New Hula Hoop Club Is on Fire

By Katrina Jahn

Remember when kids were cool when they could get hula hoops to spin around their waist for a few seconds? Turns out, there is a lot more that one can do with a hula hoop and sophomore biochemistry major Veronica Milligan and senior biology major Megan Williamson are teaching people these new tricks in the new hula hoop club at Blackburn. This isn’t the everyday waist hooping that most people think of. Students, faculty and staff are all welcome to join and learn how to do some more tricks, some of which can take a while to learn. However, learning these things can give one confidence, provide exercise and sometimes help manage stress. Milligan said, “It’s relaxing and a great stress reliever. It’s similar to how exercise relieves stress but more fun in my opinion.”

Besides the waist, a hula hoop can also be used on shoulders, elbows and legs. There are also tricks like the vortex and the corkscrew that look really cool with an LED hoop or fire hoop. With these, the hoop will be spinning in ways that create an effect that will captivate people watching. When asked about the fire hooping, Milligan said, “It’s loud and hot, but exhilarating.” Williamson said, “When I watched Veronica and a friend hooping in the talent show, that’s when I really wanted to learn.” Beginners are usually better off learning with bigger and heavier hoops because they create more room for movement and go a bit slower. The smaller, lighter hoops move much faster and are a bit harder to learn with. People can also look up different tricks on YouTube and then show off their new tricks to the other members at the next official meeting. Milligan is also hoping to have a routine with the club members to do in the local Halloween parade.

Meetings for the club will be held in parlors of various dorms when the weather becomes too cold to be outside. Members of the club will be notified when meeting plans are made. If anyone is interested in joining the club, they can contact Milligan at her Blackburn email address.

Beaver Coming to Blackburn

By Katrina Jahn

It’s rare and amazing when big things happen in little towns. This year, actor and playwright Jim Beaver contacted Blackburn’s own theater professor Dr. Kate Roark to request that the performing arts department enact his semi-autobiographical play “Verdigris”. The play is what launched his acting career and he is now known for the TV shows “Verdigris” is the story of a college student, Richard Singer from “Supernatural” and Bobby Singer from “Deadwood” and Whitney Ellsworth he is now known for the TV show “Verdigris”. The play is what theater professor Dr. Kate Roark contacted Blackburn’s own theater professor Dr. Kate Roark to request that the performing arts department enact his semi-autobiographical play “Verdigris”. The play is what launched his acting career and he is now known for the TV shows “Verdigris” is the story of a college student, Richard Singer from “Supernatural” and Bobby Singer from “Deadwood” and Whitney Ellsworth.

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In asking for the play to be put on, Beaver also said that he would come to the Blackburn campus for the production. The opening night of the play will be on Thursday, Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the newly renovated Bothwell Auditorium. There will be an opportunity to meet and get a picture taken with Jim Beaver at the opening night reception immediately following the show in the Mahan lobby next to Bothwell. There is a general admission price of $10 for the show and another $10 for the reception. “Verdigris” will also be performed on Oct. 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 26 at 2:00 p.m. Anyone with a Blackburn ID can go to the show for free, but will still have to pay for the opening night reception. Tickets for both the show and the reception can now be purchased online at webtix.co bb.
A Different Kind of Farm for Carlinville?

By Patrick Noel

In January the state of Illinois legislature passed a bill to allow marijuana to be used medically for certain illnesses. Carlinville Mayor Deanna Demuzio had the idea to bring pot grow houses to the area. “Some individuals were surprised when I brought it up,” Demuzio said, “but after seeing the video of one of the council member’s children and what good medical marijuana is doing for him I knew I wanted to try and bring one here.”

With only 23 possible locations for a growing facility statewide and over 170 applications, Mayor Demuzio had a lot of work ahead of her. “Anyone with $25,000 could apply, so several surrounding counties also applied,” she said, “but we were approached by Abide Palliatives, LLC out of Springfield to be partners and it seemed to be a good fit. So we took 13.75 acres on Mayan road, which is near Carlinville Lake, and we annexed it into city property.” She said that when it was brought up to the city council for a vote “it passed unanimously, 9-0.”

