

The Skyhawk View

Sauk Valley
Community College

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Local Pitcher's Journey to the Major Leagues

By Matthew Handel

Not many small town baseball players ever get the chance to play in the Major League, but that didn't slow down Jake Junis, a 2011 graduate from Rock Falls High School. Junis was drafted by the Kansas City Royals out of high school and had been playing in the minor leagues ever since then. That was until this year, when he got the chance to play for the Royals' Major

loved baseball right? In Junis' case though, the love for baseball was torn between another sport.

"I grew up loving baseball and basketball. Basketball always came easy to me and one of my favorite things as a kid was to shoot hoops in my backyard, and have my friends over and lower the hoop down so we could dunk! I always played basketball from when I was a kid all the way through high

Starting at 10 years old I never played in Rock Falls again, I traveled and played with a team from Rockford until I was 12. After that I played on 2 different teams out of Chicago into high school, and even a team from Florida throughout high school so I met a lot of different people and made lifelong friends away from Rock Falls. It's really a toss up as to which is my favorite [sport] I'd say even to this day it's like that even though baseball is my job and I love it. I also love watching and playing basketball too."

At some point in a professional athlete's life they realize that turning into a professional is a realistic possibility. For Junis, it happened a lot earlier than many probably expected.

"When I was 12 years old I started to realize I had a special gift, playing base-

ball, and it began to get a lot more serious for me. At that age it became a goal of mine to play in the MLB."

When he achieved his goal and became a professional for the Royals organization, he started out in the Minor Leagues for the Burlington Royals. For any player at that level their ultimate goal is to get "called up" to the Major League team. It is a promotion of a lifetime, but doesn't come easy. Junis took me through what it's like to pitch in the Minor League with hopes of getting the call up to the Major Leagues.

"The minor leagues are very tough. A lot of people don't realize we are at the stadium usually 5 hours before the game practicing, lifting weights, and conditioning. Along with that there are long bus rides and the hotels aren't the nicest and the food



Kansas City Royals Pitcher, Jake Junis, graduated from Rock Falls High School

isn't the best and the pay is very low, it's definitely a grind, but ultimately if you want to make it to the top you find ways to motivate yourself and push through obstacles that come with being in the lower levels of professional baseball. I will say the hotel, travel, food, and stadiums get better as you go higher and higher throughout the minor leagues. And

obviously, when you get to the MLB it's unbelievable it's the best hotels, best stadiums, personal chefs, and making a lot more money, the whole nine yards."

Not many of us will know what it's like to receive a phone call saying that we are now a major league pitcher, but Junis recalls that special moment.

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League team.

A baseball player playing at the highest baseball league there is probably always

school with my friends from Rock Falls which made it better, but baseball growing up was a little different.

Collaboration Is Key For The Skyhawk View

by Owen Casson

The staff of the Skyhawk View, Sauk Valley Community College's student newspaper, has been working as a unit to make their stories as solid as they can be. Even for the students who were a part of last semester's staff, writing for the paper is still a fairly new experience. As a result, the staff has had to learn on the fly.

This semester's staff is mostly made up of members who started last fall. James Hutchison and Matthew Handel are the two reporters who are new to the paper this semester.

A great deal of class time is spent working on the Skyhawk View articles. However, this se-

mester's class has focused more on editing than last semester's. Saul Juarez, a reporter for the Skyhawk View, said "I feel like an area that we improved on would have to be editing." He added that last semester was more focused on "writing the stories themselves." Once the articles have been turned in, the staff spends a class period or two discussing revisions.

During these revision sessions, it is important for everyone to consider the comments being made about their stories, and be willing to make changes. Listening to other reporters' suggestions goes a long way towards improving the Skyhawk View.

Handel said "the biggest

strength of our staff is definitely the ability to take constructive criticism." He also added that journalism and reporting "rely heavily on your work being edited and critiqued a lot, and it's something we have done really well as a group."

Tom Irish, teacher of Basic News Editing and advisor for the Skyhawk View, says that "collaboration is a big part of the paper." Irish plans to stick with the same process for future classes.

When asked about how the stories have improved from last semester, Irish said that "the articles are definitely better overall." He feels that the staff has made great progress as journalists.

