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NEWS YOU CAN USE

PAWS FOR STRESS

Finals week starts today, and ASG is providing some stress relief by bringing dogs on campus. The event takes place Monday, Dec. 10 and is sponsored by the Health and Wellness Center, and Psychological Services. Come by the Central Plaza between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to get away from finals with some cute pups. / Liz Fuentes

SOLAR SEEKING

Don’t miss out on an extraordinary holiday-themed journey through our solar system without having to leave Earth. Starting in December, Santa Ana’s planetarium will be showcasing The Star Of Bethlehem, which explores objects that appeared in the night sky 2000 years ago. Shows run at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on weekdays and at 7 p.m. on Saturday. SAC students enter free all year long. / Dorian Zavala

POPPINS IS POPPIN’

Disney’s beloved classic film, Mary Poppins is getting a sequel and it is going to be everything you remembered from your childhood. Starring Emily Blunt, as Poppins, she returns to the family Banks lives to rediscover the magic and wonder they were longing for. The story continues on theaters on Dec. 21. / Faith Hernandez

LISTEN UP

If you’re stuck in traffic, going on a road trip or taking a walk, podcasts have recently become popular to share with friends. Listening to podcasts is one way to enjoy a laugh, a mystery, or an adventure with friends. Podcasts such as Serial have created a sensational way to dig deeper in crime cases. Or Pod Save America, where there are freewheeling conversation about politics with journalists, comedians, and activists. Get a laugh with The Joe Rogan Experience which features several interviews about topics of current events, comedy and hobbies and so much more. / Liz Fuentes

ABOUT THE COVER

Captain Miguel Gomez leads the Dons to their first playoff win but can’t get passed Santa Monica.
FALSE ALARM CAUSES PANIC

A power outage trigged an active shooter announcement Nov. 27, briefly panicking students, faculty and staff.

At about 2:30 p.m., the fire alarm panel in the Campus Safety Office malfunctioned, sending a pre-recorded emergency message into some classrooms that warned about a “disturbed individual” on campus.

The audio alert notified students and staff to either leave the campus, hide or prepare to fight. Many students ran to classrooms or to the parking lots. Others stayed in place out of shock and uncertainty, unsure if the news they were hearing was true.

“An announcement went out saying get away from windows and doors and find a classroom. I locked myself in the restroom and stood on the toilet thinking ‘this is it...today is the day I don’t make it home,” one student posted on social media after the incident.

At 2:35 p.m., campus safety officials made an audio announcement saying that the alert was a false alarm. An active threat would have triggered emergency notifications delivered via email and text as well, SAC President Linda Rose said.

RSCCD Campus Safety and SAC Administrative Services are now working to ensure that a power outage does not trigger false alarms again.

/Bre Castaneda

SAFETY

Custodial vacancies result in heavier workload, complaints about dirty campus

Empty soap dispensers. Dirty stairwells. Calls for cleanup left unanswered for hours. A series of drastic changes to the schedules of custodians at Santa Ana College this summer created a ripple effect that resulted in the loss of staff that is having an impact on campus cleanliness.

For the first time in more than two decades, custodians got new shifts, although some were only changed by a few hours, others moved from daytime to graveyard. Several custodians quit in response, and their tasks were split between the remaining staff, according to those who stayed.

Maria Palomares, who has worked a day shift at SAC for 14 years, said that she is often overwhelmed with her own job and is unable to fulfill her new expanded duties or respond in time to additional requests.

“Last time we got the call to clean a wet chair in the classroom, and the class started in 10 minutes. We need more people to respond to calls like that in time,” said Palomares, whose shift was moved from a start time of 6 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., a change that also affected her personal life.

“Last semester I was able to make sure there is always toilet paper and enough soap in the restrooms before the classes started. Right now, I need to go to the D-Building to fill up the soap containers because they didn’t have any for weeks.”

