Campus carry bill goes into effect

Beginning Aug. 1 Texas law allows for the concealed carry of handguns on junior and community college campuses by those licensed to carry.

Licensed individuals carrying a handgun on campus must have it in a holster (or similar, secure case) that covers the trigger and entire trigger guard area and keeps the weapon contained. “Concealed” means the handgun is “not openly discernible to the ordinary observation of a reasonable person.”

KC has three areas that permanently prohibit the carrying of handguns: KCPD offices, KC Testing centers, and the Health Science Center.

“These three areas have clear signage that indicates they are exclusion zones, meaning that handguns are not permitted in these areas except for peace officers who are properly credentialed,” said Heath Cariker, KCPD police chief.

From time to time, other areas may be deemed temporary exclusion zones, meaning that the area is being used for a purpose where handguns cannot be allowed. During these events temporary signs will be posted.

“Remember that open carry is not allowed anywhere on college campuses,” Cariker said. “Also, KC lockers, desks, etc. may not be used to store weapons by students, visitors or employees.”

Cariker said suspected violations of the policy should be reported to campus police and could lead to criminal charges.

For any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please call KCPD at 903-983-8650 or e-mail them.

View the KC policy regarding campus concealed carry and photos of what the signage looks like.

KC partners with McKinstry for campus energy infrastructure audit

Kilgore College has announced it is teaming with McKinstry, a national firm specializing in design, construction and energy services, to conduct a complete campus energy infrastructure audit and identify opportunities to save money.

The McKinstry experts will analyze all assets across college facilities, including indoor and outdoor lighting systems, HVAC and water consuming systems, building envelope areas such as windows and roofs as well as all other energy-consuming systems to determine where the greatest opportunity for energy savings lies.

The KC Board of Trustees unanimously approved the collaboration June 26 after hearing presentations from McKinstry.

“After McKinstry’s presentation, the board knew this was the right course of action for the college to pursue,” said Dr. Brenda Kays, KC president. “The improvements McKinstry will provide to our campuses will have a direct effect on our students, faculty and staff. I applaud our board for having such foresight and forward-thinking vision.”

According to Kays, the ultimate goal of the project is to reduce energy and operating expenses and reinvest those funds to address deferred maintenance and enhance the student experience.

“This audit and the resulting upgrades will not only help our college better utilize existing budget dollars, but will also provide a more comfortable...
‘In-Print’ Caffeine & Conversations
Budget Update

The Kilgore College Board of Trustees held its annual Budget Workshop on July 31 and reviewed the document that will ultimately make it onto its August agenda for approval. One of the reporters covering the meeting asked me if I had any comments to make about the budget. I told her, as I told the board that evening, that it was a solid budget. Yes, it could have been better, but it also could have been much worse. Early predictions were quite dire. Thankfully, the Texas Legislature, spring 2017 credit enrollment and our property tax revenues were all kind to us!

During the presentation to the board, I talked about the extra effort that each of you had put into our zero-based budgeting process. The vice presidents and I truly appreciate the care that you took to not just roll over your budget from FY17 to FY18, but to honestly analyze your budgetary needs. The board was also impressed with the results of your efforts.

As you remember from our conversations this spring, the three main sources for college revenue are: state appropriations, property tax revenues and tuition and fees. Here is a snapshot of our bottom line from each of those revenue streams:

**State Appropriations for the Biennium:**

Early projections indicated that the college might be down $750,000.00-$1 million in State appropriations. A boost to our core funding appropriation meant that we only lost $503,932 or 2.5% of our revenue. Thank you, Texas Legislature! We would have liked to be in the plus column, and that will come next biennium with the momentum that we are building now, but it could have been worse.

Core Funding: $1,360,812.00
Success Points: $1,637,694.00
Contact Hour Funding: $16,458,906.00
TOTAL: $19,457,412.00

**Property Tax Values and Revenues:**

Early projections indicated that the college could be down $70,000 to $110,000 in property tax revenues over last year. Certified values actually not only allowed us to remain neutral, but provided us with approximately $20,000 more in revenue over last year. It was great to be on the plus side!

**Tuition and Fees:**

This fiscal year, our tuition and fee revenues are based on a projected 105,000 semester credit hours. Currently - and we certainly hope that those numbers will hold for us - we are tracking an increase in semester credit hours over last fall. That trend reflects our passion for student success (a.k.a. meeting students where they are and propelling them forward from that starting point to recognize individualized goals and dreams) and the hard work of our faculty and staff. Kudos to each of you.

I will provide you with some additional information during convocation, but I wanted to make sure that you were aware of our current budget picture. Thank you to each of you who participated in the Caffeine and Conversation sessions this spring and let’s keep the communication flowing.

