

Olney Central College KNIGHTLINE



December 2023

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

8 - Last Day of Fall Semester Classes

9 - Community Choir Holiday Pops Concert, OCC Theater, 7 p.m.

11 - Spring Semester Textbook Sales Begin

11-14 - Fall Semester Final Exams

15 - Last Day of Fall Semester

19-31 - College Closed - Winter Break

JANUARY

1 - College Closed - Winter Break

2 - College Reopens

3 - Faculty & Staff Spring Workshop

8 - Spring Semester Classes Begin

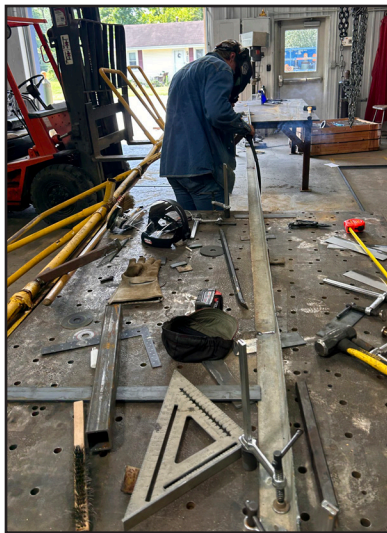
Buyback canceled

We regret that Buyback services will not be available during finals week at Olney Central College.

Unfortunately, the company that has previously provided this service is no longer offering it.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

Welding students gain experience through real-world projects



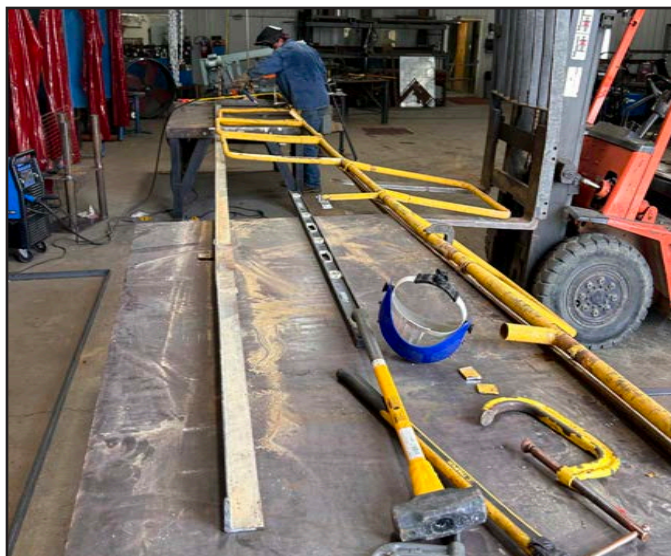
Students in Olney Central College's Welding Program are gaining real-world experience through projects that are benefiting not only the college, but the community.

Instructor Curtis Marshall said students spent numerous hours this semester on the fabrication of two new batting cages for the OCC Baseball team. Baseball Coach Phil Britton received an OCC Foundation mini grant to help fund the updates and requested Marshall's assistance with the project.

"It has been a great opportunity for the students," Marshall said. "They got to work on the pipe welding and making sure everything was within a sixteenth of an inch tolerance. It's skills they will need as they enter the workforce."

The work also included capping the pipe ends and calculating the angle best suited for

See Welding Page 2



Top, Welding students Brett Kocher and Shawn Yonaka work on the new batting cages. Above, work gets underway on the motorcycle drop gate.

OCC Community Choir Holiday Pops Concert Dec. 9

The Olney Central College Community Choir will present its Holiday Pops Concert at 7 p.m. on Dec. 9 in the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.

Director of Choral Activities Dr. Andrew Pittman said this year's event will feature a lighter fare of holiday favorites including *Winter Wonderland*, *All I Want for Christmas is You*, *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch* and *Christmas Time is Here* from the 1965 animated television special, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

"It's a really good show that will get you into the holiday mood," Pittman said. "We have a great choir this year. They sound great and have been fun to work with."

The 35-member choir is comprised of both local musicians and OCC students, who began rehearsals in early September.

Other selections that evening will be *Holiday Road* from *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *Something in My Memory* from *Home Alone* and the holiday classic *Mele Kalikimaka (Merry Christmas)* made famous by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters in 1950.

Featured duets will include *The Mister Heat Miser/Mister Snow Miser* song from the Rankin & Bass 1974 animated special, *The Year Without Santa Claus*, *Santa Baby* and the Christmas carol *What Child is This?* The entire choir will perform the moving African-American spiritual *Rise Up Shepherd, and Follow*.

Accompanying the music will be a biblical reading and a special rendition of Clement Clarke Moore's 1823 poem, *A Visit from St. Nicholas ('Twas the Night Before Christmas)*.

Following a long-standing tradition, the concert will conclude with a Christmas carol sing-along.

Admission for the concert is free.



Welding *Continued from Page 1*

the cable height to ensure the netting will not sag.

Among the students working on the project is Brett Kocher, who is also a member of the OCC Baseball team.

