

# The Skyhawk View

Sauk Valley  
Community College

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Challand Middle School's Band Room that the SVCC Concert Band uses for practices.

## The Sound of the Community

by Nicole Arduini

Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC) finds support in their community to provide students with the opportunity of a concert band.

The Concert Band class has very few registered students. That is why when community members show up for practice, it is music to professor, Denise Deter's ears. Despite the cutbacks in the Community College's Fine Arts classes, SVCC still offers its students a Concert Band class, with help from the community.

Ranging in age, experience, and walks of life, band members, or guest artists, come together on

Monday nights for the love and support of music in their community. Classes are held off campus at Challand Middle School in Sterling.

The SVCC Concert Band is a class of its own. "It is the only class that uses the waivers and rely so heavily on the community," said Pam Medema. The Sauk Valley Community College's Registrar and Director of Enrollment Management.

Registered students of the class receive college credit for their completion of the course but they are given much more. "This program offers an opportunity to not only the guests but the students as well" Medema explained.

The guests are given a chance to play in an ensemble at no cost, while the students get the experience of playing alongside musicians of all levels. The unique classroom setting provides college student the ability to learn to improve their skills by performing college-level music, alongside the communities most talented musicians.

The SVCC Concert Band will perform two concerts this semester. Performances are on Sunday, March 3rd and May 5th at 2:00 PM in Sterling's Centennial Auditorium. The Band will also perform at the Sauk Valley Community College 2019 Commencement.

## Little Slice of Skyhawk

by Robert Kerr

Sauk Valley Community College's art gallery hosts professional, sometimes controversial artists from around the area in its art gallery every semester. Glenn Bodish, an associate art professor here at Sauk, chooses artists that offer an educational and diverse view for the SVCC students.

The SVCC art gallery resides on the second floor, above the Dillon mall and it does a lot more than just show art.

Glenn Bodish choose artists that are from the region that are "professionals and bring an educational component."

Most if not all artists he brings here are professors at other colleges, teachers in a sense, and that they are here for our students to learn from.

Currently residing in our showcase is artist Janis Mars Wunderlich. There is a book in which you sign and leave comments. Thus far the exhibit is really going well at Sauk, the general opinions that it is extraordinary. Professor Bodish thought so too,

and why he brought the artist in. His comment in an interview being, "Totally something we need to bring in. It's using materials typically used as a craft material in a sculptural way. She has a very unique view from her personal life and her work is phenomenal." Phenomenal indeed. In a statement on her work, "my work explores the curious complexities and contrasts that exists in personal relationships."

Janis's work is in the gallery till March 21, which on that night there is a reception held at the gallery. Where students and anyone passing by can listen and ask questions of Janis. Should be noted that Janis's work is both delicate, as it is ceramic, and contains nude images of both genders.

The gallery itself usually holds artists work for six weeks. The next artists to be shown the gallery is actually a student showcase. Where the students show off their pieces, and it is all manners of art. From professional artists to up and coming artist, Sauk Valley has a slice of culture.

## Spring Pledge

We all know that the polar vortex we are stuck in will eventually pass. What comes next is what we're all waiting in anticipation for, spring. Spring coming out brings not only showers and warmth but motorcycles and their riders, myself included. Some of the riders could be you, your family, even friends.

Motorcycle casualties for 2017 were 5,172 in the country as reported by Highway Loss Data Institute. A total of 162 of the casualties took place right here in our home state of Illinois. In 2017

we lost 16 more riders than we did in 2016. The statistics for 2018 are projected to increase again, but the totals are unknown to date. Nearly every year the motorcycle rider population is decreased more due to roadway casualties.

Coming into the spring of 2019 we should all be prepared for the motorcycle riders to come out to enjoy the nice weather in their own way. We should all be watching and listening for motorcycles. Although motorcycles are small and may be hard to

spot, many of them can be heard. When we were children most of our parents taught us to stop look and listen before crossing the street. The same tactic can be used with motorcycles on the roadways, the only difference is you will not be stopped at the edge of the road waiting to cross but driving. If you hear a motorcycle near you, you should make yourself aware they are around and safely be trying to locate them for not only the rider's protection but even your own.

