

Why Illinois changed water usage fees for non-motorized watercraft

by Cindy Skiles-Hacker

Illinois' ten week backlog for processing watercraft registration is one of the main reasons changes were necessary in the boat registration policies that repealed the requirement for water usage stamps on non-motorized watercraft.

As of June 1, 2018 non-motorized watercraft used on Illinois water were no longer required to display a water usage stamp. This took effect as part of House Bill 434 signed into law in September of 2017.

According to Representative Tim Butler (R-Springfield), who sponsored the bill,

changing the expiration date from June 30 to September 30 would help lift the burden on the DNR staff trying to process the paperwork at a time of year when everyone is going into the outdoor season. Butler said it was also confusing to figure out whether a boat should be titled or when the title fee should be paid. "So that's why they eliminated the title fee for boats under 21 feet, and then rolled into the registration fee for boats over that length," Butler said.

Ed Cross, director of communications for Illinois Department of Natural Resources, also said there were complaints about the permits from users.

These included that the permits were printed on heat transfer paper, which often faded and made them difficult to read or illegible and that the stamp could not be easily affixed to the watercraft.

The stamps sold for \$6 per year. In 2017 owners of non-motorized vessels in Illinois bought 74,012 stamps. Although no longer required, the DNR is encouraging owners of canoes and kayaks to buy the three year, \$18 registration for their boats in case of theft, accident or loss.

The DNR is working to automate boater registration to cut the costs and time it takes to process watercraft applications.



Tacos with the Trustees



The panel of Trustees answer students questions while enjoying tacos

by Nicole Arduini

Sauk Valley Community College students sat down with the Board of Trustees for a taco lunch and discussion.

Many students never get the opportunity to meet the men and women behind the decision making, but over tacos, students were able to make that connection. The six current board members took turns answering questions while munching on tacos and discussing the future for Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC).

The inaugural Tacos with Trustees gave the students the unique opportunity to speak directly with the college's Board of Trustees. As a panel, the board was asked questions by the

moderator Kyle Sigel, the SVCC student government Treasurer. The board was asked questions like, "What are the responsibilities and roles of a Trustee?" Although many different questions were asked, the same answer prevailed, "the success of our students."

The board of Trustees strives to promote success for its students through financial aid, student services, and student activities. When asked what has been the proudest moment as a Trustee, the board agreed it was watching their students walk across the stage at Commencement.

During the lunch, students were given the opportunity to openly ask the board questions.

Students like David Fowler stood before the Board and raised the question of subjects like non-traditional students, community involvement, and student activities participation.

The Board of Trustees is always open to questions and suggestions from their students. On behalf of the students of SVCC, Sean Zeciri keeps student life in mind while serving on the board as the Student Trustee. If a student has a comment, suggestions, or questions for the Board, they can feel free to discuss with Zeciri, or attend a Trustees meeting, which is typically held the third Monday of the month.

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Taking off at Sauk Valley Community College

by Robert Kerr

As of recently Sauk Valley Community College is taking off with an Aviation class known as AVA 101, as well as an aviation scholarship for perspective pilots. This upcoming fall semester 2019 it is not offered but last fall semester it was.

The aviation class is a course to prepare students for the private pilot knowledge exam. Straight from the Sauk Valley Community College course catalog: "At the end of this course, you will understand operations of the flight controls and instruments, airport and airspace considerations, aircraft weight and balance, aircraft performance tables, basic weather meteo-

rology, federal aviation regulations, flight physiology, and emergency preparedness."

Now after said course students can pay a fee to take the private pilot knowledge exam. However it is important to note that no actual flying will take place in the course. Airtime is not needed nor will it be provided.

The class is actually a class to prepare for the private pilot knowledge exam and to be a stepping stone for thing

Now the Aviation Scholarship is intended for students seeking an FAA pilot certificate. Straight from the scholarship description on the scholarship foundation page; "As such, it has been

established to assist students who are concurrently enrolled in a Sauk Valley Community College aviation course and taking flight training at the Dixon Municipal Airport or have completed a SVCC course and who are also concurrently enrolled in flight training at the Dixon Municipal Airport."

Now the goal of said scholarship is to grow the bond between the Dixon Municipal Airport and Sauk Valley Community College.

More details on the scholarship can be found on the foundation scholarships page at svcc.edu/scholarships or calling the Sauk Valley College Foundation at 815-835-6329.