"Brett and another student, Shawn Yonaka, have gone above and beyond, staying late and helping to finish this project," Marshall added.

The work is nearing completion and Marshall expects the batting cages to be in place early next year. In the meantime, students will be designing and using the Welding program's Plasma Cutter to create lettering for the side posts that will read Blue Knights Baseball. Students will

then weld the letters to the posts, which will face the athletic apartments.

"I'm very excited about how the batting cages are turning out," Marshall said. "They are going to be a big improvement for the OCC Baseball Department. It is going to make that side of the field look so much better."

This is the latest in many improvement projects the Welding Program has assisted in completing.

Earlier this year, Marshall said Fair Board Member Eric Pitts approached him about refurbishing the bent motorcycle drop gate at the Richland County Fairgrounds. The project included cutting the 50-foot gate in half so it could be sleeved and pinned, allowing the apparatus to be unfolded and opened in two pieces.

"We made it to where it was operational again," Marshall added.

New OCC Children's Choir to begin rehearsals Jan. 11

Olney Central College is expanding opportunities for young musicians through its new Children's Choir directed by Keegan Tucker.

An elementary music teacher in Robinson, Tucker has been active for many years in the Olney Central College Theater and helps facilitate its Summer Children's Theatre Workshop, which is held in conjunction with the Olney Arts Council.

While middle school students have chances to perform outside of summer theater, Tucker said opportunities are limited for younger children. He hopes the OCC Children's Choir, which is open to those in Grades 3-5, will help fill that gap.

"This will be an opportunity for them to be actively engaged in performing throughout the year," he said. "My goal is to expose them to a wide variety of musical literature. I want to enhance the skills they are learning in school with their music teachers and take it to another level. Most of all, I really want them to enjoy singing."

During the semester, Tucker will assist students in establishing strong musicianship as they work on partner singing, individual parts and harmony as well as developing ear pitch.

Rehearsals will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays in the OCC Band Room. There is a \$30 fee and parents will need to attend the first meeting on January 11 to complete the required paperwork. The semester will conclude with a performance on May 2.

"I think it's great that Olney has such strong support in the community for all the arts, across all ages," Tucker said. "I'm excited to see where the Children's Choir goes this year, and in years to come."

For more information about the OCC Children's Choir, call 618-395-7777.



Keegan Tucker

Allied Health students represent OCC in Christmas Parade



The OCC first-year Radiography students and Student Nurses Association passed out candy and spread holiday cheer during the annual Olney Christmas Parade on Nov. 25. Pictured on the left, is the OCC Radiography Program's float. and above, is the OCC Student Nurses Association's entry.

You Can't Take It With You

The Olney Central College Theater presented its fall production, *You Can't Take It With You*, November 17-19 at the Dr. John D. Stull Performing Arts Center.





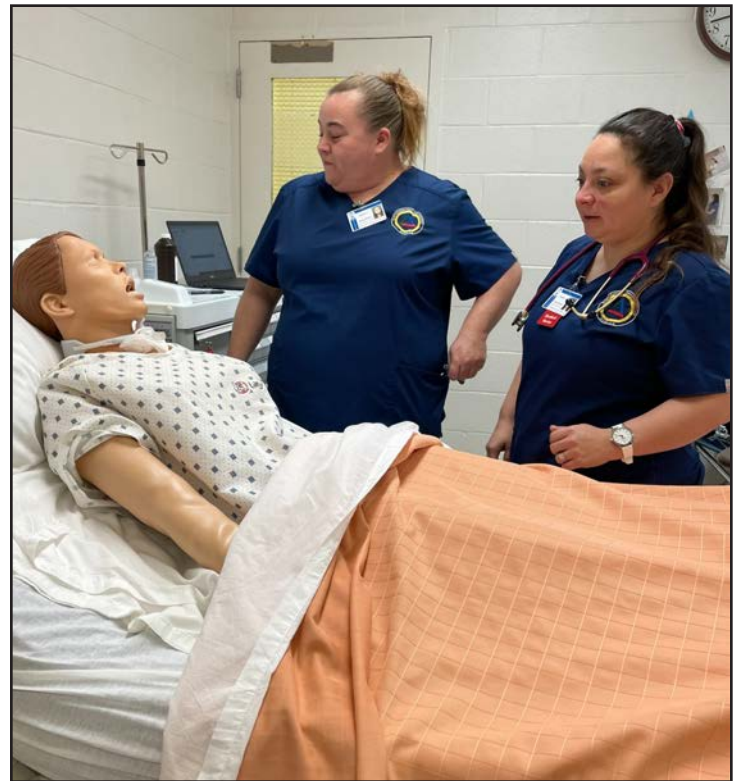
Helping Others

OCC Blue Knights Basketball player JT Thomas was among the many volunteers who donated their time to help prepare this year's Community Thanksgiving Meal. Around 650 holiday dinners were delivered to Richland County residents.



Lab simulation

Students in Shirley Smithenry's nursing class recently participated in a lab simulation, focusing on assessment and medication administration.



