777 was lifted from a model written by the American Legislative Exchange Council, also known as ALEC, in 1996, and then finalized in 2013.

ALEC is a conservative group that writes pro big-business bills to lessen regulations on American industries and maximize business profits. Missouri, Nebraska and North Dakota have had similar Right to Farm initiatives on their ballots, each with models from ALEC.

An overlooked, included right of SQ 777 is the widened allowance of foreign countries to purchase more American land than before. If SQ 777 passed, it would be much harder for Oklahoma to pass any laws preventing the sale of land to foreign countries. This does not support local Oklahoman family farmers.

In 2015, Australia blocked a \$250 million sale of 22 million acres to China. New Zealand also blocked a \$57 million sale of a farm to China. Under SQ 777, any foreign buyer could say their rights were being infringed upon by Oklahoma not allowing the sale. 325,605 acres of Oklahoma land are currently owned by foreign investors.

From 1992 to 2012, the hog industry in Oklahoma increased rapidly. However, the number of hog farms shrunk by 43 percent. This shows the reach of big-business in Oklahoma farms and ranches.

The data also shows that fewer and fewer small farms can provide products that compete with larger corporations.

In addition, the move to the corporate farm coincides with the increase of foreign interest in American agricultural and farming.

The Food for 9 Billion Project reports that one in four pigs raised in the U.S. are now Chinese owned.

The Oklahoma Right to Farm group is supported by Tom Buchanan, President of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. Buchanan has a long history of being against the Humane Society of the United States, especially after voters in California prohibited small cages for egg-providing hens.

Commenting on SQ 777, Buchanan said, “The regulatory environment is becoming more restrictive on a daily basis. What we’ve seen, even in the Oklahoma Legislature every year, is legislation that is not friendly to agriculture.”

The Oklahoma Right to Farm website calls the Humane Society an “extremist group” that wants to prohibit “all meat eating”.

A vote in favor of SQ 777 gives free reign to big farms and ranches to treat animals poorly without oversight in their livestock practices. In 2013, an Oklahoma hog farm was exposed for striking piglets on concrete floors to kill them, using a practice called “blunt-force euthanasia”. Under SQ 777, any attempts to ban the abusive euthanasia practice could “infringe”

on the rights of the hog farm’s “ranching practices”.

SQ 777 also protects the rights of puppy mill owners. The definition of “livestock” included in SQ 777 includes “any animal or bird in captivity.” Former University of Oklahoma Football coach Barry Switzer recently came out against SQ 777. In a public letter Switzer wrote, “If SQ 777 passes, it will make it easier for puppy mills to exist. Puppy mill operators will be able to classify themselves as farmers and their animals as livestock.”

“Puppy mills are atrocities where neglect, disease and abuse is rampant. Animals are caged 24-7 and some live their entire lives in wire cages, never once touching or rolling in the grass,” Switzer said. “Adult dogs are often debarked, which involves ramming a steel rod down their throats to rupture their vocal cords.”

Switzer also commented on the misleading nature of SQ 777, saying corporations are “using wholesome imagery of family farmers and Oklahoma landscapes to lure votes to change our state constitution.”

“SQ 777 isn’t about family farmers,” Switzer said. “It’s about big-time corporate agriculture wanting fewer and fewer restrictions on how they operate.”

The amendment provided by SQ 777 states that agriculture is a “vital sector of Oklahoma’s economy.” However, agriculture in Oklahoma provides less than two percent of Oklahoma’s GDP. If SQ 777 passes, the Kirkpatrick Foundation says “this amendment would give this one sector of the state’s economy priority rights over other sectors that are considered by some more critical to the income, employment, and security of Oklahomans.”

The fears of many small farmers in favor of SQ 777 are ones of big businesses shutting down their farms, regulations forcing expensive changes on their ranches, and unreasonable laws being placed on the shoulders of Oklahoma farmers.

The Right to Farm group capitalizes on those fears with a preemptive lure, saying the amendment “gives farmers and ranchers a degree of protection that they do not have now and that they need for future protection.”

If passed, this amendment will provide protection to businesses and farms that operate with cruel and unsafe practices to maximize profits, not the small farmers the amendment is supposed to be for.

As voting Oklahomans, it is our responsibility to uphold our support of local farmers, responsible farming, humane animal treatment and safe agricultural practices by voting NO on SQ 777.

—SOPHIA BABB  
EDITOR

# COMMENTS AND REVIEWS

**FASHION REVIEW |** Airforce inspired fashion making a comeback

## Try a trendy jacket that's the bomb for Fall

Fall is right around the corner with cool weather, pumpkin spice everything, and the fashion trend of wearing layer upon layer of clothing.

