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# THE WASHTENAW VOICE

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Volume 20, Issue 14

The student publication of Washtenaw Community College  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Always Listening

## College mulls modest tuition rate increase

But hourly cost for  
online classes may rise

By MARIA RIGOU  
Editor  
AND NATALIE WRIGHT  
Managing Editor

Tuition might rise modestly next fall, but Washtenaw Community College's rates will likely remain among the lowest in the state, officials said.

A discussion of rate increases was a prime topic among several when the college's board of trustees gathered for their annual winter retreat on Feb. 8. Chief Financial Officer Bill Johnson led the tuition rate increase discussion that was based on comparisons of WCC to other community colleges in the state and also on internal factors, such as the resources that students need to support their college experience.

"We have, historically, and continue

to, trend at a tuition rate below the averages," Johnson said. "And the institution is very, very proud of that."

Michigan's 28 community colleges provide more than 440,000 students access to affordable post-secondary education.

Gov. Rick Snyder's Executive Budget recommendation for fiscal years 2015-16 makes an increase in the

**TUITION**  
CONTINUED A5

### Going Places



Sulaiman Shaikh, 32, moved from California to Michigan and is his first semester at WCC. Already looking for a college to transfer to, Shaikh spoke to Daniel Medrow, a senior adviser for Eastern Michigan University during the WCC Transfer Fair, an event that hosts representatives from more than 50 colleges and universities in the Student Center. It's an opportunity for students to collect information on prospective college's and ask questions about their transcripts. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

## Trustees zero in on student success

By NATALIE WRIGHT  
Managing Editor  
AND MARIA RIGOU  
Editor

The rate of success among students is among the most important issues facing colleges and universities. Defining it, however, remains one of their most difficult challenges.

This is why the Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees put so much focus on it at their annual winter retreat on Feb. 8.

The discussion, led by Trustee Stephen Gill, served as a reminder of the indicators that the college has identified to define student success and how it is, as he described it, "a backdrop for what we do."

"We identified 16 possible indicators of success," Gill explained. "There is no one indicator. In community colleges, it is not fair to say that completion in three years is the only indicator of success (because we serve a variety of students) ... and in our policymaking we are keeping our sight on all

of these."

Even though state and federal administrations pay close attention to completion rates and time frames for completion, Gill said that the college and the board will continue to look at those indicators and the host of indicators the college has identified, such as student goals, transfer rates, student satisfaction, employment rate and employment retention rate, among others, to define success.

Student success is what drives everything at the college, Julie Morrison, executive director of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Accreditation said. Improving student success through both Instruction and Student Services led the force behind WCC's strategic plan, a document that was introduced in 2011, she said.

The strategic plan is made up of eight priorities that involve professional development, institutional agility, visibility and branding, workforce development, partnerships with K-12 institutions, funding and community development and, of course,

student success.

"As we evolved with the priorities (student success) is the one that not only involved the most people, but also kind of imbued every other priority," Morrison said.

At the retreat, each of Washtenaw's vice presidents presented a report on where they stand with their strategic plan goals and what they're prioritizing, Wendy Lawson, vice president of Advancement said.

And the discussion inevitably focused on the student success goals, and there are many.

A list of 13 faculty department initiatives was presented to the trustees at the retreat. The school is funding



Wendy Lawson

**STUDENT SUCCESS**  
CONTINUED A6

## College requests extension on SOQ request

Washtenaw Community College's General Counsel Larry Barkoff filed a request for a 10-day extension regarding a Freedom of Information Act request by *The*

*Washtenaw Voice* seeking Student Opinion Questionnaires.

The request for an extension, in accordance with the FOIA, was made on Feb. 19.

On Feb. 10, *The Voice* filed its

appeal of the college's denial of the FOIA request for the last five years of SOQs.

The college said it would make a decision on whether or not to release the SOQs, by March 5.



The little campus squirrel stood stoically near the GM building unaware of his increasing popularity with the students walking by. See page A5  
KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

## College's 'best practices' tied to state funding

Education funds  
distributed among  
colleges based on  
performance

By MARIA RIGOU  
Editor

Washtenaw Community College scored the highest of all community colleges in the state in best practices, and as a result, state appropriation revenue increased.

Since Gov. Rick Snyder took office in 2011, combined operations and retirement funding for community colleges have increased by more than \$72 million, according to the Executive Budget recommendation released by the state of Michigan.

Snyder's proposed budget recommends an increase in funding of \$371.5 million, of which \$173.9 million is general fund for 2015, as well as \$390.2 million, of which \$192.6 million is general fund for 2016.

Increase in state funding is distributed to colleges in two parts:

the first half of the new funding is an across-the-board increase; the second half is distributed based on performance metrics, such as weighted degree and certificate completions, enrollment, administrative costs as a percentage of core expenditures and best practices that enhance local strategic value.

The best practices, outlined by Snyder, are a key component in the governor's goal of ensuring that at least 60 percent of Michigan's residents have high-quality skills training, a degree or any other credential by 2025.

"It's really what the governor has identified as the matrix for success in the perfecting of community colleges," Wendy Lawson, vice president of Advancement, said. "We scored the highest of all community colleges."

In accordance with the Education Omnibus Appropriation Act for fiscal year 2014, the college is required to certify that it meets certain minimum requirements in order to qualify for state appropriations.

**FUNDING**  
CONTINUED A6



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Shamrock Shakes

Join Student Activities for a delicious green treat!  
Date: March, 17<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 12pm-1pm  
Location: SC Community Room  
Price: FREE!

### Ticket: Ice Skate at Yost!

Bring your friends and family for a night of fun at Yost Ice Arena!  
Ticket includes: Pizza or hotdogs/pop. Optional skate rental \$1  
Only \$5  
March 8<sup>th</sup>  
Yost Ice Arena

**Purchase tickets at the Cashier's Office**

### Student Design Contest

Digitally illustrate WCC's mascot, Alpha! If your art is chosen, you will win a Pro Wacom tablet! Current WCC students sign up here:  
<http://tinyurl.com/createalpha>

**Art work must be submitted no later than Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### Ticket: Bowling Bash

Only \$15  
March 13  
7p.m.-9p.m.  
Colonial Lanes  
Ticket includes bowling, shoe rental, and buffet Dinner!

**Purchase tickets at the Cashier's Office**

### Ticket: Beauty and the Beast

Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
7:30p.m.  
Fisher Theatre  
**Tickets Coming Soon!**

## Upcoming Sports Opportunities!

### Men's Club Baseball Tryouts

Dates: Monday through Thursday, March 10th through March 13th  
Time: 4:30pm-7:00pm

Where: WCC Baseball Diamond located next to the WCC Health and Fitness Center  
Please bring your WCC Student ID and your own mitt.

You must pre-register for this tryout in the WCC Sports Office prior to participating in tryouts.

### Women's Club Softball First Practices

Dates: Monday March 31st and Thursday April 3rd  
Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Where: WCC Softball Diamond located next to the WCC Health and Fitness Center  
Please bring your WCC Student ID and your own mitt (if you have one).

Please pre-register for this tryout in the WCC Sports Office prior to the first practice.

### Intramural Bowling

Registration: Now through March 5th or until all spots are filled  
Dates: Fridays, March 7th through March 28th  
Time: 5:30pm

Where: Colonial Lanes in Ann Arbor (1950 S. Industrial Hwy.)  
Please bring your WCC Student ID with you to the event.

You must register for this event in the WCC Sports Office prior to participating. No one will be allowed to participate that hasn't already registered.

### Intramural March Madness Brackets

Date: Brackets are due on March 20th  
Time: Brackets due before halftime of the first game.  
Where: SC 116

We will have both a Women's and a Men's bracket.

If you have any questions about any opportunities or other sports opportunities don't hesitate to ask! Contact [elemm@wccnet.edu](mailto:elemm@wccnet.edu), 734-973-3720 or stop by WCC Sports on SC 116!

**Keep in Touch! Instagram: WCCSDA, Facebook: Washtenaw CC and <http://tinyw.cc/sda>**



# SMART Act? Students aren’t so sure

By ADRIANNA VELAZQUEZ  
Staff Writer

Democratic lawmakers are attacking higher education with a recent proposal to help Michigan students. State Rep. David Knezek, D-Dearborn Heights, and Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, proposed the \$2 million SMART Act or Smarter Michigan and Retaining Talent Act, which would establish a pilot program removing financial barriers for 200 Michigan students. But students aren’t sold on the idea. The plan would give 100 community college students and 100 four-year university students access to higher education by offering them

interest-free loans. “When you look at the state appropriations in the 1970s, the state accounted for 75 percent of the university’s budget and tuition accounted for 25 percent. Here we are in 2014, the numbers have flipped; we increasingly place the burden of higher education on students,” said Rep. Knezek. The proposal would give students interest-free loans for up to five years. Students who decide to participate in the program would be committed to paying back 4 percent of their income for five years for every one year that they choose to borrow. This part of the proposed legislation has raised a lot of criticism from students. “I’m unimpressed. I mean, it’s a commendable idea but not realistic

for our already fragile economy,” said Amanda Severino, 24, of Melvindale. “If people are already finding it hard to make ends meet, with or without a college education, requiring them to forgo a percentage of their income right off the top, assuming they can even find worthy employment following graduation.” Unlike the six-month grace period for students borrowing loans to pay for their education, the “Pay it Forward” plan doesn’t require students to immediately pay back the money borrowed. “The students don’t start paying back until they have a job that pays above the federal poverty limit,” said Knezek, “and so, we didn’t want students to, like they currently

are, graduating and then immediately having to pay hundreds of dollars in loans in the period of months right after graduating without having the job to do it. “It is as an opportunity to introduce an interest-free program that has the potential to remove every financial barrier to higher education and then allows students who pay back into the program to have those funds as we say, ‘Pay It Forward’ for the next generation of students to attend college and achieve a degree as well.” So what are the criteria to be a part of the pilot program if it gets the green light from the legislature? It’s simple. “You have to be a Michigan student, you have to be attending a Michigan

public university or community college, you have to pass a means test, you have to be maintaining a 2.5 GPA throughout your time in the program,” Knezek explained. “We want to make sure that we can test this program for a number of years. If and when it’s proven successful, we want to be able to roll it out to every Michigan student.” Even so, students aren’t buying it. “If this plan was personally offered to me I wouldn’t take it,” said Natasha Brausser, 19, of Owosso. “I don’t like anything about this proposal because if you looked into it, you would see that you really don’t gain anything from it. You actually lose. I feel like the SMART Act is actually a step in the wrong direction for reforming higher education.”

## New job training program allows WCC to create new partnerships

By MARIA RIGOU  
Editor

Washtenaw has the opportunity to build new and stronger relationships with businesses and industries with the Michigan New Jobs Training Program. The MNJTP was designed as an economic development tool that allows community colleges the opportunity to provide free training for employers creating new jobs in the state, in addition to the positions that they already have. This local program is funded by the state and “is paid by capturing the state income tax associated with the new employees’ wages,” according to the Michigan Community College Association’s webpage. Michelle Mueller, associate vice president of Economic and Community Development at WCC, said that this local program helps both employers and educational institutions because it captures dollars. The program puts a \$50 million cap on contracts that are managed by colleges at one time. “There is a revolving amount of money (at all times),” Mueller said, explaining that community colleges interested in this program have to apply and are put in a queue system. Once money becomes available, the college is alerted. Washtenaw received notice in November 2013 that \$500,000 was

available to start a training program for businesses and industries in the area. “The training program does not restrict in industry,” Mueller said, explaining that the college needs to start looking for possible prospective businesses and tailor training programs to their needs. “This gives the community college all kinds of opportunities,” Mueller said. “We can use dollars from the program to buy equipment that we will later keep.” The program is being implemented in a number of colleges, but Mueller said that Oakland Community College has used \$8 million-\$9 million in training for businesses and industries in its area. “We have executed contracts with 10 companies in the area,” Sandra Bachert, Business Services Manager at Oakland Community College said. “It has become a popular program because income taxes are diverted to repay training expenses, and it gives smaller companies an opportunity to train their employees.” Mueller also highlighted the importance of this program for students at Washtenaw. If a business is coming to the college for training, it is probably because of what the college has to offer, thus giving more chances to students who are studying in that specific area to be in the lookout for job opportunities. “In a community, talent is a number one driver,” Mueller said.



