Shootout for support

Wayne Skobel, of Murphysboro, prepares his shot Sunday at the Carbon Lake Shooting Club in Murphysboro. Skobel participated in a shootout-match fundraiser at the clubhouse that was raising money for the Murphysboro Elks Club. "We all came out to support the Elks," said Rebecca Clover, another shootout participant of Murphysboro. "They are doing good work, and it feels good to do what we can to help and have fun doing it."

Groups speak out against fracking

Several organizations took the initiative to protect southern Illinois' wilderness and wildlife by asking for more restrictions in proposed state legislation.

Pro-nature groups, including the Sierra Club Shawnee Group and Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing our Environment, pleaded their stance against hydraulic fracturing to the Jackson County Board April 3. The groups recommended the board send a letter to state officials to ask for the power to ban, tax or further regulate area hydraulic fracturing as the Illinois House of Representatives considers a bill proposed state legislation.

"We had thought before that natural gas could be a bridge fuel as we fazed out coal, but now we realize, no, it's not a bridge, it is a gangplank to our own destruction," Chair of the Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club Barbara McKasson said.

President’s budget poses education cuts, benefits

President Barack Obama’s proposed 2014 budget could generate a larger impact on students than they might suspect.

On Wednesday, Obama presented his proposed 2014 fiscal-year budget, which asks for $950 billion in cuts over the next 10 years from areas such as Social Security and Medicare. This plan would reduce the nation’s debt by almost a trillion dollars compared to the 2013 budget plan, according to data provided by the Washington Post.

While political parties debate the details, some experts agree cuts to programs such as Social Security could have ripple effects for students later in life.

The plan consists of many budget cuts and increases. However, education risks one of the largest cuts with a proposed $56.7 billion decrease, a 10.8 percent drop from this year’s funding. While the budget asks for $56.7 billion instead of the projected $71.2 billion education will need, the difference will be covered by collecting student-loan interest, fees and other methods to allow the department to spend more, while receiving less.

The budget also includes changing student loan rates to supply and demand based rates, rather than letting Congress set them, as well as $1 billion for a college affordability initiative that would reward individual states for keeping college costs down and investing in improved results.

David Yepsen, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute director, said the budget effects reach further than most college students suspect.

"This budget affects students a lot," he said. "It will affect grants. It will affect federal gain for grants … The more (debt) society incurs affects them. Federal spending affects job opportunities after you graduate, so this is something that has a huge impact literally on the daily lives of students. It will affect if some people can even go to school, the size of classes and the number of class offerings. This should not be an abstract issue for any students."

While the president’s plan makes sense, Yepsen said, it still needs work.

"It’s heading in the right direction," he said. "It’s a shame that Congress will still balk at things that the Republicans have got to make some compromises, and (Obama) started moving in that direction.

"Yepsen said Republicans are reluctant to talk about creating new revenue sources for the country, but they’ve shown they like the idea."

Please see BARGAIN | 2

Cler, Miller win election, talk agendas

The university’s student trustee will retain his position on its Board of Trustees, but its undergraduate government will answer to a new president during the 2013-14 school year.

More than 1,000 students cast their ballots on Desire2Learn Wednesday and Thursday to re-elect incumbent Jose Cler, who won 702-563 against opponent Nolan Sharkey, as student trustee on the university’s Board of Trustees for the next school year.

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Please see ELECTION | 3

Please see FRACKING | 3
It is possible for the Democrats and Republicans to come to a budget agreement for 2014, he said, but both sides must work together. While Republicans don't like to increase revenues and Democrats don't like to cut Social Security, Yepsen said, both sides might have to deal with it because the nation's budget deficit is so large.

Dennis Johnson, a semi-retired teacher and university alumnus with a master's degree in political science, said the budget affects college students because it could mean cuts or the elimination of programs they might need later in life.

"The more money that's piled on the (national) debt, the more burdens for students in the future," he said. "If you eliminate these programs, then you won't be there when younger people get there. It's very important to start paying attention to it."

If individuals can pay more taxes or other fees and still be able to live comfortably, he said, then they should so they can save essential programs from receiving cuts.

Johnson said the budget is similar to retirement for college students because they don't think about it until they are older. He said it is important for young people to take a better interest in politics and vote to represent themselves and prevent legislation that might favor older individuals.

Even though Yepsen and Johnson think politics and the budget are important for students to learn about, some students, opinions vary on how the budget affects their lives.

