



Corvallis picks up On Demand

Comcast service brings movies, TV shows to viewers by request through cable box, remote

By Daniel Ace
THE DAILY BAROMETER

On April 15, Comcast brought a new digital cable service to Corvallis subscribers.

It had been a much anticipated addition to Comcast's current services, especially for students who had previously used it in other parts of Oregon.

"I always enjoyed going back to my parents' house in Salem for breaks [Winter, Spring], because they have On Demand, and we didn't down here for so long," said Jessica McNannay, a junior in business administration and Comcast digital cable subscriber.

A Comcast representative explained how the new service works and what it offers.

A digital cable subscriber gets many different features from On Demand. The most popular are movies and TV shows.

Networks such as MTV and E! Entertainment offer pre-recorded programs that subscribers can view at any time. In addition, viewers can pause, rewind and fast forward these programs. Also, if the subscriber stops watching the program it will start where they left off last time.

"It [On Demand] doesn't have all the shows I want to watch, like Oprah or Ellen," McNannay said. "But it has shows from MTV and E! that I like a lot and they are usually the newest episodes too."

Comcast provides over 200 free movies for subscribers to watch at any time that change throughout each month.

Subscribers can also purchase pay-per-view movies and special programs from \$3.99 to \$4.99. The purchase lasts for 24 hours and viewers can watch it as many times as they want during that time period.

The pay-per-view rentals include new releases that are available the same day they are available at local retail locations. Also special programs (Sporting Events, Documentaries, etc.) are provided on pay-per-view.

"I like On Demand renting [pay-per-view], I would rather rent a movie on TV because then you don't have to drive," McNannay said.

The pay-per-view service has changed some subscribers' preference for use of video rental services such as Hollywood Video and RedBox.

However, the assistant manager of Hollywood Video on NW 4th St.

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Tony's completes retail expansion

Hookah lounge addition meets city regulations, welcomes customers with entertainment

By Jeremy Hansen
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Tony's Smoke Shop is a recent, yet popular, Ninth Street retail establishment. The owners, after opening the shop intended to add on to their business.

The retail expansion, which includes an area to smoke hookah and watch TV, opens May 16 — owners intended the expansion to open on Jan. 11.

Regulations and hiccups involving the city of Corvallis became the main obstacle in the way of the opening, said Jesse Freeby, the owner of Tony's

Smoke Shop.

"It's their job to protect the people and I respect that," Freeby said. "But why are they making my job harder when they didn't enforce it from the beginning?"

"They classified the new expansion as having a 'B occupancy' — which limits the amount of people the building can contain — which was the first problem," Freeby said. "We said 'no' because the company that was in here before us was in manufacturing so how did they get away with it?"

Freeby felt the shop itself was being treated unfairly.

"I personally felt that they were picking on us, because the company here before us didn't have the correct occupancy and now we are jump-

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PETER STRONG | THE DAILY BAROMETER

After months of delays related to occupancy permits, blueprints and classification issues, Tony's Smoke Shop on Ninth Street is now open for business as the largest hookah retail expansion in Oregon.

ROTC maneuvering to impress



Training exercises bring OSU, WOU faculty together to experience flight, observe operational methods

By Katy Weaver
THE DAILY BAROMETER

Dummy M-16s in hand, rucks on their backs, OSU's junior-year ROTC cadets briefed, loaded and took flight to raid simulated houses just off campus.

Joining cadets in the Blackhawk were faculty and staff of OSU and Western Oregon University.

Staff were bussed from OSU to WOU and were then given the opportunity to fly in the helicopter back to the ROTC training site just off OSU's campus.

"I thought it would be more shaky than it was," said Mona K-Hinds, a counselor for the Upward Bound program at Western. "The helicopter wasn't as loud as I thought, and I got to sit up in the front and see all the instruments. It was absolutely awesome and exciting."

The educator flight takes place every year to give educators the chance to go up in a helicopter and learn about the



JEFF WICK | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Right: A loadmaster on the U.S. Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter used to transport cadets and educators to the training area conducts pre-takeoff checks.

Above: ROTC cadets secure the area around a Jeep before tending to a "wounded" comrade.

ROTC program, as well as allow junior ROTC members to practice a raid on safe houses for their Leadership Development Assessment Course this summer.

The practice raid and helicopter landing occurred at the OSU poultry area, a space used often by the ROTC.

"It is a local training area owned and operated by the animal science department, but they give us liberal use of the area," said Kenneth Strawn, an ROTC cadet and senior in animal science.

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'Ag Day' aims to rope in new Beavers

College of Agriculture recruits, entertains in MU Quad as clubs boast skills, accomplishments

By Anneke Tucker
THE DAILY BAROMETER

It's not every day that there are horses, chickens, a teepee and larvae in the quad.

The College of Agriculture held their annual Ag Day event in the MU Quad Tuesday. More than 15 clubs within the College of Agriculture had booths or tables on the lawn featuring a variety of activities.

