SEE A4

WASHTENAW VOICE

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

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The student publication of Washtenaw Community College

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Controversial public safety plan stalled

By Aidan Ross Contributor

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A proposal to install license plate readers in Ypsilanti Township is at a standstill after multiple concerns were raised by township residents and activists at several board meetings.

License plate readers, or LPRs, are cameras that record the license plates and backs of passing vehicles. The cameras then cross-reference this information with lists of people wanted by law enforcement, and can alert law enforcement when a wanted person is within their jurisdiction.

According to Stan Eldridge, township treasurer, the Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees currently has no timetable to resume discussion of the proposal.

"The township hasn't moved one way or the other yet. We're still right in the middle, trying to do our due diligence before we even discuss moving forward.", Eldridge said.

Township officials are waiting for clarification from the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department on several details in a draft policy approved by undersheriff Mark Ptaszek to determine how it would use the cameras.

Repeated attempts to reach township Supervisor Brenda Stumbo were unsuccessful.

According to Eldridge, township officials will be meeting soon with University of Michigan Information Technology Services to discuss the data security of the proposed LPR system.

University of Michigan Information Technology Services could not be reached for a comment.

Despite the Sheriff's Department's draft policy specifically mentioning Flock Security, one company that makes LPR systems, there hasn't been a decision on a vendor

"There are people who have reached out from multiple companies, but nobody has been selected. This will be bid out in a fair way, should we ever get to that point.", Eldridge said.

According to Eldridge, township officials have not officially discussed where the funding for an LPR system would come from, or how much money they would spend on it.

Eldridge also said all further discussion of the proposal will occur publicly. "We're not trying to slide anything through," Eldridge said. "We're not trying to hide anything."

The dates, times, and agendas of all Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees meetings can be found on the township's homepage, in the Upcoming Events column.



Ralph Johnson seizes the podium in September and addresses board members on oversight. Johnson wants to know who watches the watchers.

WCC pre-engineering student Luke Thomas co-authored a scientific research paper title "Magnetic Switchbacks Heat the Solar

For information on research oppurtunities

- Go to https://www. nasa.gov/stem/murep/ projects/ncas.html or contact Professor Daniel Majaess at dmajaess@ wccnet.edu.
- For more information go to https://www.lspace. asu.edu/.
- If you want to learn more go to https://clasp. engin.umich.edu/academics/undergraduateresearch/reu-clasp/

Read for deatils

Student research recognized

By Jordan Scenna Deputy Editor

It's said that space is the final frontier, but really, there's nothing final about it. The universe has been expanding ever since the Big Bang, and while we continue to make breakthroughs and increase our knowledge of the cosmos, we may never know it fully. For Luke Thomas, it is precisely this infinite nature, space's unimaginable vastness, that launched him toward the stars.

Corona," which published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters in October.

"There's just so much of it [space], and we're just a tiny speck of sand on the cosmic scale," Thomas said. "We don't know how it all works; to quote Star Trek, it's the final frontier."

Thomas, a pre-engineering student at WCC, is part of a team from the University of Michigan whose research on solar "switchbacks" was published in "The Astrophysical Journal Letters" in October. The research was made possible by NASA's launch of the Parker Probe in 2018. The first of its kind, the Parker Probe was able to "touch" the sun, allowing for data gathering of the star's solar atmosphere for the first time in history.

Thomas' ability to code made him a good candidate to participate in the study, although he never imagined he'd be a coauthor for a paper on the cutting edge of space research, especially considering his early struggles with school.

"It was not something I expected when I started, I just thought I'd be helping out," Thomas said.

"To be a co-author and have my name on something like this is really cool."

Thomas wasn't always a stellar student. Circumstances surrounding his early college career caused him to take a more scenic route to scientific stardom. Growing up in Tennessee, Thomas attended East Tennessee State out of high school where he studied computer science, but a financial need forced him to work 45 hours a week as a line-cook at a local steakhouse. With little time to focus on school, his grades plummeted, and he was forced to drop out.

It was a connection Thomas made in high school that helped free him from the stranglehold of scholastic purgatory. His mother was working as an administrative assistant in the Department of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering at the University of Michigan where she was able to help procure him a summer internship. It was here that he met Mojtaba Akhavan-Tafti, who was working on his doctorate at the time.

Akhavan-Tafti is Thomas' adviser for the Parker Probe research project, and credits him for much of his success.

"He was the guiding light," Thomas

said. "If he hadn't been there, I wouldn't have been able to understand anything."

When Thomas wanted to go back to school after dropping out of East Tennessee State, it was Akhavan-Tafti, now a member of the research faculty, who he reached out to.

"I needed to get some credentials so that I could get my financial aid to go to school, but I had bad grades and I needed help to get me back in," Thomas said. "So, I contacted him and asked if he needed help on any research projects."

A mentor emerges

Akhavan-Tafti was happy to help and gave him a job on the Parker Probe team. Thomas' position could have been given to post-doctoral fellows who would love to have their names on a high-impact journal, but Thomas' education was paramount to Tafti, and he didn't want a lack of money to be a deciding factor.

"His training was important to me. I knew he had potential, he just needed to realize that someone cares about his education, and financial difficulty shouldn't be the reason you don't go to school," Akhavan-Tafti said. "If you fall behind it's a never-ending struggle."

Thomas immersed himself in the work. He scoured data captured by the Parker Probe, searching for what they call, "magnetic switchbacks."

CONTINUED ON A3

Empty Bowls fundraiser fights food insecurity

By Jordan Scenna Deputy Editor

Empty Bowls returned to campus for the first time since the Covid lockdown. The fundraiser, which sells ceramic bowls crafted by WCC students, brought in \$1,480 with more bowls still to be sold. The money will be split between the Food Cupboard and the WCC Foundation's student emergency fund.

Carol Tinkle, WCC project and data technician, runs the Food Cupboard. She credits the Empty Bowls fundraiser for keeping the shelves stocked for students at all times. "We've never had to turn a student away because we have no food in the cupboard due to fundraisers like Empty Bowls," Tinkle said.

John Hartom created Empty Bowls in 1990 as an art teacher at Lahser High School in Bloomfield Hills. He challenged his students to make 100 ceramic bowls and then invited students and faculty to a soup luncheon where they would request donations for a food drive. The event was such a success that Hartom and his wife, Lisa Blackburn, presented the idea at conferences across the country. Today, Empty Bowls events are present in almost every state.

WCC ceramics department head Irving Remsen brought Empty Bowls to campus in 2014. He knew Hartom and Blackburn from selling his wares at various summer art fairs, and thought Empty Bowls would be per-



RUBY GO I WASHTENAW VOICE

All proceeds from the event will be donated to WCC's food cupboard and student emergency fund.

fect for WCC. In conjunction with the now defunct culinary arts department, who filled the student-born ceramics with homemade soup, Empty

Bowls began.