Joshua Carvey, a freshman from Aiken studying architecture, said he thinks the budget will have some impact on his life, but politics as a whole don't impact him much at this point in his life.

"Nothing I've really been involved in has really been determined by politics," he said. "I'm sure some stuff has been affected by politics, but nothing too big. Until I get a bit older and until something really comes across that really has a lot to do with my life that politics are going to determine, I think that I'll be when I pay a little more attention to it and be a little more interested in it."

Jessica Brunner, a junior from Stockton studying human nutrition and dietetics, said she thinks the budget and politics impact her life but she finds it hard to take a stance on issues because of the multiple topics these areas cover.

"I've tried to get into more things but it seems the more I try to read about it, the less I actually know about anything," she said. "I try to learn more, but it seems like I really don't know when to start."

However, Andrew Barbiero, a graduate doctorate student in historical studies from St. Louis, said he has seen national budget elements at work in his everyday life.

"Politics affects me in so many different ways," he said. "My wife has a congested heart-defect, so the affordable care act has had a profoundly positive impact on us personally. Student loan reform has had a profound impact on my family as well, and made it a little easier to get my education."

Matt Daray can be reached at mdaray@dailyegyptian.com or 536-3311 ext. 254.
FRACKING CONTINUED FROM 1

The Illinois House’s bill requires companies to have a fracturing permit, disclosure of some of the fracturing fluid’s ingredients, safety control and liability from the companies for any damages they may cause, said Christopher Lant, professor of geography and environmental resources.

While some the bill could use work, he said, it provides thorough fracturing regulation and would affect any hydraulic fracturing operations if passed.

Barbara McKason, chair of the Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club, said the group is opposed to area hydraulic fracturing because of its negative effects on community health and the environment’s well-being.

“We had thought before that natural gas could be a bridge fuel as we fazed out coal, but now we realize, no, it’s not a bridge, it is a gangplank to our own destruction,” she said. “So we definitely oppose developing these new... projects. We don’t want them to come to Illinois.”

The Shawnee Group approached the Jackson County Board, to persuade legislators to allow towns to have some fracturing regulation control, McKason said.

Some parts of the bill, such as the distance fracturing areas can be from public locations such as schools and churches, should be stricter, she said.

McKason said the group has looked at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration studies that indicate fracturing locations are leaking methane. She said this methane is worse for the environment than carbon dioxide.

While the fracturing process would create jobs and would provide jobs for areas that sorely need them, he said, but scientific data shows the process can have bad environmental results.

“I don’t think we should get ourselves in a position of either/or,” he said. “Let’s do the science, let’s take our time; let’s make sure that it’s safe to do this if it’s going to be done.”

Julie Williams, of St. Louis, glues gems to toy cars Saturday at the Annual Gem & Mineral Show at the Pavilion in Marion. Williams said she has always loved gems and different rocks, and her father loved toy cars, so she decided to make a hobby that would encompass both. “I grew up loving cars because of my dad, and I always had a passion for collecting rocks,” she said. “For the past 21 years, I’ve sold thousands of these cars at various shows.”

ELECTION CONTINUED FROM 1

Both Miller and Clet said they hope to work closely together to represent the student body and resolve issues.

“(Chris)’ role is extremely important to the university,” Miller said. “He really cares about the university, and he really cares about the students.”

Clet served as a non-voting trustee during the 2012-2013 school year since only one student trustee has voting power and SIU-Edwardsville student trustee David Hamilton has the vote. The vote rotates based on the governor’s decision, Clet said, and he hopes he will receive voting power.

He said he wants to make sure the advisory board and others who make decisions do so out of the students’ best interests instead of individual interests.

“There’s been a lot of board problems that really need to be worked out,” he said.

Students often like to blame the university for funding issues, he said, but the state is where the issues lie as it falls short on university payments every year.

For the rest of the story, visit www.dailyEgyptian.com

THINK YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE?

SIU’s Vince DeMuzio Governmental Internship Program is one way to find out... AND earn $720 - $960 a month!

The program offers two distinct types of internship experience for full-time SIU students.

1 Legislative staff internships with House and Senate Republicans and Democrats. Typically, interns work in the district office fifteen to twenty hours per week and perform duties as regular staff members. The most important criteria for the internship experience are good oral and written communication skills and a strong commitment to public service.

For more information, contact either of these offices by phone or visit their websites.

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Experience it!
With spring upon us and the baseball season's start just a few weeks past, it seems to be the perfect time to release the next big baseball movie. “42” has slid into that spot.