Finding the perfect jacket to roll into winter with can be difficult, but never fear – Cotton On is here to save the day with its trendy, affordable clothes.

I've seen YouTube's, fashion blogs, and magazines raving about the bomber jacket this year.

Sure enough, I had to have one of my own.

Bomber jackets have roots dating back to the 1930s, and they are making their way back into the fashion world now.

Appearing in Kanye West's Yeezy Fall 2015 fashion show, bomber jackets began to thrive again last year.

Celebrities and fashion gurus all over support the bomber movement.

So, according to the fall trend report, bomber jackets are in and Cotton On has a quality low cost bomber jacket.

Cotton On's Retro Sport Bomber jacket is a great buy for just \$39.95.

The jacket looks like Kylie Jenner's and Selena Gomez's at a fraction of the cost.

The fabric is a soft polyester with wonderful cotton varsity stripe and detailing that gives the feel of a high school letterman's jacket combined

with a side of chic.

The bomber jacket can be paired well with anything from a t-shirt and jeans, a skater skirt and a crop top or a T-shirt dress with a pair of Chelsea Boots.

There is no doubt that this layering piece is going to be worn several times this fall.

Though Cotton On's particular jacket is versatile and fits well to the body, it's not without its minor drawbacks.

For example, the product is not offered in all sizes.

Also, for those of us who have long arms, the sleeves will be a bit on the short side. This is okay, because the sleeves can be scrunched up to give the jacket a little more character.

In spite of those two minor detractions, this bomber jacket is still a great buy for a quality price.

Be the bomb with your bomber jacket for the fall and winter.

**Rating: A**

—RAVEN DIAZ  
STAFF WRITER



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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 reserves 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>.



USAO Theatre student Austin Artus performs an improvisational acting exercise called “This is Not a Bottle” during an audition. *Victor Pozadas/Pioneer*

## My venture into theater: a writer’s perspective



**VICTOR POZADAS**  
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In a past life, dance took almost all my after school evenings. The school dance company I was involved with practiced for shows and performances all around South America. Bolivian Folkloric dance was a very big part of my life, and having danced

for about eight years made me very familiar with the stage and the spotlight.

But that was a long time ago and I never intended to enter the spotlight again.

A few weeks ago, I caught wind of the auditions happening for two new theatre pieces and I thought it would make an interesting story to follow. I wrote the story with the intention to inform students on how to get involved in the new and thrilling productions that are being developed, but little did I know how deep my involvement would get.

I spoke with Oklahoma City Community College Theatre Professor Brent Noel a couple of weeks ago about the upcoming auditions and got the ‘okay’ to attend to talk to students and take photos for the story.

I let him know what the arts meant to me, I want to write interesting and compelling stories showcasing college productions and the work students are putting in.

As I entered the theater, memories rushed back to me once I talked to University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma Theatre Arts Professor Katie Davis who was prepping the exercises for the students on stage.

I said hello to Brent and Katie. I told Katie how I was excited to get started. I still smile when I think about what she said next.

“If you want to cover this, you have to audition,” she said.

The room stared for a brief moment to wonder what my response would be.

“Sure,” I said with hesitation. I accepted Katie’s challenge.

Theatre was something that was always around me and I’ve always applauded and praised it from the stands. Never once had I thought “Hey, I can do that.”

I mean that in the best way possible. I’m sort of a shy kid and I know that there are people much more qualified to perform in a way directors can be proud of. There is a very different type of rhythm that goes into acting.

However, as a guy who had no ties to the people and culture of theatre here at OCCC, I felt out of place.

I walked five rows behind the crowd to set my backpack and camera bag down to prepare for the

pictures I needed for my story. I was excited, nervous, and scared, all at the same time. There’s probably a word in German or Japanese for how I was feeling at the time.

Davis told everyone to take the stage and make a giant circle to start the audition. I felt like I was on autopilot. I just put the “I’m a journalist and I’m here to work” mask on and it helped me ease into talking about why I was auditioning.

I got through the exercises and drills easily enough. There were more spontaneous games, for example “This is Not a Bottle”, where I wanted to sit back and study the actions and gestures of the rest to understand how I could be more like them.

USAO Theatre student Austin Artus took the bottle with confidence and held it against his face. He gazed through the bottle with one eye and people clapped with small whispers that said, “telescope”. He set the bottle near his feet and bowed in all directions before running back to his spot in the circle.

I saw a pattern in the characteristics of a lot of the students who did well in the exercises. They seemed more open, more outgoing, and clearly had more experience than I.

I remember speaking to OCCC Theatre major Kala Anderson. She had this look when talking about her past work. With several roles in several productions

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# Auditions: moving moments from tryouts



Katie Davis addresses auditioners. *Victor Pozadas/Pioneer*

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under her belt, it was clear that she had a knack for acting.

