

# The Washtenaw Voice

December 17, 2012

WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

washtenawvoice.com

## EMU student found dead

By ANNA ELIAS  
Staff Writer

Eastern Michigan University student Julia Catherine Niswender, 23, was found dead in her off-campus apartment and the Ypsilanti Police Department was investigating the death as a homicide.

A call was made to the Ypsilanti Police for a welfare check on Niswender last Tuesday at about 9:30 p.m. when her suitemate worried that she hadn't seen her for a couple of days, according to EMU President Susan Martin.

Police arrived at Peninsular Place Apartments and upon entrance to the suite found the student dead, EMU Chief of Police Bob Hieghes said during the forum held at EMU the next day.

"As the president, I want to reaffirm our strong commitment to safety on this campus," Martin said at the forum.

Approximately 200 people were in attendance at the forum, including about 20 members of the press. Vice President of Communications William Kraft opened the forum followed by statements from Martin, Hieghes and Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Lisa Lauterbach.

"We have enhanced our Department of Public Safety team with additional officers, a crime response unit, dispatchers, hundreds of cameras, our rave alert system, mass initiation system, our new Department of Public Safety facility, and as a result, our campus is safer than ever," said Martin.

EMU  
CONTINUED A3

## New CFO expected by end of January

Bellanca 'surprised, disappointed' by Hardy's resignation

By ADRIAN HEDDEN  
Editor

Washtenaw Community College officials are taking "aggressive" means in replacing former Vice President of Administration and Finance Steven Hardy, who resigned suddenly in November, according to President Rose Bellanca.

She's hoping a new VP will be on board before the end of January, she said in an interview last week.

"I was very disappointed, but I understand," she said of Hardy's sudden departure. "He was really a good guy. I relied on him a lot for advice."

Bellanca said she expected to form an interview committee, but was unsure of exactly when

CFO  
CONTINUED A6

## A 'cowardly' vote



COURTESY PHOTO MCT

Sue Jantschak, a union carpenter, from Milan chants as the protest against right-to-work legislation continues outside the Capitol in Lansing last Tuesday.

### WCC union hopes to trump new legislation at bargaining table

By ADRIAN HEDDEN  
Editor

As an activist tent was torn to the ground by enraged opponents amid 15,000 protesters at the steps of Michigan's capitol building, Dave Mackres bore witness to the outrage generated by Michigan's right-to-work laws.

"People were in each other's faces," Mackres said of the protest. "And there was a lot of chanting. People

were really quite angry."

An adjunct anthropology professor at Washtenaw Community College, Mackres joined the protest in Lansing last week as state legislators voted to approve a bill he said was an affront to the middle class.

"It's just a way to divide and conquer labor from being unified," Mackres said. "It's a way of undermining the middle class. This is representative of a race to the bottom."

"The people who are ticked off are the adjunct."

With concerns growing among the rank and file at WCC over right-to-work bills passing into state legislation on Dec. 12, doing away with required union dues as a condition of

employment, Jen Baker, president of Washtenaw Community College's teacher's union, is optimistic that efforts are already under way to abolish the law.

"I am advocating for a full repeal of this," Baker said. "It seems to me to be one of the most divisive issues that we've had in Michigan. A lot of people are reeling about it."

According to Baker, a three-year, full-time faculty contract was recently ratified and she doesn't expect the law to affect full-time teachers until 2015.

Part-time and adjunct instructors, Baker said, are another story. Up for renegotiations later this year, Baker hopes that part-time contracts can

be negotiated early, before the law takes effect in 90 days after it's passed.

She fears that the part-timers will suffer from a lack of representation during negotiations.

But Baker's main resentment for the bill was the process that put it onto the governor's desk. She asserts that no conversation was brought to the floor before the bill went to a vote – an occurrence she said was the result of a partisan legislature lacking open discourse.

"This is a Republican agenda," Baker said. "It all seems obvious, but it does not excuse the lack of process. The most disturbing aspect was the lack of time to have a fair discussion. Without a more democratic process,

RIGHT TO WORK  
CONTINUED A3

## Trustees angry over Fitness Center fees

By BEN SOLIS  
Contributing Editor

In a rare, lively discussion on proposed hikes in membership fees,

Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees Chair Pamela Horiszny reproached the Health and Fitness Center's Greg Hanby for excessively high student rates.

"Students are paying more than both our staff and students who are receiving college credit," Horiszny said sternly as she chided Hanby, operations director for the HFC, at

the Dec. 11 meeting. "I want to see this lowered below \$40."

Debate on amending the regular student rate of \$45 per month began after a presentation by Hanby on the

FITNESS  
CONTINUED A5

### Students: Textbooks a rip-off



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A collection of the required reading materials for ENG 242.

By SARA BORG  
Contributor

Rachel Feeny was not amused when she paid \$200 for textbooks she wound up using twice the entire semester.

"We barely even used the books... I didn't get my money's worth," said Feeny, 18, a secondary education major from Ann Arbor. "I could have bought some new clothes or at least something of value, not books I didn't

TEXTBOOKS  
CONTINUED A6

## Campus abuzz with energy-enhanced drinks

5-hour Energy gives free samples during hectic finals week

By ANNA ELIAS  
Staff Writer

Washtenaw alum Jared Angle knows all too well what a "hell of a drug" an energy drink can be.

Angle started drinking Monster Energy when he was 16. He said his friends were drinking them, which sparked his interest. With a candy-like flavor and ample amount of caffeine, the drinks were something they enjoyed drinking while playing video games.

"It got to the point where I'm going to school at eight in the morning back in high school, so I'll stop by the store first and grab one, and

then another at lunch and another after school gets out. Maybe even one more before going to bed after getting home," Angle said.

Energy drinks became an addiction for Angle. When he started having chest pain, stomach aches and cramping, he equated the side effects to their excessive use.

"It was literally like two to three (Monster Energys) per day during the week over the last two years," Angle said. "I think it's down to like one every other day now."

During finals week at Washtenaw Community College, students were taking refuge in 1.9-ounce bottles filled with a similar "energy blend." Some said that 5-hour Energy helps them to "just go" – go on for hours on end with little to no sleep.

5-hour Energy representatives visited WCC on Dec. 11 to give

ENERGY  
CONTINUED A6





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## A Snapshot of Upcoming Winter Events UPCOMING EVENTS

**Winter Welcome Day**  
Wednesday, January 23, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Food! Fun! Freebies!  
SC 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Learn about clubs and WCC departments while picking up freebies!

**Ticket: The Lion King**  
at the Detroit Opera House  
Thursday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.  
\$20/ticket! (\$64 seat section)  
Tickets on sale soon!

**Ticket: Yo-Yo Ma**  
Saturday, March 16, 8:00 p.m.  
Hill Auditorium  
World-famous violinist  
[www.ums.org](http://www.ums.org)

**Talent Show Auditions**  
Thursday, March 14, 5-9 p.m.  
Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building  
Show us your skills! Sign-up here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/wccwintertalentshow>

**Kodo Drummers**  
Friday, February 15, 8 p.m.  
Hill Auditorium  
[www.ums.org](http://www.ums.org)

**Blood Drive: YOU are somebody's type!**  
April 10 and 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
SC Community Room

Look for more awesome events at:  
[www.tinyw.cc/sda](http://www.tinyw.cc/sda)

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

## UPCOMING SPORTS

**Ice Hockey Tryouts (Coed)**  
Monday, January 7 and 21 at 7 p.m.  
Held at Veteran's Ice Arena  
Must bring your WCC ID  
The team will practice on Mondays and Thursdays and games will be held on Sundays and Wednesdays

**Women's basketball Tryouts**  
Tuesday, January 15, 9:30-11:00 p.m.  
WCC Health and Fitness Center  
Must bring WCC ID  
Practices held on Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m.  
Games held on Thursdays (7 p.m. or later)

**Men's Basketball Tryouts**  
Wednesday, January 16 & 23, 9:30-11:00 p.m.  
WCC Health and Fitness Center  
Must bring WCC ID  
Practices held Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m.  
Games will be held on Mondays (7 p.m. or later)

**Wrestling Tryouts**  
Tuesday, January 22 & Thursday, January 24, 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Practices will be held in ML Police Academy Training Room  
Must bring WCC ID  
Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. and matches will be held on the weekends.

**Coed Running**  
Begins Monday, January 28 at 4 p.m.  
Practices held on Mondays and Thursdays at 4 p.m.  
Teams should meet at the Sports Club Office (SC 116)  
Races will be held on the weekends for those who are interested

**Intramural Tennis**  
Registration: January 14-25 in SC 116  
League Period: February 4-February 28 (Mondays or Thursdays )  
9:00-10:00 p.m. at Chippewa Tennis Center  
Leagues are coed and will be held on Mondays and Thursdays

**Community Room Tournaments: Table Tennis, Air Hockey, Foosball, Pool**  
January 14-17, and January 28-31, 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
February 4-7, February 11-14 6:00-7:00 p.m.



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# Community non-profit helps save homes for the holidays

By MICHAEL J HLYWA  
Staff Writer

Laura Smith, a 31-year-old wife and mother of two, narrowly avoided homelessness this holiday season thanks to assistance from SOS Community Services.

A couple of months ago, an unemployed Smith and her family were facing eviction from their Ypsilanti apartment for non-payment of rent. Smith's husband had lost a few weeks of income between the end of his seasonal job and the start of his current job. That brief lack of work was devastating to a family that was already living paycheck to paycheck.

Smith and her husband did everything they could to stay afloat during that time.

"When I made dinner, I would just play like, 'I'm not really that hungry; y'all go ahead and eat,' in order to have enough for my kids and everybody would be full," Smith said.

It wasn't enough, though, and they quickly fell behind on their bills. It didn't take long before late fees and penalties made their obligation insurmountable.

"I felt fear," Smith said, "because we had (lost our house) before and just to hear the words 'possible eviction' (made us anxious). We kept thinking 'Oh my God, this might happen again and we still don't have a car.' (Before,) we had no car for me to take my kids away from that situation. How do you shield them from something (like that)?"

Seeing no way to dig her family out of this hole, Smith went to the Department of Human Services for assistance. DHS, in turn, sent her to SOS, a charitable organization serving the disadvantaged in Washtenaw County.

SOS was originally founded in 1970 at Eastern Michigan University as a student-run crisis hotline. It quickly expanded to an off-site location to focus on crisis counseling and, eventually, on homeless services and prevention.

Now, SOS provides emergency food, counseling, employment services and children's programs out of an old two-story grey house near Depot Town. It serves anyone in the county who needs help.

On Tuesdays, SOS opens its food pantry. Those in need walk in and receive personal care items and

enough food to feed their household for a day, but not before meeting with a counselor to discuss why help is needed.



Laura Smith, 31, Ypsilanti, unemployed

"We don't just want to put a Band-Aid over (people's problems)," said Cheryl Majeske, SOS's Volunteer Recruitment Specialist. "We want to stop what's going on. It may be something as simple as 'I lost my job and I'm just a little short on cash this month for food' to something as serious as domestic violence, and we need to figure out how to stop that from happening."

SOS served about 7,000 people last year in its food pantry alone. Most of that food comes from partnerships with other organizations like Food Gatherers. All the personal care items, however, come from donations, and if no one donates then SOS has nothing to give.

"There are times when we have to say, 'Sorry, we don't have toilet paper this week,' which is very devastating," Majeske said.

The people who use SOS's services aren't strangers either. Unlike those served by national charities, all of SOS's clients are people living right around WCC who are struggling to make ends meet in today's rough economy.

"It's right in your back yard," Majeske said. "It's your grandma, it's your mom and dad who are retired and aren't necessarily getting all the money they need, it's families, with kids, who got laid off. The need is just so big right now that anything helps."

So how can students help?

Students have always played a crucial role in the work that SOS does. They organize personal care drives, run social media awareness campaigns, tutor kids in the children's programs or simply show up to help unload the food truck. In fact, SOS could not function without the help of volunteers.

But the volunteers get something out of it too.

"(Students) get the reward of knowing that they're helping others. They also really figure out what they want to do with their future," Majeske said. "We have a lot of students who come in to do tutoring because they want to be teachers. Then they turn around and, before you know it, they're sitting here being a counselor because then they decide they want to go into social work."

"It also looks really good on their resume," she added. "It really gives them a feel for what their future is going to be like. So, they're helping people right in their back yard, and at the same time they're helping their futures. So it's kind of a win-win."

It certainly was a win for Smith.

SOS was able to use some of its donation money to pay a large part of Smith's balance, which prevented her eviction. Smith is grateful that there are generous people out there willing to donate their time and money.

"Everything counts," she said. "Every way that a person can see fit to help, it truly counts because the truth is this: everybody is not scamming the system. There are honest people that are in a bad situation – and truly have no desire to stay in that situation – that want to get better – for themselves, their children, their family."

