

Photo illustration by Cashlin Dwyer

Feminine products no longer taxed starting Sept. 1.

Taxes now removed on feminine hygiene, family care items

Multimedia Journalist

As of Sept. I, people in the state of Texas are no longer required to pay taxes imposed on feminine hygiene products such as menstrual pads, cups and tampons. Not only are women benefited by this law but also households will be saving tax money on family care items like baby and adult diapers, baby wipes/ bottles, maternity clothing, and milk pumps.

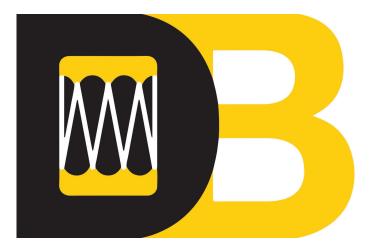
Moriah Stitt, a freshman at TJC, addresses how this helps college students by saying, "that's going to help because I feel like besides there being like a lot of single mothers babies are a lot to take care of. So I feel like we should be able to buy it without having any taxes on it because we're taking care of them and building up our population."

As Stitt explains, not having to pay taxes for such substantial products will help single mothers to properly care for their children without having to worry so much about spending too much on their necessities.

The following products are part of this law and are not being taxed: tampons, sanitary napkins, menstrual sponges/pads, maternity clothes, baby and adult diapers, nursing bra/pad, baby wipes, baby bottles, and breast milk pumping products.

An article published by College Simply titled "Tyler Junior College Diversity and Demographics" shows

Tax Continued on Page 3



Student Discounts



Emergency Alerts

Page 7



Tyler Junior College's independent student media since 1927

September 8-September 21, 2023

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Photo by Cashlin Dwyer

Jacqueline Lozano and Tiffany Perez work in the Employee and Organizational Development Office that deals with issues concerning sexual assault and harassment, rape, stalking, and dating violence.

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal ,, financial assistance.

- Education Amendment of 1972

Title IX staff members offer support to students affected by sexual misconduct

By Cashlin Dwyer Multimedia Journalist

Tyler Junior College's Title IX office is a student resource where staff members deal with issues concerning sexual assault and harassment, rape, stalking, and dating violence.

"It's really to ensure just that there's a safe environment for everyone to come. They have one purpose, to come receive their higher education and to be in a safe environment," said Jacqueline Lozano from TJC's Employee and Organizational Development Office. Lozano is approaching her one-year mark as TJC's Title IX coordinator, and educating students on Title IX and how to stay safe is what she and Tiffany Perez, also with the Title IX office, plan to do with their roles.

In compliance with the Clery Act, TJC publishes annual Campus and Fire Safety Reports at TJC's website. The Clery Act, signed in 1990, requires college campuses to document and report all crimes associated with the particular college campus. As of the 2022 report, in 2021 TJC had two reported accounts of dating violence, one account of domestic violence, one account of fondling, and three accounts of rape on TJC's main campus. The

next Clery Report will be available sometime by Oct. 1. "We want to make sure that [students] feel safe at all times. So, you know, that the Title IX team is here for support and assistance in the complaint process or even to just answer general questions, even when they're not sure," Lozano said.

Title IX is part of the Education Amendments of 1972 that states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Title IX is not just a campus resource but a student resource, if a student is experiencing issues outside of TJC's campus, say sexual assault or another offense is occurring at a student's home or at an off-campus function, the Title IX team is there to help them.

"We can talk it out with them and let them know, OK, you know, we need to get the local police authorities involved, who do they need to reach out to if it's not specifically Title IX for the school, general counseling services, putting them in touch with counseling," Lozano

If a student comes in with an incident that happened off campus the Title IX office is able to work through campus police to get a report to the respected local authorities.

"It's our student. It's our current student, and we definitely want to provide them with resources and take down the information," Lozano said.

