

Coordinated Emergency Response Limits Damage from Car Fire



Although engulfed in flames, damage was limited to this vehicle because of the close coordination of the emergency agencies that serve the Sauk College campus.

by Cindy Skiles-Hacker

A recent car fire in Sauk Valley Community College's east parking lot was quickly extinguished by the Dixon Rural Fire Department while coordinating with campus security. The Illinois State Police and Lee County Sheriff's department were also onsite for support.

The September 18th incident demonstrated the co-

ordinated efforts of the campus and local departments that help to protect Sauk Valley Community College.

According to Troy Mairs, Security Supervisor for the college, a 911 call placed from a campus phone is the fastest way to activate a response to an emergency. 911 calls from a campus phone will send a text alert to security and administrators who will coordinate the appropriate departments to the scene. Calls placed from cell phones will go to the Lee County 911 dispatch center for action.

Campus security is on duty 24/7, 365 days a year. It currently employs 6 security officers and 2 security clerks. The security desk is open during school hours.

As of December 1, 2018 a College Resource officer from the Lee County Sheriff's department will also be on duty to help ensure the safety of the students, staff and visitors to the campus.

Mosquito outbreak causes concern in the Sauk Valley



A fireplace at a local home in Dixon. This is just one example of a prime breeding spot for the mosquitoes that carry the West Nile Virus.

By: Mike Reed

The recent mosquito outbreak in the Sauk Valley area has increased worries about West Nile Virus. However, the Whiteside County Health Department says that cases of West Nile have not risen significantly over the past few months.

With the increasing amounts of rainfall that has passed through the Sauk Valley area, the population of mosquitoes has increased as well. Mosquitoes breed in wet and damp areas. When it rains heavily, water can collect in gutters, old tires, any areas that hold water. These are prime areas for the breeding of mosquitoes that carry the West

Nile Virus.

Sometime in July and again in August, reports came out that the West Nile virus has made it Whiteside county. This meant that the type of mosquito that carries the virus was in the area. These mosquitoes were found in site pools (pools of water) in Sterling and Rock Falls (July) and Morrison and Fulton (August). Besides a few human cases in Illinois, there has been no cases in the Sauk Valley area.

According to Gene Johnston with the Whiteside County Health Department, mosquitoes that are out and biting during the day are called "aedes vexans" or flood water mosquitoes. These are the

least harmful mosquitoes. The aedes vexans are the bulk of the population of mosquitoes.

The type of mosquitoes that carry the West Nile virus are "night biters." Gene assures that people are less likely to get bitten by a mosquito carry the virus if they are out and about during the day. When people go outside at night, he recommends wearing long clothing to protect against being bitten.

The prime time for mosquitoes is from Mid-July until the first frost. Gene assures that once the first frost hits, all the mosquitoes will die off. The first frost came around mid-October.

A new face on the TRIO team



Shawana Jones, the TRIO Transfer Coordinator, and Program Director.

By Nicole Arduini

Shawana Jones is one of the new additions to the Sauk Valley Community College's student support service TRIO staff. Through a lifelong journey of finding her dream career, Jones has carved her way through experiences that have left her well rounded and ideal for the TRIO team. TRIO is a student-oriented program that assists students to achieve overall academic success. Jones serves as the new TRIO transfer coordinator and program advisor.

Jones began on her own journey for academic success in her hometown

of Buffalo New York. When Jones learned she was going to become a mother it set in that, "it was no longer about me". Jones knew there would be sacrifices she would have to make in order to complete her education and raise her child. "I went without watching tv for two years." It was difficult to provide for her family, attend class, and work full time but Jones remembered "The end justifies the mean." She pushed through the sacrifices while looking forward to her hard work paying off in the future. Jones earned her Bachelor's Degree from Ashford University in 2009.

"Everything happens for a reason" so when she found herself in the Sterling area, she knew it was meant to be. "My friend said to come to visit... and we came and I fell in love with it."

Jones knows that it takes hard work and determination to achieve your dreams. This is how she has come to work for the TRIO student support team.

"Every school should have TRIO," Jones says. When asked about the importance of the TRIO program for the Sauk Valley Communi-

ty College student Jones says, "The TRIO program gives the students familiarity and the ability to anticipate what is next. Students are often left in the dark, and if they do not know anyone, they will not know what to expect. Students need someone to come to stand by them with a flashlight." The TRIO program acts as a flashlight, guiding their students along their own academic goal journey.