Until next month,

Dr. Brenda Kays
KC president

FACULTY & STAFF reports

Dr. Julie Fowler is pleased to announce that the Emergency Medical Services Professions program at KC-Longview met all standards by the Committee on Accreditation for the EMS Professions. The program met the targeted thresholds of 70 percent or greater for NREMT/State Written Exam, Retention and Positive (Job) Placement. The EMSP program at KC is under the direction of program director/instructor Eddie Bernaldez. Instructors are Monica Brock and Mike Smith.

**Jason Graves** (Language Development department chair) was named **Humor Writer of the Month** for June 2017 by the Erma Bombeck Writer’s Workshop. Graves also received a humor writing award at the National Society of Newspaper Columnists convention and awards banquet in Manchester, N.H., on June 10. The keynote speaker at the banquet was Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Maureen Dowd.

**Mike Fennell** (KC Fire Academy lead instructor) was appointed by David Wright, member of Longview City Council District 5, to serve on the City of Longview EMS Advisory Board.

**Good News:**

Thanks to **Rebekah Metcalfe** for leveraging her membership in a local group to hold a donation drive, collect more than 200 items for the KC Food Pantry! This is a fun and unique way to get the community involved in student success at KC. Perhaps you too are a member of a Sunday school class, a social collective, a dinner club or other group that might consider hosting a collection drive. Why not challenge them to help by holding a one-time, a one-month or an ongoing donation drive? For more information on donating to the KC Food Pantry or setting up a food drive, contact **Barbara Prater** or **Dr. Mike Jenkins**.

American Honors student **Anahi Muniz** received this year’s $25,000 “True Inspiration” scholarship from Chick-fil-A. Muniz works at Chick-fil-A in Longview and aspires to become a doctor. She is pictured here with family members and Longview Chick-fil-A owner Chuck King. View story/video

Fourteen year-old **Ally Graves**, daughter of **Jason Graves** (Language Development department chair) competed in the Interscholastic Equestrian Association National Hunt Seat Finals in Lexington, Virg., April 21-23. Her team, Riding With Faith Equestrians, won fourth place nationally. There are 675 teams in the nation, and 22 earn a trip to the finals each year.

**Austin Ferguson**, son of **Michael Ferguson** (department chair/instructor of public services), is the new carillonneur at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. At 24 years old, Austin is the youngest person ever hired to play the 56-bell Rochester Carillon, one of Rochester’s tallest and most recognizable structures. He plays daily for Mayo Clinic patients, staff and visitors. He also provides tours, puts together a summer recital series and plays for various Mayo Clinic and city events on request. He was recently featured in Rochester’s “The Med City Beat.” Read the article here.

**Allie McDonald**, daughter of **Dann McDonald** (engineering/physics/math Instructor), was featured in the Longview News-Journal. She graduated from the KC Fire Academy about a year ago and just became the first woman firefighter in Gladewater history. Read the article

Good News CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
News & Reminders:

Simmons set to be new KC Fire Academy director

Kilgore College is pleased to announce that Michael D. Simmons will become the new director of the KC Fire Academy pending board approval.

Simmons is also working on a new online fire academy program to replace the previous online program at KC.

“We’re shifting gears with our online fire program, but contrary to some rumors, it’s not closing,” said Randy Lewellen, KC’s dean of Public Services & Industrial Technologies.

“We’re excited about re-opening the online portion of our fire academy as soon as possible under the direction of someone with as much experience as Mike Simmons.”

Simmons will become full-time at KC in November but is scheduled to be on campus each week until then to oversee the academy.

He will replace Ronnie Gothard who retired at the end of May after serving as the director of the KC Fire Academy for more than 10 years.

Simmons is the Assistant Chief of Operations at the Kilgore Fire Department, a position he has held since 2012. He also serves as coordinator of the City of Kilgore Emergency Management and is on the board of directors of the Texas Association of Fire Educators (TAFE).

He served as a firefighter/paramedic for the city of Garland from 1997-2010 and was a training specialist for the city of Garland from 2010-12.

Simmons has also served since 2002 as training captain for the North Texas Fire Academy/EMT School and is president of the board of directors for the Sabine Volunteer Fire Department.

The KC Fire Academy is recognized by the State of Texas as an Exemplary Program and is accredited by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection and the State Firefighters’ and Fire Marshals’ Association.

IT asks employees to delete personal files from ‘Drive O’

The KC computer server is beginning to run out of storage for employees’ “Drive O,” also referred to as your home folder or “Documents” folder. Please take a few minutes to go through your “Documents” folder and delete documents you no longer need. Also, please look for any “personal” files that you may have stored in your “Documents” folder. Most of these “personal” files should not be stored in your “documents” folder.