There are a few different ways a student could report an offense. For example, students can file a report online

Title IX Continued on Page 3

Criminal Offense Reporting		TJC Main Campus			
Offense	Year	On- Campus Property	On-Campus Student Housing Facilities	Non- Campus Property	Public Property
Murder/Non-Negligent	2021	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	2020	0	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter by Negligence	2021	0	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0	0
Rape	2021	3	3	0	0
	2020	2	2	0	0
	2019	0	0	0	0
Fondling	2021	1	1	0	0
	2020	1	1	0	0
	2019	1	0	0	0
Incest	2021	0	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	2021	0	0	0	0
	2020	0	0	0	0
	2019	0	0	0	0

Graphic from the 2022 Annual Campus and Fire Safety Report The above data shows reported crimes and offenses on TJC's main campus 2019-21. To review the full report, visit Clery Reports on the TJC website.



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News **Opinions Puzzle** Student Life

Questions or concerns? Email: news@thedrumbeat.com or call: 903-510-2299

STUDENT LIFE

September 8- September 21, 2023

thedrumbeat.com

Count on the discounts

Story and graphic by Krilon Marsh Multimedia Journalist

Student discounts for some students can be more than a money saver or a quick meal. It can make student life on campus or at home a little less stressful by making necessities such as tire changes and car insurance more affordable.

According to ziprecruiter.com, the average college student makes \$15 per hour and 71% of students ages 18 to 25 only work part time. At TJC, the average cost of in-district tuition and fees is \$3,112 a semester, according to TJC's website. Students who stay on campus pay an additional \$9,424, according to TJC's website. For many students a few dollars discounted from their late night study meal can add up.

"As a college student you're constantly going out to eat, you're constantly moving around a little bit and traveling. So I feel like it'd be, it'd be pretty good to have that discount or have something in your back pocket that you could use," Michael Ray, sophomore general studies major, said.

A flyer recently posted around campus by the Office of Career Planning provides TJC students with a comprehensive list of student discounts that are local as well as nationwide. The list consists of discounts for food, travel, fashion and technology.

"I would say the majority of students probably are low on money or financially restricted. So that's a way to help out with affording college and outside of college. There's so much more," Catalaya Demarco, advertising and public relations freshman, said.

Student discounts range from fast food to major clothing brands and traveling services. The list posted by the Office of Career Services includes but is not limited to Chick-fil-a, Dunkin Donuts, Chipotle, Aeropostale, American Eagle, Ralph Lauren, Banana Republic, Forever 21, Greyhound, Geico, Allstate, State Farm, Amazon, Spotify, Adobe, Best Buy, AT&T, Apple Music and Apple products. The discount percentages range from 10% to 65%. Depending on where a student resides, a student can spend anywhere from \$1,400 to \$2,082 per month on bills, clothing, food, gas and car maintenance, according to admissionsly.com. That means a student's yearly expenditures can range from \$16,800 to \$24,980, according to admissionsly.com.

Preston Clark, a freshman theatre major, recommends maintaining a part-time job and saving as much as possible to pay for college.

"If you have a job, start a savings account and save as much money as you can, so you can actually use it to go toward your tuition," Clark said.

Student discounts are a tool that can be used to their full advantage if students are aware of their availability. Whether or not students use their savings to help pay for a meal or cheapen the cost of a new set of tires, they are in place to help the college student succeed and thrive financially instead of stressing about finances during their academic career.

For more information, visit students. If busa. com/college-life/student-discounts.