When asked what is her secret to juggling life and academic success Jones says, "Be true to your inner voice, not everything is concrete. It is all about listening to yourself and when an opportunity comes don't be afraid to snatch that up" Allowing yourself to go with the flow of life in all it brings you, while ready to jump into the next opportunity that floats your way.

"The tough times we go through give us thick skin" So when the road looks rough and times get tough to remember that the hard work we put in today will make for a brighter tomorrow. Jones says, "I have found my happily ever after and I hope one day you find yours too".

OPINION:

Leave my social security alone.

by Kathy Marine

I think Rachel Green summed it up succinctly on Friends when she got her first paycheck and asked “Who’s FICA? And why does he get all my money?” Like Rachel, FICA has gotten a chunk of my paycheck for the last fifty some years. I have joined my fellow workers and retired and officially receiving my Social Security and Medicare benefits.

Now I fear for my benefits. The present feeling on Capitol Hill is that these benefits are “entitlements” and that Social Security and Medicare need to be overhauled. Our “learned” politicians have used other terminology but in this writer’s opinion it seems they are positioning themselves to either make cuts or do away with Social Security and Medicare altogether.

Social Security was started 78 years ago and was introduced by Franklin Roosevelt. Since its inception it has evolved into the program that we have today. It has paid benefits to retired workers, but now the nation’s more important social program is in trouble. An article that I read on Yahoo News stated that “by the year 2034 all \$2.89 trillion in asset reserves is estimated to be gone.”

So you have to ask yourself, how can all this money disappear in 36 years? One idea is that it is because of the Baby Boomers (of which I am one). Since the birth rate dropped considerably since I was born, the worker to retiree ratio has declined. In other

words, there are more workers leaving the work force than entering. Other factors that seem to contribute to this issue are increased longevity, income inequality and congressional inaction.

Instead of blaming the Baby Boomers, people should be looking at their House and Senate representatives. Congress has not passed a major overhaul of Social Security in 35 years and now it is starting to show. Nothing has been done since and the longer they wait, the worse it gets. With all this talk being done in Washington right now, it seems to me that they have no viable idea on how to fix this.

I am bothered by recent actions from Washington one of which is the Tax Reform Act of 2018. I can’t profess to understand all of it and of course, I haven’t read it. I’m not sure all the lawmakers read it either. According to Yahoo News, these tax cuts will increase the national deficit by \$1.414 trillion by the year 2027. This deficit alone could help cover the Social Security reserves depletion.

I am now on a fixed income and trying to make ends meet, just like my fellow retirees. The amount I receive is less than one third of what I used to earn.

I hope that the young readers of this piece understand the seriousness of the situation. Retirement may seem far away, but as the years melt into each other (and they will quicker than you might think) Social Security and Medicare will matter.

RAD TECH CLUB SERVES COMMUNITY



The Rad Tech Club grouped together for a quick class photo.

by Emily Schultz

An important part of any club or organization is to give back to the community that supports them, and that is exactly what the Rad Tech Club here at Sauk Valley Community College has done! On September 11th, 2018, the Rad Tech club “took out the trash” with their volunteering with their Adopt A Highway event.

The students and instructors covered a three mile radius of Route 2 in front of Sauk and disposed of the litter along the span at specific drop-off sites. The club

spent around an hour and a half disposing of the litter in bright orange garbage bags.

Along with the Adopt a Highway event, the Rad Tech Club has been brainstorming other events in which they can serve their community. Some ideas that have been discussed are volunteering at nursing homes and a local animal shelter.

The Rad Tech Club plans on doing their Adopt A Highway event again in the near future also. The club feels community service better them as individuals and that it is rewarding to give a helping hand.

All aboard for studying abroad

By Kallie Timmons

As of the year 2019, Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC) students can be found scattered across the globe. In late 2017, SVCC faculty announced to students that they were undergoing the process of joining with the Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP) in order to offer study abroad opportunities.

The ICISP was founded in 1986, and according to the program’s website, “membership in this consortium is open to all Illinois public and private two-year colleges, and

by invitation to four year colleges and universities in Illinois, as well as two and four year institutions and consortia in contiguous states.” In other words, the ICISP is primarily a group of Illinois community colleges offering study abroad programs specifically to Illinois community college students.

