

Staying on the Road EDITORIALS

A guide to winter driving



Photo by Hannah Hofmann

By Rebecca Boneschans

ESTHERVILLE-With the frigid temperatures and falling snow, you must prepare yourself for the upcoming winter season. Not only should you unpack your scarves, hats and mittens, you should also get your vehicle ready for the long winter months.

Driving in the Midwest during the winter proves to be a challenge, because drivers never know what the roads have in store for them. To take on the ever-changing winter driving conditions, Midwesterners must be ready for anything. The first step to getting ready for the upcoming season is to winter-proof your vehicle. Here are a few tips for getting your vehicle winter-ready:

- ✓ Get a tune-up in the fall
- ✓ Purchase winter tires
- ✓ Make sure brakes are working correctly
- ✓ Switch to winter-weight oil
- ✓ Check battery life
- ✓ Make sure all fluids (anti-freeze, washer fluid, etc.) are at optimal levels
- ✓ Choose winter wiper blades
- ✓ Warm up the vehicle by driving it, not letting it idle
- ✓ Keep all windows and light sources clean and visible

When driving in winter weather, you have to be cautious of ice, snow, sleet, other drivers, animals and the time of day. With all of these factors it would be easy to get caught off guard and end up in a snow bank. In case that would happen, be prepared in advance to keep warm and safe.

One such way is to keep a winter safety kit in your vehicle at all times. This kit can include clothes, in case you are stranded overnight, candles and an empty coffee can to keep them in, protein bars, a first aid kit, flashlight and batteries, a warning device (flares or reflective materials), jumper cables, a sleeping bag or blanket, window scrapers and a snow shovel and abrasive material in case you get stuck.

Driving in unfavorable

conditions should be avoided at all costs, but if you do find yourself out on the road and it's icy or blowing snow and your car is doing things it shouldn't, such as skidding, there are a few things you can do to prevent yourself from driving head first into a snow filled ditch.

The first thing is to drive slowly and cautiously. Always allow yourself enough time to get where you need to be; don't rush. Keep your lights on, so you are visible to other drivers and keep a safe distance from the car in front of you; allowing more time and space to stop should you have to in a hurry.

If you feel the car start to skid, don't slam on the brakes, simply take your foot off the gas to slow your speed. If your rear wheels are skidding, turn into the skid. If the car is skidding left, turn left and vice versa. If your front wheels are skidding, shift into neutral, don't steer immediately. Let the car slow and regain traction; as it does, turn in the direction you want to go.

In the event that you are unable to control the skid and end up in the snow bank you were so cleverly trying to avoid, here are a few pointers for getting unstuck:

- Turn your steering wheel left and right to get snow out of the way of the tires.
- Do not spin your wheels, this only digs you in deeper.
- Ease your foot on the gas, don't stomp on it for more speed.
- Use a shovel and abrasive materials, if necessary, in order to get yourself out of the snow.
- Try rocking the vehicle. Shift from reverse to drive, easing on the gas in each shift to create momentum. This may be rough on some vehicles' transmissions, so be sure to check the owner's manual beforehand.

If you get stuck and can't get out, then the best thing to do is call for help. Do not leave the

vehicle and attempt to walk to a nearby town or home, unless it's within 100 yards. It's best to stay in the vehicle and wait for help. Utilizing the car kit will keep you warm and safe until someone arrives. If you find yourself waiting for a lengthy time, turn the car on once every hour to keep it warm, light the candles from your kit and keep them in the coffee can, creating heat. Be sure to keep a window cracked to allow airflow and remember to stay calm. Your lights should be placed on "hazard" or "flashing" and any reflective materials should be used in case another vehicle approaches.

Information from this piece was supplied by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the NJ Office of Emergency Management and the following websites: www.cartalk.com, www.weather.com, www.syracuse.com.

Calendar Of Events

Fri., Nov. 6
Basketball NECC Classic, Norfolk, NE (W) vs. Mid-Plains Community College, 2 p.m.
(M) vs. Central Community College, 4 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 7
Basketball (W,M) NECC Classic, vs. Northeast Community College, Norfolk, NE, 4 & 6 p.m.
Volleyball, Regional Finals, Marshalltown
Wrestling, Yellow Jacket Open, Rochester, 9 a.m.

Wed., Nov. 11
Laker Life Club, Estherville, Room 74, 12 Noon
Basketball, (W,M) vs. Minnesota West, Worthington, MN 6 & 8 p.m.