## Automotive Technologies: Creating jobs of the future?

By JON PRICE  
Staff Writer

Washtenaw Community College may be offering a new, cutting-edge automotive program next fall, said instructor Michael Duff. If Duff’s proposal to WCC’s Board of Trustees is approved, it would mean a \$150,000 renovation for the Larry L. Whitworth Occupational Education Building. The automotive service lab would be equipped with state-of-the-art automotive-engineering technology. The program would be specifically tailored to meet industry needs, ensuring that students who finish the program will be entering into a promising job market. So promising, in fact, that the U.S. Department of Labor has projected a 30 percent increase of jobs in the automotive repair and maintenance industry by the year 2020. The program, Duff explained, would offer a career pathway to a new hybrid job as a research and design engineer technician. These are positions developed specifically for companies like Detroit Diesel and Toyota to bridge the gap between engineers and automotive technicians. “The demand is huge,” Duff said, adding that working in this field would also offer a unique set of working conditions.

“A lot of them would be doing emissions testing, fuel economy testing, component testing,” Duff said, noting that students would be working with the latest technologies. “We have a lot of the skills already taught here. Problem is we need \$150,000 in equipment to even pull it off.” If WCC does pull it off, auto services students would have a leg up on the field. “No one is really turning them out,” Duff said. “I wish they started this program a long time ago,” Henry McAuley said. “It probably would have helped me out a lot, and I probably would have started out higher up in the company.” McAuley, 21, is an automotive service technology student at Washtenaw, and, according to Duff, he is a perfect candidate for this program. McAuley works as a chassis and dyno technician for Toyota and sees this program as a ticket to the jobs of tomorrow. “Hopefully the new program will help young techs enter the workforce more prepared than I was,” McAuley said. “This program has the potential to make many desirable technicians for the very near future, especially here in Ann Arbor,” he said. In September, Toyota announced it would spend more than \$28 million to expand operations at its Technical Center in Ann Arbor “to develop additional engines and automatic transmissions for vehicles designed and

built in North America,” according to *The Automotive News*. Paul Krutko is the president of Ann Arbor SPARK, a non-profit group that plays matchmaker for local business owners and educational institutions like Washtenaw so students can graduate with specific skills that make them desirable in the local and national job markets. “Toyota chose to relocate and take root here because of local resources,” Krutko said. “Specifically the deep pool of engineering and technical talent.” “There are hundreds of companies that have contacted us” looking for the new breed of automotive technician, Duff said. “They need a student with welding, fabrication and drafting skills.” In the same time it would take a person to become a standard mechanic, a motivated student could graduate as a research and design engineer technician. By pursuing the latter, students could expect a \$40,000 rookie year, plus benefits and tuition reimbursement, according to Duff. “This high-performance class is pretty much one of the last classes they can take here,” said Justin Morningstar, a lab assistant in the OE building. The class is an upper-level automotive class with some of the very same students who would become prime candidates for the new technician program.

## New course to capture the classroom experience online

By JAMES SAOUD  
Staff Writer

Cassandra George-Sturges wants to hear students’ opinions on what it means to be an American. George-Sturges, a Washtenaw Community College behavioral science instructor, will be moderating a series of discussions about race and ethnicity in America on March 5-7. The discussions will be videotaped and used in the new distance-learning course Sociology 205. Though the class is taught traditionally on campus at WCC, George-Sturges wants to open up the course

to a broader group of students who can’t make it to campus. However, taking the course online has raised some issues within the department in the past. “The concern is, can we capture the richness of a classroom experience?” she said. This is where the students come in. George-Sturges wants to tape her discussions with student volunteers to share with her class as a way to create a classroom atmosphere. “I want people to talk about their experiences here in America,” George-Sturges said. “I want people to see

people and to be a part of something that is real, not just some textbook.” The class and discussions are a way for the department to become more technologically active and give students a way to interact through distance-learning courses. George-Sturges also thinks this will bring a new opportunity for students to grow culturally. “In order for people to evolve, you need to talk to somebody about this,” George-Sturges said. “I want us to put something together that represents our college, our students and our students’ voices”

## CALENDAR

### FRIDAY, FEB. 28

**Your Story Training** will be held in TI 246 from 10-11:30 a.m. Tell your inspiring story and become part of WCC’s new student panel. More information in SC 112. **Five Star Leadership Training** will be held in TI 246 from 3-4 p.m. Become a student leader by gaining leadership skills. For more information visit <http://tinyurl.com/leaderw14>.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

**Resume development workshop** will be held in ML 120 from noon-1:30 p.m. This hands-on workshop will help students develop their resume that will

project a positive image. For more information contact Arista Metler at 734-677-5155.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 6

**Interview skills workshop** will be held in ML 120 from 1-2:30 p.m. Learn how to prepare for an interview, how to research companies and how to successfully interview. For more information contact Arista Metler at 734-677-5155.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 7

**Job search techniques workshop** will be held in ML 120 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. These sessions provide information in the job search process and how to go about finding the right job. For more information

contact Arista Metler at 734-677-5155.

### COLLEGE VISITATIONS

**Eastern Michigan University:** Feb. 26 from 1-5 p.m., Feb. 27 from noon-4 p.m., March 5 in from 1-5 p.m. and March 6 from noon-4 p.m. in SC 206. **University of Michigan-Flint:** March 4 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the first floor of the Student Center. **Western Michigan University:** March 4 from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. in the first floor of the Student Center. **Concordia University:** March 5 from 1-4 p.m. in the first floor of the Student Center.

## SECURITY NOTES

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

### Larceny

A student left his backpack unattended for 40 minutes in the Math Resource Center. Upon his return, he discovered that his backpack was missing and reported it stolen to Campus Security on Feb. 10 at 1:35 p.m.

### Larceny

While lounging in the Student Center on Feb. 10 at 2:30 p.m., a student dropped a cell phone, which then

slid to the other side of the SC dividing wall separating the walkway and tables. When the student went to retrieve the phone a while later, it was no longer there.

### Hit and Run

A 2011 Nissan station wagon was struck on the front driver side while parked on the fourth floor of the parking structure on Feb. 12 at 8:40 p.m. The case has been turned over to the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department.



EDITORIAL

Honest mistakes should make us all better

In journalism, we have a saying: “If your mom tells you she loves you, find a second source.”

For the past year or so, we have been doing things the way that Washtenaw Community College wanted them. We have a primary point of contact to get interviews and meetings with administration and staff and other relevant information like press releases or important documents, and, so far, everything has been fairly smooth sailing.

However, at the beginning of the month, the college’s board of trustees, together with the administration, had their annual winter retreat, where they discussed topics like student success, tuition rates and the state of the budget, especially in relation to state and federal funding.

Because of miscommunication, *The Voice* was not there to cover it as it usually is. And so, in this issue, you will find second-hand accounts of what happened.

We vow to give our readers the best we can, and, unfortunately, what you are reading in this paper right now is the best we can.

We *know* that we can do better.

The college’s administration has given us only one way to access to all this information, especially when it comes to board meetings and board content. We can say that we have a

good, working relationship with our contact, and that things have been working out for both parties, the administration and the newspaper it supports through funding.

However, it comes as a surprise to us as the staff that some members of the administration think that we want everything handed to us on a silver platter.

The editorial team at *The Voice* checks, almost religiously, the trustees’ website so that when a meeting gets cancelled or postponed, we know immediately. We also check for minutes, for agendas and for other documents, so that we can go to all meetings prepared and ready to tackle stories.

The retreat’s agenda was posted on the website on Feb. 6, and it only contained the front page and no other details.

On Feb. 5, *The Voice* checked the trustees’ website to see if there was any announcement regarding the retreat, but the only thing that we could find was the schedule of upcoming meetings, and the next meeting programmed for Feb. 11, just three days after the retreat was supposed to happen.

Finding it odd, *The Voice* contacted the appropriate person and was informed that both the retreat and the meeting were cancelled.

It came as a huge surprise when we found out, by our own means, that

the retreat had indeed happened and that something as big as tuition was discussed at the time. Of course, that news didn’t come to us on a silver platter either.

In fact, over the past several years, this newspaper can count on a few fingers the number of times it has received a news release, or even a heads-up phone call, about news the college would share with an audience of 15,000 or so *Voice* readers.

So next time, we will be at the retreat because now we know better.

Honest mistakes happen, and we acknowledge that we were at fault, too, because, after all, even mothers stray from the truth from time to time.

“*Were it left to me to decide whether to have government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter.*” - Thomas Jefferson

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

A teaser on Page One of the Feb. 10 edition incorrectly directed readers to the wrong page. The correct page should have been A5.

Both illustrations in Page One of the Feb. 10 edition should have been attributed to *Voice* staff members. “What is the wage worth?” was done by EJ Stout. “Telling Oscar’s fortune” was done by Erik Morris.

On page B1 of the Feb. 10 issue, accompanying the article titled “Slum Tourism,” the center photo illustration omitted the name of the location, Eastown Theatre.

Olympics were must-viewing



BY KELLY BRACHA  
*Staff Writer*

I never understood the people who don’t care about the Olympic Games. I can accept apathy toward politics, big celebrity news and other events the media deems “breaking news,” but the Olympics? How can you *not* love it?

Friends, family members and colleagues just don’t care. It’s hard to find a person to gush with on the amazing performances of Michigan ice dancers Charlie White and Meryl Davis, or how disappointing it was when Shaun White just couldn’t achieve a gold medal in the half-pipe competition.

But it’s not about the gossip. It’s about tradition and the human race.

It’s an event that happens only every four years, per season Olympics. The sheer magnitude of the event alone is staggering. In Sochi, nearly 88 nations with an estimated 2,800 athletes are competing in 15 disciplines, all in the span of 16 days. I still can’t wrap my head around it.

It really hits me during the opening ceremony, seeing every nation march together, waving their flag, all gathered in the same place. For a moment, you forget that some of these countries just absolutely hate each other, that some of them are at war, even.

When the games finally begin, you can’t help but cheer for your country; it can turn anyone into a patriot.

This celebration of physical skill and dominance makes celebrities out of those who truly deserve it. These athletes have dedicated their entire lives to become the best of the best at this one thing. All have their own amazing stories of sacrifice, discipline, victory or heartbreak – it’s overwhelmingly motivating and inspiring.

Behind these athletes are the towns they came from and the country they represent and within that, an

overwhelming sense of community.

Walking into the Arctic Edge Ice Skating Arena in Canton, where White and Davis trained nearly their entire lives, there’s an air of pride. On the ice, little future dancers, undoubtedly having watched the gold-medal performance and now dreaming big for themselves.

They are the real role models.

It’s so easy to become irrationally invested in sports you don’t understand. I’m still confused about curling, but I can’t help but smile when there’s a good stone thrown. I might be cheering for the United States, but I still cringe when an ice skater from Russia takes a nasty fall.

These events create memories that can tug on your heartstrings and give you a sense of awe.

For two weeks every two years as the Winter and Summer Games appear, I feel inexorably connected to humanity.

I’m reminded what humanity is capable of when we can come together and celebrate each other. I’m reminded that there is hope for us still.

The Olympic Games are far from just a sporting competition. They are a celebration of all humanity.

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*The Washtenaw Voice* is produced fortnightly by students of Washtenaw Community College and the views expressed herein will not imply endorsement or approval by the faculty, administration or Board of Trustees of WCC.

Student publications are important in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and in bringing matters of concern and importance to the attention of the campus community. Editorial responsibility for *The Voice* lies with the students, who will strive for balance, fairness and integrity in their coverage of issues and events while employing the best habits and practices of free inquiry and expression.

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The Voice welcomes letters to the editor from its readers and will make every effort to publish them. We reserve the right to edit letters for space considerations, and ask that writers limit their comments to no more than 400 words. All letters must include a name and contact information, such as an email address or phone number, so the letters can be verified before they are printed.

*The Voice* is committed to correcting all errors that appear in the newspaper and on its website, just as it is committed to the kind of careful journalism that will minimize the number of errors printed. To report an error of fact that should be corrected, phone 734-677-5405 or email thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

A copy of each edition of *The Washtenaw Voice* is free to everyone. Additional copies are available at *The Voice* newsroom, TI 106, for 25 cents each.

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Always Listening

Some things just need to change



KARLY STANISLOVAITIS

Tell someone you were born in 1990; they might become reminiscent about VHS tapes, Surge and Mp3 players.

