

Second Front

Boone Life | Enjoying the comforts of Boone County



Ever enjoying her work at Shear Image Family Hair Salon, Brenda Mahoney laughs at a joke told by one of her loyal customers while she puts the finishing touches on Mardie Bruner's coiffure Friday afternoon in Hallsville.

More than an updo

Photo and story by Zach Siebert

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HALLSVILLE — Nestled in the heart of Hallsville, there is a small, green cottage where folks come from all around to update their look, but they end up getting more.

"We have a ball in here," said Brenda Mahoney of her business, Shear Image Family Hair Salon, which has been open for around four years. "We're kind of crazy sometimes."

But don't get the wrong idea: Mahoney and her partner, Patti Bush, have more than 50 years' combined experience and are certainly not wet behind the ears with a pair of scissors and a can of hairspray.

"(Customers) are a lot happier when they go out than when they come in ... well, usually," she said.

Despite being on her feet more than 12 hours some days and working more than 40 hours a week, Mahoney gives the impression that she truly does love her work.

"Every client is a challenge, and I just love the people," she said. "I hope we do good. They keep coming back, so that's good."

Raised among the stretching sea of cornfields of northwestern Missouri, Mahoney moved to Boone County and has been prettying people up for nearly 30 years.

"It's just something I always wanted to do," she said. "I like to work with my hands. That's my thing, I guess. I enjoy the people, and a lot of folks are like family."



Boone Life is a photo column that explores the jobs and vocations of the people in Boone County. If you have suggestions, please contact Catalin Abagiu at cacm4@mizzou.edu or 882-5732.

MORE ONLINE: For additional Boone Life photos, go to ColumbiaMissourian.com and click on "Lifestyles."

Oxford allows public free access to database

The African-American studies database will be free throughout February.

By LAUREEN KATTAN
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In light of President Barack Obama's inauguration and in conjunction with Black History Month, which began Sunday, the Oxford University Press is making the African American Studies Center database available for free to the public throughout February.

Users can access the site, oxfordaasc.com/public, with the username "barackobama" and "president" as the password.

The center calls itself the "online authority on the African American experience" and includes more than 8,000 articles from Oxford's reference program.

"It's like walking into a little library, say, at the Black Culture Center," said Rachel Brekhus, a reference librarian at MU's Ellis Library who specializes in history. "It's a research area that has credibility."

More than 4,000 international scholars contribute information to provide

users with comprehensive and authoritative online resources, according to the center's Web site.

The database provides access to about 5,000 biographies, more than 1,750 images and primary sources with accompanying commentaries, maps, charts and multimedia.

Brekhus said she'd like to see people, particularly college students, use databases such as this one instead of other Internet sites, such as Wikipedia, which can be edited by anyone.

"Unfortunately, databases are a resource that are underutilized," Brekhus said. "There's so much credible information in the database, like primary source documents, that can't be found elsewhere on the Internet."

The database is typically available for both institutional use and individual use through subscription, which costs as much as \$17.95 per month.

Database access

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Facebook fans for education

MU College of Education uses Facebook for additional communication.

By RACHEL SCHALLOM
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On Facebook, you can be a fan of the boy band of the month.

You can join an Earth-friendly cause or follow a celebrity's career. And you can become a "fan" of the MU College of Education.

The college created the Facebook page about a year and a half ago to recruit and connect with students. The college has accumulated 173 fans to date on the site.

It is the only MU school or college that has a Facebook page, although other MU organizations have Facebook pages, including the bookstore, Marching Mizzou, Mizzou After Dark, Sustain Mizzou and the Office of Greek Life.

"It was part of our drive to embrace social media," said John Steffens, the Internet administrator for the College of Education.

"There needs to be some voice for the campus on this medium."

Its current Facebook page displays photos, updates, events, videos, current articles and a discussion board.

The idea was generated to give education ambassadors a way to connect with potential or newly admitted students as they attempt to recruit more students to the program.

"We use it as an introductory platform," Steffens said.

It is a place where students can ask other students, especially the ambassadors for the college, questions they may have. "The initial ambition for it was to be by students for students," he said.

Ashley Crawford may not have had the chance to use the site in high school but jumped on the idea.

"I think it would be helpful so (new students) could get some insight, especially if they were made aware of it at summer welcome," said Crawford, 19.

She said she would like to see student organizations and deadlines for phase applications, which are required

to continue in the education program, added to the page.

Recent MU graduate Christine Golebiewski thinks the network has value beyond student recruitment.

"I know some of my friends used it to find other people in their education classes and in the College of Education in general, to talk about projects or just to connect socially," said Golebiewski, who worked on the site as part of the College of Education staff.

While the college dips into a popular medium for its students, it is not used as a primary communication tool.

"We use it as (another) medium to reach students," Steffens said. "The only thing specific to Facebook is what the ambassadors put up themselves, such as pictures they may upload."

Only special events coordinator Justin Roberts, Steffens and the Education Ambassadors have administrative access to the college's Facebook page.

"I think it would be helpful so (new students) could get some insight, especially if they were made aware of it at summer welcome."

ASHLEY CRAWFORD
MU student