Thurs., Nov. 12
Scholarship Recognition Event, Estherville, 4-5 p.m.
Wrestling, North Iowa Area Community College Dual, Estherville, 7 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 14
Basketball (W) vs. Southeastern, Keokuk, 1 p.m.
Cross Country National Meet, Peoria, IL
Wrestling, Harold Nichols Cyclone Open, Ames, 9 a.m.

Sun., Nov. 15
Basketball (W) vs. Mt. Mercy JV, Cedar Rapids

Mon., Nov. 16
Basketball (M) vs. Southeastern Estherville, 7:30 p.m.

Tues., Nov 17
Basketball (W) vs. University of Sioux Falls JV, Estherville, 7:30 p.m.

Wed., Nov. 18
Laker Life Club, Estherville, Room 74, 12 Noon

Fri. Nov. 20
Volleyball National Championships, Chula Vista, WI
Wrestling, Iowa City Duals, Iowa City, 2 p.m., with UI, Coe, and Pembroke

Sat., Nov. 21
Wrestling, Kaufman/Brand Open, Omaha, NE 9 a.m.

Mon., Nov. 23
Basketball (M) vs. Morningside JV, Estherville, 7:30 p.m.

Wed., Nov 25
Holiday, No Classes, Offices Open

Thurs., Nov. 26-Fri., Nov 27
Holiday, No Classes, Offices Closed

Mon., Nov 30
Basketball (M) vs. Rochester, Estherville, 7:30 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPIRIT LAKE

DJ Christopherson, non-traditional Marketing student

By Jenna Shumate

SPIRIT LAKE-There is a lot of buzz around Iowa Lakes Community College about non-traditional students. DJ Christopherson is one of those students.

Christopherson has been going to Iowa Lakes for a year and a half. He's in the Advertising and Marketing program on the Spirit Lake campus. "When I first started taking classes in business, something about advertising and marketing rubbed me the right way," said Christopherson. He chose Iowa Lakes because it was the closest college to his home. Iowa Lakes is convenient for most non-traditional students who live around the Iowa lakes region. He said, "I enjoy my program and the instructors are great." Christopherson also plans to attend some business seminars this spring.

Some of Christopherson's hobbies are golf and snowmobiling. He enjoys going golfing as much as possible. In the summer time, he golf's seven days a week. "I am good at golf," said Christopherson, "I usually shoot par." During the winter, snowmobiling is his favorite sport. Christopherson owns his own snowmobiles. One is his Arctic ZTR 600 triple. He only races this one though. The other snowmobile is for playing. It is a Skidoo MXZ 600.

Christopherson enjoys traveling a lot. Travel is one reason he is going to school for Advertising and Marketing. He has lived in New London Connecticut for four years. He also has been to Jackson Florida, and San Diego, while he was in the Navy for four years. Before Iowa Lakes, he worked at Pier Fishing, which is still his current job.

Christopherson plans to go to a four-year school, or get a job in the Advertising and Marketing field after he graduates from Iowa Lakes.



DJ Christopherson

Debbie Clark, Instructor and Success Center coordinator at Iowa Lakes

By Jenna Shumate

SPIRIT LAKE-Iowa Lakes Community College has a Success Center at the Spirit Lake campus. Instructor and coordinator, Debbie Clark, coordinates the center. She has been at Iowa Lakes for six years.

The Success Center is a testing center, where the instructors proctor online and written tests such as college level examination program tests, GED tests and they also oversee independent study.

In 2003, a friend of Clark's suggested a nighttime proctoring position at Iowa Lakes. She proctored for a couple of years. During that time she was asked to be a substitute in the Successful Learning Center. Within a couple of years she was asked to be the coordinator, where she oversees the other instructors in the Success Center. One thing that Clark sometimes encounters in the Successful Learning Center is students signing up for class and not showing up until the end of the semester and expecting to do all the work for the whole semester and pass. "It's very frustrating, and I want to help students, but I just see a lack of motivation and I don't know what to do about it," said Clark. Clark enjoys working at Iowa Lakes. "It's very rewarding," she said.

Before Iowa Lakes, Clark did over-the-road trucking with her husband, but she has always had a passion for teaching. "I decided to go back to school and finish up my teaching degree in 1994," said Clark. Right before Iowa Lakes, she was a substitute teacher in the public schools of Sioux City. For a total of 15 years she has been a substitute teacher in public schools. Clark said, "Because I only work part time at Iowa Lakes I still do substitute teaching."