As a rider myself, I

can't speak for all motorcycle riders, but most riders are keeping track of all vehicles around them. We cannot predict a vehicles next move, but if motor vehicle drivers and motorcyclists look out for each other then maybe we can all work together to save some lives in 2019. Let's all work together to protect each other on the roadways and ensure motorcyclists go home to their families. Let's all take a pledge to look out for each other this year.

### OPINION:

## The Choose-Your-Own-Adventure That Lacks Choice and Adventure

by James Hutchison

Black Mirror: Bandersnatch is an absurd waste of time for one main reason; it's not evident what message it's trying to convey. In fact, by the end of the film, it's as if the makers intend to scold the viewer for trying to make any sense of the previous hour and a half.

One might assume the astoundingly successful precedent set by the Black Mirror anthology would carry over into its stand alone Bandersnatch. Unfortunately, the film only succeeds in mocking the reputation

that proceeds Black Mirror. Bandersnatch is like flashes of consciousness that the viewer must assemble with virtually no context and a nonsensical premise.

Perhaps the writers intended Bandersnatch to show that free will is utterly unreal, but if that is the case, it is not apparent. That's the real problem with the film: no one ever makes a point about anything.

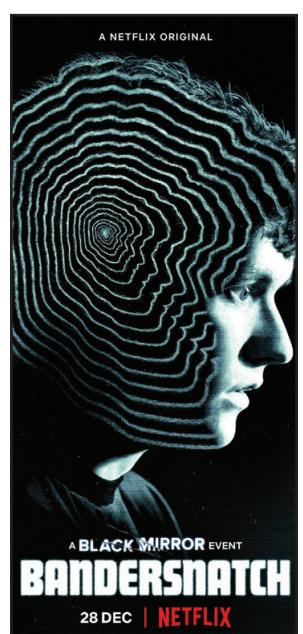
Instead, viewers must sit through an unnecessarily complicated series of "decisions" that are completely arbitrary and, at the very end, the film completely

devolves into madness (and not in a good way) by kinda-but-not-really breaking the fourth wall and dragging the "real-world" into the film.

From choices that the viewer makes that have no significant effect, to a gaping void where adventure is supposed to exist, Bandersnatch does nothing more than violate the viewer's capability to form a rational thought in some attempt at a conspiracy theory fueled rant about how we're all slaves to some force of control that the film fails miserably to present.

**The Skyhawk View wants to hear from you!**

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**SATIRE:**

# President Trump Has Secret Service "KILL" Snowman

by James Hutchison

On the early morning of February 14th, Baron Trump, youngest son of U.S. President Donald Trump, was outside on the White House lawn building a snowman with help from thirteen agents of the Secret Service when nearby citizens noticed one of the agents suddenly step away. Baron, and the final twelve agents, were left to make the final, challenging decisions for his first snowman. The agent would soon return with urgency just as Baron stood back to give a slight cheer at

his wonderous accomplishment, no doubt feeling pride for deciding on the bowler hat instead of the top hat for his snowman.

The Secret Service agent then hurriedly escorted the young Trump away into the White House while all twelve of the other agents immediately turned and opened fire on the snowman. Standing no chance against twelve highly trained agents, the snowman was obliterated in the hail of bullets. The incident caught the attention of protestors outside the White House

property and local news stations were contacted. About an hour later, a source within the White House confirmed that the president and his son are safe and there was never any danger.

The source explained further that Mr. Trump had looked out the window and, seeing the snowman surrounded by several Secret Service agents, mistook it for an immigrant that had climbed over the gate surrounding the White House. Mr. Trump acted swiftly and ordered the agents to kill the snowman.

# Sauk Valley Region Needs Better Street Safety

by Tony Cracco

About a month ago, this author had to go to Sterling to run some errands. I was heading up Route 40 in the section that is a one-way street, and as I sat at a red light, the car in front of me simply flew through the red light while making a left-hand turn. Then, a couple weeks later, at the intersection of US 30 and US 52 just north of Amboy, the ice on the road was so slippery my car spun out of control. Thank God there were no other cars in the area, as I surely would have been involved in an accident. And things became even worse this past Wednesday the 13th, which I will get to a bit later in this article.

The point I am making is it seems obvious to this author that the Sauk Valley region has some serious issues with street safety, and with enforcing traffic laws. It seems clear that some changes need to be made.

