

# The Skyhawk View

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## Haunted Haven - A Decade of Insanity

by Kali Nave

2019 marks the 10th Season for Haunted Haven, and the cast is making this year out to be a scream.

Since 2009, Haunted Haven has been expanding their 8,000 sq ft facility to be able to push the boundaries on fear. Fear seekers return every year to see something different, and this year is no exception.

Danielle Grennan who plays Dollie Dearest, says Haunted Haven is a completely new experience every year, so if you have been here before, this year will be different

and you will definitely want to come back.

“Planning for the haunt sometimes starts as soon as the season ends,” says Grennan. “We tear down the walls every year and build new rooms. We work all summer long to get these new rooms built and decorated and of course have to build all our props as well. We go through our actor list and carefully pick which actor will fit which role the best. We have our recurring characters like myself, but even my room is different every year.”

With such a big celebration, rest assured

that Tweaker and his clowns will be part of the festivities as well.

In addition to regular haunts September-November, Haunted Haven has a variety of community events planned for the 10 year celebration. Tony Moran, who played Michael Myers in Halloween, held a meet and greet on Sept 20th, there was a Kid’s Day Sept 29th with proceeds benefiting Pink Heals and the Haunted Haven Teen Dance will be held on October 13th. A music video was also made with a local band.

The community has been a huge support for Haunted Haven



and more haunts are in the future. “These kids come back every year

and sometimes multiple times a season. We’ve become part of

their Halloween tradition and I think that’s awesome.”

## Haunted Haven



by Ecco Wildman

While a lot of my friends were out watching the game under the Friday night lights I was getting ready to see them later for some Friday night frights.

My name is Ecco Wildman, I am attending Sauk as a freshman, wanting to minor in criminal justice and major in psychology. I am currently in my third season of being an actor for haunted haven.

Don’t let that deceive you, even though I have been acting for them for three seasons, I have been a fan for a decade of insanity.

I can still remember the first time I even thought about going through the house, I begged and pleaded my mom to take me through. As soon as we pulled up, I became terrified. We walked up to the trailer to buy our tickets and I was shaking, tears brimming my eyes. I noticed something approaching me out of the side of my eye, that something came to be known to me as

Tweaker. Tweaker had given me a personal tour through the haunt reassuring me that it was all okay, and from that day on, I was hooked.

Ever since then, I’ve grown to know all of the actors personally, however ; I’m still one of their favorite victims. Being a crew member doesn’t make you safe .

To add on, Haunted Haven does many great things in the community such as Haunted Haven dances for all the youngsters who still might be too scared for the real deal. Not to toot my own horn, but I have a couple of best costume awards myself.

Tweaker, Mama Spook, and the rest of the crew at Haunted Haven have become a second family to me.

We’ve got a lot of great things planned this year, as we do every year. so if you’re looking for some Friday night frights after the Friday night lights, we will be waiting, if you’re brave enough that is.

## Meet the new faculty: Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Smaka



**Photo Description (picture of the children’s section ):** The library at SVCC features a section tailored specifically for children.

by Carolyn Graham

Sauk Valley Community Colleges welcomes one of several new members to its faculty, including Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Smaka, an instructor of early childhood education.

This is Smaka’s first year of teaching at SVCC but it is certainly not her first time in a classroom. Previously, Smaka spent fifteen years teaching using the Montessori Method at the K-12 level in Helena, Montana.

After the retirement of Janice Jones, the previous early childhood education professor with whom she had developed a working relationship with, she decided to move and teach at SVCC alongside her husband, Glenn Bodish. Smaka says that she “feels very blessed to be here right now, continuing to follow my passion.”

As for her life outside of school, Smaka has two adult sons, who are both living in Oregon and pursuing similar mathematics degrees for their PhDs. “We all really love school,” Smaka says.

Hobby wise, she enjoys taking long walks in nature, listening to educational podcasts, sewing, and weaving, and had at one point had even tried to make a living as a basket weaver, “I’ve really had many, many jobs over my life.” Smaka also enjoys keeping artifacts and gifts from the children she has worked with over the years, saying that it “Inspires me, that I know that I have made an impact on their lives.”

After exploring many different fields, Smaka realized that the most rewarding experience she had ever had was working with her own children, and



**Photo Description ( picture of herself ):** Beth Smaka takes a photo of herself to commemorate her first day at SVCC.

that caused her to want to go into the educational field, saying that it was definitely where her inspiration came from.

Smaka says that she is “Very excited to

be here and to get involved with not only the community here at the college but the growing community of early childhood professionals locally and in the state.”



# Bus Safety still an Issue in the Sauk Valley



Photo by Kali Nave

The stop sign on a school bus warns drivers to stop, as children load and unload from the bus. Failing to stop at the sign grants a \$300 fine.

by Kali Nave

Although fines for disobeying a school bus stop arm have increased from \$150 to \$300 for a first offence in February of 2019, bus drivers in the Sauk Valley area are still having a problem with everyday drivers not stopping for open stop arms while students

load and unload from a school bus.