Photos from Unsplash.com



Student discounts

Food discounts
Chick-fil-a
Burger King
Subway
Pizza Hut
Domino's

Dairy Queen
Buffalo Wild Wing
Chipotle
Arby's
Dunkin Donuts

Fashion discounts

Aeropostale (15%)
American Eagle
Eddie Bauer (15%)
Ralph Lauren (15%)
The Limited (10%)
Banana Republic (15%)
Dockers (25%)
Kate Spade (15%)
Boohoo (35%)
Express (5%)
Forever 21 (20%)
Madewell (15%)
Goodwill (varies)
myunidays.com

Travel and car maintenance

discounts
Greyhound (10-40%)
STA Travel (up to 30%)
studentuniverse.com
Big 5 Tire and Auto Garage (10% off \$100-\$1,000

Insurance discounts

Geico (up to 15%)
Allstate (20% on car insurance)
State Farm (up to 20%)
Farmers (amount varies)
Travelers (amount varies)
Nationwide (amount varies)

Technology discounts

Amazon (for Prime membership)
Apple products (10-20%)
Apple music (\$6 per month)
Microsoft Office and products
Spotify with Hulu and Showtime (50%)
Adobe (60% off Creative Cloud)
Squarespace (50% off first year)
Best Buy (coupons)
AT&T (varies)
Dell (30% off PCs online)
Lenovo (varies)
Norton Software Protection (65%)
T Mobile (20% off phone accessories)
HP Academy Store (laptops and more)
Evernote (50% off first year)

Chegg (textbooks)

Note: Discounts may be available only at certain store locations and may require the use of an app, website or student email.



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Athletic director to be memorialized Sept. 22

By Caraline Otte

Multimedia Journalist

Over the past month, TJC has honored former Athletic Director Kevin Vest in many ways. Vest battled melanoma and passed away in early August. Athletes, students and staff have sported the "Best for Vest" T-shirts to commemorate his legacy. At the football season opener against Kilgore, a video tribute and moment of silence were held before kickoff.

As the athletic department has been adjusting to their loss of their director, Interim Athletic Director Kelsi Weeks has stepped up to this position and is taking on his responsibilities.

"From a professional standpoint, it's been challenging, but a good challenge. From a personal standpoint, it's been difficult. He was my friend and my mentor. There are parts of that that have obviously been really difficult. Grieving while you're trying to work is sometimes hard," Weeks said.

One word of advice Weeks has taken from Vest is to "Listen first. Observe first. Speak last." She said she has also learned the value in slowing down and taking her time.

"He was a really intentional guy. He treated other people with kindness all of the time. He made you feel special when you walked into a room," Weeks said.

A "Celebrating the Life of Kevin Vest" ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, in Wagstaff Gymnasium. At this ceremony, speakers who worked with Vest, learned from him, and loved him can be expected. A former player from Vest's baseball coaching days, one of his mentors, a close friend and family members will be there to pay tribute. Weeks also added members of the Apache Band, Belles and Cheer will be at the celebration.



Photo Courtesy of TJC Athletics Kevin Vest served as Athletic Director

Title IX: Resources available for students day and night

From Page 1

at https://www.tjc.edu/info/20017/consumer_information/14/title_ix. Lozano and Perez said they prefer a more direct approach, either in person or over the phone. "That way we know what type of questions to ask and we can do all of the intake," Lozano said.

There is an option to file an anonymous complaint, but "anonymous complaints are just much more difficult to investigate due to missing information," Lozano said. Formal complaints, however, are investigated and can be made by the complainant or on the complainant's behalf. The Title IX team is currently working on a way to make reports faster and easier, until then they urge students to reach out by calling (903) 510-3155 or emailing Jacqueline.Lozano@tjc.edu.

Lorenzo said that incident reports can be submitted any time day or night or on weekends. "I make myself available as needed," Lozano said.

Once a report is made it goes straight to the Title IX office, and all information is kept highly confidential as it goes through the process, Lozano said.

"Basically, it'll be reviewed by our office. We'll reach out to the person, bring them in, and then we sort of start fact-finding, doing intake. But also with that, depending on the situation, let them know these are the resources that are available to you while we get through this process, even if they end up not wanting to file a formal complaint," Lozano said.

Once the report is made into a formal complaint, the investigation starts. The alleged offender, or what is called the respondent, is given a chance to respond to the allegations and provide a witness list.

