

Sock monkey madness festival returns to Rockford

By Kali Nave, Lifestyle Reporter

The 17th Annual Sock Monkey Madness Festival will be held on March 7th, 2020 from 10-4 pm at the Midway Village Museum in Rockford, IL.

This year's theme is "It's a Happy Birthday Party!" with previous themes being under the sea, outer space, safari, and candy land.

Adults and children alike can explore the museum and partake in themed crafts, games and photo opportunities with Nelson the giant sock monkey. Sick or frail sock monkeys can receive patches or be mended at the Sockford General Hospital. Museum staff will be conducting \$20 "Make a Monkey Workshops" where handcrafted

monkeys can be created during the event.

Merchandise for people and sock monkeys alike will be available for purchase, as well as food, drinks, and snacks.

Barbara Gerry, the great-granddaughter of John Nelson, the owner of The Nelson Knitting Company that patented the sock monkey doll in Rockford in 1955, came to the museum with the idea to promote and celebrate the manufacturing industry in Rockford. The company manufactured the red heel socks used to produce the first sock monkeys. She became one of the originators of the Sock Monkey Madness festival and later published three books.

"This year we are launching her new book 'Happy Birthday Nel-

son,'" said Midway Village Museum's Director of Marketing Lonna Converso. "Even after her death, we worked with the family to publish the book. She wanted to make sure there was a birthday book for Nelson."

"There is also a mascot that walks around during the festival greeting families," Converso added. "The mascot's name is Bab's in honor of Barbara."

Tickets for Sock Monkey Madness can be purchased at the door for \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 3-17 and Free for children under 2 and museum members. Tickets can also be purchased in advance at the museum gift shop. For more information, contact Midway Village Museum 815-397-9112.



Prezli Nave smiles for the camera while posing with one of the sock monkey stand ups during the 2019 Sock Monkey Madness Festival.

Feature: Sauk Valley Community College: running start into the 2020 track season

By Linzie Severson, Sports Reporter

After over thirty years, Sauk Valley Community College introduces new men and women's track and field team to its sports roster.

When asked about goals for this season, Stevenson stated that "The goals for this season are pretty simple, and that is purposeful. We want to keep it simple because this is a brand-new program and we don't want to go in with too many expectations for the season. The one major goal that we have for everyone is to just get better. We want to try to be better in each event that we compete in than they were in high school. Once we figure out who we are as a team, we

can move forward and establish other goals."

With practices already having started in October of the 2019 fall semester, students are excited about this upcoming season. "We are just excited to have track and field at the collegiate level at our local college" said Alyssa Sigwards in an interview on SVCC's track and field page.

Having started practices early and continuing them through the winter, head coach Michael Stevenson and athletic director at the college stated in an interview that the team is most looking forward to "Warm weather! We have been doing the bulk of our training for the last couple of months in the dark and scary basement at Sauk.

We are ready to go back outside to warm weather and daylight."

The SVCC track team also practices at the Westwood Sports Complex in Sterling.

All of the meets are co-ed and will be hosted by four-year colleges and universities because of there only being two other junior college track teams in the state of Illinois. The meets will be conducted on outdoor tracks, but there are hopes to include indoor meets on the schedule in the future.

The first official meet is scheduled for the last weekend of March. Look at Sauk Valley Community College's track and field page for more information on scheduled meets.

Three new hires join Sauk Valley Community College advising team

By Carolyn Graham, SVCC reporter

Jennifer Hooker, Kristen Roenfanz, and Kristin Widolff have joined the Academic Advising and Mental Health teams at SVCC to improve service to the student body.

Roenfanz, the new Sauk's Holistic Advising & Retention Project advisor, says that "With smaller caseloads, we are all able to devote more time to our students. This is a goal shared by us and the student population. We want to be able to provide a more personal experience between the advisor and their students."

Hooker and Widolff are not only academic advisors but mental health counselors as well. "I hope that our students find that I am sincerely enthusiastic about working with them. I'm excited about enlarging the dialogue on campus about student mental health and well-being," Widolff says.

