

The Skyhawk View

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LINDA DHAESE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SVCC LIBRARY

Samantha Rhodes
SVCC News Writer

On any given day at SVCC, you'll find a number of students in the school's library, some milling about the shelves of books and some hard at work at the computer lab. It is common knowledge that SVCC's students depend on the library as a source of information and a quiet nook in which they can study, but the services the library offers include more than meets the eye.

Learning Commons and Library Coordinator Lin-

da Dhaese explains how the SVCC library is an important resource for all students.

The library offers a variety of services other than simply lending out books. Students can access multiple reference databases, check out DVDs and CDs, and even take literary courses, according to Dhaese.

Dhaese says that, of all the services offered, the ones students utilize the most are the new release DVDs and popular fiction books, as well as the databases, which can be a life-

saver when researching for papers and projects.

The library has undergone some recent changes. There is, of course, the addition of the Learning Commons. Dhaese says the library did have to downsize its collection quite a bit to make room for the new study and tutoring center, but the change has done the library more good than harm.

The books that were removed were selected based on relevance; a system alerts the librarians of books that haven't been checked out in recent



See what's in store for you at the SVCC library. The library offers a variety of services other than simply lending books.

years. Getting rid of books for which there is no necessity opened up the space the library needed for the Learning Commons, which offers much needed tutoring services for students who are struggling.

She asserted that the presence of a Learning Commons or similar services is vital when it comes

to aiding students as they strive for success.

On the topic of libraries as a whole, Dhaese says they are an extremely valuable resource to students, but not just academically.

"I see a lot of students struggle with information literacy," she says. "It's important to know how to research, for students who

are moving on to a four-year, or just life in general."

Students are encouraged to utilize SVCC's library whenever they need help, or just to browse and see what's in store for them.

AAS Agricultural Program Returns to SVCC

Molly O'Brien
Lifestyle Writer

If you ask a student at Sauk Valley Community College about why the AAS Agricultural Program is important to the Sauk Valley region, more than likely the person asking the question will get a blank stare and a shrug of the shoulders because most students are unaware of the many jobs available in agriculture.

Over the last few years, there has been a resurgence in interest in taking classes and working in the field of agriculture in our secondary schools as well as an expansion of local FFA Programs.

Dr. Jon D. Mandrell, Vice President of Academics and Student Services stated that "the AAS Agri-

cultural Program is expected to receive approval in February 2017."

The agricultural programs at Sauk Valley Community College will be multipurpose. Some classes will provide an introduction to the various fields of agriculture for incoming students. Another aspect of the program is that there will be classes for agricultural students already involved in the field of agriculture and who would like to increase their knowledge of topics such as agronomy or economics.

Students will be trained in the Agricultural Education CTE area and will be able to work in Agriculture, Food and the Natural Resources Career Cluster in jobs such as crop production, livestock training, agronomy, food distribu-

tion systems and agriculture systems.

A benefit of the agricultural program is that students will be prepared for entry level employment in Business, Marketing and Computer Education and for positions in Agricultural sales, lending and agricultural marketing.

An important factor for students who are considering an AAS Agricultural Degree is that when they've completed their Associates Degree they will have the education to pursue a job in the field of agriculture or a related field.

A job search was completed on "indeed.com" on January 30, 2017. There were 50 jobs available within a 35 mile radius of Lee and Whiteside Counties when putting Agriculture as the search word.

State Budget Affects Local Veterans Group

by James Hutchison
Arts Writer

The Illinois Veterans Grant (IVG), has not received its normal state funding in nearly two years, according to Melissa Dye, Dean of Business Services at Sauk Valley Community College.

Normally, the cost of tuition for a veteran student that qualifies for the grant would be added to what amounts to a pending debt which is then paid for by the state, but SVCC has not received a full budget—receiving only 45% of its budget for 2017—since the budget impasse began in 2016. Without any end to the budget crisis set in stone, the school must continue to dip into its reserves to maintain operations.

However, due to the

IVG being a state mandated waiver, the school must continue to honor it, regardless of whether it has its state funding.

In order to account for students that use the IVG

of income that keeps the school operating on a day to day basis are state revenue tax and tuition—the latter of which comes from students using federal aid to pay that tuition, at least

SVCC has not received a full budget—receiving only 45% of its budget for 2017—since the budget impasse began in 2016.

to pay for tuition, SVCC must continue to add to a debt that which, according to Dye, will never be repaid, as any resolution that comes in the future that would see the school receive its full state funding would not cover any money lost due to the grant being a state mandated waiver. This is further compounded by the fact that the only other sources

in part. And resolution doesn't seem to be coming anytime soon. All across the state, community colleges and universities alike struggle to keep the doors open and classes full as schools are forced to search for ways to pay the bills for yet another year. The IVG is just one of the many programs that are suffering due to the state budget crisis.

