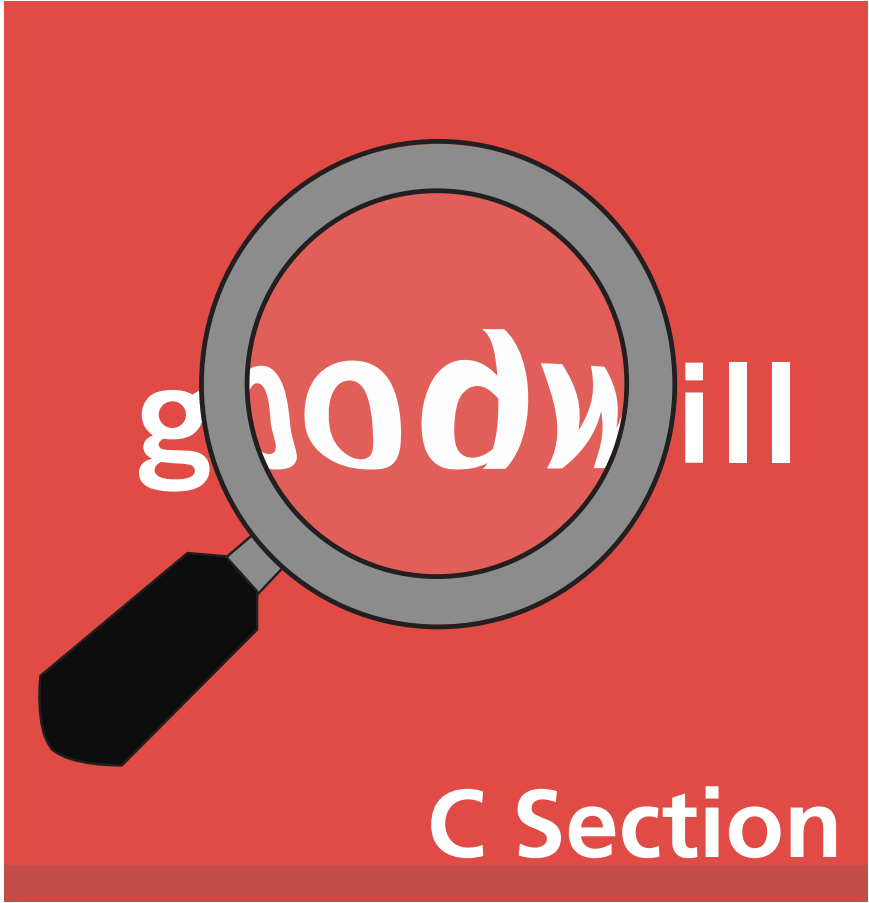




Recycling Operations Manager Barry Wilkins says that WCC can do better at keeping recyclables out of the trash.
KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Trash Talk

Page B1



C Section

WCC Trustees ‘opt out’ on township road proposal

By MARIA RIGOU
Editor

Washtenaw Community College’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously to exempt the college’s taxes from capture by the Corridor Improvement Authority in Pittsfield Township.

The township is trying to raise \$30 million over 20 years for the State Street Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA). It would require capturing a percentage of taxes from several local entities, including \$2.9

million from WCC that would have come from the millage assigned to education by voters.

“When we tell voters we are going to do something with the money, we are going to do it,” board Vice-Chair Patrick McLean said at the board’s Nov. 26 meeting. “This proposal doesn’t meet the threshold.”

WCC computer science instructor

ROADS
CONTINUED A6

STATE REP. AND FORMER WCC TRUSTEE DAVID RUTLEDGE WEIGHS IN.
PAGE A5

New CFO: financial state of the college is ‘strong’



WCC CFO William Johnson. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

William Johnson, the newest addition to WCC administration, has been CFO since late July. He has been “getting his feet wet” and learning how things are done at the college and talked to *Voice* Editor Maria Rigou about the financial state of the college and what are some challenges that education is facing right now.

Washtenaw Voice: What is the state of the college right now, financially – compared to when you arrived? Your job was vacant for nearly nine months. How did this affect things?

William Johnson: Fortunately it didn’t affect it much at all in the sense that there was a good financial team here with Lynn Martin as controller and Barb Fillingier as director of budget. The two of them really are the core, them and their team. So really they were able to keep things moving as they should throughout the process. And when I walked in the door what I found was a very strong set of financial processes that helped support the overall mission of the college.

(The state of the college financially) is strong... When you look at it, we’ve

had significant investment in fixed assets, the capital assets of our college, our buildings, and the technology in the classrooms... a variety of things that support learning in the college. We’ve had the opportunity to make strong capital investments, as well as, been able to reduce the long-term debt of the college during this period.

WV: It may be a bit early, but soon you will have to make a recommendation to the board about tuition. How do you see it trending? Is it going to stay as it is or is it going to increase?

WJ: We certainly don’t have a recommendation yet. The college is going through a very deep analysis to understand the market demand for our programs relative to the competition. It’s a critical assessment of the strength of our programs against the market demand and then benchmark against other schools who offer similar programs.

WCC has some of, if not, the lowest rates in the region for a number of

JOHNSON Q&A
CONTINUED A5

Untangling transfers

Michigan schools work to simplify the transfer process

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Managing Editor

Brianna Swinton lost \$500 because she chose the wrong math class. She thought her MTH 125 credit would count at Michigan State University, where she plans to transfer next fall. But it won’t.

Now, Swinton, an 18-year-old nursing major from Pinckney, has to put more time and money into another math course this spring in order to get into MSU.

“I know a lot of people have trouble transferring to State; it’s really hard to find classes that will transfer,” she said. “That class isn’t going to count for anything and that was really frustrating. It’s like \$500 out the door.”

Swinton’s story is not unique. Community colleges are full of horror stories about hours and tuition

dollars that were lost in the tangled web of transferring.

Fortunately for Swinton and so many others like her, the days of wasting time and money on credits that don’t transfer may soon be over.

The Michigan Transfer Agreement, which will take effect fall 2014, guarantees that a block of general education credits will transfer to any public college or university in Michigan.

It is the first statewide initiative to streamline the transfer process since 1973 and will be the first ever to be received by every public school in the state.

The MTA will replace the 40-year-old Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (MACRAO) transfer agreement, MACRAO President-elect John Meldrum said.

While the MACRAO agreement has only been accepted by a handful of universities, every four-year and two-year

school in Michigan has agreed to sign on to the MTA, according to Meldrum, who is also an assistant dean and registrar at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

In essence, the MTA won’t be much different from the MACRAO agreement, but the fact that it will be uni-

“Unfortunately, we live in a state where there is no uniform higher education authority,”

— Paula Welmers, MTA committee member

versally accepted makes a world of difference, said Pat Cygnar, director of community relations at Eastern Michigan University, and EMU’s representative on the MTA committee.

“Unfortunately, we live in a state where there is no uniform higher education authority,” said Paula Welmers, a Counselor at North Central Michigan College and another member of the MTA committee.

Unlike many other states, there is

MTA
CONTINUED A6



Close up of ‘Feeling Sorry for Pluto.’ The painting can be found on the first floor of the LA Building. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Art featuring Pluto is the latest in Washtenaw’s renowned collection

By MARIA RIGOU
Editor

NEW ORLEANS – Washtenaw Community College has a new star in its hallways. And it used to be a planet.

“Feeling Sorry for Pluto,” by New Orleans-based artist Chris

Roberts-Antieau, is stealing the spotlight in the LA building. The piece of art was acquired by Julia Gleich, Production Center manager, who took over the art collection after Judith Hommel retired from WCC two years ago.

Roberts-Antieau, formerly of Ann Arbor, works with a technique called fabric appliqué. It consists of cutting fabric in specific shapes and then layering them and sewing them together to form a complete picture.

“I took seventh-grade Home Economics and never stopped,” Roberts-Antieau said. “I always liked

to draw, so they merged (into one thing).”

WCC is host to “roughly 130 pieces of art” that are part of its art collection with a combined worth of about \$300,000, Gleich estimated.

“There was some money donated to buy art,” Gleich said. “And so thanks to this person, we bought Pluto.”

Roberts-Antieau’s work ranges from \$390 up to \$12,000.

“There is a bit for everyone,” said Heidi Hendrick, New Orleans-based

PLUTO
CONTINUED A6



complete YOUR COLLEGE experience!

with Student Development and Activities

STAY CONNECTED! [HTTP://TINYW.CC/SDA](http://tinyw.cc/sda) Be the first to find out about new tickets and activities!

Ticket: Elf

You loved the Will Farrell movie; now check out the Broadway Musical!
Only \$25!
Detroit Opera House
12/12/13
Purchase tickets at the Cashier's Office

Ticket: Piston's Tickets

Sunday, January 5
Only \$25
Palace of Auburn Hills

Ticket includes: admission, food voucher and parking pass optional \$5!

Final's Fuel-up!

Grab a goody bag and get pumped for finals!

Tuesday, December 10, 12p.m. GM BLDG
Wednesday, December 11, 10a.m. LA 1st Fl. Bridge

Ticket: Bullet Catch

See Drummond read the minds of audience, a magic show, and the notorious finale: Bullet Catch!
Only \$20!
Arthur Miller Theatre
01/09/14
Purchase tickets at the Cashier's Office

Winter Welcome Day

Wednesday, January 22, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Food! Fun! Freebies!
SC 1st floor & 2nd floors
Learn about clubs and WCC departments while picking up freebies!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Darwin: Beetles, Books and Blasphemy

Join Biology Professor **David Wooten** for an insightful and unique seminar on the legacy of Charles Darwin.

February 12, 2014
Morris Lawrence Building
6:30p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Talent Show Auditions

If you can dance, sing or wow a crowd with a talent, we need you!

Thursday, February 13, 5-9 p.m.

Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building
Sign-up here:
<http://tinyurl.com/WCC-TalentMarch2014>

Upcoming Sports Opportunities!

Tryouts:

Men's Basketball Tryouts
Women's Basketball Tryouts
Co-ed Ice Hockey Tryouts
Men's and Women's Volleyball Tryouts

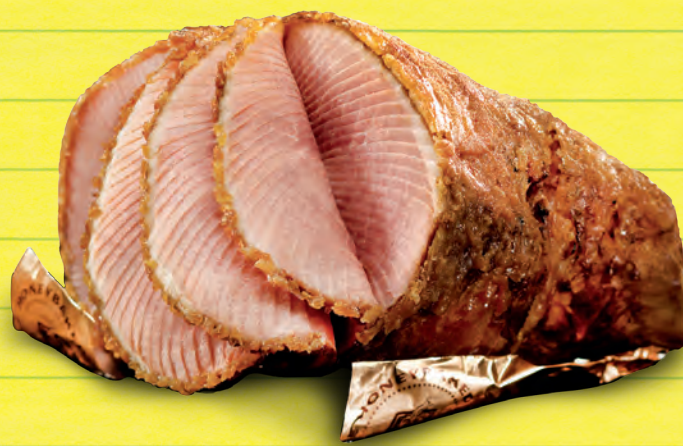
Intramural Sports:

Dodgeball
Tennis

Stop by the WCC Sports Office for more information

For all information and registrations stop by SC116, call us at 734-973-3720 or email elemm@wccnet.edu

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



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Walsh grads see a case study in successful entrepreneurship.

HoneyBaked Ham is an iconic American brand started in 1957 in Detroit by Harry Hoenselaar. Lou Schmidt, Hoenselaar's grandson and a Walsh grad (Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of Science in Finance) is president of HoneyBaked's Michigan division, which operates 100 retail stores in 14 states. Lou's son and daughter are also Walsh grads who work at HoneyBaked.

Walsh grads see business in everything, and impact great companies everywhere. See more at livebreathebusiness.org/Ham. Winter classes begin January 6.

WALSH[®]
COLLEGE
LIVE. BREATHE. BUSINESS.

©The yellow notebook design is a registered trademark of Walsh College. And the campaign is a creation of Perich Advertising + Design. Thanks to the fine folks at Walsh for letting us say so.

Sex, drugs and oral cancer

Careful what you kiss, they say, as disfiguring disease spreads

By MARIA RIGOU
Editor

“You have to be cautious of what you are putting in your mouth,” said Kristina Sprague, faculty member of the Dental Assisting Program at Washtenaw Community College. That’s good advice. Each year, more than 30,000 cases of oral cancer (cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx) are diagnosed in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Oral cancer is a cancer that starts in the mouth and can extend to the pharynx. The oral cavity includes the lips, the inside lining of the lips and cheeks, the teeth, the gums, the front two-thirds of the tongue, the floor of the mouth below the tongue and the bony roof of the mouth. The pharynx is the part of the throat just behind the mouth. It begins where the oral cavity stops and includes the base of the tongue, the soft palate, the tonsils and the side and back wall of the throat, according to the American Cancer Society’s description. In recent years, incidence of oral cancer has increased, especially in individuals aged 14-44. The number of oral cancer patients has increased over a six-year period and, in comparison,

all other cancers have declined. The new oral cancer risk factor is exposure to the human papillomavirus (HPV) that is transmitted through saliva, sexual and skin-to-skin contact. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the United States, according to CDC. Most types of HPV are not harmful. However, there are more than 40 strains of HPV that can infect the genital areas as well as the mouth and throat. “According to CDC, there are 12,000 individuals that contract the HPV virus daily,” Sprague said. “There are lots of different strains, but only one is (responsible for causing) oral cancer.” The five-year survival rate for oral and pharynx cancer is relatively low. About 50 percent of patients with this type of cancer survive, often with other consequences. “Oral cancer is very disfiguring,” Sprague said. “We are talking of full-mouth extractions. (It) doesn’t have a high success rate.” There are 40,000 new cases of cancer of the oral cavity and pharynx every year, according to CDC. Of those new diagnoses, 40 percent are young, non-smokers. HPV-related cancers are six times more common in men than in women. Preventing high-risk behaviors like smoking (cigarette, cigar or pipe) and excessive use of alcohol are critical. “We want to encourage people to go to the dentist to prevent occurrence,” Sprague said. “Don’t ignore the symptoms.”

