

# The Skyhawk View

Sauk Valley  
Community College

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## New Faculty at Sauk Valley Community College: Geoffrey Lemay

by Carolyn Graham

Sauk Valley Community College welcomes back Geoffrey Lemay, this time as an accounting instructor rather than a student.

Lemay attended Sauk from 2011 to 2013 and says that he was "pretty active, I was in Phi Theta Kappa, and I did Americorps, and was a tutor in the tutoring center, it was a great experience".

After graduating from Sauk, Lemay continued on to North-

ern Illinois University, graduating with a Bachelor's of Accounting in 2015, and is currently in the process of earning his master's degree through Western Illinois University.

Lemay lives in Sterling with his wife and kids after moving to the area in 2007 and says both his wife and daughter have degrees from Sauk as well, with his daughter having just graduated this past May. "If my son comes here in a year or two as well, we will have all gone

through Sauk," he says.

When asked why he decided to come back and work at Sauk Lemay said he "was largely in the accounting field after I had gotten my CPA for a few years, but I was struggling to find kind of the nobler purpose when the opportunity arose I thought that teaching might be a good way to kind of fill that need, kind of being helpful, rather than just working in an accounting department."

"I had developed many strong relation-

ships while I was here as a student," Lemay says, "Overall I have been thrilled at how supportive and encouraging so many of my previous teachers and other staff members have been as they have welcomed me back to SVCC."

Lemay is currently teaching five different accounting courses and hopes to become more involved in different parts of the school in the future.



SVCC Graduate Geoffrey Lemay returns as Accounting Instructor

## Jodi Merriday event



The person who took this picture was Dannae Cadenas (Secretary of Student Government). Subjects in the picture are myself - Estela Luna (left) and Dr. Jodi Merriday (right).

by Estela Luna

On Wednesday, October 9, on behalf of Student Government I had the opportunity to welcome students to the SVCC's Mathis Theater for a Title IX Dating, Violence and Sexual Harassment workshop by Dr. Jody Merriday. Dr. Jodi Merriday is a Title IX and Diversity & Inclusion speaker.

She shared that, "Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 was passed to ensure that no person in the United States on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

During the session, Dr. Merriday not only covered information about what constitutes sex discrimination, sexual and gender-based harassment, and non-discriminatory practices but also enabled students to have conversations about sex and gender based-harassment with awareness and competence. This program strengthened our knowledge to treat others with respect and empowered us as students to report Title IX incidents such as violence, sexual assault and sexual harassment, stalking, etc. to the appropriate coordinators here at Sauk.

I would like to invite all Sauk Students to get involved in educational, social, and cultural activities at SVCC. These programs offer an opportunity to grow as leaders and become socially responsible students.

The information students received at this event is essential in preventing incidents, staying safe and helping

friends and family be protected in any institution, household, when dating or going out with friends.

A great local resource in our community is the YWCA of the Sauk Valley. The YWCA can assist victims of sexual assault by providing counseling, medical/legal advocacy, and a 24-hour hotline for crisis services: 815-626-7277 or 815-288-1011.

Out of the surveyed students, about twenty percent say that they have vaped in the past, that number decreasing to twelve percent when asked if they still currently vape. Of those who reported that they vape, about eighteen percent say that they vape multiple times a day.

However, it was found that over eighty percent of the students are aware of the vaping related respiratory

## What the students have to say: Vaping related respiratory illness



Vape pen and interchangeable chamber.

by Carolyn Graham

When students at Sauk Valley Community College were asked if they were aware that the Center for Disease Control has reported several cases of a vaping related illness, the answer was overwhelmingly yes, but they were divided on what should be done to prevent it.

Out of the surveyed students, about twenty percent say that they have vaped in the past, that number decreasing to twelve percent when asked if they still currently vape. Of those who reported that they vape, about eighteen percent say that they vape multiple times a day.