Tell someone with a disability about 1990, and they might recall a very important milestone, which, in part, is why I have the freedom to be a regular college student writing for *The Voice*.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was founded in 1990 by President George H. W. Bush. It prohibits discriminating against

those with disabilities.

By this time, women’s suffrage was 71 years old, prohibition had come and gone and we witnessed the first man on the moon 21 years prior.

So why did it take 23 years for those with disabilities to be able to garner the same protection and freedom while we passed countless other laws that had changed our foundation years before?

As a person who has grown up with cerebral palsy, I can say with absolute certainty that I would not have the freedom to be a regular college student working to secure a future if not for those who gave voice and new sense of freedom to those with disabilities.

Awareness and stigmas surrounding those with physical or mental disabilities are still far behind 21st century ways of thinking. The ignorance and invisible social barrier that exists among those with disabilities and those without them is still alive and well.

In my opinion, everyone should be educated about disabilities. And that can start by not treating those who have them as if they are outsiders.

Talk to them about common interests; pop culture, family or pets are always a good start. The goal is not for things to feel awkward, but rather to attempt to break down barriers. Start by discussing anything you choose, but if you are curious about someone’s disability you should remember to be tactful and respectful.

I once had someone ask me, “What’s wrong with you?” instead of simply asking, “Why are you here? What kind of disability do you have?”

Overall, we need to change the way we interact with those with disabilities, and it starts with each person who is willing to make that change. Be respectful, and don’t treat someone with a disability as if they’re five years old.

We want to be treated like everyone else. We all need to get with the times and realize this needs to change.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Let’s publish students grades, too

As a part-time instructor at WCC, as you can imagine, I have a great deal of interest in the SOQ process and its outcome. That’s why I was so interested in the recent cover story on SOQs, and the benefits/drawbacks of making the results available to students and, thereby, to the public in general.

Many of those quoted seemed to think that the results should be made available to help students determine who might or might not be a “good” instructor according to the SOQ scores. There was also mention that students are customers, and teachers are the providers of services, like store owners.

I suggest that to make the process truly communicative and by doing so, transparent, that we consider the following:

Make the results of all SOQs available to the public by publishing them on a website; after all, it is the residents of Washtenaw County who, through property taxes, help to keep the college open. Shouldn’t they be part of a transparent process?

Have the student filling out an SOQ sign his or her name. This would serve two purposes. First, it would support the transparency of the process and enhance communication between student and instructor. Second, it could serve to identify those students who may find it amusing to give every instructor a poor evaluation, just for the sheer fun of it. Eliminating this possible messing with system (and I’m not saying at all that this is happening) by having students sign the evaluation would only make the SOQs that much more valid, and, thereby, more

beneficial to other students.

Make the results of all students’ grades public on the same website as the SOQs. This would, again, increase the prospects for transparency. Publishing student grades might also be a way for future students to know if an SOQ was filled out accurately or just to fool around and/or create trouble for an instructor. As indicated above, surely those taxpayers who support WCC would be interested to know how students are progressing.

After all, as a service provider, I surely would like to know as much about my customers as possible. Just a proposal to keep the conversation going.

DAVID HOROWITZ  
*English Department*





Judith Hommel KATHY STADTFELD | COURTESY PHOTO

# Judith Hommel loses fight with cancer

Judith Hommel, artist and educator who brought class and culture to Washtenaw Community College during more than 25 years of service to the school, died at her home on Feb. 11. She was 70.

Hommel had been fighting ovarian cancer for four years, during which she became an advocate for all women fighting the disease. She retired from Washtenaw in 2011 after serving as a special assistant to then-President Larry Whitworth.

Sheissurvivedbyherhusband, Mike Hommel, daughters, Erika Boehnke (Chris Boehnke), and Leslie Dobos (Erik Dobos), and four grandchildren. A memorial service was held on Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. at the First Congregational Church, 608 E. Williams St., Ann Arbor.

To read more about a career dedicated to WCC, visit: <http://www.washtenawvoice.com/2014/02/amazing-grace/>



INTERVIEW AND PHOTO BY  
NATALIE WRIGHT  
Managing Editor

Surrounded by boisterous groups of students that packed the first floor of the Student Center on a recent Monday afternoon, Eileen Meier, 26, sat quietly in the alcove under the stairs with friends who passed the time playing card games.

Meier, a digital video production student from Ypsilanti, stuck out in the crowd with her puff-ball-topped TARDIS hat. So *The Voice* pulled her aside and asked her to take five minutes for a chat.

**Washtenaw Voice:** What’s your favorite event at the Olympics?

**Eileen Meier:** Well, for the Winter Games it’s always the figure skating. It’s fun to watch. I like watching the skaters from Michigan a lot. That was really cool watching them and knowing that they’re from here.

**WV:** How are you coping in this year’s harsh winter weather?

**EM:** The winter weather’s OK. Of course, I gotta wear my geeky hats. I have a “Nightmare Before Christmas” hat, and this TARDIS hat. I have some others, too. Every day that I wear one people come up to me and say, “I really like your hat.”

**WV:** Winter break is coming up. What are your plans for the time off?

**EM:** Hopefully it means I get to go to an anime convention and see my future boyfriend. It’s in New Jersey and we’re thinking about doing a road trip. I really hope we can make it happen. That would be awesome.

**WV:** Where do you get your news?

**EM:** Well, usually from different people. When I’m at my mom’s I watch channel 7 because that’s what she watches. I don’t exactly have TV or newspapers or anything, but I do have Internet. I read about famous people dying or new movies that are coming out.

# SNIPS

## College to award honorary degrees

Washtenaw Community College hopes to bestow an honorary degree on Dr. Jill Biden, wife of the Vice President Joe Biden.

The college’s board of trustees and made the decision at the board’s winter retreat on Feb. 8.

“Her office has let us know that she’s not making the decision until the president makes a decision about where he’s going for commencement,” Wendy Lawson, vice president of Advancement,

said. “So the board made a decision that we wanted to make an additional offer as well.”

And that went to Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., when some of the board members and WCC President Dr. Rose Bellanca were in Washington D.C., recently.

“We had our first student do an internship in D.C. this summer, and it was in Sen. Levin’s office,” Lawson said. “So that’s an important relationship, and we thought it would be great to honor that.

“And he has been a champion for education.”

## Jury’s out for students

Gov. Rick Snyder signed a bill on Feb. 20 excusing full-time college students from jury duty.

House Bill 4570, introduced by Rep. Kevin Cotter, R-Mt. Pleasant, allows students to postpone jury duty to a time when it’s more convenient, such as summer or winter breaks.

The students must prove that jury duty will interfere with classes, exams or study schedules.

# Fearless squirrel captures hearts of students, eats well

By DAVID FITCH  
Staff Writer

Step aside, Wolf Pack, Washtenaw Community College may just have a new mascot.

An unusually friendly and fearless squirrel, who some students are calling “JJ,” has taken to hanging around just outside of the Gunder Myran building, happily accepting food donations from curious and affectionate students.

The squirrel has done this for several days recently, students said.

“He’s been here since I was here on

Tuesday (Feb. 11),” said Jessica Skillin, an 18-year-old ultrasound technology major.

While happy to sit only a few feet from the creature, Skillin, of Howell, had qualms when the curious rodent reached for her coffee. She quickly moved it out of reach.

James Halling, 19, a math major from Canton, was less squeamish and even petted the squirrel.

“I heard people were petting him, so why not?” he said.

The squirrel didn’t seem to mind. It just kept munching on handouts while the hand stroked its back.



The squirrel approached students that were attempting to take photos of the wild creature. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE



This little unnamed squirrel became the most popular guy on campus during his excursion between the GM and LA buildings. The squirrel was fearless as students approached it to give it some food and gentle pets. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

## TUITION FROM A1

total funding to be awarded to community colleges in the state. In order to receive this funding, community colleges will be required to limit any tuition increases to 3.2 percent or less, double the rate of inflation, according to a report from Snyder’s office.

“In the last couple of years our rate increases, as approved by the board, have not increased beyond that 3.2 percent cap,” Johnson said. “We’re pleased to say that the administration’s recommended increases for next year also would have not increased that cap.”

Pamela Horiszny, board treasurer, said at the retreat that if the college were to rank all colleges based on tuition for 2013, WCC would be in the bottom 25 percent.

“There’ are only six or seven that have a lower (tuition) cost than ours,”

Horiszny said. “To me, that was a very compelling statistic.”

Currently, WCC is below average at \$91 per credit hour for in-district students. The state average is \$95.

WCC’s full-time student semester cost, which includes tuition rates and fees, is \$136 below the state average for 2013 at \$1,620. Since 2011, this gap has consistently increased.

“(This) shows that historically the college – the board and the administration – has taken to heart its goal to provide excellent education at low cost,” Johnson said. “That’s something that I think drives us.”

Statistics show that more and more students are taking distance learning courses, with an increase in enrollment of distance learning credits hours of 300 percent from 2008 to 2013, Johnson said, adding that there

is a significant resource requirement that is needed to support the learning environment.

Today, students pay \$303 for a three-credit online class. The average tuition rate for online courses in the state is \$373.

“We need to increase the rate and the administration’s going to make a recommendation to the board at their upcoming meeting to increase that rate a few more dollars than we would otherwise do,” Johnson said. “Just to get the alignment of the resources with enrollment.”

The increase in distance learning tuition rates will be effective next fall.

The office of the CFO will present at the Feb. 25 board meeting the tuition increase recommendation range.

“We are still working on final deliberations on that,” Johnson said.

## CFO TO RECOMMEND AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TUITION RATE

Washtenaw Community College CFO Bill Johnson plans to recommend the establishment of a separate international student tuition rate so that the rate is aligned with the resources required to support the college’s international student population.

“Those students have beyond the average on-campus student need, and the college needs to have the proper alignment of our resources and revenues to be able to support that,” Johnson said.

The proposed rate per credit

hour is of \$225, compared to \$193 that international students currently pay, as they are considered the same as out-of-state students. The average tuition rate for international students in the state is \$223.

Johnson said that he would also recommend that international students already enrolled at WCC are grandfathered in “so that they continued to pay that out-of-state rate and not have to pay that new international rate.

“We think that should respect the basis of why they decided to come here originally.”



# Students satisfied with WCC? College hires firm to find out

By NATALIE WRIGHT  
Managing Editor

Soon after the mid-winter break, some Washtenaw Community College students will receive an email from Noel-Levitz, a higher-education consulting firm, asking them to complete a satisfaction survey about their college. Students who follow the message's link will find a 100-question survey that asks them to rate their satisfaction with various areas of the college, as well as a how important these areas are to them. These surveys are usually done internally, Director of Institutional Research Roger Mourad said, but the goal in using the Noel-Levitz survey is to compare WCC to the 190 other community colleges that have used the same survey in the last three years. WCC will provide Noel-Levitz with the email addresses of an undetermined number of students that

represent the demographics of the school, Mourad said. The goal is to get 500 students to respond. After students have responded, Noel-Levitz will present the college with a report that compares WCC's averages in each category with the averages of the other schools. The college will only receive this aggregated report and not the individual surveys, Mourad said, so the identities of students taking the survey will be protected. The survey will cover the general: "campus culture and climate" and the specific: "how helpful is Career Services," Mourad said, and will span areas including Student Services, Instruction, Facilities and Student Activities. "We would really like students to take the time to complete it," Mourad said. "We can see where we are strong and where we are coming up short and follow up to improve things."



WCC students Shand Kirk, Amy Swope, Brittany Honos, Andressa Da Silva, Jessica Schempf and Carolly Souza float in water off the coast of Tortuga Island during their study abroad trip to Costa Rica. SUSAN GODDARD | COURTESY PHOTO

# Study abroad interest booming

By DAVID FITCH  
Staff Writer

The chance for students to travel beyond the halls of Washtenaw Community College and continue their education in other countries is not exactly new, but Nancy Ferrario, WCC Spanish instructor and point person for the school's study abroad programs, says that interest has increased greatly this year. Last year's study abroad meeting attracted three participants. This year, 35 students attended. Last year, nine students embarked on study abroad programs with seven traveling to Costa Rica, one to Spain and the other to France. The experience, they say, was not one to be easily forgotten. "You learn a lot about yourself,"

said Adrian Miller, now an instructor at Washtenaw, who went to Costa Rica when he was a student at WCC. "You face a lot of challenges that are unique. And I think you become a stronger person for it ... It's just really fun." Now, trips are offered to many other locations, including Argentina, China, Ghana, Greece and Morocco through study-abroad organizations AHA International and Modern Language Studies Abroad. Community college students typically don't believe they can study abroad, Ferrario said, adding that this is a perception she is trying to change. The logistics of such an endeavor, especially paying for it, are not as daunting as some may assume, said Susan Goddard, 59, who also studied for a month last year in Costa Rica. Goddard, a liberal arts major from

Ann Arbor, said that the month-long trip cost \$1,985, plus airfare. This included tuition at the University of Costa Rica, housing, two meals per day and laundry. "You might pay more if you stayed home for a month," said Goddard. The WCC Foundation also donated generously toward each student's trip costs. And while language barriers proved challenging, they were not insurmountable, said Goddard. "Professors are very accommodating, very helpful," she said. "They really go out of the way to make it a very special experience." For more information on study-abroad opportunities, contact nferrario@wccnet.edu.