In a 2018 survey by the Council of Michigan Foundations, 42% of community college students reported food in-

security. According to a study by Johns Hopkins University, students who face food insecurity have lower graduation rates and are less likely to get a bachelor's or advanced de-

WCC student food insecurity rates aren't known at this time, but Tinkle said she sees a clear need for the Food Cupboard. "Many students are not able to be successful due to insufficient basic needs being met, such as being hungry. It's hard to study when your stomach is growling."

Approximately five students visit the food cupboard per week.

The WCC Foundation will share the proceeds generated from the fundraiser as well, which will go into the student emergency fund. These funds are allocated to students who need things like emergency car repairs or rent assistance.



WCC musicians perform songs at student showcase

Deputy Editor

Students from Michelle Urena's songwriting class performed their original songs last Friday at the Morris J. Lawrence

building. The art gallery played host to the showcase which featured students strumming guitars, slapping piano keys, and belting out their homegrown

"We're exploring creativity and building confidence," said Urena about her songwriting class. "Next semester we're going to use digital audio workstations like GarageBand. We

welcome students whether they play an instrument or not."

A highlight of the event came when Esteban Morales, a music major, performed his song "La Encrucijada de Nuestro Amor," which translates into "The Crossroads of our Love." After crooning the tender love song, which he sung in spanish, Urena asked him to read the lyrics in english, when he playfully

responded, "I thought you all knew spanish."

This is the first time the showcase has returned to campus since Covid shut down in person events.



From left: students Corderill Mayberry, Anna Broughton, Evelyn Murphy and Esteban Morales jam out together.

PHOTOS BY PAULA FARMER I WASHTENAW VOICE



WTMC student Evelyn Murphy performs "Hot Mess," a funny song about an ill-fated



Broadcast Arts student Dominique Bonner performs his yet untitled song that incorporates elements of R&B and



Sound engineering student Anna Broughton performs her song "My song."



Esteban Morales plays his song "La Encrucijada de Nuestro Amor."





The performers took the stage for a jam session where Esteban Morales led the group in renditions of "LaBamba" and "Guantanamera."



Instructor Michelle Urena took over songwriting I during the pandemic. She welcomes any student interested in songwriting, no matter their experience



WTMC student Evelyn Murphy performs "Hot Mess" on the keyboard.

Social media privacy: Are the algorithms invading it?

By WILLOW SYMONDS Staff Writer

Twitter is under new management, and not everyone is happy. However, one significant change might improve the user experience.

Months before Elon Musk became Twitter's owner, he announced plans to make the app's algorithm public. People have wanted to know this for years, as social media platforms drive engagement by pushing content to people's feeds.

Currently, though, algorithms for popular social media sites remain secretive.

"A lot of people during the pandemic went down these QAnon rabbit holes because of recommendations," student Heather Barthell told The Voice. "[Social media platforms] are trying to tickle the addiction part of your brain.



Because of all the neurological research in the past 15 years, they've figured out how to do it. It's profit incentive, like all the ads on YouTube."

Heather Barthell took Digital Journalism in the Winter 2022 semester. For this class, students used blogs to post their article assignments, then announced these blog posts on

"I was very hesitant to have a

blog with my name on it," Barthell said. "[Being private] was something I really had to advocate for myself. Not everyone wants to be public."

However, social media companies collect data from even those who aren't famous. This data drives advertising revenue and feeds the algorithms.

In 2022, Meta's stock price

dropped by billions of dollars, according to The New York Times. This happened partly due to users turning off tracking. Heather Barthell was one of these users. While she doesn't use Facebook, she has an Instagram account (a site owned by Meta), which she accesses only through her browser.

She also uses Twitter to keep up on the news, but she's been upset with the steps Elon Musk has been taking.

If Elon Musk publicizes Twitter's algorithm, then "lawmakers can make decisions about what makes a healthy commercial system," something Barthell wants to happen. While she believes social media doesn't have to be negative, minimizing harm and keeping safe takes ef-

WCC's on-campus Public Safety Department gets calls from students reporting incidents related to social media. According to Deputy Chief Jamie Zecman, these vary from identity theft to fraud, to scams tricking people out of their money. Public Safety can't always help them, but they can point them in a better direction.

"My kids got their first cell phones pretty young," said Zecman. "It takes a lot of effort to monitor that, because there's always new things they can download. [Nothing] online is ever 100% safe."

Eliminating online dangers "starts with the leadership of these social media companies," Zecman said. Still, the word 'company' emphasizes each social media platform's goal:

The Department of Homeland Security recommends viewing social media as a novel, not a diary. Anyone - friends, employers, even strangers - can see the

information you share. Even if you're not thinking about who lurks behind the screens, they're still there, reading what you may later regret posting.

"Don't use your emotional reaction to content as to whether you want to share it with somebody," Heather Barthell

"If you have a really strong emotional reaction to the experience, then try a different content area. Unfollow people, take social media breaks. You'll know if someone's just trying to drive engagement."



How to keep your pets safe over winter holidays

By Willow Symonds
Staff Writer

Food & Drink

Many animals evolved to scavenge for food, but this instinct can end badly for the household pets of today. During the winter holidays, people cook big meals and prepare festive drinks - and they may share tidbits with their dogs and cats.

Too many fatty products, like chicken skin and whole-fat cheese, may upset your animal's stomach and cause them to gain weight. Wedgewood Pharmacy recommends skinning chickens and removing turkey bones before feeding dogs and cats. Stick to hard, low-fat cheese, like cheddar and Swiss. Most importantly, avoid giving them any kind of chocolate.

Remember to keep your wine glasses high above your animal's reach. According to Pet Poison Helpline, for dogs, alcohol can cause difficulty breathing, vomiting, diarrhea, and even seizures. Soft drinks, like Pepsi and Fanta, aren't as dangerous to dogs but are still extremely unhealthy.

Wild Earth recommends owners instead give their dogs nut milk (not regular milk, due to many dogs being lactose intolerant), pure vegetable juice, and cool water. Cats should drink only water. Bone broth can be beneficial for a cat's carnivorous diet, but even then, owners should make this an occasional treat.

No matter what you have ready for your big meal, don't leave your pet unattended within reach of the plates and cups.

Presents & Decorations

Some pets stay away from things not belonging to them, but others get their paws into presents and holiday decorations. Owners of mischievous dogs and cats should avoid hanging easily-shattered decorations and instead opt for safer alternatives.

Top Dog Tips recommends setting up a small fence that is a few feet around the base of your Christmas tree. This keeps fallen pine needles inside the barrier and your pets on the outside are unable to shake down ornaments or climb up the tree.

Due to ink and other harsh chemicals, wrapping paper is toxic to animals that ingest it. Consider designating one person on Christmas Day to collect paper scraps in a plastic bag instead of leaving them on the floor.