While the investigation is underway, Title IX tries to help the complainant in any way they can. "Try to make sure that the victim has the resources they need to get the help they need to whatever, whether it's classes or counseling or escort services," Lozano said. "We can do no contact orders, maybe they feel like

they're being harassed for instance, and this person just keeps popping up everywhere they're at on campus, we can make sure that we put a no-contact order and have the police serve that to the student."

According to a summary of Title IX provisions on the Department of Education's website, schools must respond to sexual harassment incidents in a way that supports the alleged victim and treats both parties fairly.

Lozano and Perez would like to let students know that they are here and willing to answer questions and provide what help they can to students. They also want to remind students to be aware of their surroundings, situations and others around them.

"If you see something, you know, don't just assume that other people are going to handle it, especially when there's larger crowds involved," Lozano said. "Most people tend to brush it off and be like, 'Oh, somebody else will take care of it.' But let's all do our part and at least say something, speak up."

To file a Title IX complaint contact:

Jacqueline Lozano (903) 510-3155 Jacqueline.Lozano@tjc.edu

To access resources, visit the Title IX homepage at TJC.edu.



Photo Illustration by Cashlin Dwyer State of Texas removes tax on feminine hygiene and family care products.

Tax: Removal helps students save money

From Page 1

percentages of the student population in which women make up 63% while men are only 37% of it, meaning over half of the college's population will be affected by the law originally known as Senate Bill 379.

"It's a positive thing because it's something that we're having to pay for that's out of women's control," Jacie Meredith, TJC freshman, said. She also explains how this law will help college students' economy "especially for people that don't have a lot of money coming into college and not having to pay extra taxes on stuff that they need."

Another TJC student expresses how she feels there is no need to pay

anything at all for these products since women are not in control of the monthly cycle their bodies go through.

"I mean, I think we shouldn't have to pay for them at all, but tax is a good start. And yeah, hopefully, it'll become more one day," Chloe Howard, TJC freshman, said.

Before passing this law some expressed concerns on the negative impacts this would have on the sales economy. According to an article in The Texas Tribune titled "Bill eliminating tampons, diaper sales taxes OK'd by Texas House," the Legislative Budget Board argued that, "the measure would cost the state an estimated \$194 million in lost sales taxes over two years."







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thedrumbeat.com

Column: I Don't Wear Pants; I'm Pentecostal

By Marissa KrnavekMultimedia Journalist

Let me start by addressing the elephant in the room. Yes, I don't wear pants because I'm Pentecostal. Now, you may be asking yourself, "What the heck is a Pentecostal?" Well, Pentecostalism is essentially a denomination of Christianity. According to the United Pentecostal Church International's website, it's one of the fastest growing church organizations since being formed in 1945. Additionally, there are about 5.5 million members worldwide as stated by the UPCI. Much like Baptists, Methodists and Catholics, we have our own set of rules, so to speak. Being a Pentecostal means you believe in the Oneness of God. Additionally, you focus heavily on the Holy Ghost and the effects of the presence of God.

Now that I've explained that, I want to discuss my experience as a Pentecostal woman in college, and why being Pentecostal is important to me. Specifically, I'll be talking about the way I dress, how I balance everything in my life, and why it's important for me to live the Pentecostal life.

First, I want to talk about my experience on campus. To me, Tyler Junior College is a very diverse campus. There's so many different types of people, so I don't stick out in my opinion. I can't say the same for everyone, but I do usually tend to focus on getting to the next class and what homework I'm going to try to get done. With that being said, I don't see many Pentecostal women on campus, so that is one thing that makes my experience different from the average person.

Secondly, the way I dress. Pentecostal women tend to dress modestly. We don't wear pants or anything that's going to show a lot. Instead, we wear long dresses, skirts and shirts that have longer sleeves. This is something I didn't do until recently, but I've recently learned the importance of dressing modestly. For me, it's a reminder that I am special, and I don't need to show myself off to everyone. I've also realized that I get a lot less unwanted attention from

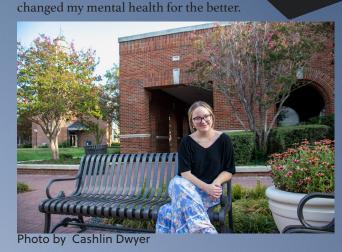
people now that I dress this way.