Now Smith and her husband are able to breathe a little easier knowing that they have the time they need to get back on track. They aren't entirely in the clear yet, but at least their daughters have a home for the holidays.

For information on volunteer or donation opportunities call, email or visit:

SOS Community Services  
101 S. Huron Street  
Ypsilanti, 48197  
(734) 485-8730  
volunteer@soscs.org

# A year of reflection

The Top-10 news stories of an eventful 2012

By NATHAN CLARK  
Managing Editor

From surprise resignations to criminal sentencings, from emotional campaigning in local and national elections to the openings of a parking structure and a new office to serve local heroes, 2012 was a year packed with big news stories.

Here are some of our top stories of the year:

### 1. CFO Hardy resigns

After 11 years with the college, Vice President of Administration and Finance Steven Hardy resigned, leaving a big position for President Rose Bellanca to fill. Hardy presided over an annual budget approaching \$100 million.

### 2. Cole Jordan sentenced

Former WCC counselor Cole Jordan, known to authorities as Ronald Bridgeforth, surrendered himself in 2011 for a crime he committed 40 years ago. After considering his years spent being a productive member of society, including more than 30 years at WCC, the judge sentenced Jordan to one year in a California jail.

### 3. Trustee hopeful banned

Board of Trustees hopeful William Figg was banned from campus after retiring because of a harassment complaint, according to documents provided by the college. Figg was in the running for position of trustee during the November general election.

### 4. On target for racial tension?

A photo in the gun range on WCC raised concerns when students and staff noticed that all the targets being shot at were photos of an armed African-American. Readers voiced their concerns, saying the situation cast the college in a poor light.

### 5. Park the whining

Remember how bad parking was? Well WCC finally built a four-story parking structure with more than 544 parking spaces. Since its opening last January, no one has complained about parking on campus anymore, right?

### 6. WCC receives \$2.9 million grant from Department of Labor

Washtenaw was awarded a grant from the Department of Labor to further the education of the people at the college. The school has been using the funding to create and enhance technology driven classes that teach skills employers are actively seeking.

### 7. Cyclone of chaos

When a tornado tore through Dexter in March, one brave Washtenaw student rushed to aid his girlfriend who was in the twister's path. His car was crushed by a fallen tree. Meanwhile, students on campus were put on chaotic lockdown and flaws in the WCC alert system were exposed. The alert and emergency notification systems have been streamlined and improved.

### 8. Veterans Center opens

Support for veterans at WCC was almost non-existent prior to this year. In an effort to be more veteran friendly, the school brought in representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs, hired a counselor to advise those who served and opened up a Veterans Center in the Student Center during its Veterans Day ceremonies.

### 9. Divided we stand: Election 2012

The day before the presidential election, many voters were still unsure on whom they wanted to vote for. With each side of the political spectrum smearing the opposing side on hot-button issues, the unbiased truth about what each candidate supports was becoming harder to find.

### 10. Michigan gets presidential

President Barack Obama's visit to the University of Michigan was a high note for his supporters, and opponents, within the politically savvy city of Ann Arbor. Crowds gathered en masse outside of the Al Glick Field House in the early morning to get first-come, first-served access into the event which focused on the state of higher education. Roads were closed, state and local police hunkered down for security and a small band of protestors added palpable excitement to the political occasion.



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Anna Elias, 25, a nursing student from Ann Arbor, registers students for the Gift of Life Foundation's bone marrow registry on its first day in the Student Center last Wednesday. Thirty-five students signed up on the first day, nine on the second.



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Congressman John Dingell, right, shakes hands with Jay Williams, executive director of the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Recovery of Auto Communities and Workers at the grant announcement.

## RIGHT TO WORK CONTINUED FROM A1

it's just not right. It wasn't a fair fight."

Proponents hope that the bills will allow Michigan to compete with Indiana and other states for businesses looking to relocate to right-to-work agreements. According to State Representative David Rutledge, who attended the protest, Indiana provides lower wages and fewer benefits for its workers.

"Why should we be competing with a state (Indiana) with a lower worker salary range, less worker benefits and lower wages?" Rutledge asked. "If everyone sticks just together, they will have quality pay."

"There are still some right-to-work states where the unions are still strong."

Rutledge, a former WCC trustee,

was outraged when the doors to the capital building were locked during the demonstration. Democratic representatives had to contact their attorney's to file injunctions forcing the doors open, he said.

Rutledge called the law a "tremendous overreach by legislators. Democrats across the state will be holding people accountable for this flawed, deceitful process."

Rutledge argued that supporters ignored regulations for a committee discussion when moving the right-to-work bills through the legislative process, and that the ideology itself is damaging to middle-class values.

"This was a sad day," Rutledge said.

"They (supporters) portrayed it as freedom of choice. I categorize it as

freedom to not pay your fair share. It was a cowardly vote. There was no transparency in the way this made it to the floor."

"Where is the courage in not following the rules?"

Rutledge added he was confident that WCC's labor units will continue to thrive, enjoying positive relationships between administrators and employees.

"WCC stands in my mind as a shining example of positive employee-administrator relations," he said. "At WCC, the union is committed to its service, to its students. When you have that ingredient, you have employee harmony."

"I hope this legislation does not curtail that good relationship."

## EMU CONTINUED FROM A1

"Our goal as a campus is to value safety and to make this a wonderful living and learning environment for you," she added. "And our goal is to always accurately communicate to you what we know and what we don't know and to do that in a timely and effective manner."

The first campus-wide email was sent out by Eastern's DPS at 1:42 a.m. on Wednesday to inform students, staff and faculty of the investigation of a student's death off-campus. This has been followed by several updates from Kraft, Executive Director of Media Relations Geoff Larcom, and Martin.

Eastern's DPS is working closely with the Ypsilanti Police throughout the investigation. EMU DPS and

Michigan State Police are offering additional personnel and resources to the investigation efforts.

There was no outward trauma found to the body, however foul play is still suspected. This death will be investigated as a homicide until proven otherwise, according to a Dec. 13 news release update from the Ypsilanti Police. No suspects have been determined, Kraft said.

Anyone who can provide tips or information regarding the death can contact Det. Sgt. Tom Eberts at (734) 482-9878 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-SPEAKUP (773-2587). Additional updates can be found on EMU's investigation website at <http://emich.edu/investigation>.



EDITORIAL

# Dedication, loyalty highlight Hardy’s tenure

After more than 11 years of redoubtable service, Vice President of Administration and Finance Steven Hardy formally resigned his post at Washtenaw Community College over the Thanksgiving Holiday. News of his resignation was made public later on Dec. 3.

Hardy’s ethic, dedication and loyalty to the college will be sorely missed by those who have worked alongside him and called him a friend or colleague, as will his expertise as a pennywise chief financial officer. Not only was Hardy a master of balancing the college’s yearly budget, he led Washtenaw through four successful audits, which can be a difficult time for any public institution.

Hardy’s tenure began at a seemingly tumultuous time in Washtenaw’s history, when massive changes were being made to the administration and other core staff. Very few of them had much faith in the shakeups caused by Larry Whitworth, President Rose Bellanca’s predecessor. Many were uneasy about the unsettling transformation; some were fearful for their jobs.

Thirteen years later, Washtenaw is arguably one of the most successful and diverse campuses in Michigan. It has enjoyed record highs in recent years, and the college’s finances are in order. Whitworth led the charge, with Hardy managing an annual budget that has climbed to about \$100 million.

Steven Hardy was a man of few soft-spoken words, and was never very easy to reach. And it was always comprehensible, due to the sheer weight of responsibility that came with his job description. This newspaper will forever be in need of comments or hard data regarding numbers, simply because they are imperative in our pursuit of the truth. Hardy understood that without question, and he was a strong supporter of what we do.

Even when we made mistakes, he kept giving us access. We can’t begin to thank him enough for that.

Rose Bellanca is in the middle of her second year, and signed on for another three years, and another metamorphosis is taking place. Changes to policy, approach, philosophy and the college’s staff are inevitable; only time will tell whether they are for better or for worse.

But we do know this: after all the tumult at the beginning of Whitworth’s presidency, we got a visionary president and a multitude of other fine administrators, like Hardy, in the process.

Now the college begins the large task of searching to replace him, and the new CFO will have big shoes to fill. We can only hope to be blessed with someone that was cut from the same cloth as Steven Hardy.

## Comments from the web

In an effort to encourage a public discourse on and off campus, *The Voice* has compiled the most compelling, latest comments from its website, [www.washtenawvoice.com](http://www.washtenawvoice.com).

*In response to Dec. 3’s cover story, “One for the ladies, actually none for the ladies”*

This is a well-written and funny story but does it really belong on the front page? Don’t these young ladies know that a correctly positioned wad of TP will stem the flow in a pinch with no embarrassment and zero impact on the budget?

- An older, frugal lady

Student Activities has received a shipment of freebies from a manufacturer of feminine products. If you are unprepared and find you need one of these products, please drop by Student Activities, located in SC 112, to grab a freebie while supplies last.

- Rachel Barsch, WCC Student Activities events coordinator

### THE WASHTENAW VOICE

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## Mash Up

### Do we really need Christ in Christmas?

BY LELAND DAWSON  
*Staff Writer*

People have been holding celebrations over the winter solstice for as long as we’ve been writing things down. Traditions from one people have been absorbed or copied into others.

Christians have proved themselves as some of the worst offenders as images and celebrations of Jesus’ birth have given way to peppermint sticks, snowmen, snowflakes, and a jolly, fat man who shares almost nothing with his namesake.

Do Christians have a right to be upset over Jesus not being front and center during the holiday?

Consider for a moment that most traditions associated with Christmas aren’t Christian, either in nature or purpose. And for the most part these are the traditions people like to celebrate. If Christians really want Jesus to be the most important part of the holiday, they should cut out

everything that either Christians didn’t start or don’t reflect upon Jesus.

However, that would mean they would miss out on putting lights around their homes, hanging ornaments on their trees, having trees, giving gifts, kissing under mistletoe, singing carols, and the red-clad Santa Claus would have to be drastically changed to reflect the fourth-century monk St. Nicholas. But they do get to keep the nativity scene.

These other traditions were started by pagans and they weren’t stolen, but cultures kept their traditions, even when they changed religions.

So what are the ramifications of downplaying Jesus during the holiday? The most positive one would be that it means more people get to celebrate together.

Everyone can sing “Winter Wonderland” and “Deck the Halls,” while opening gifts under the tree.

After dinner, everyone can drink hot chocolate with peppermint sticks (or schnapps, for the adults), call loved ones who were unable to attend, and end the day watching Christmas classics like “Frosty the Snowman,” “A Christmas Carol,” and “Die Hard.”

The entire day can be spent with as many happy and diverse people as possible, as important events should be celebrated. There is no reason to bring up divisive topics like religion or politics. Christmas can be an inclusive holiday, without forcing people out because of different beliefs.

Rather than concentrate on what makes us different this holiday season, let’s look at what makes us the same. Let’s celebrate family, charity, and love, none of which are exclusive to Christianity.

Even for most Christians these days, Christ is as important to Christmas as Thor is to Thursday.

### For many, it’s what Christmas is truly all about

BY CANDANCE J PRUITT  
*Contributor*

During the children’s choir rehearsal at Bethel AME Church, they sang it best. “Happy birthday Jesus, I’m so glad it’s Christmas, all the tinsel and lights and presents are nice but the real gift is you. Happy Birthday, Jesus. We love you.”

For those who believe Jesus is the reason for the season, this rings true. Not everyone believes in God and his son, but if you do the way you celebrate the holidays may hold a different significance. For those who believe, taking out time to celebrate Jesus, the priceless gift God gave us, is not just important on Christmas. It’s important every day.

Family is important, and what we all should remember is that we

all are a part of God’s family. Being around family during the holidays is a blessing. Exchanging gifts, food, games and singing a few Christmas carols makes the day that much more special.

But just as holiday traditions are important for every family, so is recognition of the birth of Jesus Christ.

If we forget the importance of what Jesus stands for in our everyday lives, it’s plausible that this will also affect how we celebrate Christmas. We then are celebrating the season as opposed to the reason. And when we do so we are putting ourselves at a great disadvantage by not acknowledging the reason why we are all here today.

If Jesus Christ is not important on Christmas, how could he be important in any aspect of your life?

Essentially, denying Jesus on Christmas is the same as denying his existence. There is no gray area here; either it’s important or it’s not. Not celebrating Jesus on his birthday would be like the people around you that you know and love not acknowledging the day you were born.

With God’s love for us being shown in human form much like our parents giving us life, it would be like our lives being denied. The scripture says it best, Matthew 10:32-33:

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”

Even kids who sing carols understand: It’s Christmas, not Xmas.