Students and staff pointed to daytime restroom upkeep and stairwells, including those in the four-story Dunlap Hall, as main cleanliness concerns. Some say that it’s understandable that the restrooms get dirty since students use it frequently during the day, but that they’ve noticed a difference in cleanliness since the hours changed. Graffiti on the walls in some restrooms still needs to be cleaned off.

“There are not custodians to make rounds during the day and keep restrooms clean for students,” said Sean Small, vice president of the California School Employee Association, the union that represents classified staff. “This work is done on the graveyard shift only at the moment. We are still actively engaged with the district working to improve this situation for everyone.”

It is unclear how many custodians quit after the shift changes were abruptly changed in July. However, a department workflow chart posted to the school website Nov. 13 shows four vacant custodian positions. A district job posting for a

Please See CLEAN Page 5

Shift Changes

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A new education reform adopted by Santa Ana College will direct students towards academic skills programs with a map in hand.

The Guided Pathways develops program maps that lead students towards degrees, certificates, and future careers.

SAC is the only community college in Orange County implementing the pathways initiative. Faculty and administrators are drafting plans to ensure students make steps towards graduation and career goals.

By simplifying class and program choices, the plan is to close achievement gaps.

“We are asking SAC to be very clear and honest about its data, determine which students are not succeeding at the same rates as others, and to ask direct questions about why that’s happening,” said California Community College Chancellor Eloy Oakley.

Over half of all SAC students come from Hispanic or Asian backgrounds, and about three-quarters of all students enroll part-time, according to Data USA.

In 2017 nearly half of all students planning to transfer to a four-year college, only completed nine units or less, according to the 2018 SAC factbook. At this rate, half of all enrolled will take at least six semesters to graduate or transfer.

The adoption of Guided Pathways is a critical element of accelerating progress by using program mapping to keep students on a plan that includes at least 12 units per term.

Faculty coordinator Dr. Fernando Ortiz, a committee of five faculty design teams, are redrafting major programs, reorganizing departments, and presenting them in a student-friendly layout that helps make class choices more clear.

Students can choose from seven program categories described by career objectives, rather than majors. Ortiz refers to them as “Career and Academic Pathways.” Described in each group are programs of study suggested for various careers by industry professionals and faculty.

“The idea of creating a grouping of programs is to help students make informed decisions about their preferred major,” Ortiz said.

In response to the new reform, every academic department is responsible for drafting program maps. They are designed to include critical courses, complementary elective suggestions, and meet a two-year time frame for degree completion.

With the current system, students often rely on themselves as academic advisors. “You go to your counselor, and yeah they’re guiding you, but sometimes it doesn’t sink in. They’ll give you the information, but you need to go out of your way to research it too”, Jennifer Jimenez, a second-year Speech-Language Pathology Assistant student, said.

As a result, about one in five students say that SAC is not supportive of their personal development according to the 2018 SAC fact sheet, and only 47 percent of transfer students persisted from their first term to their second term last year, compared to the state average at about 68 percent.

“We know that our students, and community college students throughout California, are not succeeding at rates that are acceptable,” Ortiz said.

By using Guided Pathways SAC officials aim to keep students in school and help them graduate and transfer, by requiring appointments with counselors, tracking milestones, and meeting required deadlines.
CLEAN: bathroom supplies often empty

Continued from page 3

part-time custodian closed last week.

Mario Gaspar, who took over as the director of physical plant and facilities earlier this year, said his department is working to ensure that supplies are restocked on time. He did not return requests for comment on the schedule changes or whether the district plans to fill the remaining vacant positions.

“In the time that I’ve been at Santa Ana College, I’ve witnessed maintenance, grounds, and custodians work to improve the campus to the best of their abilities,” Gaspar said. “Some necessary adjustments have been made to the Maintenance and Operations department to improve the facilities for students, staff, faculty, and the community.”

During public comment at the July 16 Board of Trustees meeting, a group of custodians spoke about the impact of their unexpected schedule changes.

