New Parking Process Coming Spring 2020

by Shawn Ferrari

Beginning this upcoming spring semester, STCC will be putting a new parking process into action. The process will include license plate readers, cameras, and a real time count of each parking lot. From Debbie L. Belucci, the Senior Director of Business Services: “Students will now register their license plates (they can actually register two plates, but only one can be in a student lot at one time), the camera will take a picture upon entering a lot and check the license plate against our database of registered plates.

Non-registered cars are subject to ticketing.”

This new procedure will get rid of stickers and assigned lots. Students will be able to park in any lot on a first come first serve basis. Electronic signs will show whether or not a parking lot is full. They will update when cars enter and leave the parking lots. If a lot is full, students should proceed to a different lot until they find a lot with space. There seems to be no downsides to the new process, especially since Debbie said, “We tested it with students from student government and they were pleased with the ease of the registration process and with the idea in general.”

STCC students who are registered for Spring 2020 can start registering their license plates on December 4, 2019. If you’re still registering for classes or making financial arrangements, don’t worry because you can register your license plate through the spring semester. STCC will store all license plates in a database, but the data will be cleared every semester so you’ll still need to apply for parking for your future fall, spring, and summer semesters.

Sources: https://www.stcc.edu/campus-life/fitness/
https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldTechnicalCommunityCollege/photos/
Fall: A Favorite Season
by Maria Cruz

Fall is one of the seasons most people love. People love fall especially for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and the changes in colors of leaves. But sometimes the weather gets a little weird. For example, it’s really chilly some days and other times it’s warm. But hey, you can’t fight the weather! We get to see people put up their decorations for Halloween or Thanksgiving. The only hassle of fall is cleaning up all the fallen leaves. But at least the kids have fun with fallen leaves; once they are in a pile they tend to jump in. It’s also fun because you can hide in the leaves and scare your children. Love doing that, and parents enjoy seeing the smiles on their kids’ faces.

Halloween is also a big part of fall. We get to enjoy getting dressed up as scary characters or funny ones and then go get candy. There are also Halloween parties that adults attend to have fun. Kids get to dress up as their favorite characters and go trick or treating. It’s fun seeing the children enjoy themselves. There are some homes that create haunted attractions to see kids get scared and at the end they get a bag of candy. There are other places that people go to get scared like McRae’s Farm, and a few other places that you can travel to.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner which is when every family gathers together to celebrate. But there are some families that can’t make it to Thanksgiving because they live far away. And there is also pumpkin picking that loves to do with their children.

Fall is the best season because it’s calming. Sitting at home by the window with a cup of tea and watching the leaves fall from the trees is kind of calming. You can also enjoy spending time with friends or family and watch scary movies all night. This is fun to do because you are bonding more. For example, let’s say you haven’t seen your friend in a while and you both love scary movies, you could spend the whole night watching horror movies, and then when you get to Christmas, scary Santa wins the wings in the annual home invasion.

Correction: In our Fall 2019 news, Chief Editor Jessie Mongeon’s name was misspelled throughout. The Tech Times staff apologizes for the error.

Fall, 2019 in Granby, MA. Staff photos.
Reading Is Important
by Shannon Ferrari

The Evolution of Gender and The Fight for Transgender Rights

Whether you go by he, she, they, etc., everyone has a gender. Most people do not think about what gender they are, but that doesn’t ring true for everyone. In recent times, gender has become more complex. Questions have spawned from the complexities such as: Are sex and gender the same? Are we more than two genders? If so, how many are there? These aren’t bad questions, but they usually lead to pointless and unproductive debates, though sometimes these questions can lead to people learning more about gender and other related topics.

It is common to think that sex and gender are the same, but the two terms are becoming separate entities. Sex refers to biological assignment, including the genitalia you were or weren’t born with. Gender is starting to become a social construct, or as defined by Merriam-Webster, “an idea that has been created and accepted by the people in a society.”

