

Making wishes come true this week, and always



Photo by Kyle Stephens

Tin Nguyen donates a dollar to Make-A-Wish Club President Sareeta Patel. Cupcakes, CDs and DVDs and good karma were given to donators this week.

Building to open next summer

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Staff writer

The Ohlone campus is looking forward to the completion of the new Student Services Building that is coming together at an accelerating rate.

The building will provide a meeting room for the ASOC, new offices for all the student services such as admissions and financial aid and lastly more space and computers for the prospective students of Ohlone.

Currently, both floors have been laid out and the windows are in the process of being installed.

Ron Travenick, Vice President of Student Services, said that the new building will be a “one stop” place for students to get quicker and faster access to counseling and guidance. “The building is about 50 percent completed and our progress

is very fast, so we should be looking at getting the furniture and elevators in by the end of this year and early into the next year,” said Lucky Lofton, Director of Facilities.

The construction is being funded by Measure A proposed by the Citizen’s Oversight committee. A tour of the building was offered the Board of Trustees last week where they got a preview of the layout of the building, which is basically a long hallway that will not only be advantageous for traffic flow, but also be an easy access way for handicapped people.

Among the other offerings of the building is the connection bridge the construction team is working on that will link the building to Building 8.

Lastly, the Student Services Building will be fulfilling its last purpose and that is providing a social gathering environment for students to hang out.

By KYLE STEPHENS
News editor

Ohlone’s newly founded Make-A-Wish Club is holding a fundraising event in Building One this week to help children with life-threatening illnesses fulfill their dreams.

This week started out strong, and on Wednesday alone they had raised an estimated \$150. All proceeds are collected at the semester’s end and sent as a single big check to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The club is relatively young, started only this semester. At present there are 12 members and growing.

The foundation’s process for selecting candidates operates in four steps. The first is referral by a doctor, parents of the child or the child themselves. Candidates must be between 2.5 and 18 at the time of referral to be considered, and at that they must have a diagnosed life-threatening condition, “a progressive, degenerative or malignant condition that has placed the child’s life in jeopardy” according to the Make-A-Wish website. After these conditions are met, a team from the foundation is sent out to engage with the child to figure out what their wish is, and find how to make it come true. The experience by itself is very uplifting, and like the wish itself can help improve the quality of life for the child, even get them on the road to recovery. As the Make-A-Wish website describes it, “A wish experience is often more than a dream come true: It’s the catalyst that rekindles their belief in themselves and the promise of their future.”

The Make-A-Wish Club holds meetings Mondays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Room 8207. Inquiries can be made to the club’s email, MakeAWishClub@gmail.com.



Photo by Ankita Chhabra

The rotunda, from the inside of the Student Services Building.

Math makes cents in card counting seminar

By ERIC DORMAN
Editor-in-chief

It isn’t a trip to Vegas, but Friday’s Brown Bag might be the next best thing for anyone hoping to figure out how to get their money’s worth out of a game of cards.

Math Associate Professor Jeff O’Connell will explain the math behind card counting and examine the theories presented in the movie “21” to figure out just how possible it is to game the system at the seminar, which

will be held this Friday from 1 to 1:50 p.m. in Room 3201.

Card counting, refers to the process in which a gambler modifies his or her bet on a given hand based on the odds of a particular card appearing, calculated by the cards already played from the deck. “21,” a movie released in March detailing 6 MIT students’ foray into educated gambling, presented an example of the financial rewards possible through card counting: according to the movie (based on a true story) the students

made millions in Vegas. O’Connell will be bringing his personal blackjack set to the table to investigate some of the movie’s claims and figure out just how favorable the cards would have to be in order for those claims to work.

Though he will be examining the card counting from a math standpoint, O’Connell promised that the math would be accessible to all—the entire array of operations used during the talk will consist of addition, subtraction and division. The calculations will

mostly be centered around finding a value that will determine your average chance of making money on a given game (a value that is negative for most casino games).

While O’Connell cautioned that his talk is unlikely to make any audience members rich—after all, calculating the odds of success does not in itself guarantee success—he promised that students would have a good time. Between card playing, movie commentary and a bit of math, “it should be a lot of fun,” said O’Connell.

Debate forum

By ANDREW LE
Features editor

Ohlone College’s Speech and Debate team will moderate a forum for the Board of Trustees candidates today, in Room 3201 from 4 to 5 p.m.

This election, the Board of Trustees will have Trisha Tahmasbi, Bob Brunton and Nick Nardolillo’s seats up for grabs. Tahmasbi is vacating the Board of Trustees in order to run for Fremont City Council, leaving candidates David Sheen and Greg Bonaccorsi to run for her seat. Teresa Cox is challenging Bob Brunton and Nick Nardolillo is running unopposed.

The purpose of the forum is to provide a place for voters to get an idea of who to vote for and the admission is free.

Contact Kay Harrison for further information at kharrison@ohlone.edu.

Special event is really year-round

By KYLE STEPHENS
News editor

National Depression Screening Day is an event that in fact goes year round. The day proper is to draw specific attention to the issues surrounding mental health, how it affects students academically and otherwise, and the ways in which it can be dealt with very effectively.

Screenings were held in the Student Health Center, and were (and will continue to be) done via a page-long questionnaire that a health center worker goes over confidentially with the recipient. From there, options exist for counseling in the Health Center and beyond as well.

Depression and anxiety symptoms include an unusual loss of interest in pleasurable activities previously enjoyed, unusual trouble sleeping or eating, fluctuation in mood between feeling overly energetic to sad and hopeless, feeling keyed up and anxious all the time, and nightmares or reoccurring thoughts of something that happened in the past.

As said, all these symptoms are treatable. A fact the day always aims to make clear is that “it is possible to virtually eliminate the emotional and physical symptoms of depression

and anxiety disorders.” Further, “It is designed to call attention to the symptoms of depression and anxiety disorders and to promote the prevention, early detection and treatment of prevalent, under-diagnosed and treatable mental disorders,” according to Rosemary O’Neill, Coordinator of Personal Counseling and Life Coaching Services.

The Health Department offers a variety of services for students’ health. Depression and related mental problems can have a definite physical manifestation, and for these the center has various means to help students.

The Student Health Center is located in Building 16, the portables between the Smith Center and Building 4. Once the Student Services Building is completed, tentatively in May, the center will be moved there.

Counseling services are available in the health center for enrolled students, including health concerns and life coaching – Ohlone is one of the few colleges to offer such services. Referrals to other counselors in the area are also available.

One can also go to www.depression-screening.org for an online screening, and bring the results to the Health Center for analysis as well.