## What did you learn in the Fall semester that might help you next semester?

INTERVIEWS BY ERIC BOATWRIGHT  
PHOTOS BY KAYLEIGH CYRUS



**MARK KLINGER**  
25, Troy, Secondary Education

“I have basically the same teachers for my next semesters so I already know the expectations of what they want for me.”



**BRIAN LEESON**  
21, Canton, Math-Science Transfer

“I’ve found that if I rewrite the notes I took in class I am able to understand the subject better than if I were to just write them once.”



**JONATHON MARTINDALE**  
17, Redford, General Studies

“I’ve started learning a new language this semester and will further take classes



**MARK VAUGHN**  
20, Ann Arbor, 3D Animation

“I’ve learned better note taking habits that help me retain the information as well as creating small distractions to help me stay awake during class.”



**KYLE JACOBS**  
23, Tecumseh, Business Management

“I took public speaking this semester, and now I am able to talk in large groups with more confidence as well as organize my thoughts better.



**WILLIAM BALLARD**  
57, Ypsilanti, English

“This semester I was able to reconnect with all the subjects I’m currently learning, which has led me to obtain a better understanding in general.”



**BARRIE HEIN**  
38, Ann Arbor, Nursing

“I’ve learned great stress management skills this semester as well as realizing I can rely on my peers to help me.”



**MICHAEL ADSIT**  
17, Ann Arbor, General Studies

“I’ve learned and understand more advanced math skills that will help me in my future math courses.”



**JAMIE LEE FIVESON**  
19, Ann Arbor, Criminal Justice

“I’ve developed ways of managing my time better.”



# A century later, science still reeling from 1921 ‘Missing Link’ hoax



Piltdown Man’s skull displayed by anthropology instructor Dave Mackres. LELAND DAWSON THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**BY LELAND DAWSON**  
*Staff Writer*

With the centennial of Piltdown Man’s celebrated unveiling, the archaeological hoax still holds an amazing story – and important lessons. The small collection of bone fragments found in 1908 has had a lasting impact on the field of paleoanthropology, the science dealing with ancient humans through fossils and similar discoveries. Unveiled in Oxford, England on Dec. 18, 1912, these fragments, now combined into a skull, challenged the widely held theory of how humans evolved. Called Piltdown Man, after the gravel pit where the bone fragments were discovered by Charles Dawson, this mostly man-like skull stood in drastic contrast to other early human fossils found at the time. “It threw the field off track for about 40 years,” said David Mackres, an instructor of anthropology at Washtenaw Community College. The leading theory at the time held that early humans had evolved more modern-like jaws and teeth first. It wasn’t until much later in our evolution that the brain began to grow. But

Piltdown man, as Mackres describes, “was backwards in his supposed evolution: big brain, but with a still projecting face and doubtful posture.” As it was later discovered, Piltdown Man’s skull was human, but the lower jaw belonged to an Orangutan. The ape’s canine teeth had been removed and the rest were ground down so as to allow the jaw to fit in the skull. “People should have been suspicious,” said Milford H. Wolpoff, a professor of anthropology and adjunct associate research scientist at the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology. “As the years went on, every single fossil found was the other way (in regards to jaw and brain development), and no other one was like Piltdown.” This created a large problem for the field. With Piltdown Man in consideration, there was no clear picture of how humans had evolved. The next important discovery happened in 1924. *Australopithecus africanus* followed the original idea of early jaw development. Only one of these two species could be the precursor to modern humans. Enter the skeptics. In 1953, Kenneth Oakley and a team of scientists preformed fluorine testing on the skull. This is not the same as radiometric

dating, which gives a fairly accurate estimate of something’s age. Fluorine testing measures the amount of the mineral a fossil has absorbed relative to other fossils found in the same place. The results proved that Piltdown Man was a forgery. This wasn’t a spectacular new way to test fossils; on the contrary. German scientists had already used this method as far back as the late 1880s. The tests weren’t preformed at the time because, “In the British museum, they didn’t read German,” said Wolpoff. “So the idea of a fluorine test, which was really fundamental, took 50-some-odd years to cross the channel.” Even with this blemish on anthropology’s record, scientists continue to research and look for answers. “I think it’s horribly embarrassing that it took Piltdown nearly 50 years for science to work,” said Wolpoff. But when science does work, “the way we approach questions is ‘can we disprove it.’” As to the question of whether we’ll ever know exactly how humans evolved, Mackres was cautious. “We’re never certain,” he said. “Science isn’t about certainty. It’s about research.”

# Does It Really Get Better?

For some students, it can’t get any worse than high school

**BY TAYLOR DROZDOWSKI**  
*Contributor*

High school can be rough for everyone, but for students who stand apart from the crowd, it only becomes worse. Many students who are bullied in high school fall under the category of LGBTQ, which stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (or queer). The experience for LGBTQ students in high school is usually worse compared to the experience in college, but it’s not that way for everyone. In college, people have matured, and even if they aren’t able to accept their differences, they are able to respect them. “It was the same for me in high school,” said Megan Conley, a 21-year-old undecided major from Manchester. “When we were in high school, if you got found out that you were gay,

they did try to jump on you a lot,” said student Esha Rivers, 32, a criminal justice major from Detroit. “But like I said, I wouldn’t have that shit.” The bullying these students receive in school can drive them to do dangerous and harmful acts, including homicide and suicide. “I didn’t go to a high school. I went to an online high school because the bullying I suffered in middle school for being transgender was so severe that I attempted suicide,” said Layne Machuca, 24, human services major from Jackson. “I made a deal with my mother that I would be home-schooled and I wouldn’t kill myself.” A lot of high schools don’t offer the supportive resources some students need. Some high schools have the equivalent of a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), but not all. “I think that in some high schools, and in society in general, there is more awareness of discrimination toward and bullying of LGBT students, and how negatively it can affect a person’s self-esteem and self-image,” says Layla Ananda, a Washtenaw Community College psychology professor works

with people in the gay community. GSAs are created more for the reason of bringing straight and gay students together and create a safe environment for students. They are not specifically created to help LGBTQ students cope with bullying issues. But in high schools, there are not many other resources to turn to. “Not a lot of counselors are prepared for helping LGBTQ students,” says Jayden Thunberg, 23, a business major from Bloomington, Minn. But LGBTQ students at WCC have strong support in Spectrum, a group that LGBTQ students can turn to for support. Allies are also welcome attend the meetings. The group meets every Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. in LA 276. “Basically, in school, there was no outlet for LGBTQ people,” said Lucas Longoria, 22, a philosophy major from Ypsilanti and president of the WCC Spectrum. “Then again, there may have been some LGBTQ people, but they were deeply, deeply closeted.”

## FITNESS CONTINUED FROM A1

necessity for new HFC revenue to offset maintenance and restoration costs – a total of \$170,000. Revenue raised by the fee changes, which range from \$2-\$4 increases depending on the type of membership purchased, is projected to total in \$158,501. Hanby’s repair and restoration cost estimates do not include projects designated by deferred maintenance, according to Damon Flowers, associate vice president of Facilities Development and Operations. While Washtenaw’s trustees were not generally opposed to the new fee

structure, Horiszny still adamantly rejected the steep cost for students, which are higher than the other two rates reserved for the college’s population. Students enrolled in the PEA 115 fitness course pay \$40 and can earn a one half of a college credit hour in the process for successfully completing the class. Washtenaw staff and faculty pay \$42. “I think it does matter to our students, as our philosophy has always been about how we can serve them,” Horiszny said. Last year, she and other trustees

expressed concern that the \$45 accumulative rate was still too expensive for Washtenaw students. The motion to decrease the student rate was tabled until January, but Trustee Mark Freeman, among others, supported the amendment. “We have to make sure that we’re not encouraging just the PEA course, but that we’re encouraging working out and fitness,” Freeman said. “This rate doesn’t encourage that, especially if only 70 students are keeping it up after PEA. “When you graduate, you can pay a higher rate.”

# IN BRIEF

## STUDENT THREAT LOCKS DOWN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Ever since President Rose Bellanca accepted her position at Washtenaw Community College, she has been an avid supporter of the school’s open-door policy. The doors to the administration offices were open to everyone – until the doors were closed and locked down by campus security a few weeks ago. Access to the administration offices, located on the second floor of the Student Center, was locked down after Campus Security was notified that a student had made a threat of violence against an administrator. “This is the first time something like this has happened,” said Jacques Desrosiers, director of Campus Security. “The student in question was not your typical 18-25 year-old student. He’s an older gentleman, and we believed it was a credible concern.” Campus Security doesn’t have enough personnel to watch the doors non-stop, so it was decided to keep the doors locked for a couple of days for safety, Desrosiers added. The Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department was made aware of the threat, but no actions were filed. “The school still has an open-door policy,” said Janet Hawkins, associate director of public affairs. “A student threatened an administrator,

and security advised us to increase security for the time being. The offices are back open now.” Anyone can visit the administration offices to talk to an administrator, but setting up a meeting through their secretary is the recommended method, Hawkins said. The student who made the threat remains enrolled in his classes. No actions against the student have been reported.

## TOYS FOR TOTS

Brighten a child’s life this holiday season by donating toys to the Toys for Tots campaign. A collection box for the campaign is located outside the Student Activities office on the first floor of the Student Center. All toys donated must be unwrapped and new. The toy drive ends Dec. 21.

## DESIGN OPPORTUNITY

Washtenaw’s Student Veteran Club is having a contest looking for aspiring graphic artists to design a new logo for the club. The designer who creates the best logo chosen by the club will receive a \$50 credit for the bookstore on campus. The last day to submit a logo will be Feb. 1. The winner will be announced on Feb. 8. To submit a design for consideration, or to ask a question, send an email to [wccstudentvets@gmail.com](mailto:wccstudentvets@gmail.com).

# CAMPUS EVENTS

As the 2012 Fall semester is coming to an end, and the overwhelming lack of students wishing to take classes during the break, all classes on campus have been put on hold until Jan. 14. Have a great semester break, everyone.

# Enjoy the holidays!

# SECURITY NOTES

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

## CELL PHONES STOLEN

Two cell phones were reported stolen on Dec. 10 in Room 158 in the Morris Lawrence building. Shortly before noon, two students left their cell phones unattended for a few minutes. When they returned to the room, their phones were gone.

## RAM NOT FOUND

A random access memory card for a computer being worked on in TI 246 was reported stolen on Dec. 5. The computer card was stolen shortly after 1 p.m.

## NOT THE BEST PLACE TO WATCH PORN

A student was discovered watching pornography on a school computer in the library on Dec. 5 at 7:27 p.m. Campus Security, after being notified by students, went to the library and found the student still violating the campus computer usage policy. The student apologized and left after Security gathered his information and turned it over to Student Services, which handles disciplinary proceedings in such matters.

## STUDENTS FILE DUAL ASSAULT CHARGES

Two complaints of assault against a common, identified individual were made on Washtenaw’s campus in early December and are under investigation by Campus Security and the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department. Although one of the alleged victims claimed that the behavior under investigation constitutes a sexual assault, the sheriff’s department and Campus Security have classified the accusations from Dec. 4 at 1:40 p.m. on the first floor of the Student Center as non-sexual in nature. After the complaints were reported and Campus Security called in the sheriff’s department, the charges were found to be valid by law enforcement and Dean of Enrollment Larry Aeilts sent a formal charge of misconduct to the alleged accused on Monday, Dec. 10. “We’re trying to move on this as quickly as possible,” Aeilts said. “We are relying on the police categorizing it as a non-sexual assault. I expect a result before the next semester starts.”



# Deferred maintenance update: new carpeting for LA and GM

By AMANDA JACOBS  
Staff Writer

Students may be looking forward to some time off over the holidays, but it will be business as usual for some workers at Washtenaw Community College.

“We have two projects over the break, the LA addition, 21 classrooms and three lecture halls, we’re putting new carpet in,” said Todd Bishop, the construction project manager. “GM second floor will also have new carpeting during Christmas break.”

The work, among the deferred maintenance projects that were approved by the board in October, will be completed before students resume

classes in January.

“The most opportune time to do these things is when nobody is here,” Damon Flowers, associate vice president of Facilities Development and Operations said. “It’s normal for people to be working on other projects outside of deferred maintenance during the semester break.”

So far, one project has been fully completed – the replacement of precast panels on the Health and Fitness Center. This project cost roughly \$18,000, only a fraction of the \$4 million granted by the board for such projects this fiscal year.

Precast panels are produced by casting concrete into a reusable mold. Panels such as these were also used

on the school’s new parking structure.

“The panels in the Health and Fitness Center were starting to become an issue,” Flowers said. “They were splitting and cracking and needed to be replaced.”

The first priority of the deferred maintenance plan is to fix anything that is water or weather related.