Our construct of gender is changing towards gender identity, which Merriam-Webster defines as, “a person’s internal sense of being male, female, some combination of male and female, or neither male nor female.”

An umbrella term that may be used to describe people who identity differently is transgender. The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) states, “Transgender is a broad term that can be used to describe people whose gender identity is different from the gender they were thought to be when they were born.” Trans is often used as shorthand for transgender. Some transgender people may be fine being referred to as he/him or she/her, but not everyone uses the same pronouns. The pronouns “they/them” are usually used by someone who is non-binary, someone who may not feel just male, female, or either. There are an abundant amount of genders and pronouns, but no one should be expected to be a walking encyclopeda. If you’re ever unsure, don’t be afraid to ask someone what they prefer you to call them, because it’s like asking someone if they have a preferred name or nickname.

Trans people are trying to be more comfortable in their skin and often going through some form of a transition. Someone’s transition can be as simple as pronoun changes or dressing differently. It can also be more complicated and involve legal and medical action like changing their name, getting surgery, or taking hormones. But in today’s world, there are so many other options for getting through, trans people should be given the same respect that we would give to anyone else.

Trans people usually have a hard life, so it’s important to remember this when interacting with someone who identifies as transgender. We need to understand that people lost a job due to bias, 50% were harassed on the job, 20% were physically assaulted, and 78% of trans students were harassed or assaulted.

These cases happen because there isn’t enough legal protection for trans people. As claimed by the Human Rights Campaign, “According to the Human Rights Campaign’s 2014 State Equality Index, only 18 states and the District of Columbia prohibit employer employment discrimination based on gender identity; only 17 states and the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination based on gender identity in public accommodations; and only 15 states and the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination based on gender identity in education.” The trans community has some protection, but we should fight for more clear non-discrimination laws.

This brings to light the fights that African American and gay people had to go through in America. Both communities have been seen and treated poorly in the past, to say the least. Over time they gained rights and respect that they deserve, and hopefully the same can become reality for trans people. No one should be expected to know everything about gender or transgender, but it is important to learn about what respect trans people. The discrimination that trans people face may not be outward, but it should affect anyone. No one should be discriminated against for being transgender. People should support equal rights and respect for all people. It is not acceptable to know nothing about anyone, but should respect anyone you meet. No one should be discriminated against for being transgender. People should support equal rights and respect for all people. It is not acceptable for anyone to treat someone unfairly, but it’s the right thing to do. No one should be expected to know everything about gender or transgender, but it is important to learn about what respect trans people.

The fight is similar to the fights that African American and gay people had to go through in America. Both communities have been seen and treated poorly in the past, to say the least. Over time they gained rights and respect that they deserve, and hopefully the same can become reality for trans people.

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A Great Pop Album From FKA Twigs

by Shawn Ferrari

Magdalene is the second album from the British female pop artist Tahliah Barnett, more commonly known as FKA Twigs. Released on November 8, 2019, the album is a mixture of art pop and glitch pop with hints of alternative R&B and ambient pop. The production credits are enormous, including production from artists like Kenny Beats, Skrillex, Cashmere Cat, Koreless, Arca, etc. Magdalene is 9 tracks and 39 minutes long, an average length, but there’s a lot to digest.

It starts with the track “thou-sand eyes”. In an acappella-like song, FKA Twigs sings about her fight with the public eye, one of the many issues she highlights throughout the album. In the song she sings about all of the eyes on her. “If I walk out the door a thousand eyes.” She talked about this further in an interview with i-D Magazine saying, “I thought, if I was any less than perfect I was going to be completely torn apart publicly.” Alongside being thought-provoking, the balance between her vocals and the production is perfect on this track.

Next in line is “Home with You.” This track is good, though some parts are rough. Once again, FKA twigs provides an interesting message. Throughout the song she sings about the different relationships and balancing all of them while taking care of yourself. On the website Genius she said, “So I had people that I loved and people that loved me dearly kind of depending on me a lot and needing things from me. “Home with You” is about that battle of wanting to be there for somebody, but also struggling to be there for yourself at the same time.” She also throws nods towards Kate Bush’s song “Run-ning Up That Hill” which is a popular art pop song that shares a similar message.