To avoid fire hazards, electric candles may better suit a household with pets. Plus, they don't cause smoke inhalation.

Most people probably don't realize that mistletoe is toxic to dogs, cats, and even horses; Hang it at the top of the doorframe, far away from your pet's reach.

Cold Weather

Some dogs withstand harsh weather better than other breeds. The American Kennel Club explains that small dogs, especially ones with thin fur coats, should spend no more than 15 minutes outside in freezing temperatures (32 degrees Fahrenheit or below). Bigger dogs can spend up to an hour in the same conditions. Elderly dogs

and dogs with health issues should be supervised outside, even more so during this time of year.

However, if you keep your dog outside during the day, remember to bring them inside before nightfall, no matter their size, age, or fur type.

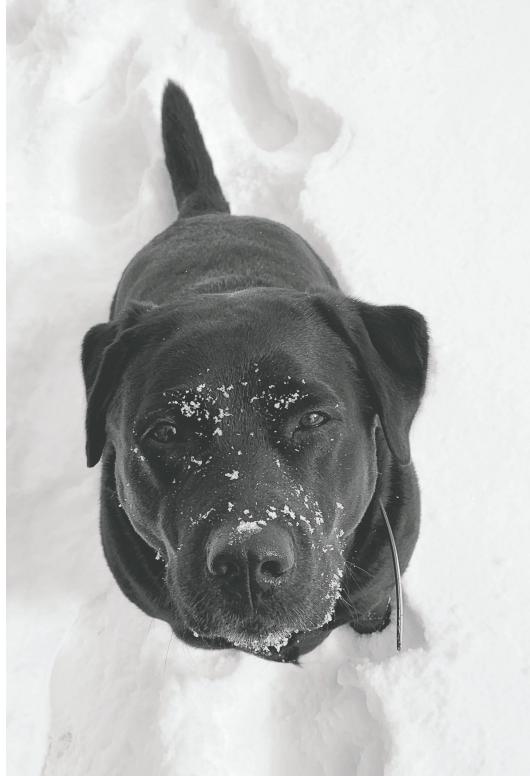
Fireworks & Fireplaces

Setting off fireworks on New Year's Eve doesn't have to traumatize your animals. To prevent bodily harm and unnecessary agitation, keep pets inside the house during firework shows. Lock the doors, draw the curtains, and designate a safe area for them to hide.

Even with the pet inside, put on their collar or some other form of identification. This might sound strange, but if your dog or cat runs from your loud celebration, then you want to make sure you can find them among the increase of animals turning up in shelters on July 4th and New Year's Day.

Whether your fireplace uses wood, gas, or electricity, the open fire can harm your pet. As with the Christmas tree, keep a small barrier in front of your fireplace. Make sure your dog or cat can't get close enough to singe their fur. Install a carbon monoxide detector, not just to protect your pet but to protect your family and guests as well, especially as most people keep their windows closed this time of year.

Everyone should stay safe, warm, and happy during the holidays - and that includes pets, too.



WILLOW SYMONDS I WASHTENAW VOICE

Labrador retrievers enjoy the snow, but they shouldn't stay outside in freezing temperatures all day.

COURTESY OF COLIN JACKSON

Colin Jackson speaks to The Voice

By Danny Oh
Staff Writer

The Voice had the opportunity of joining Michigan Public Radio Network's Colin Jackson for an online conversation around his career path, advice for beginner journalists, advice for political reporting, and more.

Colin Jackson currently is employed as a Statehouse reporter for MPR, where he covers pieces on education, politics, health, among other topics. Before that, he attended Michigan State University and acted as a radio producer for the Western Kentucky University Public Radio Station for several years.

During the event, Jackson spoke of his own nontraditional career path, and gave advice for finding and applying for news jobs, repeatedly emphasizing the importance of being prepared while remaining curious.

maining curious.

On his experience of applying to MPR, Jackson noted, "I did a bunch of research about the station before the interview. I remember I made myself a cheat sheet: Who's the governor? Who's the Secretary of State? What are the major issues of the day? ... I think just those little things showed that I cared enough about the position I bought

that really set me apart."

Afterwards, Jackson opened up the talk to a general Q&A. Jackson answered questions on misconceptions around reporting, writing, cold emailing, news consumption, and more.

On advice for writing, Jackson said, "Write how you talk. It's really easy to get into this mindset of, 'Oh, I need to sound a certain way to be professional.' But everyone has a different way of figuring out how to find their own voice writing."

"I've even seen people just walk around, talking to their phone, recording what they're saying like they're explaining the story to their friend. And then from there, editing that down into a story."

On cold-emailing etiquette, Jackson recommended that in general to follow up multiple times, through email and phone calls, while remaining respectful.

maining respectful.

During the Q&A, Jackson gave his general perspective on news reporting, saying, "At the end of the day, things are what they are—people are going to listen to their story, they're going to learn something, or they don't learn anything, or they don't read it. Either way, you put something out there that's important to the world."

Student research recognized continued

Continued from A1

Switchbacks are "short magnetic field reversals ubiquitously observed in solar wind." Robust switchbacks are reversals that meet certain criteria. Luke identified and analyzed these switchbacks wherein Akhavan-Tafti would check his work and bring it to his collaborators.

The sun's solar atmosphere is even hotter than the surface, known as "the coronal heating problem," has befuddled scientists since they began studying the fiery star. Akhavan-Tafti and his team proposed that these S-shaped switchbacks, when stretched, release energy, which heats the plasma in the solar atmosphere causing increased temperatures.

Lessons as large as the universe

Thomas' voyage from college dropout to published researcher is inspirational, but not uncommon, according to Akhavan-Tafti. "Some of us don't have linear life stories and this often discourages students from pursuing their dreams. "[Luke's] story is not unique and that's important for students to realize. Just because there are difficulties facing your education, it should not keep you from pursuing

what you truly love."

Thomas faced his difficulties head on, and he wants other WCC students to know that there are opportunities out there for them too. "This is an opportunity that a lot of other people have, it's not

"If you're interested in research, reach out to any research faculty at any university," he said, "And if they don't have something to offer you, they can direct you to someone who does."

just because I happen to know Mojtaba."

"If you're interested in research, reach out to any research faculty at any university," he said, "And if they don't have something to offer you, they can direct you to someone who does."

Opportunities for WCC students

NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS): A program for community college students who want to advance their STEM capabilities designed around "three missions" focused on NASA's mission goals, collaboration, and career pathways.