After receiving approval from the SVCC board, the college is now ready to immerse its students in various cultures throughout the world. Because the ICISP offers study abroad programs in a multitude of countries, SVCC students now have the opportunity to travel to Austria, Costa Rica, England, India, Ireland, and Spain.

The ICISP has a China trip in the works for next year, and although the project is still in the transition phase, SVCC is working to have a Cambodia summer program run directly through the college for this upcoming summer.

The general eligibility requirements include being at least 18 years old, having

a minimum GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale, and having earned at least 12 hours of college credit. However, each individual program has differing stipulations.

The ICISP has trips available during both the spring and fall semesters, as well as shorter trips during the summer. Some of the destinations include living on a college campus, while others offer students the chance to live with a family in the country of their choosing. All of the trips include various excursions to tourist destinations throughout the specific country.

Each location that students can attend offers a varying number of possible credits to be attained, but there are both required courses and electives to choose from in each country.

The deadline for spring semester applications, October 15th, has now passed, but there is certainly still the chance to apply for any future semesters. Scholarships are available through the ICISP website.



Professor Paul Edleman is the ICISP Representative at Sauk Valley Community College, helping interested students find the proper information and navigate the application process.

Professor Paul Edleman, who teaches both communication and political science at the college, is SVCC’s ICISP representative. Therefore, Professor Edleman is available to contact for any students who have a potential interest in the program. Interested students should also make sure to visit the ICISP website, icisp.org, for further details.

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OPINION:

Welcome to “Trench” - twenty one pilots album review



by Caleb Plumb

Musical duo twenty one pilots released their fifth album, “Trench,” October 5th and it ranks among their best. Tyler Joseph and Josh Dun have worked together for almost a decade now putting out moody, synth heavy, drum-led tracks, with “Trench” being no exception.

Coming from Columbus, Ohio the duo found stardom after the release of their fourth album “Blurryface” in 2015, and many wondered how they would proceed after being propelled to fame.

After disappearing off the face of the for an entire year, and having been three years since releasing any music it is easy to say that “Trench” is the best and most fulfilling project they have released yet.

Picking up right where they left off, Joseph and Dun are back and stronger than ever, mixing dark messages with happy beats that will no doubt be stuck in the listeners head long after.

Whether it is the infectious melody on tracks like “Chlorine” or “Morph,” or the slick groovy bassline featured heavily on tracks “Jump-suit,” which is more rock focused, and “My Blood,” which has almost a punk-disco feel to it, there is something for everyone on the album.

Blending the genres is what twenty one pilots tend to do best, and no song achieves this better than the track “Pet Cheeta,” in which Joseph sings about his problems with writer’s block. The song tackles not only pop, rap, and rock, but also dance, with reggae in-

fluences as well, mixing it all into one of the best songs that they have ever released.

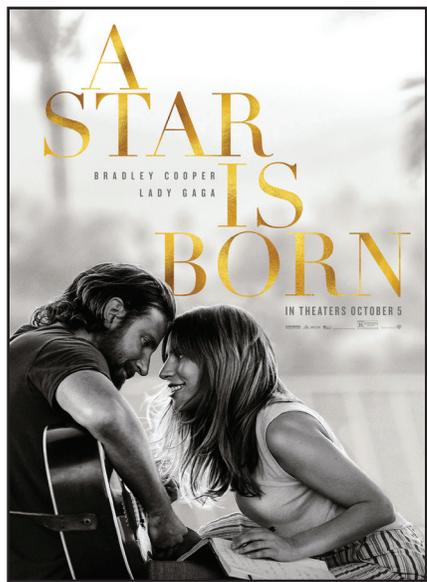
Gone are the more ukulele driven tracks from previous albums, which were a high point for many. While no song is backed mainly in the ukulele, it is still featured lightly on tracks such as “The Hype” and “Legend,” which is dedicated to Joseph’s late grandfather.

While the instrumentation is somewhat new for the group, the topic of the lyrics stays the same from previous albums, with depression, anxiety, and sometimes even touching on suicide, most noticeably on the track “Neon Gravestones.” The song dives into the glorification of suicide in today’s culture and Joseph’s thoughts on the topic, how it may be more detrimental in the long run, even though many try to help.

Rounding out the fourteen track project is the most vulnerable song on the album, “Leave the City.” Throughout the song Joseph describes a journey out of a place that many could take in a plethora of ways. Some see it as a character literally leaving a city, some see it as Joseph contemplating leaving the religion he has followed his entire life, most even interpret it as a goodbye to the music industry, believing that “Trench” will be the final project from the duo.

