

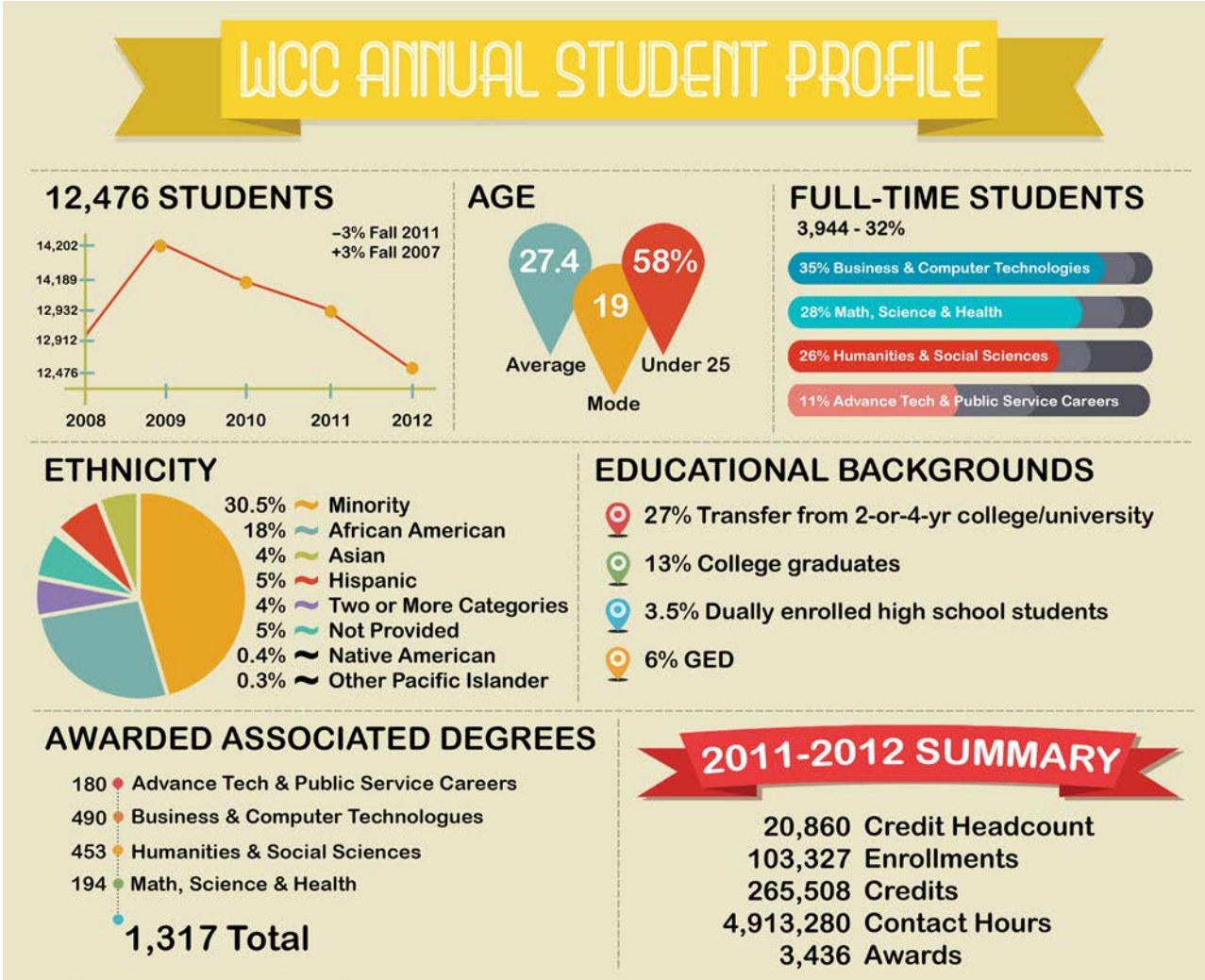


NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Washtenaw Community College officially opened its Veterans Center, an office for student veterans to seek guidance or information on VA benefits, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, Nov. 12. The opening of the office marks a huge step in WCC's continuing effort to support veterans. Dignitaries cutting the ribbon, starting left: Trustee Stephen Gill, State Rep. David Rutledge, D-Ypsilanti, Board of Trustees Chair Pamela Horiszny, Jason Morgan representing U.S. Rep. Dingell, D-Dearborn, WCC President Rose Bellanca and Vice President of Student and Academic Services Linda Blakey.

The Washtenaw Voice

November 19, 2012 — WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN — washtenawvoice.com



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Former WCC student turns class assignment into children's book



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Author and former WCC student Jody Lamb holds a copy of her book, 'Easter Ann Peters' Operation Cool.'

BY MATT DURR
Staff Writer

Aspiring Whitmore Lake author Jody Lamb had become so used to rejection that when her dreams finally came true, she thought it was still just a dream.

After submitting her novel to 30 different publishing companies, Lamb believed her story would never go to print. But when Royal Oak-based Scribe Publishing decided to go with Lamb's story, the ambitious author could not believe it.

"The email came in at 3:30 in the morning and my dog happened to wake me up at 6 a.m. and I read the email and I was disoriented and I couldn't register what she was saying," Lamb said. "I went back to bed and woke up an hour later and thought 'that was such a nice dream, what a lovely dream.'"

Eventually the fog wore off and Lamb realized what she was being told. It was the culmination of three years' work that started

in a classroom at Washtenaw Community College.

After graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in journalism, Lamb went into public relations. But as her career grew and she was successful at her job, Lamb said she still wasn't happy with the way her life was turning out.

"I was so depressed, and I felt that I was alone in my struggles with not feeling satisfied in my life," Lamb said.

Eventually she went back and looked at the journals and stories she wrote as a kid before coming to a stark realization about herself.

"I thought that I would be so disappointed in the grown-up version of myself, the only thing I could think to do to make myself feel better again was to write creatively," Lamb said.

With that in mind, Lamb registered for a creative writing class at Washtenaw in the Winter semester of 2009. Growing up, Lamb always enjoyed writing and was looking to recapture the feeling

What's in a student profile?

Numbers tell the story as college analyzes itself—and starts to worry

BY KELLY BRACHA
Staff Writer

What makes up the student body at Washtenaw Community College?

Each year, WCC officials aggregate and compile statistics and numbers to answer that essential question.

Administrators hope to paint a picture of how their students are progressing, what areas of study are increasing or declining in enrollment and what ethnicities, educational backgrounds and demographics WCC draws enrollment from.

The Annual Student Profile and the Fall 2012 Student Profile were presented to WCC's Board of Trustees at the Oct. 23 meeting.

The data was collected by Linda Blakey, vice president of Student and Academic Services, Kathy Currie, director of Student Records,

Courtney Sommerfeld, Enrollment Services coordinator, Pamela Mason, lead Enrollment Services tech and Lily Novel, secretary to the dean of Admissions and Student Life.

"We have a format for doing the data poll and updating all the charts and graphs," Blakey said. "All information is pulled from the student information system. It takes only a couple of weeks to pull the fall semester data."

After gathering the data, WCC can take a closer look at enrollment rates compared to last year and even five years prior to the current fall semester.

In terms of diversity, WCC shows a wide variety of ethnicities and age groups attending the college, but trustee Diana McKnight-Morton wishes to expand diversity even further.

"We need to figure out what the approval rating is for minorities coming in to WCC's different departments," McKnight-Morton said. "As for students, it's a matter of letting them know the opportunity is there."

Minorities make up 30.5 percent of students at WCC this semester, with 18 percent of students registering as African Americans, a two percent increase from five years ago, in the fall semester of 2007. WCC's student body is also five percent Hispanic and four percent Asian.

"This data gets the conversation started," Blakey said. "And there's a lot of work to be done."

The Voice gathered a selection of the statistics presented in both profiles and created a visual presentation to give a brief summary of who attends the college.

10-year mandate begins to curb smoking

BY MARIA RIGOU
Contributor

In a few months, Washtenaw Community College will be celebrating 10 years as a "smoke-free"

campus – and students like Stuart are still thumbing their noses, and flicking their butts, at it.

Since February 2003, WCC has been following a no-smoking policy that was backed by a

Washtenaw County ordinance stating that smoking should be done "a reasonable distance from any entrances, windows and ventilation systems."

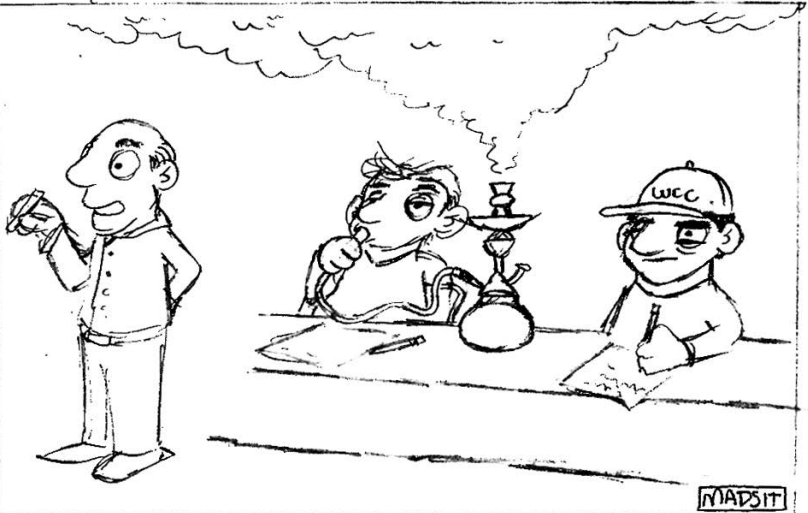
In 2003, then-President Larry Whitworth said the college "will be a smoke-free campus after you leave the parking lot."

But things have changed.

Two years later, the Board of Trustees decided that, to protect the students' health, the no-smoking policy was to be extended to the parking area as well.

Officially, as of January 2006, students were not allowed to smoke near buildings or in their cars and were asked to leave campus to smoke.

At least that's the college's policy on paper.



MIKE ADSIT THE WASHTENAW VOICE

SMOKING
CONTINUED A6

WCC trustees keep seats

BY ADRIAN HEDDEN
Editor

Washtenaw County residents cast their ballots on Tuesday to re-elect Diana McKnight-Morton and Richard Landau to two six-year terms on Washtenaw Community College's Board of Trustees.

The county held elections to fill two seats on the board and for the continuation of Patrick McLean's partial, two-year term. McLean ran unopposed.

The other two incumbents were challenged by former WCC instructor William Hazen Figg, who finished a distant third in

the balloting.

Other winners in the Nov. 6 general election:

President and Vice President: Barack Obama, Joe Biden

US Senate: Debbie Stabenow

U.S. House of Representatives
District 12: John Dingell
District 7: Tim Walberg

Michigan State Representatives:
District 52: Gretchen Driskell
District 53: Jeff Irwin
District 54: David Rutledge
District 55: Adam Zemke

BOOKSHELVES
CONTINUED A6



complete
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and Activities

UPCOMING EVENTS

Handel’s Messiah
Sun, Dec 22 p.m.
Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor
Cost: \$10
The Grammy Award-winning UMS Choral Union launches the holiday season with its signature work. Join us for this very special *Messiah* as we celebrate the centenary of Hill Auditorium.

U of M Credit Union Presents: Budget! Are You Kidding?
Tues., Oct. 9 from 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in the SC Community Room. Get tips on controlling your spending while still enjoying life. Free! Light refreshments provided.

White as Snow, Red as Blood: Snow White story
Thurs., Dec. 6 at 7:00pm
Quirk Auditorium, EMU
Only \$8 for students!
Once upon a time, in a faraway land... there was a beautiful princess with skin as white as snow, hair black as night, lips red as blood, and a heart pure as gold. Her name was Snow White. As good as Snow White was, her step mother Evilum was equally as bad. Envious and vengeful, Evilum plans to bring an end to Snow White. But we all know now this story must end: with a "happily ever after..."

Finals Fuel – Up
Tues., Dec. 11 & Wed., Dec. 12
11:00am – 1:00pm
Students can stop by SC Community Room (1st floor of SC) and pick up a snack to energize themselves for their finals!

Coming Soon:
Disney’s Lion King
Detroit Opera House
Stay tuned for more information!

Had fun at event?
#WCCSDAROCKS
Hash Tag it!

Purchase tickets at the Cashier’s Office, 2nd floor SCB, M-F, 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Women’s Club Basketball Tryouts
Tues., Oct. 30, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.
& Sun, Nov. 4, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
WCC Health and Fitness Center
Must bring WCC ID with you!
Team will practice on Sundays (6:30-8:00 p.m.) and Tuesdays (9:30-11:00 p.m.) with games on Thursdays (7:00 p.m. or later). Pre-register at SC 116.

UPCOMING SPORTS
Men’s Club Basketball Tryouts
Tues. – Thur.: Oct. 23 - 25
9:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
WCC Health and Fitness Center
Must bring WCC ID card with you!
Team will practice on Tuesdays and Wednesdays (9:30-11:00 p.m.) and play games on Mondays.
Pre-register at SC 116.

Intramural Pool Registration October 22-29
Tournament dates: Nov. 5 - 8
Times will vary based on number of sign-ups.
Stop by SC 116 to register.

Intramural Arm Wrestling Registration: SC 116
Registration: Oct. 15 - 19 in SC 116
Event: Wed., Oct. 24
At 5:30 p.m.
WCC Sports Office—SC 116

Men’s Club Volleyball Seeking Players!
Practices are on Monday and Saturday evenings. Games are on Thursdays.
No experience needed! All eligible students welcome!
Stop by SC 116 to sign-up or for more information!



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2. Fill out our survey at: www.tinyurl.com/sdapromotion
Must be currently enrolled in three credit hours with a GPA of 2.0 or higher.





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Industry names Washtenaw’s welding department Institution of the Year

By AMANDA JACOBS
Staff Writer

Washtenaw’s renowned welding department has forged another honor for the college.

The American Welding Society and the Welding Equipment Manufacturers Committee have named WCC the Welding Educational Institution of the Year.

The award was presented at the FABTECH event on Nov. 14 at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Nevada to Washtenaw instructor Glenn Kay II.

“They provided all of the funding,” Kay said. “It was generous, not only to give us the award, but also to help us receive it.”

Washtenaw was selected out of more than 30 other entries for the award. The trophy is one of the organization’s 2012 Image of Welding Awards, which are given to individuals and organizers that show

dedication to promoting welding in their communities.

“I’m super excited,” Ashley Webel, a welding lab assistant said. “I’m so proud of our school. We won over some schools that have a lot more money than we do, which goes to show the dedication of our students.”

Instructors also said that administration’s funding choices for the welding department at the college has helped them to succeed.

“They try to keep up with our equipment, and it’s very expensive,” Kay said. “We get a lot of businesses that are really excited to hire our students.”

WCC was nominated by John Bohr, former chairman of the AWS Detroit section.

“We’re the only educational institution in the state that can certify students with an AWS certificate,” Kay said. “There’s only one other place in Michigan that can certify, but they aren’t an educational facility.”

FABTECH is North America’s largest event for metal forming, fabrication, welding and finishing. It includes seminars and conferences to everyone including plant managers, shop owners and engineers.

“You get to see what all of the new technology is,” Kay said. “It’s the auto show of welding.”

Aside from FABTECH, the SkillsUSA competition was also taking place in Nevada from Nov. 11-15, where WCC’s Alex Pazkowski competed in one of two pre-trials as one of the top six welding students in the nation.