NASA L'SPACE: A free program for undergraduate

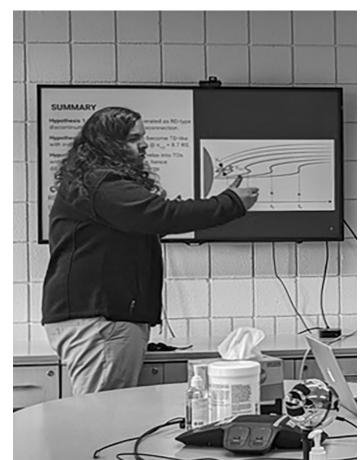
STEM students comprising two academies, the Mission Concept Academy and the NASA Proposal Writing and Evaluation Experience Academy. Each 12-week program is designed to provide unique, hands-on learning into the dynamic world of the space industry.

Program in Climate and Space Science Observation (PICASSO): A University of Michigan program available for undergraduates interested in a potential career in STEM including meteorology, climate, and space sciences. This program is designed to grant opportunities to students who may not have these programs at their college or university.



PAULA FARMER I WASHTENAW VOICE

Luke Thomas stares into space on the first floor of LA.



COURTESY OF MOJTABA AKHAVAN- TAFT

Luke Thomas preparing for his presentation at the American Astronomical Society in Seattle with adviser Mojtaba Akhavan-Tafti. **COLUMN**

Editor's farewell: all good things must come to an end



By RJ HUNT

We are officially down to the final stretch of me being the editor of The Washtenaw Voice. I can't believe that the time is near, but time doesn't wait on anybody. In my first ever column for The Voice, I talked about how I was nervous and excited for the role. Truth be told, I didn't know what I was getting myself into. However, I am here to say that I'm very glad with how things turned out.

I have been editor for three semesters and it has been one of my biggest accomplishments. It taught me so many things about journalism. I have a new appreciation for what those in the newsroom go through. It's so many things to manage at once, so I respect those who take on a journalism role. Things weren't always easy for me. In the beginning, I had the moment where I was thinking 'this might be too much for me.' I got through it and I'm so glad I pushed through because if I didn't, then I wouldn't have experienced the life lessons I learned on the way.

I learned how to work with a team. This was an adjustment because I was used to working by myself. Now I had to learn to work with others to make the train keep rolling. A newsroom is one of the most fast paced environments one can be in. Therefore, I had to learn good time management skills. As editor, I had to lead the way with many tasks, delegate people for this and that, and I made a lot of final decisions. Nothing could be published without me approving. This was a lot of weight on my shoulders, but I'm glad I went through it because it made me know what being a leader is like.

There are many things I'm going to miss about WCC, but especially The Voice. It was times that I saw my colleagues more than my family. There is a special bond about the team we have at The Voice. Not only do we work together, but we share many laughs together too. Just ask one of the staff members why I refuse to eat Chick-Fil-A around them anymore.

I have enjoyed my time at WCC, especially as someone who had zero intentions of becoming a student here. Things are bittersweet for me as I am sad to leave The Voice and WCC. On the other hand, I'm looking forward to my next step which will be Eastern Michigan University. I'm so grateful for the 3+1 articulation agreement because hopefully around this time next year I'll be receiving my bachelor's degree in Communications.

If this was an award show speech, the music would be playing on me by now. I can't end this without a few thank yous. I am very thankful to all of those I have worked with during my time as editor from the contributors to the staff students. Naming all of them would take forever, but I want them to know how much I appreciate them putting up with me. A special thanks goes out to my deputy editors, James and Jordan, who pushed me to be better at leading the team and how to make my writing stronger. I am very grateful for those two because they were instrumental in my writing ways, but also making me who I am as I appreciated the talks we would have about work, but also about life.

Lastly, I have to thank the team's advisor, Judy McGovern. I thank Judy because she took a chance on me, and I'm so glad she did. I had zero experience of working for a news publication and she asked me to be the editor fresh out the gate. I felt like a minor leaguer getting called up to the big leagues to pinch-hit in the 9th inning. I felt some pressure taking on this role, but Judy would always help ease that pressure by having patience. Let me say that having patience with me is not an easy thing to do. Judy never showed any doubt with me (the key word is 'showed' because I never noticed).

I keep saying this but I really am fortunate for the time I had at The Voice. It was a commitment that shaped me and my future. It was well needed. This might be the last time you see me in the newspaper, but this won't be the last you hear from me. Hopefully you see me on T.V. as a broadcaster, but until then go to buffedupsports.com to check out my podcast. I had to throw in a quick plug. Thank you all for your support and even though I'm leaving, I promise The Voice is in good



RJ Hunt laughs in the newsroom.

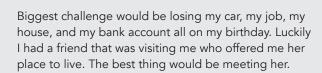
VOICE BOX

What's the best thing that happened to you this year? What is the most challenging?

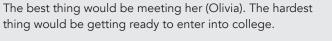
By Danny Oh | Staff Writer

The best thing would be the teachers. They encourage you more than regular teachers. The most challenging would be getting used to the college lifestyle. There's no one to do your work for you, but the school does motivate you to do your best work.

> Olivia Onye Nursing



Ryan Papero Business Management



Audrey Loviska

Cyber Security

The best thing that happened was that I got a job that

paid more than my last job. The most challenging thing is that I'm about to be a dad.

> **Breyon Scribbling** 3-D Animation and Game Design

The best thing that happened to me was being able to hang out with my friend and getting to spend Thanksgiving with

her. The most challenging thing was my fitness class.

Lawson Vaughn Liberal Arts

The best thing was making new friends. The hardest challenge was keeping track with all my due dates.

> Kayla Ballou Undecided

Going to school, meeting new friends, getting my own house and my car, also my roommate, and meeting my best friend Grant. My mom has COVID for the second time.

> **Anju Nieves** Japanese



















" I'LL TRADE YOUR COW FOR THESE MAGIC BEANS. JUST PLANT THE BEANS AND OYERNIGHT THEY'LL DISAPPEAR AND THE COW AND I WILL MAGICALLY MOVE TO THE BAHAMAS. "



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OUR TEAM AND ITS ROLE

The Washtenaw Voice is produced every other week by students of Washtenaw Community College. Editorial responsibility lies with the students. The views here are not endorsed or approved by the faculty, administration or Board of Trustees of WCC.

YOUR VOICE

The Voice welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words and include the author's name. A phone number and email address are required so letters can be verified before publication. The Voice welcomes news tips and story ideas.

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COLUMN

Before I mosey off into the sunset, one last thing...



By JORDAN SCENNA
Deputy Editor

If I was being completely honest, I mean, we're talking full disclosure here; then I would have to tell you that I almost threw away my experience at The Voice over a parking space. More specifically, it was the lack of a parking space that almost snuffed out my burgeoning journalism career, before I buried my first lede, or fumbled through my first interview. What a silly and faint-hearted misstep this would have been, because overcoming that first obstacle, that first story, earned me a position at the Washtenaw Voice, and what has been my most treasured experience at WCC.