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Sauk Valley Arts!

by James Hutchison
Arts Writer

People might not expect to find much when looking for things to sate an interest in art when living in such a place as Dixon or Sterling, but artistic activities and events in the area can hide in plain sight. One such opportunity that some are unaware of, is the creative writing classes at Sauk Valley Community College.

Classes are taught in the spring and fall by English professor, Tom Irish. Irish serves as the advisor for both the school newspaper, *The Skyhawk View*, and the school's very own creative magazine entitled *The Works*.

Earlier in the class' history, it was taught by another professor, Amanda Eichman, who handed over the reins to Irish around 2010. Since its creation, students have had a place to go and explore their creative side and learn the basics of the various types and styles of both poetry and fiction.

During the fall, creative writing I mostly focuses on the basic writing of fiction and poetry and then finishes up the semester with a portfolio of the best-written work from each student from that semester.



Take a creative writing class at SVCC.

Students are expected to challenge whatever comfort they're used to, whether it be in style, genre, or just a comfort with only one of the two types of written art.

Creative writing 2, which begins in the spring, sees a slightly different pace and priority of the class and introduces a communal aspect. Students must work on at least one team project, and will even submit some of their work to one required local contest—hosted by the Phidian Art Club—and an additional submission to a place of their choice at the end of the semester.

Another bonus to both the class itself and SVCC as a whole, is the school magazine, *The Works*. Any student can send submissions to the magazine for review and the spring creative writing class will read

through them and decide which ones make it into the magazine for that year. Even picture art is accepted both in drawn/painted form and photography. All submissions are looked at by the class anonymously. Only students whose pieces make it into the magazine will have their names added for credit.

Perhaps a unique part of taking the creative writing classes is that for each semester, students are required to participate in an open mic style event around finals time in which they will read at least one piece that they have written. In the fall, this is done at Books On First in Dixon, Illinois. In the spring, students must pool ideas and decide when and where they would like the event to be held.

Science Club Provides Answers, Activities at SVCC

by Jakob Oelrichs
Writer

Have you ever wanted to know the best way to increase your odds of winning the grand prize on a gameshow? Or perhaps even something as simple as what drinks cause teeth to decay fastest? SVCC's very own Science Club strives to provide the Sauk Valley community with answers to these questions and more.

Meeting every other Monday from 12:30pm to 1:15pm on the third floor in room 3G10, the Science Club brings in professionals of various fields to speak with club members about science-related topics. Some of the previous talks have covered such subjects as the raising and training of hunting falcons, the "Monty Hall Problem" and other mathematical paradoxes, the adverse effects of letting

ingrown nails go untreated, the speed at which various beverages decay teeth, and what rough percentage of space a person occupies in relation to the universe.

Meetings also include interactivity, such as members taking sample swabs from various surfaces around Sauk's campus and growing them into bacteria cultures.

Members are encouraged to create their own presentations based on subjects that interest them. For example, a Science Club member brought in her tamed squirrel, and discussed with the club its daily needs and how it is cared for.

Science Club ends each semester with two special events. First, Science Club attendees gather for a movie afternoon/night. Members pick from a handful of science-related films, and then binge on snacks while watching the selected fea-

ture. Afterward, a discussion is held to go over the films scientific accuracy/inaccuracy, and in the case of science-fiction films, what elements of the film could potentially be recreated in reality. Following the movie night, the club turns their last meeting into a potluck lunch, where members and advisors bring dishes to be passed and eaten during the club's final science talk and officer election.

Currently, the club is planning a visit to Fermilab over spring break. There, club members will be given a tour of the lab's grounds, including a trip underground to see the resident particle accelerator and a look at the lab's herd of American Bison.

If you're a person who's scientifically inclined or are simply curious, come join us at the next Science Club meeting.

The Story of the Stupor Bowl

By Owen Casson,
Local Writer

On the 4th of February, Reagan Middle School hosted Dixon's 21st annual Stupor Bowl. The Stupor Bowl is a trivia contest that takes place the day before the Super Bowl. The event has become a fundraiser for the Dixon Public Schools Foundation, which buys educational supplies for several schools in the district.

Tom Wadsworth has been the emcee of the Stupor Bowl since it began in 1997. He is also the one who came up with the idea. While watching high school scholastic bowl matches in the 1990s, he thought, "What if we

had an event like this for adults?" And thus, the Stupor Bowl was born.

Wadsworth has made a consistent effort to improve the contest throughout the years. He says he has "conducted surveys that asked for feedback to make it better", and feels that he and other Stupor Bowl hosts have "dialed into an excellent format that maximizes the fun for participants as well as spectators." Food is available throughout the day, and a silent auction is held in order to raise even more money.