Symptoms of oral and pharynx cancer can include:

- A sore in the mouth that does not heal
- Pain in the mouth that doesn’t go away
- A lump of thickening in the cheek
- A white or red patch on the gums, tongue, tonsil or lining of the mouth
- A sore throat or a feeling that something is caught in the throat that doesn’t go away
- Trouble chewing or swallowing
- Trouble moving the jaw or tongue
- Numbness of the tongue or other area of the mouth
- Voice changes
- A lump or mass in the neck
- Weight loss
- Constant bad breath

Source: American Cancer Society

The WCC Dental Clinic offers dental treatments during the Winter Semester. Dental treatment provided in the dental clinic is limited in scope. University of Michigan dental students perform the work and are supervised by community dentists. Treatments not available at WCC are referred to other dental professionals.

Oral STD trend

Rates of mouth and throat cancers spread by the sexually transmitted human papillomavirus (HPV) increased 225 percent over 16 years, according to a recent study. One out of 15 Americans has an oral HPV-16 infection.

% testing positive for oral HPV infection, by gender

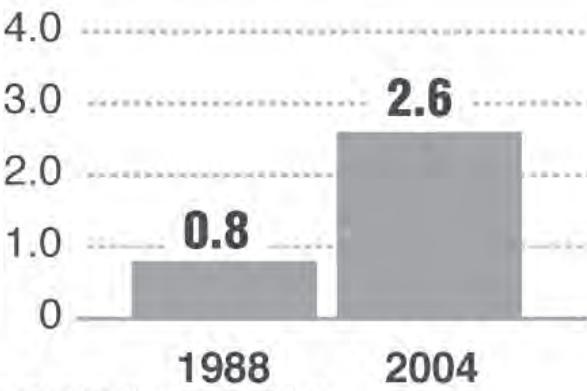


*HPV-related cancers of the back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils

Source: Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center
Graphic: Los Angeles Times

Cases of HPV-related oropharyngeal cancers*

Per 100,000 people



© 2012 MCT

Ypsilanti Township Motors into AAATA

By ALAINA O'CONNOR
Staff Writer

The Ann Arbor City Council voted overwhelmingly to include Ypsilanti Township as a member in the ever-expanding Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority, making it the second municipality outside of Ann Arbor to gain membership this year. “They’re coming to our city to work. They’re coming to our city to go to school,” said Mayor John Hieftje at the Nov. 18 meeting. “They’re coming to Ann Arbor and that’s a good thing.” This is good news for WCC students, many of whom commute to school by bus each and every day. “I do ride the bus to school,” said Damon Conway, 20, from Ypsilanti. “If the bus covers more areas, that’s good.”

The proposed service changes in Ypsilanti Township and surrounding areas are part of the AAATA’s five-year transportation improvement plan, which would enhance existing services and routes, increase transit access in underserved areas and provide more frequent service with redesigned routes. “It’s good to have Ypsilanti Township intimately involved so that we can work together,” council member Christopher Taylor, D-Ward 3, said during the meeting. “It’s important to build the process to make sure that our residents are served.” WCC partnered with the AAATA to provide free bus rides from campus for students and employees. However, students must pay to get to the school and the service can sometimes be

sporadic. “I don’t ride the bus, but I know people who do,” said Kristal Hawkins, 24, from Ann Arbor. “People complain because the bus is always late and you can only go one way for free. U-M students get to ride for free both ways.” The City Council is considering a 0.7-mill tax on the May ballot in each municipality that’s officially a member of AAATA. “This entire plan is predicated on passing a millage in the spring and that millage will establish unequal participation by the various communities that belong to AAATA,” said Council Member Jack Easton, D-Ward 4. “I would hope that we could find a more equitable means of funding.” For more information visit: www.theride.org

Partners for Transit secures key partnership

By M. M. DONALDSON
Voice Correspondent

Partners for Transit (P4T) has a new ally. Barrier Busters members voted unanimously to pledge support to P4T, during their monthly meeting in November. Representing more than 50 member agencies that provide social services, Barrier Busters is a key partner. P4T is actively recruiting community partnerships with the upcoming spring millage to expand the Ann

Arbor Area Transportation Authority services. It had 21 endorsers until receiving the commitment from Barrier Busters, a program under the Office of Community and Economic Development through Washtenaw County, whose members coordinate community services through their network. Many of the Barrier Busters member agencies have clients who are dependent on public transportation. Those who use public transportation will have expanded services if the

proposed millage passes. P4T is recommending expansion of hours and routes to the AATA and is not the only entity pursuing greater transportation infrastructure. Ypsilanti Township recently joined the AAATA by unanimous vote by the Ann Arbor City Council. The City of Ypsilanti was accepted in June. The Ypsilanti municipalities will now have voting rights with the AAATA. Transit services provided in both areas were formerly through a contract agreement.

SNIPS

Forest Heroes have eye of ‘tiger’

Michigan-based protest group Forest Heroes has been pressuring Kellogg’s to end its relationship with palm oil-manufacturer Wilmar International for months. The group has now taken the fight into Kellogg’s back yard. A recent protest at Kellogg’s corporate headquarters in Battle Creek drew more than 80 people and extensive media coverage. Wilmar was ranked as the world’s least-sustainable corporation by Newsweek magazine in 2012 because of its practices and how they have contributed to the deforestation of Indonesia. But on Dec. 5, under pressure from several environmental groups, the company announced plans to become deforestation-free. The event, called the “Cereal Bowl”, saw protesters pour petitions and letters of protest out of an oversized Frosted Flakes box into a giant bowl in front of the House that Tony Built. Protester Colleen Rathz said that the event comes on the heels of a lot of other talk on sustainable palm oil, and added that Nutella plans to go deforestation-free in 2014. “On a personal level, it was amazing to be a part of something like that,” Rathz said.

Veterans Party

WCC faculty and staff are coming together to contribute to the VA during the holiday season. Donations are being accepted for veterans in the Ann Arbor VA Nursing Home. Led by Debbie Freeman, childcare professional, the group brings holiday cheer to veterans each Dec. 24. Donations can be made by cash or check in several locations around campus, including the cashier’s office, BE 200, SC 206, TI 122 and GM 300, among others. To volunteer, contact Beverly Leneski at the VA at 734-845-3467.

WCC students bring home awards

Washtenaw Community College students won big last Monday at the Detroit 48 Hour Film Horror Project. “R Team” was composed of Washtenaw students Kevin Jackson, Jeremy Liesen, Shane Law, Will Blattman, Justin Erion, Przemek Ozog, Shannon Tripplett, Travis Reynolds. Their short film “Love Thy Neighbor” was awarded Best

Horror Movie, Best Cinematography, Best Sound Design and Best Original Music Score. The group submitted the piece with only two minutes to spare before the deadline, Jackson said. “It’s given us the incentive... to pursue another project,” said Jackson, adding that the group plans to begin working soon on a 30-minute feature. To view the film, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/njzawa4>.

Neo Nutcracker at WCC

Washtenaw Community College’s Performing Arts Department presents “Neo Nutcracker,” an adaptation of the Nutcracker that tells the classic story, but with a new twist on music and dance. The Nutcracker tells the story of Clara and her nutcracker as they journey together one Christmas Eve. “Neo Nutcracker” will include performances of local dance groups, including Mav Cru, Rare Paragon Gems, Patchwerk Dance Troupe and Sole Full of Rhythm, among others. Music and choreography was arranged by WCC students. “Neo Nutcracker” will be showing on Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 15 and 2 p.m. in the Towsley Auditorium in the ML building. Tickets are \$5. For more information, phone 734-677-5090.

Drama class showcases emerging stage talent

By JOE DAHL
Voice Contributor

Drama instructor Tracy Jaffe’s class will perform a showcase of scenes on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 8 p.m. in LA 175. The showcase will include students’ interpretations and performances of scenes from “Escanaba in da Moonlight,” “Elemeno Pea,” “Bullets over Broadway” and others. While most scenes are humorous scenes, others are a more serious tone. Prospective patrons should know that some scenes will include strong language and innuendo. A few scenes may be found offensive by some. The students had been rehearsing and work-shopping their scenes for the month prior to the event. There is no admission price, and all are welcome.

CAMPUS EVENTS

MONDAY DEC. 9
Make it, Take it: Ice Cream Sundaes will be offered in the SC Community Room. Event also on Wednesday from 5-6 p.m.

TUESDAY DEC. 10
Finals Fuel-up will offer snacks to students in the GM Lobby from noon-1 p.m. Students who miss the first event can fuel up on Wednesday, Dec. 11, as well.

WEDNESDAY DEC. 11
Friends of Bill AA Meeting will be held in LA 268 from noon-1 p.m.
Make it, Take it: Snowman lets participants create a snowman filled with cocoa and marshmallows for free from noon-1 p.m. in the SC Community Room.

THURSDAY DEC. 12
Payment deadline for students registered since Dec. 6. Pay to avoid being

dropped from classes.
FRIDAY DEC. 13
FAFSA Fridays offers students help with filing for financial aid from 2-4 p.m. in ML 124.

MONDAY DEC. 16
Fall Semester Ends.

SATURDAY DEC. 21
WCC offices closed on main campus.

COLLEGE VISITATIONS
Northwood University: Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
University of Phoenix: Nov. 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Concordia University: Nov. 11, 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Eastern Michigan University: Nov. 11, 18, 19, 1-5 p.m.

SECURITY NOTES

Campus Safety and Security reported no crime in the period since our last issue on Nov. 18.

EDITORIAL

WCC Trustees keep education dollars where they belong

The board of trustees at Washtenaw Community College recently made a very smart move.

At the Nov. 12 board meeting, Pittsfield Township authorities presented board members and other administrators a project to renovate the State Street corridor.

The Corridor Improvement Authority is trying to raise \$30 million over 20 years to renovate the area between I-94 and Michigan Avenue, and was asking all entities that receive money from taxes to “invest” on this project. WCC was among those entities, along with the Ann Arbor District Library.

The plan will improve the area around State Street in Pittsfield Township, and officials are hopeful that these renovations will boost development and in turn increase economic development that will yield more tax revenue.

And at the Nov. 26 meeting, board members voted unanimously to opt-out of this proposal, arguing that the money that voters assign to education should stay in education.

The nearly \$3 million that were being requested from WCC as an “investment” would have come from the dollars assigned by county voters in the millage.

So technically, the township was asking WCC to give them, as an investment, \$2.9 million over 20 years to fix roads. Money that is supposed to go into education. Money that voters gave WCC for the sole use of education.

It is understandable, just like board Vice-Chair Patrick McLean said, that “the college should have an interest in roads, and everyone in the community should care one way or another.” But there is a clear separation between educational dollars and community improvement dollars.

More than one trustee expressed that a belief in such development. Anne Williams, chair of the board, said that she has been part of numerous planning commissions, but that she believes firmly in the support of the taxes that are given to WCC for education.

Key words: For education.

And that is what they did. Trustees unanimously voted to opt-out of the project and to keep the \$2.9 million within WCC, to use for education.

“The money that (the college) received for education is best spent on education,” board Secretary Mark Freeman said. “We need to use the money for our students because it is our mission.”

Well done, trustees. We commend you for sticking up for us and using your educational dollars for exactly that, education.

CLARIFICATION

A sentence in a Page B3 review of “The Walking Dead” in the Nov. 4 issue should have read, without any parenthetical insertion: Walkers are a group of undead, slobbering Georgians who essentially appear out of thin air in order to move the plot along.

Time to fight, Detroit



By NATALIE WRIGHT

Last Tuesday, Federal Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes ruled that Detroit is eligible for the largest municipal bankruptcy in history. For some, this is a sad day, but for many it marks the first sign of hope in Detroit’s long road to recovery.

Obviously, no one likes the position the city is in. Mistakes have been made. Many factors have led to the six-decade-long decline of what was once one of the greatest cities in this country.

Detroit and its citizens are going to suffer regardless of the decision Rhodes made today.

Rhodes and Emergency Manager Kevin Orr have accepted what, in the long run, all Detroiters hopefully will: that it may hurt a little at first, but this bankruptcy is the first step to getting the city back on its feet.

Now it’s time for Mayor-elect Michael Duggan, the Detroit City

Council and the city’s denizens to get on board. The entire city needs to put in some elbow grease and cooperation if they’re to fix what’s broken – and in Detroit it’s everything.

It’s hard to accept the suffering of the 75-year-old retired city worker saying he doesn’t want to lose his pension; it’s hard to say that he should pay the price for his city’s and government’s mistakes.

Many people are scared – and they have the right to be. Everyone is at risk of losing something. But the risk would be much greater if action was not taken.

The fact is that the city as a whole is to blame. Detroit has been mismanaged, and Detroiters continued to elect people who drove them into the ground - one of whom is in federal prison today.