It was the first assignment for my intro to journalism class, and I decided to cover a local advocacy group's movie night in Frog Island Park in Ypsilanti. I knew nothing about the craft of journalism; I didn't know how to write a good lede, conduct an interview, or how to use photos to enrich a story. I was greener

than the grass the moviegoers had splayed their blankets and folding chairs across.

I was scared, there's no denying it. The park was a short drive from my apartment which meant there wasn't much time to talk myself out of it, but when I arrived, the park was alive with music and dancing and a lot more people than I'd anticipated. There were multiple events going on that night, and the parking lot was packed. Cars were parked one after the overflowing into nearby Depot Town.

"Forget it," I told myself as I drove back and forth trying to find a spot. "I'll just make something up. Besides, I have to pee so bad."

I always seem to have to use the bathroom when I'm washed through with fear. My brain has no problem shutting down, but my bladder is always ready, willing, and able.

I made the quick drive home but managed to talk myself out of quitting. I walked back to the park and sheepishly found an organizer who was busy setting up, which any

journalist will tell you is the best time to ask for an interview.

I stuttered through an introduction and, lucky for me, the

woman was happy to talk. I asked questions I prepared from a little notebook and scribbled her answers as fast as I could. When the impromptu

interview was over, I walked home with, first, a sense of relief, but also a feeling of pride.

Two feelings that were short lived once I realized I forgot to take pictures and had to go back.

The Washtenaw Voice

That first story taught me a lot about myself, but also that people are capable of amazing feats and have such rich lives, and I can be of service by telling their stories.

I found the Washtenaw Voice through that first journalism class and joining the team has been one of the best decisions I've ever made. I've covered stories on campus security, community issues, and political rallies. I've met all kinds of interesting people, and traveled from our capitol in Lansing, to the nation's in Washington D.C.

Working with The Voice team the last two semesters has been an honor. Our staff is graced by a wonderful adviser, Judy McGovern, whose knowledge of the craft and



COUTESY OF ADAM SCENNA

I want to express my deepest gratitude to WCC and The Washtenaw Voice Thank you

unwavering patience is something every student should take advantage of. Putting stories together with our talented graphic designers, pho-

tographers, and websmiths has been a valuable learning experience; and I will sorely miss molding stories with my editor, RJ, and the frantic blitz

of print week.

I want to strongly encourage WCC students to participate in The Voice, whether as a scholarship student or contributor. There are so many opportunities here for students from every program. The Voice isn't just for the wanna-be Woodwards and Bernsteins. If you're interested in photography, graphic

design, illustration, web design, there's something here for you. Or, if there's a story you think people should know about, then The Voice needs to hear from you. I want to express my deepest gratitude to WCC and The Washtenaw Voice.

Thank you.



THE VOICE IS WCC'S STUDENT NEWS PUBLICATION



GET INVOLVED.
WE WELCOME NEW
WRITERS, PHOTOGS,
DESIGNERS &
DIGITAL PROS

ON CAMPUS

VISIT SC 109



CONTACT US AT

thewashtenawvoice@gmail.

WCC's soccer teams persevere through tough season

By RJ HUNT

The WCC women's and men's club soccer teams recently completed their seasons as both teams pushed through different obstacles. The men's team is transitioning into a different league and while the women's team is gaining in numbers, they didn't have many substitutions. Tryouts for the men's soccer team are Jan. 31 from 9:30-11 p.m. and Feb. 2 at 9:30-11 p.m. Tryouts for the women's soccer team are Jan. 31 from 9:30-11 p.m and Feb. 2 from 9:30-11 p.m.



WCC men's soccer team embracing each other while in a huddle.



Grant Tar (18) stands as he's surrounded by UofM-Flint players near the goal.



WCC and UofM-Flint players react to the ball in the air.



Matthew Neal (13) and Miguel Monroy (11) are attempting to outrun UofM-Flint players to see who will get to the ball first.



The team taking a quick rest break during a timeout.



Wren Denoye (10) giving the ball air time while Abiar Alshikh.



Shije Shanin (17) and Anna Ignatoski playing keep-away from the EMU defender.



Wren Denoyer (10) kicking the ball out from the sideline.



Wren Denoyer (10) and Caitlin Wolf (8) running towards the ball.



Caitlin Wolf (8) and Kaylee Burton (13) communicating with each other to plan attack.



Caitlin Wolf (8) going for a goal.





The Washtenaw Voice staff shares their joys and dreads for this holiday season. They are excited for warm hot chocolate and snow sports. However, the actual change of temperature is less desirable.

RJ Hunt - Editor

Likes

One thing I love about the winter time is the holidays. I am big on spending time with my family. With Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's all next to each other, I'm with my family a lot.

Dislikes

The biggest thing about the winter I can't stand is the snow. I hate driving in it, I hate shoveling it, I hate looking at it.

Jordan Scenna - Deputy Editor

Likes

Without the bitter winter months, summer wouldn't taste as sweet.

Dislikes

Winter.

Willow Symonds - Staff Writer

Likes

Drinking hot chocolate and ice skating - not at the same time, though. I haven't done the latter since before the pandemic, but I'm really hoping I go to the Ann Arbor Ice Cube a lot this year.

Dislikes

The sun goes down at 5 p.m., which is disappointing and annoying. While I enjoy the nighttime itself, I don't want the darkness bleeding into the afternoon.

Jacob Kuiper - Staff Writer

Likes

Every winter we make my grandma's famous Christmas cookies, which are maybe the greatest thing the world has

Dislikes

I'm not a fan of the cold.

Grace Faver - Graphic Designer

Likes

I enjoy the snow and snow activities such as skiing, sledding, and ice skating.

Dislikes

I miss the sun.

Janani Murugesan - Graphic Designer

Likes

I love hot chocolate and spending time with my family...maybe.

Dislikes

Snow, cold, wind.

Paula Farmer - Photo Editor

Likes

Layering outfits for the cold and seeing old friends come back from college.

Dislikes

The dark slush aftermath from the snow messes up my kicks.

Robin Wyllie-Scholz - Video/Multi-Media

Reporter Likes

Drinking hot chocolate, covering myself in a pile of blankets and watching a movie with friends.

The sun setting so early in the day, and temperatures below 40 degrees.

Santone Pope-White - Web Designer

Likes

I love the bright glow of white snow. Waking up to the outside, blanketed with snow, gives me a warm feeling, but mostly because I know it'll be a day of movies and a cozy couch.

Dislikes

What I dislike about winter has to be the cold. Living in Michigan forever, you'd think I would be used to the frigid winters. NOT at all.

Danny Oh - Staff Writer

Likes

I love the cold weather and the snow.

Dislikes

I hate the vitamin D deficiency.