When it comes to stop arm violations, local numbers are quite high. Safety Director Gary Wilson of Illinois Central School Bus in Dixon says “Out of a 20-day school month, I’d say we get 15 to 20 a month, but most go by so fast you can’t report it. You’re watch-

ing the kids; they come from the front and go right by you.”

ICSB Dispatcher Tracy Ranken states she gets reports almost daily of people running stop arms. “Some days it’s great because we won’t have any, and other days I’ll have three just in the morning route,” says Ranken. “Driver’s

will dispatch in a description of the driver and vehicle as well as a license plate number and from there we call it into the police department.”

The State of Illinois requires numbers to be taken on random days for stop arm violations. In May, just before school let out for the summer, ICSB

reported 22 stop arms were crossed on school property alone, and 8 on streets and highways. These numbers were given to Springfield to give a total number state wide.

It is hopeful that in the future all school bus stop arms will have cameras on them to capture those that run the stop arm and

endanger the lives of the children getting on and off the bus.

“As a mother and a bus driver,” says Renae Higley of ICSB, “it is imperative for people to stop at bus signs. What if it was their kid? This really is a life or death situation.”

## EDITORIAL:

# Fire hydrant repair draws to a close at Sauk Valley Community College

by Carolyn Graham

The construction project that began over the summer of 2019 to fix the pipelines of the West Mall fire hydrants at Sauk Valley Community College (SVCC) is coming to a close without the students ever being informed of its start, which should not have been the case.

The student body had received an email at the beginning of the fall semester warning them to pay attention to their surroundings and to steer clear of the work area but received no further explanation as to what was going on or how

long it would take

Custodian supervisor John Rumley states that “This project had to happen for the fire safety of the buildings, to stay up to date with state laws, they had to be fixed.” Repairing the pipelines ensured that they are properly up to code and reliable in the event of an emergency.

This was carried out by running the pipes from the front of West Mall to the basement of the building and then connected to the other buildings from there onward. However, in order to reach these pipes, the ground had to be ripped up from on top of them,

resulting in the broken sidewalks and uneven ground that visitors to the college cross every day.

Despite the glaring visual effects that this project has had on the outside of the school, not many students seemed to know what was being worked on at all or how it affected them. The students, as well as the other members of the faculty and staff who work and study at SVCC, deserve to know what is happening at their school, and further efforts should be made to inform them of projects in the future.



A newly installed fire hydrant sits in front of a patch of ripped up turf outside of SVCC.

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# Kali's Toy Review: LOL Dolls



by Kali Nave

LOL Dolls are cute, sassy, collectable, and without a doubt one of the hottest toys of the season; but these glittery girls are also the most un-environmentally friendly toy on the market.

The toy itself consists of a plastic ball cut in half to store a naked doll inside, whose clothes and accessories and hidden within compartments of the ball in individual wrapped mystery bags. The ball is then wrapped in several

useless layers of pink plastic that you must “unzip.” The dolls themselves are only about 2 inches tall, with glittery accessories that retail for around \$10 for the standard LOL. Other additions of the LOL that contain hair,

pets, or extra accessories cost more. They also come in collections with more dolls at once, containing bath bombs, an outfit a day, or large pets. The LOL Bigger Surprise Box retails for over \$100 and contains so much wasted plastic, it’s hardly worth the experience or the dead sea turtles.

As a mom myself, I am guilty of buying my daughter LOL dolls for birthdays and Christmas, but at the end of all the excitement, I have enough left-over pink plastic to melt down and mold my own LOL Dolls. I encourage parents to, although the dolls are adorable, buy your child something without so much waste just to open it. The ocean will thank you.

# New EMT course begins its fall semester at Sauk Valley Community College



EMT class utilizes SVCC's medical training classrooms equipped with simulated hospital beds.

by Carolyn Graham

SVCC has added an Emergency Medical Technician basic training course, developed by the U.S. Department of Transportation and taught by Mercyhealth, to its catalog. The course is designed to teach students the skills and information they need to provide emergency medical assistance to people in need, and prepares them to take

the national exam and become a certified EMT in Illinois. Running from August nineteenth to December sixteenth, students are required to both attend their classroom training as well as complete clinical and field experience outside of class, totaling over one hundred and eighty-four hours of work. Mercyhealth EMS Educator Dana Carr, the class instructor,

states that what makes this class different from other medical programs offered at SVCC is that it “Teaches the students basic emergency care that will be rendered at the patient’s side prior to being transported or arriving at the hospital. With many advancements made in pre-hospital care, EMTs can make a positive difference for the patient before arrival at the hospital emer-

gency department.” “The current student body of the class consists of students from six different fire departments, from twelve communities in the area including Dixon, two students who have joined their local Fire/EMS service since enrolling in the class, and several students who are considering jobs in the field,” says Carr. Taking this course requires dedication, as the workload is high, but according to Carr, “If they are looking for a career that is extremely rewarding, Mercyhealth’s EMT programs offer a pathway to many other careers, I have known individuals that have gone on to be paramedics, attended nursing school, and several that have continued to become physicians.” The class is currently maxed out at thirty students, and since it has been years since the last course was offered at SVCC, Carr is unsure what the enrollment is expected to be in the future.



