

Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



JULY 2021

CALENDAR

JULY

23 - Last Day to Withdraw from Summer Classes

28 - Last Day of Summer Classes

29-30 - Summer Semester Final Exams

29-30 - Summer Textbook Buyback, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. & 5-6:30 p.m.

29 - Fall Textbooks Go On Sale

AUGUST

17 - First Day of Fall Classes

30 - Last Day for 100 Percent Refund of 16-Week Fall Semester Classes

30 - Last Day for 100 Percent Refund on Fall Textbooks

ORDER FALL TEXTBOOKS ONLINE

Fall semester textbooks go on sale July 29. Save time and avoid the long lines by ordering your textbooks online.

Go to www.iecc.edu/bookstores to access instructions on ordering textbooks online through the college bookstores. Click on the bookstore you want to get started.

Both in-store pick up and home delivery may be selected during the time of purchase.

For more information, contact OCC Bookstore Manager Cristina Siegel at siegelc@iecc.edu.



WRC entrance gets makeover thanks to Cosmetology Club



Olney Central College's Cosmetology Club recently spruced up the landscaping at the entrance to the West Richland Center in Noble.

Members raise funds annually to attend a hair show in Nashville. Due to COVID restrictions, the club was unable to participate this year. Instead, the funds were used to purchase materials to landscape the walkway.

Cosmetology student Kaylee Powden was among those who assisted with the project.

"It was a fun experience, and I was happy to be a part of brightening up the look of the building," she said. "We get to leave something behind for future students to enjoy."

Cosmetology Program Director Courtney Meadows said the project provided a great team-building exercise for the students.

"It was great beautifying the facility and giving the building better curb appeal," she said. "It was a good community service project and it was nice to give back to the facility that is home to our program and students."



Heather Sandy earns first place in art competition, has piece accepted for Cedarhurst Biennial show

Olney Central College Instructor Heather Sandy's artwork, "Protect and Respect," won first place in the 2021 Art for Health and Unity Competition sponsored by *Unity in Action Magazine* in Champaign.

Sandy used both Procreate, an iPad app, and Adobe Illustrator to create the digital piece, which features four individuals walking together as the COVID-19 virus lurks in the background.

"This piece was created for the community of Champaign, which is a place I hold near to my heart," Sandy said. "It is important to me to create an inclusive environment within my artwork, in which I aim to include diverse repre-

sentation. I want my artwork to reflect the diversity of contemporary America, which means broadening the scope of representation beyond art historical traditions."

Sandy's work was displayed in a Virtual Art Show held during the Art, Science and Democracy Festival in Champaign. "Protect and Respect" will be used in marketing public health safety in the Champaign community.

"I am certainly happy and grateful to receive first place," Sandy said. "I am excited that the community will see my artwork, as it is my hope that 'Protect and Respect' will serve as a reminder to the public that we still need to consider our role in the pandemic and continue

protecting and respecting others. Once the pandemic hopefully subsides, we certainly still need to continue protecting and respecting others and lifting up historically underrepresented people and groups."

Another of Sandy's pieces, "The Floor is COVID," has been accepted into the 29th annual Cedarhurst Biennial juried show in Mt. Vernon.

"The Floor is COVID" is a combination of digital artwork and hand coloring. The line art was created in both Procreate and Adobe Illustrator. The image was hand colored using alcohol ink.

"This piece takes place on the Fourth of July and depicts one of my sisters

See Artwork, Page 3

OCC Baseball postseason honors

Olney Central College Baseball finished the 2021 season with a 34-21 record and was named an Academic All-American Team with a 3.24 team grade point average.

Several players earned postseason honors. Those named Great Rivers Athletic Conference All-Conference were:

- Peyton Meredith, who finished with a .419 batting average and 29 runs batted in;
- Nick Rucker, who hit .356, with 40 RBI;
- Sam Rowan, who batted .328, with 28 RBI and 21 stolen bases; and
- Reed Blaszczyk, who tallied a .329 batting average and 50 RBI.

Two players have opted to continue their baseball careers. Thomas King has committed to NCAA Division I Houston Baptist and Tucker Platt has committed to Indiana University-Kokomo (NAIA).