Unfortunately many individuals may have to pay the price for the mistakes of the whole.

But if people have to lose their pensions and things like the Detroit Institute of Arts either way, at least with the bankruptcy that money will go towards fixing streetlights instead of the pockets of the debt collectors.

The decision to uphold the Chapter 9 bankruptcy that Detroit filed in July keeps the nearly 500 lawsuits levied

against the city at bay. That is a good thing for the citizens whether they recognize it or not.

If Rhodes had not ruled in favor of the bankruptcy, creditors would have looted the city, and all the ramifications that Detroiters fear will result from the bankruptcy would have happened anyway. It may have given them a little extra time, but in the end the consequences would have been more severe.

Rhodes made a good decision today. Hopefully the people of Detroit will come to see that eventually.

Unfortunately, the city doesn’t have the luxury of sitting around and licking its wounds any longer. It’s time to step up. Investors have shown interest in Detroit and there is a lot of promise for a return of its glory days.

This city is a big part of American history and identity. It’s an important place, and what’s happening right now is an important historical event. The next few years could be remembered as the time when Detroit rose from the ashes or as the time it went down in flames once and for all.

Detroiters need to show that they care about the future. They need to get on board and get serious.

It’s time for them to roll up their sleeves and fight for their city.

I’ll have lemonade, thank you



By MARIA RIGOU

I consider myself to be a pretty talented multi-tasker. I take approximately 14 credits per semester at WCC, I am the editor of *The Washtenaw Voice* and I also volunteer at a radio program for veterans on Saturdays.

I try to convince myself that all those sleepless nights finally paid off. I had a great year full of exciting adventures.

This year alone, I flew on a Vietnam War Huey, I met people from CNN, I spoke to multiple well-known reporters and photographers and I got to be on TV.

Yes, TV.

The radio program that I work for recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary and it had a special broadcast to celebrate. Coincidentally, Al Jazeera America, the global television network, was preparing a special package on veterans.

It was Friday at 4 p.m., and I got a text message from one of the hosts saying: “Al Jazeera America will be here tomorrow. Wear your Veterans Radio shirt.”

I admit it was kind of fuzzy and weird. Al Jazeera? On our show? We

are just a small radio program from Michigan!

But then Saturday rolled around and they were there. Camera and microphone on hand, taking B-roll of us at breakfast, following us around the radio station.

And then, as fast as they came, they left. Or at least that is how I felt it.

But we were on TV.

And it was so exciting.

This was the day that I reaffirmed my unconditional love of journalism, because there is a story in even the most routine daily actions, and I realized that something that is small for someone might be huge for others.

It is what you do with those experiences what defines you.

When life gives you lemons...

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Thanks, from a grateful college



ROSE BELLANCA

As we begin the season of giving, I am excited to announce that the college is the recipient of a very generous gift that will help many of our students in the coming year.

MASCO, a successful Fortune 500 company, has awarded WCC a \$100,000 grant for our Veterans Center. The money will be used to develop an online course that will

help prepare servicemen and women for the challenges of college. The course will provide access to on-campus counseling and support services, as well as exposure to career opportunities.

Veterans who choose to enroll in the WCC Construction Technology program will also receive additional support. This grant is part of the MASCO Foundation’s “America’s Heroes: A Million Thanks” initiative, which has awarded more than \$1 million in grants that directly support veterans, active military personnel, and their families.

Additionally, Masco gave another generous gift of \$150,000 for the new WCC/Ypsilanti Community Schools dual enrollment pilot program in

construction technology. Students who successfully complete the program and choose to continue their studies at WCC will receive scholarship to cover the remaining credit hours for an associate’s degree.

This holiday season, I am extremely grateful for companies like MASCO and the countless other businesses and individuals who contribute to the WCC Foundation. With their support, WCC was able to provide more than \$700,000 in grants and scholarships to more than 800 students last year. I am very proud of WCC’s tradition of giving, and look forward to another year of generous support for our students. My very best wishes go out to all of WCC’s students, faculty and staff for a joyful holiday season.

TO THE EDITOR:

Our photo department rocks

There is no uncertainty in photography as a career if you have the education combined with the determination to succeed. Failure in any career is more likely due to lack of motivation or willpower to continue past bumps in the path to your future, rather than what degree someone chooses.

The wonderful thing about true photographers is that we are innovative, creative and learn to put up with a lot of people and their less than stellar opinions. Here at Washtenaw, photography students subject themselves and their artwork to critiques of an entire class, and because of this we learn to take constructive criticism well.

However, the way in which the article “On Location” in the last issue of *The Voice* was edited has crossed the line from constructive criticism into downright degradation of an entire WCC program, as well as each and

every photography student who has been a part of it.

Washtenaw Community College is well-known for its photography program throughout the Midwest, and many students have graduated and gone on to be incredibly successful photographers. The beauty of our photography department is that it allows for each and every one of us to pursue our own journey. We have some of the greatest teachers. Each of them offers something to learn in many different photography career paths including: fashion, commercial, portrait, wedding and fine art.

There are many students who have taken great offense to the article and specifically how it was editorialized. The line in question, “Regardless of the uncertain future of photography as a career, students flock to the class” was added by an editor and/or

adviser to change the piece from a “puff” piece to a “truthful” one.

To passive-aggressively tell us that our hard work and time spent in the program is a waste, is abuse of your journalistic power. Journalists are supposed to tell the truth based on hard facts, not opinions. There is no solid truth to the claims that our program is uncertain in its future. I am asking for that proof, especially before you potentially jeopardize the future of the photography department by deterring future or even current students away from our great program.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Manning
Deborah Podorsek
Chrissy Zuke
Michael Charter
Shanna Quick

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The student publication of Washtenaw Community College
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Volume 20, Issue 9

4800 E. Huron River Dr.
TI 106
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 677-5125

thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com

EDITOR
Maria Rigou
drigou@wccnet.edu

MANAGING EDITOR
Natalie Wright
nkwright@wccnet.edu

PHOTO EDITOR
Kelly Bracha
kbracha@wccnet.edu

DESIGNERS
Peter Hochgraf
phochgraf@wccnet.edu

George O'Donovan
godonovan@wccnet.edu

ONLINE EDITOR
Christina Fleming
cfleming@wccnet.edu

VIDEO EDITOR
James Saoud
jsaoud@wccnet.edu

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Becky Alliston
ealliston@wccnet.edu

STAFF WRITERS
David Fitch
Eric Garant
Alaina O'Connor
M. M. Donaldson

DESIGN CORRESPONDENTS
Brian Auten
Erik Morris

CORRESPONDENTS
Joe Dahl
Paul Erlandson
Brandon Shelton

ADVISER
Keith Gave
kgave@wccnet.edu

Always Listening

Roadkill

What happened to ‘community?’



DAVID RUTLEDGE

I don’t usually comment on policy decisions made by WCC’s Board of Trustees. However, since I was asked by *The Voice* to comment on the Board’s recent decision to opt out of the State Street Corridor Improvement Authority requested by Pittsfield Township, I will take this opportunity to share a different view.

This is how I see the issue. Pretend that the college has two hands. In the left hand, Pittsfield Township has placed \$2, which represents the funding that the college receives now from Pittsfield’s current tax base. The college’s right hand represents tax dollars from future growth in Pittsfield. It has nothing in it now, but would if Pittsfield’s tax base grows with the help of the proposed State Street Project.

Using this analogy, what Pittsfield was asking of the Board is this: *We need your help to initiate a road improvement project (State Street Corridor) that we believe will help us attract new*

businesses and retain existing ones. If you assist us by investing in this project, you will be helping prevent a reduction of the \$2 in the left hand, plus potentially earn \$2 or more for the currently empty right hand.

What does the college have to invest? And what is the return on that investment? The answers to these questions is all about future growth. The college would be required to invest 50 percent of what comes into the right hand, and \$0 if the right hand gets nothing. In our analogy, the college would invest \$1, and receive a \$1 return on investment.

But with its decision, the Board’s response to Pittsfield Township is: *Even if the college doesn’t help you grow the tax base, we will get our entire share of the growth (\$2) anyway. So good luck, Pittsfield, we wish you much success.*

The Board’s decision gives the perception that the college views Pittsfield’s interests in growing its tax base as separate from the college’s interests. It is this perception that gives me great concern. WCC is not just a great educational institution; it is a great community educational institution.

The middle “C” in WCC means that there is a symbiotic relationship between our institution and our community. It means that as an institution, we understand that what happens to our community also happens to us, and vice versa. This has been the hallmark of our existence and one that the

college’s policymakers have taken very seriously since its inception. So, when a part of our community asks for assistance that is within our power to give without harming the college, and we refuse, it’s a red flag to me.

The Board apparently concluded that this was simply a road project where education tax dollars should not be used. I would argue that when a portion of future education tax dollars are used to help grow the education tax base, you are in fact using education tax dollars for education.

By way of precedent, the Board already has a history of using education tax dollars relative to a community need for road improvement with no direct financial return on investment: in August 2003, the college spent \$200,000 on Clark Road Driveway improvement; in December 2007, it spent \$105,000 on improvements to Huron River Drive; and in October of 2009, it spent \$58,000 in partnership with others to pave Clark Road.

Be assured that in the not-too-distant future, the college will be asking Pittsfield Township for its help (think millage). By that time, I hope the experience of our Board’s decision to refuse the request for help is a distant memory.

The preceding column is respectfully submitted by State Rep. David E. Rutledge, a former WCC Trustee. If you have any questions, please contact his office at 517-373-1771

Voice Box

INTERVIEWS BY ERIC GARANT STAFF WRITER
PHOTOS BY JAMES SAOUD VIDEO EDITOR

The college considered spending nearly \$3 million that was earmarked for education on repairs to State Street in Pittsfield Township. How do you feel about that?

JUSTIN PISANI

19, Livonia, undecided



“That’s completely unfair. I think all money that’s spent in the area of education should be spent on education.”

BRIELLE MATTHEWS

16, Detroit, psychology



“I think that’s a lot of money. I think that’s kind of wrong.”

MARCUS ANTHONY

25, Atlanta, Ga., liberal arts transfer



“That’s messed up. I’d like to see my school dollars go toward school stuff.”

ALYSSA CLOMBS

16, Ann Arbor, nursing



“That sounds stupid. Using my critical thinking skills, I think I’d like more information as to why they’re fixing a road, then.”

MATT DRYJA

32, Ann Arbor, graphic design



“If the money is supposed to be allocated to the college, I feel that the money should be used here instead of off campus. It seems like they’re not following the rules.”

CHRIS SHAW

32, Sylvania, Ohio, computer science



“I work for student activities, and our budget has been cut. The fact that \$2.9 million that was supposed to go to the school isn’t going to the school is sad. We could make good use of that money.”

Breaking the cone of silence

Activists speak out for fragile Congo

By ALAINA O’CONNOR
Staff Writer

Imagine going to bed every night not knowing if your husband will be murdered, your children ripped from your arms or your body used as weapon of war. That’s been the reality for millions of Congolese women, and it’s the reason Lori Simpson woke up and vowed to do something about it.

“I wanted to shed some light on what’s going on in this part of the world,” said Simpson, 24, a nursing student from Ann Arbor who participated in the Congo Activists of Michigan’s Congo Week. “Most people aren’t aware of what’s happening to the women and children in Central Africa.”

On Nov. 19, group members, local human rights activists and curious passers-by kicked off the week at the University of Michigan Undergraduate Library to raise awareness of the conflict in the Congo.

“The purpose of Congo Week is to

educate the community and mobilize support on behalf of the people of the Congo,” said Brooke Sparling an Ann Arbor resident who formed the group. “The events are leading up to our candle light vigil on Dec. 10 for Human Rights Day.”

The activists set up action stations providing tools, resources and fact sheets. They also screened the film, “Crisis in the Congo: Uncovering the Truth,” a short documentary looking at the history of events that lead to the conflict in Central Africa.

“The film is what really pulled me in,” said Rose Fulbright, 21, a liberal arts transfer from Ann Arbor. “Lori is my roommate and hearing her talk about these issues is one thing, but seeing it, well, it’s shocking.”

In April, Simpson saw a flyer on a bulletin board at the Ann Arbor Public Library looking for participants in the Congo Activists of Michigan’s annual Hike for the Congo. Participants spend two-days hiking to raise money and awareness about the conflict in the African nation, and Simpson decided she wanted to be part of the solution.

“I did a little bit of research beforehand and learned about the systematic

violence, especially when it comes to women and children,” Simpson said. “That was enough for me.”

“My biggest thing is the idea of conflict minerals,” said Erin Elly, 40, a social worker from Ann Arbor. “The Congo is so rich in natural resources – diamonds, cold, copper, timber, rubber. I think one of the easiest things we can do to help is stop buying products from companies that source their materials from the Congo.”

But for Simpson, the conflict comes down to one simple fact.

“When you really break it down it’s simple,” Simpson said. “The victims could be anyone. It could be me.”

What: Candlelight vigil for Human Rights Day, sponsored by the Congo Activists of Michigan
When: Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7p.m.
Where: University of Michigan Diag
For More Information: Visit: www.congoactivists.blogspot.com



The Congo Activists of Michigan built a massive peace dove as a symbol of solidarity.
PHOTO BY BROOKE SPARLING

JOHNSON Q&A FROM A1

programs that are being offered. Our goal is to keep those numbers at the lowest cost possible and yet still meet the quality requirements that the students expect. We have amazing faculty who deliver strong courses for our students. We want to make sure that our faculty has the resources they need to meet if not exceed the expectation of our students.