Pictured in the photo are Sauk Valley Community College students, donors to the Dixon Municipal Airport-SVCC Aviation Scholarship, community leaders, Sauk Valley College board of trustees, friends and SVCC administration.

EDITORIAL:

Consume don't Judge

by Robert Kerr, arts reporter

Actors, artists and all manner of celebrities are closely watched all throughout their careers. Their lives on display for the world and they are, for some reason, held in a higher regard. Whether from divorce, break-up, or just downright scandal celebrities are under a microscope even in death.

King of pop, Michael Jackson currently had a HBO two part documentary released named "Leaving Neverland". Said documentary highlights

pedophilia accusations against Michael Jackson.

There has been some response to the documentary. There are radio stations that have stopped playing his music and even The Simpsons have permanently shelved an episode that had the prince of pop.

I however think they are in the wrong. One should separate a persons art from the actual person. Michael Jackson may or may not have been guilty for those things. However he was a, dropped of all charges in all his trials and b, he has

been dead for a while. There is no real legal reason proving the accusations so there is no real reason to boycott his music.

Life is too short and one should separate a celebrity's art from their character and actions. You should be able to enjoy music, movies, etc. without remorse. The implications in which the material is made shouldn't matter if you enjoy them. They are artists and their material is there to consume.



Photo by Nicole Arduini

Chicks greet visitors at the AG Department open house.

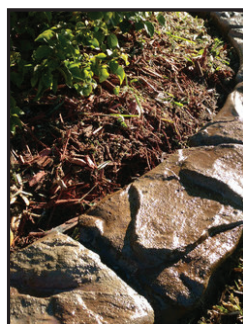
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Prescribed Flames



Spreading fire by drip torch.

by Nicole Arduini

On March 29th the Zollie Hall Prairie on the Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC) campus went up in flames in a controlled prairie burn. Although fire can be detrimental, the SVCC Prairie group uses prescribed fire to ensure a healthy and flourishing prairie plot. A fire that is prescribed means it is controlled or planned. Tall Grass Restoration LLC says, “Prescribed burning is used for a variety of reasons. One of the most notable contained burning benefits is to maintain the health of an existing natural area containing native plants.” There are even some prairie plants that will not ger-

minate unless they are first scorched. Not your average bonfire, the burning a prairie plot is a unique one. The group uses precision lighting tools to ensure that the fire is contained and safe. A mixture of diesel and gasoline are used in a drip torch, a device that allows the conservationists to spread the fire by hand through pouring out the fuel through a lit wick onto the ground. A heavy rubber mat on a stick called a fire swatter is also used in a prescribed prairie fire. The use of a fire swatter dates back to the 1920s as a device to control, smother, and direct flames. To ensure the safety and success of a prairie burn, conservation-

ists must take all the factors into consideration when planning to forego a burn. It is down to a science as factors like temperature, wind, humidity, and air quality are all accounted for when determining the beside time to prescribe some flames. For this reason, prairie burns usually take place in either the spring or fall due to the ideal weather. The SVCC prairie group uses their time to conserve and protect the SVCC contribution to the Prairie State. You can find dates and details on how to get your hands involved in the prairie by following their journey on Facebook, or by contacting Professor Brunner.

Photo by Mark Jordan

REVIEW: Pawn Stars

By Tony Cracco

Pawn Stars has aired on The History Channel for quite some time now. It is somewhat popular with certain audiences. But is it really worth watching? The show takes place in a pawn shop called Gold and Silver Pawn in Las Vegas, Nevada. The stars of the show include Rick Harrison, his son Corey “Big Haus” Harrison, and a young man named Chumley. And until his recent death, Rick “The Old Man” Harrison was co-owner of the shop with Rick, Jr. The show, which purports to be a reality show, is anything but realistic. Everyone on the show, workers and customers alike, have an attitude which appears to be phony.