“Home with you” is followed up by the lovely track “Sad Day.” In the chorus, she sings and repeats the line, “Ah, would you make me, make a, make a wish on my love? over and over. It’s about a relationship slipping away, but hoping to continue it, hoping to get a second chance. She’s tried to make the relation-

http://www.brooklynvegan.com/fka-

twigs-details-new-album-magdalene-
giving-on-love/

ship work, but she can’t, she’s done all that she can. It’s a sad track, but executed very well.

Then we hit a bump in the road with Holy Terrain.” The 4 minute track is all right until the halfway mark. It then becomes a juggling act; too much is going on and the track loses focus. After that, the rapper Future has a featured verse that seems out of place. Altogether “Holy Terrain” isn’t horrible, but hurts the flow of the album.

The album comes back strong with the track “Mary Magdalene” which follows the different views surrounding Mary Magdalene, a well-known follower of Jesus Christ. FKA

twigs sings about intimacy and women and ties it in with Mary Magda-

lence. It’s a beautiful track and very women empowering.

Magdalene then blurs into outer space with the amazing track “Fallen Alien.” The instru-

mental perfectly switches between upbeat and fun verses into soft and somber choruses. On “Fallen Alien” she sings about not being happy with the relation-

ship she’s in and wondering how she got to this point. The lines “I never thought that you would be the one to tie me down” and “I’m searching for a light to take me home and guide me out” paint a good picture of the song. It’s a stellar track, probably the best one on the album.

With three tracks left, the album starts to dial down and becomes more depressing. First, it starts with “Mirrored Heart.” Here FKA Twigs sings about her troubles with dating, especially referring to her relationships with Robert Pattinson and Shia Lefr-

co. She feels like she’s been

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The Day After the A13, A Third Camera and Tomorrow

by Jose Alvarez-Perez

After an amazing Special Event in the Steve Jobs Theater, I had to visit my near-
est Apple Retail Store to see the new store’s layout. As a child, I was a huge admirer of the Plaza Las Americas’ Apple Retail Store in Puerto Rico and Apple’s logo in the front. I never forget that first impression, which I’m pretty sure everyone felt the very first day visiting their majestic retail store.

As a consumer, I appreciate the company’s commitment to safety and security; it is the major reason I switched from long-
time Google user to the iCloud platform, although I still need to deal with Google via my student account. It’s no secret that Google sells your data for “improved performance and adaptability,” but I hate Big Brothers when it comes to opening the browser for being targeted with everything I think of.

Recognizing the fact that Apple is the trustworthy brother that will always bring you the best quality for the fair price, you can be pretty sure the iPhone 11 isn’t the exception. The A13 Bionic is a huge update for app developers willing to take advantage from it. The front facing camera jumped to 12 sweet megapixels with the TrueDepth technology, which marks a real difference compared to the iPhone XS’ 7 megapixels camera. Screen Touch ID was ex-
pected by a lot of people, but I bet Apple trust their FaceID technol-

ogy.

On the day after the release, which I call the day after tomor-
row for those who dropped the same $999 in the iPhone XS as the best version of the 10 years anniversary, I visited the Holy-
doke Mall’s Apple Store to see the iPhone 11. Staff members de-
scribed the major day as “busy”, but I didn’t receive any sales data after requesting to the mall admin-

istration and the retail store. I asked for customer data collection and sales impact around the other stores inside the mall, but permis-
sion wasn’t granted. The store looks extremely beautiful with the addition of the Watch studio and the iPhone 11.