Custodian Suon Tuon has worked at SAC for almost 20 years. He spoke on behalf of the new graveyard shift custodians and said they are not able to properly clean windows and other outdoor items now due to the lack of daylight. He proposed further adjustments that would allow custodians to start an hour earlier on some days and work a swing shift on Friday. Only the first request regarding beginning an hour earlier was agreed to.

Another custodian, Jose Garcia, who cleaned the Child Development Center until early July, had concerns that the building was not being thoroughly disinfected with the current schedule. Now, there is one full-time person assigned to the center. In his opinion, there are not enough human resources to do the same work that was previously done by three part-time employees.

“This place is for kids and needs to be disinfected every day,” Garcia told the board. “I was transferred from CDC to do the campus job as a cover guy. I go wherever they send me, but I believe I will be more useful somewhere where I can do more stuff. Many people quit since July, but I am not a quitter, and I want my voice to be heard.”

Small said Garcia was passionate about the standards required to clean the CDC and that the union opposed relocating him because it would impact the children at the center. Child Development officials did not return a request for comment.

Sheryl Martin, the president of the California School Employee Association, spoke on behalf of the custodians during the Board of Trustees meeting. She said that the personal lives of janitors have also been affected by the changes and though they wrote a letter in which they asked for a compromise on the new hours, it was rejected.

“You see them in the back of the room standing for what is right. They are people like you and I, who have families, and personal lives” Martin said.
Under Construction

Plans are underway to tear down the aging campus building.

JOHNSON CENTER

Modern Makeover

Down with the old and up with the new

After nearly three years of discussions and delays, the Johnson Student Center is being torn down over winter break. However, a deficit of more than $15 million remains to build its replacement, which is expected to open in 2021, officials said.

Interior demolition began last week on the aging building that once held the majority of student services and served as a center for campus life. Exterior demolition will start Dec. 17.

The Don Bookstore, The Spot, a cafeteria and about a dozen offices were moved out of the Johnson Center and into portable structures in spring 2016, with demolition planned for that summer. However, a demolition contract was not approved by the board until last month.

“When you have construction like this, delays happen often,” Santa Ana College President Linda Rose said. “It’s nothing new in community colleges because you have things go on with the schedule we don’t even know about. The delays are actually pretty normal.”

Recent inflation in the construction market is driving up project costs, which increased to $15.26 million during the delays, according to Assistant Vice Chancellor of Planning and Construction and Support Services Carrie Matsumoto. To make up the gap, the district plans to use savings from other campus construction projects, such as the Central Plant and the new Science Center. Board members also said the school could use funds set aside for a proposed parking lot on Bristol and 17th streets, which is currently on hold.

Demolition and construction of the new center are expected to cost $47.2 million, while the entire project budget is $60 million. The project is part of the campus overhaul funded by Measure Q bonds, which allocated $44.6 million for the project.

District officials said the costs for the new building could increase even more. Because the original building was constructed in 1968, there are potential problems that won’t be known until crews begin the heavy work of breaking old slab, adding new foundation and re-adding new slab to support the new 63,642-square-foot center.

“We know the Johnson Center is going to cost more [than the current budget], but we have money from another project that we didn’t use to go back into it, so that too is in the prospect,” RSCCD Trustee and Chair of the Board Facilities and Board Policy Committee Larry Labrado said.

When completed, the new Johnson Center will house a conference center, a coffee shop, and offices that are located in The Village, including Financial Aid, the Health and Wellness Center and the Office of Student Life. This will also include hardscape, landscape, and shade shelter as well as a kiosk that will serve Middle College High School students during lunchtime.

Though it was vacated two and a half years ago, dates and plans for demolition
and construction of the Johnson Center changed more than five times. The college took advantage of these delays by utilizing its classrooms and patio as late as the end of last year.

In January 2017, issues with the weight of a new ventilation system being installed on the roof of the N Building forced music faculty into classrooms in the cleared-out Johnson Center for the spring semester. That fall, construction in Phillips Hall pushed the theater department into the Johnson Center. On Sept. 11, 2017, a pipe burst on the second-floor and seeped through to first-floor classrooms, dropping ceiling tiles and flooding a theatre class that was in session.