This is a common response, with seven students citing vaping as a preferable and "less dangerous" alternative to smoking cigarettes.

According to the CDC, which causes symptoms including breathing difficulty, shortness of breath, and/or chest pain before hospitalization, regardless of whether or not they currently vape themselves.

When asked why students continue to vape when they are aware that there are health risks associated with it, one student replies "It's still a better alternative to smoking cigarettes. Respiratory illness is not cancer. Until I see how vaping is worse than cigarettes, I embrace the option as it has helped many people stop smoking cigarettes."

As for whether or not the government needs to further regulate the production and distribution of vape pens and cartridges, the students were split in opinion. Sixty percent stated that there should be further regulations, while forty percent said that the regulations are fine the way that they are.

# A Hypnotic Night At SVCC with Fredrick Winters

by Madelyn Tennison

SVCC's Student Government Association brought in Frederick Winters, a legendary hypnotist, on October 17th, 2019. This event was open to the community, and took place in the Mathis Theatre on SVCC's campus at 7:00 pm. This show was roughly two hours long, and while that may seem like a long time for a hypnotist show, Winters left the audience wanting more.

Winters asked for volunteers to be hypnotized, and fifteen of SVCC's students volunteered to go up on stage. Out of these students, twelve of them were successfully hypnotized.

tized. These particular students gave the audience quite a laugh. They were hypnotized to do many hilarious things, most of which they would never do willingly in full consciousness.

Throughout the show, Winters hypnotized the students to forget their names, act like toddlers, have a dance party, and do so many more bizarre things. When asked if they were really hypnotized, one of the participants stated that "[Y]es, it really worked. The whole thing is a blur to me, I don't remember much."

Most people walked into the theatre very skeptical of Winter's ability to hypnotize. By the end of the show,

however, the audience as well as the participants were shocked at how real it was. He ended the show by advertising his online hypnotist videos, and because Winters really made an impression on his SVCC audience, a few people went and purchased these videos.

Whether or not Frederick Winters will be making another appearance at SVCC in the future is unknown. But, if you are looking for a good time with lots of laughs, keep an eye out for more of his performances. It's an experience not only hypnotizing for the participants, but for the audience as well.

## OPINION:

# Adopt don't shop, but rethink gifting pets for the holidays

by Kali Nave

With the holidays quickly approaching, the one thing that should not be at the top of anyone's Christmas list is a pet.

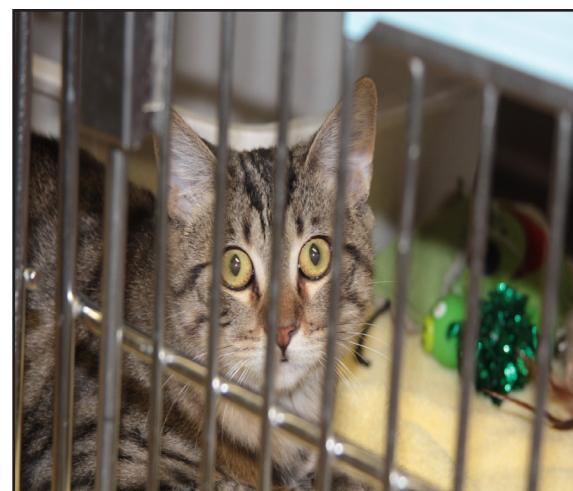
Every year, whether it be Christmas, Easter or birthdays, people feel that gifting an animal as a surprise is one of the most memorable gifts a person or child can have, but according to the staff at Granny Rose Animal Shelter, and shelters like them across the country, giving a pet as a Christmas gift is a bad idea.

"Animals are not disposable," says Nicki Boyd of Granny Rose. "A family may not be prepared for a pet or may not want a pet and it will end up in the shelter. Some people may even refuse the animal because it's not the specific breed they wanted."

When gifting a pet at Christmas, what comes to mind is a cute puppy or kitten in a box with a big bow around their neck, which is memorable for the moment but there are so many unknowns that families are not prepared for.