“Anything dealing with water is important because it could potentially cause mold,” Flowers said. “Some of the projects on the list are seasonal, and will be completed when the weather breaks.”

The department also plans to have finished the additions to the Storage and Receiving building, as well as the ML building, Flowers said.

## TEXTBOOKS CONTINUED FROM A1

use or need.”

Feeney was complaining about a Multicultural Literature for Youth (ENG 242) course, which required her to purchase 12 different books. None of those 12 books were used more than twice.

Brittney Lee, 18, a health care foundations student from Ann Arbor, said she paid \$430 for her books this semester. The book she used the most was a \$200 biology book. She used it three times.

“I did not get money’s worth because whenever I needed to use the biology book it was in a group project, and we all shared one book,” she said.

Lee also hasn’t used her \$60 English 111 book, and also paid \$70 for her 097 Math book, which she only opened for the “connect math” access code.

Students complain at the start of each semester about the rising cost of textbooks, but this is the time they can look back on what kind of investment

those books turned out to be. And some feel they’ve been ripped off.

Rachel Lofgren, 20, a nursing major from Howell, was angry about paying \$200 dollars for a Pathophysiology book the instructor ignored.

“I never opened my Patho book,” Lofgren said. “Definitely did not get my money’s worth. . . The teacher used (Power Point slides) and those had all the information. Plus, he said everything was on Google that he taught.”

Mike Roussey, 19, a welding engineering major, has a difficult time rationalizing his textbook expense, even though he used his books often.

Roussey is taking three classes this semester, Welding 123, Welding 124, and Math 097, although he had to refer to his textbooks in order to complete his homework assignments, it just didn’t cut it for him.

“Even though I was able to use them quite a bit, they were still too

expensive,” he said, “and that, to me, deteriorates their worth.”

Conversely, Bradley Welbon, 24, a culinary arts and CNA major from Milford, said he makes sure he gets what he paid for in his books.

Welbon paid about \$200 for his textbooks, and they’ll always be there for him if he needs them.

“Oh yeah, I got my money’s worth, because we need our books to learn the knowledge for the courses,” he said. “And I never sell my books back. I keep all of them because even though some classes don’t teach you everything in the book, you can use them outside of school.”

“You can always go back and refer to your books,” Welbon added. “Books are amazing.”

Registration for winter semester is under way.

The semester begins on Jan. 14.

## ENERGY CONTINUED FROM A1



A display of energy products at Washtenaw's Barnes and Noble bookstore.

CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

free samples of the “energy shot” to students in the middle of finals week.

“I’ve never tried it before, but I really, really need it right now,” said 23-year-old graphic design student Lerena Ganser. “I pulled an all-nighter. I have five art projects due this week.”

Students were feeling the stress of finals and were going to any lengths to stay awake for study or work on final projects.

The Livonia-based company contacted Rachel Barsch, Student Activities events coordinator, to “take

care of everyday people who work hard.”

“Any time a vendor has something that they are giving something away to students for free, I find value in that,” Barsch said. “It’s something that students look for, typically, and now they’re getting it for free, which is kind of nice.”

While many students stopped by for free samples, the debate over the effects of the drink continued. Some argue that it’s killing people.

A dangerous addiction?

As of Nov. 14, the Food and Drug Administration confirmed that there is an investigation of 5-hour Energy in regards to 92 reports of adverse reactions to the “energy shot” since 2009. Of those 92 reports, 13 were deaths and 33 resulted in hospitalizations. The FDA is investigating the link to 5-hour Energy.

“There’s a lot of speculation out there. Did they have a heart condition that they knew about, did they have 25 of those?” Barsch asked. “I don’t know necessarily that an FDA investigation

## CFO CONTINUED FROM A1

the college would hire a successor to manage its \$100 million annual budget.

“My goal and everyone thinks it’s a little aggressive, is to fill the position by Jan. 22,” Bellanca said. “I’m not going to be driven by a timeline. I’m going to look for the best candidate.”

She shed no light on why Hardy left in the middle of his 11th year with the college. According to Bellanca, he had taken a personal leave over Thanksgiving break and only a few days after, contacted her to tenure his resignation from the college – “for personal reasons,” she said.

“I was very surprised,” she said. “People do that for a lot of reasons. This really happens all the time here, but at this level, people want to know.”

Hardy’s resignation will be effective Aug. 1, 2013, meaning he’ll collect about \$90,000 of his annual \$135,000 salary. His contract was allowed to continue until August as per a request in Hardy’s resignation letter.

McLean.

“We certainly need to replace him,” McLean said. “I expect she (Bellanca) will drive the process, keeping the board informed. Steven’s a good person to trust. He will land on his feet.”

Meantime, the college posted the job last week, and Controllor Lynn Martin was acting as an authorized signatory on the former CFO’s behalf.

“Lynn has done a wonderful job as controller since she was hired at WCC in September 2008,” said Janet Hawkins, associate director of Public Affairs. “She worked closely with Steven Hardy on four successful audits. She has President Bellanca’s full confidence.”

Planning for Hardy’s successor to have expertise in addressing WCC’s web capabilities for instruction and maintaining low tuition while building the school’s presence abroad, Bellanca is confident that whoever is appointed as CFO will usher in a new era.

“It’s going to be very different,” Bellanca said. “We need someone more focused in the direction that the college is headed.”



STEVEN HARDY

According to Vice President of Human Resources Douglas Kruzel, Hardy is not required to fulfill any duties at the college before his resignation is effective and that Dr. Bellanca’s goal of filing the position by Jan. 22 is realistic.

Kruzel also noted that he does not see Hardy’s salary changing before his resignation becomes effective.

“I think it (Jan. 22) is definitely possible. That is our goal,” Kruzel said. “We are moving forward to fill the position.”

Hardy did not respond to repeated emails and voice-mail messages. No one was home when The Voice stopped by his Ann Arbor residence in an attempt to interview him.

Members of the college’s Board of Trustees were notified of Hardy’s departure by the end of November, according to Treasurer Patrick

itself is a red flag, so much as an FDA investigation that says ‘we found results.’”

When confronted with this information, most students shrugged it off. Students were convinced that these injuries and deaths only occurred after mass consumption of 5-Hour Energy, but insisted that they use the drink responsibly.

“I urge students any time you take anything that someone is giving you to make sure that you know the product and that you’re comfortable with it,” Barsch said. “I know some students aren’t, and they wouldn’t take it, and I’m not necessarily myself. Hopefully students who are taking it know enough to read the label.”

Repeated attempts to reach officials at 5-hour Energy for comment – including telephone calls and emails – were unsuccessful. Several messages left for executives and company spokesmen were not returned.

The market is saturated with such energy drinks, including Monster Energy, Red Bull, Rockstar, Omega Energy, Full Throttle and AMP.

People drink them because they work.

“I just came off of three days in a row. It’s a hell of a drug if you think about it,” said an 18-year-old WCC student and Washtenaw County resident who asked that his name not be used.

But at what price?

Health Concerns

Lea Hammoud, a 14-year-old WTMC student from Ypsilanti, said that he drinks Red Bull and 5-Hour Energy when he is tired. He said that his parents are unaware that he consumes energy drinks.

In 2007, of the 5,448 caffeine overdoses reported in the United States, 46 percent were children under the age of 19, according to recent medical studies. Some states and countries are debating whether to restrict energy drink sales and

advertisements.

“Moderation, I think that’s key here,” said Dave Wooten, WCC biology instructor.

Having a caffeinated drink for an energy burst is not a bad thing, as long as it’s kept in moderation, he said.

Energy drinks mainly affect consumers’ heart, lungs, kidneys and liver. Excessive use can cause serious illness and even failure of these organs, according to German studies.

“Three-quarters of all Americans are dehydrated. We do not drink enough fluids, let alone straight water,” Wooten said.

Dehydration has been found to be a leading cause of “afternoon fatigue.”

“It’s not that you don’t get some water and fluids in these energy drinks, but you process it differently. When you have a drink like this that’s loaded with other things beyond just water, it’s processed more through the digestive tract before you get that water to go into solution,” Wooten said. “If you drink pure water, it goes through your stomach lining and you get rehydrated faster.”

Recent studies have shown that energy drinks temporarily raise heart and respiratory rates, as well as increase blood pressure. Unlike sports drinks such as Gatorade, energy drinks are not designed to hydrate or rejuvenate the body. With the increased amounts of sugar and physiologic effects, energy drinks have the possibility of dehydrating the body, studies show.

“The message is that this is not what you rely on,” Wooten said. “Eat healthy, exercise, drink water and have a positive mental state. These are all things that relate to feeling energetic and having energy to go throughout your studies.”

“People don’t think of water as an energy drink, but realistically, it is.”

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Happy Holidays from the staff of *The Washtenaw Voice*!

Women’s Health and Fitness Day 2013

Women’s Health and Fitness Day is a **FREE** community event sponsored by the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) at the University of Michigan Medical School. Our goal is to raise awareness about health and fitness issues important to women and men of all ages.

- Attend educational and fun workshops\*!
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# SPOTLIGHT

THE WASHTENAW VOICE • SECTION B



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Colin Auerbach-Miller, 19, of Ann Arbor dresses in purple, along with his classmates, to signify support for childcare professionals.



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Terri Roberson, 29, of Belleville, led the event, which marked the completion of her Childcare Professional Associate Degree.

## Nursing the future

### Childhood education students celebrate semester's end

BY ADRIAN HEDDEN  
Editor

Terri Roberson dreams of traveling to the world's most exotic locales.

And with the training she received as a student at Washtenaw Community College since 2007, graduating in January with a Childcare Professional Associate Degree, Roberson hopes to realize her ambitions while providing a valuable service to families across the globe.

"I want to work in a daycare facility on a cruise ship," Roberson said. "To see the world and do what I like to do: working with the babies. We are actually the foundation for children who become just like us.

"We are molding them to become what they want to be."

The 29-year-old Belleville resident began attending classes as a culinary arts student, working at a nearby daycare concurrently. After about a year,

Roberson's boss at the daycare suggested she reconsider her field of study.

"My director (at the daycare) saw my passion," she said. "So I came here, saw the program and I didn't even think twice about switching. I guess everyone has to find their niche."

Roberson will be continuing her studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn this winter, hoping to receive a bachelor's degree in early childhood education over the next few years, she said.

"I'm determined to finish," Roberson said. "It's now really setting in for me. I never thought I'd be here."

Completing the final requirement of the last class in the Childcare Professional Program, CCP 218, Roberson was tasked this winter with organizing the program's annual awareness event.

Past years featured guest speakers in the Towsley Auditorium, but this time the group hoped to get closer to the students of WCC by hosting a table-presentation in the newly opened Community Room, according to full-time childcare instructor, Sally Adler.

"You can't work with young children

without working with their families," Adler said. "They're not only required to work with children, but to become leaders in their field, true professionals."

Adler also has students on hand from CCP 200: Working with Families in a Diverse Society, at the early-December event. She said students are required to implement and evaluate an educational experience for families.

The event has been held on campus for the past two semesters and this year featured displays and arrangements which provided health materials and informative literature regarding parenting and early-childhood development.

"We're here to show how important this field is," said Kate Proctor, 21, an early childhood education student working the event. "...To get respect and show what we do for the community and provide educational information on young children.

"A lot of young kids come through here."

Jeanette Cheeks, a 38-year-old mother of four and a childcare student from Ypsilanti who was also working at the event, stressed the importance

of childhood education, proud of the dedication of her fellow classmates and hopeful that others will see the vitality of her chosen field.

"We really love what we do," Cheeks said. "We wouldn't be here. What we do is very serious."

Adler said that about 16 students complete the Childcare Professional Associate Degree and about 17 get their degree in early childhood education.

Among the many students she sees coming through the intermingling programs, Adler said she is somewhat wary of a perceived gender gap among students. She plans to host a weekly seminar next semester for men who find themselves in female-dominated fields.

"Men are often treated differently as far as what they are expected to do in certain fields where they can be drastically outnumbered," she said. "Many of these students have very interesting stories to tell."

Colin Auerbach-Miller, a 19-year-old Ann Arbor resident majoring in early childhood education, was the only male present at the Childcare Program's tabling event this year. He believes his differing, male outlook

benefits the education of fellow, female students and hopes more men will take to the program for children in need.

"It's definitely a gender gap," Miller said. "I'm the only guy in most classes. Men should be in this field, especially when so many children have no men in their lives."

He recently gave a presentation on "rough-and-tumble play," Miller said. An area of childhood development that he feels many women may be less content in addressing.

"They learn more about their bodies, playing tag, wrestling and climbing," Miller said. "Not too many females feel comfortable having rough-and-tumble play. My fellow students encourage me. They like the male point of view."

According to Adler, the Childcare Professional program articulates to U-M Dearborn as well as Madonna and Sienna Heights universities. She hopes it is the start for many student-success stories to come out of Washtenaw in the field.