So our goal is to keep that tuition rate as low as possible. That is certainly the bias that I walk into all this analysis, and we will work very, very hard to make sure that if and when I were to make a recommendation to our president and then potentially to our board, that it’d be based upon those fundamental analysis.

WV: Can you tell us more about the Pell Grants? We know that they have gone down since 2011 and we know that it’s because of changes at the federal level. How does this impact our students?

WJ: That is a really good question. That is a very important issue for our students. The government has put a lifetime cap on the amount of Pell funding that (students) can receive and it is the equivalent of six full time years of education. That is the maximum that they can receive. For many of our students, that has caught them cold, in that they may have been following a path for education that was maybe not as efficient as they would

otherwise have achieved if they had known about this cap on the Pell Grant.

Suddenly that the government imposes this cap and they don’t grandfather in those who have already started their education. ... It’s put more pressure on the students to avail themselves to other state and federal-funding sources such as loans. It’s put a burden on our students to take out loans or to get a second job, first or second job to be able to support their education.

WV: The community college has a restriction on investments set by the state of Michigan. What can you tell us about the Pittsfield Township Road proposal?

WJ: I think the board deliberated very, very hard to make this call. Obviously, the board views the development of our surrounding communities to be important to the long-term success of the region and in an indirect way to the community college as well.

I think that the fundamental question that they grappled with and they answered was ‘What is the intent of the taxpayers we receive the property tax millage from?’ The college receives about \$46 million a year in property tax revenue and that millage was for the sole purpose... for the education pursuits of the community college, and in and of itself did not provide direct guidance as to how they could then make a solid investment of those funds. So I think the board made a

difficult but reasonable call given the guidelines that they were given by the taxpayers.

WV: We went over the audit report for the 2012-2013 fiscal year, and we have some questions. What does it mean that WCC is consistently running at an operating loss since 2011?

WJ: What does that mean? That means that... First of all, we are generally running at an operating surplus, but when you adjust for funds for capital, meaning that the investments that we make in our campus and for servicing or paying off our long term debt, that is when we would be running at a loss.

It’s how much of our operations are funded through the general fund activities of the college, meaning our tuition activities, our property taxes fund that we receive, less of the cost of delivering those services. That we have historically always run at a surplus.

We run at a loss when you then say ‘how much do I want to allocate to invest in plant, in the campus? How much do I want to invest?’ Meaning that we are willing to take our general-fund surplus to invest in capital, in the environment in which our students learn.

For more of The Voice’s interview with CFO William Johnson, visit: www.washtenawvoice.com

ROADS FROM A1

Dan Ouellette, a Saline resident, agrees that voters should get what they vote for.

“If the money was voted to be used for a specific purpose and it’s being used for something else, that’s a problem,” he said. “The number one thing – did voters get what they voted for?”

Other board members agreed with McLean.

“The money that (the college) receives for education is best spent on education,” board Secretary Mark Freeman said. “We need to use the money for our students because it is our mission.”

The Ann Arbor District Library opted in with this proposal in 6-1 vote. Nancy Kaplan, AADL board member who voted to opt out, said that she couldn’t support the project because taxpayers intended those dollars for the library, as

reported by *The Ann Arbor Chronicle*.

AADL’s input in this project is \$120,000 over 20 years, compared to the almost \$3 million that WCC was asked to contribute.

Other taxing entities within the State Street Corridor Improvement Authority are Washtenaw County, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority (metroparks) and Saline District Library.

Both the Saline Library board and the metroparks board decided to opt out. The Washtenaw County board of commissioners and the county’s Parks and Recreation commission voted in support of the CIA.

It is uncertain what would happen to the CIA if entities opt out and funds are not raised.

Multiple phone calls to Pittsfield Township officials, specifically Director of Utilities and Municipal Services Craig Lyon were not returned.



The board of trustees met on Nov. 26 and unanimously opted out of Pittsfield Township’s Corridor Improvement Authority. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Traffic snarls: US-23 drive may stop being a catch-22

By ERIC GARANT
Staff Writer

Class starts in five minutes. You're stuck in traffic, with no hope of getting there on time. If you take US-23 to get to the college, odds are this situation sounds familiar.

Change appears to be on the way, though.

A proposal for repairs to the highway in 2016 includes a plan to widen its shoulders between M-14 and M-36 for use during peak hours under a system called active traffic management. This would expand US-23 from four lanes to six in this area during times of heavy traffic.

Intelligent Transportation System hardware, including cameras and electronic message boards, would be installed and controlled remotely by Michigan Department of Transportation officials, allowing it to open and close the shoulder to vehicles as traffic dictates.

MDOT spokeswoman Kari Arend said the system would be the first of its kind in Michigan. She added that the project, which is estimated to cost more than \$60 million, would be paid for largely by federal funds, but that more sources of funding still need to be identified.

Current conditions of the road have many students frustrated and looking forward to the change.

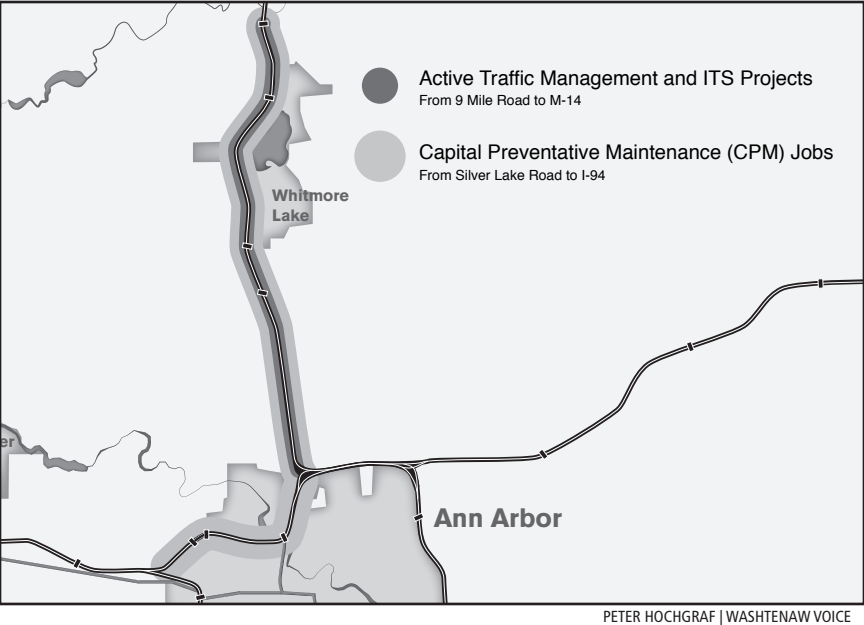
"I absolutely support it beyond a shadow of a doubt. (US-23 is) absolutely outrageous," said Josh Markus, a 26-year-old business major from Whitmore Lake. "It's almost impossible to get here on time for my 9 o'clock class. Whether I leave at 8 or 8:40, I'm here at least five minutes late."

"I used to (take US-23). I take Platt now. It's a lot less crowded. I think that would be very helpful," said Cary Ellis, 19, a liberal arts transfer from Clinton.

Repairs will also be made throughout the 17-mile-long US-23 corridor that runs from I-96 to M-14.

A 2009 study by MDOT found that 19 of the 21 bridges in the corridor did not meet current standards. These bridges were constructed between 1957 and 1962 with a typical design life of 40 years.

Though he prefaced his statement by saying that Washtenaw Community College does not have an official stance on the US-23 expansion, Director of Government and Media Relations Jason Morgan acknowledged that, "Any effort to make it easier for our students to get to the college and get home is seen as a positive for the college."



US-23/M-14 Improvements

I-94 to Silver Lake Road - Livingston and Washtenaw counties

Project Overview

In 2016, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will make improvements along two busy corridors in the Ann Arbor/Brighton area.

The project includes:

- Pavement repairs along US-23 and M-14 between Silver Lake Road and I-94, including upgrading the median shoulder along US-23 between M-14 and M-36/9 Mile Road ;
- Bridge replacement at 6 Mile Road, 8 Mile Road and N. Territorial Road;
- Bridge widening at Barker Road and at the railroad bridge;
- Bridge repair at Joy Road, Warren Road, and at M-14 over the Huron River and Barton Drive;
- Ramp upgrades at N. Territorial Road, 6 Mile Road, 8 Mile Road and at M-36; and
- Installation of additional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) hardware, including cameras and electronic message boards.

As part of the project, MDOT will put in place an active traffic management system along US-23 between M-14 and M-36 as a way to manage congestion. This smart system will utilize the upgraded inside median shoulders on US-23 to help improve traffic flow and increase safety along the corridor. Overhead lane control signs will let drivers know when the system is active. The system will be monitored by MDOT's Statewide Transportation Operations Center (STOC), through the use of expanded ITS technology and with assistance by the Freeway Courtesy Patrol (FCP).

Next Steps

The public meeting in December 2013 will be for commuters, area residents, and corridor stakeholders to learn about and provide input on the project components, including the active traffic management system. This is the first of several public meetings to be held prior to the start of construction in 2016.

Active Traffic Management System Smart Solutions

The diagram shows a three-lane highway with overhead signs. The left lane is marked 'SHOULDER CLOSED' with a sign showing a crossed-out arrow. The middle lane is marked 'LANE OPEN' with a sign showing a downward arrow. The right lane is marked 'LANE OPEN' with a sign showing a downward arrow.

Contact Us:
Brighton Transportation Service Center, 810-227-4681

MDOT | COURTESY ILLUSTRATION

MTA FROM A1

no streamlined process for students who wish to transfer, Welmers said, and this makes the system inefficient for students, often wasting their time and money.

The MTA is very good news for Washtenaw students, Vice President of Student and Academic Services Linda Blakey said. It means that students will have all of the information about what will or will not transfer up front, which they really deserve as the consumer, she said.

The idea for the MTA was generated by the state legislature, Meldrum said.

In 2012 the Community College Appropriations Bill included boilerplate language that called for the creation of a 14-member committee to "develop a process to improve the transferability of core college courses..."

The committee was composed of five representatives from community colleges and five representatives from universities, chosen regionally by the Michigan Community College Association and the President's Council State Universities of Michigan.

Four legislators, Sen. Glenn Anderson, Sen. Darwin Booher, Rep. Kevin Cotter, and Rep. Pam Faris, also joined the committee.

Since it was established, the committee has been working to reach compromises.

Its goal: to draft an agreement which no school can take exception to in the future.

It's important to recognize what a huge accomplishment this agreement is, Cygnar said.

In the first committee meeting, some of the university representatives were against the agreement and didn't think it was a possibility for their schools, she said, but after a few more meetings they got on board.

"I think they realized that it really does make it easier for everyone," she said.

In the last four decades, a lot of the universities have not accepted the MACRAO agreement, she said. And many MACRAO-receiving institutions have created provisos, or exceptions, to the agreement, Meldrum said. A university might accept the agreement but require a student re-take one or more of the courses.

The basis of the MTA is to begin with a universal agreement, so that

universities will have no reason to create these provisos, eliminating the surprises and subsequent frustration for students when they are ready to transfer.

The MTA will transfer as a block, with no course-by-course transfer process, Meldrum said.

"This means that when you transfer, hopefully you won't have to take any more gen-ed classes. Your tuition dollars and time can go to junior- and senior-level classes," Welmers said.

But while the MTA is guaranteed to transfer, universities can still require higher-level gen-eds, especially major-specific ones, Meldrum said.

"It doesn't preclude institutions from having additional requirements, but they cannot nit-pick at those block courses," he said.

While it will make the process of transferring simpler, some students may find the requirements of the MTA more challenging than the MACRAO agreement.

With the MACRAO agreement, grades in all of the courses had to average at least a 2.0. In the MTA, a student must achieve at least a 2.0 in each course, Meldrum said.

In the MACRAO agreement, you could avoid math; in the MTA you

cannot.

"We haven't quite nailed down the level of math that will be required," Welmers said. "The universities want college-level algebra, the community colleges want intermediate level."

And an additional science requirement has also been added to the MTA.

Students may have to work a little harder for the new agreement, Welmers said, but they can know that it's worthwhile because it's guaranteed to count.

"If you feel like your feet are being held to the fire a little bit, that's how it's going to be at the university level anyway. So you might as well adjust and learn at the community college while it's cheaper," she said.

For students who have been working towards transferring with the MACRAO agreement, there will probably be some overlap before the MACRAO is eliminated, Meldrum said.

There is still a lot of work to be done before the rollout next fall, but the committee and the schools are on track to make it happen, Meldrum said.

The current outline for the MTA was published on the MACRAO website on Nov. 27. It is mostly finalized, other than the decision over what level of math to include.

The next step is for all of the school presidents to officially sign on by Feb. 1, but they have all approved the agreement and given their intention to sign, Meldrum said.

On March 1 everything will be finalized.

"That's when we're going to go into full detail on how to implement the rollout," he said.

In May, there will be regional academic adviser training.

In the fall, life for transfer students gets a lot easier.

This means more options for students like Lisa Lee, an 18-year-old business management major at WCC. Lee is planning to transfer to Western Michigan University, using the MACRAO agreement, but her heart isn't set on WMU, she said.

She is looking at other options, she said, but she's restricting herself to MACRAO-receiving schools. She's also wary of the provisos some schools add on to the MACRAO, which she has been warned about. So, looking only for MACRAO receiving schools with no provisos really narrows her choices.