"You give an animal as a gift, but there could be unknown allergies, having to house train in winter weather, and the holidays are crazy enough to add an animal to the mix," said Boyd.

When bringing an animal into a new home, it should have time to adjust to the family in a calm environment with time adapt to house training, as Christmas morning is not the time



**A cat stares through the bars of her cage while waiting for her forever home at Granny Rose Animal Shelter.**

to implement house rules with all the excitement.

Pets should also not be given as gifts to children who are not responsible enough to take on the care for a pet.

"Parents get for kids and kids aren't taking care of it, but if your kid is 6 how are they going to take care of a pet?" asks Boyd. "Kids are not responsible. Teach kids to become responsible, before an animal's behavior gets out of control and they get returned to a shelter for bad habits."

Most importantly, the future of the animal needs to be priority, not just the vision of them on Christmas morning.

"Are you prepared to see things through," asks Kendyl Cheshier, pet owner and staff at Granny Rose. "Are you prepared to see this animal grow not only in weight, but for the next 15 or 16 years?"

Gifting a pet for the

holidays seems like a great idea in theory, but it can end in disaster for the animal. Animals should be brought into a forever home, not just used as a memory one Christmas morning.

Enjoy the holidays with the family and when things settle down, then visit the local animal shelter to adopt a new member of the family to celebrate with next Christmas. Avoid back yard breeders, as breeds and health conditions of animals may be unknown. Animal shelters adoption costs are often much lower, including proper veterinary care, spay/neuter, and vaccinations. Most importantly, keep in mind that shelter pets are not defective animals, even pure bred puppies wind up in shelters, especially after Christmas when the excitement of a new puppy wears off.

Adopt, don't shop, but please rethink gifting a pet for the holidays.

## OPINION: The Real Americans

by Alexa Hyon

In many cases, people who have never lived in a country too readily believe stereotypes about people of the country. The Brits are sophisticated, the Japanese are polite and shy, etc. Of course the USA looms large on the horizon of stereotypes.

In 2016, I moved to Coleta, which is a very small town near Sterling. Like any other traveller, I equipped myself with my physical luggage, but also the baggage of my expectations of America, specifically small towns in the Midwest. I imagined the locals driving around the small town in their 4x4 pickup trucks with their dogs and shotguns in place.

I had a reality check when my illusions were demolished. Generally, the locals of Coleta were friendly characters. The college students were ordinary people who thwarted my assumption of their resemblance to movie stars like Bradley Cooper or Scarlett Johansson. Also, only a few people drove massive mobile metropolises, while some liked to walk.

Another truth – America is comprised of individuals with all body types. Some of the citizens are neither fat, nor as slender as portrayed by models. However, the variety of physical appearance was easily notable and more prominent than in the Korean population.

Americans also have definitive smiles, which are characterized by confident grins that are likely to blind onlookers, especially in cases where white glowing teeth are involved. Considering such facts, the reality contrasted significantly with my previous assumptions.

As an outsider from Korea, some similarities of the US to my former country made it easy to forget that I was in another country. Many of my preconceived assumptions about the Americans were proven wrong on my arrival, though some lingered. While the differences existed, most of them were hidden away from strangers as they were only noticeable beneath the surface.

# The Crowns of Empowerment



**The Crowns of Empowerment exhibit will be displayed in the SVCC Art Gallery through January 22.**

by Kali Nave

Natalie O'Neal's "The Crowns of Empowerment" exhibit is currently being displayed in the Sauk Valley Community College Art Gallery and you are not prepared for how it is going to make you feel.

In a statement from O'Neal, "This show depicts a particular type of beauty absent from the retro vintage era (1940-1980). She was not the model chosen to adorn the covers of America's culture magazines."