SVCC Single Parent Committee Not Using Scholarship Funds

by James Hutchison

According to Lori Cortez, Dean of Foundation, Grants, and Government Relations at Sauk Valley Community College, the allotted funds that are made available by the Single Parent Committee scholarship are not being utilized by students.

The scholarship money is put together by members of the Single Parent Scholarship Committee; the staff and faculty of SVCC. The committee raises money by hosting events during the semesters to provide aid to single parents that might be struggling while attending school.

The scholarships are available to help with childcare, tuition, books, and fees. However, even

though ten scholarships in the amount of \$300 each are ready to be given out to those in need, Cortez says there just aren't enough applicants.

Cortez offered two reasons for why students aren't taking advantage of the scholarships.

First, students might not be aware that the process has been streamlined, and believe the application process would take too long to complete to be of any use. While this may have been an issue in the past, applying for the scholarship is now easier than ever.

Students are only required to fill out a single page application, provide transcripts, and write a one-page essay how the scholarship will help them. The

essay itself is used as a tie-breaker in the event of too many applicants. Put simply, if twenty students apply for the ten available scholarships, the essays provide insight into the student's life and help determine who would most benefit from the additional funds.

The second reason is that some students believe they must achieve a "golden boy" academic standard to qualify, but no such standard is required, as only a 2.0 GPA or higher is necessary.

To highlight the committee's desire for students to take advantage of the available scholarship funds, Cortez simply said, "Please, please, please, we're begging you to apply."

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"It was pretty shocking to say the least. I always believed in my heart that I would make it to the big leagues, but I wasn't exactly expecting it to happen when it did. But, I wouldn't change the way it happened for anything, I was actually at dinner with my wife when I got the call. It was a pretty special moment we got to share and look back on for the rest of our lives."

So, he got the call and now the Royals have to get a jersey ready for the newest member of their team. Seeing his last name on the back of a major

league team's jersey was a moment Junis' started to realize his dreams were coming true.

"Walking into the major league clubhouse seeing your locker with your name and jersey in it and literally realizing your dreams were coming true in front of your eyes was a surreal moment to say the least. I was proud of myself and I knew I made my family proud."

April 12th, 2017 was a day that was normal for

plenty of people, but not for Junis. The Royals were at home against the Oakland A's and his dream of pitching on an MLB mound would finally come true.

"It was really nerve wracking sitting in the bullpen. I had no idea when or if I would even get into the game. Every time the phone rang my heart was pounding. Eventually, I told myself that I was next up and I was right, they called my

play unfold and ultimately getting out of my first big league inning with 0 runs, which was my goal going out there that night."

So, he's gone from small town baseball player to a pitcher in the highest baseball league in the world. A lot of kids from small towns have big dreams of making it big in an area they love, but sometimes don't even think it's a possibility. Junis had some advice for those kids.

"You gotta be passionate and care about what it is you're doing and be willing to sacrifice a lot along the way.

You have to put everything you have into whatever it is you're trying to do and work extremely hard at it. You have to surround yourself with others that want to see you do great things and that are behind you to encourage you along the way. It's not always a straight path to the top, there will be plenty of obstacles and failures along the way, it's all about how you learn from it and bounce back and keep pushing forward to achieve your dreams."

Kansas City Royals

name. I started warming up and I felt really good so my nerves went away finally. Once I ran out to the mound in front of all those fans and the huge stadium I still wasn't too nervous I was more focused on doing my job and making a good first impression in my first big league outing. I ended up getting a bases loaded double play to get out of the inning with 0 runs and it was the single greatest feeling I've ever had as a baseball player seeing that

Big Plans to Celebrate Rock Falls' 150th Birthday

by Owen Casson,
area news writer

A massive celebration is approaching for Rock Falls' sesquicentennial, or 150th birthday. Volunteers and city officials have been planning the events since March of last year, and now the celebration itself is within sight.

Most of the activities are being set up for July 29th through August 6th. As quoted in an article on saukvalley.com, City Clerk Eric Arduini acknowledges that "Things could definitely be added to the events schedule, but most of the bigger things will happen during that time frame." The city's tourism department donated \$20,000 for the festivities.

The current plan is to



kick off the celebration with the opening of a time capsule from Rock Falls' 125th birthday. This is set to take place on July 29th, just east of Seward's Riverside Park.