TikTok is ruining the music industry



By Melanie Chapman Contributor

Steve Lacy's "Bad Habit" has been slowly rising on the Billboard hot 100 since July. "Bad Habit" made its first entry at #100 and has not stopped increasing since then, with Lacy getting his first top 10 at the beginning of August when "Bad Habit" landed at number seven. Aside from the Billboard charts, Lacy has been climbing on Spotify and Apple Music charts in the US and globally.

"Bad Habit" catchy tune and easy sing-along lyrics caught the attention of Tik-Tok, with a snippet from his song gathering over half a million videos, catapulting it and earning "Bad Habit" his first number-one song in Oc-

This incident sparked conversations online about whether TikTok is harmful to the music industry, since this is not the first-time an artist has blown up on TikTok and topped the charts. Even now, half of the current songs on the hot 100 were trending (or still are) songs from TikTok.

These are not new conversations, music going viral

on social apps is common. Dating back to 2014, Vine was one of the most popular video apps where songs went viral and stayed on the charts. However, it was not only Vine; in 2016, the "Black Beatles" challenge went viral on Instagram, earning Rae Sremmurd their first and only No. 1 on the Billboard hot 100 for seven weeks.

So many artists that are popular now were able to make a name for themselves due to social media, for example, Doja Cat's "MOOO!" went viral on Twitter. Megan Thee Stallion gained an audi-

ence on Twitter and TikTok while being able to keep attracting listeners.

Artists have expressed their frustrations with how music is being handled and promoted, from Spotify shuffling albums for listeners who do not have premium to being forced to promote their music in 60 seconds for TikTok users. Many have already accepted that this is the new norm, and we could never go back to albums being the primary music source for consumers.



GRACE FAVER Graphic Designer

WCC students told us their favorite songs for the month. Check out these fun tunes.

Would've, Could've, Should've - Taylor Swift (2022)

"It's so emotional and raw for her to put her feelings out in public. I really relate to the lyrics."

Annabel McKnight Video Production



Come Through - Drake (2013)

"The changing tempo is artistic and interesting." **Jade Smith**

-4|||44|||||444

Ashes of Eden - Breaking Benjamin (2015)

"The lyrics are comforting when I'm going through it and I relate to the topics being published. They reflect how I feel."

Nicole Doumanian

Fine Art



All I Want for Christmas is You

- Mariah Carey (1994)

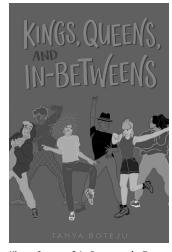
"Reminds me of the holidays and makes me emotional."

Derek Underwood

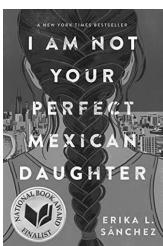
Health Science



SCAN THROUGH SPOTIFY TO LISTEN NOW!

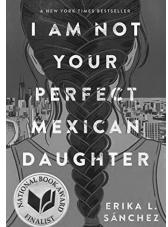


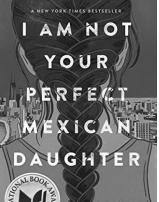
Kings, Queens, & In-Betweens by Tanya Boteju (2019)

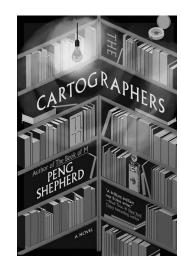


I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter

by Erika L. Sanchez (2017)

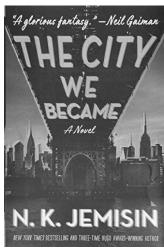






By WILLOW SYMONDS

The Cartographers by Peng Shepard



(2020)

The City We Became by N.K.

Jemisin (2020) Genre: Urban Fantasy

Author of the Hugo Award-winning "Broken Earth" trilogy struck back with another fantasy series. In this alternate reality, metropolises gain sentience through human avatars, who channel the city's energy to protect its citizens. When New York City's avatar falls into a supernatural coma, the avatars for each borough - Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, and Staten Island - come together against a threat larger than anything the city has seen. "The City We Became" embeds relevant social commentary into a unique, thrilling story.

Kings, Queens, & In-Betweens by Tanya Boteju (2019) **Genre: Young Adult Contemporary**

Nima Kumara-Clark has been tired of her small town life for years, and being in love with her straight friend makes things awkward. After an unexpected event takes place at the town's festival, she discovers the drag scene, something she didn't realize could be for her. In her newfound community, Nima discovers new friends and unexpected allies. "Kings, Queens, & InBetweens" is an entertaining debut novel for anyone in the mood to become attached to a lively cast of characters and to have fun.

The Cartographers by Peng **Shepard (2021)**

Genre: Mystery

Great holiday reads for winter break

Nell Young aspired to be like her dad, a famously skilled map-maker, until a seemingly small mistake on her part lost her chance forever. When he dies at work and a deadly robbery soon follows, Nell uncovers the last thing she expected in her father's desk: a cheap map of New York City gas stations, the so-called "mistake" that got her fired years ago. She recruits her exboyfriend, who also got fired for her mistake, to discover who could be so desperate to find this map. "The Cartographers" navigates a unique story with memorable characters and twists that keep the reader guessing.

I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sanchez (2017)

Genre: Young Adult Con-

temporary In Julia's family, Olga was the perfect Mexican daugh-

ter. But Olga died suddenly,

and now her parents expect

Julia to take her older sister's place, even though she wants to escape working-class Chicago and study creative writing in college. Julia struggles through grief while the rest of the world moves on, and she soon discovers Olga wasn't as perfect as she seemed. "I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter" explores many common themes - mental illness, nature vs. nurture, the American dream - in a new light, relevant to the 21st cen-

Young Mungo by Douglas Stuart (2022)

Genre: Historical Fiction

Working-class Glasgow, Scotland is not the ideal place for a sensitive teenage boy to grow up. Falling in love with another boy in 1984 is even less ideal, especially when the two come from different denominations - one Protestant, one Catholic. Mungo Hamilton learns this the hard way, both in his rough-andtumble hometown and when his neglectful mother sends him to the wilderness with two strangers. Fans of Hanya Yanagihara's "A Little Life" will love "Young Mungo," a less intense but equally poignant story.

YOUNG MUNGO **OUGLAS**

Young Mungo by Douglass Stuart (2022)

WISDOM OF THE WEEK

"Too often in life, somethings happens and we blame other people for us not being happy or satisfied or fulfilled. So the point is, we all have choices, and we make the choice to accept people or situations or to not accept situations."