I heard customers complain-
ing about a problem they identify as “the same phone as last year’s” (iPhone XS), and other enthusi-

astic customers praising the new hardware updates. If you reach me inside the campus to hear my opinion, I will tell you my gear consists of a disconnected 64 GBs iPhone XS with a charging case

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Snow Day Photos from the Tech Times Staff

Caiden, the Border Collie
Crackers Are Food, Too
by Sean Monahan

Crackers; what are they good for? For! Well, lots of things. For instance, you can eat them by themselves, or you can eat them with stuff on them. What about stuff in them, like making a cracker sandwich? They could be food for a rat, or food for a cat. They could soak up water and become a soggy, mushy mess. They could be microwaved if you like crackers; what are they good for? Well, lots of things. Crackers, Animal crackers are cool, but you have to murder each helpless animal as you eat it. Most go for the head first, and then the legs finishing up with the body later. What did they do to deserve this life? Nothing, because they are crackers and are meant to be consumed. What about Cracker Jacks? I’ve never had any, but I’ve heard them used in lyrics of songs, so they must be good. Crackers leave your mouth dry; then what if you dehydrate and end up ill because you ate too many crackers? Wonder if that has happened to anyone before? Crackers often times have little holes in them. I’ve never thought about this before but why are they there? Now, I feel like a cracker would look very weird without them, almost too plain and flat. I’m assuming they are called crackers because of the noise they make when they break, but wow, how creative in making the name. Is a wheat thin a cracker? Because I don’t think those have any holes in them but I could be wrong, I guess they are just plain, flat crackers. It appears I have reached a block, and have run out of ideas about crackers–flakes sometimes flat, salty–crackers. A pretzel makes almost the same sound as a cracker does when it breaks, so is a pretzel a cracker? Those have holes when in twisted form, or none when they are just sticks. Kind of looks like a tree branch if you ask me, one with no leaves. What if a cracker has a higher purpose on life, one we haven’t discovered yet; something that will benefit humanity as we know it? Or maybe a cracker will always be–a cracker?!

Sources: https://www.consumerreports.org/healthiest-crackers-for-snacks-and-parties/

Hmmm... by Sean Monahan

I’m supposed to be writing right now, probably about something important, or at least relevant. What happens; when you hit a wall and just can’t think of anything that would be worth writing about? Well, I guess this is what happens; you write about what happens when you can’t think of anything else that is happening. But it is going to happen.

So here it is: I’ve spent some time thinking, maybe about things with the school, or random things that I’ve seen over the past couple of days, and it all seems uninteresting, either that or I’ve given it some thought and wouldn’t be able to write more than a paragraph about it. So then I said to myself, why not write about what’s going through my head while hitting this writer’s block? Words, words, words, and then more words. Trying to rattle off as many as I can, to see if I can expand upon one; even right now I’m doing it, “squirrel!” Could probably write a few sentences about squirrels, but that’s about it. Still nothing... If something comes to mind that would turn into a decent article, I may just delete all of this because if so, it would all become pointless, and nobody would ever know I wrote this. Don’t worry though, I still can’t think of anything good so as of now, this is what you will probably be reading.

Right now I’m hitting a writer’s block while writing about my writers block... What else do I say about it? I’ve said everything I can think about, so where do I go from here? I guess just a conclusion is needed so I can end it. I’ll just consider this my ending paragraph because I can’t think of any other way to end an article about writer’s blocks better than actually hitting a writer’s block.

Source: https://mystudentvoices.com/how-to-get-over-writers-block-dan-harmon-x0dhafl2771e5

I use as a PDA. Also, I love my 32GBs iPad 6th with the First-Generation Apple Pencil as my notebook. I have no intention to upgrade this year, but if you’re a student, then you should get a disconnected iPhone 11 PRO and the iPad 7th with the respective Apple Pencil to experience the college life as a whole journey. Don’t forget to look at the mighty Watches and some AirPods, by the way! I use a PDA. Also, I love my 32GBs iPad 6th with the First-Generation Apple Pencil as my notebook. I have no intention to upgrade this year, but if you’re a student, then you should get a disconnected iPhone 11 PRO and the iPad 7th with the respective Apple Pencil to experience the college life as a whole journey. Don’t forget to look at the mighty Watches and some AirPods, by the way!