I concentrated on getting good photos for the story and soon discovered that I was genuinely enjoying the moment.

One of the tougher exercises was saying something heartbreaking or something heartwarming. What affects you in such a deep emotional level says quite a bit, without saying much at all. When it came my turn to speak I knew exactly what I wanted to say.

“Indifference is what breaks my heart,” I said. “There’s nothing more heartbreaking than seeing someone crying and people ignoring it. Just walking by and doing nothing is what breaks my heart.”

I guess I opened up a bit.

Once the audition wrapped up, the next step was heading to Chickasha on August 25 for the second round of auditions. I’ve never been to USAO or even Chickasha, so it was a bit of a trip.

Settling down and seeing familiar faces was nice, even though I knew none of their names. Theatre people have a way of being extra friendly which helped get conversations going.

I never planned on showing up to the callback. I never planned on being so invested in a group of strangers and an art medium I’d only ever witnessed from afar. This was happening.

A few games and exercises in, there was one exercise that called for everyone to get in a semi-circle facing the audience seats. Katie called for six people, including myself, to get in the center and dance alone. Thank goodness my dance years came back.

I held my imaginary partner in classic ballroom pose and just went for it. People stood and thought of what to do while I took my strides through them.

Being outgoing didn’t seem so bad now.

I studied the approach that the rest took when it came time to recite a monologue that was assigned by Katie in the first audition. Inspired by “Cyrano”, where his love falls for another, we had

to imagine what he would say or do if he came back after the events of the play in a minutes length.

I remember being enamoured with USAO Theatre major Kylie Yount and her speech. She took the monologue to dark places full of regret and emotion for a love that was never there. I took a couple of pictures and was moved to just set my camera down to listen to the rest of her story.

I imagine it being hard to understand the look or feel of vulnerability and grief, but Kylie spoke with such ease for what

seemed like someone on the verge of tears, it made everything seem organic and intimate. Applause rang through the theatre.

The audition was over in what felt like a heartbeat. Katie Davis said the cast list was going up the next day and apologized for not having room for everyone in her vision of “Cyrano”. Brent Noel congratulated all of us and wished us well to see if we could be part of “The Cop in the Head”.

Getting cast to have a part in “The Cop in the Head” was never something I expected. It seemed like such a farfetched goal, I didn’t even realise the possibility.

The first rehearsal came days later. Some of those familiar faces came back to create a diverse and well rounded cast. Being included was just the cherry

on top.

We went through “Columbian Hypnosis” just to get warmed up. It’s described pretty well in the first story I wrote, but to sum things up there’s a “leader” and a “follower”. The leader puts one hand about six inches away from the followers face, and it’s the follower’s job to keep that distance at all times no matter how crazy the leader’s hand moves. After some basic games, we got to the formal introductions to get to know each other a bit better.

“Say your name, where you’re from, and something interesting about yourself,” Brent Noel said to the group after instructing everyone to sit down in a circle.

What followed was almost a therapeutic session of just talking. I dealt with culture shock and major homesickness when I moved to Oklahoma from Bolivia when I was fifteen after living there for ten years. I had to find it in myself to call this place full of strangers “home”, but it was nothing compared to the stories I heard from my fellow cast members.

I got to know people who have gone through multiple tours to the middle-east, deal with bipolar disorder on a day-to-day basis, live with a pacemaker to stay alive, and have even gone through brain surgery while losing all memory of grade 3 through 8. It was an experience to say the least. That was day one.

I didn’t know what I was getting myself into when I took the student auditions story, but there is something special to look forward to in the production that will be assembled here at OCCC from what I can tell.

I will be playing a role in the upcoming production of “The Cop in the Head” that premieres at the Bruce Owen Theater October 6-8. “Cyrano de Bergerac” will premiere November 10 -12 at USAO and November 17-19 at OCCC.



Kylie Yount, USAO Theatre major, delivers a deeply personal monologue. *Victor Pozadas/Pioneer*



Original concept art. *Provided*

## Capitol Hill Center renovations near completion

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What was once just a vision will soon become a reality as the renovation of Oklahoma City Community College's new Capitol Hill Center continues in south Oklahoma City.

The Capitol Hill Center is expected to open in the fall of 2017.

The off-site branch of OCCC aims to provide students with professional and personal skills needed for

the job market and future career goals, said Doralicia Sandoval, acting Capitol Hill Center administrator.

"We're here to provide resources to our community and it's a way to bring people together to learn," Sandoval said.

