Updated computer network causes faster connection

By Elaine Hewett
Staff Writer

Students use the network to register for classes, check bravemail, look up books, complete assignments or communicate on-line.

Tom Jackson and Kevin Oxendine, who both have worked on this project, said students’ computers have only been able to receive one gigabyte per second in the past, but now they are able to get 10 gigabytes per second.

If you aren’t sure what this means, then just think of it as 10 billion bits being sent per second. The tables that have been added are not allowing this 10 gigabytes access to the buildings that are still only receiving one gigabyte per second.

The reasoning for this is if a building is not using that much bandwidth, then there is no need to add a new system for that building.

The two buildings that had switchers were Lumbee and Oxendine. With the upgrade, users could lose a connection in one building and still have access due to the fact that the system is, in a sense, intertwined.

These core switches, which are nexus switches, are high speed moved servers that provide us with faster communication at a lower cost.

In total there are eight switches. Pat, the director of Network and System Administration, and Jackson, associate CIO and Chief Officer of DoIT, explained it this way.

Say that Oak Hall is connected to Oxendine, and if Oxendine were to lose service it would not be known because they have a backup.

Also, a plus for the students in physical education is that they are also now receiving wireless which has just been added, and the library’s wireless has been replaced.

In case you were not aware, the library was one of the first buildings that had wireless added about 10 years ago.

Every 10 years Pembroke has to update the software because computers have a time when they reach “end of life” and “end of support” would not be known because they have a backup.

The 10 year period between network upgrades is the refresh cycle in which updates are made and the technology is upgraded.

Students may not think that technology is important, but Pembroke is dependent on it for most educational purposes and as Pait put it, “It all comes back to computer and network.”

University Shuttle Service changes days

By Ashley Williams
Staff Writer

Instead of a shuttle run on Monday and Tuesday, University Center and programs have switched their Tuesday shuttle run to Wednesday.

The shopping shuttle can take students to Walmart, Pembroke, Biggs Park Mall, Lumberton, and Magnolia Mall, Florence S.C.

According to Cynthia Oxendine, senior director for University Center and Programs, the shuttle pick-up location is the parking lot of the Jones Athletic Center.

On Monday, the shuttle departs at 3:45 p.m., and it returns to campus at 5:30 p.m.

On the second trip, it departs again at 4:35 p.m., and returns to campus at 6 p.m.

On Wednesday, the shuttle departs at 5:15 p.m., and it returns to campus at 7 p.m.

On the second trip, it departs again at 5:30 p.m., and it returns to campus at 7:30 p.m.

According to Oxendine, the shuttle bus holds 12 passengers, but the shuttle bus makes multiple runs. Oxendine said that multiple runs allow the bus to pick up one set of passengers and then return to get another set of passengers.

According to Oxendine, students must preregister for the shuttle in order to get a ride. The shuttle schedule is on the UC and Programs page can be found at www.uncp.edu/uc/sco.

When arriving at the shuttle pick-up location, students are required to show their student ID’s.

Oxendine said that the shuttle will drop students off at Village Apartments, Pine Hall and off campus apartments to make it more convenient for students.

UNCP student Jonathan Bell became the new shuttle bus driver after Thomas Fiorello graduated, Oxendine said.

According to Oxendine, UC and Programs tries to use students to fill open positions in their department as much as they can.

The shuttle is coordinated by Penny Oxendine, administrative support associate for University Center and Programs, through the University Center’s Information Station.

According to Oxendine, International Programs only led a couple of shuttle runs per week for International students.

Oxendine said that she and Sara Brackin, director for International Programs, met and decided that two departments should not be providing the same service.

Oxendine said that they reached that decision in order to pool their resources and avoid duplicating services.

In the fall of 2010, Oxendine said that UC and Programs became the only department that provided a shuttle service.

Pembroke Radio Shack store going out of business

By Will Wade
Around the Town Editor


They announced that they will reopen Sept. 14 at 10 a.m.

When they reopen, all Radio Shack items will be 25 percent off. Darwin Dial of Pembroke said he is upset because he has no idea where he can pay his phone bill in Pembroke. He is worried that he will have to go to Lumberton to do so.

Simply Ice Cream is the same building as Radio Shack, and they will be going out of business also.

Onio Teo, a former Radio Shack employee, said, “The sales from Radio Shack could not keep the store running. The ice cream shop helped out a lot during the summer, but Radio Shack couldn’t make enough sales during the winter to keep the place running.”

The manager declined to comment until the reopening of the store on Sept. 14.

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