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# Heritage Canyon: A step back in time



by Carolyn Graham

Wierenga's Heritage Canyon, a museum and cultural center located in Fulton Illinois, is an interactive look back at our area's rich history.

The canyon features a recreation of a mid-1800's village, with buildings such as a schoolhouse, town hall, chapel, doctors, general store, a blacksmithy and many more.

Brian Tomman, the caretaker of the canyon for the past eleven years, describes them as "Fully stocked, looking as if the people had just stepped out of them."

Visitors explore the

area by a self-guided walking tour, following the yellow arrows that lead them around the center and its various attractions.

The canyon also holds special events, such as the Fall Festival at the end of September and the Christmas walk in December which feature Early American Crafters, Civil-War reenactors and other historical groups recreating the area's history.

Tomman states that Heritage Canyon holds a special place in the heart of its community and wishes to reflect that upon all who come to visit it.

Despite being at the canyon for elev-

en years Tomman still "Learns more about the canyon and the items in it every day," and says that "almost every time people come here there's something different to see, it's always changing."

Tomman states that the canyon was "Built to preserve history, and to share it with people, and that is why the original owner Herold never charged a cost, it's by donation only, so that everyone can come through regardless of if they had money or if they didn't."

On normal days in April through December admission is completely free, but of course, donations are always welcome.

The sign that marks the beginning of the canyon trail.

## EDITORIAL: Close Call on Illinois Route 2

by Tim Bollinger

I am very careful now when I drive on Illinois Route 2, because it is a very narrow road by the river, and yes there is a lot of deer that run across the road from the countryside.

The reason I wanted to share this story is many college students have either been driving for a short time since graduating high school or just have started driving for the first time. All of us that drive sometimes take driving for granted, because we do it every day. I have had a few accidents over the years, but this one made me really think.

I was traveling Northeast through Grand Detour IL on Illinois Route 2 toward Rockford when just outside of where the Shell gas station, is I saw the deer jumping across the road right in front of me.

I instantly froze both hands on the steering wheel knowing I was going to hit him head on. Sure enough that is exactly what happened. Smash head on hit to a full, grown deer.

It all happened so fast, but all I remember is I saw the deer hit my front end directly; then my hood shot up toward my windshield, but luckily was still intact.

I remember seeing the deer fly across the road and after the impact I remember trembling with fear as I made my way to the right side of the road. Amazingly, by the grace of God, I wasn't hurt or killed. I sat in horror as I looked at my smashed hood and thought how lucky I was. After realizing I was okay, I got out of the car and looked at the damage to my car.

Amazingly my headlights were fine, and my windshield

was not cracked, and to me that was a good sign.

This was the first encounter I ever had with a deer in my entire thirty years of driving, so this was an entirely new bad experience for me.

My advice and many commercials reiterate my exact words, please don't text and drive, and always wear your seatbelt and stay present with your eyes always on the road in front of you.

We all need to look out for one another as we drive because driving is really the most dangerous tasks, we do every day. Staying vigilant, aware, focused, and alert when any of us gets behind the wheel of an automobile will save lives on our roadways every day.

## Satire: Queen Elizabeth stunned to learn that Boris John is real

by James Hutchison

Headlines recently were rocked by reports from the UK that Boris Johnson, newly elected prime minister, met with Queen Elizabeth II and requested parliament to be suspended, to which she agreed.

However, a new development says that Queen Elizabeth assumed the whole thing was a joke by a man "claiming to be prime minister." It seems the queen had no idea Boris Johnson was both real and actually the prime minister.

"Well, I just thought it an amusing joke to make light of all the recent political discourse, like when a man dressed as Darth Vader runs for parliament," explained Queen Elizabeth. "I had no idea anyone would actually vote for a real Boris Johnson."

The queen stopped short of directly deriding Johnson's very real political appointment or his push to suspend parliament, but other voices within the government were less reserved and some have even demanded he be taken to task for abuse of power in order to

force the UK into embracing a no-deal Brexit Strategy.

"Well, he's a bit like a potato chip, isn't he?" said one protestor among thousands more that took to the streets to decry what they believed to be the actions of a dictator.

"He wants to coup the government to give himself and his cheese-smelling friends absolute power," claimed one MP who wished to remain anonymous. "Seriously, they smell like old cheese."

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