Some of her hobbies and interests include music, singing, church, animals and of course teaching. Clark plays the guitar and sings with the worship team at church. She said, "I have been a worship team member for 43 years." Clark started playing the guitar when she was 12 years old.

She has two dogs and no children, so her dogs are the closest things to kids. When Clark was a child she always knew she wanted to be a teacher. When other kids were playing with dolls, she was looking for students to play school with. She prepared to become a teacher, while she was in high school.

Clark finished two years of college before she got married and left school. It took her 25 years to go back. As soon as she had the time and the money she went back to school and acquired her teaching degree. She said, "It's in my blood, it's my heart, My passion is teaching."

For more information on the Success Center, check it out at www.iowalakes.edu, or stop by their office.



Debbie Clark

Local Area Cuisine

By Hevyn Heckes and Rebecca Boneschans

The Place To Meet: Tweeter's

Pricing: \$\$\$
Quality: THREE STARS

Tweeter's Restaurant in Okoboji is owned by Kae Hoppe. Hoppe took over the family business in May of 2007. Tweeter's is notorious for its sports atmosphere and friendly service. When the restaurant burned down in the summer of 2008 due to an electrical fire, destroying dozens of priceless Iowa Sports memorabilia, renovations became necessary.

The restaurant is more modern now, with black paneling and gold walls. The bar and entrance were moved to create a waiting area, and the design of the bar itself was changed to create more seating. There is now a party room that can seat up to 42 people with a reservation.

Upon entering Tweeter's, everybody is greeted like a long time friend. The customers are able to seat themselves in one of the many available tables throughout the restaurant. There are also three bar tables available for those who want a more relaxed, bar type atmosphere. There is plenty of light from the picture windows, creating a well-lit seating area. Television sets showcasing the days top sport stories and games are placed strategically throughout the room, so avid sports followers don't miss a thing.

The menu is vast and boasts of homemade salad dressings, gravies and slow-cooked meats. They offer daily lunch and dinner specials along with Soup De Jour. The most expensive item on the menu is The Great Bartender, which is a 12 oz. steak priced at \$22.95.

Non-traditional students support each other

A "Back to School" Follow-up

By Rebecca Boneschans

ALL CAMPUSES-Students from all walks of life are continuing their education at Iowa Lakes Community College.

Dan Zuelke, 44, of Mankato, MN, is a dislocated worker, who decided now would be the time to start a new career and began looking for new opportunities at Iowa Lakes. "When I saw they offered the Substance Abuse Counseling course, my mind was made up. I had wanted to do this counseling for years," says Zuelke. "I've been volunteering at treatment centers, prisons and jails since the early '90s. Now, hopefully, I can get paid for helping people."

Zuelke is currently unemployed and using the aid from the Dislocated Workers program, making it possible for him to be a full-time student.

Another student, Malisa Vallie, 41, a single mother and student at the Spencer campus, was looking to change careers and begin again. "I wanted more for myself," stated Vallie. "I am tired of low paying jobs, and frankly, I credit myself with more brains than that."

Vallie is enrolled as a full-time student for an Associate of Arts Degree and is planning to transfer after her two years are completed.

Non-traditional students find that their education is benefiting them and adding more structure to their future.

The students aren't the only ones benefiting. Julie Carlson, Dean of Students at Iowa Lakes, also feels that having a more mature student body is bringing real life experiences to the college and devotion to education. "We're finding our adult students bring some great real life experiences to the classroom," stated Carlson, "but they also bring a dedication and a commitment to education that I think is good for some of our traditional students." Carlson continued, "Those real life experiences that our adult students bring to the classroom, you don't learn those in a text book. I only see it as a benefit in the classrooms."

With everything that's going on in the lives of these students, and others like them, school can be stressful and unmanageable at times. Vallie, along with a few other non-traditional students, have founded a so-called support group, that assists students who are juggling more than just school and homework.

A blog was created to allow non-traditional students to share their thoughts about being a student and the obstacles that they come across. On the blog site, it states that "this is simply a place for information, tools and reminders, as well as a place to vent, ask questions and discuss matters that pertain to us—the non-traditional students." For more information, go to www.ilccnt.blogspot.com or contact Malisa Vallie at valliem@ilcc.cc.ia.us

WANTED ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

Round up your

ART PHOTOS
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For Submission to Iowa Lakes' Literary Publication

The Prairie Smoke

Bring your submissions to:
Any English instructor on any campus
Byron Lindell, Estherville Campus
Pam Tschetter, Estherville Campus, Room 103

DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2010

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