- Tom Brady

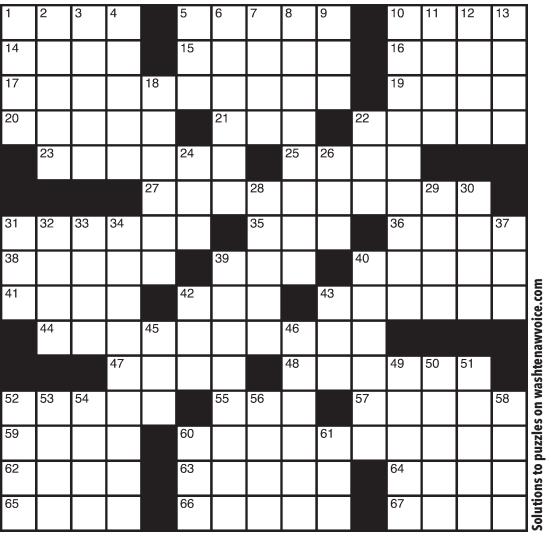
"Surround yourself with good people. People who are going to be honest with you and look out for your best interests."

- Derek Jeter

"If you do the work, you get rewarded. There are no shortcuts in life."

- Michael Jordan





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		6	9				3	
		9		8				6
						9		
			3			7		

ACROSS _

- 1 "Whatever floats your __"
- 5 Cuts of pork
- 10 New York MLB team
- 14 Really get to 15 Patient contribution
- 16 Aid and
- 17 *Medical scan with a wand
- 19 British conservative
- 20 Valentine symbol
- 21 Three-pronged Greek
- 22 Mint family herb
- 23 Multiuse tool with lots of
- attachments
- 25 Phone up

- 27 *"Channel Orange"
- Grammy winner 31 "How sad for you"
- 35 "A mouse!!"
- 36 Sporty car roof
- 38 Being kept cold
- 39 Box set component 40 "Same here!"
- 41 Pottery oven
- 42 Actor's prompt
- 43 Pungent sushi condiment
- 44 *Comment after a joke that doesn't land
- 47 Farm animal with horns
- 48 Badger at the comedy
- club
- 52 "That's the answer!"
- 55 Freight weight 57 Message-spelling board
- 59 Slim woodwind
- 60 Causes a ruckus, and what
- the end of each answer to the starred clues does
- 62 Bird's __ soup 63 "Queen Sugar" co-
- producer Winfrey
- 64 Peace Nobelist Walesa
- 65 Post-breakup pair 66 Like bogs
- 67 Superficially highbrow

11/30

nt Agency, LLC, All rights reserved

1 "Dude!"

- 2 Used lubricant on
- 3 Place to say "I do"
- 4 __ Haute, Indiana
- 5 IV units 6 Ruckus
- 7 "Mr. Holland's __": Dreyfuss
- 8 Froze, perhaps
- 9 Pink Floyd guitarist Barrett
- 10 Students with a lot of problems?
- 11 Goth-like aesthetic of some TikTok guys 12 Time in office

13 Eye affliction

18 Withdrawal charge

DOWN

- 22 Gentle handling, for short
- 24 "To __ is human ... " 26 Perfectly fine
- 28 At no point
- 29 "__ baby!": "Way to go!" 30 Clueless gamer
- 31 __ choy 32 Foot or furlong
- 33 Ventimiglia of "This Is Us" 34 Happy Meal chicken
- option
- 37 Luau bowlful
- 39 All-purpose roll

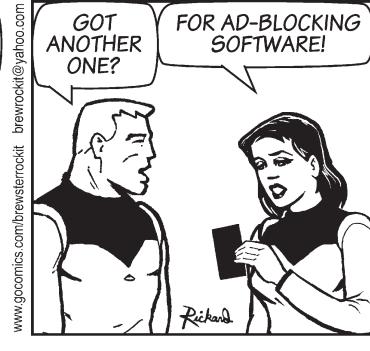
- 40 Bovine disease, familiarly
- 42 "__-ching!"
- 43 "SummerSlam" org.
- 45 Slime 46 "How cool!"
- 49 __ Lumpur, Malaysia
- 50 Gallbladder neighbor 51 Kick out
- 52 Dog biscuit shape 53 Wild mountain 47-Across
- 54 Win by a ___
- 56 Gumbo pod 58 Like a newly reborn
- phoenix, probably
- 60 Floor-washing tool 61 Relatively timid

BREWSTER ROCKIT By Tim Rickard

I HATE HOW I GET ADS ON MY PHONE BASED ON MY **ONLINE** ACTIVITY!



THEY SEEM TO KNOW WHAT I WANT EVEN BEFORE KNOW ...



CLASSIFIEDS

WCC students and employees can place classified ads in The Washtenaw Voice for free.

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS Looking for help? As a service to our students, you may place "help wanted" ads in The Washtenaw Voice for free.

THE DEADLINE in 5 p.m. the Tuesday before publication.

SEND ADS to wcc.voice. advertising@gmail.com

Center for Career Success

Below are recent employment want ads which have been posted with WCC Center for Career Success. WCC Students and alumni are invited to read these ads and to apply on Handshake™.

For more information or assistance with applications, contact the Center for Career Success, SC 112 at careers@wccnet. edu or 734.677.5155.

Follow us on Twitter: **@WCC Careers** Facebook: @WCC.CCS LinkedIn: WCCCenterforCareerSuccess

Rocket Companies is hiring for multiple internships

Training and Development Intern

Summer 2023 –Work closely with team members across the company as they work to produce effective, clear and concise instructional materials for teams across the Rock Family of Companies. This

team member utilizes their existing communication and technical skills to help coordinate training and promote best practices.

Office 365 Systems Engineering Intern

Summer 2023. Help ensure the stability, integrity and efficient operation of the systems that support our core organizational functions. This is achieved by monitoring, maintaining, supporting and optimizing all networked software and associated operating systems.

Instructional Design Intern

Winter 2023 - you'll work closely with team members across the company to produce effective, clear, and concise instructional materials for teams across the Family of Companies. As a valued team member, you'll utilize existing communication and technical skills while learning new tips and tricks along the way.

Part-Time Lead Tutor

Washtenaw Community College. Manage and lead a team of peer tutors who proactively deliver academic interventions under the guidance of the Learning Commons Director. The lead tutor will be the primary liaison with faculty in the following academic areas: Math, Business & Technical Foundations. This position

is 50% dedicated to administrative oversight of tutoring program and provision of workshops, appropriate intervention development, and faculty outreach and 50% direct student interaction.

Integrated Healthcare As-

sociation IHA is actively hiring for multiple positions with over 25 positions posted on Handshake.

- (1) Service Center Representa-
- (2) Medical Assistants (3) Medical Receptionists
- among many others. They are also hosting a few in-person interview events over

the next couple of weeks.

IHA Open Interviews in Ann Arbor on Wednesday, December 7th from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00

Hematology Oncology

IHA Open Interviews, Ypsilanti on Monday, December 12th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

IHA Open Interviews in Ann Arbor on Tuesday, December 13th from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00

Swim Program Instructor

intermediate group swim les-

sons to U-M students, faculty,

(Temp) Provides beginning and

and staff. Monitors, demonstrates, and instructs students on proper techniques, tactics, and strategies to improve their strokes and overall swimming ability, enforces all facility polices, rules and regulations. KCP Swim Instructor will work approximately 2 hours per week during the winter semester. Classes are from 6-8pm, at Mack Pool, one's own transportation is required. To learn more about Kinesiology Community Programs (KCP) Activity classes and to view our current schedule, visit our website: kines.umich.edu/ KCP Classes are open to community members.