"This exhibit illustrates that Her social issues were too big to be contained on magazine covers," said O'Neal. "While many were distracted, matching pocketbook covers to hand gloves, She was busy fighting human rights, inspiring taglines much too challenging and authentic to sell magazine covers."

Each magazine

cover depicts an African American woman standing up for a different form of civil rights or historic moment, such as the right to vote, Fair Housing Act, Bus Boycott, "Bad Blood," Swimming pool segregation, or the Oklahoma City Bombing.

"See Her emerge from the shadows in all her glory, front and center, as I focus on her many crowns of empowerment." Says O'Neal, whose photography has been featured in Jane Fonda's Art Aids Africa exhibit, as well as the Jackie Robinson Foundation and the National Black Arts Festival. O'Neal is currently a medical photographer for Soderstrom Skin Institute and a board member for the Contemporary Art Center of Peoria. Her works have been featured in the SkinNews Magazine.

When viewing the exhibit as a white fe-

male, my friend and I both understood parts of the exhibit but not all of the references. Maybe it was because we were white or it was simply before our time, but the references that were made were definitely eye opening. As O'Neal mentioned, the African American woman was not on magazine covers, she was too busy dealing with the hardships of simply being an African American woman. My friend and I stood amazed in the gallery, appreciating the things we had taken for granted. This exhibit was so empowering, and such an amazing experience.

All framed works in the gallery by Natalie Jackson O'Neal are for sale for \$425. A guest lecture was held on November 18th featuring O'Neal. The show will run through January 22. For more information regarding exhibits, visit [www.nataliejacksononeal.com](http://www.nataliejacksononeal.com).

# Joker movie review: where's the punchline?

by James Hutchison

Joker is, perhaps, one of the best bad movies you'll ever see. Or, maybe the worst good movie you'll see. It's filled with deep-reaching concepts and superb craftsmanship of ideas but it never really gets to the point.

If Joker was intended to just be another origin story, and yet another movie based on DC characters meant to finally get it right, it would be the best of every DC movie to date, even above Wonder Woman and Aquaman. However, Joker makes it clear from the beginning that the point isn't to set up what comes in the next movie. The problem is that Joker never makes it clear what the viewer is supposed to get out of the experience.

Over the entire course of the movie, horrid themes of men-

tal illness, class divides, poverty, and the difference in realities lived by the rich and the poor saturate the viewer with the urge to feel sympathy... no, empathy for Arthur, AKA, Joker. The whole process grates on the nerves and seeks to squeeze a few tears from even the hardest moviegoer, but the reality is that it tries too hard to accomplish a task that it seems like the writers never got around to figuring out.

From a performance and production standpoint, Joker is utterly superb when compared to any of its DC cousins. Joaquin Phoenix delivers an incredible performance that, by itself, is capable of wrenching emotion right out of the viewer's heart. Likewise, production quality is just as good with no ridiculous attempts at bad CGI and excellent editing. Joker relies on the sheer

capability of its very human moving parts to experience success, and though some will say it succeeded, the truth is that it's the apparent message in Joker that makes the movie Problematic.

Mental illness has long been Hollywood's go-to for explaining why psychopaths do bad things, and its harmful depictions of mental illness no doubt have aided in making society at large approach this very real problem with fear and disdain. Joker plays out no different with one of only a hand full of clear(ish) messages: mental illness left untreated inevitably leads to extreme acts of violence.

Then, there are direct references to "loners" being mistreated by society, so, of course, they snap and do terrible things. This has long been a popular argument from many people after a

mass shooting: the shooter was a loner/lone wolf with mental illness.

To complete this strange interpretation of mental illness and how it correlates with violence, the viewer is never given any reason to clearly understand that Joker is the bad guy.

Instead, Joker is presented as a victim of circumstances and the fact that he turned to extreme violence was not only inevitable but appropriate. By the end, moviegoers are presented with a hero, a Joker, who stood against authority and won.