"They can do the remedial, leadership and organizational skills here," Adler said. "And then moving on to four-year schools? You can't beat that."

## Changing lives, one word at a time

### Washtenaw Literacy strives to meet a growing demand

BY MARIA RIGOU  
Staff Writer

One in six adults in Washtenaw County is not able to read this article. Or a poison label. Or an election ballot.

But there is a way to change this. "There is a tangible way of making a difference," said Amy Goodman, executive director of Washtenaw Literacy, Michigan's oldest literacy council.

Washtenaw Literacy's mission is to provide free instruction to adults in Washtenaw County, by operating with a trained network of volunteer tutors and customizing programs to the needs of adults. Since its founding in 1971, Washtenaw Literacy has served more than 20,000 learners and has trained and fully supported more than 10,000 volunteer tutors.

There is a critical need in the county: 60 percent of adults do not pass the COMPASS test in Michigan and 15 percent of children born to illiterate parents remain illiterate.

"Literacy is a cause for poverty," Goodman added. "It is a statistically significant indicator. It is part of other challenges, such as homelessness and criminality."

Since the economic downturn in 2008, the bar has been raised regarding basic skills. It is no longer possible to be successful just with what you learn in high school.

That is where Washtenaw Literacy's

job kicks in.

The non-profit has created an intensive tutoring program called "Education First," which is designed to "support adults who need to improve skills in order to acquire a family-sustaining job," Goodman said. "The students set specific educational goals. For instance, finishing high school."

Among other things, Washtenaw Literacy also works with basic skills. There is free tutoring for all adults in basic reading, writing, math, English as a Second Language and digital literacy, as well as GED tutoring for adults who wish to finish their high school education. The goal is to eliminate illiteracy in Washtenaw County.

Ina G. Rhodes, from Ann Arbor, wanted to study astronomy, but to be able to do this she needed to get her GED. Thanks to the work of Washtenaw Literacy, Rhodes has passed three of her five tests and is feeling very confident about the two remaining ones.

"The volunteers are extremely supportive and make you feel confident on your work," Rhodes said. "I would recommend this to any one who needs to go forward. In life, without an education, you can't live."

The same goes for DeAngelo Harris, a 23-year-old GED student from Ypsilanti.

"Tutors and counselors stay on top of learners and motivate us," he said. "It is a very good program for students of all ages that want to better themselves."

So far this year, Washtenaw Literacy

has served 1,980 learners and has trained 721 tutors – barely 12 percent of the actual need.

"The Basic Literacy waiting list is now closed," Goodman said. Such is the demand for the service, that learners are now waiting somewhere between three and six months to be able to enter the program.

"Imagine telling these people that they have to wait that long to get the help they need," she added.

What can be done? "We need tutors," Goodman said. "Anyone can tutor. If you can read and speak English, you can tutor."

For those interested in helping out, Washtenaw Literacy provides a workshop called "ABCs of Washtenaw Literacy." Volunteers are asked to attend a one-hour informational session where they learn exactly what the non-profit does. The next sessions will be held in January.

"Volunteers have a 99 percent satisfaction rate," Goodman said. "These people are changing lives, one word at a time. It is a win-win situation."

Nancy Sylvester, one of the group tutors, can vouch for that.

"There is a direct line between the work that you do and the results," Sylvester said, who has been working with Washtenaw Literacy since May. "It is purely cause-and-effect."

"I get more out of it than the learners do."

For more information on how to get involved or to see the calendar of events, visit [washtenawliteracy.org](http://washtenawliteracy.org)



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Washtenaw Literacy tutors help students study to prepare them for taking the GED.





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# A year to remember – and forget

## Our top sports moments of 2012

By MATT DURR  
*Sports Editor*

It's been a year full of highs and lows for sports fans in Michigan. Fans witnessed one of their own accomplish a once-in-a-lifetime feat and the departure of a once-in-a-lifetime player. With the calendar year coming to an end, *The Voice* takes a look at the Top-10 sports moments of 2012.

### 1. Miguel Cabrera wins the Triple Crown en route to MVP season

It had been 45 years since Boston's Carl Yastrzemski led the league in batting average, home runs and runs batted in, and many believed it would never happen again. But Detroit Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera defied the odds and turned in one of the greatest individual seasons in baseball history, batting .330, with 44 home runs and 139 RBI. Cabrera was named the American League's Most Valuable Player in recognition for his accomplishment.

### 2. Nicklas Lidstrom retires after 20 years with Red Wings

Known as "The Perfect Human," seven-time Norris Trophy winner (as the NHL's best defenseman) Nicklas Lidstrom retired on May 31 after 20 seasons with the Detroit Red Wings. Lidstrom won four Stanley Cups with the Wings and was the 2002 Conn Smyth winner as the playoffs' most valuable player. Arguably the best defenseman ever to play the game, Lidstrom was also the first European-born-and-trained player to captain a

Stanley Cup-winning team, doing so in 2008.

### 3. Tigers swept in the World Series

Momentum seemed to favor the Detroit Tigers as they headed into the 2012 World Series against the San Francisco Giants. But after sweeping the New York Yankees in the American League Championship Series, the Tigers fell flat against the Giants, losing four straight games. It marked the second appearance by the Tigers in the World Series since 2006.

### 4. Spartans, Wolverines take a step back after spectacular 2011 football seasons

The year got off to a great start for both the Michigan Wolverines and the Michigan State Spartans. While the Spartans took down Georgia in the Outback Bowl, Michigan won its first BCS bowl Game, beating Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl. However, as the 2012 season progressed, neither team lived up to the preseason hype. U-M finished the year 8-4, while MSU ended at 6-6.

### 5. Michigan Stadium announced as host of Winter Classic

After setting a world-record attendance figure for the 2010 "Big Chill in the Big House," Michigan Stadium was selected to host the 2013 NHL Winter Classic to be played between the Detroit Red Wings and Toronto Maple Leafs. NHL commissioner Gary Bettman made it clear during the Feb. 9 announcement that the league was looking to break the world record of 104,073 set during the Big Chill.

### 6. Winter Classic at Michigan Stadium cancelled

Nearly nine months after announcing the 2013 Winter Classic would take place at Michigan Stadium, the NHL cancelled the game on Nov. 2 after failing to reach a labor agreement with its players association. Because no agreement could be reached, the league cancelled the game in order to save on expenses it would have taken had it waited any longer. The 2014 Winter Classic is expected to take place at Michigan Stadium. Meantime, the city of Ann Arbor lost out on an estimated \$14 million of potential revenue.

### 7. Detroit Lions once again among NFL's worst

In January the Detroit Lions played in their first playoff game since 1999. After going 10-6 in the regular season, they were defeated by the New Orleans Saints in the first round, but fans saw their efforts as a giant step forward for the franchise. But as has been the case for nearly half a century, the Lions ruined that progress this fall as the team failed to not only make the playoffs, but may finish with the NFC's worst record. Lowlights include losing to the Tennessee Titans and a string of three consecutive losses in which the team was winning in the final minutes, before choking away the win.

### 8. Tigers sweep the Yankees in spectacular fashion

The Tigers entered the ALCS having survived a scare from the Oakland Athletics in the opening round. Maybe that was the motivation the team needed, as it would go on to not only beat

the Yankees to make it to the World Series for the second time in seven seasons, but did so in one of the most dominating performances in MLB history. The Yankees scored just six runs in the four games and only two runs over the final three games. The Bronx bombers never held a lead in the series and as a team batted a paltry .157 against powerful Detroit pitching that disappeared in the World Series.

### 9. Denard Robinson misses time for Wolverines

The most dynamic player to ever call Michigan Stadium home gave fans a scare this season when he was injured during a game against Nebraska on Oct. 27. An elbow injury caused Robinson to miss the second half of that game and the next two games. Robinson returned in time for the team's final two games, but did not throw the ball as a result of the injury. Instead he lined up as a running back and as a wide receiver in a variety of formations.

### 10. Brandon Inge released by Tigers

Tigers third baseman Brandon Inge saw his 11-year career with the Tigers end on April 26, when the team decided to finally release him. Supporters lauded his efforts and hard-working mentality, while critics pointed out his declining skills and poor hitting. An All-Star in 2009, Inge was the longest-tenured Tiger prior to being released. He caught on with Oakland, and was instrumental in helping the A's get into the postseason.

## NFL deaths a reminder that it's just a game



MATT DURR

Every Sunday for the past few months, football fans all across the country gather in front of their televisions or at stadiums to root for their favorite NFL team. Each play is treated as a matter of life or death, with those same fans hanging on to the outcome of even the most meaningless of plays. We idolize those who make great plays and chastise the weak.

Sadly, over the course of the last two weekends the game has seen real matters of life and death when two players died and another is accused of intoxication manslaughter.

During the early morning of Dec. 1 police say Kansas City Chiefs player Jovan Belcher shot and killed his girlfriend, Kasandra Perkins, who was also the mother of Belcher's 3-month-old daughter. From there, Belcher drove to the Chiefs practice facility and killed himself in front of the team's coach and general manager.

A week later, Dallas Cowboys Josh Brent and Jerry Brown were in a one-car accident that claimed the life of Brown. Brent, who was driving the car was under the influence of alcohol, police said.

In both cases, the deaths occurred on a Saturday morning, a full day before their respective teams were set to play games. However, both the Chiefs and Cowboys played those games, showing little or no consideration for the lives of those affected.

Sports fans, myself included, have a tendency to take these games far more seriously than we should, seemingly even more than the players and coaches themselves. We should know better. However, in these cases, the players, coaches and owners showed a shocking lack of humanity in their decision to play the games as scheduled.

My experience with professional athletes is limited, but nonetheless has opened my eyes to the fact that most of these guys are selfish, heartless, carefree individuals who think that there are no consequences for their actions.

Belcher had no right to do what he did, and because of his actions a young girl will grow up without a mother or father. Brent had no business behind the wheel and, according to witnesses, had to be coaxed into helping remove Brown's body from the burning car as he screamed for help.

So the next time Calvin Johnson drops a pass, remember to let it go.

These sorts of tragedies should serve as stark realizations that these players we watch should not be idolized, nor should we treat those Sunday afternoon events as anything more than what they are: games.

# Wolverines off to best start since 1988-89

By MATT DURR  
*Sports Editor*

After surviving a scare last weekend from the unranked Arkansas Razorbacks, the University of Michigan men's basketball team improved to 9-0 on the young season, the team's best start since the 1988-89 campaign.

The win also marked head coach John Beilein's 100<sup>th</sup> career win as head coach at Michigan.

"I've been fortunate to be at a lot of good places," Beilein said. "I certainly hope the next 100 at Michigan are easier than the first 100. Those first three years were a difficult transition for us."

The last time the program started a season 9-0, the Wolverines went on to win the national championship behind the sharpshooting of Glen Rice. Still, Beilein is hesitant to make comparisons to that team.

"We're taking them a game at a time. It's just great for us that we're getting great crowds," Beilein said. "It's a good start. We've got 22 more miles left to run in this marathon."

Michigan will host Eastern Michigan and Central Michigan at the Crisler Center this month, before opening Big Ten play on Jan. 3 against Northwestern.



MCT COURTESY PHOTO

Trey Burke and the Michigan Wolverines men's basketball team are off to their best start in more than 20 years.

# 'Tis the season to go 'bowl-ing' for UM, MSU, CMU

By JOSEPH TWIST  
*Contributor*

The bowl season is upon us and three schools from the state of Michigan have made it to a bowl game this year. Here is a preview of the match-ups:

### OUTBACK BOWL

South Carolina Gamecocks vs. Michigan Wolverines  
Jan. 1, 1 p.m., Raymond James Stadium, Tampa, Fla.

**Overview:** Michigan came into the season with high expectations after winning the Sugar Bowl last year and starting the season with a Top 10 ranking. Not winning the Big Ten Championship and only garnering an Outback Bowl appearance has to be a disappointment. South Carolina won 10 games in the Southeastern Conference and its only two losses came on the road to Florida and LSU in tough environments.

Denard Robinson will play his last game in a Michigan uniform. Question is, will he start as QB or play RB/WR

as he has the last couple games while battling an arm injury? Devin Gardner has been more than serviceable as a QB and is looking to solidify himself as the starter next season.

South Carolina lost RB Marcus Lattimore to a devastating leg injury earlier in the season, but QB Connor Shaw has completed 67 percent of his passes this season and has plenty of weapons at wide receiver to test the Michigan secondary.

South Carolina also has one of the best defensive players in the country in defensive end Jadeveon Clowney and will be tough to stop, even for Michigan All-American left tackle Taylor Lewan.