August 4th is expected to be a reunion day, with five high school classes confirming reunions for that date. Most of the events of this day are to be held at the

RB&W District green space area. It is also possible that a few bands will perform at the new amphitheater. A parade and fireworks are expected to finish the party in style on August 5th.

Residents of Rock Falls, or anyone in the Rock Falls area, is encouraged to join in the celebration.

Student Government Hosts . . . Something?

Morgan Hammond (SGA
Vice President)

My intentions were to attend the hypnotist show on April 6th and then write about my experience at the show. Unfortunately, I do not remember anything that happened and I never thought that I would actually get hypnotized.

However, I did get hypnotized at the show, and I wish I had more to report, but no memories from the night come to mind.

Although, I do not remember the night I do know that the show had a large turnout, and that everyone I have talked to really enjoyed the show and all of the silly things Lizzy the Dream Girl made participants do on stage.

In other news, the annual Student Leadership Awards Banquet was held on April 21st. The ban-



Picture with SGA banner includes: President Hellmich and students Rachel Brummel, Amy Castillo, Emily Ditzler, Kelsey Heslop, and Morgan Hammond (left to right)

quet is a night specifically dedicated to honor Sauk Valley Community College's students and student organizations. The event turned out to be a success, and all those invited to attend were treated to a dinner.

Those were the two events that happened in the month of April, and

they were both considered successful by myself. Thankfully, I can remember one of them.

If you missed the show or if you cannot remember it like myself, then please go to the SVCC Student Activities Facebook page to watch videos and see pictures from the night.

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Artists Use Sculpture to Raise Awareness of Sexual Violence

Samantha Rhodes
SVCC news writer

Those who have seen the recent student work in the Sauk Valley Community College Art Gallery may have been shocked or even disturbed by one of its new installations. Surprisingly, such reactions to this new art piece are what its creators were hoping to accomplish.

Caged-In was a large, cage-like sculpture containing four dark photos of women in violent positions, alluding to the vicious nature of sex trafficking.

Melissa Goken, who created the sculpture along with fellow art student Samantha Butts, says the piece was created with the intention of sparking discussion about sex trafficking, specifically exploitation of college-aged women. Goken states that their research shows that the most common age range for women in the slave trade "is about high school or college age, about 16 to 24."

She asserts that their goal was to call attention to sex trafficking as an issue that is overlooked. "We thought



that if we could bring it here that more people would start talking about it."

Goken acknowledges that the sculpture is startling. Its intended purpose is to grab the attention of passersby with its upsetting imagery.

However, Goken states that both artists made a point to use images that were graphic yet still subtle in their message. She explains that the decision to avoid any nudity was calculated. "We didn't want to do anything very explicit. We wanted to do more of a 'leave it up to your mind' kind of thing."

Goken also comments on art as a tool for raising

awareness, adding that artists have an obligation to make a statement about what matters: "When you as an artist see something wrong, politically or socially, creating something like we did with Caged-In really helps get that message across."

She says Caged-In was especially important as a piece in a college art gallery, and she hopes those who saw it will understand and pass on its message about sex trafficking. "It's not just something that happens in some far-off land," Goken explains. "It does happen in our own backyards."

Friends of the Prairie Maintains Campus's Natural Wealth

Samantha Rhodes, SVCC
news writer

Students at Sauk Valley Community College may wonder about the two expansive fields of tall grass on the school's campus. Individuals from the organization Friends of the Prairie, known around campus as SVCC Prairie, would have them know that there is more than meets the eye.

Friends of the Prairie is dedicated to managing the prairies on Sauk's campus. While the group is new to the college, it is partnered with the Whiteside County Natural Area Guardians, a like-minded organization which was founded in 1988.



The organization currently consists of sixteen members, most of which are Sauk staff. "We're al-



lection, and brush clearing. They also clean up trash along Route 2 on occasion.

In addition to getting their hands dirty, members of Friends of the Prairie work to educate the community about the Sauk Valley area's prairies and natural environment. A representative table can be found at events such as Sauk Fest, showcasing different photos and physical examples of plant-life found on Illinois's prairies. The group also hosts one educational outreach event per semester, where people can attend film screenings and speak with environmentalists to learn more about the area's flora and fauna.