Examples of these types of files include:

- photos/videos of your past vacations
- photos/videos of special personal events, such as weddings and/or birthdays
- downloaded or copied music files
- downloaded or copied commercial movies

Please purchase a USB external drive or flash drive to copy these types of “personal” files to.

In early August, IT will begin scanning for files that could be considered “personal” files. The files that IT finds may be deleted.

While IT may attempt to contact individuals to discuss these files, IT cannot promise that it will in each and every case.

Space must be freed as IT begins the fall semester because of the substantial increase in storage use during the first few weeks of classes.

Good News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Laura Mulanax (health sciences advisor) thanks the KC family for all the support given for Relay for Life. Thanks to generous donations and the sale of the sun, moon and feet cards, KC Counseling Center raised $120. Thanks to anyone who bought a card or made a donation. Fighting cancer is a team effort and KC joined together in this fight.

August birthdays

8-2 Lori Truman
8-4 Summorrow Robertson
8-5 Adrienne Jackson
8-5 Nancy Law
8-7 Heather Fitch
8-7 Julie Fowler
8-9 Patricia Robinson
8-10 Josh Bernethy
8-10 Judith DeRouen
8-10 Cody Edwards
8-10 Jerri Saenz
8-11 Karen Dulweber
8-11 Martha Woodruff
8-12 Latasha Goodwyn
8-15 Charles Childers
8-16 Mike Jenkins
8-16 Bindy Tice
8-17 Joshua Stapp
8-19 Barbara Prater
8-20 Chris Reed
8-22 Meaghan Simpson
8-23 Martha Deen
8-25 April Pettigrew
8-27 Tashauna Morris
8-29 Paul Wills
8-31 Raymond Caldwell
8-31 Gus Lafosse
8-31 Debbie Williams
Party in the Plaza set for Aug. 29

The Campus Ministries of Kilgore College will host the annual Party in the Plaza Aug. 29 to kick off the new school year in the Lee Mall/ Mike Miller Plaza on the Kilgore campus.

Set for 6 to 8:30 p.m., it’s open to all KC students and employees and will feature a free performance by comedian Jason Earls.

Free food and drinks will be provided along with giveaways of televisions, gift cards and much more.

Fund for Russell Turner set up at local bank

Russell Turner, KC maintenance technician, was in a terrible wreck July 20. He broke his spine and had surgery on July 21. A MRI revealed that his spinal cord is still intact but very swollen. At this time Turner has no feeling from his waist down. He asked Merlyn Holmes to share with the KC Family that he appreciates all of the calls, text messages and visits.

He knows all of his KC Family are pulling for his recovery and saying prayers on his behalf. An account has been opened under his name at Citizens National Bank in Kilgore. This is going to be a long journey for him and his family. If you would like to make a donation to Russell Turner and his family the bank is located at 410 N. Kilgore Street.

Corrosion scholarship committee awards students

The Kilgore College Corrosion Department Scholarship Committee awarded 29 Corrosion Technology students in May with scholarships in the amount of $21,775.

Thanks to the following people who so generously donated the money for these scholarships: David Ward Goldsmith Memorial Endowment set up by his family; Nahum Allen Tate Endowment; Ted Kennedy Jr. Endowment; Appalachian Underground Corrosion Short Course (AUCSC) Endowment; and Brandon Dyer, alumnus and owner of Pipeline Integrity Resources.

The scholarship committee at KC includes: D’Wayne Shaw, technical program director; Bonnie Burgess, corrosion lead instructor; Dane Loomis-Deen, corrosion instructor; and Marty Fourkiller, director of sales & marketing for Pipeline Integrity Resources.

McKINSTRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and attractive learning environment for everyone at Kilgore College,” Kays said. “We will be able to reallocate those existing funds in other ways that benefit our students - the heart of our campuses.”

After performing a thorough analysis of college facilities, McKinstry will develop a plan to implement facility upgrades generating guaranteed savings.

“We realize that budgets in higher education are extremely tight right now, which is one of the many reasons we are proud to offer a savings guarantee and budget-neutral solutions as a part of our services,” said Michael Grabham, regional director for McKinstry. “We’re looking forward to rolling up our sleeves and partnering with Kilgore College as it continues to set a standard of excellence for community colleges across the country.”

McKinstry has a long-standing history of hiring military veterans and plans to hire two KC students who are veterans to work on this project. It is looking for graduates from KC programs such as process technology, instrumentation and electrical technology, industrial maintenance, welding technology, HVAC and refrigeration technology and/or occupational, safety and health technology.

DATA: Did you know?

993 degrees & certificates...

...have been awarded by KC in the 2016-2017 academic year as of July 31, 2017

Data provided by the KC Office of Research and Institutional Effectiveness