"We have been doing this for about five years," said Buck Serres, a senior in general agriculture and president of the OSU Young Cattlemen's Association. "It's a good way to meet kids, talk to people, promote the industry and have great food!"

In conjunction with Ag Day, the

Oregon FFA Association (formerly the Oregon Future Farmers of America) held their annual Career Development Event Days (CDE Days), where high school students visit OSU and compete in different agriculture related contests.

Because there are many visiting future Beavers on campus, Ag Day provides a good opportunity for all of the clubs. The Soil Judging Team and Crop Science Club, who compete at a regional and national contest and placed 12th in the nation this past year, find Ag Day to be a huge recruiting opportunity.

"It's our biggest event of the year," said Jon Iverson, a senior in soil science and president of both groups.

One booth included a Native American teepee, set up by the Agriculture 301 and Fish and Wildlife 340 classes, taught by Mitch Wilkinson, an instructor in general agriculture.

"[The teepee is] truly an engineering marvel," Wilkinson said.

Other exhibits featured the OSU Dairy Club which held milk-chugging contests for willing participants, a "reach" of faith into the boxes set up by the Fisheries and Wildlife Club, dogs from the humane society brought by the OSU Pre-Veterinary Club, a live Polo exhibition by the OSU Polo Club, a mechanical bull, soil samples and even a tri-tip lunch set up by the Young Cattlemen's Association.

"Ag Day is a great way to show the diversity and unity of the College of Agriculture," said Shawn Anderson, adviser for the Agricultural Executive Council and an instructor for the college.

The Agricultural Executive Council, which is the student leadership organization for the clubs in the College of Agriculture, helped to organize the

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CURTIS BARNARD | THE DAILY BAROMETER

Buck Serres, a general agriculture major and president of the OSU Young Cattlemen's Association, prepares to lasso a roping dummy at Ag Day in the MU quad.



ELECTION 2008

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D — Hillary Clinton
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Democratic party results

Hillary Clinton, U.S. Senator (NY) 66%
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Information from vote-smart.org and CNN.com

Teach for America sees applicants increase, prestige grow

By Nancy Zuckerbrod
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON D.C. — Backpacking in Europe? Nah, the dollar's too weak — and for some, the needs closer to home are too great.

More than ever, graduating college seniors are signing up to spend two years in America's poorest communities as part of Teach for America, the nonprofit organization that recruits and trains top college students for teaching jobs.

The group saw applications jump by more than a third this year from about 18,000 to nearly 25,000.

Of those, about 3,700 are expected to step up to the blackboard as new teachers this fall. That's up more than 25 percent from the 2,900 who did so last year.

Several factors appear to be behind the trend.

In a slow economy, teach-

ing often becomes more attractive because it is generally considered stable.

Still, Teach for America's growth can't be attributed just to economic conditions.

The group, around since 1990, increased its recruiting staff this year and arranged one-on-one meetings with 30,000 students at about 400 colleges, up from last year.

"We are not in the business of just going after anybody," said Elissa Clapp, who oversees recruiting. "We are looking for a very specific person."

That has given Teach for America "cachet," says Harvard University education professor Susan Moore Johnson. "The status of the program has grown steadily among college students," she said.

Healthy fundraising helped pay for the additional recruit-

ing efforts. The group's annual budget grew from about \$40 million in 2005 to about \$110 million this year.

Philanthropists like Eli Broad, whose foundation has given \$16 million to Teach for America, say they are increasingly motivated by studies showing the program has a positive impact on kids' learning.

"The results speak for themselves," Broad said, adding that he plans to make a larger contribution soon. "It's one of the best investments our foundation has made."

Several studies have found Teach for America corps members are as effective or more effective than educators who come through traditional teacher preparation programs within colleges of education.

The latest study, by the Urban Institute, found that

ROTC: Maneuvers simulate field action

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Once everyone arrived at the site, whether by van or helicopter, they were briefed about the raid, the exact procedures and were able to observe the cadets drilling.

ROTC students must go through a strict set of procedures when preparing for a raid. The same procedures are used in real-life situations here and overseas.

"What they learn here is a major backbone of all executions that happen in the army and here at the ROTC," Strawn said. "If this was a major operation, they'd be looking at maps, analyzing and rehearsing all the contingencies and preparing for what would happen if there were civilians around or an [improvised explosive device] in a vehicle."

The cadets went through a series of maneuvers in which they went up in the Blackhawk, landed on the site, walked cautiously through a wooded area and then raided two constructed "safe houses" to capture two "prisoners of war."

The cadets focused heavily on maintaining their communication and securing the

area. They also demonstrated what they would have to do if the captured prisoner was injured. The captured individual was then carried out on a stretcher after cadets conducted a body search.

While going through the training, the cadets completely ignored the spectators that were watching their every move.