"I've always believed the best way to help students is in house," Hooker says, "I just want to make sure students know that we're here."



Kristin Widolff is a new member of the academic advising and mental health teams at Sauk Valley Community College.

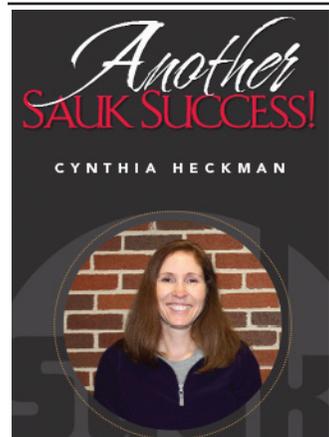


Jennifer Hooker is a new member of the academic advising and mental health teams at Sauk Valley Community College.

SVCC received a competitive Title III Grant, which was used to fund these new, full-time positions, getting the school closer to its academic mission. As of 2019, a new law went into effect in Illinois called HB 2152, which requires colleges to have a certain coun-

seling clinician to student ratio.

Mandy Aldridge, an academic advisor and principal designated school official at SVCC, says that "This law actually aligns nicely with both SVCC's overall mission as well as with the Academic Advising departmental mission."



"For the nontraditional learner the personal attention at Sauk gives you the chance to find a niche and learn how to excel as a student"

~ Cynthia Heckman

Racial Justice Program



The students had random labels placed on their forehead and were told to interact. They ended up starting conversations based upon what the label said, while others with no label got ignored because they didn't know what to say.

By Karrigan Brooks

On January 29th SVCC held an event dedicated to racial justice. This was presented by Rebecca Muñoz-Ripley, executive director of the YWCA in the Sauk Valley.

It was co-sponsored by SVCC's Student Government, ALAS, and Student Activities. In this program race, discrimination, and equality were the main topics of discussion.

It lasted an hour, but offered multiple activities with constructive information.

Instead of a lecture, Muñoz-Ripley conducted conversations with an open dialogue, and planned activities that aimed to help visualize

some barriers that different groups may face. During the first activity, "the wall of privilege", every student in the program was told to line up in the hall side by side, and hold hands. Muñoz-Ripley started to read off a number of questions regarding race, discrimination, finances, and gender.

Depending on the answer they would either take one step forward, making them closer to the wall of privilege, or backwards. For example she had the students take one step forward if their parents graduated college but if their family ever qualified for government assistance they had to step back. Hands unlinked quickly, as race, gender,

and class separated us. When asked about the importance of this activity Muñoz-Ripley replied "It is easy to see, and easy not to see, people who have a different experience." And that "you cannot control privilege, but it is a reality."

The session helped students conceptualize different ways racism still exist and how they might play out in today's society e.g. structurally, or institutionally. It also challenged some student's own social mindset of avoiding people who make them uncomfortable.

Muñoz-Ripley implores everyone to not reduce others to their labels, instead have an understanding that ev-

eryone wants to be accepted, liked, and understood for who they are. She also has students think about full inclusion. To build a culture that is not just diverse enough to "Invite people to the table", but "to invite them to eat at that table as well."

The racial justice program is just one of many services offered by our local YWCA, their mission is elimination racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, and dignity for all. They also teach young girls about non-traditional jobs in the tech field, offer sexual assault services, and have a 24 crisis hot line: 815-288-1011.

Avalynda of Avonlea

By Kali Nave, Lifestyle Reporter

Recently on the verge of closure, Avonlea Cottage of Dixon is now under new ownership. The sale for Avonlea Cottage, located at 503 Countryside Lane, was finalized mid-October with the Kansas company United Resource Holdings after giving notice in August of its pending closure. The new owners, Steve and Avalynda Casey of Dixon couldn't wait to become involved.

Avonlea Cottage is an Alzheimer's and Dementia facility. It is a 15-bed home with private and semi-private rooms with their own bathroom. There is 24/7 care, meals, and house-keeping.