OPINION:

“A Star is Born” - again and again and again



The AMC Classic Sauk Valley 8 located in Sterling, IL is one of many movie theaters across the country promoting the release of “A Star is Born”.

By Kallie Timmons

Currently appearing in movie theaters near you, “A Star is Born”, starring Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper, tells the epic love story of Jackson Maine and Ally Campana for the fourth time in the last 80 years.

Directed by Bradley Cooper himself, this fourth version of the classic film touches audienc-

es with the attraction of a country-rock musician whose life is furiously declining and a woman longing to take her music career to the next level. Both Cooper and Gaga appear in roles so convincing that they seem to truly be extensions of themselves as individuals.

Unlike the previous three adaptations of the story, Jack and Ally’s life is made all the more complicated in the realm of 21st century Hollywood, filled with the dangers of celebrity.

The film addresses substance abuse head on, opening with Jack performing a concert during which he is clearly under the severe effects of alcohol. Audiences witness Jack’s ability to love so

deeply, but all the while his addiction and the aftermath of a dark past continue to haunt him.

The film is rated R but not for the almost conventional blood and gore. Instead, the piece is restricted for its pure intensity, explicit language, and sexuality/nudity set in the mysterious world of today’s celebrities.

Nonetheless, its message has the opportunity to be transcendent for young adults and other impassioned individuals. In a world where people are beginning to rise up in support of their beliefs, “A Star is Born” has the perfect backdrop for its message about artists who have something to say and the difficulty of getting people to listen.

Apart from the film itself, its accompanying soundtrack has acquired praise around the world for its honesty and unique spin on traditional pop music. Cooper and Gaga, both multiple award-winning actors and musicians, unfold new dimensions to their abilities in this deeply moving music.

All in all, “A Star is Born” is not a movie to miss.



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SVCC, Bodish host annual trip to the Art Institute of Chicago

By Jake Miller

Since 2016, Glenn Bodish has hosted a trip to the Windy City to visit the Art Institute of Chicago. The trip is described as being a "cultural excursion" because of the freedom that students have to roam Chicago and experience the city.

The trip usually takes place sometime during the first week of November each year. To attend, students must pay a \$45 fee, which covers the costs of transportation (by bus) and entrance into the Art

Institute of Chicago. The bus departs from the Dillon Mall around 8:30 in the morning, and students can expect to return by 9 at night.

Bodish, who is an art professor here at Sauk Valley Community College, encourages those with an interest in art to fully engage themselves in the experience. Of the 2-3 hours that are spent at the actual art museum, Bodish says, "I try to make people aware of particular, special exhibits that they have going on. Of course, they have a good body of work

of impressionists, post-impressionists, artists that are significant...historic."

Bodish explains that many of these artists and their work are being studied by art students here at SVCC, so getting a glimpse of their art is something special.

With that being said, Bodish also explains, "Anybody is welcome to attend. Students...can bring family members or friends along."

There is obviously flexibility in where students may choose to spend their time after finishing

the walkthrough of the Art Institute of Chicago. This sort of flexibility, "gives people a lot of time in the afternoon and into the early evening to go to other museums if they want, meet up with friends," explains Bodish.

Whether a student is majoring in art or just looking for a fun experience, all are encouraged to attend the trip. Bodish says, "The idea is to get in and see [the Art Institute of Chicago], and also to allow students to have a little bit of fun on their own."

Bowling is still rolling

By Mike Reed

Bowling alleys may be closing up, the numbers of league bowlers are going down, but bowling is still one of the top social activities in the United States.

Bowling centers now are trying to keep up with a new lifestyle change in society. Older bowling alleys are going away, but newer bowling centers are on the rise. These newer bowling centers are leaning more towards entertainment. Bowling centers are starting to have arcades, laser tag, pool tables, ping pong

tables, etc. Some even have restaurants.

Back in the mid 1960's, there were 12,000 bowling alleys. According to White Hutchinson, Leisure and Learning group, league bowling back in the day generated about 70% of revenue for bowling centers. Nowadays, league bowling only generates about 40% of revenue.

Now that there has been a lifestyle change, there aren't many league bowlers anymore. During the bowling season of 1997-1998, the United States Bowling congress had 4.1

million league members. As of 2006-2007, there was only 2.6 million members.