The number of teams varies from year to year. This year's event included 22 teams of six players each. "The teams have fun

regardless of how well they compete" Wadsworth says. "It's fun to see so many people, bid on auction items, and help the schools at the same time."

Wadsworth is very pleased with the impact the Stupor Bowl has had on schools in the Dixon area, and hopes that impact will continue. Heading into this year's event, the Stupor Bowl had raised about \$195,000 for the foundation. Obviously this year's Stupor Bowl has already passed, but Wadsworth encourages anyone who has not yet attended one to come check it out next year as either a player or a spectator.

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2017 STUPOR BOWL RESULTS

Bruce McConnell estimates that Stupor Bowl 2017 netted about \$13,500 for the Foundation. Congratulations to a new team, the Frankfother Family, for pulling out a victory in the final question of the championship round.

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Ideas

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Super Bowl Questions Spark Interest from Sauk Area

Matthew Handel

The Super Bowl was one of the best in the history of the NFL, but there were things besides the football that people had an interest in. Three questions were asked and the results may surprise you. Who did you want to win, what is your favorite super bowl dish, and did you watch the super bowl for the game itself or the commercials?

I took to Facebook and Twitter to conduct a poll for each site for each ques-

tion. Over half the voters on Facebook were in the age range of 18-21. It all started when I asked the people who they wanted to win and why. Jozi Grobe, a student at Sauk Valley wrote, "Falcons, because they haven't been there in years...someone else deserves the spotlight for a year." This was the overall feeling from the people and 59 percent (27 out of 46) wanted the Falcons to win compared to the Patriots.

The next question I

asked was what was their favorite super bowl dish? For this poll, less than half of the voters were within the ages of 18-21. The answers varied from the most common dip, all the way to wings and chilli.

The last question, and the one that intrigued me the most, was whether people watched the super bowl for the game itself or the commercials that get so much attention every year. This poll was made up of a majority of people within

the age range of 18-21. Out of 164 votes, 66 percent (109) people watch the super bowl for the game itself, and 34 percent (55) people watch the super bowl for the commercials. So, as much attention as the commercials get every year, the NFL will be happy to know that the majority of the people around the Sauk Valley are still watching the game for the football being played.



Should guys always pay for a first date? And second date? And third?

MOLLY:

Back in the day, dating practices were different than they are now. The boy was always expected to pay for dates which might include dinner and a movie. Girls never paid for dates.

It didn't matter if it was the second, third, fourth or date number forty four. The boy was expected to pay for all dates.

In fact, the only time a girl would pay for a date was Sadie Hawkins Day when a girl would ask a boy to the Sadie Hawkins Dance which meant that she was responsible for buying the tickets for the dance and where they went to eat.

Times have changed and so have dating practices. I don't think who pays for dates is quite the issue as it used to be. But, I do feel that the boy should pay for the first date. When it comes to the second, third, or fourth, or date number forty four and depending on their relationship, the girl and boy should either split the cost or take turns paying for whatever they have planned.

MATTHEW:

I recommend going by the rule that the guy should pay for the first date as a sign of respect. Kind of going along with the "ladies first" rule. Opening the door for a woman, taking her coat, things like that go along with paying for the first date. Any date after that there should be some balance.

Not everyone has the same financial status, so contributing what you can is a nice idea. Whether that's splitting the bill based on what each person can contribute, or taking turns paying, both options show that the two of you are in it together. Showing that you care about someone doesn't always mean paying for dates, it's actually the things that cost nothing that show you care the most. To think that the man should pay for every date seems a bit unreasonable.

If you're a guy and you prefer paying every time, by all means do what you think is right. But, don't forget all the little things that cost nothing and also show just as much respect towards your partner. Another thing that goes along with dates is making sure you spend quality time with your date. For the sake of everyone, please put your phone away. Converse, make jokes, and enjoy the company of your date; just because you paid for their meal doesn't mean you did enough to make sure they had a good time. So, to answer the question, I recommend men paying for the first date, but finding a balance that works for the two of you for future dates.

Sauk Students Share Thought on Trump Protests

by Owen Casson

Women throughout the country have made their voices heard by protesting against President Donald Trump, who was inaugurated as president on January 20th. Students at Sauk shared their thoughts on the matter, and some of them had pretty strong feelings about it.

Samantha Rhodes attended the January 21st protest in Chicago. At this protest, an estimated 250,000 women joined in the march. Rhodes feels that this protest, as well as the others that have occurred, served a very important purpose. She

explained that it is important to "make your voice heard."

Rhodes also pointed out that many people assume protests are violent. She admitted that some of them have gotten out of hand, but explained that people can take a stand without resorting to violence. She wants people to know that "there is a difference between a protest and a riot." She also added that the goal of the women at Chicago's protest was to "be loud, but in a nonviolent way." She believes that the protests, including the one in Chicago, have been successful because they have

grabbed everyone's attention.