Next, how do I balance everything in my life? I will say it's not easy. I'm involved in school, work, church and extracurriculars. It is a lot to balance, but the important thing for me is reminding myself not to stress about everything all at once. I try to set attainable goals, and I try to make time for relaxation. Additionally, I plan plan plan. An example would be that if I had an assignment due on Thursday, I would plan to get it done by Monday, but if it's not done by Monday I'm not stressing because I gave myself a cushion.

My last point is, why is being Pentecostal important to me? Before coming into Christianity at all, I struggled with terrible feelings. I always felt like I was alone, and I felt like I was never good enough. Now that I am Pentecostal, I'm able to recognize that God will always be with me, so I am never alone.

I am also able to recognize that I am good enough because I was made as I am.

Basically, I'm saying that my religion has



Disclaimer: This is a column about my experiences as a Pentecostal woman in college. This article is coming from my point of view, and other people may not have the same experiences as me.

Photo by Greg Rosenke on Unsplash.com



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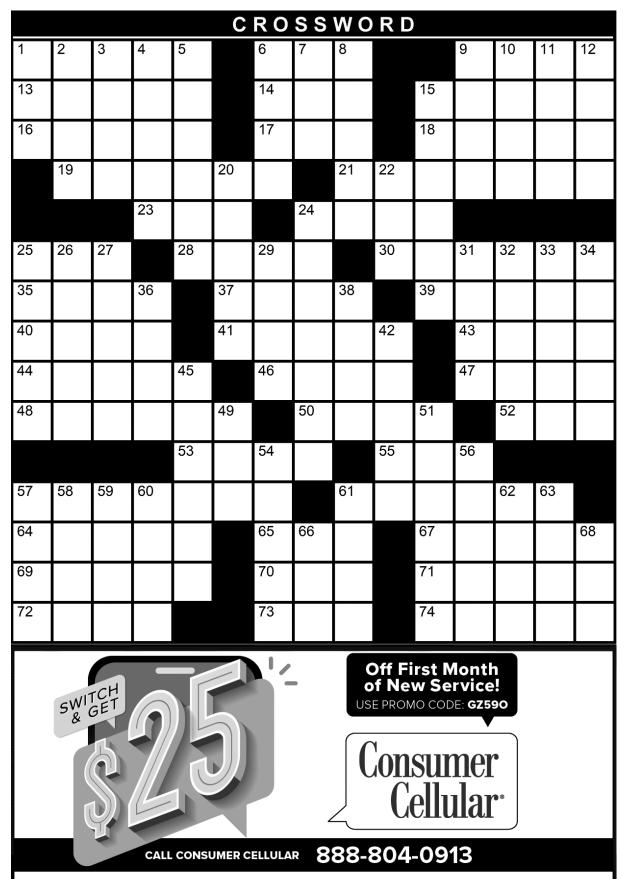
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

2

THEME: FINISH THE LYRICS

ACROSS

I. *"Back in ____ I hit the sack" 6. Lavatory, abbr. 9. Arctic floater 13. Revered Hindu 14. Three, to Caesar 15. Poison ampules, e.g. 16. Neckwear option 17. *"Sometimes it's hard to be a woman, giving ____ your love to just one man" 18. Most populous country 19. *"It's going down, I'm yelling ____" 21. *"Sugarpie honeybunch, you know that I

bunch, you know that I
_____"
23. Act on IOU
24. Spanish sparkling
wine
25. Mel ____, Giant Hallof-Famer
28. Garbage in, garbage
out, acr.
30. *"If everybody
had an ocean ____ the

U.S.A., then everybody'd be surfing"
35. Less than average tide
37. All's opposite
39. ____, Wind & Fire
40. Gas station brand
41. Bottom-ranking employee
43. *"The future's not ours to see, que ____"

46. African river
47. Part of a sweatshirt, sometimes
48. ____-tat, drum

44. ___ Coffee, whisky

roll sound 50. Please get back to me, acr.

