

County's fishing contest seeks to lure anglers

Anglers can turn a hobby into prizes during the annual Oakland County Parks Fishing Contest. The annual contest runs Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends at Addison Oaks County Park near Oxford and Independence Oaks County Park near Clarkston.

Northern pike, largemouth bass, crappie and perch are abundant in Crooked Lake at Independence Oaks and Buhl Lake at Addison Oaks.

"Lots of people visit Addison Oaks to fish because of the contest," parks employee Keith Lindsay said. "And kids have a good chance of winning a prize because we have so many different types of fish."

Fish must be registered with parks staff the day they are caught. Winning entries in each category will be determined by multiplying the fish's length and weight. Participants may keep their catch. A rod and reel will be awarded to monthly winners in each category.

Anglers must follow Michigan Department of Natural Resources rules and possess a valid Michigan fishing license. Bait, rental canoes, rowboats and pedal boats are available at each park. Life jackets must be worn.

Addison Oaks opens at 8 a.m. and Independence Oaks opens at 7 a.m. Both close one hour after sunset.

A vehicle fee of \$8 (Addison Oaks County resident discount rate) will be charged. Annual permits are available.

Addison Oaks is on West Romeo Road, nine miles north of Rochester. Independence Oaks is on Sashabaw Road, 2 1/2 miles north of I-75.

For more information, call Addison Oaks at (248) 693-2432, Independence Oaks at (248) 525-0577 or TDD: (248) 858-1634. Visit Oakland County parks on-line at www.co.oakland.mi.us for discount park entry coupons.

OCC proposes \$1-per-hour tuition raise

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

No one from the public had any comment as Oakland Community College administrators proposed a below-inflation tuition increase in the 1998-9 budget.

"One reason we are recommending a tuition increase," vice chancellor Clarence Brantley said, "is that we are the fifth cheapest place to take four basic courses — English, math, science and psychology — in spending per student."

Brantley told the board of trustees April 20 that he was recommending OCC's first tuition hike since 1994. "If approved next month, the increase per credit hour would be \$1 or 2.2 percent, to \$47 for in-district students; \$1.60 per credit hour or 1.9 percent for out-of-district students; and \$2.60 per credit hour or 2.3 percent for out-of-state students."

"The proposed tuition rate does not exceed the 2.3 percent inflation rate as determined by the state tax commission," Brantley said. That would make

families of OCC students eligible for income tax breaks on their tuition payments.

The increase would add less than \$600,000 to OCC's revenue stream of \$22 million from that source. Brantley estimated credit hours, after declining since 1990, would level out at about 422,000 when the budget takes effect July 1.

Trustees didn't indicate how they would vote, but two praised Brantley's work.

"We'll have to show the taxpayers we've done a super job with their money," said board chair Judith Wisner of West Bloomfield. She favored the 0.8 mill property tax increase voters approved in mid-1995. It brings in \$28 million, almost one-fourth of the \$106 million in revenue.

"At a workshop four years ago (prior to the millage), I wanted to don black and wear it the rest of my life," said trustee Sandra Ritter of Waterford. "You're getting great at it, Clarence."

One revenue element still is uncertain — state appropriation. Gov. John Engler has recommended no increase, keeping

OCC at \$19.8 million. The Legislature shows signs of wanting to hike the state's 28 community colleges.

Total spending is estimated to be more than \$108 million.

The property tax rate will remain at 1.65 mills, or \$1.65 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

"Some changes in the spending pattern for next year:

■ \$1.5 million for staff training and "new initiatives." This will include three positions in a personnel development center.

■ Less spending on facilities, more on technology. Facilities will drop to \$7 million from the current \$9.9 million; technology will rise from the current \$5.8 million to \$8.7 million.

■ Scholarship funds are indexed to tuition rates, rising as tuition goes up.

Some staff vacancies will not be funded, keeping with Chancellor Richard Thompson's desire to keep a lid on operating cost.

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