“Oh obviously with the roof caving in on us within weeks of the semester starting and then the AC went out in the next room they put us in, it didn’t feel safe altogether,” said theatre professor Amberly Chamberlain.

In November 2017, the theater department moved back into Phillips Hall, and the Johnson Center was permanently closed. The interior has since remained gutted and empty.

As one of the few gathering places with shade on campus, the Johnson Center patio remained in use by coffee cart The Drip and hosted various club activities until the end of the Fall 2017 semester.

The loss of the Johnson Center’s cafeteria also left the campus without warm meals. Students and faculty have had to purchase hot food from the various food trucks that park near The Village, such as El Pepino Loco and Dos Mexicanos. Pre-packaged food remains available at the Don Express and the Don Bookstore.

The Drip was relocated to a permanent shade structure between the new amphitheater and Nealley Library. Once the new building is complete, the district is planning to turn The Village back into a parking lot.

“Upon construction completion, the district will have to terminate the lease on leased portables and remove them from Parking Lot #11 to increase parking. The district-owned portables have yet to be determined on use by the college, and it’s currently under review,” Matsumoto said.

Demolition of the old Johnson Center is expected to take two and a half months. Students and faculty should prepare for construction impacts as the new center are built over the next few years. Expect loud noises and vibrations, administrators said at a November facilities meeting. Fencing erected for demolition will remain in place for the duration of the project.

“Unfortunately, construction noise during the demolition will be ongoing for several months as there is no ideal time to undertake construction when the college is open year round, seven days a week,” Matsumoto said.

To help students navigate campus during construction of the new Johnson Center, officials plan to will distribute maps with designated routes and provide updates via the college’s website.

The new Johnson Center is slated to be ready for students by spring 2021.

“I can’t wait,” Rose, SAC’s president, said. “I’m really excited I can’t wait ‘til we get that new center up because it will just be so much more inviting and a place for students to gather.”

—Additional Reporting by Nathan Jacobo
A NEW WAY TO SEE THE BIG SCREEN

WORDS AND PHOTOS
ISA BULNES-SHAW

For 12 hours every October, The Frida Cinema in Downtown Santa Ana plays host to an overnight horror movie marathon. Far from just screening a few Halloween flicks, though, Camp Frida transforms the only art house theater in Orange County into a spooky set, with a caution-taped forest of trees and a fog-filled lobby. The Frida's volunteers dress as zombies, serve brain-shaped cupcakes and burst out from curtains to give people a scare.

Immersive events like Camp Frida are setting the theater apart from traditional movie houses, which have been slow to adapt to moviegoer’s needs in the age of streaming and Red Box. Opened by a local cinephile in 2014, The Frida is changing how the art of cinema is presented to audiences by focusing on daily screenings that bring people together.

“I’m very much a believer of the show; the movie starts when you walk into the theater, [but] the show starts when you walk into the lobby,” says Bryan Terry, volunteer coordinator for The Frida. “[Film] is an art form that’s permeated society like nothing before. You may not be into art, but I guarantee you have a favorite movie. We play a lot of retrospectives, and things you’d be hard pressed to find on the big screen.”

The Frida Cinema is a hands-on museum of cinema that honors the past and embraces the present, capable of changing how you view film entirely or simply providing a community to watch with. No one can predict what festival or tribute will come up next. From midnight cult classics like The Room to anime like Cowboy Bebop, the programming reflects the diverse tastes of Southern Californians of all ages.

But being a community resource is about more than just the movies themselves. Sometimes, it means taking a political stand. During the 2017 Women’s March, The Frida hosted seminars educating immigrants about their rights. For OC Pride, The Frida showed free LGBTQ+ films. As a fundraiser for the annual Dia de Los Muertos festival, Frida was screened while the lobby displayed local children’s altars.

“The Frida is a home for everyone,” Terry says. “We’re a safe space here to bring people up through the art of cinema and through the art of connecting people. That’s something we lose track of these days. I’m very happy and proud that we continue to strive to be that.”