Deanna Demuzio had the idea of jobs she was talking about, she answered, “We already have a master grower from Arizona who wants to come and work in this area. He is currently working in Colorado on one of their cultivation facilities statewide and over 170 applications, Mayor Demuzio said, “We have the opportunity to advance this city and as Mayor I couldn’t let this opportunity pass us by. I am all for marijuana being used to treat illnesses and if that leads to recreational use in the future then so be it; we will be in a perfect position to make that transition.”

Carlinville Mayor Deanna Demuzio working at her desk

Going Green to Save Green

By Chris Cole

Blackburn is taking green to the next level. The Sustainability Club is trying to get solar panels installed on campus. Solar energy is created by turning radiation from the sun into electricity. Sophomore biochemistry major Veronica Milkigan said, “I was surfing the internet and just decided to see if it was possible to build your own solar panels. I thought it would be a good project for the sustainability club and when we had our first meeting I brought the topic up.” However, this upgrade comes with advantages and disadvantages.

On the positive side, other than the cost of manufacturing and installation, solar energy is free. Next, solar energy does not produce greenhouse gases, fuels that produce gases that mix into the earth’s atmosphere and make the sun’s heat such as carbon dioxide or methane. Solar energy also cuts down on the additional costs associated with other forms of energy. Coal and oil are transported long distances to meet the energy demands of the world, not to mention other costs such as pollution transportation and road maintenance.

Of these costs raise the price of energy. Biology major Jordan Range said, “We’re going to have to switch to greener energy eventually, might as well do it now.”

Then what are the disadvantages? Solar energy can only be collected during the day. This means that energy has to be stored or an alternative source of power is needed at night. Also, the upfront cost to set up solar panels is expensive. The solar panels would be paid for by grants from the company that lights Mahan. If you are interested in finding out more information, contact club president Tim Hills or club advisor Dr. Bray.

Just Another Drill

By Chris Cole

Director of Campus Safety Tim Reents gives tips on emergency protocol

During the last week of September campus security conducted fire drills. While a fire drill helps people to respond in an orderly fashion in case of a fire, other emergencies such as tornadoes also require drills so that people are prepared in the event. Drills for these other emergencies aren’t practiced regularly, if at all, here on campus. Mathematics major Brandon Marten said, “I have no idea what to do in emergencies other than a fire drill. The school needs to show us what to do and post it online.” What is the proper course of action and what can we do to prepare ourselves before a disaster strikes?

Director of Campus Safety Tim Reents said, “We have grown up with so many drills that when we hear an alarm our first thought is that it’s another drill. We need to treat every alarm as if it’s the real thing.” Here are some tips given by Reents that everyone can use to make sure they are ready for any type of emergency.

In case of a fire or fire drill here’s what to do: Proceed to the nearest exit and keep your head low. Smoke is the number one killer in a fire. Most of the people in a fire die of smoke inhalation, not from the fire itself. To cut down on response time keep necessary items close to the door such as your shoes, cell phone and your wallet or purse. If the fire is small enough, someone can try and extinguish the fire themselves. Red fire extinguishers work on any fire. However, don’t try to be a hero, buildings can be rebuilt but the people can’t. Illinois is part of a region called tornado alley, a stretch of the U.S. that sees many tornadoes. If a tornado should touch down these are some steps you can take: Proceed to an interior room and avoid all windows and outside walls. A closet or a bathroom without windows would be preferable. If you’re in a dorm, go to the hallway and if outside, find a ditch. Avoid anything that can fall on you. In all these cases get low and cover your head with your hands.

School shootings are an unfortunate part of society. Here is what you can do in order to avoid becoming a victim: First if you can escape the area do so, but don’t put yourself at risk. If you can’t escape, lock and barricade the door and stay away from windows.

Every situation is different, but by using these methods a person can increase their odds of survival. As with every emergency, education is the key.
By Jordyn Smith

Every fall kids of all ages dress up in costumes, storm the streets with flashlights and bang on strangers’ doors to stock up on treats. We put up decorations, make jack-o’-lanterns and perhaps even enjoy a pumpkin spice latte.

For some people Halloween is a time for scaring, but for others it is a holiday for celebrating the dead.