“We’re excited for Alex,” Kay said. “He has put huge amounts of his time into this, and is above and beyond just coming in and passing a welding course.”

For more information about FABTECH, visit <http://www.fabtechexpo.com>.

For too many students, college just doesn’t add up; math still a struggle

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Editor

Daniel Dewind was not ready. When he approached Washtenaw Community College in the fall of 2009, the 23-year-old pastry chef from Ann Arbor struggled to reach college-level academic standards.

Although mentally prepared to embark on a career in video production, scoring highly in reading and writing on WCC’s entrance exam, Dewind’s math skills would soon present a daunting obstacle on his path to advancement.

“My math skills were not so good,” Dewind said of his initial test scores. “There’s only one answer for every problem whereas with English it’s more creative.”

Despite working long hours at a bakery, calculating measurements for food production and graduating from high school in 2007, Dewind found the experience didn’t give him the skills required for college-level courses.

“I do a lot of math at work, counting pastries and stuff like that,” Dewind said. “After high school, I was away from academic math for a long time.”

He is hardly alone.

The Annual Student Profile presented by Linda Blakey, vice president of student and academic services, at a recent WCC’s Board of Trustees meeting revealed data that not only suggests that less students enter WCC ready for math classes than English but also that older, incoming students score lower across the board.

“This is an indictment,” said Trustee Richard Landau. “Of what? I’m not really sure.”

Other officials were wary that low college readiness affects campuses across the country.

“This is not just our problem,” said

Trustee Diana McKnight-Morton. “This is a national issue.”

The college now looks inward, recently addressing readiness by becoming more involved with local high schools.

“A lot of people are in denial,” said WCC President Rose Bellanca. “They think they have a high school diploma and they don’t need some sort of refresher. It’s very problematic. They need to believe in the (entrance) test. If you don’t believe the results, take it again.”

“Our role is to of course help students when they come, but it always takes two.”

Bellanca looks to an increase in Washtenaw’s presence in high schools, an initiative set in last year’s strategic plan and presented at the board’s annual retreat. She hopes that officials will help high school students prepare for what awaits them at WCC.

Bellanca even asks that students at the dawn of their high school experience attempt the college’s entrance exam before even applying at the school. She hopes high school students will be able to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and better prepare themselves for college.

But concerns are not only for traditional students, coming to college from high school. A large number of students at WCC are returning from the workforce, looking for a better life, sometimes decades after setting foot in a classroom.

“I was not ready,” said Kim Kern, a 50-year-old Ann Arbor resident. “But the compass exam really boosted my confidence. For me, it was really about learning how to be a good student and how to navigate.”

Scoring high in math and English, Kern found difficulty not in academics, but in the less-than-seamless

transition from employee to student.

“I started small,” Kern said of her initial foray into college courses. “And with all the help that is available, I would recommend WCC to anyone.”

Gradually building her course load from one class, to two and then to full-time, Kern also took advantage of tutoring and support services offered by the college to get her where she needed to be. She plans on transferring to Eastern Michigan University this winter to continue her studies in accounting.

“The adults are a little rusty,” Bellanca said. “I only do the math that is required for my job. We’re all a little rusty, but don’t be embarrassed, it’s not a stigma.”

Brought to light in recent years, college readiness weighs on the minds of campus officials now more than ever. Math instructor Kristin Good has seen the discussions switch recently from bringing students in to getting them out.

“It’s definitely pushing to the forefront this year,” Good said. “It’s where the conversation is going in the next few years: making sure they’re (students) successful before they get here. It’s a constant challenge giving them a leg up.”

Good, along with other college officials, fears that students simply don’t use their math skills in everyday life. Administrators, gleeful at increased availability in higher education now have potentially a larger task ahead of them, according to Dean of Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Bill Abernethy.

“College has opened up to everybody,” he said. “People come in without the skills needed, and we have to get it to them very quickly. Taxpayers want results. It’s a big part of what we do at community colleges. We take it very seriously.”

IN BRIEF

LOCAL ARTISTS FEATURED AT GALLERY ONE
Washtenaw Community College’s Gallery One is featuring an exhibit by local artists Ruth Bardenstein, Jeremy Brooks and Katie Rubin. The exhibition is open for viewing from now to Dec. 14. Gallery One is open Monday-Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR ART ON DISPLAY AT U-M
Washtenaw Faculty members Cathy VanVoorhis and Nic Reszetar will have their art displayed at an exhibition in

University of Michigan’s Duderstadt Center. The exhibition is titled “Figure Drawing: A Variety of Approaches” and will be open until Nov. 30.

‘YEAR OF WATER’ EVENTS AT WCC
Washtenaw’s year-long water conservation awareness event, “Year of Water,” will kick off with a Nov. 29 presentation by Laura Rubin of the Huron River Watershed Council. The presentation is free and open to the public from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Great Lakes Regional Training Center (Room 202).

CAMPUS EVENTS

NOV. 19-25: NO CLASSES
Looking for something fun to do on campus? Tough luck; go home. You’re all free!

MONDAY, NOV. 26: INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP
Beef up your job-nabbing skills with this workshop on advanced techniques to stay focused and calm against even the toughest employers. Event lasts 2:30-4 p.m. in SC 287.

TUESDAY, NOV. 27: JOB SEARCH TECHNIQUES
Make the hunt for a new job or career less stressful and more effective with these sessions on preparedness and availability of resources for students. Event lasts Noon-1:30 p.m. in SC 287.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28: RESUME DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
The resume you send could determine your value to a prospective employer. Give the right impression, the first time, with sessions on the development of employment histories and experience. Event lasts from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in SC 287.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28: ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Join Student Activities in the first floor of the Student Center for free ice cream sundaes with all the fixings (vanilla ice cream only). Event starts at Noon and lasts as long as the supplied do.

SECURITY NOTES

From redacted incident reports provided by Campus Safety and Security, and interviews with Director Jac Desrosiers.

PHONE THEFT
After hanging up his jacket in the welding lab located on Nov. 12, in the Occupational Education Building, a student returned to the coatrack at 11 a.m. to find his cell phone had been removed from a jacket pocket.

SPARE A TIRE?
A passerby noticed that a spare tire had been stolen off a college van near Facilities Management on Nov. 5. The report was filed at 12:42 p.m., but officers were unable to determine the time of the theft.

Black Friday shoppers: exercise caution

By MARIA RIGOU
Contributor

Black Friday can offer the best and worst that can happen to shoppers in one day.

That’s when the savviest shoppers line up on the day after Thanksgiving for that 50-inch LED TV they’ve been waiting for since May because it is affordable.

But is it worth the wait? Would you endure the torture of shopping on this day? Millions do on this distinctly American tradition. But they need to be careful.

The Better Business Bureau, a non-profit organization with the purpose of preventing fraud and unethical business practices, has devised a list of tips to protect those shoppers who will mob the stores on

Black Friday to find the best deals of the year.

Here’s how to save time and money, and also steer clear of those scams:

Know before you go. Research sales and make a list of items you wish to purchase. Plan your shopping day. Remember to bring ads with you to compare actual prices, just in case there are variations and final prices are not what you expected.

Don’t fall for false advertising. Black Friday advertising will be abundant and overwhelming. Try not to believe all you see or hear without doing research to confirm the claims being made. Sometimes, things are too good to be true.

Maximize advance alerts. Sign up for email alerts and newsletters of your favorite retailers to receive their Black Friday previews. Most brands

are working to reward consumer loyalty and you may get a head start on special offers on this day.

Shop with trust. If you are shopping online, make sure that you are doing so on a trustworthy site. Also make sure you have a physical address and phone number in case you have any problems with your order.

Look for QR Codes. Own a smart phone? Newer smart phones are equipped to scan QR codes that will, in response, take you to the online deals. Have some fun and scan some deals, you never know where it might take you.

Check return and exchange policies. Black Friday is its own one-of-a-kind event. This means store policies may change. Make sure you understand the return and exchange



ERIC STEIGER THE WASHTENAW VOICE

policies before you buy, especially if you are buying online.

Shop safely. There are ways to shop without putting yourself or your wallet in danger. Take the time to plan ahead for the best rewards.

Prioritize.

Even though Black Friday can be overwhelming, most of the best deals come as a result of this day. Have fun, but be savvy.

EDITORIAL

What enthusiasm gap?

The 2012 presidential election was wrought with fear and anxiety, coming too close for many Americans’ comfort.

The ideas and beliefs, along with voting habits, of many important demographics of American citizens were put to the test as they were ultimately forced to choose sides between an incumbent president who has had a difficult four years and a guy who said he could improve things dramatically – without providing much detail regarding how.

Traditionally, one of the most inactive voting demographics, young college students, had revealed themselves as just as apathetic in the months leading up to the election as they have always been in the political arena – with the great exception being in 2008, when we were all caught up in making history by electing Barack Obama.

It appeared that the older demographics would lead and control another election, making decisions not always in the best interest of their younger counterparts. One student on our campus even claimed that the country would be “screwed” regardless of who was chosen to lead the country.

As we reported further on the indifference of our students at Washtenaw, *The Voice* continued to receive negative attention from angrily disturbed instructors and incited student activists. Whatever the truth about youth voting is, our campus was largely appalled by a student body that seemed to revel in its political negligence.

We were afraid of the outcome to befall such apathy. Many had observed a drastic difference between candidates and initiatives placed on the ballot and were afraid that the radical interests of America’s youth would be forgotten amidst student lives too busy for political participation.

Forward thinking, human rights activists and initiatives reflecting innovative law changes could have easily fallen by the wayside if the demographics that had fueled such change simply chose to stay home and study for exams.

We feared for our country; we feared its stagnation. But we would soon be emboldened.

As predicted by experts in political science and even some students on campus, the enthusiasm gap began to close. As the campaign wore on, and the race got close and closer, many who had taken the outcome for granted began to fear as well.

They feared further sullyng America’s foreign relations with increased war efforts. They feared a national debit growing out of control with military spending. They feared the social stagnation of a country ready to move forward and accept gay marriage, abortion and along with a bevy of other social and human rights issues.

Young people came out to vote on Nov. 6, – in greater numbers even than four years ago – and they made their presence felt.

We now have a president who supports gay marriage, has already put in place an affordable, national health care plan and has promised to cut military spending and decrease tax cuts for the rich.

Two states, Colorado and Washington, have finally legalized recreational marijuana use. Closer to home, Ypsilanti passed an initiative to reduce the controlled substance to the police’s lowest priority of intervention.

The proof is in the pudding. A quick sample of the election results this year represent many drastic changes across the political spectrum. Issues and concerns that have long been scrapping at the cages of social oppression have finally made it into the arena, and a progressive, youthful America has finally taken control.

This year it truly was “vote or die,” and in 2012, the youth of America made all the difference.

Customer service doesn’t care



NATHAN CLARK

With every purchase I make, or problem I have that is worthy of calling the manufacturer, there appears to be a reoccurring theme: treating the customer like crap.

It seems to be popping up everywhere: small businesses, big

businesses, gas stations, fast-food and service hotlines. I can’t be the only one noticing this.

Countless times I’ve been treated like I am an inconvenience to someone working in a retail shop. Sorry if I’m bothering you from whatever you are doing and forcing you to do your job for a minute. It’s not like me coming to your establishment keeps you in business or anything.

What happened to “the customer is always right?” I know the customer is hardly ever right, but at least sometimes businesses would pretend

It must be nice to be in a high-paying customer service job where

you can’t be easily replaced. Oh wait, I think I got that backwards.

Sorry to sound like a jerk, but it’s just irritating. I understand that these jobs are not the best jobs in the world. They are thankless, and they never pay enough. But look at the bright side: They have a job! They just do it poorly.

The economy is slowly recovering and there are still a lot of people who are looking for work – any kind of work.

Having a job right now is great, regardless of how crappy it might be. But have some pride in your work. Or find a job where you don’t have to deal with people.

Life, progress can wait; holidays are here



ADRIAN HEDDEN

For the last two months of the year, people subject themselves to one of the cruelest vestiges of the human lifestyle in the winter holiday season.

Taking an obscene amount of time off in supposed celebration of these mythological and superstitious excuses for vacation, society shows its true, lazy colors, exhausted by another year of life on Earth.

Stores close their doors, bustling metropolises lay dormant and our very educations freeze in

their tracks as this very campus will shut down for nearly a month. Sure, instructors and administrators, the educated leaders of our school, may have time to hibernate, but college students simply do not.

The breaks serve only to weaken our memories. To provide a distraction from all we have worked for over the past year. With weekends off like clockwork, and a sprawling summer break to enjoy, how much more nap time do we need?

Countless, overworked, minimum-wage-earning youngsters are no doubt corralled into higher education by the allure of the long breaks that pepper the academic calendar. When the holidays come knocking, they shut down and revel in the time off, forgetful of whatever illusion of reality their college experience may have projected before them.

More still mindlessly flock to the epicenters of their extended

families. Having saved up their guilt at growing distant from their gene pool for another year, the flooding of public transportation during the holiday season represents a pathetic and desperate mad-dash at escaping the truth of social isolation that plagues the modern human condition.

If people were truly happy, the pressure wouldn’t exist. The fear of potential shame at the non-realization of the holiday’s supposedly elevated joy wouldn’t be there. The singling out of one period of time to serve as the pinnacle of the year reveals what this society lacks in free will.

Desperate to escape the tortured routines we have created for ourselves and apathetically fallen in to, we celebrate holidays to get away from life, to pretend we’re close with distant relatives.

They are only an example of how boring our lives have become.

Cars, bikes must share the road; it’s the law

To the Editor:

In your Sept. 24, issue, Adrian Hedden wrote an article, “Stay the course, stick to the path and survive the two-wheeled revolution.”

I wish to respond to this.

The law states that both drivers and cyclists have equal rights to the road. Equal. So motorists do not have a choice about whether to “share the road” with cyclists or not. They must. It is the law.

No motorist has any right to suggest that a cyclist should “stick to the path” and not be on the road. No cyclist that I know likes to ride on high-traffic roads. But for many a bike is transportation, and if there are not bike paths to where they need to go, that leaves roads.

The law also states that cyclists

on roads must “obey all the laws of the road.” That means riding in the correct lane, signaling for turns, stopping for stop lights and signs, yielding when indicated, etc. Any cyclist failing to do any of this can be ticketed, just like any motorist.

We all know that in any encounter between a car and a bike, the car always wins. Right or wrong, the car is bigger and far more powerful.

No motorist wants to harm or kill a cyclist, so each driver needs to remember that the road is shared, and there are cyclists on it. Be very cautious at all times. Each cyclist needs to know the rules of the road and follow them, always.

Motorists also need to know certain laws about this “sharing” of the road. In order to pass a cyclist, a motorist must allow three feet of

space between the cyclist and his car. Three feet! A car cannot “squeeze by” a cyclist in the same lane; there is not enough space.

The car has to wait until it has this space available before it can pass. That is the law. This requires patience. Those drivers who lack this patience should not be driving on the same road with cyclists. They should stick to the freeways where cyclists are not allowed.

It can be a tough and dangerous world out there. We need to respect each other, and the laws that we have, so that we can all survive another day.