Former Blue Knights are also excelling on the diamond.

- Jerad Eickhoff returned to the major leagues with the New York Mets.
- Braden Scott signed with the Evansville Otters of the Frontier League.
- Jordan Cozart was chosen First Team in the Ohio Valley Conference at Murray State University, with a .318 batting average, 19 home runs and 58 RBI.
- Phil Archer was selected Honorable Mention in the Missouri Valley Conference, as well as First Team Scholar Athlete, at Southern Illinois University. He had a .322 batting average, 11 HR and 60 RBI.



OCC Basketball golf outing Aug. 28

The OCC Men's Basketball Program will host the Coach Gene Duke Memorial Golf Outing on Saturday, Aug. 28 at the Richland Country Club. Lunch will begin at 11 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

The cost is \$75 per player, \$300 per team. All proceeds from the event will

provide scholarships for player meal plans in the Knight Kafe.

Each participant will receive a door prize. Prizes also will be awarded for lowest tee-score, longest drive, longest putt, closest to the pin, and the fastest time on the speed hole.

A silent auction has been added to

this year's event. Items include autographed sports memorabilia, tickets for a college basketball game to watch former Blue Knight Elijah Farr play, an OCC basketball painting, and a Blue Knight gear basket.

For more information, contact Coach Casey Wyllie at 815-822-4073.

Artwork Continued from Page 2

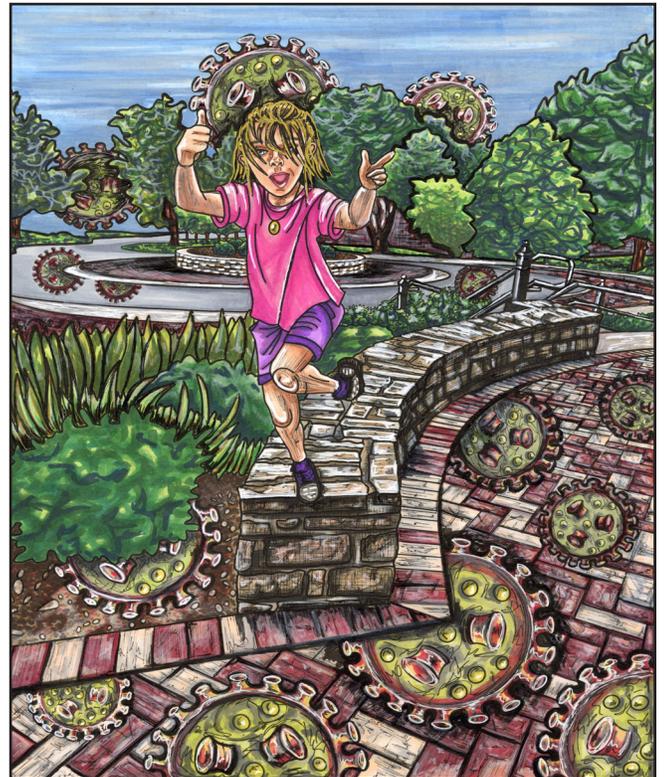
exploring a sparkler in the backyard," Sandy said. "COVID looms in the garden, but she is too busy to notice the impending threat."

The exhibit will open Aug. 7 at the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts, with awards to be presented that day. The show will run through Oct. 10.

"The art world is certainly difficult. I may enter 10 shows and get accepted to two or three," Sandy said. "I'm honored to have work accepted into the Cedarhurst Biennial. This particular piece took me roughly 40 hours to create, so I'm glad for it to travel a bit, see the world, and meet new people."

Sandy said both "Protect and Respect" and "The Floor is COVID" were inspired by her personal experiences as an artist during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"I have always had an interest in depicting the landscape, and during the pandemic I've noticed how much transformation has occurred in our physical and emotional sense of place due to the 'invisible villain' of COVID," she said. "In this series, I depict the virus quite literally as an oversized malicious force in hopes that if people could see the virus being transmitted, they would more carefully consider their role in preventing transmission."