"This has been an adventure," said Steve. "She [Avalynda] has taken a lead in this, working through the details, making things happen. I have been more of a support role. She has taken this on." Steve also remarked on how Avalynda has a special connection with the residents and is taking a hands-on role as owner. "We had been looking



New owners Avalynda and Steve Casey take a hands-on approach to ownership at Avonlea Cottage.

for a situation for assisted living for over a year and nothing really worked out," said Avalynda. The Casey's have experience with real estate and ministry and felt that an assisted living facility was their next move.

Avalynda's father, Rev. Howard "Bro" Wiseman, was a minister at Lincoln Ave Church of God before suffering

from Alzheimer's. "A year ago, my dad passed away from Alzheimer's," said Avalynda. "We just want to be a support for families that want to keep their loved ones at home as long as they can, which is what we did."

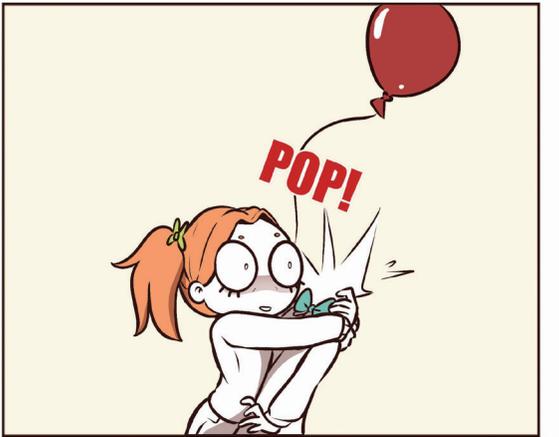
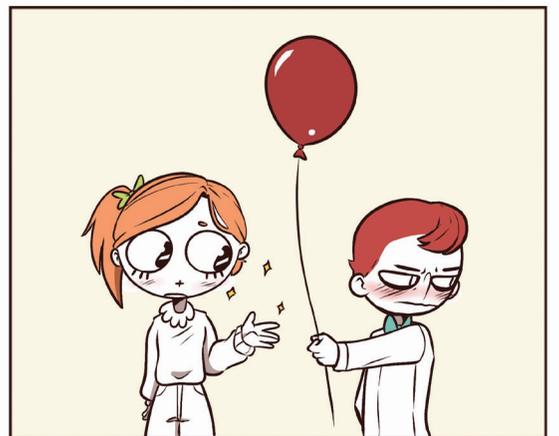
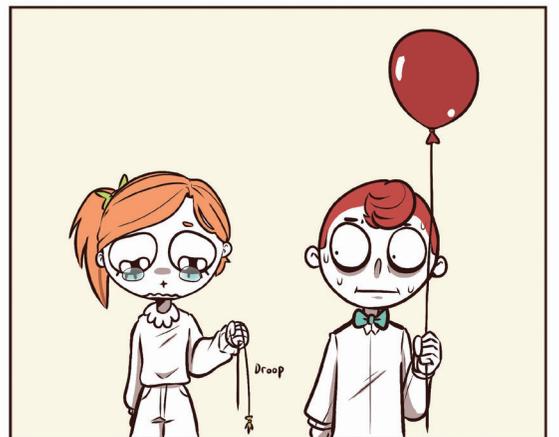
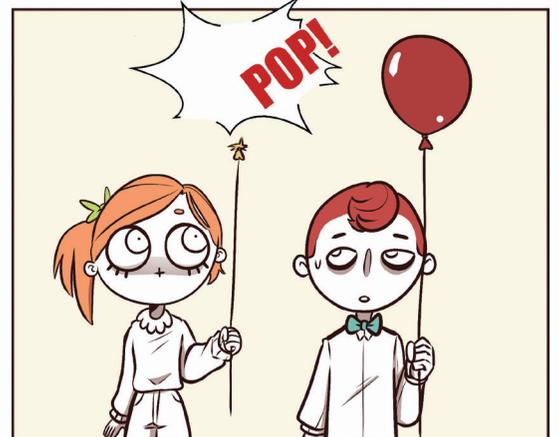
"This is more than a business, it's a passion," said Steve. "We have always spent a lot of time with seniors, I pastored

for 20 years. There's a special place in our hearts for those that are dealing with the issues that come with age."