Having served about 1400 students and more than 12,000 visitors in fiscal year 2015, staff and students of Capitol Hill are ready to move into the new facility, said OCCC Vice President for Community and Workforce Development, Lemuel Bardeguez. Visitors include anyone who uses the facility, whether it's to type up a resume or attend a meeting in the facility's meeting space. The Capitol Hill Center serves as a community center for surrounding businesses and community members.

Presently, the center provides only non-credit courses such as basic, intermediate and advanced English as a second language classes, General Education Development classes, introduction to technology basics and more, Sandoval said.

Martha Ontiveros a

student at the Capitol Hill Center said taking English as a second language is the first step to bettering her life and the life of her two daughters. Like many, Ontiveros said she had a career back home in Durango, Mexico. Ontiveros was a preschool teacher.

Since arriving to this country 13 years ago, she decided to continue overcoming, Ontiveros said. "I want to learn English so I can communicate with others, with my daughters' teachers and one day be able to teach in this country."

Ontiveros said her next step is to obtain her GED at the Capitol Hill Center.

Since 2000, the Capitol Hill Center has been housed at what was previously the United Methodist Church at 123 SW 25th Street. The new facility will be located down the street at 325 SW 25th Street.

OCCC Executive Vice President, Steven Bloomberg said the decision to obtain a "permanent home" for the center was made for two major reasons.

"The growth in our programming has exceeded the space, so when completed, the new facility will provide more than 44,000 square footage of educational space for students and more importantly it will provide credit programs."

"Credit courses such as English Composition I, U.S. History, and political science will be offered," Bloomberg said. The purpose is to offer students a comfortable environment, a "gateway," during the first couple of semesters with the thought that students



see **CAPITOL HILL** on page 7

# Capitol Hill: credit courses planned at new location

*Continued from previous page*

would then enter the main campus to complete their certificate and degree programs.”

Bardeguetz said, in addition to adding credit courses, the new facility will continue to offer the current non-

credit programs such as introduction to technology basics in Korean.

Jyoung Tisher, a Capitol Hill Center student from South Korea, said she decided to take computer basics at the center. To her knowledge it's the only place that offers the course in her native language.

“I'm thankful that OCCC decided to offer this program in Korean,” Tisher said. “I like the teacher, everyone is so kind and the class size allows the teacher to give students more one on one help.”

As part of the community outreach programs, the Capitol Hill Center partners with Oklahoma City Public Schools to provide high school students with access to ACT workshops to prepare them for higher education. A summer program known as College for Kids is also offered to elementary students. Additionally, the new center will offer a community room and classroom to provide more than just educational services.

So far, the project has estimated cost of \$7 million, Bloomberg said.

Through a funding source called Tax Increment Financing (TIF), the City of Oklahoma City has contributed \$3 million to the project and the rest of the funds were from OCCC, Bloomberg said.

“We are eternally grateful for the help from the city,” Bloomberg said. “Without them it would have been difficult for us to complete the project.”

For more information on the different programs offered at the Capitol Hill Center, call 405 272-5140 or visit <http://www.occc.edu/>



# A look into the life of an OCCC freshman

**ERIKA FIERRO**

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Yesenia Melendez is studying to be a medical assistant. A freshman at OCCC, Melendez survived her first weeks as a college freshman.

The first days back on campus can be overwhelming and nerve-racking for any student, but for a new freshmen, those first weeks also represent the beginning of a new journey, a new world.

For Melendez the biggest fear was failing or quitting mid-semester.

Liseth Reyes, psychology major and Vice-President of the Hispanic Club on Campus, HOPE, said it's important for students, especially freshmen, to get involved on campus to build a support system.

"It's nice to be able to communicate and connect with others who are on the same journey as you," Reyes said.

Melendez said her parents are her support system but, she added, being a first generation Hispanic has its obstacles, too.

"My parents are encouraging and supportive but they can only do so much when it comes to college stuff," she said.

Veronica Lara, Melendez' mother, said she's excited her daughter is attending college and working to prepare a better future for herself.

"I'm very proud of Yesenia because I know how hard she worked to complete high school," Lara said.

Navigating through course registration,

financial aid, and book buying was a major task, Melendez said.

A co-worker and former OCCC student assisted her in making sure she was ready and helped teach Melendez how to access the college's Mineonline and Moodle learning systems.

Melendez said attending the school's Opening Day helped ease her nerves and the Academic Advising office assisted her with her class schedules.

She said OCCC was her choice of college because it offered a fast degree plan. "My goal is to get my associate's in medical assistant then get a good job," Melendez said.

At the midpoint of her first week Melendez said her expectations of coming onto campus did not meet actual experience -- and she got lost.

"I didn't expect the assignments and homework to be turned in through Moodle," Melendez said. "That was so different and something I'm going to have to get used to. It just feels like a different world."