52. 007, for one53. Impulse

drink

55. Consume food 57. *"I'm going to _____,

I'm gonna mess around" 61. *"And I will ____ love you"

64. Do penance

65. Melvin Purvis' org. 67. High school balls

69. Goes with shaker 70. Cardinal, color

71. Lock horns

72. Eurasian duck

72. Eurasian auc

73. Pop-ups, e.g.74. Earp of the Wild

West

9

DOWN

I. Undergarment 2. Catalog 3. Fungal spore sacs 4. "___ at the bit" 5. Soldier's knapsack 6. Pinocchio, e.g. 7. Be unwell 8. Pancho's last name 9. Like certain print io. *"Here's a story of a lovely _ " II. Assortment 12. Genesis twin 15. Fast and lively, in 20. Giving a once-over 22. Spermatozoa counterparts 24. Reassert 25. *"Believe it or not, I'm walking ____ 26. Sailor's cry: "____ firma!" 27. Like an implied agreement 29. *"You're here, there's nothing I fear, and I know that my heart will

33. Leather razor sharpener
34. *"Will the real Slim
___ please stand up"
36. Well-mannered
Emily
38. Adult elvers
42. Live it up
45. Mooring rope
49. Though, shortened

31. Possible allergy

32. Black and white

symptom

51. Another name for papaw54. Below, prefix56. Be a slowpoke

57. Jellies' seeded cousins

58. A-bomb particle 59. Sheltered nook

60. Was aware of

61. Gives a hand

62. Lotus position discipline

63. Censor's target 66. *"I'm friends with the monster that's un-

68. Salon offering

der my ____"

For puzzle solutions, visit www.thedrumbeat.com.

STUDENT LIFE

September 8- September 21, 2023

thedrumbeat.com



Left: Burncok lya (right) and his friends are piled in and are driving around TJC campus. Right: Students walk down a busy sidewalk to the widely used Crossroads crosswalk.

First Impressions or Not Impressed?

Incoming and returning students share their thoughts around TJC campus

Photos and interviews by Garrison Nichols



Zane Etue

Q: "How is TJC as far as first impressions go?"

A: "I like coming here. The classes take a bit long. That's college.



Nathan McLain

Q: "What are your first impressions here?"

A: "A little different than what I expected but not going to lie, a lot like high school, just mature."



Lacey Bonds

Q: "How do you think TJC has improved over the course of your time here?"

A: "I feel like staff with emails and checking on me and our well-being; and stuff like that. The food has gotten better too, the pizza specifically."



Atsunobu Takemoto

Q: "For your time attending TJC, has it gotten better or worse?"

A: "I don't know, I got used to American Culture. In Japan, not used to talking opinion, and in US, they need to speak their opinion in class"



Alex Carter

Q: "What are your first impressions of TJC for your first semester?"

A: "A lot to get accustomed to, but once I asked questions, things started to go smoothly once I understood how classes were organized." September 8- September 21, 2023

thedrumbeat.com

Students urged to sign up for emergency alerts

By Baleigh Davis Multimedia Journalist

When it comes to campus safety, access to information is paramount. Back in April of this year, an alert about a possible shooter on campus was sent out to students and faculty, which was later discovered to be a hoax. Those on campus were alerted of the threat by TJC's campus notification system, and kept updated on the situation as it progressed.

"We encourage everybody, at least once a semester to go in, make sure your information is up to date, that way you can receive notifications," said campus Chief of Police Michael Seale when he spoke about the notification system at the TJC Student Senate

meeting on Sept. 5 and urged people to register. Both the TJC Notification System and Rave Guardian app, are free alert system services implemented by campus police as safety resources that allow students, faculty and staff to receive alerts via text, email or phone call about situations on campus involving crime, utilities and weather.