To contact the Casey's with questions regarding Avonlea, Alzheimer's & Dementia care and/or your loved one, call (815) 288-6044 or visit www.avonleacottageofdixon.com.

POP!

By Eden Buyno



Bill to end clock change could create even bigger inconveniences

By Carolyn Graham

The Illinois Senate has passed a bill to end the daylight savings time clock change, but the results could create an even bigger hassle for those on the state's borders.

People entering and leaving the state would need to change their clocks, both internally and physically, each time they crossed the border. This creates more of a hassle than the original changing of the clocks twice a year.

Kaitlyn Haan is a

resident of Fulton, Illinois, a town bordering the Mississippi River. She says that "Personally it will affect how I go about my day, ranging from going to appointments to going to work. It will affect anyone who has to cross the state border for daily activities."

Besides just physically traveling over the border, consuming any sort of media would become a hassle as well. Many residents of Illinois listen to Iowa broadcasts such as KWQC to get their news or listen to radio

shows that come from Iowa. This would require them to change their listening times, and have to change any reported times to Illinois time.

Though the Illinois Senate has passed the bill, in order for it to take effect federal legislation would have to exempt Illinois from the Uniform Time Act of 1966, which has not yet occurred. Currently, the only states that have received permission to do so are Arizona and Hawaii.

SATIRE:

Megan Markle Disney Princess

By Kali Nave

With Prince Harry and Megan Markle breaking ties with the British Monarchy, they will soon be on their way back to the United States to fulfill a new lifestyle.

Before Markle married the Prince, she was a Hollywood actress, starring as attorney Rachel Zane on *Suits*. As decree by the Queen, Markle was no longer allowed to act or use social media as part of her royal duties.

In regards to the move, The Queen had

nothing but nice things to say about Markle but told her not to let the door hit her on the way out of Buckingham Palace.

Now, Markle, Prince Harry and baby Archie have signed a contract with Disney. By Fall 2020, Disney will have recreated Frogmore Cottage, the home in which they currently live in Windsor, England, in Disney World Orlando Florida.

Once in Florida, Megan and Harry will work with other Disney Royalty to instill

magic into the lives of all that visit Disney, while Archie will play Baby Yoda at Galaxy's Edge, Disney's Star Wars theme world.

"I have always wanted to be a real princess!" exclaimed Markle. "When it comes to making a difference, I know my family can do it in Disney. I even hope to complete more Make-A-Wishes than John Cena."

John Cena currently holds the record for most wishes granted, with over 600.

EDITORIAL:

Not Enough To Impeach

By Eden Buyno

To deny that Trump withheld millions of dollars of federal aid from Ukraine in exchange for information would be going against the overwhelming evidence that it did happen, but even so, to believe that in itself is an impeachable offense and abuse of power would be wrong.

On January 29th, romney.senate.gov website released Mitt Romney's asked questions during the Q&A of the impeachment trial on January 29th, one being "If evidence indicates President Trump had multiple purposes - some in the national interest, some political - for holding up the security assistance, is it the House Managers' position that the presence of any political purpose should be grounds for removing a president for abuse of power?"

When it comes to abuse of power, while not great policy, withholding federal aid for exchange of information in itself is not impeachable nor does it negatively affect

the national interest. Some will wonder, is what Trump did legal? This, unfortunately, is a blurred line and not easily answered. It would entirely depend on Trump's motive, which is not something that can be easily interpreted. "Quid pro quos are not only legal," states Jeffrey Toobin, a staff writer from the *New Yorker* who mentions, "they are the goal of most such interactions. The response to this argument would be that the terms of these sorts of negotiations must involve the national interest, not the political (or financial) fortunes of the president."