Joker is a good movie with a confusing message that, at best, makes incorrect claims about mental illness. At worst, it draws a causal relationship between mental illness and violence which, by itself is dangerous.

## EDITORIAL: Humor Can Be Used to Defuse Hate

by Greg Smith, SVCC  
Alumnus

women handled that man's comment was brilliant. The man had no comeback. All he could do was growl at me on his way out the door. When I asked the two women if they had heard what the man had said, one told me, "He's just having a bad day."

As a straight, white male in his 60s, I've never had anyone say anything racist about me. I have no idea what it is like to have someone hate you for the way you were born.

I also don't understand it or have a clue how to end it.

I wish something as simple as laughing could make it go away. If it were that easy, we would have found an answer to the problem a long time ago.

I can't say the two black women weren't hurt by the man's comment. So, no. I don't think laughing at racists is the answer. Yet on a summer day in 2019 in the Sauk Valley, I saw two black women use it to shut down a man who they said, "Was just having a bad day."

# Intense training leads to dropped time at Byron Conference

by Carolyn Graham

The Morrison Girls High School Swim Team placed second at the Byron Conference meet on Nov 2nd, citing rigorous training and team positivity as the reasons why.

Overall, the varsity team won a total of 258 points, second only to Byron with 344 points, beating three other teams to claim this spot.

Sadie Norman, one of the team's seniors, says that "As a team, we've been staying pretty positive about the whole thing, or as positive as we can, winning a lot of different events and dropping time it's easy to be happy about the hard work you put into it."

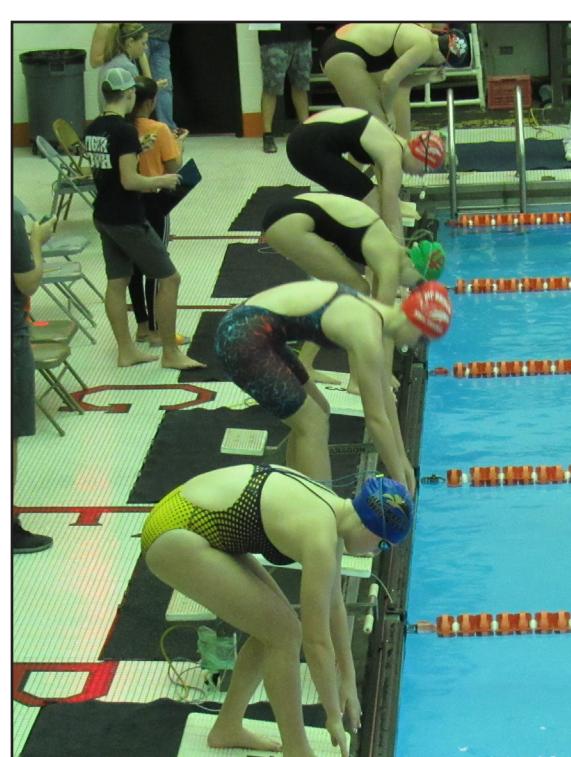
"I think overall our

team dropped a lot of time, in six events we were less than one second away from a record," said varsity swimmer Gracen Harmon after the event.

The junior varsity team also had similar results, taking second place with a score of 356, second to Byron with 358 points.

Four of the swimmers dropped more than three seconds in their events, and as a team dropped time in the relays as well.

The swimmers say they have been doing more practices than usual all-season and that their coach really wants to push us to do our best this year. This hard work has really paid off, which is evident in the scores.



**Sadie Norman (second from the front) and Emily Henson (fourth from the front) get ready to swim the 100 Yard Butterfly.**

## SATIRE: Yellowstone super-volcano predicted to erupt on election day

by James Hutchison

Reports out of Yellowstone National Park, home of hot springs, bison, and the world's largest super volcano, painted a grim picture in the early hours of Monday, October 21st. The long-dormant Yellowstone Caldera has begun sending tremors throughout the state of Wyoming and scientists have spent the entire week scrambling to understand the data.