Anne Ormand
Ann Arbor

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

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19, Ypsilanti, Nursing and Education



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18, Ann Arbor, General Studies



JESSICA LAIN

18, Ann Arbor, General Studies



RICH BERGSIEKER

32, Taylor, Nursing



DARRYL HOWARD

16, Ypsilanti, General Studies



MEGHAN ORISON

23, Willis, Photography



BRANDON CASEY

19, Manchester, General Studies



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19, Milan, Liberal Arts Transfer

VOICE BOX

Many people look forward to Thanksgiving, mainly because of the food that is served for the occasion.

Although some can’t wait to dig in to many of the holiday’s traditional dishes, others may find them repulsing. So *The Voice* asked Washtenaw Community College students which foods they found the most unappetizing at their own Thanksgiving dinners.

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS
AMANDA JACOBS STAFF WRITER

“I don’t like the cranberry sauce. I’m just not a cranberry person.”

“Stuffing tastes like a mixture of a bunch of stuff that just doesn’t belong together.”

“I’m too afraid to try yams. They look mushy and disgusting.”

“The pumpkin pie - I just don’t like it. I think it’s disgusting.”

“For my family, it’s the macaroni. It’s supposed to taste cheesy but it just tastes spicy. Maybe they’re making it wrong.”

“Stuffing is my least favorite. Sometimes, my family puts the gizzards in it.”

“I don’t have a least favorite, I like everything my family serves. My favorite is my grandmother’s sweet potatoes.”

“I would have to say turkey is my least favorite, because I’m a vegetarian.”



An adorable puppy at the Humane Society of Huron Valley gazes up from its pen as potential adopters walk by.

The *perfect* place to pick the *perfect* pet

WORDS AND PHOTOS
BY NATHAN CLARK
Managing Editor

Deep in one of the many heavily wooded areas of Ann Arbor rests a temporary home for the many wayward cats and dogs of Washtenaw County that have no

place to call home. Fortunately, this bastion for lost and orphaned animals is more than willing to take in, care for and adopt out the thousands of pets that come through its doors. The Humane Society of Huron Valley, located on 3100 Cherry Hill in Ann Arbor, has been serving the

animal needs of the community for years with pet adoptions, veterinary services, animal education classes, thanks to more than 300 volunteers working with the shelter. “It’s rewarding, keeping the cats happy while they are here,” said Karen Chadwich, a volunteer cat comforter, as she gently petted 2-year-old cat Princess LuLu. “I’ve been spending time with the cats here since July. They need all the love they can get while they are here.” “We have a great atmosphere for the animals here,” said Ken Chard, a Humane Society staff member. “We also have one of the highest save rates in Michigan.” According to a statistical report the shelter files every year, in 2011 the Humane Society had a 99 percent save rate for healthy and treatable animals, with only one percent being euthanized due to lack of space. The shelter identifies itself as “open admission” as opposed to a no-kill shelter. Open admissions means the shelter will take in every animal, regardless of circumstance. No-kill shelters commonly have to turn animals away if they do not have the space. Due to the warmer weather the state has been experiencing, Michigan has a cat overpopulation problem. “Average length of stay is around 30 days,” said Deb Kern, director of marketing at the Humane Society.

“We have lots of open housing for cats, with a porch leading outdoors for when the weather is nice. They can go in and out as they please.” Lost and stray cats and dogs brought in with a collar but no tags or ID chip are held for seven days before being processed for adoption. The wait is four days for animals without a collar or chip. Animals brought to the shelter go through series of processes before they are put up for adoption, including a behavior screening, medical check, spayed or neutered and have a small ID chip implanted. While the animals are at the shelter, they are closely monitored for health and behavior until they are adopted. The shelter itself went through a much-needed rebuild in 2009. “The old shelter was falling apart,” Kern said. “There was no air conditioning, and the dog kennels were facing each other, so it was always incredibly loud in the dog area.” The new building features plenty of housing for cats and dogs, with access to outside areas for the animals on nice days. Adopting a pet is a simple process at the shelter. First, adopters fill out a short survey asking about living arrangements, lifestyle and what the adopter expects out of the adoption. “Our goal is to make the adoption

process a happy thing. We also want to make sure the animals are going to a good home,” Kern said. The shelter only does home visits for people who are adopting a pit bull breed of dog. After filling out the survey, visitors are given a pass card that allows them to handle the cats and dogs. When someone decides to adopt an animal, a counselor sits down to talk about what life will be like with the animal and what special needs, if any, the animal will need. Once the talk is done, all the adopter needs to do is pay the adoption fee and they can walk out with their new furry friend. “We have all kinds’ breeds of pets here,” Kern said. “If you’re looking for a specific breed of animal, one will show up here at some point. If you fill out the form and let us know what you are looking for, we can notify you as soon as we have a breed available for adoption. Let us work for you.” Beside standard pet adoptions, the shelter also has many other services to help animals, such as its feral cat program, which treats, neuters and releases the cats back into the wild to live their lives without increasing the cat population.

For more information about the Humane Society of Huron Valley, what it offers and a table of adoption fees, visit hshv.org.



Volunteer cat comforter Karen Chardwich spends her time petting and comforting 2-year-old Princess LuLu in the Uptown Cats section of the Humane Society. Oct. 12.

- ADOPTIONS:**
11 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Wed.
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thurs.-Fri
11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., Sun.
- CLINIC:**
8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.
8 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday.
Saturday by appointment only.
- INTAKE:**
9 a.m.-11 a.m. and noon-5 p.m. every day.



A pack of puppies play with their mother at the Humane Society.

Financial expert to advise students how to avoid scams, identity theft

By Terry Davis
Contributor

More than five million people are affected by identity theft each year, according to the Internal Revenue Service. With the holiday season approaching, students make easy targets, and education is one of the best ways students can protect themselves from scam artists.

One way Washtenaw Community College students can educate themselves is by attending a seminar on Tuesday, Dec. 4, in the Student Center Community Room, from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. The seminar will be hosted by the University of Michigan Credit Union Director of Training Amy Sparks.

This event will teach students how to deter, detect and defend themselves against identity theft.

The main topics of this seminar include phishing, check scams, the “Nigerian” scam and other scams specifically designed to take advantage of college students. Another focus will be how to identify a scam artist and, what to do if you suspect you may have had your identity stolen.

Sparks says that she wants students to leave with one mindset: “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.”

Experts say most scams offer a quick way to earn cash. The fact that most students are financially struggling makes them more eager

to jump at these opportunities. Students are also more vulnerable because of technology.

While many students are more technologically advanced, they are less concerned about security. A simple online shopping spree could turn into a credit nightmare. Once credit information is compromised, an identity thief could use the information to take out loans and credit cards.

Students do not check their credit report because most students have little or no credit history. This gives an identity thief years to take out fraudulent credit before the student checks a credit report.

Computer problems? WCC ’s ‘Students Helping Students’ will repair anything

By Nathan Clark
Managing Editor

Every other Saturday, the brightest computer wizards at Washtenaw Community College gather to help anyone and everyone with whatever computer problems they might be facing.

The college’s Students Helping Students computer club is like no other: repairing broken or malfunctioning computers at no charge.

“There is nothing we can’t do,” said James Lewis, faculty adviser for the club. “We have a forensic group who do data recovery with the same kind of programs the FBI uses.”

The club does everything from recovering lost data after a major crash to repairing hardware faults and replacing damaged components free of charge.

“The only thing we ask people to pay for are parts we don’t typically have on hand,” said Club President Rachel Rumberger, 31, networking major from Ypsilanti. “If a part is needed, we’ll help the person find

the best deal for the part and where to get what they need so we can fix their computer.”

The club has plenty of knowledgeable members who have been working with computers for years.

“We love the hands-on experience here,” said Sam Holsten, 42, applied science major from Ypsilanti who has fixed more than 400 computers since he started handling computers. He even built a server in his home.

“There has been a big push and at other universities to have more online classes,” he said. “I don’t see how that would be good for this program. We need the hands-on aspect.”

Holsten is hardly alone on his feeling that online computer classes are not the preferred method of learning how to fix a computer problem.

“The WCC computer program is great, and we get a lot of hands-on time in class and in the club,” said Doug Jarvis, 52, applied science major from Ypsilanti. “Online classes just don’t work in this field.”

Jarvis was a pipefitter for years, but decided he wanted to work on computers for the love of technology.

“We have some of the most helpful and knowledgeable teachers here. They go out of the way to ensure students know what they are doing,” Rumberger said. “This club gives me and everyone else a lot of opportunities to help students and continue to learn.”

While the club loves a challenge, anyone submitting a computer to be worked on by the club has to sign a release before the club can touch it.

“It’s just one of those liability things,” Lewis said.

The club asks that anyone who needs a computer evaluated email the club ahead of time so members will have a better idea of what might be wrong and what tools will be needed.

The club is open to everyone. It meets every other Saturday from noon-4 p.m. in TI 149 and can be emailed at Studentshelpingstudents.wcc@gmail.com.

SMOKING CONTINUED FROM A1

Since the “full” no-smoking policy was enforced on campus in 2006, there have been about 750 documented cases of violations, explained Larry Aeilts, ombudsman and dean of Enrollment Management at WCC, in charge of smokers discipline, a task that was delegated to him by Vice President of Student and Academic Services Linda Blakey.

“Reports of smoking and tickets issued to smokers are on a downtrend,” Aeilts said. “Most of the tickets are given out during the fall, when new students arrive on campus.”

This semester, there have been six official warnings, given out as tickets, and countless other cases of students smoking on campus who were either let off with just a verbal warning or not spotted by Campus Safety.

When students are ticketed, they are made to sign a “statement of awareness” to make them aware of the college’s policy and warned that harsher sanctions follow if they get caught again. Those sanctions can include suspension of up to a semester.

Smoker Nicole Altobello, 24, thinks it’s a reasonable policy.

“I feel irritated at smokers,” Altobello, psychology major from Belleville, said. “I don’t smoke on campus, so why should others do it as well?”

And fellow students concur.

“I like the policy,” said Bailey Vanderweel, 18, psychology major and non-smoker from

South Lyon. “I don’t have to breathe in second-hand smoke, which is dangerous.”

Some feel the college could be even stricter.

“I like it,” Iasia Lovelace, 18, a math and science major from Ann Arbor, said. “I hate the idea of smoking and of people smoking so the policy is nice. Still, it should be enforced more because I still smell it and I still feel like I’m dying when I walk by people who are smoking.”

Stuart, 18, has a different perspective on the problem. The liberal arts major from Ann Arbor asked that his last name not be used because he violates the non-smoking policy frequently.

“I smoke on campus. It is convenient. And besides, nobody cares,” he said. “What are they going to do, call the authorities?”

Jacques Desrosiers, Campus Safety and Security director hopes that if someone with a badge isn’t around to catch violators and ticket them, civilians on campus will take the policy into their own hands.

“Anyone who is truly offended by people smoking on campus . . . can respectfully remind the smoker of the policy,” he said. “If the smoker chooses to continue, that is their choice and the offended individual should walk away. If they choose, they can call Campus Safety.”

For those who want to eliminate smoking completely, don’t hold your breath. Some smokers needing a fix will still light up when they want.

“They can’t expect us to just stop smoking,” said a 30-something

student who would prefer to remain anonymous. “Smoking is part of who we are.”

Natalie Wright, 21, international relations major from Saline, admits she smokes on campus and has never been reprimanded.

“I’ve never had anything said to me,” she said. “I understand why they do it (regarding the policy). I would never smoke with other people around.”

She said her favorite place to smoke is around the bushes in Community Park.

WCC is one of the 530 colleges in the United States that have sought a 100 percent smoke-free policy on their campuses since 2003, according to a CNN report last fall. Most of these policies were installed to protect the students’ health, and some other colleges were actually looking at helping smokers seek treatment.

According to Desrosiers, there is a 99 percent voluntary compliance. The goal is to have 100 percent of the students, staff, and faculty members adhered to the policy.

“I think this is good for people who are trying to quit,” said Samar Niazi, 17, an undecided major from Saline – who smokes. “It’s too much work to have to walk to your car. It’s just not even worth it.”

Even though some students still do not conform, Desrosiers said that WCC has been way ahead of the curve for years. This year, the University of Texas at Austin and Kirtland Community College in Roscommon, have adhered to this trend and made their campuses 100 percent smoke free.

BOOKSHELVES CONTINUED FROM A1



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Author and former WCC student Jody Lamb talks about her new book.

she had as a teenager.

“When my classmates were spending time with Super Mario and Sonic the Hedgehog, I was creating stories in this elaborate village I created in my parents’ basement. I loved the way that I could solve problems for them and their families. I think the way that I wanted to solve problems in my own family.”

Those problems, specifically with alcoholism in her family, troubled Lamb as a teenager and as an adult. Having watched members of her family battle their addiction, Lamb had always hoped to find an outlet to release her own feelings on the disease.

Early in the semester, Lamb turned in a short story about a young girl named Easter who had formed a plan to make her seventh-grade year the best ever. Soon those plans began to go awry when her mother’s problems with alcohol start to affect her daughter.

The story, while not autobiographical, came from a very real place in Lamb’s heart.

“I saw first-hand those detrimental effects of alcoholics and their behavior, but I also saw the very human side of addicts,” Lamb said. “And sometimes I think we see in books and in the media that addicts are vilified for their addictive behavior, but they’re not often looked at as the good human beings they are beneath that.”

Telling the story was exactly what Lamb needed to improve her overall feelings. Her teacher, Jane Ratcliffe, was impressed with the short story and encouraged Lamb to continue with the novel. By the summer of 2009, Lamb had an entire manuscript ready.

“For me, it was an escape from this very corporate and robotic life that I had, so I really looked forward to coming to class,” Lamb said.

Once the manuscript was finished, she began the process of rewriting and editing. Lamb would eventually go through four different versions of the manuscript before she was finally ready to start sending out her book to publishers.

Having accrued several sky miles during her day job, Lamb eventually cashed them in and flew to Los Angeles for a national children’s literature convention, where she was sure a publisher would be willing to stand behind her work.

She was in for a rude awakening.

During the convention, Lamb actually secured a meeting with a publisher who enjoyed her novel. But then came the qualifier. After telling Lamb the novel may have been a success eight years ago, the

publisher said: “This is the age of vampires and wizards, and realistic fiction doesn’t sell that easy.”

Lamb thanked the publisher for her time and went back to her room, where she cried “projectile tears.” Still, Lamb refused to change the story, feeling that doing so would tarnish the message behind the book.

It was a heartbreaking rejection for Lamb – one of 30 she received before getting that fateful email from Jennifer Baum at Scribe Publishing.

“Operation Cool” was going to see the light of day.

“I wanted to include Easter Ann Peters’ Operation Cool in Scribe Publishing Company’s first collection of books because, from the very first few pages, I loved Easter’s unique voice,” Baum said in an email. “She’s a quirky seventh-grader that a lot of people will be able to relate to. The book has very serious moments, but it also has a lot of lighthearted ones that will make you laugh out loud.”

Lamb’s passion for telling this story helped reassure Baum’s decision to publish “Operation Cool.”

“At its core, the book covers a very important topic that is not often talked about – dealing with alcoholic or depressed loved ones. Jody’s passion for the topic was very clear, and I knew the book would be a success simply because it was something she was so passionate about,” Baum said.

The book was released on Nov. 6 and according to Lamb, it has already made an impact on readers.

After sending copies of the book to Jerry Moe, the vice president and director of the children’s program at Betty Ford Center in Southern California, Moe emailed Lamb to tell her of the impact that novel made on an 11-year-old girl who was dealing with many of the same issues as the novel’s main character.