Samhain called the spirits of the dead to gather in the forms of animals and other bodies, such as fairies, witches, ghosts and elves, thus resulting in some of the costumes children wear for fun to this day. Instead of praying to their heathen gods, the converts were to now pray to and recognize the deaths of saints. Nov. 1 became known as “Day of the Saints,” and the mass on that day was to be known as “Allisallowmass,” thus resulting in Oct. 31 being known as “All Hallowed Evening,” now abbreviated as Halloween.

Rising masks comes from the belief that the masks would keep the spirits of the dead from recognizing the living. Jack-o’-lanterns originate from Ireland, where hallowed turnips filled with candles were used to deter evil spirits. Orange and black are the colors most associated with Halloween. Many sources have found that orange is the color most associated with Halloween. Many sources have found that orange is the color most associated with Halloween.

Halloween came to America in the 1800s when the end of harvest season was celebrated by wearing costumes, eating treats and practical joking. Pranks became violent, resulting in the substitution of trick-or-treating in 1930.

Carlinville’s 75th annual Halloween Parade will commence at 6:15 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25.

The Campus Activities Board at Blackburn will be coordinating an on-campus Trick-or-Treat event on Oct. 31 under the direction of Natasha Anthony. The Resident Assistants in each residence hall will have candy that students can collect. Students are encouraged to wear costumes. There will also be a decoration contest for each dorm’s parlor. Whichever dorm has the best decorations will receive some type of reward for those who actually participate.

Anthony and the other CAB members hope to see a good turnout this year. “It’s one of the best holidays around,” Anthony said.

Between September 9th through October 5th, 22 incidents were handled by the Campus Community and Safety department. Some of the aforementioned offenses are listed below. All issues are handled by Residence Life, Campus Security and Carlinville Police when necessary.

09/09/2014 At 11:15pm there was a medical emergency when a student had to be rushed to the hospital.
09/13/2014 At 10:07pm a noise complaint was filed by the neighbors against Blackburn College during a movie night in the Quad.
09/13/2014 At 2:43am there was a noise complaint in a residence hall. One student was playing music too loud while in the shower. Another asked for the music to be turned off and the other student would not.
09/17/2014 At 1:30am there was an alcohol violation with underage drinking in a residence hall. Two students were issued offenses for underage drinking.
09/14/2014 At 6:31pm a student reported she feared an unwanted person may come to Blackburn Campus.
09/17/2014 At 9:20pm a student was found unconscious in a residence hall.
09/21/2014 At 1:41am there was an alcohol violation with underage drinking in a residence hall. One student was issued an offense for underage drinking.
09/21/2014 At 8:51pm three students were seen using the fire escape to exit a residence hall. Three students were issued infractions.
09/23/2014 At 9:00pm there was a medical emergency in a residence hall.
09/23/2014 At 9:28am there was a car crash in the parking lot.
09/25/2014 At 5:15pm there was a report filed of damage done to left rear bumper of a car in the campus parking lot.
09/25/2014 At 10:40pm while completing rounds Security workers found two students who were in a classroom with the lights off.
09/30/2014 At 8:30pm a student was found unconscious in a residence hall.
10/02/2014 At 9:50pm there was an incident with the possession and the accidental use of pepper spray in a residence hall.
10/03/2014 At 8:10pm there was an alcohol violation involving underage drinking on campus.
10/04/2014 At 11:33pm a guest of a Blackburn student was intoxicated and began to vomit.
10/05/2014 At 1:40pm there was an alcohol violation when an underage student and three guests were seen intoxicated in a residence hall. A visitor of a Blackburn student was seen throwing up in the restroom. There was a student and three visitors who were all underage and had been drinking.

For more information contact us at burnian@blackburn.edu!
By Max Vitori

Other words, too reminiscent some students feel the PBTs
Student Life Committee that more than 0.08% can be issued
on campus. A student over the age students who have been found
brought to a member of the concerning matters that affect
discusses and makes decisions faculty, staff and students
of Student Life Committee.

By Vicky Michaelis

The Office of Institutional Research gathers and prepares data for assessment, budgeting, evaluation, and planning that are strategic in helping Blackburn College. Our goals include:

• Report data to the federal and state government
• Review and coordinate college research and assessment projects
• Ensure research procedures protect participant's data
• Solicit data from a variety of sources (staff, students, alumni) and share the results
• Support evaluation of courseware using results for institutional decision-makers as appropriate

Each semester, the Office of Institutional Research puts together an enrollment assessment for Blackburn College. Below is a statistic that the Office of Institutional Research put together of Blackburn College's enrollment and majors in the fall of 2014.