I contacted Mayor Skip Lee of Sterling, asking why there are so

many one-way streets in Sterling, and he was nice enough to get back to me. He stated that the reason the Sterling-Rock Falls area has so many one-way streets goes back to the early 1970s. At that time, he said, one-way streets made it easier to get to some local factories, although, he stated, that problem is not as great as it used to be. He said one-way streets are still needed, however, to make things safer for pedestrians. But is it safe for pedestrians when drivers are simply ignoring red lights at one-way intersections to turn left on a red? The Mayor said this was not a problem, but just because he was unaware of it does not mean it does not happen. I hardly ever go into Sterling but I personally witness drivers ignoring red lights every time I go there.

Meanwhile, as to the other predominant issue of street safety in our region, the problem of snow and ice removal, I tried but failed to contact Amboy City Hall for comment. But from

personal observation, it seems clear that failure to properly salt and plow the streets is a cause for serious concern, especially-but certainly not limited to-area side streets and secondary roads. In fact, Bluff Street, on the south side of Amboy, is slippery for days, sometimes weeks, after a major snowfall.

Now I feel I must emphasize my point by adding a personal story. Last Wednesday the 13th, while driving on Chicago Street on the outskirts of Dixon, my car slipped on the ice, spun out of control, and was hit hard by an ambulance. It hit the front passenger side of my vehicle, which was actually a good thing, because if it had hit the driver's side, I could have been injured or killed.

Yes, the Sauk Valley region needs better street safety, and I cannot emphasize that enough. As citizens, we pay state and local taxes, and we do not do so just to be injured or killed on area roads.

**REVIEW:**

# New Restaurant Open



By Alberto Gonzalez

Jessi Marshall traveled to countries such as UK, Japan, Korea, and China, as international director of education and professional beauty instruction for Marshall Salon and Spa.

Marshall's experience, traveling to the different countries where fresh vegetables and fruits, natural unprocessed food and coffee, were not readily available. Instead of complaining, Marshall decided to do something about it.

Jessi Marshall was born and raised in Dixon. When the building became available, Marshall decided to open a restaurant with a dual conception: coffee ex-

presso, quick service breakfast, and fresh, quick, mindful eating.

She wanted to use foods that were as fresh as possible. The Curate Kitchen restaurant has a homey, holistic feel for lounge study groups, providing relaxation, for adults and children. In the dining room, there are open tables with enough room for private conversations.

Vegetables and fruits receive same day preparation. Foods are fresh, unprocessed, and gluten free. 16 items are available for lunch, including salads, hot/cold sandwiches, and soup. The soup selection changes daily. For breakfast, there are 6 different quiches and oatmeal. Your choices of wine and beer constantly changes.

Marshall uses seasonally available, locally grown ingredients.

She also supports local community businesses such as Village Bakery, Oregon, Mount Morris bread bowls, Intelligentsia Chicago Espresso, cappuccino, latte, mocha.

The Curate Kitchen has a open river-front view with tables on the patio, in the spring.

Drive through is available with for coffee, other items may be ordered by phone or online for pick-up.

6-3:00 M-F Quick service 7 to 2 week-ends. Lunch at 11AM 120 West River Street. Curate Kitchen, from the idea as curator of a museum,

# Sauk Valley Community College Track and Field in 2020

By Alberto Gonzalez

This is the plan of Michael Stevenson, Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC) coach since 2.8.2019 for Track and Field.

The plan is for next year to start training in October, with the first meet in March 2020.

15-20 High school athletes signed from area, male and female.

The goal: 15-20 male and female in shotput, 100-meter, 10,000-meter, (25 laps, 6.2 miles)

Standard 12 running and 8 field

(20 events): 5 throwing event, shotput, disks, javelin, hammer, which is a shotput on wire.

The season is from March to May. This offers more opportunity for area, (HS area good), increase enrollment. Track and field at SVCC is local and travel easy to meets, national competition, 2-year schools. Overwhelming for track, highest in country

Plans are for 3 coaches, 1 assistant Mr. Stevenson had 30 years as coach, 28 of them at the college level, and 14 months at SVCC.

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**EDITORIAL:**

# President Trump Declares National Emergency on U.S.-Mexico Border



by Tony Cracco

Last Friday the 15th, President Trump declared a national emergency in order to get a wall built on our nation's southern border, according to Yahoo News. However, he also stated that he would sign the Congressional budget in order to keep the government running.