This custom 1951 Ford F-1 Series pickup, designed and built by the Custom Cars and Concepts class at Washtenaw, will be on display at this year's Autorama, this weekend at the Detroit Cobo Center. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

# Auto Services students showcase work at 'Autorama'

By JON PRICE  
Staff Writer

Joe Ortiz waved toward a classic 1951 Ford F-1 Series pickup truck with a supercharged 4.3-liter engine and custom body and paint job ready for the showroom. "This one will be in our booth," said Ortiz, an instructional lab assistant who worked on the truck with other Washtenaw instructors and students, preparing it for the Meguiar's 62nd

Annual "Autorama," next weekend at Detroit's Cobo Center. "We normally have one of the bigger booths at 'Autorama,'" Ortiz said. "It's really good PR for the school." The truck, he said, was built a couple of years ago, "but we're bringing it back for 'Autorama,'" said Scott Malner, who teaches a custom auto-body class and is excited to show off his students' work. The truck is a complete remodel: the frame had been altered, fenders were sectioned and widened and the bed was completely modified.

"It was donated by Ford Motor Company for the Make-A-Wish Foundation," Malner said. His students are looking forward to the event. "It's cool seeing our stuff on display," said Wyatt Knick, 21, of Bradford, Ohio. "But the best part is getting to see other people's ideas and concepts. To me, seeing a custom car is better than something brand new off the lot." The motorcycle-service technicians will have a presence at 'Autorama' as well. "We'll take the big truck with our smaller trailer," said Deron Shawn, an

instructor in the Motorcycle Service Technician program, adding they're taking two custom bikes to the show. "One of them is a 2005 XB-12R, which is a 1200cc Buell, which is an American-made sports bike. The yellow one is a 2007 XB-9R," Shawn said. "They're both pretty much ground-up builds from the engine to the new powder-coat paint, the whole nine yards." Tickets to the event are available at the discounted rate of \$5 per student at the Cashier's Office beginning March 4.

# TheRide millage on ballot for May 6

By M. M. DONALDSON  
Staff Writer

The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority board voted unanimously to place a millage proposal on the May 6 ballot. The proposal would expand TheRide service in Ann Arbor, the City of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Township, according to the Five-Year Transit Improvement Program. Strategic planner with TheRide, Michael Benh Am, gave summary to the board before the vote. The .7-mill tax would generate \$4.3 million in revenue and provide for a 2-1 ratio of securing state and federal funds. This is the first time for the authority to levy a millage. With voter approval in May, the AAATA would be able to increase service by 44 percent. Expansion of service could happen as early as August. Former Washtenaw Community College instructor Larry Krieg, a newly appointed Ypsilanti Township AAATA board member, noted how dependable public transportation directly affected student success in the classroom and in the work world in a positive way.

## STUDENT SUCCESS FROM A1

each of these initiatives, which cost a total of \$64,983, through the strategic initiative funding for 2014. The initiatives vary from an instructor who is creating an iPad app to teach students about cellular biology, to implementing a texting option in Blackboard. "There's seed money for initiatives," Morrison said, "if they're strategic, one-time, innovative initiatives." Interim Vice President of Instruction Bill Abernethy also recommended five new programs that would begin Fall 2014. An honors in the Liberal Arts degree aims to attract top-tier high school students who want to transfer



Bill Abernethy

to a four-year institution. "We have tried honors programs before that have not really stuck," Morrison said. "But this came directly out of the strategic plan ... to meet the need to be recognized at the high schools." Three new Advanced Technologies certificates were also recommended: a Facility and Energy Management Certificate; an HVAC Energy Management Technician Advanced Certificate; and an Engineering Design Technology Certificate. Abernethy also recommended a certificate that corresponds with the Michigan Transfer Agreement that will replace the MACRAO agreement. The MTA has not been officially signed yet, so as Lawson said, WCC is "way ahead of the curve on this one." In addition to these plans for the remainder of 2014, the board also received an update of the goals for 2015, so they can start looking ahead, Morrison said.

## FUNDING FROM A1

Each category is worth one-third of the total amount that WCC has available. The college must meet four out of five best practices in a category to receive funding in that category. The Appropriation Act is made up of three categories: economic development and business or industry partnerships, educational partnerships and community services. "We have really even made tremendous enhancements, just since this came out, from one year to the next, in the adherence to these best practices," said Pamela Horisznyn, board treasurer. "So that was really exciting for me to see, as a trustee, how much progress we've made even in one year." One of the examples is the newly created Entrepreneurship Center that will cater to the community and current and former students,

and help those who need guidance in the creation of small businesses in the area. "We really have pushed that forward," Lawson said. "(It is) something that we have just completely prioritized." Julie Morrison, executive director of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Accreditation, said that WCC is creating its own dashboard so that the college has all this information on different metrics and that these best practices that are ranking the college so highly are clear for the community. The college's strategic plan will be



Julie Morrison

compiled into one dashboard to "condense (the information) in a way that is meaningful for the general public," Lawson said. "I think that certainly, the governor's priorities are something that we take very seriously," she added. "But we have additional areas that we look at and that's what we want to make sure are on the dashboard ... things that tie directly to our strategic plan and how Washtenaw Community College specifically is moving forward." WCC's strategic plan was devised in the fall of 2011 and outlines eight strategic priorities that will drive the college in the future, including, but not limited to: student success, visibility and branding, workforce development and academic partnerships. Additional reporting by Natalie Wright, managing editor





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# Student artists and faculty combine visual arts and music

By DAVID FITCH  
Staff Writer

John E. Lawrence could put down his guitar. The band was jamming and they were doing just fine without the Washtenaw Community College music instructor.

Not bad for their first time playing together, Lawrence said with a smile. Surrounding the musicians from Lawrence’s Self-Management for Working Artists class, a group of about 20 artists busily sketched on easels or on a huge piece of newsprint on a table.

The artists were hard at work, some crafting art out of sound, others out of pastels, charcoal or graphite.

Musicians, visual artists and observers all gathered in the Community Room of the Student Center on Feb. 12 in a rare show of creativity and

community spirit for the second annual “Drawing on Jazz” event.

This year’s event was sponsored by the WCC Academic Drawing Club.

Drawing Club President Lorena Ganser, 24, a design major from Ann Arbor, said that she was inspired in a new way by the scene. She sat on a bench close to a djembe player and sketched a portrait, using color for the first time in her drawings. Not using color today didn’t seem right, she said.

Jesse Gilbert, 29, of Ann Arbor, worked on a charcoal sketch, focusing on the nearest musician to him, a keyboardist. Also an art major, Gilbert said that the event presented some unique creative challenges.

“They’re not here for a product. They’re here for the process,” said Nick Reszetar, WCC art instructor and adviser to the Academic Drawing

Club. Reszetar was in his element as he strode around the room, greeting newcomers, then pausing to deftly draw a sketch as the inspiration hit him.

Rafael Freitas, a 29-year-old music production major from Ypsilanti, took the lead on his bass, creating variations to the classic jazz tune “Chameleon.”

The tight jazz was punctuated by bouts of freestyle rap by other students of John Lawrence’s class. The creativity of the group seemed fluid, allowing new additions or discoveries in the song to take it in new directions.

At times, bass would take the lead, then flow seamlessly back in to the main groove. Then a drum solo would take over, giving the already entranced crowd another reason to cheer.

The event was one marked by “controlled chaos,” said music production



Art instructor Nick Reszetar and Drawing Club President Lorena Ganser, 24, of Ann Arbor, draw together using charcoal. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

major Justin Anderson, 29, of Ann Arbor, noting that the energies of the group fed off each other.

Reszetar was pleased with the outcome. Last year, he helped put on the event as part of his Life Drawing course. Such events are helpful because they spread the word

about WCC’s art program, one that can use students filling classroom seats.

The program, he said, can be a powerfully positive experience for students, adding that that it “can enrich their lives and change the way they see the world.”



(clockwise) Retired engineer Hugh Kennedy, 68, of Ypsilanti, is taking a drawing class for fun this semester. John E. Lawrence, music performance instructor, jams out with his students during the Drawing Club’s second annual ‘Drawing on Jazz’ event. A student drummer is drawn as he plays. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

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# WOMEN CELEBRATE PROGRESS

**What is the biggest breakthrough for women's rights in your lifetime?**



Jenni Iverson, 16, Wixom, business management



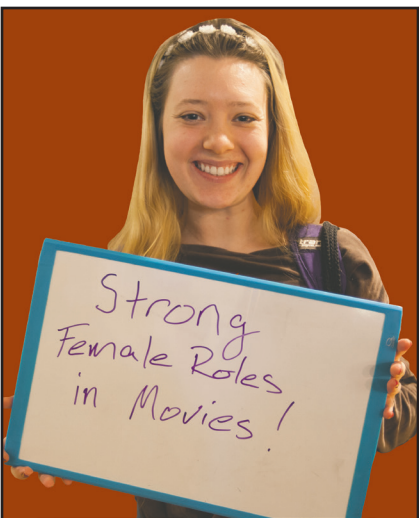
Hava Levitt-Phillips WCC English instructor