By Deja Bell

Naps are a very important part of a college student's life. Taking a short nap could be the difference between feeling alert and being able to study. According to SleepFoundation.org there are three types of naps: Planned Napping when you take a nap before you actually get sleep. This would be good if you

By Vinnie Berk

At college, students are at home away from home. They feel comfortable and welcomed. When I was there for two-three things, you need to try it a way want to be. There are a main three factors that make dorm life enjoyable: your room and your hallmates.

First, the most important, is the roommate. Your roommate is someone that lives in the same room as you and is probably someone you will spend a lot of down time with. A good roommate is a person who will definitely respect you and you your belongings. Nobody wants someone who steals your food. It is hard to find a roommate, suits but best you can, and make it reflect who you and your hallmates. You must get to know these people and their interests. They may not become friends with you, but as long as you are positive and not disturbed, they should be a good area. Some neighborhoods might become of you lower, your roommate hallmates recognize rules and policies in the dorms know about the difference between

There are other items that should be in every dorm room. Junior Alex Richards said, “Good things to have in your room only, obviously, but also like having lounge chairs since my room is a bit hot for. You and I love Netflix. Every girl's in the one room, you must respect it and posting it on

On the other hand, the dorm rooms and the hallmates need. Netflix. Junior Tyler Gosselin added, “Do the best you can to influence others to the right path. “If you are passive, you cannot be friends with them. The people you choose to be friends with are very important to your life. They are the ones who can help you overcome the difficulties that you may have.”
The Hungry Student Visits JT Hanks

By Ben Nichols

From outside, JT Hanks or Hanks an' is an enticing building among other buildings in Carlinville. Settled along 1st South Street and Alton Street, the building used to be home to a local favorite establishment called Ryan's. While it may not be the old Irish pub that people remember, Hanks is a brand new adventure all on its own.

Stepping inside, immediately you notice the Midwest outdoors theme in the building. The wall on the north side is adorned with taxidermy deer heads and ducks. The building has been completely renovated on the inside and now includes very fancy wooden booths and cozy leather seating at the tables. The bar's extremely clean and welcoming with brand new televisions, leather padding on the counter and a very beautiful display of wild pheasant across from the stools. The other end of the building is relatively clear and has a modern speaker system and dance floor for fun-going individuals on the weekend.

So how does the food taste? Well, at the moment the only thing you can get is pizza. The bartender Carley explained, “We have just opened but unfortunately our kitchen is still being renovated. It’ll be a bit until we are able to serve meals.” I missed dinner in the cafeteria so I decided to venture over to the bar. The very personal aspect of their music is not one that is common in pop music but over the radio. Dividing even deeper into their songs and you hear topics such as death, family and addiction struggles. Healy, the band's songwriter, writes very personal lyrics based on experiences that have happened in his life. Some song lyrics are actual things that have been said to Healy, like this lyric “We got one thing in common it’s this tongue of mine.”

With all of this success, The 1975 has experienced they should be more well known. The radio play that they have gotten has only been for the most radio friendly songs that they do have. The very personal aspect of their music is not one that is common in pop music but over the radio. Dividing even deeper into their songs and you hear topics such as death, family and addiction struggles. Healy, the band's songwriter, writes very personal lyrics based on experiences that have happened in his life. Some song lyrics are actual things that have been said to Healy, like this lyric “We got one thing in common it’s this tongue of mine.”

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By Chris Cole

There is talk of a new house system coming to Blackburn. However, before everyone gets excited let’s be clear these are not fraternities or sororities. So if you were picturing a scene out of “Animal House” you’re in for a disappointment.

A house system is a unique way of setting up on campus living arrangements. Blackburn is currently looking at starting a system modeled after Bowdoin College, a liberal arts college in Brunswick, Maine. In this system each residential student is assigned to a residence hall, but beyond that each residence hall is affiliated with a college house. Abbey Hardin explains, “Greek Life Organizations are relatively strict in terms of conduct, the time you need to devote to the organization, grades, etc. House systems are much more inclusive, but can help instill the same sense of camaraderie and pride that a Greek organization would. Think Harry Potter meets Blackburn.”