Melendez said she's most excited to learn in the medical terminology course she is taking. "I was first inspired to pursue a career as medical assistant by my own doctors and nurses."

She also expects her math class to be fun.

"Professor Melody Johnson is super excited about the semester which made me really excited," she said.

Yesenia Melendez considers herself a survivor and she said she is determined to pass all her classes and join a club this semester.



Yesenia Melendez Aaron Cardenas/Pioneer

**Name: Yesenia Melendez**

**HOMETOWN: OKLAHOMA CITY**

**HIGH SCHOOL: CAPITOL HILL**

**MAJOR: MEDICAL ASSISTANT,  
FULL TIME**

**HOBBIES: PLAYING BASKETBALL,  
TRAVELING THE U.S.**

**FALL SEMESTER GOAL: PASS ALL  
COURSES, JOIN A CLUB ON CAMPUS**





Food Service Director Dave Cordova serves up hot, wholesome food. *Aaron Cardenas/Pioneer*

## Cafeteria: restaurant experience costs more

*Continued from page 1*

such as tamales, chimichanga with cilantro rice and beans and street tacos.

Cordova is not only adding new items to the menu, but also trying to perfect the menu.

“We plan on incorporating a stir fry station and a pasta station. The things we did in the past that were successful, we are going to bring those back,” he said.

Cordova said the new items on the menu require some changes in the cafeteria’s purchasing.

“We are working hand in hand with our produce company, Fresh Point Produce, to bring in more Oklahoma produce. We have a lot of things grown within the state, things like organic lettuces for the salad bar, different types of micro-greens, and maybe even made-in-Oklahoma burger patties,” Cordova said.

A recent report in the Journal of Nutrition and Education Behaviors showed that more than half of all college students in America experience food insecurity which leads them to seek out cheaper and less wholesome foods like those offered at fast

food chains.

Still, some OCCC students have voiced concerns about the costs of the cafeteria’s new menu.

The Leadership Council Chair, Derek Scarsella said healthy options from the cafeteria’s menu are too expensive.

“It’s almost \$10 dollars for soup and salad,” she said, “For college students, especially at OCCC, that’s an impossible fee.

TLC is a student elected representation of the student body here at OCCC. Clubs and organizations select students to represent their club. TLC meets once every month to address varying campus topics.

TLC student leaders have discussed the topic of healthy foods and their prices.

“The main concern that we have discussed has been mostly budget related, because that has kind of been the theme of this year,” Scarsella said.

She said the TLC board reviewed the prices and believe the prices “are not very realistic for the student body,” since most students attend OCCC because of the lower cost.

“So for TLC we normally meet every other week and we feed our attendees lunch. This semester we are having to drop down to feeding our attendees once a month, because we can’t afford the price of the food,” Scarsella said.

Psychology major, Linda Pope said she thinks the cafeteria tries to give students what they want, but she thinks more vegan options should be available since the cafeteria is trying to appeal to all the students.

Cordova said the cafeteria is ran like a business and it has to be maintained like a business.

“Prices are always going to be a concern, that is just part of life,” he said.

Cordova said he is always comparing prices to other food companies, and he tries to set the cafeteria prices at a conventional price.

“OCCC also buys their food in smaller batches, and serves fresh veggies, fruits, and meats opposed to the surrounding fast foods. So it may be pricier than the fast food chains, but the food is a lot more wholesome,” he said.

## Budget: funds coming from successful programs

*Continued from page 1*

tributed to the budget, he said.

Bonita Spinner, Director of the Child Development Center and Lab School, said numbers have increased after putting an emphasis on enrolling for infant care.

“We have to compete when it comes to preschool care because public schools offer the services for free. We opened up more infant care spots and have seen good results,” she said. “Out of seventy six possible spots for children, we are down to three for infants and five for pre-school.”

She said the college considers the center a revenue source, but they always put students first.

Spinner said “The first obstacle for a lot of students to get through college is child care, second is transportation. We can help and do all we can with one of those things for sure.” She said the facility expected enrollment in the Child Development Center to be at capacity by the end of August.

Boyd said the Professional Development Institute and its certification programs have also helped generate revenue.

“The Drone program at PDI has produced great revenue exceeding the expenses,” he said.

Professional Development Institute Director John Claybon echoed Boyd.

“In our drone academy, we’re running about four

to five classes a year and seeing five to ten students per class,” Claybon said.

The institute is also offering a “remote pilot test prep program” for the Federal Aviation Administration Part 107, which allows drone operators to fly their systems commercially.

Patrick Clanin, Drone Academy Program Coordinator, said the institute is running separate programs once every two weeks. It came with the announcement that the FAA changed their regulations on commercial drone use.