Rhodes is one of many students who are in favor of these protests, and feel that they serve a purpose. However, several students have a completely different point of view. In reference to some of the protestors, Evan Cooper said "If they want someone to take them seriously, then it might not be such a good idea to wear vagina costumes and take their clothes off." He feels that the protests are ridiculous, and that some of them have gone way too far.

Cooper was also asked specifically about the pro-

testors who have resorted to violence. When asked about these riots, he said "They are hypocritical because they say Trump is destroying America, but they literally are."

Plenty of students at Sauk have a strong opinion on this matter, which is not surprising considering what a hot button issue it has been. As is the case with the rest of the country, the opinions vary dramatically. Some students feel that the protests serve a major purpose, while others believe that they have gotten out of control, and simply need to stop.

Sauk Students Back at it for the Second Semester

Saul Juarez

As Sauk students are now in week five of the spring poop semester, many of them are starting to feel that it drags a lot longer than the fall semester.

Pedro Gallardo, a Freshman at Sauk mentions that the first semester went by a breeze and it was kind of hard to get back into the rhythm into the second semester because our break was real long. Gallardo even says, "I feel like this semester will drag on a

lot longer, but one of the things that always gets me motivated to push through is that after this semester, we're on break. Spring break too will help this semester go by faster."

After asking some students around campus, most of them said that by the second month of the semester, they're burned out and just want the school year to be over already. One of the things that really helps them get through the semester besides the fact that summer break

will be next, is that they remind themselves of why they're here. Gallardo said that whenever he does not feel like doing his school work or just feel like giving up, he reminds himself why he's here.

Second year students feel different about being back for second semester. Sophomore Case Pierce says, "When I was here the first year, I was kind of trying too hard to fit in and was really stressing out, but now that I've done it before, I know that it's not

something that you should really stress out about."

Gallardo plans to be a nurse when he gets older, but he needs the proper grades in order to do that so he stays focused on his school work.

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Skyhawks Soar Past Cougars with Dramatic Finish

Matthew Handel,
Sports Writer

Thursday Night's game between the Sauk Valley Skyhawks and Highland Cougars was intense from start to finish, even coming down to the final shot.

Coming into the game, the Cougars had a very good record (15-4), and that wasn't going to be taken lightly by the Skyhawks. The Skyhawks have a major rivalry with the Cougars, so there would be even more motivation to get the win at home. Skyhawks' head coach, Russ Damhoff, said, "The Highland rivalry is special to us...I really thought defense would be a key and it ended up being a key...our kids' were totally focused against a great team and we did a great job of handling the ball. We knew we were playing well and then it was Highland, so that was special."

You could tell the Skyhawks' came out with fire and intensity, taking a 9-5 lead early in the first half. The Skyhawks' would take that lead and they wouldn't give it back the entire half, heading into halftime with a

score of 41-35.

But, coming out the half-time break, things would get a little dicey and the Cougars would go on a 7-3 run, cutting the Skyhawks' lead to just two points with a little over 18 minutes left in the game. Coach Damhoff knew it wasn't lack of focus from his team, but instead the halftime adjustment they were trying on the defensive end.

"I don't think we lost our focus, we came out and tried something defensively that didn't quite work and that cost us a couple possessions and so we made that adjustment...and now you're back to trying to figure out who's going to get that extra bucket to win the second half."

The rest of the second half would be exactly that, a battle to see who was going to get that extra bucket to win the game. With a minute left and the score dead even at 64, Sophomore guard Karson Arrenholz nailed a big-time three-pointer to give the Skyhawks' a 67-64 advantage. Coach Damhoff described why Karson was so calm in a moment that

could potentially get the best of many players.

"I think that comes down to the player and that



Malcolm Mabrey goes up for a basket.

comes down to your work. We ask a lot of our point guards and he's got a pretty good competitive streak in him...I think Karson had it going that game and he's a confident kid...and I think everybody on the team and on the floor felt good about him taking that shot."

After a costly turnover following the three-pointer and made layup by the Cougars, the score was 67-66, and the Skyhawks' were trying to hold on to

their lead. But, the Cougars would get the last shot to win the game and Coach Damhoff knew that all the Skyhawks' could do was play their best defense and get the rebound if they missed.

"All you can ask then is that we contest it...it hung up there for a little bit, but the last thing we told our guys when we broke the timeout was a rebound will win it. I was really pleased with the way we handled that."

The last second shot by the Cougars was no good and the Skyhawks' would hang on and win 67-66, making it their fourth win in a row. They improved their record to 12-9 overall and Coach Damhoff described what he was the proudest of the guys for over this winning streak.

"Sometimes as a team you have to get through the hard stuff...They had enough determination to put it together and they just started winning. Once they started winning they've been pretty focused...now we feel like we're playing as a group."



by Artist Eden Buyno

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