They also argue a lot, which also appears staged. Worse still, Rick appears to be, shall we say, preachy. Every time a customer brings something in wanting to pawn or sell the item, Rick lectures them about the history of the item. Unless he is a god on Earth, however, he cannot possibly know all there is to know about each and every item. It seems obvious that he is briefed on the items before the customer brings them in. In the back room of the pawn shop, Rick and the young guys argue about everything under the sun. But this, too, seems staged. Obviously if they really disagreed on everything, it would be difficult, if not impossible to run an effective business. And they

have been in business for a very long time. Admittedly, much of what the customers bring in to be sold or pawned is cool stuff, and much of it really does have an interesting story behind it. But inevitably, the customer always seems to want a sky-high price to be paid to them for what they brought in, while Rick and the team seem to want to rip the customer off by offering rock-bottom prices. Again, no one can seem to agree on anything on this show. Pawn Stars may be somewhat worth watching for those who want to know the story behind what is brought into the shop. But the attitude of the show, which again appears to be staged, give this show a “D” rating at best.

Survey About President Trump

by Tony Cracco

Donald Trump’s presidency is perhaps the most controversial presidency in any of our lifetimes. Or so it was thought. A survey was done of SVCC students about what they think of the Trump presidency, and some surprising results were discovered. 95 students took part in our survey. Of those, the majority were in the 18-24 year old age range. 62 of the respondents were women, 32 were male, and one did not reveal their gender. We asked the respondents what they think of Trump’s handling of foreign and domestic affairs, and a slight majority disapprove of him on this subject. However, a considerably sizeable minority gave no clear opinion. We also asked SVCC students whether or not they felt that the Mueller investigation was done properly. On this subject, roughly an equal number of respondents felt that it was done properly as did not think so. Yet again, a sizable minority gave no clear opinion. Respondents were also asked

whether or not Trump had colluded with the Russians to get himself elected. A slight majority, about 30%, felt that he did indeed do so but yet again, a sizable minority, about 20%, were unsure. Furthermore, respondents were asked whether they voted for Trump in 2016. Perhaps most surprisingly of all, 32% did not vote at all. Still, perhaps least surprising of all, the overwhelming majority of respondents, just under 40%, do not plan to vote for Trump in 2020. Admittedly, this does go hand-in-hand with the narrative that Trump is an unpopular president. So what can we make of all this? It would seem that Trump is indeed divisive, but not universally unpopular. But what is most striking is that the narrative that college students are almost universally liberal and anti-Trump has clearly been debunked, at least among SVCC students. Furthermore, it was surprising to find that many students are simply apolitical and have no clear opinion.

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CGH Main Clinic welcomes
JACKIE GREVE, APRN, FNP, NP-C
(Pediatrics)

We are pleased to announce that Jackie Greve, APRN, FNP, NP-C has joined the Pediatrics Department of the CGH Main Clinic. In addition to providing routine healthcare for infants, children, and adolescents, Jackie will provide pediatric allergy testing under the supervision of a CGH physician. She as been a CGH employee for ten years and received her ADN from Sauk Valley Community College in Dixon, and both her BSN and MS from Chamberlain University in Downers Grove. Jackie is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and the Nursing Honors Society of Sigma Theta Tou International.

Certifications:
APRN (Advance Practice Registered Nurse), FNP (Family Nurse Practitioner), NP-C (American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification), BLS (Basic Life Support), PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support), ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support)

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EDITORIAL: Made in the USA?

by Mike Reed

There are people that only buy “Made in USA” tools, but the problem is, not all “Made in USA” tools are actually made in the USA. Even though USA made products may not be 100% made in the USA, this should not discourage people from buying their products.

If someone would look at a new Dewalt drill, there is a label that says “made in the USA with global materials.” This makes people believe that Dewalt tools are made in the US.

Some products, like Dewalt power tools for example, are actually made with foreign parts. Most of the parts that are used to

assemble Dewalt power tools are shipped to the United States from China. Dewalt tools are actually assembled in the USA, but are made in China.

Even though Dewalt tools are actually made in China and assembled in the US, they have always been known for their excellent tools. Knowing that Dewalt tools are not made with American parts should not affect a person’s decision when deciding what the best drill to buy is.

There is another brand of power tools that can be kind of deceiving to some people. That brand is Milwaukee. When someone sees Milwaukee tools, they might assume that the tools

are made in the US.

The Milwaukee Electric Tool Company was started in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Milwaukee tools are actually being made in China. For some of their tools, like Dewalt, they are being assembled in the US with Chinese parts.

Again, Milwaukee tools have been around for some time and have been known to be the best tools someone can buy. Milwaukee is expanding their footprint in the US. Milwaukee tools are trying to become USA made again. Even though Milwaukee tools are assembled in the US with foreign parts, Milwaukee tools will always be one of the top power tools to buy.

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