

Students work hard to pay for future expenses

By Natalie Chrapla
Distribution Manager

Car payments.
Car insurance.
Spending money.

Just like adults, many students with jobs spend their paychecks before they even see the money. Almost every dime is already spoken for before the bills reach the wallet.

Senior Deanna Ottinger, who works at Jimano's Pizzeria, is one student who lives a life of tight budgeting. She puts three-quarters of her paycheck into the bank for savings. When it comes to paying for things, it begins to get stressful for her.

Every six months Ottinger has to pay for her car insurance;

thus, when the time comes, the money in her savings becomes useful.

"I learned how to handle money responsibly in Consumer Ed class," says Ottinger.

In addition to car insurance, Ottinger has to pay for the credit card she occasionally uses. Then, whatever is left over in the bank she uses for other items, which in most cases is food.

Junior Alyssa Baker works as a lifeguard at KeyLime Cove in Gurnee.

"I work because I have the responsibility for paying my car insurance and gas. I also save a lot of it for other expenses," she said.

Senior Aaron Oechsle also spends his money wisely. He

works for an executive valet parking service for the Chicago land areas for private parties.

When it comes to receiving that paycheck, Oechsle puts it all in the bank to put it toward his college tuition.

Working for a valet service, Oechsle receives quite a few tips, which he spends on necessities, for example, gas and food.

Like the other students, senior Sarah Metzger is very responsible when it comes toward saving money.

Metzger works at a daycare center called Tomorrow's Future.

When Metzger receives her paycheck she puts the whole thing into her savings account.

If Metzger needs anything for herself she will simply take money out of the bank to spend on which for Metzger is gas for her car.

I work because I have the responsibility for paying my car insurance and gas.

— junior Alyssa Baker



Photo by Val Witwicki

Junior Alyssa Baker makes her money working at KeyLime Cove. Baker saves her money for gas and other important expenses.

New year brings new, harsher DUI laws

I think it is awesome that people are going to such drastic measures in order to solve an extreme problem that takes lives every day.

—Tara Brown, teacher

By Tyler Martin
Staff Reporter

This year, new laws have been passed to prevent drinking and driving in Illinois.

As of Jan. 1, Illinois has joined five other states in the installation of mandatory ignition-lock breathalyzers after just one drinking and driving offense for all drivers.

Over the various years laws that ban the use of alcohol have become more and more severe.

Drinking and driving is responsible for approximately 34 deaths and 700 plus injuries daily in the United States.

"I like the idea of stopping drinking and driving," says senior Jenna Vanderwall. "But, the new laws against drinking and driving seem a little harsh after just one DUI."

In 2007 it was reported that 1.4 million drivers were arrested while under the influence.

With the statistics of DUIs increasing, Illinois has opted to use new ignition-lock breathalyzers.

After a driver's first offense these new breathalyzers will be placed into the car of the convicted driver. The small gadget is installed onto the dashboard of the vehicle.

The driver must then blow into the device in order to prove that

they are completely sober before the engine of the car will start.

"Driving under the influence is such a severe problem in the United States today," said foods teacher Tara Brown. "I think it is awesome that people are going to such drastic measures, in order to solve such an extreme problem that takes lives every day."

These new breathalyzers are mandatory and are placed into cars at the convicted driver's expense.

The lock costs \$150 to install into the car. An additional \$100 will be collected each month for the breathalyzer.

A DUI is not only dangerous to everyone on the road including the driver, but is also an expensive payment if stopped by an officer.

When caught for a DUI, the convicted party will not only have to purchase one of the new ignition lock breathalyzers, but several other payments.

After a DUI the average increase of insurance on a driver is an additional \$1,500 for a minimum of three years totaling in \$4,500. Payments for legal costs and court fines can total over \$5,000.

With the average cost of income lose, rehabilitation, and driver's license reinstatement the average cost of a DUI with no fatalities, injuries, or accidents is a total of \$14,660.

Plinske family welcomes baby boy just before New Year

Jake Plinske was born at 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31

By Jeanna Dudley
Staff Reporter

Jacob Allen Plinske was welcomed with smiles, cheers and a countdown. Yes, a countdown.

English teacher Bryan Plinske and his wife Melany had their first child with only a stunning 27 seconds remaining in 2008.

Jacob was supposed to arrive on Dec. 27 but came on Dec. 31 at Highland Park Hospital. He weighed nine and a half pounds and was 21.5 inches in length.

The Plinskes were not concerned as to if he would arrive in 2008 or 2009.

"We were counting down until the New Year, but we did not think he would come out in the final ten minutes of 2008. To us time did not matter as long as he was healthy," said Bryan.

Jacob received his name from Plinske's great grandfather.

He was a railroad worker and the Plinske's believed that he was always there for everyone and the nicest guy to meet. Bryan and Melany gave him this name in hopes of Jacob inheriting these traits.

Bryan and Melany hope to someday have more kids.

After the birth of Jacob they feel they can handle it. Jacob is a great kid and is not very fussy.

He will sleep for three to four hours at a time which allows Melany, who takes the night shifts, to get enough sleep.

Bryan loves holding his new born son and thinking about his future and how he will get to do so much.

"I was amazed he was finally here. He is so small and has such a little nose. Our lives have

changed," said Bryan.

Most would say that having a son at 11:59:33 p.m. on Dec. 31 is very cool.

It was the first time Melany saw her son and realized he had her cheeks, at the same time Bryan was realizing he had his blonde hair.

To this married couple the exciting time their first son was born only added to the excitement of knowing their lives were brightened by something so small.



Jacob Plinske was born on Dec. 31 at 11:59 p.m.