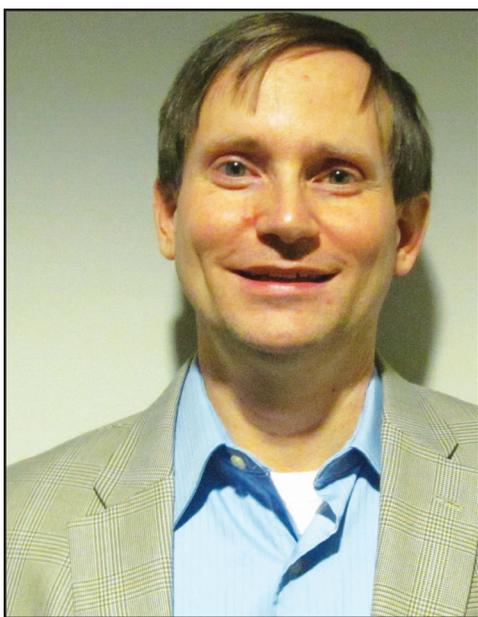
If the information Trump was after could benefit him as well as American citizens, then it is like killing two birds with one stone. If information against the Bidens did come out, it would look good for Trump while also being in the national interest to know if corruption was happening under their noses.

Now, while Trump's actions could all technically be legal, when questioned morally it becomes a differ-

ent matter. "It was inappropriate for the president to point the Ukrainians specifically and explicitly at the Bidens." Says Andrew C. McCarthy, an editor at the *National Review*. "A more polished president would simply have said, 'We want you to root out corruption, no matter how high up it goes, even in our own government' — the Ukrainians would have gotten the point and there would be nothing to criticize. Trump went about it crudely. Commendable? Of course not. A valid reason to vote against him in 2020? Surely. But it's not impeachable."

In the end, impeachment no matter what will most likely go nowhere. Thankfully, the option to keep the current president in office or to elect a different candidate relies rightfully so with us, the citizens of the United States. Whether or not it is believed that Trump's actions were crossing the line enough to be pushed out of office will be decided at the upcoming election.

Studying abroad with Sauk Valley Community College



Professor Edleman, Sauk Valley Community College's study abroad contact.

By Carolyn Graham

Through its partnership with the ICISP, a consortium of Illinois community colleges, Sauk Valley Community College is able to offer a variety of opportunities to its students looking to travel abroad.

SVCC has been partnered with the Illinois Consortium for International Studies for two years now and is hoping to encourage more students to take part in the program.

According to the SVCC study abroad coordinator Professor Paul Edleman, there are currently no students enrolled in the study abroad program from SVCC this semester, with only a couple looking to enroll this coming summer semester so far.

"We're trying to build the program and get the word out because it's all relatively new," Professor Edleman says.

Edleman adds, "Not being aware of the opportunities available and not wanting to take that leap", as some of the most common reasons that students don't end up studying abroad.

"This is a well-established program, especially in the European countries," Edleman says, "there are some new locations, like China, and they would like to expand farther into non-European countries as well."

"I would really like to see the program grow as much as possible, and see as many students take part as possible," Edleman says.

REVIEW:

Season two will leave "You" wanting more

By Linzie Severson

After previously being aired on the original television network Lifetime, Netflix becomes the new home of the show "You" after season two of Netflix's new hit show dropped December 26, 2019. Though Season one of "You" was very good, season two has proved to be even better.

This new season of the show follows the main character Joe Goldberg right after the events of season one.

Under the new alias of Will Bettelheim, Joe Goldberg played by Penn Badgley is on the run from his old life in New York and the ex he thought he left behind.

In season 2, with a new city and a new name, he is determined to stay away from love, the main source of his problems, unlike in season one. But Goldberg does just the opposite when he meets his newest interest, Love Quinn played by Victoria Pedretti.

In this season, viewers also see more flash-

backs from Goldberg's past than season one. Joe's mother and home-life before he met Mr. Mooney.

Newer, and better characters are introduced in this new season, and viewers get to see a lot more character growth in Goldberg and in the newly introduced characters of the show throughout the season.

With a third season of the show confirmed by Netflix, and based on the ending of season two, some high expectations have been set as the show is seeming to steer away from its traditional plot line.

The end of season two left viewers with a shocking reveal that will put the plot line up in the air for season three. "You" provides viewers with a wonderful balance of thrills with a good mixture of romance and drama this season, and Netflix keeps its audience wanting more.