With a state-wide agreement, like the MTA, she said she would be able to seriously consider other options such as University of Michigan.



The Antieau Gallery in New Orleans is home to multiple pieces by Ann Arbor native Chris Roberts-Antieau. MARIA RIGOU | WASHTENAW VOICE

PLUTO FROM A1

gallery director. "Her mid-point is around \$2,000-\$4,000. Pluto was \$1,900."

"Felling Sorry for Pluto" is displayed on the first floor of the LA building, where the science classes take place.

Coincidence?
Not so much.

"We like to buy work from artists who live in Washtenaw County or have a connection to it," Gleich said. "We also try to make them educational, so this piece fit the criteria."

Over the last few decades, there has been a lot of controversy surrounding Pluto. Several years ago, Pluto was removed from the Solar System as a planet, explained Roberts-Antieau.

Pluto and its moons are now known to be a large example of a collection of objects called the Kuiper Belt. There are an estimated 70,000 icy objects with the same composition as Pluto in the Kuiper Belt, according to the

online magazine *Universe Today*.

"It was arbitrary and silly (when Pluto was removed from the Solar System)," said Roberts-Antieau. "So I did a commentary with my art."

The Michigan-born artist has been exhibiting her creations at the Ann Arbor Art Fair since 1988, Hendrick said.

Roberts-Antieau never went to college. The artist took one class at Eastern Michigan University and explains that she "had a bad experience there."

"College is not my thing," she said. "I am completely self-taught; I listen to my voice."

"My parents always taught me that anything is possible, and I've seen that come true: I've been able to follow my calling. I love what I do, but I work real hard."

For Gleich, Roberts-Antieau is a clear example of a person who wanted to do something and did it. She persevered, even when others were negative

about her art.

"Chris took one college class and left it three weeks into it," said Stephen Kerr, one of Roberts-Antieau's closest friends and a gallery consultant. "She is completely self-taught and self-made. She never looks back. She is always moving forward."

In April 2014, Roberts-Antieau will be part of the Annual Smithsonian Craft Show at the National Building Museum, a juried show and sale of fine American craft, where only five other artists share her category.

"I would say she is very well-known," Gleich said. "She has been doing art her whole life and has been getting better and better."

So good, in fact, that former President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, own some of her work. And renowned singer-songwriter Tom Waits raves about her on Facebook.

Now anyone passing through the halls of the LA building can see the "Pluto" piece and understand why.

Foster a Pet for the Holidays!



Low Cost Vaccination Clinic
4th Sunday of Every Month
at **The Pet Resort**

The Pet Resort
sponsors
Loving Arm Rescue Ranch
lovingarmrescueranch.org



734-461-9788
50425 Bemis Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111

Boarding and Grooming
Pick Up and Drop Off Hours
Monday - Friday
9am to 11am & 4pm to 6pm
Saturday: 9am to Noon

thepetresorting.com

Pictures With Santa
December 14th
5-7 pm
Pinter's Flowerland
6830 Rawsonville Rd
Belleville, MI 48111

Pictures are \$18 for two photos
& \$5 for each additional print
Must present flier!

A Transfer Student Wish:

PLEASE HAVE MY CREDITS COUNT
PLEASE HAVE MY CREDITS COUNT
PLEASE HAVE MY CREDITS COUNT
... OH, AND A SCHOLARSHIP MIGHT BE NICE :)



GRANTED

MARYGROVE COLLEGE
Make your credits count – Transfer ▶ Transform

For more information, go to: marygrove.edu/transfer or call (855) 628-6279 or email info@marygrove.edu

- Speak to professors about Marygrove's bachelor, associate and certificate programs
- Explore our beautiful campus
- Find out how your credits transfer to Marygrove
- Learn about Financial Aid and scholarship opportunities
- Meet with a Recruitment Representative to discuss your future plans

8425 W. MCNICHOLS ROAD • DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48221-2599



All services provided by senior students and supervised by a professional hairdresser.

CUT CLASSES
hair and skin care classes **STARTING NOW!**



AVEDA INSTITUTE
Douglas ann arbor

Call 517-349-4273 TODAY!
333 Maynard St | Ann Arbor, Michigan douglasj.edu

Financial aid available to those who qualify.



DON'T STOP
KEEP CLIMBING



In-demand business programs. Scholarships available.
Simple credit transfers. 2+2 and 3+1 options.

Visit CLEARY.EDU/TRANSFER to see how easy it is to transfer.

800.686.1883
CLEARY.EDU





HEALTHY VOICE

Transform meal time into family time



M. M. DONALDSON

Back in the day, dad went off to work, the kids went off to school and mom stayed home to start the pot roast for dinner that evening. Eating

together as a family was a way of life. Nowadays, mom generally works outside of the home and kids have an activity schedule that only allows for a sit-down dinner in the backseat of the car or the take-out food been brought home and family members take their share to the far corners of the home. Eating meals together is good, but what about preparation, shopping, menu planning and clean-up? If everyone in the household who participates in eating extends their participation to these other activities, making meals no longer is a lot of work for just one person.

Appropriate tasks for children could be setting the table or counting out the number of potatoes needed for a meal. Older children can help with prep and clean-up, but they can also be taught to follow recipe directions. Teens can make shopping lists and menus with family input and adult supervision; otherwise you might be eating pizza every night. Children of all ages will feel important by gaining a sense of pride in contributing to the family.

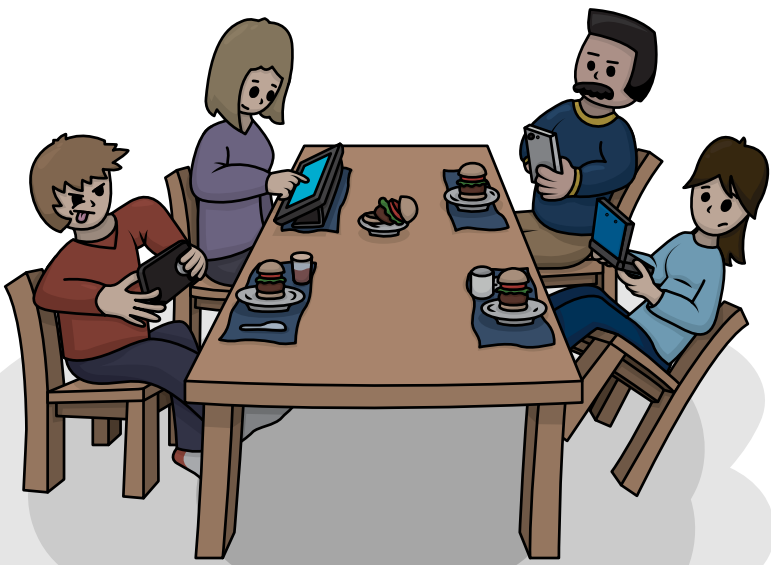
Encouraging teens to participate in the family meal, beyond just eating, will create accountability and face

time for them.

The importance of family meals not only creates better nutrition, but promotes positive psychological health, according to a study from Washington State University.

Good habits will develop if everyone participates in making meal time a family time,

Now, more than ever, it is so easy for family members to isolate. When all are involved at mealtime, it ensures that everyone knows after a hectic day they can count on being together and



ERIK MORRIS | WASHTENAW VOICE

having support and help with problem solving with whatever stress the day included.

Together, parents and older children can also learn the latest on safe food-handling and food borne illnesses at websites like Fight Back, www.fightbac.org/. The little ones can learn more about germs and food at the NSF Scrub Club with games to play and songs to learn at www.scrubclub.org/.

With everyone in the household participating in all the activities of meal time and providing input will

create variety and perhaps a craving for a meal with no toy included.

For more information, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/lelf96u>

M. M. Donaldson is a correspondent with The Voice and a journalism student at WCC. She has a bachelor's degree in Family and Community Services from Michigan State University, and has several years experience with nutrition issues affecting infants through older adults. She can be reached at mmorrisdonaldson@wvcnet.edu



Jonathan McMurray, 34, a liberal arts major from Ann Arbor, examines his sculpture after letting it cool. McMurray glazed his piece with the raku glazing technique, requiring a kiln with a temperature ranging from 980-1,800 degrees Fahrenheit. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Michigan

Newspaper readers line the Michigan lakeshore — all 3,288 miles of it.

Not really, but they could! The state of Michigan has more freshwater shoreline than any place in the world — 17.4 million feet of it. And that's exactly the space required to fit, arm in arm, the 5.3 million adults reading Michigan newspapers in an average week. If you're a newspaper reader you might want to pick your spot now, if you're an advertiser you might want to cast your line with newspapers.

THE VOICE

A National Paetznaker Award newspaper

Sources: Scarborough Custom Research, 2013 (integrated newspaper audience includes readers of newspapers across print and digital platforms)

@washtenawvoice

CUAA

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

ANN ARBOR

Come Join the Concordia Family!

- Growing Undergraduate Population
- New Science Labs
- Renovated Residence Halls
- Refurbished Student Union
- Upgraded Kreft Center for the Fine Arts
- Three Schools to Choose from
 - HAAB School of Business Administration
 - School of Arts and Sciences
 - School of Education

CUAA.edu

734.995.7322

4090 GEDDES RD. ANN ARBOR 48105

Women's Health and Fitness Day 2014

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

- Attend educational and fun workshops*!
- Win a brand new piece of exercise equipment or other raffle prizes!
- Enjoy a **FREE** breakfast, lunch, and complimentary tote bag
- Hear reflections on women's health from Dr. Janet Bailey, MD — U-M Associate Professor of Radiology

Register today at:

<http://www.umich.edu/~amwa/whfd/>

Walk-ins welcome!

Questions or concerns? Email us at:

whfd.directors@gmail.com

AMWA at University of Michigan Medical School

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2014

8:45 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Ypsilanti High School

2095 Packard Rd

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

*Workshops include *Shedding Those Holiday Pounds*, *Laughter for Well-Being*, *Stress Reduction*, *Healthy Skin Through the Ages*, *Zumba*, *Yoga*, and many more!



Cans and glass bottles
RECYCLABLE



Water bottles
RECYCLABLE



Plastic foam cups
RECYCLABLE



Milk containers
RECYCLABLE



Coffee cups
RECYCLABLE

KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

One man’s trash... happens to be recyclable

By DAVID FITCH
Staff Writer

Being passionate about trash is not a typical job requirement, but Barry Wilkins, Washtenaw Community College’s recycling operations manager takes garbage seriously. And others should, too, he says.

In his view, people are throwing far too many recyclable items in the trash. And it’s costly.

The college receives funds from the recycling efforts. Companies will pay for many recycled items, which will eventually become new products, eliminating the need for “virgin” materials, Wilkins said.

The implications of such increased recycling revenue are uncertain. Lower tuition? Better student resources? Wilkins is unsure, but hopeful of what the revenue could do.

“The sky is the limit,” he said, expressing frustration over why so many recyclables keep winding up in the trash bins.

“I don’t know if it’s laziness or just not knowing,” he said. “I think it’s a combination of all the above.”

By raising awareness of the issue, Wilkins hopes to increase the amount of recycled items and decrease trash produced. The struggle is an ironic one, Wilkins says, because recycling yields a profit for the college, while trash costs money to remove.

With as much is being done now,

Wilkins said that there is still much room for expansion. He continues to strive to get as much as possible out of the “waste stream.”

“The biggest room in the world is the room for improvement,” Wilkins remembers someone telling him. “We haven’t arrived.”

Among commonly trashed recyclables are items such as disposable coffee cups, Frito-Lay brand chip bags, and Subway bags.

Wilkins says that items like soiled plastic food containers, such as the black bowls from Panda Express, can be quickly cleaned and recycled.

“When in doubt, put it in any container other than the trash,” said Wilkins.

Soon, students may be able to recycle vegetable and fruit scraps as well. But the question remains whether they will be onboard with such endeavors.

Jaramys Mosley, 18, a biology major from Ypsilanti, says that the recycling situation may not change.

“It might just always be like that,” she said. “This recycling push has been around for years.”

Despite the discouraging spectacle of a trash bag containing multiple water bottles, recyclable bags and paper, Wilkins remains upbeat about the future prospects.

“We’re making strides in the right direction. It takes time,” Wilkins said. “It’s educating the college community, and they’ll catch on. We’re doing a good job, I think, for the most part.”



Above is the haul from a single dumpster on the night of Nov. 23

Diving for delicacies: Local students find ‘gold,’ great grub in area dumpsters

By PAUL ERLANDSON
Voice Correspondent

James Meiers has been dumpster-diving since he was a kid, and he knows what treasures are buried there.

“I once found half a Playboy in the trash when I was in the fifth grade,” he said. “It was like finding gold.”

Years later, in another bin behind a music store, he found enough broken

instruments to build what he calls “a dumpster guitar.”

Meiers, 22, of Ypsilanti, is hardly alone in his late-night foraging. Patrick Miller, also 22 and from Ypsilanti, once found a nightstand.

“It needed some cleaning,” he said, “but it was a really nice piece of furniture. I don’t have many qualms about finding things in the trash.”

Meiers and Miller are part of a

loosely organized local group of “road dogs,” as they like to refer to themselves, who have turned dumpster-diving into an art form. And these days, it’s mostly about food.

Veteran diver Amy Brown once made dinner for her sister with dumpster food without telling her, just to prove a point.