### Players to watch:

Offense  
UM: QB Devin Gardner passed for more than 1,000 yards and rushed for seven touchdowns.  
SCAR: QB Connor Shaw passed for 17 touchdowns and rushed for more than 500 yards.  
Defense  
UM: LB Jake Ryan led the team with 84 tackles and forced 4 fumbles.

SCAR: DE JaDeveon Clowney led the team with 13 sacks and 21.5 tackles for loss.

**Prediction:** SC 27, U-M 20

### BUFFALO WILD WINGS BOWL

TCU Horned Frogs vs. Michigan State Spartans  
Dec. 29, 10:15 p.m., Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Ariz.

**Overview:** Both teams enter the matchup with losing records in their respective conferences. TCU went 4-5 in its first season as a member of the Big 12 conference. The Horned Frogs did manage to beat Texas on the road and won a double overtime thriller against West Virginia. They play extremely well on the road posting a 5-1 record away from Fort Worth.

Michigan State started the season hoping to play for a second straight Big Ten Championship game appearance, but after an early season loss to Notre Dame the Spartans never seemed to get back on track. A scare from Eastern Michigan University and a loss to arch-rival Michigan proved just how much

the Spartans missed QB Kirk Cousins, who graduated and moved on to the NFL. RB Le'Veon Bell will need to be the difference-maker for the Spartans.

### Players to watch:

Offense  
MSU: RB Le'Veon Bell accounted for more than 1,800 yards and had 12 touchdowns.  
TCU: QB Trevone Boykin had 18 touchdowns and rushed for more than 500 yards.  
Defense  
MSU: DE William Gholston tied for team lead with 12 tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks.  
TCU: CB Jason Verrett led Big 12 conference with six interceptions and had 14 pass breakups.  
**Prediction:** MSU 16, TCU 10

### LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA BOWL

Western Kentucky Hilltoppers vs. Central Michigan Chippewas  
Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m., Ford Field, Detroit

**Overview:** Each team had a

quality win over a bigger conference opponent this season. CMU beat Iowa in overtime 32-31, only to lose five of its next six games. WKU beat in-state rival Kentucky in overtime 32-31 as well to match CMU's upset win in the year. WKU has lost three of its last four games entering the bowl season. CMU is the hotter team winning four of its last five games to finish the season with the one loss coming to in-state rival Western Michigan.

### Players to watch:

Offense  
WKU: RB Antonio Andrews leads FBS in all-purpose yards per game with 248.1.  
CMU: RB Zurlon Tipton had 19 touchdowns and averaged more than six yards per carry.  
Defense  
WKU: DB Jonathan Dowlinglead Sun Belt Conference with six interceptions.  
CMU: DE Caesar Rodriguez led the team with four sacks and 8.5 tackles for loss.  
**Prediction:** CMU 31, WKU 17



# The season of giving - why not all year?

Did the Grinch steal the rest of the year?

BY ANNA ELIAS  
Staff Writer

The winter holidays turn communities into societies out to get the largest humanitarian award around. Every store has a “Toys for Tots” bin or a stack of canned goods to give to the homeless.

But why is Christmas a reason to start giving? Good question, says Samantha Stewart, who believes giving should be incorporated into everyone’s daily lives.

“I feel like Christmas is a cop out,” said Stewart, 20, of Howell.

Stewart says she and her mother live a modest life, but still find ways to give back to the community.

“She’s a single mom who works a part-time job...Technically, we have nothing and she still donates,” she said. “She’s an inspiration to me.”

She always gives to charities and local organizations, even if it’s only a dime, Stewart said.

“I found \$20 and knew it was good karma (from giving the dime earlier). So I gave half to an animal shelter,” she said.

While some, like nursing student Ashley Martin, 21, of Saline, organize canned food drives at their jobs, others feel too busy to give back during the holiday season.

“I go to church more often than usual,” said Rob Peters, 19, of Saline. “I want to be a teacher, so I suppose my giving will be a few years down the road.”

Peters and friend Kristy Weaver, 24, of Pittsfield Township, didn’t even realize that it was December yet. They talked about a heavy course load and wondering where time had gone.

“I’m not there yet. I’m not in that mindset,” said Weaver, a biology major.

But why do people have to be “there” in December? The Stewarts and others argue that there should be a consistency in doing good deeds.

While Weaver did not realize it was December and she should get her giving on, she did mention volunteering her time twice a week year round to coach a school’s baton-twirling team.

Others say they give in different ways. Like Army veteran Ryan McGriff, 23, Ypsilanti, who feels he needs a little time “to find myself.” After four years in the service, including one tour in Iraq, he feels he has done much giving back to the country.

So why don’t more people give year round, or even during the holidays?

“The way the economy is, it’s always up and down. During the holidays, you never have the amount of money you want to have,” said Kevin Tatsack, 23, of Adrian. “Some people feel obligated (to give to others). Holidays put a lot of pressure on people, so they turn in and worry about themselves.”



A snowman on campus the Student Center.

FILE PHOTO THE WASHTENAW VOICE

## GIVING BACK ‘SOME SMILES’

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a division of the U.S. Department of Labor, there has been a steady increase since 2010 of employment and wages. People are making more money each year – and even each month – and unemployment rates keep dropping. So what’s the reason that people are hoarding the money for themselves, rather than helping out those who have less than them?

Of course, there are some grass-roots projects like OccuPIE where citizens are getting out and giving to someone less fortunate than them, even if it is just a pie. Some local businesses, such as Arbor Brewing Co. in downtown Ann Arbor, give back by donating to local non-profit organizations, and even locally sourcing the food.

Giving toys to children to have a good holiday is a nice thought, and is appreciated by the families receiving the toys. But if they can’t afford toys for the holidays, aren’t there other essentials they are lacking, too?

Even for those who can’t afford a monetary donation, there are always opportunities to volunteer time within the community.

“I’m definitely giving back some smiles,” said Tatsack.

And that’s what the spirit of giving should be about, to put a few more smiles on someone’s face year round.

# Whimsical Ann Arbor can be a great place to visit



JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor is a heavily frequented attraction for locals and out-of-town visitors alike.

BY MARIA RIGOU  
Staff Writer

Ann Arbor is much more than a college town.

The sheer energy and the array of cultural opportunities, from world-class art museums to its mix of restaurants, bars and boutiques is what make a visit to Ann Arbor so distinctive.

If you find yourself with some free time around the holidays, why not embark in a tour of the city? You can hit the highlights in a matter of just a couple of days:

### DAY ONE

**7 p.m.:** Start by walking around the Main Street area. This time of the year, the street is decorated with the usual holiday lights, and on Fridays in December, the street hosts something called “Festive Fridays.” Embrace the holiday season and go downtown for live sidewalk entertainment. Stores will be open late if you need to do some additional Christmas shopping.

**8 p.m.:** Try dinner at Grizzly Peak Brewing Co. This restaurant, with on-site brewery, is housed in a century-old building, creating a warm, casual atmosphere. Its menu focuses on fresh ingredients and seasonal items produced in its kitchen. The brewery creates a variety of handcrafted beers for everyone to enjoy.

### DAY TWO

**9 a.m.:** Start your morning early with a visit to Ann Arbor Farmer’s Market, located in the historic

Kerrytown District. It is open year-round and features locally grown food, plants, handcrafts and prepared food items.

**Noon:** The town’s name says it all. There are many trees, both native and exotic in Nichols Arboretum. You can see many of these at the 123-acre site with panoramic views and a path along the winding Huron River. Nichols Arboretum is open from sunrise to sunset.

**4 p.m.:** Weather permitting, visit Gallup Park, which features nature trails, picnic areas, play areas for kids, canoe, rowboat and paddleboat rental, boat launch, and fishing. If you are the type of person who loves the outdoors, this is the place to go.

**7 p.m.:** Go back to Main Street for an incredible selection of restaurants. Or stroll down to Zingerman’s Deli (422 Detroit St.). Founded in 1982, it is fast becoming one of the most famous delicatessens in the country. With more than 100 sandwiches to choose from, it is extremely difficult to decide what to eat. This is an Ann Arbor classic; you cannot leave town without visiting.

### DAY THREE

**10 a.m.:** You can’t be in Ann Arbor without feeling the University of Michigan’s vibes. To get a sense of the campus, start at the corner of North University Avenue and State Street and go straight across the Diag, a pedestrian pathway that cuts through

the heart of the undergraduate campus. Take a right on South University Avenue and walk toward the law school, famous for its Gothic courtyard and modern underground library. If you can, enter the library’s building and take a look at the common room.

**2 p.m.:** With more than 18,000 works of art, there is something for everyone at the newly renovated University of Michigan Museum of Art on State Street. Those preferring ancient and medieval art should cross the street to the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, with more than 100,000 Mediterranean and Middle Eastern objects.

Art not your thing? The University of Michigan Museum of Natural History and Planetarium houses the state’s largest collection of dinosaur skeletons and displays highlighting Michigan’s prehistoric past. The Planetarium offers stargazing shows on weekends and a 360-degree domed screen that surrounds the audience.

Football season may be nearing its end, but U-M boasts nationally ranked basketball and hockey teams whose seasons are under way. Whether it’s sports, culture or just wining and dining at pubs and restaurants catering to every taste bud, Ann Arbor has much to offer its visitors.

*Reporter Maria Rigou, who came to this country from Argentina in August, has visitors from there in town this week, and she plans to show off the city to them. You just read their itinerary.*

# Christmas, a festival of light?



ANNA ELIAS

When shopping from Halloween until after New Year’s Day, “Christmas lights” are found everywhere.

Google “Christmas lights” and see what the search engine comes up with. Then Google “Hanukkah lights” and see the vast difference in the amount of lights labeled for Christmas than for Hanukkah – which is also named the “Festival of Lights.”

The history of Christmas lights is short and sweet, and possibly derived from the pagan holiday traditions during Yule. The lighting of the Yule log was to symbolize that the sun was to return during the darkest and coldest months of the year.

Putting lights on a Christmas tree originally started with placing lit candles onto the tree that resulted in insurance companies putting in a clause stating that they wouldn’t pay for damages to houses due to Christmas tree fires.

Christmas is supposed to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, whom

Christians believe to be the son of God. So how do Christmas lights help to celebrate the birth of the savior?

Hanukkah, translated to mean dedication, celebrates the rededication of the Jerusalem temple after it had been taken over by the Syrian-Greeks. The oil in the menorah to purify the temple was only supposed to last one day, but miraculously lasted for eight days – the entire length of time needed to re-purify the temple.

The question is then asked, why are there so many traditional electric Christmas lights for decorating homes and so few for Hanukkah? Or even for Kwanzaa, which embraces burning candles as a symbol of the holiday.

The decorating of Christmas trees at best is a stolen tradition from pagan religions. Many homes that display the decorative lights do not show nativity scenes or other Christian images. Santa and his reindeer, Frosty the Snowman and icicles hanging from gutters seem to be popular lighted decorations.

So why sell these seemingly non-denominational lights as Christmas lights, instead of “festive winter lights?” Why have so many green and red lights?

The Christian association with these lights should be removed. Then, hopefully, it will spark all religions to put up more festive lights to counteract the effect of seasonal affect disorder and brighten these dark days with beautiful bundles of electricity.



# At the movies for the holidays

BY CASHMERE MORLEY  
*Contributor*

From the loveable green fellow whose heart grew three times its size that day to the jovial snowman that came to life with the help of a magic top hat, most people have that one movie that really puts them in the holiday mood.

Here are some of yours:

“Rudolph and Frosty’s Christmas in July”

“When I was a kid, I used to watch Frosty the Snowman, and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. You know, the one with the clay figures,” said Cameron Wilson, 20, a secondary education student from Ypsilanti who fondly recalls the old-school 1979 stop-motion animation featuring the two popular holiday characters.

“Me and my sister used to cuddle up and watch it; this was back when we had the old box TV with, like, four channels, and one of them was HBO,” he recalled. “We’d even have to get up and turn the knobs. That’s why it’s my favorite (holiday movie). It’s all we had.”

“A Christmas Story”

“I used to watch that movie, you know, with the (quote) ‘you’ll shoot your eye out!’ I watched it all the time,” said Jen Baaske, 25, an Ann Arbor native majoring in physical therapy.

The movie about a young boy named Ralphie, whose one wish is to find a Red Ryder BB Gun underneath the tree come Christmas morning, was just one of those movies she used to watch every year growing up.

“When his tongue gets stuck to the pole,” Baaske said, referring to the scene when

Ralphie’s friend, Flick, is triple dog dared to stick his tongue to a frozen flagpole. “That devastated me. I was so traumatized.”

“Elf”

“There are so many memorable quotes from that movie, it’s classic,” said Darcie Snay, 20, a liberal arts transfer from Dexter who remembers the popular Will Ferrell movie about a Christmas elf who discovers that he’s really a human as being one of those flicks you can quote year-round.