Rachel Brunner, head of the group's committee, says Friends of the Prairie has a number of goals, one of

Both Brunner and Breen express that there is plenty of reason to care about the prairies on campus.

"We need to be aware of the natural world," Breen states about the importance of upholding the Sauk Valley's natural landscapes. "This area used to be predominantly tall grass prairie. Now 1/10 of 1% is native prairie, so it's a really rare ecosystem type."

"Creating opportunities for diversity in all forms, including biodiversity, is worthwhile," says Brunner. "It's our campus, and we make of it what we will."

Those interested can find out more by contacting Rachel Brunner at prairie@svcc.edu or by visiting the group's Facebook page, SVCC Prairie.



Methods for Tutoring

Saul Juarez
SVCC news writer

There are different ways a student at Sauk Valley Community College can receive extra help in a subject they are struggling in. One of them being the tutoring center located in the library. The tutoring center offers help to students in various amounts of subjects.

The tutoring center is a face to face type of tutoring.

Another type of tutoring that has been getting more popular lately would be online tutoring. Depending on what website the students uses, the online tutoring can

use a webcam so the student can see the tutor, or the student and the tutor have to type to each other.

Darshon Keefer has used both before and concluded that the face to face tutoring was more beneficial for him. "I had gone up to the tutoring center before a couple of times, and found it to be pretty helpful for me. However, when I'm at home and need some help, I can't just go all the way back to Sauk for help. So, I thought I'd give this online tutoring thing a try. It was alright. The one that I used charged me 25 dollars an

hour, so I tried to finish up as fast as possible. Also, the one that I used didn't really show me how to do it. They just did it for me and didn't explain very well how they go the answer."

So, if you're a student at Sauk and need a little extra help in a subject, the tutoring center can help you. Just look at the sheet hanging in the library that shows you when you're subject will be offering help. Or, maybe you can try out a different online tutoring program that can help you.

Life After Sauk for DeLaFuente

Saul Juarez
SVCC news writer

As the 2016-2017 school year at Sauk Valley Community College comes to an end, the graduating students will either be joining the workforce, or continuing their education and transfer to a university.

There's speculation that getting a degree at a junior college is not even worth it. Peter DeLaFuente weighs in on his opinion on whether getting a

degree at a junior college is worth it. "At least it's something. Say something happens in the future and I can't continue going to school at least I will still have some job opportunities because of an associate's degree."

DeLaFuente will be transferring to the University of Iowa in the fall of this year. When asked why he chose Iowa, he replied, "I chose Iowa because it's not too far from home but still a good distance. Also,

it is a pretty good and well known university." He plans on getting his degree in Elementary Education and plans on teaching either first or second grade in the state of Iowa. DeLaFuente said that he does not want to teach in Illinois because it is not the friendliest to teachers. After that, he also plans on going to the next level and would like to eventually become a principal.



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SVCC Men's Tennis Improves

By Matthew Handel
SVCC Sports Writer

SVCC men's tennis team finished up their season strong.

The men's tennis team at Sauk Valley Community College finished up their season following Regionals and it was better than they expected. The Skyhawks had a challenging regular season, only winning one meet, but they managed to end the season strong.

Going into the Regional tournament, which lasted two days, Skyhawks' head coach, Sara Kipping, discussed what the team would need to focus on in order to do their best. "We need to focus on getting our serves in and not double faulting. Placing our shots away from the opponent and making them move. Hitting our net shots to the corner...we could work on being a little more aggressive at the net and if the ball is out not hesitating to call it. We need more power on our second serves".

While she was focused on those specific areas, she also had areas that she

thought the team did well. "Our biggest strength is communication between doubles teams. Also, we never give up and keep our game face on most of the time no matter if we are winning or losing the guys keep a positive attitude. They encourage each other".

The Skyhawks ended up getting fifth place, but Kipping was still pleased with the way the team ended the season. She said, "We did better than last year considering we only won one match this year".

A bright spot for the team's weekend was a first place medal for a doubles team of Peter Delafuente and Gage Bright.

Delafuente knew it wasn't the best season for the team, but finishing on top was a success. "Well the team only won one regular season meet my partner and I had a better record we were 4-2 going into Regionals but even still it was a pretty amazing feeling knowing that all my hard work and time put in was worth it".