“I never told her,” said Brown, 20, a Washtenaw Community College

student from Ypsilanti. “It’s not as gross as people think it is. I think people’s wastefulness is more disgusting than the waste itself.”

Truth be told, the road dogs say, if you know where to go and when, and if you manage to avoid the authorities patrolling the back alleys around Ann Arbor and Ypsi, you can eat very, very well, for about the cost of a load of clean laundry.

A case in point: Shortly before midnight on Nov. 23 – a night cold enough to keep fresh any newly tossed out food – a small group hit a dumpster behind a big box food store just outside of Ypsilanti. Their haul included a 10-pound turkey breast, three two-pound bags of Bavarian ham, a five-pound veggie tray, two five-pound containers of potato salad – and much, much more. All of it was stamped:

“Best of used by: 11/23/2013.”

Happy Thanksgiving. The road dogs were going to feast.

“If we didn’t take it, it would have found its way to a landfill,” said Erik Steiger, 25, a former WCC student who was visiting friends. Steiger is a long-time dumpster-diver who acknowledges he and his friends did it as a necessity – being poor college students in a tough economy.

“If we didn’t have dumpsters around town, we would have starved,” he said.

They knew which pizza parlors tossed out perfectly good pies at the end of the night, the pretzel place that threw out perfectly good pretzels when business closed for the day. They routinely hit a well-known Ann Arbor restaurant that would toss out its mistakes.

“An order that was flubbed was thrown into the trash,” said Chance Cyphers, 25, a computer science major at Eastern Michigan University. “We would have big trash bags of unfinished food or messed-up orders that they would throw right into the dumpster along with shitloads of rice.”

But finds like that are becoming increasingly rare, especially since the 2010 documentary “Dive,” which

claimed that food establishments toss out about 96 billion pounds of food each year. Now, more and more places are fencing off their dumpsters, or locking them down.

“The worst part about dumpster-diving now is traveling far and wide only to find that the entire town has trash compactors,” said Kyle Pluta, a veteran diver from Fenton. “That is just a blatant form of waste, where

what could be good food is thrown into a trash compactor so no one can benefit.

“It’s really sad to see what’s happening all over the place...These corporations are just out to ruin it for us all, man.”

Commentary on dumpster diving from an experienced driver. Page B2



Jerri Reynolds uses a Motor Scrubber to clean floors and carpets throughout the TI building. Part of Reynolds’ job is giving feedback on the various equipment given to custodians for use. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

WORKING

Cleaning up

Custodian takes pride in doing job that ‘must be done’

By DAVID FITCH
Staff Writer

It’s dark at 1:30 a.m. when she gets up. The sky is still dark at 4 a.m. when she begins her work prepping entranceways, classrooms, restrooms and the other busy spaces at Washtenaw Community College.

Before many students have rolled out of bed, Jerri Reynolds has already put in a hard day at work to make life a little nicer on campus.

And she wouldn’t have it any other way. Pride in one’s work is not something that can be left behind, even while doing the tasks that no one else wants to do, Reynolds says.

“You’ve got to care,” she said.

And she does.

Reynolds’ primary focus is the Technical and Industrial building. Before classes begin, she helps to ensure that the nearly 25 classrooms are clean and ready. Her tasks consist of wiping whiteboards, vacuuming and cleaning up the mess after coffee cups are thrown poorly into trashcans.

“I don’t know if they’re playing basketball or something!” she said.

The restrooms present a unique challenge. Cleaning waterless urinals, a task that involves taking a piece out of the units, is Reynolds’ least favorite task.

“It has to be done,” she said. So she does it.

Besides the daily task of removing graffiti from the stalls, Reynolds says that she has found liquor bottles and even half a marijuana joint in the restroom.

She does whatever is needed to maintain the functioning of the college until her shift ends at 12:30 p.m. And custodians do more than most people realize, Reynolds says. Their tasks also include setting up equipment and breaking down for events.

Reynolds smiles warmly as she greets people. She knows the campus and those in it well. A self-proclaimed “people person,” Reynolds is eager to get to know those around her.

“A lot of people know me by name,” she said.

And it’s no wonder because Reynolds has been working at WCC for nearly 12 years, and rarely has she missed a day.

Until last winter, when she was on her way to the college from her home in Toledo and was involved in a traffic accident on US-23. She lost control of her car and crashed into a ditch, sustaining several significant injuries, including a broken humerus, and a bad concussion. After being hospitalized for three days, Reynolds had to face a battle with her insurance company for compensation while she was unable to work.

“It got kind of ugly,” she said.

Reynolds returned to work, still nursing her sore arm. It still gives her some trouble and will never be 100 percent, she says. But she remains positive.



Jerri Reynolds

“Work is like therapy for me. It helps the healing process,” she said, adding that she still has not received compensation for the five to six months she spent without income.

Custodial work is considered a “low job” by some, Reynolds acknowledges.

Undesirable work, perhaps, but essential. Without custodians, WCC would be a dirty place. Trash carelessly tossed aside, tobacco spittle-sprayed bathroom sinks and unsanitized tabletops during flu season would leave campus an unpleasant environment.

“Nobody likes to clean,” she said. But she does it with pleasant smile that those around her can’t help but notice.

“Jerri’s a good person, a hard worker,” said custodian Roy Hickenbottom.

“(Custodians) keep everything together,” said Sarah George, a 17-year-old nursing student from Ypsilanti.

“Without them, we really wouldn’t function as a society. There’s only so much trash that can be healthy to be around,” said Wesley Branton, 16, a psychology major from Ann Arbor.

It may not be the best job on

campus, but Reynolds knows it’s important. She also appreciates it when people notice her work.

Many people on campus *do* say “thank you,” which is nice to hear, she said, adding, “I have nothing bad to say about my work.”

Besides serving on the custodial staff, Reynolds is also a WCC student studying business logistics. After her accident, Reynolds temporarily stopped taking courses, but she says that even if it takes a while, she will get the degree.

Her contact information on the WCC website reads “Reynolds, Jerri, Custodian.” She has no fancy six-word title. But she doesn’t need one.

She will still be up at 1:30 a.m. each morning, getting ready to do a day of work that “must be done.” And she’ll be doing it with a smile.

The first in a series of stories about people who make a difference through their work at Washtenaw Community College.

COMMENTARY

Paying it forward

By PAUL ERLANDSON
Voice Contributor

It’s incredible to think about how much food we have in this country and concurrently tragic to know how much hunger there is in the world.

People have been trying to find a better way to feed the nations, but the reality, at least here, is that there is enough food to go around and around again.

The problem lies in distribution. Instead of food with a “best by” or “Expired” date going into the hands of the hungry on or after that date, it’s tossed into the dumpsters. Sure, it’s a conundrum. Businesses put the dates on those items because they don’t want to be held responsible for selling rotten food, and the government doesn’t want to put itself in a position where it allows expired food to be donated to the needy, who could wind up with an illness.

When you hear the term, “dumpster diver,” most people cringe, because it paints an image of an indigent, bearded man digging through trash and eating half-eaten sandwiches and apple cores. This is simply not the case.

Entire feasts – fit for kings – are thrown into dumpsters all around America every day. The travesty is you have to climb through the crap in order to get to it – a task some abhor.

It’s a dark day in humanity when business owners would rather throw good food in the rubbish bin than just give it to a hungry person, especially when there is an estimated 90 billion pounds of food thrown into landfills annually – and the majority of our landfills consist of food waste.

According to the NRDC (National Resource Defense Council) 40 percent of our food goes uneaten annually, about 20 pounds per citizen every month, and 10 percent of the U.S. energy budget goes to food production. It also illuminated that almost all “best by” dates are not regulated by law and supermarkets trash about \$2,300 worth of out-of-date food, per store, daily.

Apart from the wastefulness in our society, a bigger issue looms overhead – loss of local farms to behemoths like the Monsanto Corp.

The government’s philosophy is that it is more beneficial to subsidize tax dollars into Band-Aid’s on important issues instead of actually fixing them. One issue being, people don’t have nearly enough work, and the work available to them enslaves them into a life of indentured servitude through wage slavery which is monotonous, dull and lacking a true purpose.

To sum it up, we have a responsibility to share and share alike and to pay it forward, backwards and side to side. We live in one of the most beautiful and bountiful places on the earth. It’s time to start acting like it and take up the responsibility moving forward, making a continuous effort to end hunger across the board.

Paul Erlandson is a journalism student at Washtenaw Community College, and a veteran dumpster diver.



Nicholas Lalama, 21, an accounting student from Brighton, Tyler Lown, 20, a graphic design student from Milan and Michael Rohde, 19, a geology student from Ann Arbor on their way to the pond to collect garbage for extra credit. NATALIE WRIGHT | WASHTENAW VOICE

Trash-collecting class

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Editor

Once a year, biology instructor David Wooten transforms his field biology class into a campus-cleaning crew for an hour.

This year Wooten held the fifth annual “Campus Clean-Up Competition” in which his class earns extra credit by picking up garbage around the natural areas of campus where they study.

“I don’t tell them we’re doing it – they don’t know. They just come into class thinking we’re going to learn about conservation,” Wooten said.

He does offer them some incentive – the team with the most weight in trash wins extra credit on the final exam.

Wayne Markland, a 42-year-old

liberal arts major from Ypsilanti, is a student in Wooten’s class. He said that the competition made sense to him because they were essentially getting extra credit for cleaning their lab workspace.

“Every class we’re out here dealing with the trees, soil and the animals – birds, reptiles and squirrels. One day we even studied in the water – the crawfish and frogs,” Markland said.

“So it’s important that we do this. We’re keeping the environment nice, preserving it for the animals we study and for future students,” he said.

“We spend three hours a week outside here,” Wooten said. “It’s amazing that WCC has this natural area for us to explore and learn. We use the forest, we use the fields, we use the pond,” he said.

If the college didn’t have these natural areas, the class would have to go off campus to do these kinds of field

studies, Andrew Gagne, a 20-year-old biology major from Ann Arbor, said.

Once the hour was up, the students reconvened for the weighing ceremony.

Recycling Operations Manager Barry Wilkins provided recycling bins and a scale. The team with the most weight in trash won 10 bonus points. Second place won seven and third place won five.

After the weighing, Wilkins helped them separated the recycling and talked to them about the recycling and conservations programs on campus.

“This year we pulled out 78.3 pounds,” Wooten said. That’s about average compared to the previous four years.

In the past some of the best finds included a toilet, a bowling ball and a \$5 bill.

This year’s best find: an unopened can of Hunt’s Tomato Sauce.



History instructor Joseph 'Ian' Rush conducts a final exam review for his Western Civilization class on Dec. 5. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

A ‘Rush’ through history

Students find instructor ‘personable, passionate, precious’

By DAVID FITCH
Staff Writer

Dr. Ian Rush is a classy guy. Short in stature, with short black hair, semi-formal dress shirt, at times accompanied by a fleece vest, the man is ready to teach.

Picture this.

Walking into class, Rush holds a stainless steel thermos in one hand. Once he reaches his podium at the front of the class, he places his tablet computer to his left. Then, with practiced dexterity, he removes his watch, places it too on the desk, re-fastening the strap so that the watch faces him.

He faces the class. His usually peaceful countenance and ingenuous smile puts students at ease. The class begins.

History is in session. Whether in the classroom or talking with students in the halls, Washtenaw Community College history instructor Ian Rush keeps things real for students. Since coming to WCC in fall of 2002, he has been teaching history and bringing with him a passion acquired through a journey.

“I think he’s a really good teacher,” says Tamara Darfour, 18, a liberal arts major from Trenton. “I think he’s passionate and that he is a precious man. He’s really nice. He’s pretty funny too.

I like his class.”

“I personally love the way he teaches,” said student Kyle Hargrove, 20, a history and humanities major. “I don’t leave his class wondering what I need to do or wondering when it’s due. It’s very straightforward.”

Hargrove, a resident of Dexter, says that he loves Rush’s way of making history relatable for students.

“To me, he’s personable. The way he phrases things and the way that he will talk about specific subjects in class, he relates it almost instantaneously to everyday life,” he said.

Rush says he loves his job, even though teaching history was not

always where he saw himself. At first, he wanted to be an aerospace engineer.

“It was totally something that I wanted to do. I had books on the space shuttle, all sorts of stuff. I just loved the whole idea of it,” he said.

“But you know what? The physics defeated me. I couldn’t take it,” he said. “So what do you do when your plan for the past several years kind of disintegrates?”

He soon found his calling, though. “So I started to take a bunch of other classes...And eventually I took a medieval history class at Penn State... and I just fell in love.”

From there, Rush pursued a

journey toward his goals, one that he brings to the classroom. His passion is evident.

“Then I was hooked. Boom! Medieval history is what I want to do,” he said.

From there, Rush traveled to Scotland, where he further pursued his love for history at the University of St. Andrews, earning a master’s degree.

After returning to the United States, Rush was faced with a crossroads.

“I took maybe a year or two off trying to decide whether I loved it enough

RUSH
CONTINUED B6



Ben Ellsworth an 18-year-old graphic design major from Saline, draws a skull during the skeleton drawing session held on Nov. 22. Ellsworth joined the club because he wants to learn to draw for his major. MARIA RIGOU | WASHTENAW VOICE

MEET THE CLUB

WCC’s Drawing Club aims at life

By MARIA RIGOU
Editor

Drawing is the foundation of all art. This is what Washtenaw Community College’s newest club believes in.

The Drawing Club was founded at the beginning of this semester by enthusiastic students from multiple disciplines with one common goal: to draw live models.