Take advantage of Learning Commons study rooms

Looking for a place to study with your friends for finals? Take advantage of the Learning Commons' private study rooms.

Located near the library entrance, the study rooms provide an enclosed area with a table, chairs and white board. The facility is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have questions about the study rooms, contact Kaitlyn Weger at the checkout desk.



OCC Community Band to begin Jan. 9

The Olney Central College Community Band will begin its 19th season this spring.

“This is a great opportunity for people who enjoy playing music to get together and support each other while having fun at the same time,” said OCC Director of Bands Wade Baker. “I

definitely want anyone high school age and up that is interested to come and be a part of the OCC music family.”

The OCC Community Band will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in Room 216 of Wattleworth Hall, beginning Jan. 9. The group will present its annual concert in May.

To register, call 618-395-7777. For more information about the band, contact Baker at bakerw@iecc.edu or at ext. 2251.



ROE Guest Speakers

Regional Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Brush and REO 12 Licensure/CHRI Specialist Amy Frohning were guest speakers in Sherri Snider’s Introduction to Education class at OCC. The pair talked with students about Illinois teacher licensing requirements along with requirements for substitute teaching and subbing as paraprofessionals.

Sports Schedule

Men’s Basketball

Dec. 6 — OCC vs. Mineral Area, 7 p.m. at home

Dec. 9 — OCC at Bosco Institute, 3 p.m.

Dec. 13 — OCC vs. Lincoln Trail, 7 p.m. at home

Dec. 16 — OCC at Kaskaskia, 2 p.m.

Jan. 6 — OCC at Southeastern Iowa, 3 p.m.

Jan. 10 — OCC at Shawnee, 7 p.m.

Jan. 13 — OCC vs. Lake Land, 3 p.m. at home

Jan. 17 — OCC at John A. Logan, 7 p.m.

Jan. 20 — OCC vs. Vincennes, 7 p.m. at home

Jan. 24 — OCC vs. Rend Lake, 7 p.m. at home

Women’s Basketball

Dec. 11 — OCC vs. Greenville JV, 6 p.m. at home

Dec. 13 — OCC vs. Lincoln Trail, 5 p.m. at home

Dec. 16 — OCC at Kaskaskia, 1 p.m.

Jan. 10 — OCC at Shawnee, 5 p.m.

Jan. 17 — OCC at John A. Logan, 5 p.m.

Jan. 20 — OCC vs. Vincennes, 5 p.m. at home

Jan. 24 — OCC vs. Rend Lake, 5 p.m. at home

Jan. 27 — OCC at Southwestern Illinois, 1 p.m.

Keep Vehicles Locked

Students utilizing the OCC parking lots are advised to keep their vehicles locked when unattended.

Lost & Found

If you have lost an item, please stop by Student Services.

TRIO UB & TRIO SSS host November Workshop

IECC TRIO Upward Bound hosted its November Workshop on Nov. 18. Students from 12 target schools participated, with a total attendance of 60.

The workshop aligned with TRIO SSS's November event, allowing for collaboration and ensuring a successful day for both TRIO Upward Bound and TRIO SSS.

Students started the day rotating between four fun and educational breakout sessions, including College and Career Literacy Jeopardy, egg-stream sports, a trust walk, and a presentation by FCC's Admissions Representative Carrie Halbert. The activities had students working as a team to accomplish the desired goal.

"Teamwork is an essential skill to have, and our students work with others from diverse backgrounds from different schools," said TRIO Upward Bound Assistant Director Annie McGrail. "Carrie gave the students the rundown on IECC and what each campus has that makes it stand out from the others."

After the breakout sessions, students enjoyed lunch provided by the OCC Knight Kafe and attended a college fair organized by Director of TRIO SSS Wain Davis. During the event, representatives from several area colleges were able to speak to both Upward Bound and SSS students about their schools and programs. Among the institutions represented were the University of Illinois, Eastern Illinois University and the University of Southern Indiana.

"Our students enjoyed talking to the representatives and learning more about colleges that are within driving distance," McGrail said.

After lunch, students traveled to Britton's Bullpen and participated in a dodge ball tournament, with students divided into eight teams.

"The students had a blast with this and were able to have fun while also being competitive with their new friends" McGrail said.

The winning team received Ginger Ale's gift cards and bragging rights.

"We love our monthly workshops because we provide our students with fun and educational experiences, they can meet new people and build relationships, and it gives them something to do that is beneficial for them," McGrail said. "TRIO Upward Bound is lucky to have students who dedicate their Saturday once a month to becoming a better version of who they want to be. We look forward to our January workshop and hope all our TRIO students have an amazing Thanksgiving and Christmas break."

The TRIO Upward Bound programs are 100% federally funded by the Department of Education for \$324,979 (LTC), \$376,462 (OCC), and \$309,505 (WVC).



Welding Program receives donation

The OCC Welding Program is the recipient of a \$1,500 donation from Country Financial through its Operation Heroes Program. Jimi Fehrenbacher selected the Welding Program as this year's deserving recipient.