This should concern Sauk students, and indeed all Americans, for a variety of reasons. First of all, were another government shutdown to take place, it could eventually affect such programs as financial aid and government-subsidized loans. While this did not take place during the previous shutdown, it is worth noting that hundreds of thousands of federal workers were forced to work without pay, according to news and talk radio. Furthermore, any Sauk students and Americans in general who know someone who is in the US illegally

should be concerned that their friends and relatives may be deported.

Declaring he would take "executive action" in order to get his wall built, Mr. Trump stated that illegal drugs do not come through "ports of entry", but rather through unguarded portions of the border. This would allow him "to divert funds appropriated for other purposes to build the wall." On the surface this may not seem unfair, but what exactly does it mean? Will funds meant for defense, for example, be diverted for the purpose of building a wall?

That may be a dangerous prospect. True, the war on ISIS is winding down, but contrary to what some may believe, it is still there. We need a strong military now as much as ever.

Of course, the President's announcement did not sit well with Congressional Democrats. In fact, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi "warned

that a future Democratic President could use the precedent of declaring a national emergency" for causes "such as gun control". And she actually expressed her desire that Trump would himself declare an emergency over the issue of gun control.

That, of course, is not likely to happen. But one thing is certain: This announcement will add fuel to the fire of those who are rabidly anti-Trump, and one could conclude that it may even hurt Trump's chances of re-election.

This editorial is not meant to be an anti-Trump hitpiece. After all, like it or not, he is doing exactly what he had promised to do on the campaign trail. It is simply meant to remind readers that Trump and Congressional Democrats do not see eye to eye, and that fact alone could have disastrous consequences for our country as a whole.



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**NEWS:**

# Weather Setbacks

by Nicole Arduini, life-style reporter

Cancellations and delays due to a remarkably brutal winter hold effects over students, staff, and syllabuses at Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC).

Whether students watch the news for the cancellations or wait for the call, what goes into deciding if students are sleeping in, or catching the bus in the morning?

When the snow falls, Steve Nunez, Vice President of Academics and Student Services is in communication with superintendents across the college's district. Steve is one of the many voices in the decision of class

cancellations or delays. In a mass email sent to students and staff, Steve explained "The College is very deliberative and thoughtful on when to conduct a late start, have an early out, or cancel classes entirely. However, it is not a perfect science as our district is (in my approximation) more than 2,500 square miles in size."

Nunez also explained that there is a week set aside in the Spring semester in preparation for dastardly weather. With precautions taken, the academic schedule for Sauk Valley Community College is still on track. A makeup day will be held on Tuesday, February 26 which was

originally scheduled as a faculty professional development. This will be the only shift to the academic schedule to make up for lost time.

Professors and students alike share frustration as capricious syllabus' falls behind. "Worrying about things like this, that we can not control will just give us ulcers." described Janice Jones, Assistant Professor of Education, as she describes the anxiety that comes with watching a class fall behind on deadline dates.

SVCC student Bajram Bequiri stated, "Week six feels like starting over again at week one." Bequiri explained that when classes canceled, so did



Canceled classes leave classrooms empty on the SVCC campus.

his motivation. With cancellations breaking up the first weeks of the new semester, it is hard for students like Bajram to

get back into the swing of things.

Despite Winter weather, class syllabuses, and students motivation falling, Sauk Valley

Community College is still on track for a Commencement May 17th, that is, weather permitting.



An empty Sauk hallway on the 3rd floor



Trees heavy with ice line the walkways on Sauk campus.

Photo by Nicole Arduini

Photo by Nicole Arduini

# Working on the Works

by Robert Kerr

The Works is a publication for Sauk students at Sauk Valley Community College. It is a variety of visual and written art pieces. The class of Creative Writing Two is a class here at SVCC and the Works is a project that they become the editorial board. Along with the professor Tom Irish, the class are the ones who decide things like who to have in it, a theme, and any possible contests.

They have stopped taking submissions for this years issue but you can send in pieces of works.

From poetry, fiction, photography, paintings, digital art and everything you see. You can still send submissions to [litmag@svcc.edu](mailto:litmag@svcc.edu) for next years issue . In any issue ever you can send up to four visual art pieces as well as four written pieces, for a total of eight pieces. The pieces can be submitted anonymously or otherwise.

The Works magazine has been going on for a while now and hopefully will continue to be a good outlet for some peoples creative juices. Make sure to look for this years issue next year when it comes out in the fall of 2019.

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