Though there is a decrease in league bowling, there are still quite a few people people that are going bowling just to bowl for fun. People want to have fun with friends without having to commit to a 30 week league season.

As a result of an informal Facebook poll by a current league bowler, it showed that, out of 38 voters, 65% of people would choose to go bowling with friends over the weekend rather than doing other so-

cial activities. The other 35% said that they would rather play video games, go to races, watch sports, or enjoy a campfire with friends.

Results of another Facebook poll by the same bowler, 65% of voters would rather go open bowling with friends than bowl on a league. This poll verifies the trend that has been happening over the years. It shows that there is a decrease in league bowling, but people still do love to bowl. The facts show that bowling is going to roll on for many years.

Sauk Scholar Program offers free credit hours to top high school classes

by Caleb Plumb

Sauk Valley Community College gives graduating seniors in the top ten percent of their class up to twelve free credit hours per semester.

Three students reaping the benefits are David Whitcombe, Mason Rodenbaugh, and Andrew Masters, all having graduated from Dixon High School in 2017, who say that they benefit greatly from the program.

Upon getting the invitation there are stipulations to be allowed to continue

being part of the program. "You have to be hold at least a 3.0 GPA (grade point average)" says Masters, "while also volunteering for at least twenty-four hours of community service per semester, fourteen of which have to be at Sauk."

The volunteer hours can seem like a lot at first, but in time it appeared to be no problem for all three. "We helped to build houses for Habitat for Humanity, install a wood floor for the First Baptist Church in Dixon, and helped to walk dogs at the animal shelter"

Whitcombe stated. "And those are just the off-campus things we did," Rodenbaugh interjected "at Sauk we have helped with the chocolate rendezvous, given tours, worked Stemday, and helped with the multiple blood drives."

Another duty that Whitcombe has participated in includes going to the meeting for the program to help bring in and introduce the new members, helping to give them a sense of what they are in for. "It helps for them to see an actual student that is experiencing it currently, the faculty are

nice and helpful, but seeing us talk them through it really helps."

"I truly think that it is worth it," Masters said with the other two agreeing with him, "it really helps to cut down some of the cost of college while still getting a good start on your education."

"I can not imagine not recommending it to a future college student, and I know it makes my future debt a little lighter as well," Rodenbaugh stated, "But really, it is absolutely worth it."

OPINION: A Breakfast-Lovers Paradise: Maple Pancake House



Maple Pancake House is located at 405 5th Avenue in Sterling

By Jake Miller

Breakfast-lovers can enjoy a hearty meal that works for any budget if they choose to eat at Maple Pancake House (located on 5th Avenue in Sterling). Upon entering the doors of Maple Pancake House, the scent of sizzling bacon and booming of friendly laughter fill the air.

Although the restaurant is small in size with limited seating when busy, the wait for a table is usually brief as customers may sometimes spend as little as thirty minutes in the restaurant from the time they walk in to when they ultimately leave with a satisfied appetite.

The menu is home to a diverse family of breakfast foods, including pancakes and skilletts. Those who love a good flapjack will be satisfied, as Maple Pancake House offers authentic, melt-in-your-mouth pancakes for a very cheap price.

Any adventurous pancake-lover may also opt for the oatmeal pancakes, that have the same great pancake flavor with an oatmeal batter twist. Considering their rarity, they still sell at a generous price.

The skilletts, on the other hand, are always served hot, and there are a variety of skilletts that can satisfy any customer, once again for a cheap price.

A good restaurant has great staff, and Maple Pancake House does not fall short in this area. The staff is very friendly, always willing to tend to any need customers may have.

The waitresses are timely and fill up coffees whenever they have a chance. Although they are constantly busy, waitresses also serve the food when it's hot. Furthermore, a staff member is always at the register waiting to give customers their change and send them on their way. All in all, the staff is very helpful and make for an overall enjoyable experience.

No matter how great a restaurant's food and staff can be, none of it matters if the customers feel like they are not getting what they are paying for.

An expensive experience has to be a good one, but Maple Pancake House succeeds in offering an expensive experience for an inexpensive price. A table for two may cost as little as \$10! A family of four may spend as low as \$20! These prices are very generous considering the amount of food and great atmosphere that the restaurant has to offer.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. With that being said, Maple Pancake House offers good food for a cheap price.

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