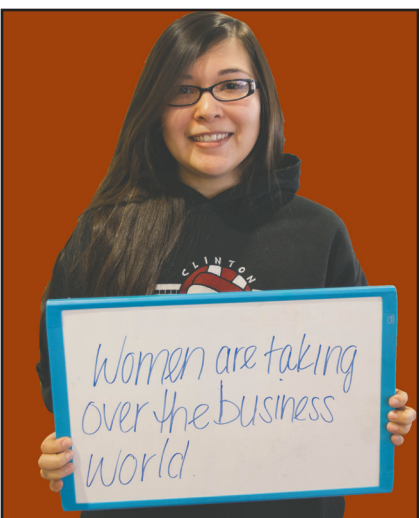
Dalia Ali, 16, Ann Arbor, culinary arts



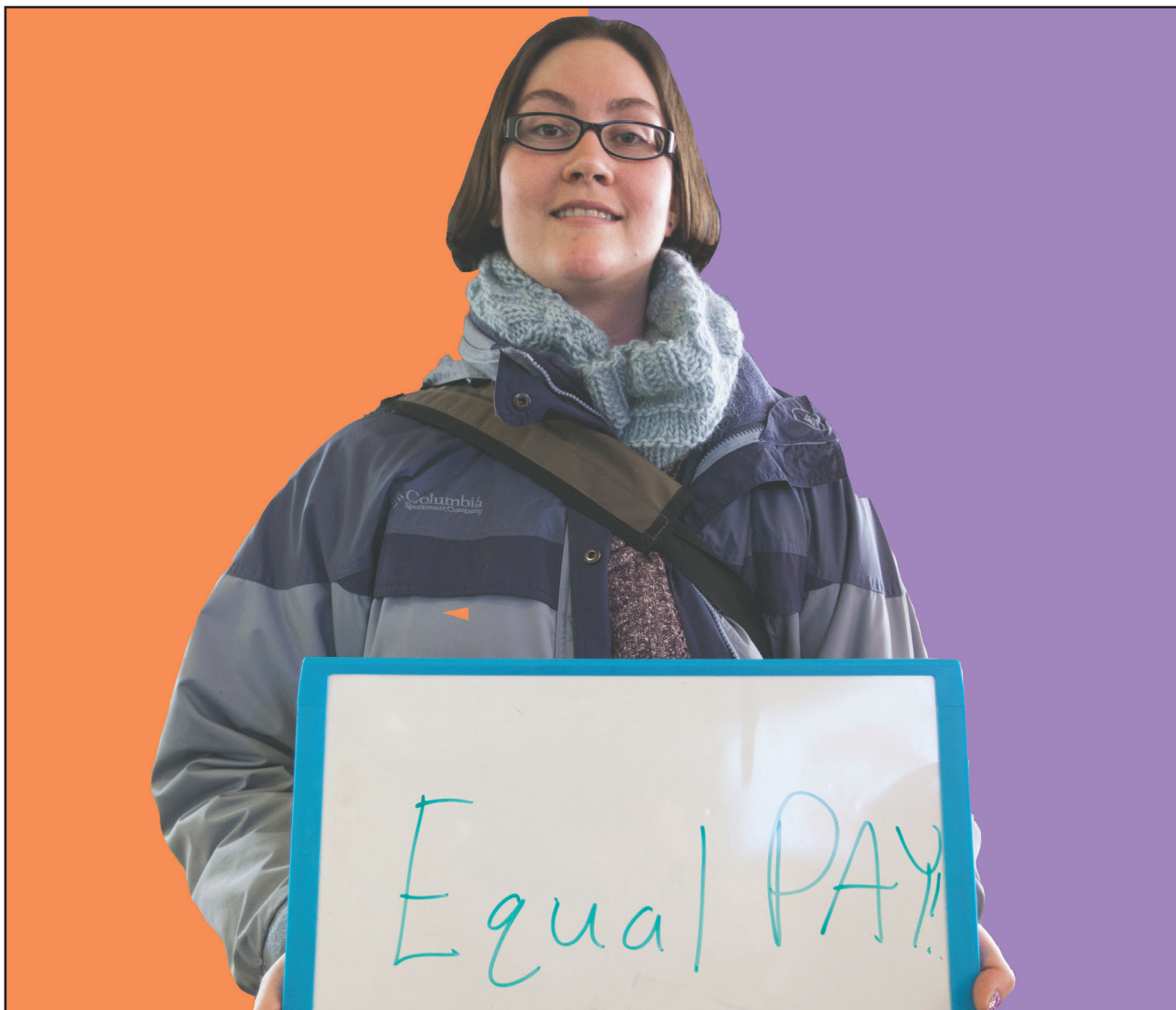
Andrea Lawson, 46, left, Ypsilanti, nursing and Andrea Ford, 44, Ann Arbor, radiology



Emily Freeland, 20, Blissfield, global studies



Karissa Bosquez, 21, Manchester, business



Andrea Nervier, 28, Ypsilanti, engineering

PHOTOS BY KELLY BRACHA  
WORDS BY MARKO DELIC  
*Voice Correspondent*

Feeling oppressed by the power of men a century ago, women took initiative and more than 15,000 of them headed to the streets of New York.

They fought for shorter work hours, better pay, voting rights and more equality in general, and according to organizers of the International Women's Day website, it has been a long, hard battle that continues today as women around the globe celebrate their progress.

The women's march in New York in 1908 is widely considered to be the genesis of International Women's Day. First commemorated in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on March 19, in 1914, the celebration date was changed to March 8.

Jan Barker, CEO of the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, is proudly looking forward to this date, celebrating the progress women have made in only a century.

"Experience is all that a girl or a woman needs," Barker said, adding that women have come a long way, with more and more women leading companies and various organizations.

"There is still a long way to go to reach equality," she noted. "We are dealing with major equity issues still.

"Women have the same potential as men, and we need experience support, and proper education to embrace it. In 100 years, we are finally achieving that."

Girl Scouts is celebrating the day with the Girl Developers Summit, at Washtenaw's Morris Lawrence building. The day features workshops for everyone interested in improving the education of young girls to become strong leaders.

## GIRL POWER

**WHAT:** Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan's 9th Annual Girl Developers Summit

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 8, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

**WHERE:** ML building, WCC

**TICKETS/REGISTRATION FEES:** All girls, K-12, \$40; adult non-Girl Scout member, \$50; adult Girl Scout member, \$40; college students, \$30.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [www.gshom.org](http://www.gshom.org)

**What do you consider is the biggest challenge that women face today?**



Carissa Sturdivant, 19, Ypsilanti, nursing



Debby Sanda, 17, Ann Arbor, nursing



Trina Kurkewicz, 24, radiology, Pinckney



Julie Kissel, English faculty



Minette Perigard, 25, Ann Arbor, journalism



Julie Morrison, executive director of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Accreditation



# Songwriting instructor inspires through experience

BY DAVID FITCH  
Staff Writer

“Rose yellow moon” was the songwriting phase for last week. Songwriting instructor Spencer Michaud admitted that it was a hard week for him as well in the songwriting department. Only a handful of students had risen to the challenge.

After all, songwriting isn’t child’s play.

He was on a level with his students. They were dialed in, interested, attentive.

The bearded, long-haired, lean Michaud sat in a chair before the class, looking around at his students.

These were his students. He was excited to share his craft, and he cared about them. They could tell. Anyone could tell after spending five minutes with him. He was a man of passion and commitment.

Michaud, 33, has been performing, writing and teaching for years. For the last five years, he has taught the songwriting course at Washtenaw Community College.

And students love it.

Demetrius Adams, 17, a music production major, admitted that coming into class, he was in a bad mood. When he got to class, though, something switched, he told the class.

“I actually love being here,” he said.

Music instructor John E. Lawrence said that hiring Michaud was a good decision.

“I hear nothing but rave reviews about Spencer,” said Lawrence.

After taking music classes at WCC beginning in winter of 2005, two of them with Lawrence, Michaud devised his songwriting class, incorporating his own perspective.

Michaud pulled out his guitar and began coming up with lyrics on the spot to the interest and occasional chuckles of the students, not to mention Michaud himself.

“Now I see your picture on the wall,” he began singing. “I don’t want it to

fall... You did this and you did that, and I did that, and I did this,” he trailed off.

His lyrics set the class giggling. More importantly, they were getting the point: using various perspectives in songs.

They listened as he continued.

There was something solemn, something desperately passionate and excitable about this instructor. He had something that they wanted: a focus, a professionalism, a down-to-earth wisdom that earned their undivided attention.

Though he spoke from authority, he did not speak as though he was above his students.

One student belted out a tune he had written previously using the assigned “rose moon yellow” phrase. He seemed without fear, spilling his deeply emotional lyrics into the classroom with his baritone register.

“That’s progress!” said Michaud excitedly when he had finished. “Do you see how you took the baby step last week?” He referred to the singer’s timidity towards singing the previous week, which was nowhere to be seen now.

He was not the only one.

Another student was more bashful about her creation. But Michaud was just as ready to aid her in her vice.

“Everybody, I want you to look at her and scowl judgmentally,” Michaud kiddingly said to the class.

The student laughed and found her courage to sing. When she was done and the applause from the audience has subsided, Michaud gently and supportively critiqued her work.

“It’s helping me get unblocked,” said Mckenzi Edwards, 20, of South Lyon. “We do a lot in here that helps inspire me with him going through songs and showing us examples. It’s not like a boring lecture class.”

“Even if it’s not finished you can perform and people will support you. So it’s helped, I think, a lot of people in the class get over their nerves in performing,” said Natalie Sharpe, 19,



WCC songwriting instructor Spencer Michaud brings his experience and passion to his class. “At the beginning of the class, I tell them, ‘We’re going to basically go on a journey this semester and we are going to become a creative family and we are going to be supportive of one another.’” DAVID FITCH | WASHTENAW VOICE

a liberal arts major from Plymouth.

Michaud said that he strives to make the classroom a place where inspiration can be freer than is typically allowed in the often inhibiting or shaming outside world.

“We are kind of trying to make that a safe place for that (creative) muse to play again. As children we play all the time, and as adults, we lose touch with that. And being an artist is very much about learning how to play again.”

Michaud has a daughter, Sophie, 10, and is engaged to local artist Tanya Andrews. He lives in Ypsilanti. He will soon release an EP titled “Tightrope Walker.” The release date has yet to be determined.

## THE BOOK ON SPENCER MICHAUD

AGE: 33  
HOMETOWN: Chicago  
CALLS HOME: Ypsilanti

WHERE YOU CAN FIND HIM: WCC class, Songwriting, MUS 146  
MUSICAL INSPIRATION: Jeff Buckley, The Beatles, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder

TWITTER: @SpencerMichaud  
www.spencermichaud.com



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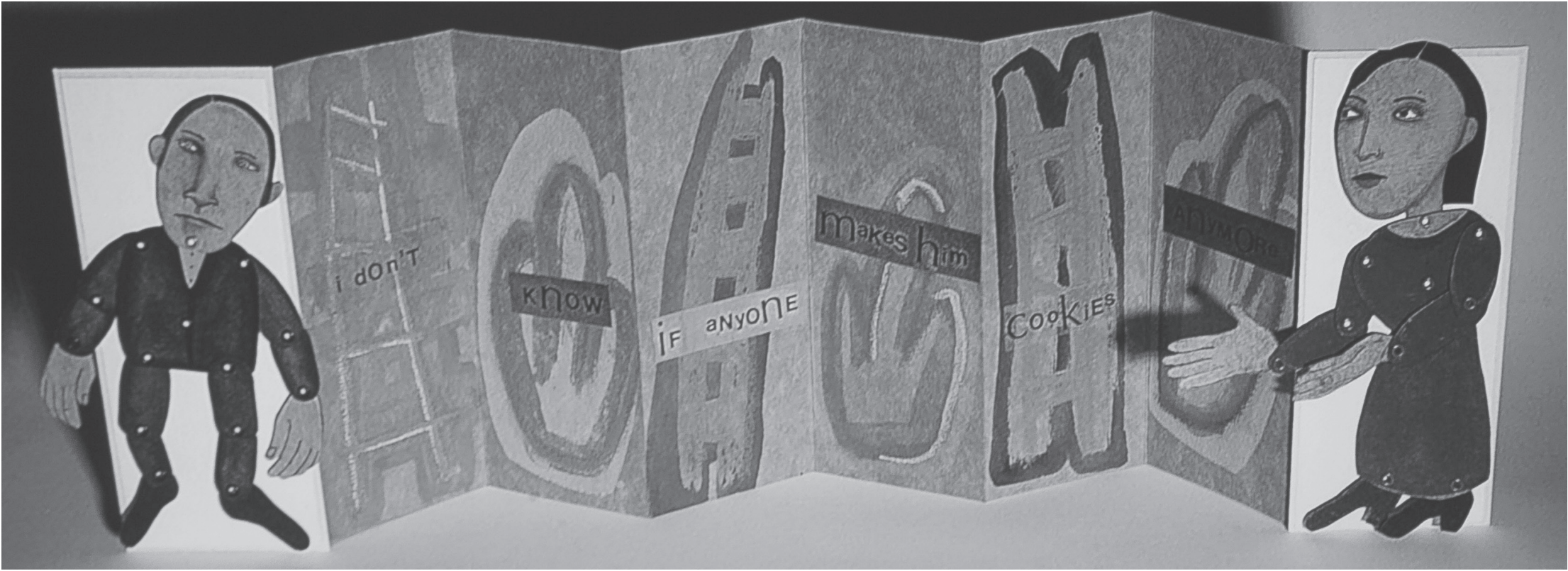
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openhouse.wayne.edu







Accordion-style artist book by Julie Fremuth using mixed-media collage. It reads, “I don’t know if anyone makes him cookies anymore.” EJ STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

# Local artist preserves ‘pages’ of humanity

By EJ STOUT  
Staff Writer

Julie Fremuth always judges a book by its cover. It’s her job. Like everyone, she has seen the attics filled with bits of fabric, old photos and a box of weathered letters. Invaluable links to a past rich with emotion are often mistaken for clutter and tossed to the side. Fremuth has dedicated her life’s work to preserving these important links through the maintenance and elevation of seemingly simple materials. And she was on campus on a recent Saturday, when she provided in-depth presentation of her artwork, courtesy of the Graphic Design Club. A graduate in history and fine arts from the University of Michigan, Fremuth applied her passion for old papers as a conservator at the William L. Clements Library, where she continues the preservation of matured manuscripts and books. But what she creates outside of the library shows just how passionate and thoughtful she is about the capacity for human connections with the past. Fremuth creates intricate collages and mixed-media art, many of which use vintage accounting ledgers or letters as a base and often feature human portraits. “I want to share in the human experience with other people,” said Fremuth, who finds that using old

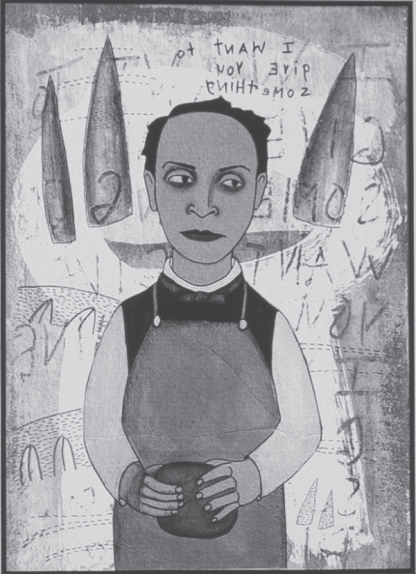
paper from other people’s lives is a treasured way to maintain strong connections. While her pieces are founded in raw emotion and teeming with passion, Fremuth has the ability to step back and offer great insight for those looking to improve their own artistic path. “Making art is like going to the gym,” she explained. “If you don’t work on it every day, you get rusty.” She encourages artists to step back from their work and allow the piece to

lead them in a new direction. Creating art is an honest conversation between the creator and the materials. Graphic design student Ben Ellsworth, 18, of Saline, said he was impressed by how approachable Fremuth’s work is to a digital artist. “She’s able to show the more traditional side of creating art,” said Ellsworth, who hopes to apply real world texture to his own work before digitization and manipulation. Many of Fremuth’s collages are

applied to the covers and interiors of small, intimate artist books – ones she bound herself. She has studied numerous traditional binding techniques, adapting and combining styles to fit her aesthetic needs. She admits to wondering if today’s kids are losing touch with reality – literally – and worries that society may be breeding out one of the five vital senses. In a world dominated by technology and screens, Fremuth “doesn’t want to see us lose our humanness.”