3 Immersive Movie Screenings to Watch

- **THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW**
  High-energy monthly screenings feature shadow casts and props, from toilet paper to toast thrown on cue.

- **THE ROOM**
  Celebrate the indie film that’s “so bad it’s good” with costume contests and odd props at this monthly screening.

- **CAMP FRIDA**
  “Campers” are put in their own horror movie with games, goodies and 12 hours of surprise films at this annual event. Bring snacks and a sleeping bag!
CAMPUS VIEWS

Sitting in their morning class, students discuss the elections. The professor joins a nearby conversation and is shocked to hear the student say she doesn’t vote because of her religion. The professor criticizes the quiet student who doesn’t dare counter.

This is disgusting and horrifying. For one, college students are paying for an education, not to be told by a PhD holder that their entire belief system is trash. An academic setting requires open and equal discussion on the subject at hand without any personal bias from the instructor.

I don’t want to be sitting in my math class worrying about what my professor thinks of me regarding politics. The job of a professor is to stimulate the minds of their students and to engage them in the curriculum, not to place their own opinions on irrelevant topics into the lesson plans. Critical thinking allows for all perspectives.

That’s not to say that professors as individuals cannot have their own opinions. But when a professor’s opinion deliberately attacks a student’s belief system or their own opinions, it’s just bad.

Jessica Arredondo

QUIET PLEASE!

OPINION: Professors and politics just don’t belong in the same category.

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Jessica Arredondo

Filthy Facilities

STAFF EDITORIAL: Santa Ana College is not maintaining its own cleanliness standards, with most restrooms improperly supplied.

Campus restrooms always feel grimy. The paper towel and soap dispensers are usually empty; the dispensers themselves are dirty.

Floors are either sticky or wet from urine that overflows the urinal. The toilets are always riddled with paper. Trash cans are overflowing. Loose hair can be found around the rims of toilets or the floor.

The maintenance and operations website for SAC states: “Our custodial services include cleaning, sanitizing, floor care, stocking paper products, changing interior light bulbs, and collecting and disposing of refuse.” Yet, regardless of the custodian shift changes, we see that the campus doesn’t remain clean, the floors are dirty, paper products aren’t always stocked, light bulbs go months without being changed and trash can go days without being disposed.

Multiple stall doors around campus don’t close all the way. If you get lucky enough to find one that shuts, there’s a large gap that anyone can peek through.

Santiago Canyon College, on the other hand, always seems to be clean and properly maintained.

We deserve the same level of custodial care and cleanliness.

Jessica Arredondo
Double Trouble
Wood twins dominate OEC

Lauryn and Leyna are responsible for 25 out of the 30 goals scored for the Dons this season.

Lauryn and Leyna Wood are identical twins. They do everything together, including playing soccer.

When they were 11 years old, they signed up for the same soccer team. The two soon realized they had the talent to go along with their passion for the beautiful game.

“I remember one day we came home from school and told our mom we wanted to play soccer; she was so happy that the first thing she did was sign us up for the American Youth Soccer Organization. Ever since then, I haven’t lost the love and passion I have for the game,” Leyna said.

Both were excellent high school players, and when the time came to select a college, they wanted to stay together and play for the same team. But things didn’t work out.

When the rejection letter came from Oregon State, they were devastated.

Unsure of what they should do next, their high school coach Terryn Soelberg, who is an assistant coach at Santa Ana, convinced the twins that playing for a community college would improve their chances for a scholarship.

“When Oregon State didn’t work out for us, Soelberg said, ‘come to SAC, and we’ll get you to a better school,’” Lauryn said.

The Wood sisters soon took the pitch for the Dons, with each earning a spot on the OEC All-Conference First team. Things worked out.

Trying new techniques and playing different positions, Leyna’s talent began to shine, finishing the season with 12 goals, and nine coming in conference play — including four game-winning goals.