Club President Lorena Ganser, 24, of Ann Arbor, said that they created the organization because “everybody who is in the club is absolutely in love with life drawing.”

Supported by one-time WCC student turned-art-instructor Nick Reszetar, the Drawing Club is a space for students to practice their skills.

And that is what students that attend sessions do.

“It’s different to learn how to draw people,” said club Vice President Charlie Hackenbruch, 19, of Saline. “Humans have to be perfectly rendered. Animals are not that obvious.”

The 3-D animation student says that one of the reasons why she is part of the club is because it is good to practice. This is just another resource that students can use to develop their skills.

The club is looking into having the

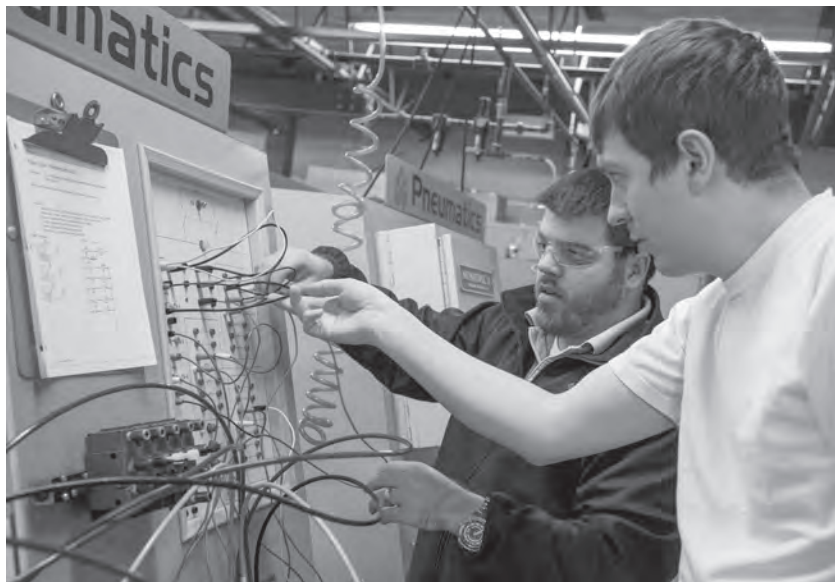
possibility of opening up life-drawing sessions, but they haven’t been successful.

“The club does not have permission to draw life models yet, or funds to pay for it,” Reszetar said.

But that does not stop them.

In the meantime, adviser Reszetar looks for alternative ways to improve the students’ skills, like making drawings of the jazz ensemble during a live performance once or twice a semester, or going to galleries and exhibitions to increase the students’ exposure to art.

MEET THE CLUB
CONTINUED B7



Ryan Campanella, 27, a fluid power major from Howell, and Justin Anderson, 33, an automation technology major from Hartland, design an electrical pneumatic circuit. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Automating the Future

Robotics program helps students retool

By ALAINA O’CONNOR
Staff Writer

Can a robot really be the key to the future of manufacturing in the United States? According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the nation lost 6 million manufacturing jobs in the past decade, but more intelligent robots allow human workers to offload repetitive and basic tasks.

But, who will operate and maintain these machines?

People, of course, but they need skills much greater than those needed for the lost assembly-line jobs.

“We teach students the basics,” said Tom Penird, department chair and numerical control instructor in the Industrial Technology

department. “How to work the machine, how to calibrate, troubleshoot and calculate. We also teach safety protocols.”

Penird, along with automation technology instructor Gary Schultz, are helping prepare students for new careers in advanced manufacturing. Many of their students have worked traditional manufacturing jobs in the past.

“I think robotics is the future, that’s why I’m trying to get trained,” said Jason Sheridan, a 34-year-old student from Ypsilanti.

It wasn’t an easy decision for Sheridan to return to school. He spent more than a decade working in traditional manufacturing.

ROBOTICS
CONTINUED B6



MOVIEPLOT.DE | COURTESY PHOTO

Coen brothers find balance with comedy and drama

By JAMES SAOUD
Video Editor

The Coen brothers are masters at making complex films seem easy to execute. Their films, including “*Fargo*,” “*The Big Lebowski*” and “*No Country for Old Men*” are not the simple little folk tales they seem to be. Each of their films pack huge existential questions and incredibly complicated characters. And their newest film “*Inside Llewyn Davis*” may be their most dense work yet.

Set in the early 1960’s, “*Inside Llewyn Davis*” does not have an overly complicated plot. Broke folk musician Llewyn Davis (Oscar Isaac) is trying to make it as a solo act in New York City. Somewhere between his small pub gigs and couch surfing to stay warm during the winter season, Llewyn finds out he impregnated his best friend’s girlfriend.

Thus beginning Llewyn’s first real thrust into adulthood.

This is very much a story of the man with a broken heart. Llewyn Davis is not an incredibly complicated character. It is in the genius of storytelling that asks the questions of his existence.

The real beauty of the film is in the careful unfolding of Llewyn’s simplicity. And once the moment comes where the audience finally understands Llewyn, they will not only cheer him on, but want to personally help him off the cold cement streets of New York City.

That moment for the audience could be at many different points in the film, and will likely grasp people at different times. It is relative to the audience member.

The film has an enormous tonal spectrum. Every scene is a balancing act of comedy and tragedy, giving the audience some of the biggest laughs and most heartbreaking moments simultaneously.

The cast does a great job, particularly Oscar Isaac and John Goodman. Carey Mulligan helps create an interesting character in Jean, but some of the jokes she’s given fall flat and go a bit outside of what the rest of the film is trying accomplish. However, played with Isaac’s reaction on the other end of these moments, it hardly makes a difference.

A movie about music could never work if the music was no good. Luckily, that is no problem here. The music is supervised by T-Bone Bennett, who has worked with the Coen brothers before on “*Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?*”

The songs that Llewyn Davis sings hold the secrets the audience will be looking for. While most take lyrics from traditional folk music, the Coens and Bennett do a masterful job at matching Llewyn’s character to the words and music he plays.

Joel and Ethan Coen could have easily taken a story like this and turned it into an emotional cacophony. Instead, they create a film that involves just as much thinking as it does feeling.

“*Inside Llewyn Davis*” gives its audience an opportunity to ask themselves the same thing Llewyn is asking himself: “What are you doing?”

Grade: **A**
Genre: **Drama/Comedy**
Runtime: **105 minutes**
Rating: **R**



OFFICIALNINTENDOMAGAZINE.COM | COURTESY PHOTO

Zelda exceeds expectations

By BRANDON SHELTON
Voice Correspondent

The “*Legend of Zelda: A Link Between Worlds*” may be the holy grail for *Legend of Zelda* purists. I admit that I wanted to hate this game. I’ve felt slighted by Nintendo, with regards to the “*Legend of Zelda*” franchise, since “*The Legend of Zelda: Wind Waker*.” However, I assure you that “*A Link Between Worlds*” is no “*Wind Waker*” – for all the right reasons.

The first thing long-time “*Legend of Zelda*” fans will likely notice is a return to the art style and top-down view of “*The Legend of Zelda: A Link to the Past*.” For those who have never played any of the top-down view *Zelda* games, don’t worry; the graphics don’t feel dated, especially when using 3D. They come across as a very intentional and polished aesthetic scheme.

The similarities to “*A Link to the Past*” are not limited to the view or the art; “*A Link Between Worlds*” also takes place in the same world (map), albeit later in the timeline.

The single biggest change to the “*Legend of Zelda*” game-play formula is the availability of nearly all items almost from the start of the game. What does this mean for the player? Unlike previous incarnations of *Zelda*, this one

allows players to choose the order in which they approach many challenges – the order in which they complete dungeons.

In previous versions, players had to approach dungeon completion in an A, B, then C fashion, with each dungeon giving them a piece of equipment needed to complete or reach the next one. They rent the items from Ravio, a character who opens a shop in your house. If players die with any rented items on, they are returned to the shop where they can be rented again.

“*A Link Between Worlds*” is one of the few games on the 3DS that is worthy of headphones or output to external speakers. The music is lush and rich and the sound effects are beautifully crisp. I found myself getting the same giddy feeling from revealing a secret chamber or opening a treasure chest that I got as a child.

The game introduces the ability to have Link attach himself to a wall, like graffiti or a painting, and move along the wall. This gives Link access to areas that would otherwise be inaccessible.

This new mechanic isn’t limited to only completing dungeons. For example, in Kakariko Village players can attach themselves to the exterior walls of houses to find rupees, or in the Lost Woods they can attach to the inner walls of the logs used to cross between areas to find hearts.

The story isn’t compelling, but

isn’t bland either. The main antagonist, a mysterious villain named Yuga, is turning the children of the seven Sages into paintings in order to bring Gannon back to life. Though “*A Link Between Worlds*” takes place within the same world as “*A Link To The Past*,” it does not have *Dark World*. Instead, “*A Link Between Worlds*” has a place known as Lorule, a counterpart to Hyrule.

Enemies aren’t the greatest and aren’t likely to wow many players, aside from the nostalgic factor from seeing enemies from “*A Link To The Past*.” However, the bosses are fresh and interesting, despite the fact that the methods for defeating most of them are painfully obvious.

The controls are smooth and responsive. Not once did I find myself screaming, “I totally pressed the button in time,” in frustration. This is the sort of fluid control quality gamers have come to expect from Nintendo.

If you’ve never played a “*Legend of Zelda*” game, or haven’t played one in a while, this is the perfect game to start with.

Grade: **A-**
Platform: **Nintendo 3DS**
Genre: **Action/Adventure**
Rating: **E**



PETER HOCHGRAF | WASHTENAW VOICE

Google ‘breaks us off’ sweeter version of Android operating system

By PETER HOCHGRAF
Design Editor

With a little chocolate and wafer, Google’s Android division recently broke out its newest version of the Android operating system, version 4.4 or KitKat.

And users should find it pretty tasty.

KitKat, also the name of a popular candy bar, was released with the newest Google Nexus smartphone, the Nexus 5.

With a slew of new features and improvements, KitKat’s biggest selling point is the design and implementation. Google has been working on closing the divide between its various apps in this new version; practically all Google applications now feature the “cards” style and have some implementation in the new Google Experience Launcher.

However, you’re still not tied down to one launcher system,

and Google acknowledges that people don’t want to be. One of the most welcome features is the Home menu in the settings. Every launcher software you have installed is listed there, and you can easily switch between programs.

Google’s biggest achievement in the OS, however, comes from its multitasking system. It is something that only recently came to Apple’s iOS, but has been in the Android OS for quite some time now and has been slowly refined. Google claims this new version “takes system performance to an all-time high.”

The addition of the Google Experience Launcher, something that is only standard for the Nexus 5 but available online for other devices, unveils a slew of new smaller highlights. Borrowing from the new Moto X, the launcher allows you to perform a voice search just by stating “OK Google,” with no button pushing.

Full-screen album artwork when playing music on the lock screen

and smart screen building makes the experience much smoother. The new launcher is heavily tied into the Google Now Search system, which allows for the aforementioned speech recognition as well as quick access to Google Now and all your info cards.

KitKat really takes leaps and bounds for Android, even though it is considered an incremental update. Practically every day I’m wow-ed by something new I’ve discovered in it. The design is extremely well-thought-out and easily gives Apple’s iOS7 a run for its money.

Android keeps getting better with each evolution. While device rollout still seems to be an issue with Android, the wait for it to become available is well worth it.

Grade: **B+**
Genre: **Drama/Comedy**
Runtime: **105 minutes**
Rating: **R**

‘Catching Fire’ ignites emotion

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Managing Editor

“Catching Fire” is a near-seamless translation from page to screen. The adaptation of Suzanne Collins’ *Hunger Games* sequel had almost twice the budget of the first film, and the money was put to good use.

The film begins with Hunger Games’ victors Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) living in mansions in Victor’s Way, courtesy of the Capitol.

As they embark on their victors’ tour through the 12 districts of Panem, they see that their act of defiance in the game has sparked the beginnings of a rebellion – a rebellion that President Snow (Donald Sutherland) and his peacekeepers will do anything to stomp out.

After the tour, Snow announces that this year’s 75th Hunger Games, will be different from the games we saw in the first film. This year they are celebrating the third Quarter Quell, a holiday instituted to remind the citizens of a failed rebellion and the strength of the Capitol.

“The Hunger Games” acted as an introduction to the politics at play in the dystopian society of Panem. It made the audience empathize with the impoverished, imprisoned citizens. It sparked our anger.

“Catching Fire” sets that anger ablaze in both the audience and the citizens of Panem. It is a relief to finally see the people fighting back, despite the brutality they face.

The contrast between the bleak, gray districts and the overbearing colorfulness of the capital is even more pronounced than in “The Hunger Games” and enhances the audience’s

disgust with the inequality in Panem.

The capital is perfectly over-the-top, from the Lady Gaga-esque outfits donned by crowds that pack the party and TV audience, to the fireworks projected on the Capitol building.

Everything about this film looks better than the first. The special effects, costume design and set design all look not only more expensive, but more thoughtful.

The bold look of “Catching Fire” could easily distract, but it is executed in a way that works in conjunction with the incredible performances, framing the actors instead of eclipsing them.

While many have noted the toughness Lawrence brings to the role of Katniss, in “Catching Fire,” her strength is not what makes her shine.

Katniss’s tough façade is impressive because of how Lawrence expertly controls it, allowing it to crack, letting panic and sadness spill out, and then harden again.