"We're always being evaluated, so it's nice to have someone who hasn't evaluated us all year long evaluate us or watch us today," said Andrew Bisset, a junior in political science and one of the cadets who practiced in the raid.

Overall, the people who attended were pleased by what they were able to experience and watch.

"It was my first time in a helicopter," said Carl Thomas, OSU's associate director of admissions. "The ride was incredible and very smooth. They were also impressive in regard to presentation — they were very knowledgeable about their career, profession and equipment. We even got to fly over the stadium. For beaver fans, it was awesome."

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AG DAY: Agricultural roots run deep at OSU

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event. Rachel Smith, a junior in pre-veterinary medicine and president of the AGEXEC, was impressed by the event.

"Ag Day is an opportunity. We hold it during CDE Days and we can see great spotlights of all the different clubs within the college," she said.

The fact that Oregon State was formerly an agriculturally based college plays a huge role as well.

"Today shows that we still have a very big presence within the university," Smith said. "And it's a chance to get out and have a lot of fun."

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COMCAST: Channel lineup debate continues over choice; On Demand may bring solution

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and NW Harrison Blvd. said he has seen no change in sales or heard of any plans to add features to compete with pay-per-view.

RedBox now offers a service where renters can select a movie online, and it will be held for them at the RedBox until they go to pick it up.

"Most of the movies on there are ones I have already seen," said Tara Vaughn, a senior in human development and family science, and Comcast subscriber. "I use RedBox. It's cheaper; I plan on watching it that night and returning it the next day."

With recent increases in the user choice provided by cable services over the country,

questions have arisen among subscribers in Corvallis about cable companies offering individual channel subscriptions.

In an article published by The New York Times, Richard Siklos analyzed the legislative battle over buying individual channels as opposed to the packages that they have to choose from now.

Siklos found that the average consumer was too indecisive to choose individual channels. Offering select programs to be viewed at any time (similar to On Demand) is a way to keep packaged channel subscriptions the mainstream institution.

Stephen B. Burke, the chief operating officer of Comcast,

also contends that people are most comfortable paying for subscription services they can rely on at a set price, even if they don't consume every minute or inch of it — whether the subscription is to a cable service or Time magazine, as stated in Siklos' article.

Legislative battles have been ongoing about the topic of selling individual channels for the past few years. It has been between large cable providers, media moguls and concerned consumers.

Although there is no end in sight for a verdict on the situation, with the new features provided by Comcast On Demand, it will give Corvallis subscribers, and cable viewers everywhere, more freedom of choice.

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TONY'S: Meeting city regulations requires time, money; staff eager to show new space

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ing though five months of city issues," Freeby said.

While changing the occupancy permit, Tony's ran into another issue with how the city classified them.

"They wanted to change us to an assembly occupancy, which comes with horrible restrictions," Freeby said. "There were things we couldn't do with that kind of permit, and we would have to change our mercantile space to assembly as well."

Assumptions about what the retail expansion would be like may have hindered the process also.

"We didn't go for assembly because we aren't a bar or night club ... one of the city planners may not have understood what we are going for," Freeby said.

After hiring an architect to handle the occupancy discrepancy, the next hurdle was getting newer blueprints approved.

"We sent in six different blueprints over the entire process, constantly fixing the things they told us to fix," Freeby said. "What bothered me most was that it took them the maximum amount of time — two weeks — to go over the blueprints and send back two-page letters telling us what else we needed to change."

City planners critiqued every aspect of the retail establishment.

"For example, the address of the building should contrast with the background," Freeby said. "The address was white, but we had white construction paper behind the glass to hide the retail expansion from the public as we were building it. So we had to wait another two weeks for them to come in and check again."

At that point, the crew at Tony's had enough of the con-

stant head-butting.

"We called in Red Hot Construction to help us deal with the city, and they have been extremely helpful in getting the issues taken care of," Freeby said.

Losing time and money was the greatest complication to the project.

"The biggest frustration was that the city didn't give us all of the objections at once," Freeby said. "If they had come in and given them to us all at once, we would have been done a long time ago."

"What was most frustrating was the overwhelming lack of information from the city," said Brian Hansen, manager of Tony's. "But it worked out, and we both got what we needed in the end."

After meeting the city's regulations and requirements, Tony's was able to open their expansion.

"We have shisha that you can order for a hookah session, music, big-screen TVs," Freeby said. "Sometimes we will have a DJ or a band playing as well.

Hookah is a social thing, and we are trying to bring a comfortable atmosphere into it."

Trevor Wiesner, a security guard at Tony's, loves the new expansion. "It's a good time; I love it. It's huge — the largest hookah retail expansion in Oregon," Wiesner said.

"Come in and see what flavors you like, and go from there," Freeby said. "We sell a lot of hookahs, but not too many people know what it's about."

Tony's Smoke Shop is located at 1318B, N.W. Ninth St.

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