(Above) Julie Fremuth’s mixed-media work from her recent presentation at WCC. (Top right) Fremuth discusses her artistic process with design student Ben Ellsworth. (Bottom right) ‘I want to give you something’ collage piece by Fremuth. EJ STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE



# Graphic Design Club links classroom to real world

By EJ STOUT  
Staff Writer



Graphic Design Club President Frahmarz Bagherpour. TIM GRALEWSKI | COURTESY ILLUSTRATION

Having multiple skills makes you more marketable. All students have heard this sentiment throughout their schooling, regardless of degree or industry. In a marketplace saturated by college graduates, it is important to stand out to potential employers and increase your chances of career success – both through technical “hard” skills as well as interpersonal “soft” skills. Frahmarz Bagherpour, 21, president of the Graphic Design Club, intends to tackle this necessity head-on. Frahmi, as his friends call him, of Ypsilanti, has already received his associate degree in graphic design from Washtenaw Community College and is working on a second degree in animation. Club officer Jaime Blaksley, 26, has also diversified her studies, with focuses in photography as well as graphic design.

“The industry is expanding,” the Washtenaw County resident said, adding that she finds having multiple skills within the design world is vital as the landscapes continue to integrate and overlap. So how do students and professionals translate these hard skills into marketable gold? The goal of the Graphic Design Club is to be a link from the classroom to the real world, Bagherpour said. Courses and instructors offer invaluable lessons in technical and conceptual areas, but the club strives to provide real-world knowledge that extends beyond standard curriculum. Club events look to broaden members’ horizons through speakers, demonstrations and presentations. Faculty adviser Kristine Willimann has been instrumental in facilitating connections with many of the upcoming speakers, and is motivated to find new relationships within the community. On a Feb. 15, the club hosted

mixed-media artist and bookbinding specialist Julie Fremuth, who presented her work and her passion for preserving traditional techniques. Printmaker and artist Amanda Lilleston will present a full demonstration of her woodblock printmaking process on Saturday, March 22. Future events include demonstrations of letterpress and screen-printing techniques as well as potential discussions of copyright law and application. Apart from looking great on your resume, involvement in the club is “a great way to learn, network and know how the outside world works,” Bagherpour explained. In addition to presentations, members have the opportunity to network with other students interested in sharing design knowledge and inspiration. For more information about the club, visit: <http://wccgdc.wordpress.com> or request to join the WCC Graphic Design Club group on Facebook.

# ‘Your Story’ helps students find identity

By JON PRICE  
Staff Writer

Got a good story? Tell it, and perhaps inspire others through a new program sponsored by Student Development and Activities. “Your Story” is a series of training modules designed to teach students how to craft their own stories and use that skill to help other students who

may be struggling with identity. Similar seminars were first held at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan, so students who had been through the training could be used as a resource by faculty to reach out to other students. Though the program was initially started to reach out to LGBT students, Washtenaw’s SDA department says its modules are open to anyone who may have

an inspiring story. Everyone who would like to take part is encouraged to come. “At the other universities, it was designed mostly around LGBT students,” said Rachel Barsch, SDA events coordinator. “But it doesn’t have to be just those issues; it can be psychological or religious.” Barsch believes that teaching students to craft their stories enables them to break down stereotypes and

help those who may be having issues with their identity. “Everybody has a story to tell,” Lexi Judkins, 24, a business student who works in Student Activities, said. “Through those stories you can help change other peoples’ lives and influence them in a positive way.” Judkins has completed the training and feels it will be beneficial to have a panel like this on a diverse campus such as Washtenaw’s. The program has found success elsewhere.

“Apparently U-M and Eastern get calls from professors who want them to send down panel members to talk to other students,” Barsch said. “So we would like to be able train students to be able to talk to other students.” The training is presented in five separate modules. The next module will be Friday, Feb. 28, in TI 246, at 11:30 a.m. Students who attend all five will be presented with a certificate from Student Activities and signed by WCC President Rose Bellanca.



# ‘House of Cards’ Season Two is bloody good

By KELLY BRACHA  
Staff Writer

“House of Cards” is the wrong metaphor for the Netflix series that has thrown our nation’s capital into a tizzy – and the rest of the country with it. This is an insanely puzzling game of high-stakes chess between several players, each struggling to keep their pieces on the board – and Season Two, which was released on Valentine’s Day, has left us with a new crowned king and queen. Francis Underwood, now the incoming Vice President, takes no prisoners in the return of the groundbreaking series. Francis (Kevin Spacey) and his unrelenting wife, Claire Underwood (Robin Wright), have only gotten more cruel since we left them. With an even higher caliber of writing, directing and acting, what has left

audiences captivated by Season One has increased tenfold. The cast takes on some major changes – some very shocking. But we’ll be nice and keep this spoiler-free. Francis has selected his replacement for House Majority Whip in the form of Jacqueline Sharp (Molly Parker). In typical Francis fashion, every move is a calculated advantage for his own meticulous agenda, including the appointing of Sharp. Many of last season’s smaller characters have been given much bigger storylines, among them industry giant and billionaire Raymond Tusk, who plays into a sort of manipulation three-way between Francis and President Garrett Walker (Michael Gill). Even Francis’ main bodyguard, Edward Meechum (Nathan Darrow) is more present in the Underwood household. Frank’s number one, Doug Stamper, has become increasingly obsessed

with former call-girl Rachel Posner (Rachel Brosnahan). She is Doug’s most harmful vice – to the point of distraction. Doug loses focus on the detail-oriented schemes he’s aiding Francis in, allowing for a few provocative slip-ups. We really see the Underwoods at their worst this season. They have reached their lowest point with no return in sight, but in typical fashion they manage to exert control over each situation, no matter how bleak. They show extreme resilience in the face of losing everything they have worked for. The couple is more ruthless than ever, both at their own games. There are no accidents in this show. Nothing is by chance, everything is extremely calculated and viewers paying



MOVIES.NETFLIX.COM

**Grade: A**  
**Genre:** Drama  
**Episodes:** All 13 on Netflix  
**Rating:** R

close attention will catch brilliant foreshadowing scenes. Besides the thick plot, “House of Cards” is one of the most beautifully photographed shows I have had the pleasure to watch. Every scene is so perfectly lit; each frame is like a drawing and often times presents a beautiful symmetry. It is a technically gorgeous show – a feat that deserves as much attention

as its incredible drama. To put it bluntly, there’s more sex, more murder, more scandal, more plot. “House of Cards,” Season Two, has truly outdone itself. It pushed all boundaries left from last season, and there’s no doubt that the wait for Season Three will be agonizing for fans of the show who binged and watched the entire second season on a leisurely Saturday in February.

# ‘Lego Movie’ is a perfect blockbuster

By JAMES SAOUD  
Staff Writer

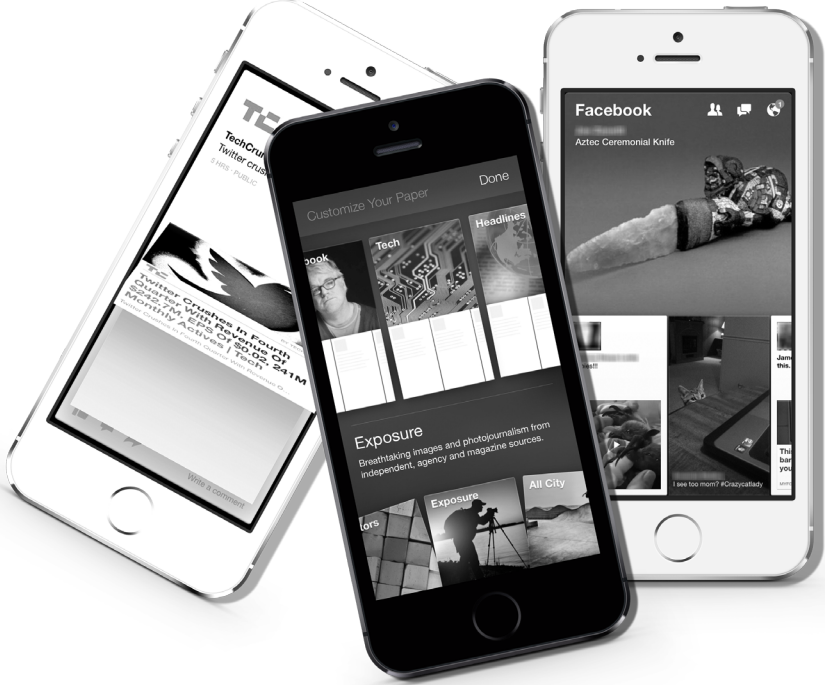
Sometimes a film can capture what it means and how it feels to be a certain age: “The Breakfast Club” is reminiscent of the angst-filled years of high school; “Animal House” did the same for the drunken college students; and “Clerks” catered to those facing their mid-20s crisis. “The Lego Movie” can be added to this list of classic comedies as it transports viewers not only directly to their childhood, but into the imaginary, Lego-filled fantasies many of us had at that age. Within the first moments of “The Lego Movie,” it is evident the animation is absolutely breathtaking. The artists create one of the most visually pleasing animated movies of all time, combining a stop-motion look with 3-D animation and technology. The constant lights, colors and Lego-created landscape is worth the ticket price alone. The voice cast is one of the best ever heard, featuring Chris Pratt, Will Ferrell, Elizabeth Banks, Morgan Freeman, Will Arnett and Jonah Hill. Through the characters these actors portray, particularly Will

Ferrell, it is obvious the amount of fun they are all having. Thankfully, they make the film just as much fun for the audience. “The Lego Movie” was written and directed by Phil Lord and Chris Miller, who could’ve easily produced a third-rate animated kid-flick with this Lego adventure. Instead, they created a script with gut-busting laughs and enough heart to engage viewers of any age. The first two acts build a hilarious, yet frighteningly accurate Lego set out of our modern culture. Poking fun at everything from modern pop music to the sitcoms we crowd around to watch. With the third act, the last half-hour or so, “The Lego Movie” transforms from a smart and fun animated movie into something very memorable. The film manages to convey a powerful message about being yourself and learning when it’s time to take apart and rebuild the pieces you’ve been given. It is a message that will mean much more to adults and parents than it will for the little ones. “The Lego Movie” is a smart, fun and unique movie that children will flock to – and it proves to be a great time for everybody.