MAC Plastics Manufacturing and OCC partner on apprenticeship program

MAC Plastics Manufacturing, Inc. is a custom plastic extrusion and injection molding company located in Olney. The company has made a name for itself as one of the leading plastics manufacturers in the United States, and takes pride in providing customers in a variety of industries with the highest quality products, on-time deliveries and top-notch customer service.

MAC Plastics specializes in extrusions, plastic injection molding, custom central vacuum tubing, fabrication, finishing, assembly, engineering and design. Its customer service includes not only quality engineering and production, but also finding solutions to other customer needs such as timing, packaging and warehousing.

Olney Central College reached out to MAC Plastics with an exciting opportunity to partner for an apprenticeship program through the Expanding Rural Apprenticeship Grant.

The idea of having an incumbent worker train on much needed job skills was very appealing to MAC Plastics. The location of the training was also attractive as MAC Plastics is located less than a mile north of OCC.

“We value our employees and believe investing in them greatly benefits our team. Education and training strengthen our employees’ skill sets and we are happy to help them grow as individuals as well as MAC Plastics team members,” said Brandan Snider-Michels, Assistant Plant Manager and Human Resources Manager.

MAC Plastics began its partnership with OCC with one incumbent worker HVAC apprentice. This program has allowed MAC Plastics to utilize training to upskill in an area that is beneficial to the company.

Although this first cohort is only one worker, the experience can provide a window into the benefits that apprenticeships can provide for the future and create a pipeline for expansion.

OCC Instructor Logan Marshall says, “Apprenticeship programs are great for students and employers alike. They allow an individual to earn an income while attending classes, applying what they are learning in a particular course directly into a work environment on a weekly basis. It is a benefit to the employer because they are able to train the student in their specific protocols and on their specialized equipment, this creates a better employee for them and shows an investment from the company in their employees.”

MAC Plastics Manufacturing is a dedicated and experienced provider of plastic products to customers throughout North America. MAC Plastics Manufacturing operates as a lean manufacturer and strives each day to meet the company’s vision and goals. The immediate benefit of partnering with OCC in an HVAC apprenticeship program is upskilling to the current workforce and building a strong partnership for the future as MAC Plastics continues to grow its own.



Above, Maintenance Manager Eric Billingsley (center) is serving an HVAC apprenticeship through MAC Plastics’ partnership with OCC. He is pictured with MAC Plastics’ Assistant Plant Manager and Human Resources Manager Brandan Snider-Michels and President/CEO Rod Michels. At right, Billingsley working in the plant.



UAT Program can aid businesses in applying drone technology

From agriculture and real estate to insurance and construction, businesses are employing drone technology to increase efficiency and safety, while reducing costs.

Locally, employees can gain the skills needed to successfully operate and incorporate drones into daily operations through Olney Central College's Unmanned Aerial Technology Program.

Students will learn how to fly various drones, plan missions for data collection and learn different photography and videography techniques. The coursework also prepares them to complete the Remote Pilot (Part 107) Certification.

Both a certificate and associate's degree are available.

For more information about the program, contact Advisor Vicki Thompson at 618-395-7777 or email thompsonv@iecc.edu. Fall classes start Aug. 17.

The Unmanned Aerial Technology Program is a Title III program that is supported in part by a five-year grant awarded to Olney Central College from the U.S. Department of Education effective October 1, 2018. The estimated total cost for all project activities is \$2,506,775 financed by the grant award of \$2,249,968 (90%) and \$256,807 (10%) by Olney Central College.



OCC Unmanned Aerial Technology Specialist Morgan Henton operates one of the drones students will be utilizing in the program.

PURSuing YOUR EDUCATION BUT STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY DUE TO COVID-19?

THE FINANCIAL AID TEAM IS HERE TO HELP!

Check out www.iecc.edu/PJ to find out how.

OCC Cosmetology accepting appointments

Want a new look for summer?

Get a makeover from head to toe at the OCC Cosmetology School at the West Richland Center in Noble.

Services include hairstyling, coloring, manicures, pedicures and much more!

Summer hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday.

Call 618-395-1169 to schedule an appointment.

For more information or to check services and prices, visit www.iecc.edu/occ/cosmo.