Moe let the girl keep the book and the young girl was thrilled to have her own copy of “Operation Cool.”

“I could get a thousand terrible reviews, but knowing that it’s already helped one kid, well then it’s all been completely worth it,” Lamb said.

It’s too early to tell what sort of success the book will have in terms of units sold, but Lamb said that isn’t the point. While she intends on continuing to work in PR, this isn’t the only book she plans on writing. Lamb expects to write two more stories involving the characters of “Operation Cool.”

And from there, who knows.

“I feel like this is just the beginning for me.”

Voice takes third at national college media conference

STAFF

CHICAGO – For the fifth straight year, The Washtenaw Voice has been recognized as one of the best community college newspapers in a nationwide contest.

The Voice finished third in the Best of Show competition at the annual Associated Collegiate Press National College Media Convention. The award was presented Nov.

4 at the conference’s closing ceremonies. Two junior college newspapers in California finished ahead of Washtenaw in the contest.

“The entire staff, from the top down, is beyond proud,” said Ben Solis, editor of the newspaper. “With so much competition, I think we’re most of all honored to rank among the best in the nation. And hopefully, with the knowledge gained from this

year’s conference, we can continue to maintain a level of excellence our readers have come to expect.”

Last year, The Voice finished third at the conference in Orlando. Two years in Louisville, Ky., the newspaper finished second. Prior to that, The Voice was third in Kansas City in 2008, and fifth in Austin, Texas, the following year.

The conference is in New Orleans next year.

Read more at washtenawvoice.com



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Family matters

But not necessarily on Thanksgiving

BY AMANDA JACOBS
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is considered a time when families come together and appreciate the things for which they are grateful. But the reunions can be a source of annoyance. *The Voice* interviewed Washtenaw students and compiled a list of reasons why they'd rather spend the holiday anywhere else but with their families.

1

Sometimes the person who cooks the family dinner is not best suited for the job.

2

Some family members bring up past memories or events that others don't want to talk about.

3

Certain family members bring dates or people who others feel shouldn't be there.

4

It can hard to fit in with the rest of the family.

5

Dinner leads to a big mess to clean in the kitchen – and the ones stuck with the job can wind up resentful.

6

Spouses sometimes don't get along with the rest of the family.

7

Specific family members may complain about the food or have obnoxious requests.

8

Having to dress up or look nice for the family can be a hassle.

9

Some students have different religious beliefs or diets than the rest of their families.

10

Families start fights. Whether it's over the food or personal reasons, some family members just can't help but fight over a Thanksgiving dinner.

Turkey and trimmings on a tight budget

Hosting Thanksgiving dinner can be expensive. To make an entire meal from appetizer to dessert, spending as little cash as possible is not always an easy task. The following shopping list includes a full holiday meal for \$30 or less of brands that can be found at local inexpensive stores, such as Aldi and Save-A-Lot.

Dinner

The main meal is the most expensive part of the feast. Although some families may serve different, many of the basic traditional dishes can be found for \$20 or less

- Butterball frozen turkeys can be found at Aldi for \$1.19 per pound and fresh ones are roughly \$1.49 per pound. Butterball's boneless breasts, which can feed one to two people, cost \$9.99
- Boxed potatoes by Kraft are \$2.99. For families who like to whip their own mashed potatoes, a bag of Higgins Russet potatoes can be found for \$3.99
- Cans of green beans, peas and corn from Green Giant can be found for as low as 59 cents per can
- Sweet Harvest cans of cranberry sauce and Chef's Cupboard gravy both cost only 89 cents.
- L'oven Fresh 12 ounce rolls are 99 cents
- A box of stuffing from Kraft costs \$1
- Everfresh apple juice is \$1.99; other flavors can be purchased two for \$5

Appetizers

The key to hosting a hearty Thanksgiving starts with an appetizer. Hungry guests can keep occupied with small snacks, such as peanuts or fruit bowls. Appetizers don't have to be too big and can be purchased for \$5 or less.

- 30 ounce Southern Grove Peanut Trio bowls are \$4.99
- 8 ounce bags of Happy Farms cheese cubes are \$1.99, and can be paired with Savoritz crackers for \$1.49
- Happy Farms also makes cheese balls, which cost \$2.29 for a 20 ounce ball.

Dessert

Whether families prefer traditional pumpkin pie or other sweets, it isn't hard to find desserts for \$10 or less.

- Belmont frozen pie crusts are \$1.89. Baker's Corner pumpkin pie filling is 99 cents, and other pie flavors range from \$1.49-\$2.49
- Belmont also make home-style frozen pies, which are pre-cooked and ready to serve upon thawing. They cost \$5.29.
- And for cheesecake fans, a Belmont supreme cheesecake sampler is \$9.99 and offers four different flavors.

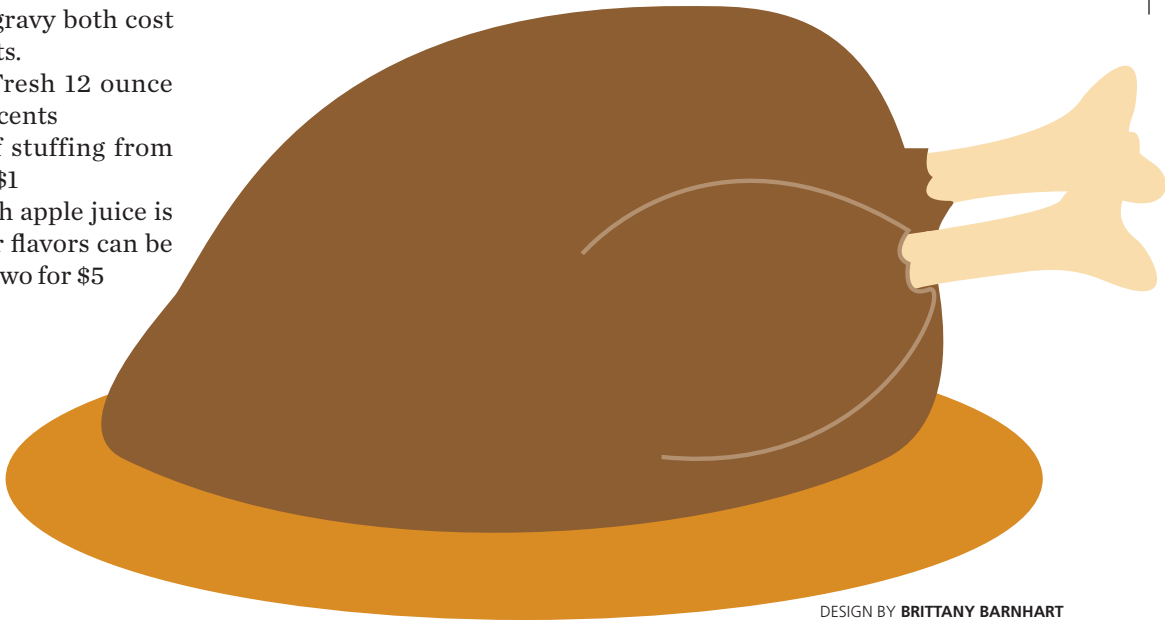
Note: Prices, gathered at a recent shopping excursion, are subject to change

How to not kill your family when cooking Thanksgiving dinner

Cooking a big meal can be a dangerous task. Roughly 2,000 Thanksgiving fires nationwide are reported to fire departments every year, according to statistics from the National Fire Incident Reporting System, created by the U.S Fire Administration.

Along with the risk of fires, food preparers must be careful to avoid causing food poisoning or other foodborne illnesses. Because of the risks involved with cooking a large meal, here are some important tips for families to enjoy a safe holiday.

- Buy fresh turkeys only 1-2 days before days before cooking
- Be sure that any turkey fed to animals is boneless and well-cooked. Avoid feeding pets too much of anything.
- All stuffing should be cooked at a minimum temperature of 165 degrees, preferably in a casserole dish.
- If the plan is to deep-fry the turkey, exercise extreme caution. Make sure this is done outside on a flat, level surface and never leave the bird unattended. Hot oil may bubble over and cause a fire.
- Don't cross-contaminate – keep eggs, meat, poultry and seafood away from foods that will not be cooked.
- Don't judge food by its color; use a thermometer to decide when food is ready to be eaten.
- Thawing a turkey is safest in a refrigerator set to 40 degrees. For every five pounds, allow one day for the turkey to thaw. Never defrost at room temperature.
- Mix moist and dry stuffing ingredients only before stuffing a turkey or preparing to cook.
- Wash all fruits and vegetables, but don't wash raw meat or poultry.
- All leftovers should be eaten within three days to avoid growth of bacteria on the food.



DESIGN BY BRITTANY BARNHART

From our family to yours, *The Washtenaw Voice* wishes every student, faculty and staff member a

Happy Thanksgiving

SPOTLIGHT

THE WASHTENAW VOICE • SECTION B



Dancer Donte Jones, center, winner of 'Washtenaw's Got Talent 2012,' clasps his hands in gratitude after his name was announced. He is surrounded by other contestants, with Peter Leshkevich, director of Student Development and Activities, on the left.

Poppin' the crowd at WCC talent show

PHOTOS AND WORDS BY
JESSICA PROTETCH
Staff Photographer

Twenty-five performers lit up the Towsley Auditorium stage Thursday night for the annual Washtenaw's Got Talent show.

They included dancers and singers, while some played instruments and others recited poetry. For a few nervous contestants, it was their

first time ever performing before an audience.

"I've only played guitar in front of my parents," said musician Roya Sadaghiani, 17, of Canton, an environmental science major who rocked an electric guitar.

Sadaghiani taught herself how to play, and has been a devoted musician for two years. Her brother Maziyar closed the show with blazing drum solo.

The judges, including WCC

President Rose Bellanca, had their work cut out for them. All the performers showed overwhelming passion, and there was no shortage of serious talent.

"Break dancing consumes my life," said performer Travis Iacovacci, 18, of Plymouth who is studying auto body collision repair. "I've been doing it for two years and I love it."

Iacovacci performed a contemporary piece with his dance partner Allie. He said he has performed in much larger venues, so he felt pretty confident – though he knew the competition would be tough.

"There's some amazing singers, dancers and musicians playing tonight," he said. "There's a lot of raw, untouched talent at this school."

The winner of the show was Donte Jones, 24, a digital video production major from Canton, with his Popping dance routine. He was followed by two singers: Ivy Walker, 27, a secondary education major from Ann Arbor, was second; and Kenyatta Basrbee, 22, a performing arts major from Ypsilanti.

There were so many performers hoping to express themselves this year that organizers of the event are scheduling another talent show next spring, according to Rachel Barsch, events coordinator for Student Activities.



Singer/musician Errick Thomas, 23, a liberal arts transfer major from Ypsilanti, performs.



Ja Tonio Lewis, singer/musician, 31, a liberal arts transfer student from Ypsilanti, performs.

Homeless find new way to 'kick' the habit

BY ANNA ELIAS
Staff Writer

Most who are homeless, or homeless within the past year, don't expect to go to Rio de Janeiro to become an international soccer player. But that is exactly what happened to Dave Altherr.

Altherr, 56, of Ypsilanti, thanks Washtenaw County's project outreach team (PORT) for everything he has today. They have assisted him with housing, applying for social security disability and treatment for mental illness and drug addiction.

As a part of PORT's "homeless soccer team" S.S. PORT, Altherr was chosen to go to Rio de Janeiro and compete on the national team for the 2010 Homeless World Cup.

"It's life-changing for those who do it (street soccer)," said John Stacey, a supervisor at PORT.

Sober soccer, street soccer,

homeless soccer – it's been dubbed many things, but the support offered in many forms at this community event had an unlikely start.

Sara Silvennoinen, a case manager for PORT, searched the Internet for "homelessness in Finland" following a conversation with family during a visit in Finland. The first thing she saw was the Homeless World Cup for soccer.

Back on American soil, Silvennoinen contacted the first U.S. team to start up that was based in Charlotte, N.C. This was the first year they were looking to expand.

PORT was excited about starting the first street soccer team in Ann Arbor, which they called S.S. PORT. Arrangements were made for Silvennoinen to attend a street soccer conference in North Carolina.

"It's treatment, but they don't realize it," said Silvennoinen.

This wasn't just about men and women coming together to play soccer

who happen to be housing insecure. It was about camaraderie, sober entertainment and most importantly getting those out on the streets in touch with PORT's services, she said.

With soccer ball in hand, Silvennoinen and coworker Linda Bacigalupi recruited a few guys and went to a local park and played soccer for S.S. PORT's first practice. The end goal was to go to Washington, D.C. for the Street Soccer USA Cup.

"I like getting people out of their comfort zone," said Anna Byberg, a former intern with PORT in 2011. "If you get them to come out one time, they'll keep coming back."

Byberg started practicing with the team last year as an intern. She has enjoyed practicing with the team so much that she continues to come to practice.



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Members of Ann Arbor's street soccer team play a game of pick up at WideWorld Sports Center in Ann Arbor. From left, Ann Arbor residents Roul Carraba, 28, John Rolfe, 27, Ross Zini, 27 and Anna Byberg.

S.S. PORT
CONTINUED B4

‘Mod-ing’ Christmas for kids

Local tattoo shop plays Santa for annual fundraiser to benefit children in need

By Anna Elias
Staff Writer

Although they can’t get tattoos themselves, children are the focus at Depot Town Tattoo during the holiday season.

For the past four years, Depot Town Tattoo has held the annual Toys for Tats fundraiser – a modern interpretation of U.S. Marines’ Toys for Tots foundation.

Dawn Cooke, co-owner of the Ypsilanti tattoo shop, thought of the idea for the fundraiser during the shop’s second year of business.

“When I was a little kid, my sister and I one year got a pack of underwear from K-Mart for Christmas,” said

Cooke. “No kid should go without a toy.”

The sign-up for Toys for Tats started Nov. 1 and will continue until Dec. 15, or when all slots are filled. By bringing a toy valued at \$15, patrons are able to sign up for a slot on Dec. 15 to receive free ink.

In past years, the fundraiser was strictly a one-day event with no sign-up available. It resulted in more than 200 people bringing toys, but not everyone who wanted a tattoo was able to receive one. They were sent away with a coupon towards their next tattoo.

Each person who brings a toy and signs up is guaranteed a tattoo this year Cooke said. The slots are in one hour blocks with 12 openings available

from 1-10 p.m.

Patrons choose a design from a premade sheet courtesy of the participating artists. According to Cooke, this is to help the ease and efficiency of the event. The tattoos are designed to take between 10-30 minutes in order to get all tattoos completed during the extended business hours.

The toys are given to Carrot Way Community Center of Ann Arbor and Methodist Children’s Home Society in Redford. These centers benefit boys and girls from infancy to adolescence, with a large number between toddlerhood and pre-adolescence.

Local tattoo shop owner and artist, Jeff Zuck, has decided to assist Cooke in efforts to tattoo upwards of 120

TOYS FOR TATS
What: A tattoo in exchange for a donated \$15 toy
Where: Depot Town Tattoo, 33 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti
When: Tattoos done on Dec. 15;

reserve a slot with a donation until Dec. 15
Hours: Monday-Saturday 2-9 p.m., Sunday 1-6 p.m.
For more information: (734) 544-1927

toy-donating customers. Traveling tattoo artist, Travis Madden will also be assisting with the high-volume tattoo event.