**Grade: A**  
**Genre:** Comedy  
**Runtime:** 100 minutes  
**Rating:** PG



HTTP://WALLCHIPS.COM



BRIAN AUTEN, BRANDON SHELTON | WASHTENAW VOICE

# Facebook’s ‘Paper’ delivers news to limited readership

By BRANDON SHELTON  
Voice Correspondent

Facebook’s new app, “Paper,” is everything the original Facebook app should have been. While it is intended to serve as a news aggregator, it does almost everything the original Facebook app does – with better navigation and a much sleeker design. Just like the original Facebook app, you can comment, like and share posts, as well as upload photos, message friends and manage various account settings. When starting “Paper” for the first time, users are given a tour of how features work and how to navigate the app, though it doesn’t force it all at once. Enter areas of the app not viewed before, and it provides a brief explanation of how to use them.

Users are able to edit their Paper by adding sections such as Headlines, Tech, Flavor, Ideas and many more. The sections pull content from various sources like CNN, BuzzFeed and TechCrunch. Most of the navigation done in “Paper” is through swiping gestures as opposed to simply clicking icons. The top half of the screen is used as a slideshow to display recent posts depending on the section being browsed. The bottom half of the screen shows posts from the section browsed that can be made into a full screen by swiping them upward. When an article goes full screen, it unfolds,

mimicking a traditional paper. Of all the new features, the one that might garner the most attention among those who aren’t interested in using the app as a source for news is photo panning. Instead of dragging a finger across the screen to view parts of a full-sized photo that are off screen, users need only to tilt their phone to the left and right. Unlike the original Facebook app, posting a status update isn’t the primary focus of “Paper.” Users must access the pull-down menu to reveal the post creation button. “Paper” is only available for iOS devices in the United States; there is no iPad or Android version yet, and there is no information on whether such a release will even happen.

**Grade: A-**  
**Cost:** Free  
**Platform:** iOS7 and optimized for iPhone 5  
**Size:** 54 MB

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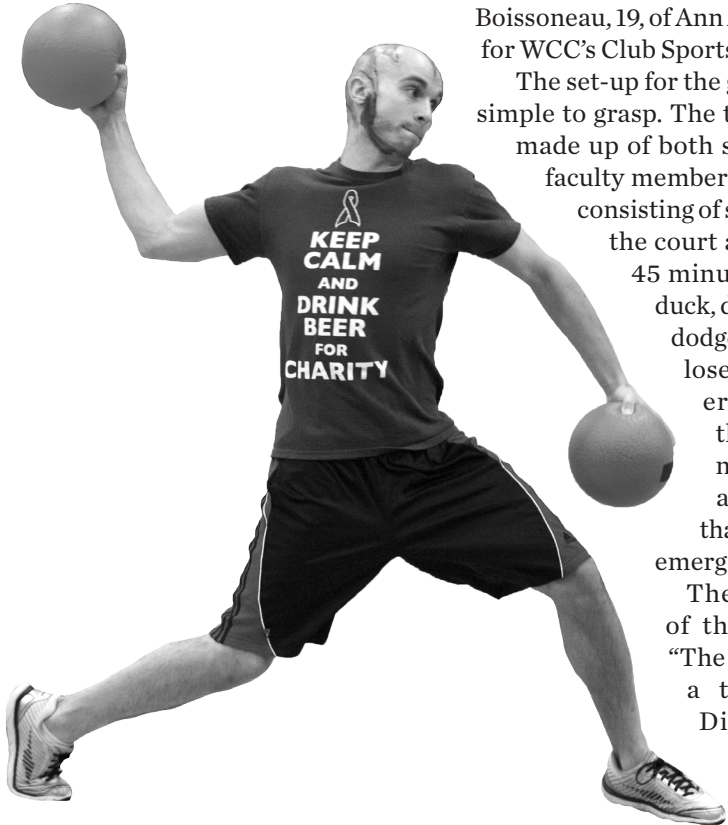


# Dodge, duck, dip, dive and ... dodge!

## WCC intramural teams have ball-smacking good time

By JAMES SAOUD  
Staff Writer

Sneakers squeaked against the basketball court, the crowd cheered their favorite teams on and rubber balls smacked against decked-out student-athletes at the Health and Fitness Center on a recent Sunday evening.



Nick Martin, 27, a computed tomography major from Ann Arbor, shows his throwing stance. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Welcome to Washtenaw Community College's intramural dodgeball playoffs, won by a team calling itself "The Purple Parrots."

In the end, the "Parrots" bested two other finalists: "Got 'Em" and "The Rough Cuts."

"The Purple Parrots" consist of mostly art students, and 'Got 'Em' is a team of free agents, so if they didn't have a team and just wanted to play, we put them there," said Veronica Boissoneau, 19, of Ann Arbor, a clerk for WCC's Club Sports.

The set-up for the game is fairly simple to grasp. The teams can be made up of both students and faculty members. Two teams, consisting of six players on the court at a time, get 45 minutes to dodge, duck, dip, dive and ... dodge until a team loses all its players. The team that wins the most rounds at the end of that time period emerges victorious.

The first game of the night saw "The Rough Cuts," a team of all Digital Video Production students, facing off

against "Got 'Em," playing with the disadvantage of only five, instead of the usual complement of six players.

Didn't matter to the shorthanded team, though. It prevailed 5-2.

"I do think we had a good game," said Scot Campbell, 24, of Belleville, a member of "The Rough Cuts." Its biggest problem, Campbell acknowledged, was that his team was lacking some of the essential components of a great dodgeball team: "youth and fitness."

"Rough Cuts" team captain Eddie Fritz, a Digital Video lab assistant and only faculty member on the team, was not at all discouraged by the loss. However, he was disappointed by the lack of participation in the sport.

"I wish more departments could put teams together," Fritz said. "We could have a much bigger tournament."

As Fritz took a seat on the sideline with his teammates, "The Purple Parrots" dressed up in their regalia, which included masks and face paint, before they stepped on to the court to take on "Got 'Em."

After an intense 45-minutes of Technicolor brutality, "The Purple Parrots" came out on top.

"The Purple Parrots" won because they had more fun," said Adrian Rodriguez, sports assistant for WCC's Club Sports department. "They say it's a cliché in sports to say whoever wants it the most wins, but it's not really a cliché when it's a truth. It isn't professional sports, so it really is just about who wants to win in the end."

Rodriguez, like Fritz, also



Team 'The Purple Parrots' huddle up before their first match against team 'Got 'em'. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

encourages students to participate in dodgeball, as well as other club and intramural sports, in upcoming seasons.

"People make friends here," Rodriguez said. "When students first come to college, they don't have as many friends here. A lot of people who play our sports make friendships."

"Got 'Em" team captain, Ryan Mull, 20, of Ypsilanti, can vouch for that. Mull, who started playing dodge ball at WCC three years ago, said, "I gained not only respect, but confidence in myself playing."

Before his first game three years ago, Mull confessed, "the other team was making fun of me for the way I acted." However, he managed to prove

himself through the sport.

"We were down two games to three, and it so happened that I was the last person in on my team against five other players. I was able to hit them all out, which tied us up 3-3," he said. "Then, with a few minutes left, we won the whole thing."

After that game, players from both teams congratulated Mull.

While "The Purple Parrots" may have got to walk away with bragging rights in this tournament, along with a new T-shirt, the truth is most players aren't playing the game for wins, just for fun, friendship and a kind of inner-confidence that Mull discovered in an intramural sport.

# Big plans for the Big House?

European soccer stars to perform in AA, according to hot rumors

By EJ STOUT  
Voice Correspondent

Everyone knows about Michigan Stadium hosting high-volume football games each fall. But how is it used during the offseason?

Rather uniquely, according to some recent scheduling.

Originally constructed in 1927, the stadium currently boasts 109,901 seats. The record attendance, however, was set at the 2013 football victory against Notre Dame to the tune of 115,109.

With only seven home games per year, Michigan Athletic Director Dave Brandon has found creative ways to continue using the stadium during the rest of the year.

On the first day of the New Year, the National Hockey League's 2014 Winter Classic was played in front of 105,491 frozen fans and generated roughly \$3 million for the university. On Saturday Feb. 22, a large pool sat on the field for the 2014 Polar Plunge, which supported the Special Olympics of Michigan and featured celebrity judges Brady

Hoke and Denard Robinson.

And lately rumors have been circulating regarding the stadium being selected as a venue for the International Champions Cup – a preseason tournament showcasing eight top-level European soccer clubs. The Cup offers a rare chance to see international talent on American soil; what better stage than the Big House?

BIG HOUSE  
CONTINUED B6

# College gears up for Relay for Life

By JON PRICE  
Staff Writer

About 57,000 Michigan residents were diagnosed with cancer last year, and Washtenaw's Club Sports Office is in a race for the cure, literally.

The office will be organizing volunteers, community members, students and staff to participate in the 2014 Ann Arbor Relay for Life. The series of relays takes place in more than 20 countries with about 4 million participants annually.

Washtenaw Community College's campus will be hosting the Ann Arbor relay this summer and an informational kickoff event will take place on March 11 in the Morris Lawrence building, Room 105. Registration for the relay starts at 6:30 p.m. and the program starts at 7 p.m. Speakers will include cancer survivors and representatives from Relay for Life.

"The kickoff is an event where we

RELAY  
CONTINUED B6

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# HEALTHY VOICE



## Who’s got your back at dinner time?

M. M. DONALDSON

If you are responsible for feeding your family dinner tonight, thoughts of how to make a convenient, healthy and tasty meal while stretching a budget can be daunting. And don’t forget your job also includes handling and preparing food properly to keep you and your family healthy.

We should all know cutting fresh produce on a cutting board that was just used to cut up uncooked chicken breasts could possibly spread bacteria. But there is no need to feel overwhelmed. You are not alone.

There are many people who are responsible for our food safety. It is amazing how many are responsible for keeping our fresh produce or uncooked chicken safe before we even bring it home.

As advanced as the U.S. food safety rules and regulations are, contamination still occurs. But many other

countries do not have as many rules and regulations for consumables and have a higher incidence of food-borne illnesses and deaths related to contaminants in their food system.

A 2005 report by the Center for Science in the Public Interest compiled information from the World Health Organization, which estimates that 1 million children under the age of five die each year in Southeast Asia. In comparison, the Centers for Disease Control estimates a mere 3,000 deaths related to food-borne illnesses in the United States.

Our food starts out at farms, ranches and even lakes and oceans. From there it goes to food processors, whether it is a slaughterhouse, industrial rendering plant or cannery, to name a few. Wholesalers or retailers, such as grocery stores, restaurants, hospitals and schools re-sell or further prepare the food we eat.

With each group, there are rules and regulations enforced by the Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency and county health departments.

In the event of food contamination, the Centers for Disease Control and even Homeland Security can get involved.

There are no governmental regulations controlling us, the consumer, when we purchase food to take home and prepare meals. When we do get sick from a possible food-borne contaminant, it is up to us to contact our local health department. By alerting the government, it is able to investigate the food system, keeping us all healthy.

## Who’s Responsible?

Rules and regulations affect food safety at every stage. Take a look at who is responsible for which areas.



### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Make and enforce food safety rules and laws.
- Close down businesses that violate laws.



### FARMERS

- Follow rules on how to use pesticides and herbicides.
- Keep facilities clean.



### FOOD PROCESSORS

- Follow standards for proper product labeling.
- Follow standards for use of food additives.



### RETAILERS

- Train employees in safe food-handling procedures.
- Rotate stock & remove unsafe food from shelves.



### CONSUMERS — THAT’S YOU!

- Use correct fridge & freezer temperatures.
- Wash hands before preparing food.



Sources: fda.gov, usda.gov, cdc.gov

EJ STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY

# Profile white over black and lose the green

By CINDY SAMORAY  
*Voice Correspondent*

To believe, unfairly, that all people or things with a particular characteristic are the same, according to Merriam-Webster, is the definition of a stereotype.

Racial profiling is typically defined as a practice of law enforcement or private security officials. Stereotype, racial profiling and personal bias not only perpetuates negative opinions and fear on a personal level, they also affect local and personal economy.

Auto salespeople, for example, count on commission to earn their income. They watch, they wait for customers to enter the lot and walk through the showroom door, eager to strike a deal and make the sale.

The business of sales and commission-based income can be tough. Salespeople hear a lot of “no,” “not today,” and “let me get back with you after thinking about it” before they get a customer to say yes and sign a contract. To intentionally ignore that one person who might be the only “yes” of the day or week is a mistake. A big mistake.

Jan. 18, a bone chilling cold and snowy Saturday, was the day three people traveled together to a dealership on Jackson Road in Ann Arbor. They were two middle-aged women and one young man. Two were in the market to lease a brand new car, and one was along for the ride.