The movie tells the true story of Jackie Robinson, the first African-American Major League Baseball player, as he plays the game he loves while he endures jeers from a crowd that is unwilling to give him a chance. Baseball films are a dime a dozen, and segregation is a typical drama catalyst in historical sports films, so what sets “42,” apart from the rest?

Austin Flynn: I wouldn’t say “42” knocked it out of the park, but it at least hit a stand-up triple. My only real complaints concern the film's early pacing and the way racism was portrayed throughout.

Both issues were small, but the latter made the movie seem a little too predictable and cheesy at times. For example, Robinson and his all-black baseball team stops at a gas station to fill up in one scene, and Jackie is told he can’t use the bathroom. Jackie tells the clerk the team will take its business elsewhere after a few tense seconds, but the clerk gives in and lets him use the bathroom. Not too much later, Jackie and his wife Rachel are denied plane tickets because she entered a “whites only” restroom.

The film reveals their tickets were given to a white couple and an argument ensues, which results in the clerk threatening to call the police. While those situations are certainly good examples of segregation’s absurdity, I don’t think it was necessary to sprinkle them throughout the movie constantly when more powerful scenes portrayed racism and helped audiences see the mindset people held back in those days.

See www.dailyEgyptian.com for the rest of the story.
Murphy received the loss after he allowed three runs on three hits in 2.2 innings. MSU freshman pitcher Jonathan Harris started and won the game with four strikeouts, six earned runs and allowed one home run in the 14-6 win.

The Bears scored five runs to take a 5-3 lead in the second inning with the score 3-0 in SIU’s favor.

The Salukis bounced back in the bottom of the inning to tie the game at 5. SIU had Troggio and junior shortstop Ryan Rosthenhausler on base when senior outfielder Austin Montgomery hit a home run to right center field to score the three runs.

After the second inning, MSU was the aggressor for the rest of the game as the Bears outscored the Salukis 8-1. Murphy received the loss after he allowed four more runs by Cherry, freshman pinch hitter Connor Wilcox, senior designated hitter Koby Pebbles and Maddox to beat the Salukis 14-6.

After two straight losses, the Salukis bounced back Sunday with a 14-6 win. SIU had Troggio and junior shortstop Ryan Rosthenhausler on base when senior outfielder Austin Montgomery hit a home run to right center field to score the three runs.

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Pick up the Daily Egyptian each day to test your crossword skills.
Salukis’ Valley struggles continue

The Salukis posted a season-high eight errors and lost two of three games against Missouri State University during the weekend. The SIU baseball team faced off in a three-game series that improved MSU’s record to 21-10 on the season and 6-3 in conference play, while the Salukis moved their seasonal record to 17-18 and 2-7 in the MVC.

Senior pitcher Cody Forsythe started Friday and struck out five batters and allowed five runs in six innings pitched. MSU junior pitcher Nick Petree started the game and allowed three runs in seven innings pitched.

The two teams exchanged runs to finish the first inning tied at 1. MSU senior catcher Luke Voit scored for the Bears, and senior outfielder Rennie Troggio scored after a single by junior first baseman Ryan Casillas.

The Salukis grabbed the 2-1 lead after Troggio scored again in the fourth inning. With the score 3-2 in SIU’s favor, the Bears scored six unanswered runs in the last three innings to beat the Salukis 7-3.

MSU junior pinch runner Troy Masonberg, sophomore infielder Eric Cheray, sophomore infielder Joey Hawkins and freshman outfielder Tate Matheny all scored the Bears’ runs in four-run seventh inning.

Despite Missouri State’s explosive run production, SIU baseball coach Ken Henderson said the Salukis were also offensively impressive.

“I thought we did a great job on offense,” he said. “That is one of the best pitchers in the country, but we scored enough runs to win that game. I thought we had good approaches and good at-bats.”

The Salukis started junior pitcher Derek Fogel Saturday. Fogel allowed a season-high five runs and failed to strike out any of the MSU batters in just 1.1 innings. Matt Murphy replaced Fogel in the top of the second inning.

Senior outfielder Austin Montgomery makes a sliding catch Saturday in the SIU-Missouri State University game at Abe Martin Field. Montgomery’s three-run homer in the second inning tied the score at 5. SIU tallied a season-high five errors and left 13 runners on the bases en route to a 14-6 loss. The Salukis will host the University of Tennessee-Martin at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Abe Martin Field.

Please see STRUGGLES | 5