“If it helps a kid get a toy for Christmas, I’m all down for it,” said Madden. This will be his first time tattooing for a charity event.

Mike Emmett, co-owner of Depot Town Tattoo and main artist at the Traverse City location, Front Street Tattoo, may also be joining the Ypsilanti team for the one-day tattoo-fundraiser extravaganza.

An extra free-standing tattoo-convention-style station will be set up in the center of the shop to make space for the extra artists.

Last year, each artist tattooed 15-20 people. This year, they will have

an abundance of artists to be able to “sub out” to allow bathroom and lunch breaks.

On the sheet of designs, Cooke says that there is “something for everyone.” The images range from astrological to Native American symbols, and include traditional tattoo designs such as roses, birds, flowers, daggers and skulls.

“If you don’t see something you like, you don’t have to get a tattoo,” said Cooke. “No one is going to twist your arm.”

Donations are welcomed throughout the month, even if no tattoo is wanted in exchange.

“When the bottom line matters more than human decency,” said Cooke, “something is wrong.”



MCT COURTESY PHOTO
For donating a new \$15 toy, 120 people could get free tattoos - and put smiles on a lot of children’s faces at Christmas.

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‘10 under 40’ features 2 from WCC

BY KELLY BRACHA
Staff Writer

Walk around the graphics and photography departments in the lower level of the GM building long enough and it will be difficult to not hear mention of Toko Shiiki-Santos or Martin Thoburn, both part-timers at Washtenaw Community College and both locally renowned artists.

The two are among 10 selected artists to be featured in Chelsea River Gallery’s second major competition: “10 Under 40.” The gallery sent out a regional call for entries from artists younger than 40 in an effort to identify and promote emerging talent and exhibit mid-career visual artists.

For Shiiki-Santos, this opportunity was a bit nerve-racking.

“The work I submitted was very personal to me,” Shiiki-Santos said. “It was some old work made for myself. I have never shown it to anybody.”

Shiiki-Santos presented a series of self-portraits that recalled a very difficult childhood memory. Using

a plastic toy Holga camera, Shiiki-Santos created double-exposure like images, capturing what she felt to be a self-portrait of herself both as an adult and child.

The square black and white images are meant to evoke memories of someone’s past still lingering in their mind. In Shiiki-Santos’ mind.

“This is my internal journey with my little self, to reconcile my present with my past, something I’ve neglected for a long time,” Shiiki-Santos said. “The theme of the work was ‘Time’.”

On Nov. 10, Chelsea River Gallery held an opening for the artists. Shiiki-Santos was taken aback by the large audience gazing at her work.

“It was scary seeing all these people look at these deeply personal photographs. I felt very naked at the moment,” she said. “But I’m proud of myself. It was such a great experience... it was very meaningful.”

Also exhibited at the gallery was Chris Sandon and Thoburn’s “Exquisite Motion Corpse,” a series of interactive video installations based

on an old surrealist parlor game.

Thoburn had previously displayed his installment during the 50th Ann Arbor Film Festival inside the Michigan Theater.

Thoburn describes his work as, “a 21st-century update of an exquisite corpse. It combines loop-based music with figure assembly. The bodies created have elements of both humor and horror.”

Using a touch-screen iPad controller, users can create combinations of body parts displayed on four vertically stacked CRT televisions, all set to rhythmic timing and accompanied by correlating sound effects and beats.

The installation has also been featured in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

“We are porting the project into an app for the iPad and iPhone and have launched a Kickstarter to get that off the ground,” Thoburn said.

On Aug. 9, the Kickstarter successfully raised its funding goal of \$8,000 with just 104 backers.

“The app is going to be called ‘Bodies and Beats.’ We intend to produce tons of new audio and video content specifically for this application,” Thoburn said.

Julia Gleich, WCC’s production center assistant, is very proud of the two artists.

“Everyone worked hard to make this event happen and it shows,” Gleich said. “The gallery will help provide a terrific learning experience as these artists navigate their way through the often ‘daunting’ task of promoting and selling their art.”

As an artist herself, Gleich says she understands the advantage it is to have professional artists guiding young artists.

“I encourage people to drive over to Chelsea and see this great, collaborative effort,” Gleich said.

Shiiki-Santos’s photographs and Thoburn’s installation will be on display in the Chelsea River Gallery until Dec. 22.

The River Gallery selected and awarded first, second and third place prizes to the 10 artists judged at the opening of the gallery. Thoburn was awarded first place, earning him a cash prize of \$1000.



10UNDER40.WORDPRESS.COM COURTESY PHOTO
One of the self-portraits from Toko Shiiki-Santos’ “Now or Never” series shown at the Chelsea River Gallery



MARTIN-THOBURN.COM COURTESY PHOTO
Martin Thoburn’s self-portrait made from a variety of textures.



10UNDER40.WORDPRESS.COM COURTESY PHOTO
Shiiki-Santos’ photographs will be on display in the Chelsea River Gallery until Dec. 22.

Michigan author helps WCC celebrate ‘Year of Water’

BY LELAND DAWSON
Contributor

Environmentalist and author Jerry Dennis brought his crusade to Washtenaw Community College’s Towsley Auditorium to commemorate the college’s year-long tribute to the environment.

The award-winning Michigan resident’s message of a cleaner and better-preserved Great Lakes was well received by an audience evenly made up of many different demographics.

For the first time in school history, the college has decided that this school year will have a theme. This year’s theme is “water,” and Dennis was selected as the keynote speaker for this topic. His 2011 book, “*The Windward Shore: A Winter on the Great Lakes*,” has also been designated as the campus read. This year many students will find it to be assigned reading.

Topics such as nonindigenous

and damaging life in the lakes, intended and unintended pollution, overgrowing algae, frustration with the slow-moving Army Corps of Engineers and a humorous anecdote about a publication spreading misinformation about “freshwater whales and dolphins,” were spread through the detailed speech.

Halfway through the talk, Dennis shared his personal – and still unpublished – mission statement. It was a touching moment as he described looking out at Lake Michigan, being amazed at its beauty and vastness. His father, who had taken him there, remarked on the damage being done by freighters “dumping their bilge water.” This memory was both an intimate and powerful image.

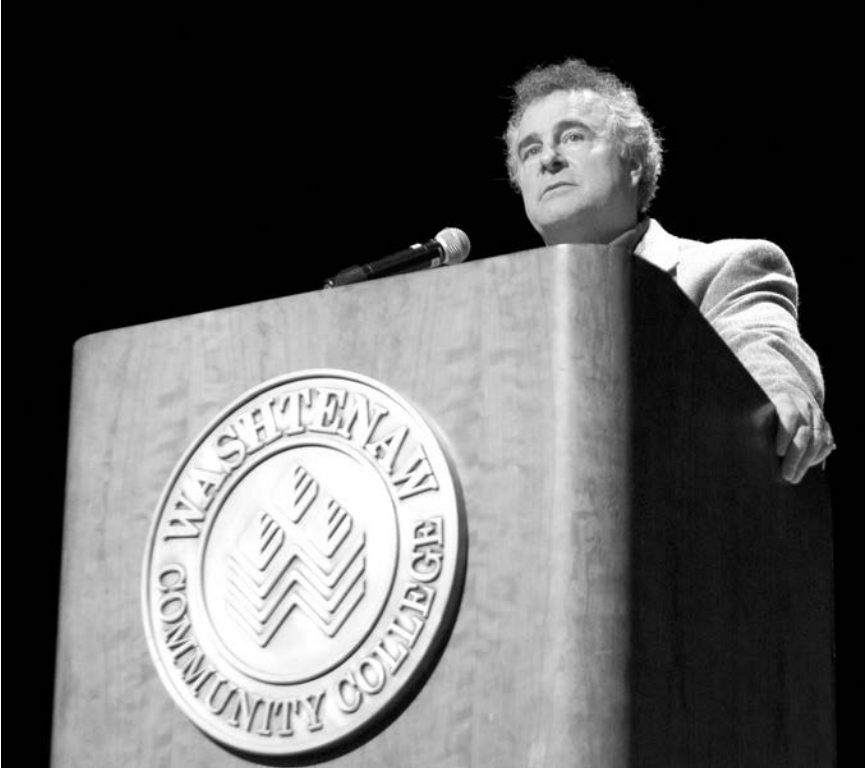
The speech contained many bright spots about the good work being done by many organizations. During a question-and-answer session, an audience member brought up that

Alpena has an underwater preserve that is trying to expand and protect more water.

Dennis gave high praise to the actions of the National Wildlife Foundation. For nearly 30 years the NWF has worked towards protecting the Great Lakes. He also mentioned that in the last eight years of touring college campuses he has seen a dramatic increase in student activism and awareness.

“I’m seeing a huge change, especially in college and university students,” he said. “They are more informed and more impassioned.”

Throughout the speech, Dennis made clear his passion for keeping the Great Lakes great for as long as possible. The receptive audience asked many questions ranging from the almost too-blue waters under the Blue Water Bridge to Dennis’s son, a film director working on a documentary on his father.



PRZEMEK OZOG THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Jerry Dennis, environmental writer of the book ‘The Windward Shore: A Winter On the Great Lakes,’ speaks at Towsley Auditorium for WCC’s ‘Year of Water’ awareness program.

Local professionals simplify digital media at local lab

BY ANNA ELIAS
Staff Writer

Tucked away within SPARK-East’s business incubator is Ypsilanti’s first Community Media Lab – Michelle Rogers’ ideaLab project.

The Community Media Lab was one of 12 ventures that received funding through Digital First Media’s national ideaLab mission. Journal Register Co. took applications from employees to become a part of this new experience of helping communities become more familiar with digital media and technology.

Rogers was the only one chosen who did not nominate herself. Instead, she was chosen based on

her first year as managing editor of Heritage Media-West Newspaper Group in Washtenaw County.

Supplied with a Netbook, iPhone, iPad and a \$500 monthly stipend, Rogers was ready to open the lab.

“The goal is to be able to get students here, give them a Flip cam to shoot video, have them come back and help them edit it,” she said. “If it’s newsworthy, we’ll use it.”

The Media Lab hopes to help students, senior citizens, or anyone else become familiar with digital media. Some workshops held in the communal SPARK-East’s conference room are “How to Write a Lead,” and “Scoop to Nuts.” Another, “Blogging 101,” is one of the upcoming seminars

that will be held on Dec. 5 from 1-3 p.m.

Anyone wishing to receive assistance from the lab may drop by Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Rogers said that her employees from all of the Heritage Media-West newspapers take part in “clinic duty” by working at the lab.

The Media Lab staff is comprised of journalism professionals holding workshops and working one-on-one with visitors to share their knowledge of digital media and other technologies.

So far, the Media Lab has helped mainly senior citizens learn to create blogs, Facebook pages and Twitter accounts. The lab even helped one

client sell a car on Craigslist.

Beyond social media, the lab is also able to assist with photography and videography, writing press releases and just about anything else media related.

“I can show someone how to do a press release and they’d have a better chance to get it published rather than if they were to write one on their own,” said Jim Pruitt, journalist for *The Saline Reporter* and Media Lab staff member.

With Eastern Michigan University partnered with The Media Lab, Rogers hopes that students will find the lab useful in their studies and budding careers.

COMMUNITY MEDIA LAB

215 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti
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Twitter: @comunitymediaL
Facebook: CommunityMediaLab

All Media Lab services are free, with no appointment necessary.

‘Magic’ tournament fundraiser postponed

College researches how to reward winners around state gambling laws

By LELAND DAWSON
Contributor

The Washtenaw Community College Gamer’s Club and the college itself are pushing forward to host a card game tournament in support of the Wounded Warrior Project charity. The tournament of “Magic: The Gathering,” a popular trading card game, was originally scheduled for December, but has recently been postponed.

Magic, as it is often known, is a card game wherein a player custom builds a deck of cards. A player is allowed to have only 50 cards, which can consist of ordinary lands or fantastical spells, creatures and artifacts. The players do “damage” to each other through the cards, resulting in only one player left “alive” at the end.

The group hit a hurdle when 38-year-old Matt Vancena, the club’s president and a liberal art transfer student from Dearborn Heights, first

came forward with the idea.

“(The college) is trying to determine... whether playing a Magic game for prizes is constituted as a game of chance or as a game of luck,” said Vancena. The distinction could end up meaning playing Magic for prizes equates to gambling.

The original plan for the tournament was that each participant would pay an entry fee and the best players would earn prizes from a sponsoring business. The prizes would be reimbursed from the entry fees, and the remainder was to be donated to charity through the college.

Alan Eichenberg, a 22-year-old graphic design major from Manchester, is the club officer who will oversee the tournament. He also participated in the last one.

“We had, I think, 87 people,” he said. “It was the largest turnout we ever had for a Magic tournament besides a prerelease event, which is pretty big for our small little community of Ann Arbor.”

So why is a popular and fun tournament that will benefit charity being delayed? The college needs to ensure that such a game will not break

state law in regards to gambling. When Peter Leshkevich, the director of Student Development and Activities, was initially told of the idea, he looked into it.

When he did this, Leshkevich, who was not in his current position at the time of the last tournament, found a red flag.

“(I was) looking at laws and rules and guidelines and researching how other colleges essentially run tournaments on their campuses,” he said, “and (gambling) was one of the issues that came up.”

For now, the general counsel for the college is looking into how the event can be run and comply with state laws.

“This has never been a question of ‘whether we’re going to do the tournament,’” Leshkevich emphasized, “it’s a question of ‘how we can do the tournament’ and how some details will be handled.”

Both Leshkevich and Vancena are confident that the tournament will happen next semester. This should give players all the time they need to improve their decks in order to help a well-deserving charity.



PRZEMEK OZOG THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Sarah Fertig, 27, of Ypsilanti giving out free pie for OccuPIE Wednesdays at Liberty Plaza in downtown Ann Arbor.

‘Pie-ing’ it forward

By ANNA ELIAS
Staff Writer

Pies are wonderful. Warm pie is even more wonderful. Free, sometimes warm, pie is what Sarah Fertig, 27, of Ypsilanti, is handing out at Liberty Plaza on Wednesdays as part of a movement she started: OccuPIE Wednesday.

Fertig and boyfriend Chris Kovac have been handing out free slices of pie on Wednesday’s at 5:30 p.m. since Ann Arbor’s Art Fair back in July.

“We all benefit from things we didn’t build,” said Fertig.

With influence from Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s “factory speech” and President Obama’s “you didn’t build that” comment, Fertig now literally gives away her pie to those in more need.

“People say, ‘those welfare moms just want some of the pie.’ But seriously, who doesn’t like pie?” said Fertig.

Reminding people to “pie it forward” is the main focus of the movement, Fertig says. To be able to give to others what you have, as small or as large as the contribution may be, is what she aims for.

The movement has its own “maniFEASTo,” which Fertig hands out with each piece of pie, to share with hungry residents what the slices are all about.

48-year-old Ypsi-Arbor couch surfer, Ted Murray said that eating the pie has reminded him to remember what he can share with others.

“I’ve been looking for somebody to give a few dollars to,” said Murray.

Murray said he has been coming for a slice of pie, each Wednesday, for the past three weeks. He has been clean for one-and-a-half years, and says he tries to help others with sobriety as well.

Murray is joined at the plaza by a sizeable crowd of locals, all hungry for the tasty treats.

On a good week, Fertig and Kovac have served upwards of 50 people, which warranted extra pies from Grand Traverse Pie Co., while colder evenings bring out significantly smaller numbers.