The trio pulled into the Suburban Chevrolet dealership and stopped at the far end of a row of snow-covered Malibus, waiting for the salesman to pounce.

“Here he comes,” the women chimed in unison as the guy made a beeline toward them from the showroom more than 50 yards away. The young man, already perusing the cars, was heading to the showroom. The women watched as the salesman gave only a casual nod of recognition to him as he passed by, instead of stopping to ask if he needed any help.

“Wow, I can’t believe he just did that,” said the young man’s mother as she witnessed first-hand an all-too-common stereotypical profiling practice.

“He’s the one here to buy a car, not us,” said the driver, embarrassed and disgusted by the scene, as she rolled down the window. “He’s interested in any 2013 models you have left.”

Rather than apologize, the salesman coldly continued to speak with the women until the young man approached the salesman. The excitement he had felt moments earlier in his hunt for a new car had fizzled out. And any hope that salesman had for a commission from this customer was gone – because of his attitude.

Of course, mother and son had been around that block before and were ready to move on and the next stop, Varsity Ford. Perhaps this time, they would experience better customer service – and the young man would drive off in his new car.

All the parking spots were taken when they pulled in, so mother and son went inside while the driver parked the car. Several minutes passed before the driver entered the building and was immediately met by a salesman.

“Oh, I’m not interested in a car,” she said. “My friends are.” The driver spent several minutes browsing, even sitting briefly in a new Mustang, and

dreaming. More time passed before she finally caught up with her friends.

Were they sitting in one of the many cubicles talking to a salesperson? Were they walking the lot with someone trying to earn a fat commission? No. They were standing alone, next to a massive wooden brochure display, looking like hopeful customers.

Just then another salesman walked straight toward the driver, who, once again pointed out the real customers in need of attention. Nearly 20 more minutes passed before the trio left Varsity Ford.

Did the young man have a car? No. There might have been a deal that day, but negative energy and discrimination got in the way.

The only difference between the driver, mother and son in this story was skin color. The driver is white and her friends are not.

All things considered – age, socio-economics, style of dress, personality and friendliness – there is no difference between those two women and their sons. Yet one woman and her son can attest that unfair and unjust racial bias still exist.

Opportunities to greet and serve all members of the world community are available every day. When not taken on a personal level, the loss is limited to the individual. When opportunity is not taken on a professional level – what happened that snowy Saturday – the loss is multiplied.

The customer who was not serviced, the reputation of the business, the business owners and, in this case, the salespeople who profited black at the expense of their wallets. Everyone loses.

### BIG HOUSE FROM B5

Bill Austin, events assistant with the U-M Athletic Department, said that no announcements had been

made. He confirmed, however, that if there *was* to be a soccer event scheduled, “it would definitely be on Aug. 2.”

An announcement was expected by late February.

## Here’s a look at some upcoming events at the Big House:

**WHAT:** 2014 Spring Football Game

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 5, time TBA

**ADMISSION:** Free – Scrimmage showcasing active members of the football team.

**WHAT:** Big House 5K: Trail to the Victors

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 6

**ADMISSION:** \$35 registration fee (includes T-shirt and medal)

**EVENTS:** 5K and 1-mile options, both finishing on the 50-yard line

**PROCEEDS:** Support six local charities, including: Food Gatherers; Humane Society of Huron Valley; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washtenaw County; Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley; Team Red, White and Blue of Ann Arbor; University Musical Society, K-12 Education Programs

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [www.mgoblue.com/bighouse5k](http://www.mgoblue.com/bighouse5k)

### RELAY FROM B5

invite the community,” said Erica Lemm, Club Sports coordinator. “It’s an opportunity for us to tell people who are interested more about it and just try to get them in the spirit.”

When it comes to Relay for Life, Lemm is no rookie. Not only has she hosted three RFL events at Washtenaw, she also was involved in organizing events in Mt. Pleasant, where she attended Central Michigan University.

“I ran the event at CMU when I went to school there,” she said. “I basically facilitated a relationship between them and the relay.”

Her years of volunteering for the relay seem to be paying off, especially

for cancer patients. Last year, Lemm’s office raised about \$2,050.

“This year, we have already raised \$2,401,” Lemm said. “We raised over \$2,000 at a softball tournament this year.”

“I know we raised a lot of money at the hockey game the other night, too – and penny wars,” said Heather Currie, 24, a WCC graduate and Student Activities employee.

Penny wars was a fundraising event at the college in which coins were donated by staff and students.

It all adds up. According to the American Cancer Society’s website, fundraisers like Relay for Life help save more than 400 lives a day.



HELP WANTED

News Reporters  
Photojournalists  
Page Designers  
Illustrators  
Cartoonists  
Web Developers

Learn about opportunities with The Washtenaw Voice, a National Pacemaker Award Winner, at our annual Open House, Wednesday, March 26, 4-6 p.m.

Meet our staff, enjoy a slice of pizza and a soft drink – and fill out an application for a fun and rewarding newspaper gig.

For more information, email: washtenawvoice@gmail.com

Michigan is called the great lake state, so you might think of water when you think of Michigan.



But really, you should think of all forms of water. Stuff like fog, snow, freezing rain...



...Sometimes all at once.



TIFFANY GOODMAN | WASHTENAW VOICE

LA Times Crossword

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

MCT CAMPUS

Sudoku

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

opensky.ca

Across

- 1 To-do list item
- 5 Short-lived crazes
- 9 Destroy beyond repair
- 14 Yodeler's feedback
- 15 Landed
- 16 "Laughing" critter
- 17 Teensy bit
- 18 A hop, skip and jump away
- 19 Savanna antelope
- 20 \*Powerful stratum of society
- 23 In high spirits
- 24 Spread out, as one's fingers
- 25 \_ New Guinea
- 27 Large seaweed
- 30 Mixed in a glass
- 33 Travel book inserts
- 36 Bard's nightfall
- 38 Take care of
- 39 Game with Wild Draw
- Four cards
- 40 Continue with the fun, and a hint to each part of the answers to starred clues
- 42 Keebler cookie character
- 43 Stone-faced
- 45 Side with green eggs
- 46 Part of MIT: Abbr.
- 47 Unit of explosive force
- 49 Anjou, e.g.
- 51 Memorable labor leader Jimmy
- 52 Rinsed the soap from, as a car
- 56 GI R&R provider
- 58 \*When brandy may be served
- 62 \_ and crossbones
- 64 Innovator's spark
- 65 Additional
- 66 Studio stand
- 67 Line in blue cheese
- 68 Diva's solo
- 69 Rose parts
- 70 Comes to a close
- 71 Require

Down

- 1 Glum drops
- 2 Behave poorly
- 3 "I \_ return": MacArthur
- 4 Large Alaskan bears
- 5 Vampire tooth
- 6 Baldwin in Capital One ads
- 7 Call on a retro phone
- 8 Bra parts
- 9 Many an Actors Studio member
- 10 Popeye's Olive
- 11 \*Picturesque spot for a warm drink
- 12 Actress Paquin of "True Blood"
- 13 British noblewoman
- 21 TV educator Bill in a lab coat
- 22 Didn't go out
- 26 Vessel on a mantel
- 28 Bat first
- 29 Each
- 31 Angled pipes
- 32 Adept
- 33 Cologne scent
- 34 Not pro
- 35 \*Place for changing out of a wet suit
- 37 To the \_ degree
- 40 Traps for the unwary
- 41 Big mouth, informally
- 44 John of London?
- 46 Armored superhero
- 48 One who was born there
- 50 Yellowfin tuna
- 53 Noise from a sleeper
- 54 Otherworldly
- 55 Deep anxiety
- 56 Capitalizes on
- 57 Three-handed card game
- 59 Blissful place
- 60 Senator Harry of Nevada
- 61 Aykroyd and Quayle
- 63 Moon lander, for short

ANSWERS

I	E	Z	9	L	S	8	6	4
8	9	L	I	6	4	E	Z	S
S	4	6	E	8	Z	I	9	L
9	8	S	4	Z	6	L	E	I
Z	I	4	8	E	L	6	S	9
6	L	E	S	I	9	4	8	Z
E	Z	8	L	9	I	S	4	6
4	6	I	Z	S	E	9	L	8
L	S	9	6	4	8	Z	I	E

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**Students and WCC employees:** Classified ads in *The Voice* are free. **Local business owners:** Looking for help? Post your free help wanted ads in *The Voice*. Send ads to thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

**Note:** Deadline for the March 10, 2014 issue is Tuesday, March 4, at 5 p.m.

SERVICES

**VOLUNTEER TUTORS:** Washtenaw Literacy needs volunteers to tutor adults in basic reading, writing, math and English as a Second Language. If in Help change lives – one word at a time! Contact info@washtenawliteracy.org or call 734-879-1320.

**NEED HEALTH CARE?** Are you between the ages of 12-22? Contact the Corner Health Center at 734-484.3600 or visit online at: www.cornerhealth.org

HELP WANTED

**SEASONAL PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE:** Canton Leisure Services is now hiring for seasonal part-time positions that start in April-June 2014. Positions may include: lifeguards, summer camp counselors and supervisors, therapeutic recreation

camp staff, special events coordinators, park laborers, Pheasant Run Golf Course staff, Canton Sports Center staff and more. If you enjoy a fast-paced, exciting work environment, don't miss this opportunity to join a great team this summer! Students, here's your chance to gain valuable work experience in your field of study. Apply today at www.canton-mi.org/humanresources/jobs.asp. For more information, call 734-394-5260

**Below is a sample of recent employment want ads which have been posted with WCC Career Services. Students are invited to read these ads and to contact Career Services to find out how to apply for the openings. Career Services is located in ML 104. For more information, phone 734-677-5155, email careers@wccnet.edu, or visit www.wccnet.edu/careerconnection/.**

**Security Officer.** Valor Security Services at the Briarwood Mall is seeking applicants for a part-time security officer position. The position would be anywhere from 16-32 hours weekly with a starting pay of \$10 per hour.

**Guest Services Representative.** Briarwood Mall is seeking a part-time representative responsible for product sales, responding to guest-service inquiries, providing exceptional level of service, and supporting mall promotions and marketing events. Sales experience is recommended.

**Lifeguard.** The Howell Area Aquatic Center is seeking certified lifeguards for part time employment. Competitive pay and flexible hours, Monday-Sunday. Premium pay for early mornings and daytime shifts

**Cashiers.** Retail and restaurant cashiers to provide customers with fast and friendly service in foodservice or at the sales counter. Other responsibilities include

managing shelves and inventory, operating the cash registers and maintaining the overall appearance and cleanliness in the store. Seeking motivated individuals with great customer focus.

**Office Staff.** Infinity Gymnastics Academy in Brighton is looking for office staff to support its front-desk operations. Applicants must be reliable, have basic computer skills and be able to work with a diverse customer base. Must be available evenings and weekends.

**Catering Assistant.** Serve customers from our vintage ice cream truck or carts at special events such as weddings and graduation parties. Tasks involve organizing and packing, travel to site, set up, serving, and break down. Employer may be willing to train the right person to assist with making gelato and preparing other frozen treats.

**Auto Body Restoration Tech.** Developing restoration shop is seeking an enthusiastic, self-motivated, hard-working, respectful combination body man with experience in tear-down and assembly. Skills needed for metal patch, welding as well as, preparing up to the second block of primer. State certification is necessary. Must have own tools. Compensation to be determined.

**After School Classroom Caregiver.** M & M Extra Care, a school-age program

located within elementary schools, is looking for several qualified and motivated classroom caregivers. Applicants must be at least 18, have experience working with groups of children, such as in a child-care setting, church youth groups, summer camps or coaching sports teams. Our caregivers work 20 hours per week (2:30-6:30 p.m.), at one of four different locations, and earn \$9-\$10/hour or more, depending on experience.

**Office/Sales position.** For small wedding/banquet operation. Includes working with brides and grooms in planning their events, conducting Saturday tours of the wedding facility, simple accounting and data entry for events. Must have computer skills, including Word, Excel etc.

**Line Cook.** Mark's Midtown Coney Island is seeking a professional line cook to prepare food to the specifications on the menu and set up own food station. Responsibilities include setting up and stocking stations with all necessary supplies, preparing food for service (such as chopping vegetables), cooking menu items in cooperation with the rest of the kitchen staff, cleaning and stocking up station, following nutrition and sanitation regulations and safety standards and having a positive attitude among others.