“Every time I’m in a store I’m like, ‘I’m singing, in a store! I’m in a store and I’m singing!’”

“Dr. Seuss’ How the Grinch Stole Christmas”

“That’s just a staple to the holidays for me,” said Libby Kohns, 19, a Highland native and undecided major. “I remember going to my grandma’s house and me and my parents and my siblings and everyone would just sit around and watch that movie, the one with Jim Carrey, and it was just the best time.”

The 2000 movie starring Jim Carrey as the Grinch, a Seuss Christmas character who despises the holidays almost as much as he despises “the Whos down in Whoville” was something of a ritual.

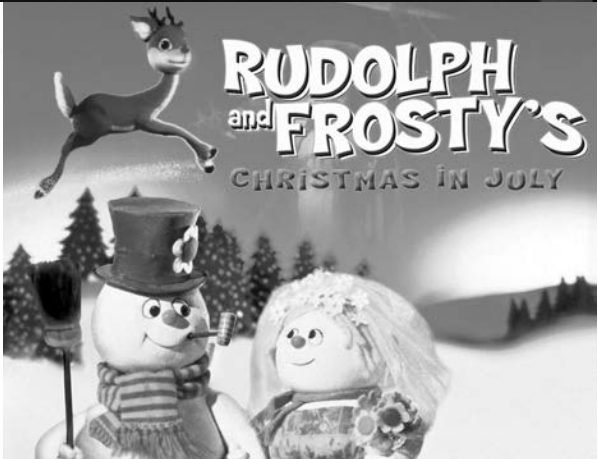
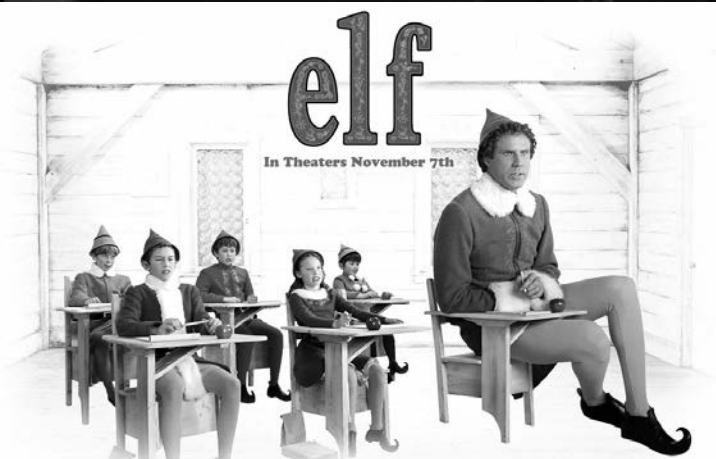
“It was one moment that really just brought my whole family together for Christmas. And I always loved when the Grinch’s heart grew and all the people of Whoville realized he wasn’t so bad, after all.”

“Home Alone”

“I liked ‘Home Alone’ cause as a kid, I always thought that might happen to me,” said Mike Bond, 18, a psychology student from Belleville.

The movie, about a young child named Kevin who is left home alone over Christmas vacation while his parents jet to Paris, takes a turn when two burglars break into Kevin’s house and he outwits them with his homemade booby-traps.

“I could never think that kind of stuff up like that kid does in the movie.” Bond said.



COURTESY PHOTOS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: FILMBALAYA.WORDPRESS.COM , ZAP2IT.COM, ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM, FANPOP.COM

# Sandy’s helpers Ypsi set for Mittenfest VII

Helping hurricane victims durring holidays

BY KAYLEIGH CYRUS  
*Contributor*

Folks in this part of the country may be disappointed about the lack of snow this holiday season, but imagine what it’s like for those in the devastated regions of the East Coast right now.

New York, New Jersey and surrounding states are still reeling from Hurricane Sandy, the worst Atlantic hurricane on record.

When storms ripped through the northeast in late October, families, students and pets were left with little to no supplies, heat, electricity, running water or clothing.

In the last month, the American Red Cross has collected \$128 million to help get hurricane victims back on their feet. And while relief efforts are well under way to rebuild destroyed areas, basic supplies remain in demand – and for a lot of families holiday gifts are the last priority.

For some, the season of giving just won’t happen.

You can help change that. Here’s a list of charities committed to helping

victims of Hurricane Sandy.

- *Al’s Angels* in Westport, Conn. is accepting financial contributions online to help fund a toy drive. Donate online at alsangels.org.
- *Rockaway WISH* is collecting Christmas lights and stockings for families who’ve lost decorations due to floods. Contact rockawayhelp@gmail.com and write CHRISTMAS in the subject line to make arrangements.
- Do your holiday shopping at Zazzle.com and search for “hurricanesupport” for a list of products from which Zazzle will donate a portion of its profits to aid hurricane victims.
- Re-gift unwanted gift cards to victims by mailing them to Christ Church in Toms River, N.J. It will distribute them card cards to needy families. Email rector@stthomascroom.org to coordinate the donation.
- While you’re gathering stocking stuffers, pick up some socks of all sizes, or small hygiene kits and send them to *New York City Relief* 295 Walnut Street, Elizabeth, N.J. 07201.
- Access holiday wish lists anonymously on Amazon.com

BY CASHMERE MORELEY  
AND AMANDA JACOBS  
*Staff Writers*

More than 60 bands, charity, yuletide spirits and holiday revelry complete Washtenaw County’s seventh annual Mittenfest, a five-day event that kicks off next week.

The festival starts at 5 p.m. on Dec. 28 and continues through Jan. 2 at 2 p.m. at the Woodruff’s Bar in Ypsilanti. It’s a giant fundraiser, but it’s awfully well disguised.

“You can go to Mittenfest and not know it’s a charity event,” said Jeremy Peters, one of the co-organizers for the event. “People come who have the time off from work, and it’s just a fun place to hang out for the holidays.”

The money raised at Mittenfest goes straight to a non-profit organization called 826michigan, a group that encourages students of all ages to write. Peters said this aspect of Mittenfest is his favorite part of the whole event.

“All of our services are free, and for kids ages 6-18. We have a variety of services including after school tutoring,” said Amy Wilson, communications coordinator for the event. “We provide one-on-one attention to students who may not get that at home or school,

and it’s based on the importance of writing and skills they will need in the future.”

826michigan offers a number of services, including tutoring, workshops and assistance in student publishing. It also aspires to help teachers inspire their students to write. The 826michigan organization is part of a nationwide network, which started in San Francisco.

“It’s nice to see people willing to spend their time to help kids,” Peters said. “We get a lot of volunteers who come out to help over the holidays.”

Some of the local bands that will play include Bad Indians, the Bangups, Deadbeat Beat, Disinformants, Flint Eastwood, Pink Lightning, the Native and dozens more.

Help also comes in the form of local artists, who turn up at Mittenfest every year to play music and raise some money. This year, more than over 200 bands applied to be part of the holiday gathering. That list is eventually whittled down to a list of 60-plus.

“It’s a mix of musicians from all across the state,” said Peters, who noted that the artists perform anything from indie and folk music to bluegrass.

Tickets for Mittenfest cost \$10, or visitors can opt for the VIP option, which costs \$82.60 but ensures instant

7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MITTENFEST

**WHAT:** A five-day charity event featuring over 60 different local bands

**WHEN:** Kicks off at 5 p.m., Dec. 28 through 2 p.m., Jan. 2

**WHERE:** Woodruff’s Bar, 36 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti

**HOW MUCH:** \$10 a day or \$82.60 for a VIP (guaranteed entry) pass

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** mittenfest@mittenfest.org

admission without the hassle of lines. “At last years’ Mittenfest VI, we raised \$21,000,” Wilson said. “Since the beginning of the first Mittenfest, we’ve raised over \$55,000.”

The organization also plans to host a small festival before the five day event called Minifest. This event will begin around 8 p.m. on Dec. 26, two days before Mittenfest. The event will cost \$10 per person at the door, and will be hosted at the Rush Street Lounge in Ann Arbor.

“I went to Mittenfest last year, it’s a good time,” said Missy Tableau, 25, an Ann Arbor native. “If you want to check out some good local bands, it’s definitely cool. And it’s not that expensive to get in considering all the different bands you get to see.”

# Toys for Tots drive puts smiles on young faces

BY NATALIE WRIGHT  
*Contributor*

More than 20 children will receive Christmas presents this year thanks to the generosity of those who have been filling a cardboard box in the Student Center. The box, located in front of the Student Activities office is a drop-off site for Toys for Tots.

The program, run by the Marine Corps Reserve, collects new, unwrapped toys each year and distributes them to local families in need.

“I was able to pick up and drop off 20 toys last week, so we’re definitely having some impact,” said Lee Dawson, president of the Student Veterans Club, which runs the collection at WCC.

“I don’t have a specific goal, but I

want to get toys to as many kids as possible,” said Dawson, 27, a liberal arts major and resident of Ypsilanti.

Toys for Tots is a simple way to put a smile on a younger’s face over the holidays.

“The wonderful thing about Toys for Tots is that because since it’s essentially an offshoot of the Marine Corps Reserve, the overhead costs are kept very low,” said Dawson.

Anyone working for the program who is not a volunteer is getting paid a Marine Corps salary. This allows 97 percent of the money donated and 100 percent of the toys to go directly to the children in need.

Gifts for children age 12 and under may be dropped off in the donation box on the first floor of the Student Center in front of the Student Activities office.

The collection began during the last week of November and will continue until Dec. 21.

Those wishing to donate money, volunteer or pick up toys can go to the Key Bank building in downtown Ypsilanti. The Toys for Tots office is located on the 4th floor.

A collection box for the Toys for Tots campaign is located outside the Student Activities office on the first floor of the Student Center.

All toys donated must be unwrapped and new. The toy drive ends Dec. 21.



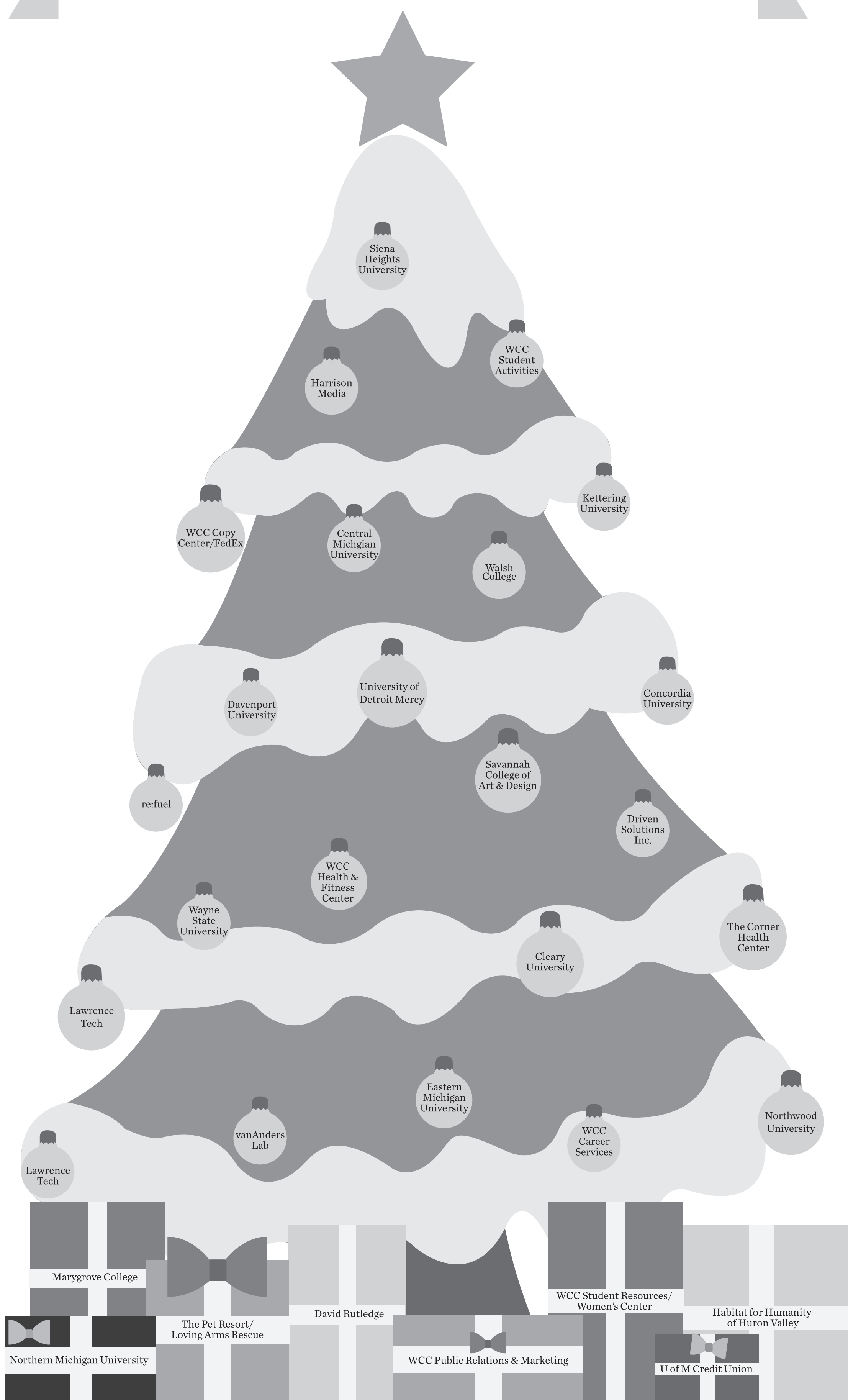
CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Depot Town Tattoo in Ypsilanti has a similar ‘Toys for Tats’ program, exchanging tattoos for Christmas toy donations.