The large amount of foot traffic made the location perfect in Fertig’s mind. She had thought about doing it on campus, but didn’t want to be associated with other student-run events.

She had also thought about “splitting the pie attention” by also handing out slices in Ypsilanti, but couldn’t decide on a location with diverse foot traffic.

“I didn’t want the pie to be about one segment of society,” Fertig said. “Anyone who walks by is welcome

to take a slice.”

The couple bakes three apple pies each week to be served to the community. Fertig chose apple pies because the fruit comes in large, five pound bags.

They recently started accepting donations as they had an overwhelming number of people looking to give to the cause.

Cash donations are welcomed along with extra pies.

Fertig is hoping for a big send-off as winter becomes imminent. She says that Nov. 21 will be the last day for pie this year, but hopes the event will continue next year with a new crew as she may be out of state.

“I’d like to see it started with either a new team or more crowd sourced,” Fertig said “I’d like to take OccuPIE on the road. Pull up to a new city every week and show them the movement.”

For the big send-off, Fertig is planning on bringing a slow cooker with warm cider and hot cocoa to accompany the pies. She encourages others to bring a pie – fruit or pot pies – to the last OccuPIE Wednesday for the season.

“If I can share my little slice of pie,” said Fertig, “surely people higher up on the food chain can share their pie too.”

THE OCCUPIE MANIFEASTO

“I have a pie. I just baked it and I’m really proud of it. It looks delicious. But even though I bought the ingredients and baked it myself, I don’t really consider it ‘my’ pie.

“You see, I wasn’t born knowing how to bake pies — someone had to teach me. I didn’t make the pie out of my own apples or wheat or butter. Someone had to plant a tree, sow a field, milk a cow. Someone had to harvest the crops and process the milk. Someone had to transport the crops to a grocery store so I could buy them. And someone had to lay the roads and maintain the trucks and build the grocery store and operate the cash register. Someone had to install wires so I could have electricity in my house to see the ingredients and bake the pie.

“So even though I put the final product together, untold millions of people have helped make this pie possible. That’s why I’m happy to share it with ANYONE who has less pie or no pie. And all I ask in return is that if I’m sharing the pie I made with you, please try to learn how to bake pies yourself, so that someday you too may share pie with someone who has less.”

- Sarah Fertig
facebook.com/OccuPIEWednesdays



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Raul Carraba, 28, left protects the ball from John Rolfe, 27, in a pick-up game at WideWorld Sports Center in Ann Arbor.

S.S. PORT FROM B1

Now, working for Dawn Farms deter center Spera, Byberg is able to help recruit people for the soccer team.

The only requirement to practice with the team is availability. People who are willing to come out to practice during the scheduled times are more than welcome, regardless of housing or financial situations.

To travel with the team, however, players are required to have been homeless within the past year, which also includes transitional housing. Transitional housing typically comes after inpatient drug rehab, which is a safe place to live with other adults trying to stay sober.

Other than difficulties with permanent residence, many of the players have encountered mental illness and struggled with drug and alcohol addiction. Players are required to be sober in order to play with the team, either during practice or traveling for competitions. Players find solace in street soccer as a sober event.

“It’s my outlet to be amongst other people that are not in the criminal element. They have to be sober to begin with,” said Altherr. “It brings a different class of people, most people are recovering.”

Emily, 25, of Ypsilanti, played with S.S. PORT for one year. She asked

that her last name not be used in this story. Before she joined the team, she hadn’t played soccer since she was 14, although she loved the sport since she was 5.

Emily was in transitional housing when she joined the team. Prior to getting into transitional housing, she was homeless for six to seven months and struggling with addiction.

“(Street Soccer) helped me get involved with something that was good for me,” Emily said.

She was invited to go to Paris with the national team for a two-week trip to the 2011 Homeless World Cup in Paris. Even though they came in second to last, with a single victory over Malawi, her life is forever changed.

Emily has now moved out of transitional housing and is an intern for a prominent firm in Detroit as a graphic designer. She attributes much of her success to being involved with street soccer.

S.S. PORT is completely funded on donations. On Dec. 8, a Soccerthon fundraiser will be held at Wide World Sports Center located on Oak Valley Drive in Ann Arbor. Teams of about 20 people can rent out field space at \$10 per person for one hour and play against themselves. All of the proceeds will be donated to S.S. PORT.

The team is trying to raise \$10,000 for walls for an outdoor soccer field on Wide World’s property for spring/summer practices. They practice at Wheeler Park during the warmer months, but would like a more permanent location.

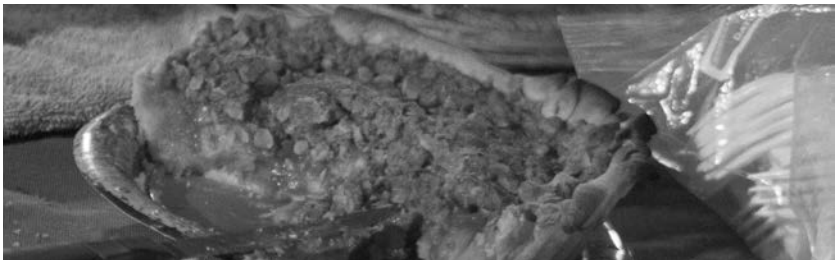
During the winter months, Wide World donates an hour of field time to S.S. PORT for practice each week.

“Wide World has been absolutely amazing to us,” said Silvennoinen. “Without them, we couldn’t do this.”

With so much continued help from the community, homeless soccer in Washtenaw County has been able to stay active since 2007.

“(Street soccer) is gratifying,” says Altherr. “It makes you feel like you’re doing something.”

To schedule time for the Soccerthon or donate to S.S. PORT contact:
Sara Silvennoinen
(734) 386-6786
silvennoinans@ewashtenaw.org
Linda Bacigalupi
(734) 222-3768
bacigalupil@ewashtenaw.org
www.a2port.org and click on ‘Street Soccer’ tab on left
Facebook: Street Soccer Ann Arbor



PRZEMEK OZOG THE WASHTENAW VOICE
One of many pies offered at OccuPIE Wednesdays.

One year after ending OSU’s streak, U-M needs to build a streak of its own



MATT DURR

Two thousand, nine-hundred and twenty-six.

That’s how many days the University of Michigan went without a victory against the hated Ohio State Buckeyes before last year’s 40-34 win. Fans stormed the field, coach Brady Hoke and Athletic Director Dave Brandon shared a hug at midfield as the Wolverines declared a return to prominence.

As great as that day was for the Wolverines, none of it matters if they cannot beat the Buckeyes again on Saturday. This year’s contest, held in Columbus, is the real measuring stick for a Michigan program that is clamoring for national respect again.

The Buckeyes should enter the contest at 11-0 on the year (*The Voice* went to print before the game with Wisconsin was played) and have the best record in the Big Ten. If not for the sanctions against their team for the Jim Tressel scandal, they would be in the national championship picture.

Quarterback Braxton Miller, who was a freshman last year when OSU nearly beat the Wolverines, leads the Buckeyes. More importantly, OSU has Urban Meyer patrolling its sideline. Meyer, a two-time national

championship-winning coach at Florida, has changed the culture in Columbus in a mater of months and has convinced Buckeye Nation that its reign of dominance over the Big Ten did not end because of the problems Tressel created.

No one in Columbus really thinks last year mattered. The Buckeyes had a first-year coach in place, the team started a freshman most of the season and they were rattled by the scandal from the offseason. That was not a true OSU team, much the same way that the Rich Rodriguez-era Wolverines were not a real Michigan team.

Michigan needs to beat this OSU team. After going 11-2 last season, the Wolverines have taken a step back this year after suffering high-profile losses to Alabama and Notre Dame.

Beating Ohio State makes those losses irrelevant and also would send a message to OSU that the Wolverines are back for real.

There are already questions about what the Wolverines will be once Denard Robinson graduates. Hoke has recruited well in the two classes he has brought to Ann Arbor, but no one knows how those recruits will develop. But the recruiting war between the two coaches has already started and whoever wins this year has a leg up on the other guy for at least another year.

Hoke has to know that even though his team still has a chance at a Big Ten title, a win over OSU in “The Game” would mean even more to the fan base and future recruits. Players and coaches like to say that one of the reasons they came to Michigan was to play against Ohio State.

But none of them come to lose.

Parents of Tiger’s ace pitcher to visit WCC, promote new book

BY MATT DURR
Sports Editor

A little more than 11 years ago, a father and son sat together and listened as close to 1,500 players were selected in the annual Major League Baseball draft. The son, a pitcher, was hoping to hear his name called, but to the dismay of both, it never was.

It was a disappointing day for the father, but instead of letting the disappointment get to him and his son, Richard encouraged the budding young player to keep working hard.

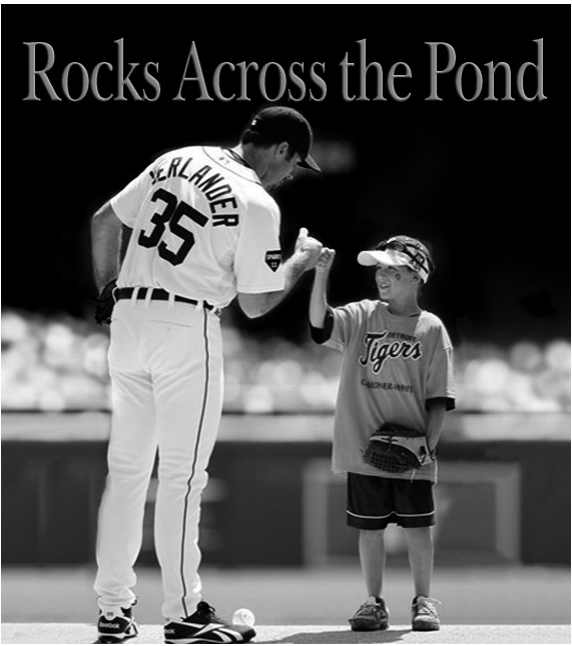
The hard work paid off on July 4, 2005 when Richard’s son took the mound for his first MLB start. On the back of his Detroit Tigers’ jersey was the number 35 and slightly above read the last name: Verlander.

Richard’s son Justin had made it to the big leagues.

The story of how Richard and his wife Kathy raised Justin through encouragement was the inspiration for the Verlanders’ book “Rocks Across the Pond,” a book about parents raising young athletes and supporting the dream of their children.

On Dec. 4 Richard and Kathy will visit the campus of Washtenaw Community College to sign copies of the book before speaking to attendees inside the Morris Lawrence building.

“After sharing our story about raising children, it really became more about life than so much about baseball or Justin,” Richard Verlander said in a telephone phone interview with The Voice. “It’s (the



MYPUBSITE.COM COURTESY PHOTO

book) really about parenting and some of the decisions and game-changing events we experienced that can be helpful to parents and young players.”

The Verlanders have been a whirlwind book tour in Michigan to promote the book over the last week. Richard said that getting out and speaking to groups about what they went through and how their experiences can help others.

Typically after the signings, the Verlanders speak to attendees and then open things up for a questions and answers session. Discussed are the struggles of helping Justin get to where he is today and how that helped Richard and Kathy with their younger son Ben, who plays college baseball at Old Dominion, the same college Justin attended.

“Both of our boys were late bloomers and if you looked at either of them

early on, even up through high school, Justin was always really good, but he was never what you would look at and say ‘this guy is going to be the next Major League pitcher,’” Richard said. “He had to really stay with it and really work.”

Richard said that keeping a positive attitude was a key for his family’s success and if others follow those sentiments, they too can be successful.

“We enforced the notion with our children that you don’t let anybody tell you that you can’t do anything,” Richard said. “At the end of the day, the message for kids is ‘don’t listen to negatives and naysayers because they will wear you out.’”

Richard and Kathy Verlander will be signing copies of their book on Tuesday Dec. 4 at the Morris Lawrence building starting at 7 p.m. Admission is free and doors open at 6 p.m.

Losing on Thanksgiving not the only tradition for Detroit Lions

BY MATT DURR
Sports Editor

Thanksgiving is the source of many traditions. Family gatherings around the dinner table where a freshly cooked turkey is surrounded by side dishes like grandma’s bean casserole. And for fans of the Detroit Lions, it’s a day when dinner is preceded by a football game featuring the Honolulu blue and silver.

It’s what we do – and we share it

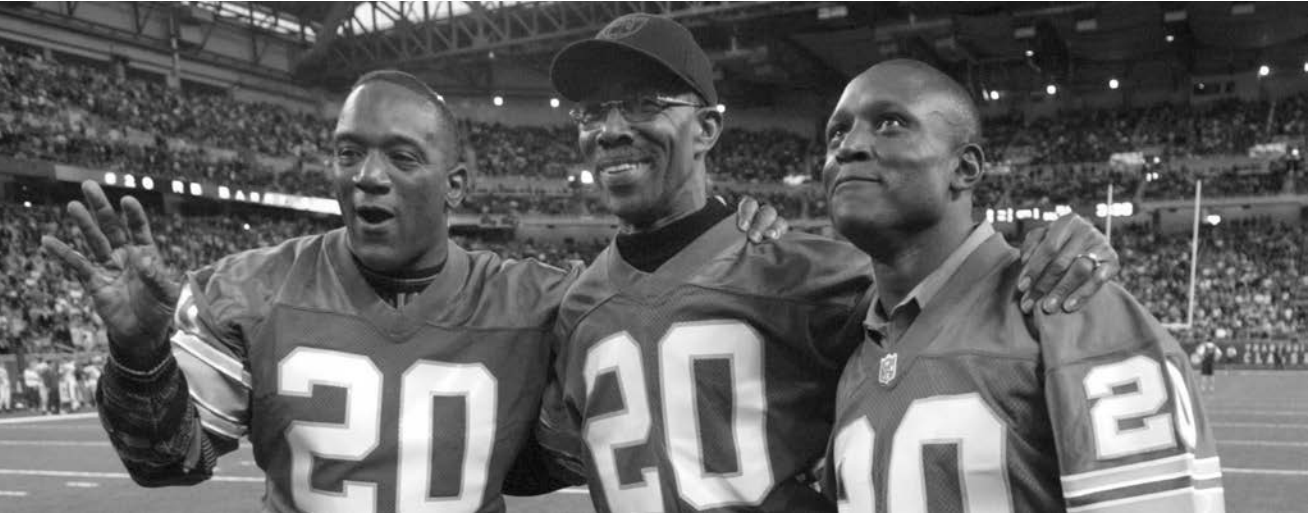
with the nation.

“We believe our Thanksgiving Day game is the oldest and greatest tradition in the NFL,” Lions Vice Chairman Bill Ford Jr. said in remarks from a Lions’ game release in 2010. “This is a tradition that was started by the fans in Detroit and belongs to the fans of Detroit.”

The Lions started playing on Thanksgiving Day in 1934, when

the team’s owner at the time, G.A. Richards, thought up the idea as a way to increase attendance. The idea has worked and 78 years later, the Thanksgiving Day game is still the most sought-after ticket each year.

While the Lions have not played on every Thanksgiving since 1934, they have played on Thanksgiving each year since 1945. The team’s all-time record on Thanksgiving is 33-35-2.



MCT COURTESY PHOTO

Former Detroit Lions, from left, Billy Sims, Lem Barney and Barry Sanders wear the retired jersey number 20 in a ceremony before a Thanksgiving Day game against Indianapolis in 2004.