“I came in thinking I was going to play one position, but they had me all over the field, and I didn’t expect that, and I got more interested in playing other positions,” said Leyna. “Next season, I’m hoping that they put me all over the field again so that I can get more technical and stronger.”

Lauryn had suffered a knee injury while competing at University High School, and it held her back from reaching her full athletic potential this season.

“I have been playing the whole year injured, and I didn’t feel confident,” Lauryn said, “I want to have a stronger second season and be more assured going into tackles, and go into games knowing that my knee won’t give out.”

Despite her knee troubles, Lauryn was a valuable asset for SAC scoring seven goals during conference play, along with one game-winning goal and four assists in the OEC.

Although they are in sync on the soccer field, the identical twins have their differences, from their academic majors to their sense of humor and even the way they interact with their friends.

Leyna, quiet and reserved, is interested in biochemistry and is thinking about medical school. While Lauryn who is outgoing and open wants to become a personal trainer.

Both say that their freshman year at SAC has brought them closer to reaching their goal.

“I remember one day we came home from school and told our mom we wanted to play soccer… Ever since then, I haven’t lost the love and passion I have for the game,”

DON S K R I K
LEYNA WOOD
SISTERS Lauryn and Leyna Wood are the only Dons to make the OEC All-Conference First Team.
CROSS COUNTRY RECAP
DONS MAKE RUN AT STATE TITLE

Led by Dalton and Servando Aviles, Santa Ana Men’s Cross Country team placed ninth in the CCCAA State Championship Saturday, Nov. 17 in Fresno ending a successful season.

‘I’m so proud of the Aviles brothers,’ said Coach Miriam Mitzel. “They did an amazing job leading the team today and had a great finish to the season.”

The women’s team snapped a four-year streak by qualifying for a state championship when Maria Marroquin placed 27th earning the Dons a top twenty finish in California.

This season the Dons also participated in the Orange Empire Conference and SoCal Championships. The men’s placed second in the OEC while the women weren’t far behind placing fourth.

In the SoCal meet, Santa Ana men finished in sixth-place while the women qualified for state in fourteenth.

The Dons look in good shape to return to state championship with eight returning runners.

/ Nathan Jacobo

Heading Out

Dons lose to Santa Monica 2-1 in the second round of the playoffs

With less than a minute to go and a man down, Santa Ana still had a chance to tie the game against Santa Monica with a free kick.

As the hometown fans rose to their feet in unison, freshman midfielder Cristian Alvarez stood across the ball ready to take the Dons into overtime.

From the bench Head Coach Jose Vasquez instructs Alvarez to shoot directly at goal, “directo al arco,” Vasquez shouts. The referee blows the whistle and the crowd goes silent as Alvarez’s strike was blocked and cleared by the defensive wall of Corsairs ending the Dons season.

Injuries and missed opportunities were key to SAC losing against Santa Monica College 2-1 in the second round of the playoffs Tuesday, Nov. 20.

Because of injuries the Dons started off playing defensively and looking to hit the Corsairs on the counter with striker Kevin Ruiz and SAC’s top goal scorer Jesus Nuñez out of the line-up.

At the half the score was tied at zero but it was only a matter of time until the Corsairs would break the deadlock as they dominated the Dons in time of possession and shots on goal.

About 10 minutes into the second half, Santa Monica got their first goal which lit a fire under Santa Ana and they started to push forward looking to equalize.

As the Dons gained momentum offensively, multiple missed opportunities proved to be costly when the Corsairs scored their second goal of the game.

With only a few minutes left in the second half it appeared to be over for Santa Ana until Miguel Gomez, the star for the Dons in their first playoff game scored a goal in the 89th minute cutting the lead in half.

Feeling the pressure of time winding down, freshman Frankie Camacho picked up his second yellow card of the game leaving the Dons a man down in stoppage time.

Santa Ana had one last chance to keep their playoff run alive as they earned a free kick outside the box in the last minute of stoppage time, but the ball ricocheted off the Corsairs’ defensive wall and it was over.