To all those advertisers who support The Voice

# Thank You & Happy Holidays!





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**Delivery Driver:** Experienced, safe drivers who have an outgoing personality and a proven team player is a must. Driving record must not have any serious violations, or more than two moving violations in two years or three in three years. Safety of team members comes first; random drug testing is part of the process.





HOBBIT.COM COURTESY PHOTO

## Great acting can’t save this long-awaited film

**By MATT DURR**  
*Staff Writer*

Nine years after completing “The Lord of the Rings” saga, Academy Award-winning director Peter Jackson returns to take on J.R.R. Tolkien’s “The Hobbit.”

Written in 1937, “The Hobbit” is the tale of Bilbo Baggins (played by Martin Freeman) and his journey

Jackson’s interpretation of this classic novel is at times a marvelous piece

of cinema and at others boring, drawn-out tale that screams for more urgent storytelling.

Jackson’s directorial style is either loved or hated by fans. Instead of following the tradition of shortening novels when turning them into films, Jackson does the opposite. It’s not enough to show viewers the important parts that advance the story; Jackson shows the boring details leading up to the scene.

The biggest difference between “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings” is the lack of diversity in the characters. Whereas Jackson’s original films followed four or five different characters or sets of characters,

“The Hobbit” simply follows Thorin (Richard Armitage) and his gang of dwarves throughout the majority of the 169-minute film.

It may seem like nitpicking, but the LOTR films did not feel like three-hour movies, whereas “The Hobbit” felt like every bit of three hours – giving some viewers a chance to take a short nap. Seriously.

No one can deny the acting chops in this film, as Ian McKellan’s portrayal of Gandalf the Grey is once again magnificent. Combined with the returning antics of Andy Serkis as the schizophrenic Gollum, Jackson’s film is once again the benefactor of superior acting. Freeman does a wonderful

job of capturing the innocence and unknowing nature of Baggins of life outside of The Shire.

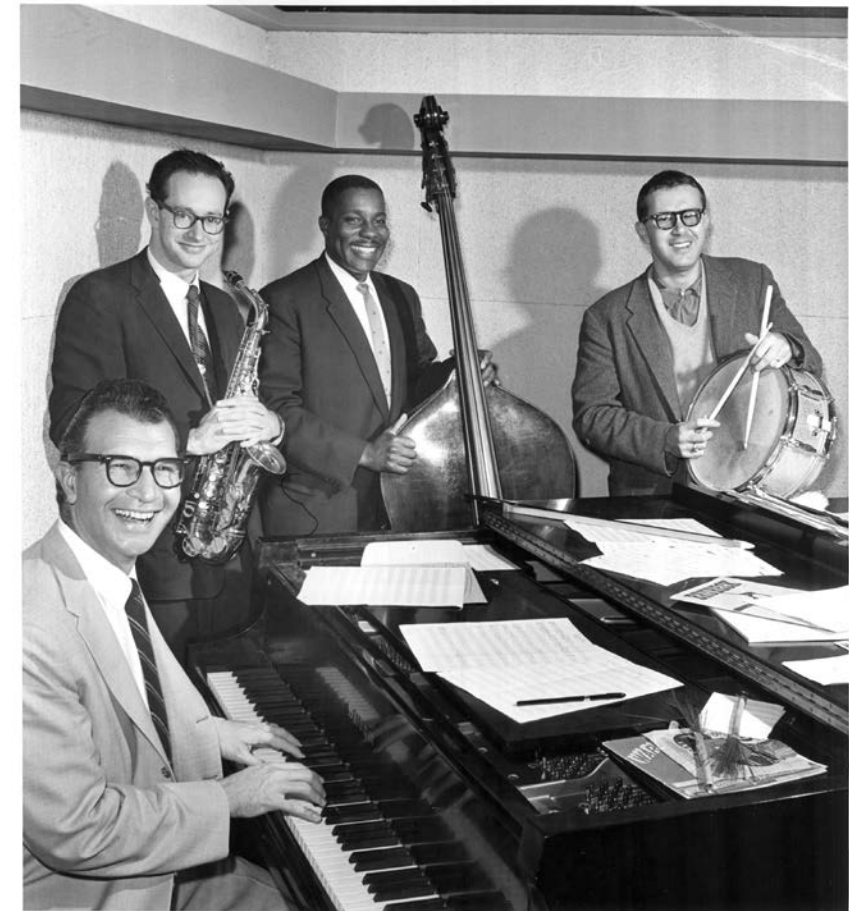
Jackson makes no bones about his love for using CGI and once again uses it to an almost nauseating extent. At times the effects do a wonderful job of capturing the landscape and building wonderful sets that would not be possible to build in real life.

However, there are times during the movie where it feels like you’re watching a Pixar film. You can actually tell when the CGI is being used and, frankly, it looks terrible. Without giving anything away, the final scene of the movie is a prime example.

If you’re a fan of the book and the

saga in general, there is no doubt you’ll enjoy seeing Jackson’s vision on the big screen. For those expecting another captivating movie about Middle Earth, you’re in for a rude awakening. Jackson once again will pull in millions based on the film, but he shouldn’t expect another glamorous night at the Academy Awards.

Rating: C  
Rated: PG-13  
Genre: Fantasy  
Length: 169 minutes



CONCORDMUSICGROUP.COM COURTESY PHOTO

## The warmth of Dave Brubeck remembered

**By BEN SOLIS**  
*Contributing Editor*

In his 70-year tenure as one of the most influential, emulated and financially successful jazzmen, Dave Brubeck garnered countless accolades and unofficial titles: visionary, virtuoso, composer and instructor.

The most rewarding among them was his title as father.

A phenomenal talent who helped forge the genre’s preeminent rise as a cultural fixture in the middle of the last American century, Brubeck passed away recently due to heart failure while on route to a routine cardiology appointment.

He was 91 years old.

What Brubeck leaves behind him is a legacy of oft-recorded and re-imagined standards and many disparate memories to all those who love music, period.

Brubeck, born Dec. 6, 1920, bore six children, five of them going on to play or instruct others in jazz themselves. The most famous are his two sons, Chris and Dan, who formed the quintessential, progressive jazz combo known as the Brubeck Brothers Quartet.

Brubeck’s title as a sonic patriarch did not stop at the picket fences of his own household.

For every young man or woman who sat down by a set of speakers for the first time with any of Brubeck’s music, the experience has and always will be a sort of an emotional awakening. Brubeck’s tone and touch can best be described as a bouncing, fragmented stream of joviality, full of light and love

and weighty solace, even while playing a set of obviously heartbroken ballads.

There was nothing dark or sinister in his jazz, unlike so many of his contemporaries who went on to create harsher sounds in the movement to blast the form to the outer reaches of the consciousness, and beyond.

Like throwing a ball around in the backyard, or a strong hug after doing something spectacular, Brubeck’s music radiated the glowing warmth of the father you either had or wanted to have.

A brief look at his following would display millions of devoted children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren who had willingly flocked the world over to see his ground-breaking quartet, or occasionally with his sons, as it continuously ranked as one of the hottest live engagements before his death on Dec. 5, one day before his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Even in his old age, Brubeck moved crowds in the same fashion as he did when he began so many years ago.

He will be sorely missed by his loved ones, the charities he helped raise awareness for, and the students who painstakingly sat at pianos and other instruments trying to find the same vibe.

Yet those who will miss him the most are the ones who were able to derive a sense of security, comfort and aural fulfillment from his imaginary embrace when the needle dropped on his albums, when his unconditional love for jazz was shared as it droned out into the night.

All in hi-fi, of course.

# Google goes gaming

Incorporating mobile technology, mystery, and exercise to explore your surroundings

**By PETER HOCHGRAF**  
*Graphic Designer*

Imagine that the art around us is not what it seems, that it is there to assist the spread of a mind virus. This is what Google’s new augmented reality game asks us to do.

“Ingress” is developed by Google’s NianticLabs and led by the folks who gave us Google Earth. This project is an Android-based game in which you explore your city to capture mind portals, which are disguised as public art and public buildings.

The whole history behind “Ingress” is purposely vague, as one of the main points in the game is to be a bit of a detective to learn more about the portals and a mysterious government agency, Niantic.

The bulk of Ingress’s gameplay is the classic base-capture style, where you go out and hack portals and capture them for one of two teams, the Enlightened or the Resistance, for world domination.

Linking portals together creates larger fields, which “control” more of the population. Using Google Maps technology on your phone, you end



INGRESS.COM COURTESY PHOTO

up wandering city streets collecting XM, your energy, and capturing and maintaining portals.

On the mystery side of the game, Google has spent a good deal of effort in creating hundreds of clues to the story, both in the game and in real life with videos on YouTube, actors at events and dropped data elsewhere. Almost all of which have additional puzzles embedded into them that can range from the simple hidden text in a photograph to the more complex puzzles that involve knowledge of computer programming to solve.

Google has been teasing us about “Ingress” and the Niantic project since at least Comic Con 2012 in July. Since then, the rumors as to what Ingress and Niantic were began to spread heading into the game’s debut. When

the beta version was introduced last month, the curious public finally got their hands on it.

“Ingress” is still in beta, requiring people to request and wait for an activation code to play. With fun gameplay and multiple ways to play throughout the day (even at work), “Ingress” is a very well-thought-out game for being Google’s first, and it shows a lot of promise for the mobile gamers who don’t mind getting out there and seeing their city.

Grade: B  
Platform: Android  
Developer: NianticLabs  
Publisher: Google  
Genre: Augmented Reality Game

## ‘Far Cry 3’ – a bloodbath in paradise

**By NATHAN CLARK**  
*Managing Editor*

Most first-person shooters provide only a few fleeting hours of story-driven single-player content and end up relying heavily on the online multi-player community to keep gamers interested. But every once and awhile, a shooter hits the market and shatters the iron grip of mediocrity that has been slowly killing the genre for years.

Ubisoft’s latest work of beauty, “Far Cry 3,” is an absolute masterpiece in the world of shooting games.

In the single-player story, gamers play as Jason Brody, a young American on vacation with his brothers and rich friends. While partying on a remote island somewhere in the South Pacific, Brody and his companions are kidnapped by an army of human-traffickers who promise to ransom the kids back to their families, but plan to sell them into slavery anyway.

Brody manages to escape the pirates with the help of his older brother and later, with the help of the island natives, fights to save his friends from the pirates and kill the maniac responsible for their situation.

The single-player campaign is spectacular, well-written and is by no means short. There are hours of story missions, side missions and challenges to play through and competitive games that are ranked against players’ friends and other players registered on the Uplay network.

The environment in “Far Cry 3” is enormous and breath-taking. The island where the game is set truly is fully functioning, with collectable plant life used to make medicine, animals to kill and skin for their hides to craft survival gear; even local natives living their lives as they would normally appear, and not just standing around, waiting for players to do something.

“Far Cry 3” was given a Mature rating and lives up to it. The game is filled with violence, harsh language, unsettling sexual situations, drugs and gritty nastiness. So parents, this is a game made for mature adults. Consider yourselves warned about the game’s contents.

The online multi-player is solid, much like the other shooting games on the market, making it desirable to gamers who only care about crushing

other players instead of the vivid storyline provided in the single-player experience.

“Far Cry 3” additionally has a co-op mode with its own story and set of characters. Gamers play as one of four crew members working on a fancy cruise ship for the wealthy when it gets attacked and hijacked by pirates.

The ship’s captain apparently set the hijacking up so he could steal the millions of dollars stored on board and run off with the pirates. Gamers play with up to three additional players on a quest for justice and revenge, hunting down the cruise ship captain who betrayed his crew members and left everyone to die.

With its amazing story, hours of gameplay, beautiful visuals and all-around fun online experience, “Far Cry 3” is a must-have for anyone who loves shooters.

Grade: A+  
Rating: M  
Systems: PS3, Xbox, PC  
Developer: Ubisoft