INTERESTING THANKSGIVING DAY GAME FACTS:

1934 – The Lions play their first Thanksgiving Day game, losing to the Chicago Bears 19-16.

1956 – The first Thanksgiving game that was nationally televised, the Lions lost to the Green Bay Packers 24-20.

1974 – The Lions lost to Denver 31-27 in what was the last game the team played at Tiger Stadium.

1976 – O.J. Simpson runs for an NFL record 273 yards, but the Lions would prevail, beating the Buffalo Bills 27-14.

1989 – Barry Sanders runs for 145 yards in his first

Thanksgiving Day game as a Lion. Sanders and the Lions beat the Cleveland Browns 13-10 in the 50th Thanksgiving game played by the Lions.

1995 – Scott Mitchell set a team-record for passing yards in a game as he threw for 410 yards and four touchdowns in the Lions 44-38 win over the Minnesota Vikings. Herman Moore, Brett Perriman and Johnnie Morton each had more than 100 yards receiving in the game.

2003 – The last time the Lions won on Thanksgiving, beating the Packers 22-14. Dre Bly had two interceptions and forced a fumble.

Expectations highest in years as U-M basketball season tips off

BY MATT DURR
Sports Editor

Not since the 1996-97 season has the University of Michigan men’s basketball team entered the season ranked in the Associated Press top-10. But with reigning Big Ten Freshman of the Year Trey Burke returning, the Wolverines enter this season as the No. 5 team in the nation.

Not bad for a team that lost in the first round of the 2012 NCAA tournament.

“We haven’t spoken about it at all. We are very proud of our Big Ten championship. We know when you get into that the goal is to stay and win until you win it all,” head coach John Beilein said. “But based on our Big Ten championship we felt good about it.

“If we are blessed enough to get back there again, then we’ll talk more about that. But right now it has been more about just getting better and being champions again in everything.”

After weighing his options during

the offseason, Burke opted to return to Ann Arbor for his sophomore season and wait to declare his eligibility for the NBA draft.

Burke headlines a team that returns big man Jordan Morgan and Tim Hardaway Jr., alongside of highly-touted freshmen Mitch McGary and Glenn Robinson III.

While the Wolverines were ranked fifth, they were looking up in the rankings to Big Ten rivals Indiana (No.1) and Ohio State (No.4). Here is a breakdown of the players on this year’s team and the road ahead for Michigan:

GUARDS

Easily the strength of this year’s team, Burke and Hardaway Jr. comprise one of the nation’s top backcourt duos. As a freshman, Burke averaged 14.8 points and 4.5 assists a game, earning him Big Ten Freshman of the Year award. Hardaway was second on the team in scoring

averaging 14.6 points a game.

The two accounted for 44 percent of the team’s scoring last year, but if all goes according to plan, that won’t be the case this season.

Senior Matt Vogrich and freshman Spike Albrect are expected to contribute off the bench. Vogrich played in 34 games last season for the Wolverines.

FORWARDS/CENTER

While the spotlight will no doubt be on the development of McGary and Robinson III, junior Jordan Morgan’s development will be the most important part on the Wolverines frontcourt. Morgan continued to struggle with foul trouble last season and will need to be on the court to provide stability and leadership in the paint.

How much will McGary and Robinson III play? Beilein says finding that balance will be critical as the season progresses.

“That is the balancing act that I’ll really have to work at,” he said. “What’s important now, or what is important to their future or our future? And we are scrambling with that every day.

“That is a thing we have to do. It’s important, and that’s our job and I won’t be perfect at it but I’ll keep working at it to get them to accomplish both goals. No. 1 is for the team to win right now. But No. 2 is to develop them as much as they can for our team in the future and their future after this.”

Jon Horford and Blake McLimans are expected get playing time off the bench for the Wolverines.

LEADERSHIP

After losing seniors Zack Novak and Stu Douglass, Michigan must identify another on-court leader. The obvious choice would be Hardaway Jr. or Burke, but sometimes the not-so-obvious choice is the best. Look for a player like Vogrich to fill the role until a clear choice emerges.

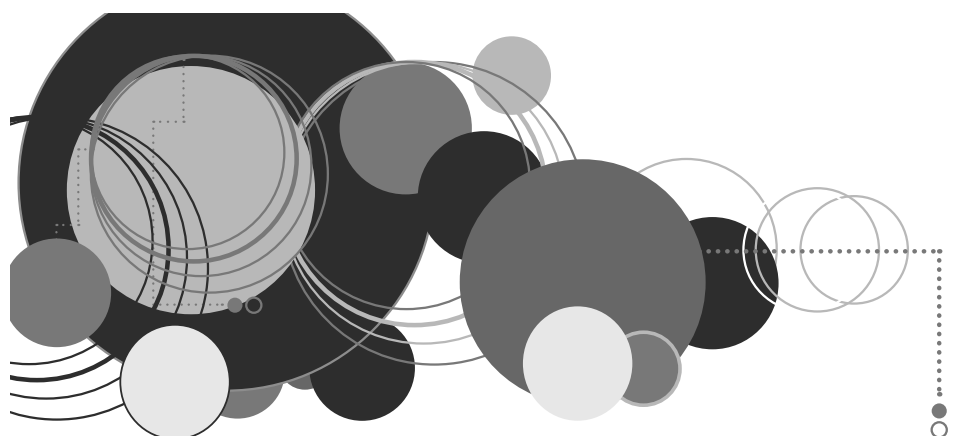
“We are going to really watch these first three weeks and see who the leaders are,” Beliein said. “I don’t think we are in that type of position to name that yet. The players will have a say, the coaches will have a say. We need to gain more information.”

SCHEDULE

Starting as the No. 5 team in the nation is nice, but with conference foes Ohio State, Indiana, Michigan State and Wisconsin all ranked in the top-25, it’s unlikely that the Wolverines will finish with a Top-5 record at the end of the season.

Luckily for Michigan, its non-conference schedule is light. The Wolverines should enter the Big Ten schedule with few, if any, blemishes on their record.

Once Big Ten play begins, expect Michigan to lose a handful of games. But being in the Big Ten will no doubt prepare the Wolverines for the NCAA tournament in March.



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Strongest man, woman emerge from tiny pool of arm-wrestlers

BY NATALIE WRIGHT
Contributor

Brian Steinberg was determined to prove his strength. So when his list of competitors in a recent Club Sports-sponsored intramural arm wrestling tournament was short of competitors (he was the only one who showed up), he went out to recruit more.

Steinberg and a few others prowled the Student Center in the hopes luring in more competitors. The bait: a free T-shirt.

When Bethany Garza expressed interest in competing on that late-October Wednesday evening, she was asked to fill out a waiver, a requirement to participate in any intramural event. This made her a little nervous.

"Is this dangerous? Could I get hurt?" asked the 21-year-old Ypsilanti resident. But, after some reassurance that the risks would be minimal, she too agreed to participate.

In all, nine contenders signed up for the tournament, six in the men's division and three in the women's. Before the tournament got under way, the competitors were given one rule: one hand must remain under the table at all times.

The men's bracket consisted of five matches ranging from 10 seconds to more than a minute. In each match, Steinberg's face grew increasingly red, but he finished the tournament undefeated.

"It feels great," to be named the strongest man at WCC, said

the 43-year-old video production major whose arm went temporarily immobile.

"My arm was still fatigued because of dodge ball," he said. "And five matches is a lot."

His dodge ball team, Rough Cuts, came in last in the intramural dodge ball tournament, but Steinberg was proud nonetheless. In fact, he said he owes his success in the arm-wrestling tournament to his training with Rough Cuts.

The women's champion, Ashley Martin, had a much shorter path to success. She only had two opponents to defeat. But the 21-year-old nursing student definitely proved her strength,

finishing both matches in less than 20 seconds.

She wasn't content just beating out her female adversaries, however. After she was declared champion of the women's bracket, she took on, and beat, some of the men just for fun.

"I don't arm-wrestle very often, but I can tell you she was very strong," Garza said of Martin.

Despite the slow start, Steinberg and the other participants were able to turn the tournament into a healthy competition and a lot of fun. In every match, the tension between the players' arms was broken with laughter as hands slammed on the table.



PRZEMEK OZOG THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Ashley Martin, 21, Nursing major from Saline, flexes after winning a T-shirt after an Arm Wrestling match during a tournament sponsored by WCC Intramural Sports.

Farm-fresh meals straight to the busy college student's table

BY ANNA ELIAS
Staff Writer

Harvest Kitchen is ready to serve the stressed-out and studying-for-some-midterms college student with local, organic fare. Now, home-cooked meals for the average college student are easily prepared with a couple pushes of a button on a microwave.

Mary Wessel-Walker, 28, is an Ann Arbor native and the creative mind behind the Depot Town prepared meal storefront, Harvest Kitchen.

Wessel-Walker started working for the Community Farm of Ann Arbor during one summer in college. She moved back to Ann Arbor after she graduated from Bryn Mawr with a bachelor's in philosophy and a minor in math and continued to work for the farm.

"College is kind of an all-around education. It's not just what happens in the classroom, but also the interactions around on campus," said Wessel-Walker. "I learned a lot from all the different things I did at college, which really is applicable to running a small business."

The move back home from Philadelphia was the right choice for Wessel-Walker. As she continued to work for the farm, she discussed ideas with other CFAA workers to find a way to market fresh vegetables to a broader group.

"It's kind of labor-intensive to cook with fresh vegetables," said Wessel-Walker.

She started making meals for the CFAA exclusively under the original name, Community Farm Kitchen. Over the years, the business developed relationships with new farms and complimented it with a brand new name, Harvest Kitchen.

Harvest Kitchen's goal is "to bridge that gap between farmer and the consumer." By providing predominantly locally sourced meals that are seasonal, healthy, organic and convenient, Wessel-Walker believes that goal has

been achieved.

"We provide business to farms, a couple of local places that might find business elsewhere, but we help them out quite a bit," said cook Ryan Glowacki, 31, of Ypsilanti. "Some of the farms are not big agricultural businesses and need a couple of companies like us."

The meals prepared at Harvest Kitchen use whole ingredients, believing that real dairy, meat, fruits, vegetables and other ingredients paired with exercise is the key to a healthy lifestyle.

Subscriptions are a main part to Harvest Kitchen. A subscription includes two main dishes, a soup, salad and a side each week. The subscriptions offer three, six or 12 meals per week. Subscriptions starts at \$35 per week for three meals, and subscribers have the opportunity to sign up for a six-month subscription at a reduced rate.

Although the business started with only vegetarian and vegan meals, omnivorous meals are now also available. For subscribers, vegan, gluten-free and other special dietary needs are guaranteed.

"It's very seldom that at least some of the food isn't vegan anyways," said Wessel-Walker. "For

Harvest Kitchen
32 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti
(734) 395-7782
harvest-kitchen.com
info@harvest-kitchen.com

people that walk in off of the street, we can't guarantee that we will have everything for a dietary restriction, but we usually have something."

Recently, Harvest Kitchen has added a back-to-school subscription, which lasts for 15 weeks and mimics the semester of local colleges and universities.

In addition to the soups, sides and entrees, Harvest Kitchen also provides breads, brownies, muffins and other baked goods, as well as Mary's Crunchy Granola.

Harvest Kitchen has added an online store where you can view the available foods and place an order to guarantee those items to be in stock without a subscription. Along with subscriptions, orders may be picked up in the store or delivered for a small fee.

You can find Harvest Kitchen at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market on Wednesdays and Sundays, as well as dropping by its storefront to pick up your favorite meals



ANNA ELIAS THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Mary Wessel-Walker shows off her enormous butternut squash and tomatoes purchased from Goetz Farm in Riga.

Sudoku

				4			6	
		5			8	4	3	
		8	6		1	5		7
				3				4
	3	1			6			
4	9	2		7				
	2		9	5				1
9								2
8		7		1				

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Cryptoquote

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A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stnads for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letter, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each issue the code letters are different.

I P M I H G H E C Q M

C O Q C H E A M O N Q M

I P M E C L F M Q , I P M

Z N S C Q E R D S P H R M H L

E C L F M Q , C L E I P M

Z N K Q C F M N K W C O I M Q

E C L F M Q .

— J e a n P a u l R i c h t e r

Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							19			
20						21			22					
			23		24	25			26					
27	28	29				30	31							
32				33						34		35	36	37
38			39		40				41		42			
43				44		45				46		47		
			48		49						50			
51	52	53						54						
55						56	57			58		59	60	61
62					63			64	65					
66					67						68			
69					70						71			

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Across

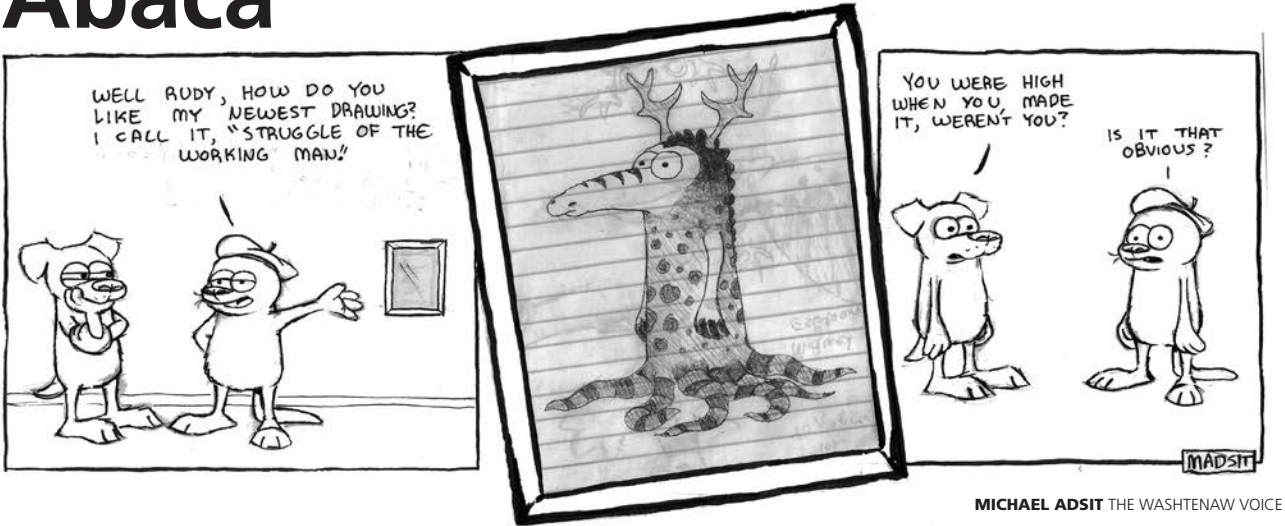
1. Donegal Bay feeder
5. Nuclear weapon, in old headlines
10. Football Hall of Famer Dickerson
14. Heliport site, often
15. — Lama
16. Himalayan priest
17. Hunch
19. ‘Thirteen’ actress — Rachel Wood
20. “Now you —, now...”
21. Older society women
23. Pacific Island “Where America’s Day Begins”
26. Cry of triumph
27. “Sea Hunt” star
32. Suffix with meteor
33. Alice’s cake instruction
34. Feminine suffixes
38. Clumsy one
40. Alex Haley work
42. Third son of Adam and Eve
43. Ancient region with an architectural style named after it
45. Have — to the ground
47. Narrow river inlet
48. American skier: 1945-76
51. Missing link
54. Late ruler Mobotu — Seko
55. Thus designated
58. Vex incessantly
62. Sly maneuver
63. Opposite of nearby
66. Walking stick
67. Lottery winner’s yell
68. Sockdolager
69. Yankee slugger who just broke the A.L. record for most homers in Apr.
70. Soaked
71. Former, formerlyDown

