

TAKE DOWN

Viking football team takes on Osage City. See Page 7.



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WEDNESDAY EDITION

OTTAWA UNIVERSITY

OU official: Hate-based incidents unrelated

Message written on Halloween pumpkin follows reported racial slur on campus

By **COURTNEY SERVAES**
Herald Staff Writer

Dennis Tyner wants Ottawa University to be an open and welcoming community. One that's understanding and

appreciative of differences.

That's why Tyner, provost of the university, was "disappointed" last week when someone wrote hate-based language on a pumpkin during a pumpkin

carving event in the university cafeteria.

"I'm disappointed to write to the Ottawa University community about an unfortunate incident that occurred in our cafeteria today during the noon hour," Tyner wrote in a campus e-mail Friday.

Tyner said someone used permanent marker to write on the pumpkin and then placed it near other carved pumpkins on

a stage in the cafeteria.

University officials are conducting an internal investigation to find who is responsible for the incident, Tyner said. He wouldn't comment further about the incident, which is a violation of the university's Standard of Conduct and Harassment Policy.

"I am asking anyone with information to contact me or the Dean of Student Affairs Office

as soon as possible," he said in the campus-wide e-mail.

Tyner said he did not think this incident was related to a police report filed last month after a 21-year-old Ottawa student reported that two white males yelled racist comments at him on campus.

"It is essential that we eliminate these incidents from occurring in the future," Tyner said in the campus e-mail.

CRIME

Vandals strike again, police say

More Ottawa businesses hit

By **VICKIE MOSS**
Herald Public Affairs Editor

Ottawa police hope you can help them find out who apparently has been using a sling shot to damage windows at local businesses.

Eleven businesses have reported damaged windows since Friday, a report from the Ottawa Police Department said.

Damage mostly has been reported from the north to south ends of Ottawa along Main Street, Lt. Adam Weingartner said.

"We suspect those responsible are driving a vehicle and using a sling shot targeting businesses," Weingartner said.

Officers have recovered 3/8-inch steel hunting shot balls, similar to a large ball bearing, at several of the crime scenes, Weingartner said.

Police are asking for

See **VANDALS**, Page 12

NEW TO TOWN



Photos by Elliot J. Sutherland/The Ottawa Herald

Bob Fahnestock and Keteri Fleet have been married nine years. The couple met while living in California and recently relocated to Ottawa. The two decided to move back to be closer to family members living in the area.

COUPLE FINDS DIFFERENT WAY OF LIFE IN OTTAWA

By **VICKIE MOSS**
Herald Public Affairs Editor

For Bob Fahnestock, Ottawa was almost like coming back home.

For his wife, Keteri Fleet, it's been a completely new experience.

Fleet, born and reared in California, has seen thunderstorms and the changing colors of autumn for the first time. She's preparing for her first winter with snow.

"This is the weirdest weather I've ever seen," she said. "One day it's 75, the next it's 30."

"I've never had autumn, never had leaves that change. It was prettier than I thought it would be."

Fahnestock and Fleet moved just outside the Ottawa city limits in September. They wanted to experience a more rural lifestyle close to Fahnestock's family in the Kansas City area.

They are part of a growing number of people discovering Ottawa and Franklin County, a local tourism advocate says.

"This is the weirdest weather I've ever seen. One day it's 75, the next it's 30."

— Keteri Fleet,
new Ottawa resident

"The location really draws people in," Kristi Lee, director of the Franklin County Convention & Visitors Bureau, said. "It's close to Kansas City and we have all the amenities of a large city but you can still live in a rural environment."

Since the Bureau launched a new Web site, www.visitottawakansas.org, in July 2008, about twice as many people have requested information about Ottawa, Lee said.

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Pictures of family members hang on the refrigerator of Bob Fahnestock and Keteri Fleet at the couple's Ottawa home.

Sorry! We're out

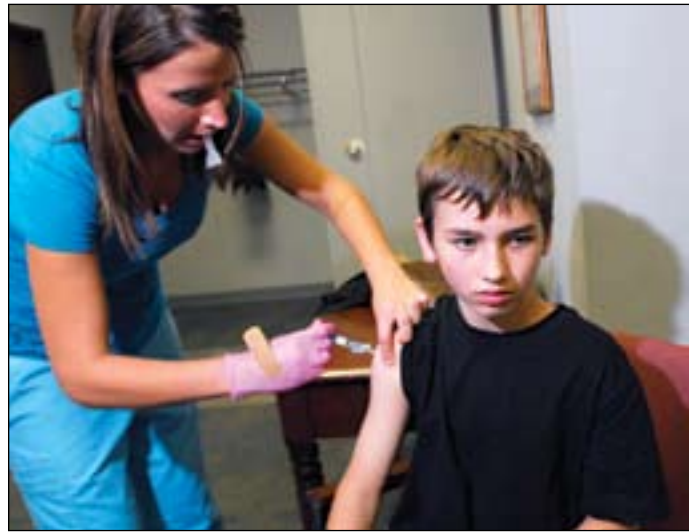


Photo by Elliot J. Sutherland/The Ottawa Herald

Above: Cathy Skiles, registered nurse with the Franklin County Health Department, administers the H1N1 flu vaccine to Brandon Hodges, 11, Ottawa, Tuesday afternoon at the Franklin County Office Annex, 1428 S. Main St., Ottawa. The Franklin County Health Department gave out 200 vaccinations Tuesday to health care providers, children younger than 18 and adults with health conditions making them vulnerable to the virus.

Right: A sign warns of a shortage of the H1N1 flu vaccine Tuesday at the Franklin County Office Annex, 1428 S. Main St., Ottawa. The Franklin County Health Department will get more vaccine weekly, Midge Ransom, director of the health department, said.



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