Season three is expected to be released in April of 2021.

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wants to hear from you!**

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www.svcc.edu/skyhawk-view/feedback.html

Here comes the bridal trends for 2020



Traditional wedding arches are a thing of the past, hoops and hexagons are the new

By Kali Nave, Lifestyle Reporter

With spring wedding's beginning in just a few months, here is what brides should know about trends for the 2020 wedding season.

The bride is the star of the show so her appearance is important. This season's favored trends include ball gowns with pearl or metallic embellishments, gathered sleeves and deep necklines. Brides are also choosing more often to wear a comb in their hair over the traditional veil.

"I loved the fit and flare and mermaid styles," said Kari Zimmerman who married the love of her life on September 21, 2019. "I loved detail and beading but not too over the top." All brides can agree with Kari that "When you've found the right dress, you just know."

Brides aren't the only ones that need to be fashion-forward. Bridesmaids and groomsmen alike can be seen this season in earth tones, faded blues,

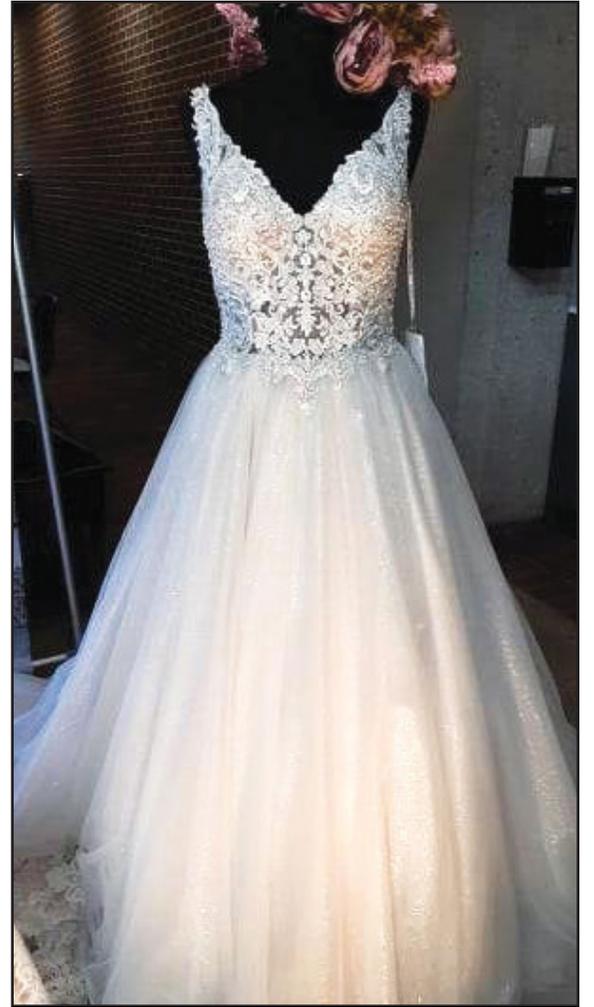
mint greens, and corals. These colors spread from dresses, vests and ties, floral bouquets and boutonnieres and even into the reception décor.

These colors work well with the popular succulents theme. Instead of flowers, brides are choosing succulents as decor, boutonnieres, bouquets and even as take-home gifts for their guests.

Decor is also. According to Lauren Kay at The Knot "Guests will be sure to remember a real standout detail, especially if it feels very 'you guys'."

The "traditional" wedding arch is out, while the new and improved wedding hexagon or round arch is in. These new and fun shapes cross over from the ceremony into the reception into place holders, centerpieces, and cake toppers. Geometric shapes are definitely the way to go in 2020.

Now that you know the trends, the only thing left to do is walk down the aisle.



This deep neckline, metallic embellished ballgown, on display at the SVCC Bridal Fair, fits the criteria for the most trendy dress of 2020.



Blackhawk Statue prepared to overlook the Rock River in Oregon, Il. after recent restorations completed.



Nachusa Grasslands' recent land purchase of 80 acres brings promise for future land preservation.

Photo by Leslie Jones

Photo by Leslie Jones