Down

1. Metric work units
2. Casanova type
3. Do, re or mi, e.g.
4. Image that may be burned
5. Suffix with Gator
6. Account amt.
7. Rank
8. Horse racing’s — War
9. Hotshot
10. Writers of poetic laments
11. Spoke wildly
12. — ware (Japanese porcelain)
13. “Thou — not then be false to any man”: “Hamlet”
18. Chopin specialty
22. ‘Zip-—-Doo-Dah’
24. “Two guys walk into —.”
25. “The Wind in the Willows” amphibian
27. Centers
28. “— & Stitch”: 2002 film
29. Do too much of

30. “Put me in that category”
31. Tries to prevent
35. “Bond girl” Hatcher
36. Suffix with diet
37. Onetime Iranian chief
39. Frightened
41. Manuscript enc.
44. “Be —!” (“Help me out!”)
46. Demolishes
49. Marital relations
50. John, Paul, George or Ringo
51. Watchdog watchdog gp.
52. Like Peary’s explorations
53. Commercial prefix with Lodge
56. Sound in a cave
57. Eye medication dose
59. Guided excursion
60. Leatherworkers’ tools
61. Carpenter’s metal piece
64. Alley— (basketball maneuver)
65. James Bond, for one

Abaca



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Answers

The timid are afraid before the danger, the cowardly while in danger, and the courageous after danger.
—Jean Paul Richter

8	5	7	3	1	2	2	9	4	6
9	1	4	8	6	7	3	5	2	2
6	2	2	3	9	5	5	7	1	
4	6	2	2	1	7	5	4	8	3
7	3	1	4	8	6	9	2	2	5
5	8	6	2	3	9	7	1	4	
3	4	8	6	9	1	5	2	7	
1	6	5	7	2	8	4	3	9	
2	7	9	5	4	3	1	6	8	

SUDOKU

S	H	E	A	P	O	S	O	D	V	R	E								
U	T	L	U	P	O	O	H	W	A	N	E								
N	M	O	S	S	O	O	H	W	A	N	E								
E	A	V	A	L	L	E	D	E	V	A	L								
S	E	S	E																
V	P	E	M	A	N	E	S												
H	O	I	A	V	A	S													
V	I	A	V	A	S														
C	L	O	D	H	A	S													
C	L	O	D	H	A	S													
L	I	D	E	A	B	A													
L	I	D	E	A	B	A													
G	U	A	V	A	S														
S	E	E	I	T	D	O													
G	U	E	F	E	L	L													
R	O	O	F	L	A	L													
E	R	N	E																

CROSSWORD

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Students and WCC employees: Classified ads in *The Voice* are free.

Local business owners: Looking for help? Post your free help wanted ads in *The Voice*.

Send ads to thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

Note: Deadline for the Dec. 3 issue is Nov. 27 at 5 p.m.

SERVICES

Need Health Care? Are you between the ages of 12-22? Contact the Corner Health Center at (734) 484.3600 or visit online at: www.cornerhealth.org

Below is a sample of recent employment want ads that have been posted with WCC’s Career Services. Students are invited to read these ads and to contact the employers as indicated, or to stop by Career Services, located in ML 104, to review the complete posting.

Customer Service Representative: Need friendly individual with strong communication, customer service and computer skills to work in the front office of a busy collision repair center. Duties include greeting customers and visitors, obtaining information from customers, using computers to enter, access and retrieve data, scheduling appointments, verifying deductible with insurance company, collecting payment and answering multi-line phones.

Programmer/Machinist: At least three years machining experience to operate and maintain CNC mills and lathes. Additional responsibilities include programming machine, ordering tools, inspecting production parts for conformity to tolerances/ repeatability, performing S.P.C. process, performing normal machine maintenance. Knowledge of Fanuc controls, as well as basic knowledge of GD & T, trigonometry, and G & M codes is required. This is a second shift position, with training on first shift for a few weeks

Cook: Full-time dinner line cook. Two years cooking experience, preferably high volume. Some of the duties would include preparing and arranging food that is appetizing and attractive to guests, meeting service quality standards that affect guest satisfaction, receiving few complaints about food served, and maintaining work areas.

Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant: As a member of an interdisciplinary care team, assists with appropriate therapeutic intervention under the direction of a registered/licensed occupational therapist to maximize the client’s cognitive, sensory, physical functioning and level of independence. Active participation is required in discipline in-services and educational programs. Provides quality client care considering age-specific, developmental, and cultural needs through competent practice. Demonstration of designated competencies is required.

Child Care Assistant: Assist teacher in preschool activities including art, music, story time; also assist in feeding and caring for infants and toddlers.

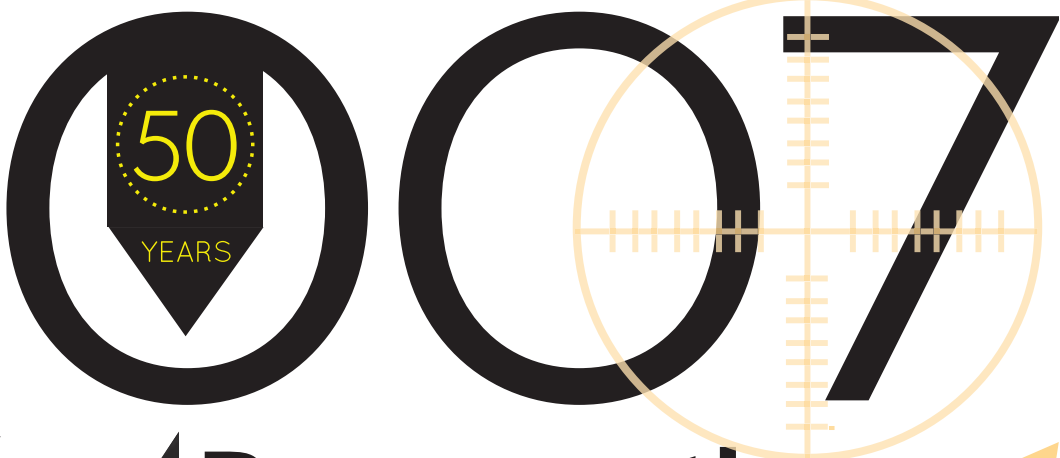
Helpdesk Representative: Provide advice and support to users, undertaking a technical

troubleshooting role. Support users within a particular area and aims to maintain an environment that enables them to perform their own role efficiently. React to reported problems in a manner that keeps disruption to a minimum, ensuring the user is kept up to date as to the status of any problems they have. Work on assignments that are semi-routine in nature where ability to recognize deviation from accepted practices is required. Ensure faults are identified and repaired in accordance with all relevant health and safety regulations. Ensure repaired equipment is tested and performs to an agreed standard. Provide first-level support for all systems and ensure appropriate escalation to specialist teams.

Delivery Expert: Seeking experienced, safe drivers who have an outgoing personality and are proven team players. Your driving record must not have any serious violations,

or more than two moving violations in two years or three in three years.

Java Developer: Development of software applications using Java and in Java environment. Creates user information solutions by developing, implementing, and maintaining Java-based components and interfaces. Define site objectives by analyzing user requirements, envisioning system features and functionality. Design and develop interfaces to Internet/Intranet applications by setting expectations and features priorities throughout development life cycle, determining design methodologies and tool sets, completing programming using languages and software products. Integrate application by designing database architecture and server scripting, studying and establishing connectivity with network systems, search engines and information servers.



Resurrecting London’s finest

Celebrating 50 years on film, Hollywood’s favorite secret agent offers renewed conviction in ‘Skyfall’

BY BEN SOLIS
Contributing Editor

After half a lifetime, James Bond is a bloated, poorly aging character reminiscent of Hollywood’s glory days – a period when men were men, and you knew it without asking.

Time, after all, does not guarantee catharsis or good tidings. The only thing getting older can offer with certainty is pain, suffering, betrayal and death. For long-time fans of England’s greatest super-spy, nouns and verbs so explicitly bleak have almost no cultural association to their beloved Bond-films.

Yet to explain the demons Bond comes to grips with in the fascinating “Skyfall,” terms such as these are all one can muster to do it justice.

Compared to its counterparts, “Skyfall” is an engaging, albeit depressing, take on the legendary man of action.

Fifty years ago, the venerable Sean Connery brought worldwide audiences a man of few smooth words and dynamic wit; who could without fail acquire information from any man or any woman with whatever means available. And when female characters were

involved, spies or civilians alike, we mean by *any means available*.

It was glossy, thrilling and expressively sexual without seeming too risqué or snobbishly intellectual. Vicariously, every man from 1962 and onward wanted to be the insatiable Bond, with his cars, guns, girls and gadgets. It didn’t matter who your favorite actor was or who had the most success with the ladies – Roger Moore still leads the pack with 19 encounters, by the way – it was all part of the grand cinematic experience of the modern spy film.

At its core, most viewers often overlooked the true character of the man they had been celebrating with such bombast: an emotionally vacant, womanizing alcoholic who gets paid to kill men in crisp linen suits at the drop of a hat, all for queen and country, of course.

Even if the joke has become less and less relatable, these failings never mattered in the long run.

With every reinvention, no director or film (short of “Goldeneye”) has ever challenged audiences by delving deep into this grey-haired and beleaguered psyche, until “Skyfall.”

Focusing on his less admirable qualities, such as his drinking habits, obstructive altruism and

overwhelming uncertainty in his own abilities, 2012 has brought us a better brand of Bond. Every embattled moment our hero faces is another sinkhole into the brooding rot he has managed to hide for all of his 50 years. And with a villain so exhaustingly uncomfortable as Javier Bardem’s Silva, the overcast sky is made that much more horrifying.

If you are afraid that this dark representation is too much to handle, keep calm; each aspect of this film is a proverbial Bond time machine, ripe with exotic locales, interactive scenery, fast cars and even faster romances. It is as much a visual feast and a film junkie’s fantasy as it is a knock-down, drag-out slugfest – all thanks to the fine work of director Sam Mendes.

Resurrecting an icon and staying true to his fan base is never an easy task, but somehow “Skyfall” makes it look easy. When chaos, panic, and disorder are the problems of our times compounded, the old ways work better than the new.

Sometimes it takes a household name to fix them.

Score: A
Rating: PG-13
Genre: Action
Runtime: 143 minutes



GEORGE O'DONOVAN CONTRIBUTING ILLUSTRATOR
MGM STUDIOS COURTESY PHOTO



FILMOFILIA.COM COURTESY PHOTO

‘Red Dawn’ lacks heart of original

BY NATHAN CLARK
Managing Editor

Seeing as Hollywood ran out of interesting movie ideas years ago, it’s no surprise that the powers that be there would once again try to grab hold of the coattails of an old movie classic – and run it in to the dirt.

Hitting the big screen this Thanksgiving holiday is “Red Dawn,” a remake of the 1980s Cold War classic by the same name.

The film stars Chris Hemsworth and Josh Peck as brothers Jed and Matt Eckert, living a normal, simple life in Spokane, Wash., until America is invaded by North Korean forces. Like the original film, the brothers and a handful of other terrified high school students escape into the woods and start a guerilla war against the occupying invaders.

The original “Red Dawn,” starring a young Patrick Swayze and Charlie Sheen, was an obvious Cold War propaganda film much like “Rocky IV” and the James Bond film “The Living Daylights.” It was simple and thought-provoking: a way of riling up a little patriotism. The remake is anything but that.

The new version may be filled with lots of special effects and fiery explosions, but it lacks every emotion and thought the original had that made it a must-see.

Perhaps it’s because hardly any American could take the idea of a massive North Korean invasion of the West Coast seriously that this movie feels empty. The film was originally planned to be an invasion from China, but due to some real concerns for how that would be perceived by the Chinese, it was changed to North Korea.

In the original, both sides of the war were shown: the kids’ fear



COLLIDER.COM COURTESY PHOTO

Grade: C-
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Action
Runtime: 93 minutes

while fighting in almost impossible conditions and the Soviet invaders’ human side as they questioned why they are fighting the Americans.

Additionally, the remake has a nasty habit throughout the film of underplaying the terror of fighting for loved ones, making inappropriate jokes and using cliché one-liners far too frequently.

The only great thing involving this movie is where it was filmed: Michigan. At least scenes in the woods and small town were nice to look at, knowing the Michigan economy got a little better for a few months during its filming.

“Red Dawn” is not necessarily a bad movie; it still has enough action to please the average moviegoer. But why bother paying theater prices to see it when a much better version is already available: the original.

‘Halo 4’: new developer, new twists to a great new game

BY KELLY BRACHA
Staff Writer

Fans of the *Halo* franchise have been engrossed in the series since the release of “Halo: Combat Evolved” in 2001. “Halo 4” marks the rebirth of Microsoft’s blockbuster franchise, and damn, it looks good.

It’s the first game not developed by the franchise creator Bungie, but 343 Industries has managed to maintain the feel and the gripping gameplay the original games had.

At the end of “Halo 3,” Master Chief and his A.I. confidant Cortana are essentially left floating through space aboard the derelict UNSC (United Nations Space Command) frigate.

Halo 4 picks up right where “3” left off. Chief and Cortana find themselves on Requiem, an artificial planet created by an ancient alien race – the Forerunners. They quickly find the Covenant and a new enemy awaiting them – the Forerunners themselves.

The return of the Forerunners marks a pivotal moment in the series, as they were long thought to be extinct. They have played a huge role within the *Halo* universe, as they are the ones responsible for building the Halos throughout the galaxy.

Along with playing a central role in the *Halo* storyline, they are a hugely welcomed part of the game and series. After fighting the Covenant and Flood enemies repeatedly, the Forerunners are a whole different creature.

Dog-like crawlers, armored teleporting knights and small, flying units are just a few of the new enemies players will face. With the Forerunners

in play, their technologies and weapons come in as well.

While all the new guns fit into the standard archetypes: sniper rifle, rocket launcher, shotgun, and battle rifle. They’re different enough that players will want to use them instead of the old familiar weapons.

“Halo 4” has two campaign modes. The first is a standard story-driven campaign, running like an adventurous movie. The second, called Spartan Ops, features a squad of UNSC Spartans who arrive on Requiem, and missions play out as 20-minute combat challenges with objectives ending at an extraction point.

The competitive multiplayer aspect of “Halo 4” has the classic game modes like Slayer, Capture the Flag and Oddball, but also features Infection mode with an update that has players become the Flood, a sort of “zombies mode” for *Halo*.

Basic gameplay in multiplayer has the core mechanics from the original Halo games, but it has borrowed elements from “Call of Duty,” such as sprint and load-out customization, but the party system is overly complex and inefficient. There is currently no competitive ranking system in place, which was been a staple in previous *Halo* games.

The visuals are undeniably gorgeous. Requiem has every type of environment imaginable and they all are shown in such great detail, even with the console’s dated graphics capabilities.

Although 343 Industries has left a majority of Bungie’s *Halo* untouched, with a new developer comes a new direction.

Grade: B+
Format: Xbox 360
Developer: 343 Industries
Publisher: Microsoft
Genre: First-person shooter



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