Loveland Community House and Museum

by James Hutchison
Arts writer

The Loveland Community House, located in Dixon, Illinois, is an integral part of the history of Dixon and the surrounding community. Built in 1939 and dedi-

place for social gathering.

The house, which has carried the name of its founders through the years, celebrated its 75th anniversary in October of 2016, and stands against the backdrop of local history and continues to

collections of the Lovelands themselves.

Steve Wilson, director of the Loveland Community House, says the museum focuses mostly on history surrounding Dixon and the areas nearby, and even has many

that much of it has to be stored in boxes because there just isn't enough room to display it all at once. However, this offers an opportunity to keep displays fresh by rotating out some pieces for others. Adding to this, the house's collection continues to grow, as there is no shortage of donations from locals.

The house also provides rooms available to rent for all manner of events. Regular clients include the Eastman School of Dance, which has met for more than 40 years, as well as the Phidian Art Club, which has used the house's facilities for over 70 years. In fact, the house plays host to the "largest art show in the area," according to Wilson.

More information about event rentals can be found at lovelandcommunityhouse.org.



cated in 1940, Loveland Community House was established by George and Emma Loveland with the intent of providing a

offer itself as a museum with floors dedicated to displaying pieces from not only donations, but also from the personal

historic items on display from the early days of local businesses.

In fact, the house has so much memorabilia

Nursing Program Updated

Over the past year Sauk Valley Community College has had major construction projects happening throughout the building. The latest project will upgrade, and update the nursing program.

By updating the classrooms, the nursing program hopes to increase the number of students enrolled in the nursing program.

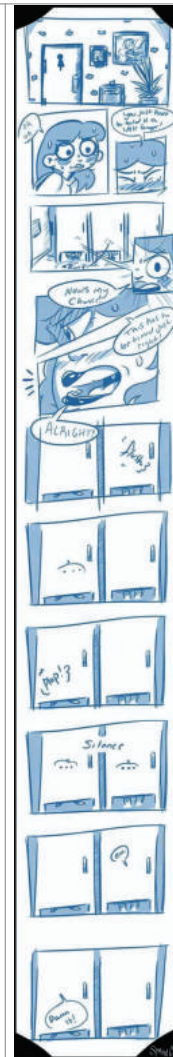
Although the number of students accepted into the nursing program will in-

crease, there will not be an increase in the staff. It is believed that the current staff will be able to handle the increase in students.

Another addition that is coming to the nursing program is updated "dummies". The dummies will give students a better hands on experience. Students will be able to check a real pulse, put IVs in real veins, and have actual vital readings. The dummies will also react to what the student

does as well. If the student does something wrong, the dummy reacts and allows the student to learn how to react, and what they did wrong as well.

It is the hope of the school that with the updates to the classrooms and increase in students, that it will help with the high demand in the nursing field and help bridge the gap that most students have after graduating.



artwork by: Spring

After Vote, Bureau Valley Considers How To Move Forward

by Josh Taylor

With the April 4th elections over, the Bureau Valley School District is now wondering what is the future of Bureau Valley.

During the April elections, voters in the Bureau

Valley district went to the polls to decide whether or not the district should use \$17 million in bonds for several projects in the district. The first was to build a new Kindergarten through Fifth grade school in Sheffield, Illinois. The second project included updating the HVAC system and new bleachers at the Bureau Valley North school, located in Walnut, Illinois. The final update would be to add a gymnasium with bleachers and a locker room, plus add 3 class rooms to accommodate the 6th through 8th grade students in the southern district at the high school. Voters chose to vote no, with 1,610 people voting no and 604 voted yes.

The referendum had several issues to the voters. One problem was that the referendum would have ultimately closed the schools located in Wyandot and Buda, Illinois. The second issue that several voters had

was the building of the new k-5 building in Sheffield.

The reason behind the need for a new building resulted after several people on the ground and building committee had discovered that the south tower of the Bureau Valley South building was beginning to collapse, giving an unsafe environment for both the students and faculty in the building. As a result the south tower had been closed, moving 6th grade into the north tower and transporting the 7th and 8th graders to the high school.

The voters have spoken, and it is now up to the seven person board, which now includes 2 new board members, to decide what will be the next step to ensure a fiscally responsible and safe environment for the students to learn. It is unclear at this point what the next step will be, but all board members agree that something has to be done soon.

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