Ohlone student creates terror

Cole Berggren assembles his haunted house, named 'The Shaft,' in the backyard of his Fremont home on Tuesday. Berggren has been constructing the free Halloween haunted house for the past seven years. See story on page 4.

CHILD CARE CASE

No charges in Kidango incident

Staff member fired after inappropriate touching of child at Fremont facility

LOUIS LAVENTURE
Editor-in-chief

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office has decided not to file charges against the staff member accused of inappropriately touching a child July 31 at the Kidango facility on the Ohlone College Fremont campus, police said.

The Fremont Police Department and Kidango both conducted separate investigations into the incident.

"I don't know if there was a definitive conclusion about the specifics of the incident, but after we turned over our case to the District Attorney they decided not to go forward with pressing charges," Fremont police spokeswoman Geneva Bosques said.

The family involved in the incident was reluctant to help in the investigation, Bosques said.

Director of Development for Kidango Dan Trimble Continued on page 3

SCHOOL CLOSURE

CCSF facing shutdown

Louis Laventure
Editor-in-chief

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges could close the City College of San Francisco next year.

The commission announced in July that it would revoke City College's accreditation in July 2014 for failing to follow commission recommendations. Faculty unions, teachers and students filed a class-action lawsuit against the commission last month, saying the private agency has engaged in unfair and unlawful business practices, violated conflict of interest laws and flouted its own policies.

TRANSPORTATION STRIKE

BART finally reaches new deal with workers

Alizaib Lodhi
Staff writer

After negotiating for about six months, with two rail shutdowns and other threatened strikes, BART management and unions finally came to an agreement last week.

In the previous two weeks, the announcements on whether a strike would happen the following morning enraged commuters who were losing sleep keeping up with the BART drama and the heavy traffic it brought.

"They finally came to a solution to this flabbergasting equation," said Mahmoud Hararah, a frustrated BART rider who was coming from Oakland.

BART resumed service about 6 a.m. Oct. 22, two hours later than management had told the public. The delay was caused by running test trains to ensure safety and see if dormant systems

Continued on page 3

BART employees strike at the Fremont station Oct. 18.
Do you feel like you have a knack for numbers? Want to pit your math skills against others? The Student Mathematics League is hosting a math competition from 11 a.m. to noon and from noon to 1 p.m. Nov. 8 in HH-218. Students will prepare for the competition by going over tests from Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 the next two Thursdays. For more information, visit Dangto Ta’s office (HH-210) or go to www amatyc org.

Louie Meager art auction

The Louie Meager Art Gallery Auction continues through this week, including art pieces made by Ohlone students, faculty and staff. The auction is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Wednesday and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday. A closing reception and raffle will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday. For more information, contact the gallery in the Smith Center, visit www.ohlone. edu/org/artgallery, or contact Gallery Director Dina Rubio lo at drubio lo@ohlone.edu.

Campus construction forum

With major construction coming to Ohlone starting in 2014, it is important for students and staff to be aware of what changes will be happening on campus. To that end, Ohlone will host a college forum titled Campus Construction: Where Will I Be This Time Next Year? The forum will be from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12, in the Jackson Theatre, and will be broadcast live at Newark in Room NC-1102. There will be opportunities to ask questions at the end and officials encourage everyone to attend.

Blood drive success

The recent blood drive held on the Ohlone College Fremont campus was a success, organizers said. A record number of 84 people signed up for this semester’s drive and 48 pints of blood were donated – enough to save 142 lives, Health Center Director Sally Bratton said. The next blood drive will be held April 23 at the main campus, and a mobile car wash might be available at the Newark Campus.

Financial aid fraud case hearing delayed

A federal judge in Oakland on Friday delayed a hearing until Dec. 20 in the case against four people charged with conspiracy to commit financial aid fraud at Ohlone and other Bay Area community colleges.

The defendants are accused of using straw students to assist them in preparing, signing and transmitting fraudulent student aid applications at community colleges including Ohlone, Chabot and City College of San Francisco, according to the indictment.

The maximum penalty for each count of conspiracy to commit financial aid fraud is five years in prison and a fine of $250,000. The maximum penalty for each count of wire fraud in the case is 20 years in prison with a potential fine of $250,000.

Cooling off for AC Transit

A judge last week ordered a cooling-off period for talks between AC Transit management and union members. For now, a strike has been averted, allowing more time for negotiations.

The BART strike is over, but Ohlone commuters still need to keep an eye on negotiations at another transit agency.

Members of AC Transit’s Amalgamated Transit Union Local 192 have rejected two tentative contract agreements reached by union and management negotiators in the past few months, and threatened to strike. An Alameda County judge last week imposed a 60-day cooling-off period requested by Gov. Jerry Brown. A report concluded that a strike would cause “significant disruption in public transportation services and significant harm to the public’s health, safety, and welfare.” Before recommending the cooling-off period, a state advisory board head from community groups who said the strike would prevent thousands of students from getting to school every day and have a deep impact on poor communities, with the agency serving about 100,000 people a day.
In 2006, the commission made eight recommendations for the college following a routine visit. The school failed to complete all of the recommendations and in July 2012 the commission put CCSF on "show and cause sanction," which caused quite a stir.