Claybon said that in less than two months, the Drone Academy has completed four or five courses that have been at full capacity.

# App keeps emergency assistance close at hand

GRACE BABB

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Personal safety and access to emergency assistance is getting a technological update at Oklahoma City Community College, with the introduction of the OCCC Shield App: the free safety app that allows students to contact the OCCC Campus Police Department directly from their smartphones.

OCCC Police Chief Daniel Piazza said the app was developed by 911 Cellular, a company that specializes in public safety software. The software can help pinpoint service calls in emergencies. 911 Cellular was one of the first companies in the United States to install a live indoor positioning system to increase the safety of college students. Their systems can provide responders with not only the floor the caller is on, but what room they are in as well.

"It will tell us who's calling, what building you're in, what floor you're on, and what room number you're at. That goes a long way. You wouldn't believe the amount of people who, in an emergency, don't know what building they're in, what room, what floor, or even what parking lot they're in. It saves a lot of time for us," Piazza said.

The interface of the app is efficient, simple, and easy to navigate. The set up is equally simple, Piazza said. It takes only about two minutes to fill in all the information fields, which include name, date of birth, emergency contact numbers, and medical information.

The app offers a wide array of safety services, including iReport, which allows students to send texts, photos, and videos of suspicious activity directly to the OCCC Campus Police.

"If you see a safety issue you can snap a photograph or a video and send it to us.

Dispatch can talk to you through text as well," Piazza said.

Other state colleges have introduced similar apps, and have had a positive response from students, as well as an increase in incident reports.

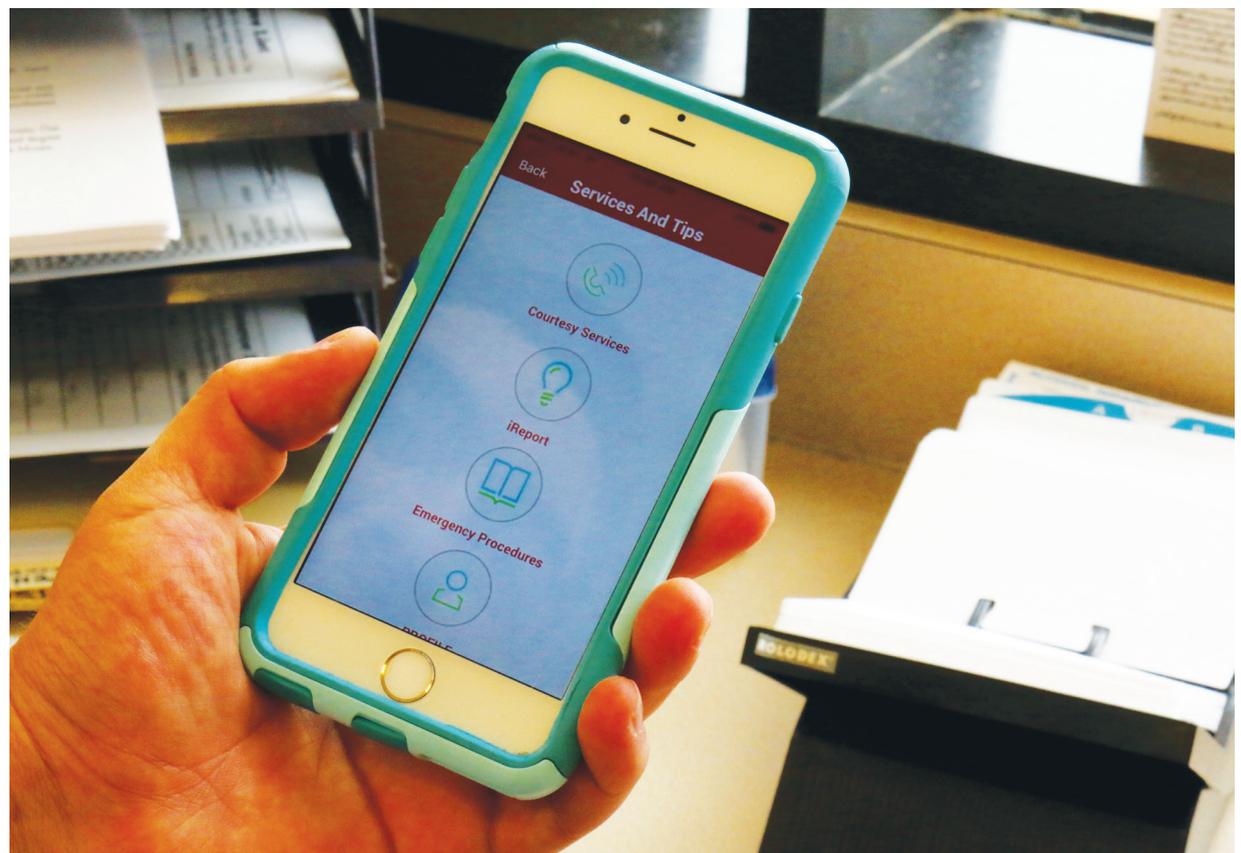
"This is the first time that we've actually had a way to report crimes anonymously, because sometimes a lot of people don't want to get involved. Hopefully that will encourage people to report crimes that they might not normally report to us," Piazza said.