The 34-by-45-mile volcano last erupted just over half a million years ago and it spewed 240 cubic miles of earthen matter into the sky causing a domino effect that cooled the earth and blotted out the sky.

An eruption on that scale is unlikely, according to geological scientists, however, even a minor eruption could bury Wyoming and other surrounding states in up to three feet of volcanic ash and send enough ash into the sky that it would, at the very least, decimate air travel capability and kill

millions of birds. As the ash surrounds the planet, temperatures will drop for months as the ash will reflect much of the light the earth receives from the sun. Finally, as the ash descends from the sky over months or years, it will cover the entire surface in a layer of ash and dust, as well as clog waterways and oceans, potentially killing billions of marine animals.

While scientists have been able to predict an exact day for the impending eruption, much the same way they can predict eruptions by the Old Faithful geyser, they simply can't know how powerful it will be, nor in what manner it will erupt.

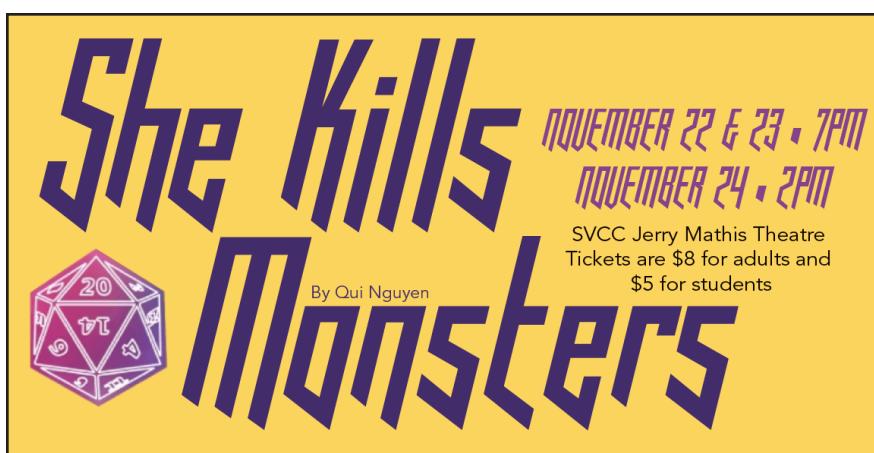
Luckily, however, citizens will not need to worry themselves about who to vote for on election day; instead, stay home, and let the Yellowstone Caldera decide.

## The Skyhawk View wants to hear from you!

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**[www.svcc.edu/skyhawk-view/feedback.html](http://www.svcc.edu/skyhawk-view/feedback.html)**

# She Kills Monsters



by Jessica Payne

The Sauk theatre department has been working hard these last few months on their show, "She Kills Monsters." Sauk students put a lot of hard work and dedication in to this show.

A perfect combination of science fiction and the real world, "She kills monsters," features the main character, a teenage girl named Agnes in 1995 who's family dies in a tragic car accident. Following the accident Agnes discovers a Dungeons

and Dragons module created by her sister and decides to play it, in the process learning more about her sister, and about herself.

Molly Pashon played the main character, Agnes. Chloe Roberts played her sister Tilly, Jacob Brown played Chuck, Jackson Reinhardt played Miles, Katrina Fancher played Vera/Farrah, Gillian Larson played Lilith, Ashley Nieman played Kalioppe, Kendrick Fisher played Orcus, Haily Puckett played Stacie, Sam Roberts played Evil Gabby, Kels ey

Heslop played Evil Tina, and last but not least, Bethany Megill performed as the Narrator.

The show contained mild adult language but promised an engaging and fun experience for all who attended. The Sauk future Educators club offered free child-care during the Friday show for parents of young children.

All performances were held at Sauk Valley Community College in the Jerry Mathis theater on November 22nd through Sunday November 24th.



The Skyhawk View's entry for Scarecrow Fest 2019.