"I started here in the summer of 2012 so I was really bummed out that my first semester here I had to be in the middle of all this nonsense," CCSF student Alberto Medina said.

"It's been nothing but drama with this accreditation thing since I got here." On Oct. 11, students, staff and supporters of the school took to the Novato offices of the commission to protest the decision.

"Hell yeah, I'll be there," former CCSF student Gabriella Mayorga said.

"This school helped me so much and really saved my life. I would be dead or in jail if it wasn't for CCSF so I can do is drive to Novato and show some support on my day off.

It is still unclear if the school completed all of the items recommended by the commission or if the school even completed its “show cause” report that was due in March.

In a response letter to the commission, then-interim CCSF Chancellor Pamila Fisher said “lack of funding” was a huge factor in the college’s problems.

On Oct. 16, former Comp-Ton College Community Special Trustee Arthur Tyler was named as the college's new chancellor. He has vowed to help the school retain its accreditation.

With the future of CCSF in limbo, community colleges throughout the state will be sure to keep an eye on this unfolding situation.

Publication: Monitor
Division: News
Issue: October 31, 2013

Accrediting commission wants proof from CCSF

No charges filed in Kidango incident
Fremont native haunts city

JOY TANTINGCO
Staff writer

Looking for a good scare this Halloween? You won’t want to miss the spooky, heart-racing haunted house experience in the Mission San Jose neighborhood of Fremont, not too far from the Ohlone campus.

For the entire month of October, Berggren balances midterms, essays and the construction of an elaborate and eerie haunted house. What began as a childhood prank at his parents’ house has become a yearly tradition anticipated by many neighborhood children.

When Berggren was in seventh grade, he built his first haunted house and loved it. It combined all the things that he enjoyed most: “the creation aspect of it, making halls and ideas, and scaring kids.”

Berggren’s mom came up with the idea to start welcoming local trick-or-treaters into the mini haunted houses they had built, starting in just the garage. Now, though, it takes up their entire backyard, wrapping from one side gate, around the back, looping through a wooden patio and winding through rows of creepy trees until it releases the frightened victims through the opposite gate.

After years of plastic gravestones and spooky ideas, the haunted house has become a better thought-out construction project using power tools and frequent trips to the hardware store. Every year it grew with greater anticipation by many neighborhood children.

It wasn’t until last year that Alex Lefkort came up with the idea to focus on a specific theme. Lefkort, Berggren’s best friend and also a sophomore at Ohlone, has helped with every haunted house. Last year’s theme was Alice in Wonderland. This year’s theme will take you into a haunted Russian mine. Back when Pirates of the Caribbean was still down the street, Berggren was inspired by that work and the vast amount of people it attracted. He wanted to see how many people he could bring into his own haunted house. The usual turnout every year is about 300 people. “Definitely enough people so that it’s worth it,” he said.

Despite its success, and Berggren’s constant scheming about next year’s concept, Mrs. Berggren threatens that they have gone on long enough. “She always says no,” laughed Berggren. “Every year is the last year, but as long as I’m living here I’d always want to do it.”

When I ask Berggren what he enjoys most about the whole experience, a wide smile crosses his face. “My favorite part of the haunted house is sitting around my dining room table every year at the end of the night and talking about who got where (because we always get punched by the kids that go through and get too scared), and the camaraderie that we all have with each other every year.”
Rock Boy frightens

When you ask Tri-Valley area natives about Rock Boy and the legend that comes with it, you get varying answers.

Some say it is in Dublin while others believe it is in Livermore – adding more debate to a cloudy subject.

“I went there once when I was little and I can’t really remember where it was,” said Livermore native Jesus Orona.

Some believe that he was abandoned by his parents there and left for the rest of eternity. Others, though, think there was an actual boy there who threw rocks at passers-by when one motorist finally tired of his antics and murdered him, leaving his soul there forever.

While the specific location and origin of Rock Boy are highly debated one thing seems to be for sure. If you find it there will be rocks flung your way.
Embrace the darkness

MITCHELL WALTHER
Staff writer

It’s that time of the year again. Zombies, vampires, werewolves and girls in cat outfits are out in force. Halloween is one of the most popular holidays of the year. Little kids get candy, college students party hard, and old folks get to scare kids — everyone’s happy. The norm. We just wanted fun; it was a break from our daily routine…

Embrace the darkness

Horror movies are crazy. The concept of horror, I think. There are too many adventures to be had, too many risks to take.

We can see so much of the same day in and day out that we can forget how great a day can be. While Halloween is devoted to the concept of horror, I think it reminds us of this. I joke that college students will take any excuse to celebrate. This draw to go crazy I think is one of the most honest impulses we have.

Maybe that desire to be attacked or surprised is a healthy one. Our lives weren’t meant to be boring, I think. There are too many adventures to be had, too many risks to take.

What was your most embarrassing Halloween costume?