Many students don't know where the call boxes are located at on campus.

"I've never had to use the call box, and I don't think I know anyone who has either," said Trey Gourley, a sociology major.

In addition to the general lack of knowledge about their existence, call boxes have accrued their share of problems that the campus police have had to deal with.

"The older call boxes were radio relay and operated off of solar power. Ice storms and extended periods of cloudy days would knock them offline. They were rarely used, and very expensive to replace. Looking at records back over the past three years, we found that they had never been used in an emergency," Piazza said.



Some students voiced concerns over the removal of the emergency call boxes, their main objections centered around the app's availability.

"Not everybody has the app or a smartphone so I think the call boxes remaining is a good idea in addition to the app," Devan Story, Poli-Sci major, said.

Fortunately for those concerned, the newer call boxes will remain, said Piazza.

"The newer call boxes around the Performing Arts center, John Massey center, and the FACE center are still in use. They're all staying in place and will stay active," Piazza said.

If a student has a non-emergency issue, they can press the non-emergency services contacts button that will connect them to the campus police non-emergency line. The campus police can offer assistance in unlocking or jump starting a vehicle, airing up a flat tire, or having an officer escort them to and from the building if needed.

"You don't even have to get out of your car. If you need a safety escort you can press the courtesy services button and connect directly to the campus police department," Piazza said.

The Friend Watch feature can be used outside on and off campus, at any time. It is a peer-to-peer safety check that helps friends keep an eye on each other in situations where they may feel unsafe. If the user does not check in with the app after a certain period of time, a group of friends that is designated by the user will receive notifications.

In addition to the safety features, the app includes the EMBARK bus schedules and campus maps.

The app can be found on the iTunes app store and is available on other smartphone platforms as well.

If you see suspicious activity or are in an emergency, you can use the OCCC Shield app to report it, or call the OCCC Campus Police Department directly at 405-682-7872 at any time.

## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

### Christians on Campus Events

Christians on Campus will host multiple events every week throughout the Fall semester. Bible studies will take place on campus Noon to 12:45 p.m. on Mondays and 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. on Tuesdays in room 1C5. OCCC students are also invited to join OU's Christians on Campus 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays in Norman and Sunday fellowship takes place 10 a.m. to noon in South Oklahoma City. For details, email [christiansoncampus.occc@gmail.com](mailto:christiansoncampus.occc@gmail.com) or text/call 405-314-7739.

### Voter Registration Sept. 12 - 13

Voter registration will be available in the Main Building from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. Students interested in participating in this service by registering voters can contact Student Life about working one or more shifts during the day. For information or to volunteer contact [studentlife@occc.edu](mailto:studentlife@occc.edu).

**All Highlights are due Monday by noon for inclusion in the next issue of the Pioneer. Please email your upcoming event details to [editor@occc.edu](mailto:editor@occc.edu) or stop in to the Pioneer office located in AH 1F2.**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Do you want to play some football?

If you are 18 years or older, come on out to the Yukon Bobcats semi-pro football team's tryouts.

Come prepared to impress in your shorts and cleats at the South end of the Yukon High School football stadium at 2 pm

Sunday, September 11.

For extra details feel free to call or text Heather Aaron (405) 875-3649.

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

### Furniture

**Cream colored sofa for sale from a pet friendly home!**

Length: 92"  
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Height: 36"

Sofa is approximately 10 years old and has some wear and some areas of sofa need to be cleaned. **\$125 OBO.**