Freshman Sarah Rascoe said, "I feel like they [alerts] make me feel safer on campus."

Seale said alerts are verified through administrative offices.

"99.9% of the notifications that we send out will be generated by someone within the police department, somebody within the college administration, or somebody within emergency maintenance," Seale said. "The only alerts not generated by an actual person are weather alerts by the National Weather Service."

To sign up for emergency alerts, log in to Apache Access with your TJC ID number (your A number), scroll down to the TJC Alert Notifications banner, and click it. It'll open a new window where you can add your mobile number (no dashes) and email address to register for alerts. Once added, you'll be sent verification codes to verify your phone number and email. Enter the codes, and you're all set to receive emergency alerts.

The process for the Rave Guardian app is much the same. Log in using your phone number and TJC credentials, enter the verification code it will send, and choose your location. In addition to receiving alerts, the app

allows its users to call campus police, 9II and chat directly with dispatchers if calling isn't the safest option. Other features include a directory with information for counseling, campus police, and the main TJC website, along with a safety timer that allows you to add the phone numbers of your friends/guardian(s) for an added measure of security if you're walking alone.

All students are advised to check Apache Access to be sure they are signed up to receive notifications from The TJC Notification System, and download the Rave Guardian app from the app store to stay updated in the event of an oncampus emergency.

Sign up for TJC Alert Notifications

Step 1: Log in to Apache Access with your A number

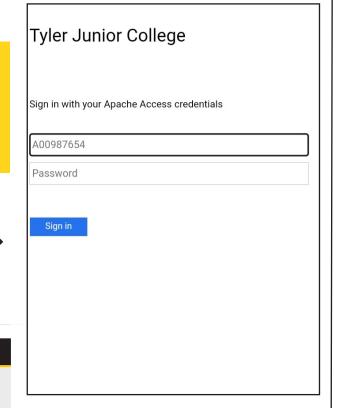




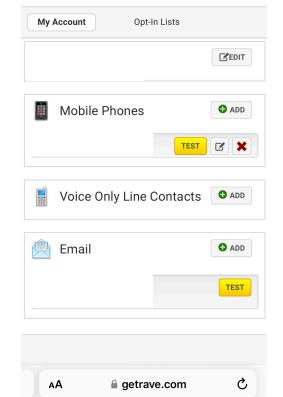


SELF-SERVICE LINKS			
Self-Service Banner			
Benefits & Deductions			
Pay Information			
Tax Forms			
Job Summary			
Faculty Load & Compensation			
AA	S		

Step 3: Enter your phone number and email address.



Step 2:
Click on the yellow "TJC Alert
Notifications" button to go to a
new window.



RAVE Guardian Services









Resources for counseling and mental health services



Timed feature to alert officers and guardians of your location



Resources for TJC main site, police department and counseling



Chat with a dispatcher, make a report



Call city police in an emergency, share location with dispatcher



Call TJC police in an emergency, share location with dispatcher

Talk To Us!

Take the DrumBeat survey about campus safety here!



STUDENT LIFE

September 8- September 21, 2023

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Top left: Dajanea Drake learns about student advising at the 2023 Involvement Fair. The Involvement Fair took place on Sept. 6 in the Apache Rooms. Top right: Leo Heimbuecher is interested and learning about the STEM Club. The STEM Club is open to all students no matter what their major is. Bottom left: Michael Ford, a physical therapy major, registers to vote while visiting the booth for the Democratic Club of Smith County.



Students get to know organizations on campus at Involvement Fair Photos by Halee Hasten





Above: Jordan Pollk, left, is learning about the activities the Mentoring Alliance Summer Camp offers during the summer. They offer fun games, food, and friendship.

Left: Jazmin Jimenez is at the Las Mascaras Theatre booth learning when and where the club is meeting and what is to come of it. At 3 p.m. on Sept. 15, the club is starting their play reading series.

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