Perrigo Undergraduate

Summer Fellowship at the University of Michigan - Life Sciences Institute. Which offers an immersive, hands-on experience in basic science research. The Perrigo Undergraduate Summer Fellowship is open to all undergraduates currently enrolled in any Michigan college or university (priority given to rising juniors and seniors). Students interested in chemical biology, biochemistry, cell biology, pharmacology or related fields are encouraged to apply. Applicants should have excellent academic records. Some experience working in a lab is preferred.

Human Resources Admin OLSA Resources.

One of the world's leading automotive seating manufacturers is looking for a Human Resources Generalist to join their team to provide support in functional areas of a human resources department, which may include recruitment and employment, personnel records, employee and/or labor relations, job evaluation, compensation management, benefits administration, organization development and training.

Kroger in Ann Arbor Hiring for multiple positions!

(1) Courtesy Clerk (2) Overnight Grocery (3) Murray Cheese Shop Clerk (4) Personal Shopper Team Member and more!

They will also be recruiting on WCC's campus Thursday, December 8th from 11:00 - 1:30 p.m. on the main floor of the Student Center. Come connect with hiring staff!

PLC Programming with NYX

PLC programmer will be responsible for troubleshooting PLC, robotics, and various automation issues, along with programming new installations of tooling and troubleshooting. Programming multi-station as-

sembly and test systems. The position requires development, programming and debugging of PLC programs and HMI's for assembly and gauging machinery at the station level and complete multi-station systems level. Work closely with other teams throughout the project life cycle. PLC Programmer must have the ability to design and incorporate various controls components, while reading and interpreting mechanical and electrical drawings.

Friend of Court Intern Oakland County Government.

May perform duties such as gathering and organizing data to provide information for departmental special projects or reports; basic arithmetic computations; assist in preparing written reports; accompany professional level employees on assignments; conduct interviews with clients or County personnel to obtain basic information for departmental use; contacts other County departments or outside agencies by phone to request or give information and other related duties as assigned. Assignments serve to offer practical experience and broad exposure to the County's organizational structure. Utilizes current county-wide and/or department specific software to complete assignments.

Compiled by: Ruby Go | Contributor

events

AT WCC

IN THE COMMUNITY

VETERAN BUSINESS PITCH AND SHOWCASE NIGHT

Dec. 6 from 5:15-9 p.m.

Garrett's, SC 132

Participants who have completed the Michigan Veteran Entrepreneur (MVE) Lab at WCC will pitch their business concepts for cash prizes and hold a showcase. This event is open to the public.

PHOTO WALL EVENT

Dec. 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

First floor of the Student Center
Student organizations will be having a photo wall where students can take pictures with their friends and classmates. It is to reflect on this semester and make memories before

PAINTING PARTY

leaving for winter break.

Dec. 16 from noon-1 p.m. Zoom

An instructor-led virtual painting party. Participants will be mailed a canvas, paints, brushes, and an apron. You must RSVP on Campus Connect to receive the Zoom link.

THERAPAWS AT THE BAILEY LIBRARY

Jan. 11 from noon-1:30 p.m.

Bailey Library

Therapaws of Michigan volunteers and their therapy dogs will be in the Bailey Library to visit students every month.



EASY EGG CARTON ROSES

Dec. 7 from 6-7 p.m.

AADL Traverwood

Adults and kids ages 10 and up are invited to use scissors, a glue gun, and floral wire to transform an egg carton into a decorative rose.

TINY EXPO INDIE ART AND CRAFT FAIR

Dec. 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

AADL Downtown

Show and sale of holiday gifts by more than 40 local artists and crafters. Also, in the Secret Lab (1-4 p.m.), there will be craft activities for all ages including screen printing and button making.

INTRO TO 3D PRINTING

Dec. 15 from 6-7:30 p.m.

AADL Downtown Secret Lab

A chance for adults and kids ages 8 and up to learn the basics of 3D printing, practice on the library's machines, and print out a small object to take home.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE: KIWANIS CENTER

Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

100 N. Staebler

A sale of used seasonal gifts and decorations, sporting goods, kitchen items, collectables, books, jewelry, office supplies, furniture, and more.



CHRISTMAS VILLAGE COLLECTION

Dec. 28 from 6-8 p.m.

Gordon Hall

Visit this historic home and enjoy the holiday decorations themed "Not a Creature was stirring." Explore the Christmas Village collection, a display of Milt Campbell's collection of Department 56 villages.

THE SANDBOX

Jan. 1 at 7 p.m.

Dreamland Theater

The Sandbox is Dreamland Theater's open stage night, where anyone can come on stage and perform. Each act has a 10 minute time slot. DJ starts at 7 p.m.; performances begin at 8 p.m.

PERFORMANCE BY THE SISTER TOUR

Jan. 16 from 3-5 p.m.

Stamps Gallery

"The Water Remembers" is a performance by Flint-based artist collective, The Sister Tour. This event is a performative ethnographic experience that reframes the physical connections between Black women and water.

THE PLASTIC BAG STORE

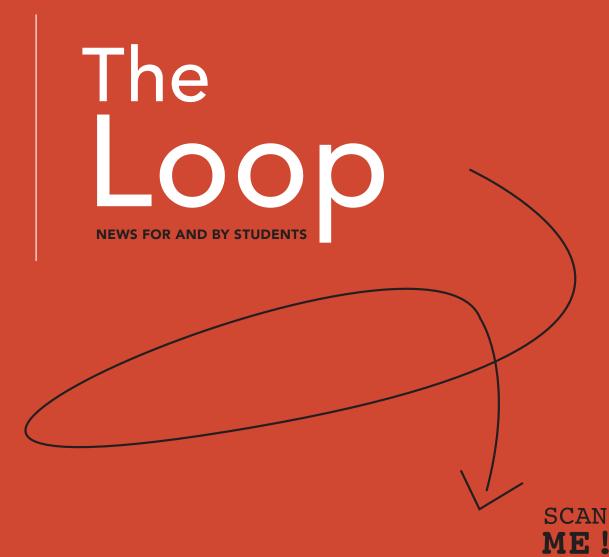
Jan. 17

777 Eisenhower Pkwy

The Plastic Bag Store is a custom built public art installation and immersive film experience that uses humor, craft, and a critical lens to question the effects of single use plastics. Learn more at theplasticbagstore.com.







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Sign up for Washtenaw Voice's Newsletter, get a sticker and chance to **win** a shirt.

Every week in your inbox