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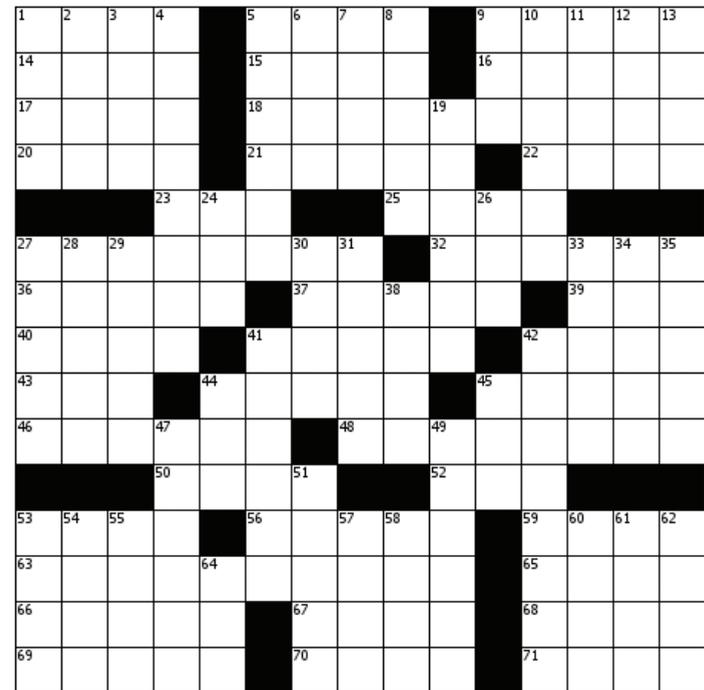
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## WEEKLY CROSSWORD

### Across

1. Peruvian capital
5. Land measure
9. Slogan
14. Dry
15. Midday
16. Pointer
17. Fizzy beverage
18. San Francisco bridge (2 wds.)
20. Small cut
21. Actress \_\_\_\_ DeGeneres
22. Mimicked
23. Asphalt
25. Daybreak
27. About-face
32. Cuban leader
36. Put forth
37. Bed supports
39. Bunny's jump
40. Knights
41. Embossed emblems
42. Greatest quantity
43. City trains
44. Postage mark
45. \_\_\_\_ Antoinette
46. Wobble
48. Gave out, as a task
50. Outlet
52. Pale
53. Outer covering
56. Tranquility
59. Bloodhound's clue
63. Available to anyone
65. Fishing string
66. Vegetarians' taboos
67. Faction
68. Peruvian Indian
69. Feel
70. Adam's abode
71. Ancient



### Down

- |                         |                          |                        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Young woman          | 24. Sculpture, e.g.      | 45. Soccer's ____ Hamm |
| 2. Treat pleats         | 26. No longer is         | 47. Articles of faith  |
| 3. Skirt length         | 27. Put back to zero     | 49. Norway's neighbor  |
| 4. Certain connectors   | 28. Banish               | 51. Brief              |
| 5. Enrages              | 29. Poem                 | 53. Totals             |
| 6. Chill                | 30. On a voyage          | 54. Leg hinge          |
| 7. Rock's partner       | 31. Andean animal        | 55. Persia, today      |
| 8. Brought to a close   | 33. Rose barb            | 57. Eager              |
| 9. Grown boy            | 34. ____ O'Donnell of TV | 58. Surrender          |
| 10. Kidney, liver, etc. | 35. Made a choice        | 60. Small dent         |
| 11. Mouse catcher       | 38. Swiss peaks          | 61. Formerly           |
| 12. Haul                | 41. Zebra marking        | 62. Peruse             |
| 13. Had bills           | 42. Southern shrub       | 64. Compass dir.       |
| 19. Legislates          | 44. Gender               |                        |

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# FACE Center investigation continues, officials say

SOPHIA BABB

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Oklahoma City Community College's Family and Community Education Center (FACE) is currently under investigation for the alleged changing of grades and test scores to receive federal grant money.

The investigation of employees involved in the Adult Basic Education Program continues, OCCC president Jerry Steward said in an email to staff and faculty. Steward sent the email on August 30.

"An investigation is underway by Oklahoma City Community College administration and the Oklahoma City Community College Campus Police Department following evidence of possible actions pertaining to the Adult Basic Education Program at the Family and Community Education Center," the president wrote.

Steward said the investigation "involves no academic programs at the college, and is limited to the Adult Basic Education program."

Steward's email follows a story published by the Oklahoman newspaper on Aug. 9 that said a FACE Center employee told authorities "her supervisor was altering/changing test scores and enrollment information, which would reflect inflated numbers in order to gain money for state and federal grants."



The story cited information from a search warrant affidavit written by an OCCC police officer and indicated that seven computers from the FACE were seized by the OCCC police department.

The search warrant was authorized by Oklahoma County District Judge Cindy Truong.

The warrant indicated there was possible "evidence related to embezzlement, fraud, and violations of the Oklahoma Computer Crimes Act" on the computers.

The OCCC employee who notified police said test

scores were being changed "in order to gain money for state and federal grants." Two OCCC employees have been suspended with pay as of August 11, the day the computers were seized.

The names of suspended employees have not been released, but Gloria Torres, OCCC's Director of Community Outreach and Education, told the Oklahoman newspaper "there has been an allegation of a supervisor-level member of my staff being involved in wrongdoing."

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