Yama Totakhaio
Psychology

“Winnie the Pooh. I was 18 or 19. It was my first year at Ohlone”

Nabeel Naqvi
Astrophysics

“I think it was when I was 1 year at Ohlone”

Tiffany Syharath
Engineering

“One year I was Selina. My mom had me autograph pictures”

Natasha Trussell
Business

“I was a hippo”

Kiana Lopez
English

“Winnie the Pooh. I was 18 or 19. It was my first year at Ohlone”

Leave some candy for the children

LOUIS LAVENTURE
Editor-in-chief

Every year I see them, it never fails: High schoolers and even some teenage adults dressed in full costume taking to the streets with the children in pursuit of processed sugary goodness. It just looks so wrong. Halloween is supposed to be a day for — key word, here — children to dress up as their favorite character and go door-to-door trick-or-treating with their family. Not teenagers and adults.

This is the one day of the year when it is accepted for children to be out late talking to and accepting gifts from strangers.

This group of late-teenage misfits can usually be spotted one of three ways. No costume at all with a pumpkin too, I swear.

So eat, drink and be merry this autumn.

There are so many things to enjoy, from pumpkin ale to pumpkin lattes. There is more to enjoy than just pumpkin too, I swear.

Blustery days and brisk nights are the anthems for us right now.

A little fright in the middle night just may be exactly what we need to break us out of our funk.

Says that they are out of candy you can blame the aforementioned party for the disappointment. These are the people who should get eggs thrown at them and their bags snatched. Not the 18-year-old Spiderman or the 8-year-old Tinker Bell, but the older kids who get in the way of the true spirit of the holiday for the youngsters.

Now, in my neighborhood, this kind of thing has a way of policing itself somewhat. Little kids and families are left alone while the older kids in pursuit of candy are fair game for anybody who wants to direct some mischief their way.

It is a tradition that goes as far back as the holiday, I am sure.

Tormenting older kids trying to trick-or-treat via egg, toilet paper, bag snatching — whatever the case may be.

In other neighborhoods, though, the older kids are in the majority; controlling entire areas by sheer numbers.

While Halloween is a day to enjoy and return to your adolescence, please, for the kids’ sake, leave the trick-or-treating to the children.

What was your most embarrassing Halloween costume?

JOY TANTINGCO / MONITOR

OCTOBER 31, 2013
Got Me Feeling Some Type of Way with
LOUIS LAVENTURE

‘World’ champs?
I am a true blue American especially when it comes to sports. However, I am not naive and I understand that we are not the best at everything. This topic came to mind last night as I was watching game five of the World Series between the Boston Red Sox and St. Louis Cardinals.

The Cardinals and the Red Sox are clearly the best two teams left and the series has shown just how close they are, with Boston leading 3-2. While whoever wins this championship will rightfully be crowned world champions, is that really true?

I mean since when have Boston and St. Louis been the center of the universe? Some baseball purists will tell you that the United States doesn’t even have the best quality of the sport and that distinction could possibly lie in Cuba, Panama or Venezuela. Even places in the Caribbean, such as the small town of Curacao, are producing stars.

What I’m saying is while Major League Baseball does attract the top talent from all over the world, it does not get all of it. There are players who never come to the United States and become legends in their countries yet beating the other league champion makes you the champion of the world? I don’t think so.

Baseball should consider expanding its “World Series” to include some competition from throughout the actual world and not just the U.S. and Canada.

Some may argue that the Toronto Blue Jays barely qualify as a team and could easily be defeated by any number of international club teams. While there is no argument that the World Series does crown a true champion it should be called the United States and Toronto Series.

That would be a more accurate title because just having international players in your league doesn’t make your title world worthy or any higher of a caliber than any other country’s championship.

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

LOUIS LAVENTURE
Editor-in-chief

After starting the season on a torrid pace the Ohlone College women’s volleyball team has lost two straight conference games both at Epler Gymnasium in Fremont.

Losing is not something that the Lady Renegades have ever been used to under head coach Jeremy Penaflor especially at home. Two dominant performances over Skyline and Chabot Colleges had Penaflor optimistic.

“I thought we played well. It’s quite an adjustment to go from playing Cavaliers on Wednesday night to Chabot on Friday. The difference in intensity was clearly evident, but I thought we did a good job of staying consistent and not playing to the pace of Chabot,” Penaflor said.

“The normal players did their thing, but I thought Kilistina (Tina) did well to pick up more blocks than usual. We worked a lot on middle defense and attacking that week, and it was evident by the way Tina and Shelby performed. Jovita had her best passing game this season against Chabot. Overall, I think our defense was on point and what ultimately kept us consistent throughout.”

The two consecutive losses put a damper on the once-pristine record that Ohlone boasted earlier in the year. The Lady Renegades are now 9-7 overall and 3-3 in Coast Conference South play with just seven regular season games remaining on the schedule.

At 6:30 p.m. Monday Ohlone will have another home conference match against Cabrillo College at Epler Gymnasium.

Women’s water polo sinks in pool

A host of Ohlone College women’s water polo players converge on a College of San Mateo player on the Fremont campus during their loss last week. The Lady Renegades will take on Cabrillo College in a double-header at 3 p.m. Friday in Fremont.
Mascots inspire costumes
We created an alphabet of logos to test your school knowledge and help with some costume ideas for Halloween. Answers are at the bottom of the page, enjoy!