How is a house system set up? In the system from Bowdoin, each college house admits about 25 upper-class students through a process with an application and an interview. These students help out new students with the transition to life on campus. Each house sets up events such as pizza parties or dances, some of which are open to the public and some just for students within the house. The goal is to provide ways for students to get to know each other and have fun at the same time.

This system can offer some benefits. Other than some minute differences it is difficult to see any major changes that would be made. Business Management Major Jesse Gries. “The house system sounds similar to a fraternity or sorority and gives Blackburn a reputation as a party school.” For the most part a college house and a residence hall seem to be the same thing. A house system is a place where people live together and throw events for students in the house to give them a chance to socialize. Here at Blackburn we have different residence halls and occasionally there are events for each dorm. Maybe instead of implementing a house system, the residence halls could become the house system itself with ways to encourage some friendly competition.

There are some things Blackburn could take from the house system. Having upperclassmen live in a dorm with new students is a good idea. These students could help newcomers with getting used to living on campus. New students are often out of their parents’ house for the first time and they may not know where to go for help. This system could help give them a built-in support system and a way to meet the people who live in their dorm as well. With these changes, this system could become a Blackburn a friendlier place.

It’s not clear yet if this system will be used and what changes may be made. If you’re interested in finding out more about the house system Blackburn is considering you can visit Bowdoin College’s website at http://www.bowdoin.edu/about/news/college-tour/course-house-system/index.shtml. To make your opinion heard don’t hesitate to let the administration here at Blackburn know how you feel.
Farewell, Captain

By Jordyn Smith

Baseball said goodbye to one of its most praised athletes in the history of the game at Yankee Stadium, Derek Jeter, former shortstop for the New York Yankees, concluded a 20 year storbybook career that little leaguers could only dream about. And like the numerous hours he graced us with, he went out in a way only the Captain could.

Jeter was drafted right after high school in 1992. In 1995 he made his debut in the majors. Just one year later, he won the Rookie of the Year Award and led his team to win the 1996 World Series. Over the years Jeter has accumulated 14 All-Star selections and five World Series titles. He also served as the Yankees’ team captain from 2003 to his retirement. Jeter became the 28th player to reach 3,000 hits, finished his career with a net worth of $228 million and is one of its most praised athletes.

No One Said It Would Be Easy

By Michelle Flood

You’ve got a 4 p.m. baseball practice, work tonight from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and after all that you have to write that seven-page paper that’s due for your English class at 8 a.m. You’re tired, you’re sore and you’ve got a 4 p.m. class this afternoon. You’ve got a 4 p.m. class this afternoon.

By Ben Nichols

“Smash! Crash! Shoot! GOAL!” These words seem to be echoing across campus as the NHL regular season is officially in full swing. While there are many teams dotted throughout the United States and Canada, two teams in particular have made quite a presence. With Carlinville being in the middle of the Midwest and the two closest major cities being St. Louis and Chicago, Blackburn has found itself in-between one of the biggest rivalries in the NHL between the Chicago Blackhawks and the St. Louis Blues. But just how big is this rivalry?

The heat between the fans is just as intense as the rivalry between the teams themselves. On par with the Cubs and Cardinals rivalry, the fans take immense pride in their teams, and on game night it is a very common occurrence to see students and Carlinville residents adorning their jerseys and hitting the upstairs bar or packing the dorm parlors to watch their teams go at it. Usually this involves a lot of cheering and cursing between everybody, and of course the next-day bragging rights and arguing over the game results.

Students are very vocal about the intense rivalry. Sophomore Christy Hobbs kept it short and simple when she said, “Go Blues!” While freshman Brandon Martin said proudly, “Let’s go Blackhawks!” Some students have more to say. Senior Morgan Kartchner said, “To be honest, I feel like the Blues are a little better than the Blackhawks, but I’ll give them that, but the Blackhawks are pretty much superior in every way.”

As for the intensity of the rivalry, between Carlinville and Carbondale, it is very common occurrence to see students and Carlinville residents adorning their jerseys and hitting the upstairs bar or packing the dorm parlors to watch their teams go at it. Usually this involves a lot of cheering and cursing between everybody, and of course the next-day bragging rights and arguing over the game results.

Many of the students at Blackburn participate in at least one sport.