Unfortunately, Lawrence’s deep understanding of her character does not appear to be echoed in her co-star. While Peeta Mellark is a fairly one-dimensional character in the book, Hutcherson doesn’t even nail that one dimension.

In “Catching Fire” Peeta should be wounded, moping around, heartbroken. He is someone to be pitied, and Hutcherson does not make us pity him. It feels like he is just there. He isn’t terrible, but he’s nothing special and when playing opposite Lawrence, nothing special looks embarrassing.

The performances by the core supporting cast easily measure up to Lawrence, and even come dangerously close to outshining her at times. Philip Seymour Hoffman, Donald Sutherland and Elizabeth Banks all give phenomenal performances that could have easily stolen the show.

By not allowing them to, director Francis Lawrence shows great restraint. He keeps Lawrence as the star – as she should be.

Hoffman gives a decisively layered performance as the maestro of manipulation, Plutarch Heavensbee. His conversations opposite Donald Sutherland as President Snow will make your heart race and break simultaneously. And

his cool, calm demeanor makes these anxiety-inducing moments even more frustrating.

In this sequel, Banks brings a quality to Effie Trinket that was desperately needed – humanness. Effie represents all of the citizens of the capital, and the fact that we empathize with her is important.

She is there to show us that the civilians of

the capital are not villains, they are sheep. They are just as much prisoners as those in the districts.

Beetee (Jeffrey Wright) and Wiress (Amanda Plummer) were perfectly cast and perfectly portrayed. My only complaint is that we should have seen more of them.

In the first scene when we meet Finnick (Sam Claflin), he is disgustingly arrogant, exactly as he should be. Unfortunately, after this scene he becomes far too kind and trustworthy.

Johanna Mason (Jena Malone) is entirely wrong in the film. The blame for this cannot be put on Malone, it was not the fault of her acting – she was just the wrong person for the role. She is far too quirky. Johanna is supposed to be angry and intimidating.

Both times I saw the film, when Malone screams in fury at the camera and to the sky in the arena, the theater erupted with laughter. Johanna is absolutely not supposed to be comic relief.

But overall, “Catching Fire” is excellently done. It acts as the perfect transition between “The Hunger Games” and “Mockingjay,” between the games and the politics.

“Catching Fire” captures the essence of the source material, and set up the third and fourth films to exceed theirs. “Mockingjay” is thought by most to be the worst novel of the trilogy, but my guess is it will make for the best film.

Grade: **A**
Genre: **Action/Sci-fi**
Runtime: **146 minutes**
Rating: **PG-13**



RUSH FROM B3

to devote the next long time, the next five or 10 years, to a Ph.D. And I decided that I did.”

After earning a Ph.D. in medieval history from the University of Oregon, Rush eventually landed at WCC as a history instructor.

“I love a lot of things about teaching here. I love the really good students who really like history. I love my colleagues, the faculty really care about the students and their success,” he said.

Chair of the WCC Social Science Department, Randy La Hote had nothing but good things to say of Rush. He described him as “a serious academic, a thoughtful guy and a good colleague.”

And La Hote says that Rush’s interaction with students says something. “You see a fair number of students come by here and talk to him in his office, and it’s not just always about grades. They actually engage the material and like talking to him about course material,” said La Hote. “That’s a sign usually of many things, not the least of which is that somebody is a good teacher because he is getting students interested in pursuing discussions in the material.”

And as someone who has passed through the academic obstacle course and arrived where many would like to find themselves, Rush has some advice for those seeking the same path that he did in today’s tight academic marketplace.

“I would tell them they really need to make sure that they really want to

commit to it. Is it *the* thing you want to do in life? Is it the real thing that makes you happy? Totally commit,” he said. “Just be prepared for the difficulties of entering the job market.”

And to those searching for a calling as he was, he recommends a wide search. Rush reflected on his undergraduate years and his encounter with physics that changed his path.

“I started to think, ‘You know what? It should be fun.’ Whatever you want to do in life should be fun,” he said. “You just take a variety of classes and you try to find something that really makes you excited, something you might want to spend your life devoting time to.”

And fortunately for students, Rush says that he is not going anywhere, something that he wouldn’t have predicted when he first came to WCC.

“I love it here. It’s great here,” he said. “A lot of the students that I get are really good students, some great students.”

Teaching history is not Rush’s only passion. He says he also enjoys reading “pretty much everything” and jogging, admittedly as “one of those on and off runners.”

Rush is married and has a “totally awesome” 7-year-old daughter.

As any good historian, Rush has a lot of questions. If he could only ask one, of anyone in history, he says, it would be directed to England’s King Henry VIII.

“I got a lot of questions for that guy!” he said.



Aaron Cox, 31, and Michael Jacob, 23 from Adrian, both in the automation technology program, work together on programming a robotic arm to complete tasks during lab hours in the Industrial Technology building. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

ROBOTICS FROM B3

“I started working in construction with my brother when I was 16. I was making really good money back then,” said Sheridan. “When I was done with high school, I started working full-time.”

After working in construction for a few years, Sheridan got an offer he couldn’t refuse to work at a General Motors plant in Dayton, Ohio, where he was earning \$19 per hour, until one day in 2009, when he started hearing layoff rumors.

“There was talk. We knew what was going on, but I didn’t think that it would happen to me. And then it did,” Sheridan said. “Me and my family had to move back to Michigan and stay with my wife’s parents for about a year. I couldn’t get work.”

Eventually, Sheridan found a job in construction again, but he wasn’t

making the kind of money that he did when he was a teenager, and the jobs were sporadic. That’s when he decided to make some changes.

“I talked it over with my wife, and we decided when she was done with her nursing degree, that it was my turn to go to school,” Sheridan said.

According to a June 2013 report by the National Association of Manufacturers, Michigan ranks first in the nation in manufacturing job creation with 88,000 workers added to the workforce since 2009.

“The idea that manufacturing is dead is simply not true,” said Associate Vice President for Economic Development and Continuing Education and Community Service Michelle Mueller, during a presentation to the Board of Trustees on Sept. 10. “Job growth in traditional manufacturing has slow down, but advanced-manufacturing jobs are rapidly increasing.”

Penird points out that companies frequently contact him looking for people to fill jobs in several areas, including machine tooling, numerical control (CNC), robotics and fluid power (hydraulics/pneumatics).

“Some of these guys in here will get their associate degree and end up earning \$56,000 a year,” Penird said.

That’s good news for someone like Sheridan, who’s working toward re-tooling. He started taking math classes this semester to meet the basic requirements for the automation technology associate degree with the hope of establishing a more stable future for himself and his family.

“Knowing that I’m getting some training makes me feel secure,” Sheridan said. “I’m more confident that I’ll get a job when I’m done here than I was a year ago.”

For more information visit: www.wccnet.edu/departments/it

Gift-giving greatness.

Generic gifts got you down? Well, wake up your inner gifting genius! I have gift ideas that are anything but blah. Gifts girls adore. Gifts guys gotta have. Any budget. Any occasion. Any time. I'm here to make your life easier! Just ask!

Sandi Trombley & Tina Salisbury
Future Mary Kay Sales Director & Ind. Beauty Consultant
www.marykay.com/sltrombley & marykay.com/tinasitans
734-260-9208 or 517-902-2690

MARY KAY

Up to **100% PAID COLLEGE TUITION**

INCLUDING:

- Montgomery G.I. Bill
- Federal Tuition Assistance

PLUS: Up to \$50,000 Student Loan Repayment Program

For more information, call:
SFC Edwin Wilder
734-945-0972
edwin.d.wilder.mil@mail.mil



MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD
NATIONALGUARD.com • 1-800-GO-GUARD



Loving Arm Rescue Ranch
a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit All Animal Rescue located at The Pet Resort

lovingarmrescueranch.org

Saving one animal won't change the world, but it will change the world for that one animal...

**50425 Bemis Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111**

Ways To Support Us!

Visit us in person at The Pet Resort

Visit our website to donate thru PayPal

SUPPORT US THROUGH



Go to krogercommunityrewards.com

NPO number 91200

Foster Families Are Always Needed!!




NORTHWOOD UNIVERSITY

Transfer friendly. Employer desired.

- Future-focused business curriculum
- Courses offered evenings, weekends, online, and on campus
- Credits for work/life experience and military training
- Expert, industry-experienced faculty
- Small class sizes



Apply Today!
www.northwood.edu
800.622.9000



THINK DIFFERNTLY. LEARN DIFFERENTLY.

A few seats are still available in the January 2014 term.

Apply today!
You may just earn a \$15,000/year scholarship.

kettering.edu/transfer

Kettering
UNIVERSITY



Nick Reszetar, club adviser, makes suggestions to Dixie Warren, an art major from Romulus. Reszetar helps students with technique during the drawing sessions held by the club. MARIA RIGOU | WASHTENAW VOICE

MEET THE CLUB FROM B3

They are also planning to visit several locations and draw on-site, like the Botanical Gardens, Depot Town, the zoo and the Natural History Museum.

The idea is to help make students who are serious about drawing aware of all the tools available, he said, adding, “We want to increase the students’ portfolios for when they transfer.”

“We also want to look into the possibility of getting them into gallery (exhibits),” Ganser, a graphic design major, said. “That would look awesome in resumes and would help to get into art school.”

The Drawing Club will be host to the Student Art Exhibition during the first couple of weeks of the Winter 2014 semester. They inherited the show from the Arts Club and already have \$500 from a sponsor to pay for the awards, explained Hackenbruch.

Additionally, the club will receive part of the proceeds from the Dec. 9 sales of any cookies from *Insomnia Cookies* in Ypsilanti to help fund future life-drawing sessions.

The club opens its doors to every student on Fridays at 4 p.m. in LA 174.

“We have students from a variety of majors,” Ganser said. “We have people that have never drawn before.”



Dixie Warren, 20, of Romulus, works on her drawing of the human skull. MARIA RIGOU | WASHTENAW VOICE



Charlie Hackenbruch, 19-year-old 3D animation from Saline, draws dragons with the club adviser's son, Kazi, during the skeleton drawing session on Nov 22. MARIA RIGOU | WASHTENAW VOICE

Sudoku

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

puzzles.ca

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	
33						34					35			36
37						38					39			
40					41					42				
	43			44					45					
			46						47					
48	49	50					51	52				53	54	55
56				57	58	59					60			
61				62						63				
64				65						66				

MCT CAMPUS

ACROSS

- 1 Gem weight unit
6 Three-line Japanese poem
11 Container for Peter Pan
14 “You ___ busted!”
15 Past prisoner, for short
16 Prefix for a lifesaving “Pen”
17 “Why bother?”
19 Bit of Morse code
20 Trivial gripe
21 Stow cargo
22 “57 Varieties” brand
24 Purr former
25 Plane for a small airstrip, briefly
27 “Why me?”
33 Entire
34 Neeson of “Schindler’s List”
35 Carps at
37 Blubber
38 90-degree pipe piece
39 Clinton’s vice president
40 Johnson of “Laugh-In”
41 Island dance
42 Beast with one hump or two
43 “Why worry?”
46 Pet food brand with a ProActive Health variety
47 Chimpanzee, e.g.
48 Equally strange
51 Northwestern pear
53 Revolutionary Guevara
56 Logician’s proof ending
57 “Why not?”
61 Spoon-bending Geller
62 Musical Merman
63 Eucalyptuseating marsupial
64 Civil War prez
65 Students’ hurdles
66 Kick out

DOWN

- 1 Abel’s older brother
2 Class for potential painters
3 Remainder
4 Residue in a smoker’s tray
5 “You missed the deadline”
6 Pay attention to
7 Wheel-supporting shaft
8 Cold bagful for a party
9 Bout enders, briefly
10 Without footwear
11 “Star Wars” warrior
12 Neat as ___
13 Big name in hotels and crackers
18 Hiker’s route
23 Stretch out
24 Phone screening service
25 Underwater experiment site
26 Tiny Dickens boy
27 Pier
28 Do-it-yourselfer’s book genre
29 Indigenous Alaskans
30 Grand Roman home
31 Judd of country music
32 “Snowy” heron
33 Fighter’s org.
36 Salt, on the Seine
41 Partner of haw
42 Baked treat often wrapped in fluted paper
44 Gizmo
45 Brewer’s kiln
48 Greenish-blue
49 Balkan native
50 Drooling toon dog
51 Red root vegetable
52 Lubricates
53 Bloke
54 Ice fishing access
55 List-shortening abbr.
58 Suffix with Wyoming
59 Old videotape type
60 Fenway team, for short

Answers

8	6	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
9	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
2	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£

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.

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

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/.

Sales/Customer Support. Seeking a person who has interest and skills in metalworking machinery, but is willing to sell and provide customer support to a wide customer base over the phone. Must have a good attitude, be able to talk with all personality types, handle stressful situations well and have excellent computer skills. CNC operation and CAD/CAM experience is a definite bonus.

Certified Nursing Assistant. Assist seniors with all activities of daily living such as personal hygiene, bathing, toileting, nutrition intake, medication reminders, enriching companionship and light housekeeping. Job Requirements: valid driver’s license, proof of auto Insurance, CNA certification; and

passion for delivering excellence in health-care services.

Creative Writing Internship. Assist in designing creative writing prompts and provide tutors with ideas to help students express themselves through writing exercises; lead creative writing workshops; coordinate project opportunities for students to have their work published and performed.

Robotic Weld Technician. Experience working in a shop environment for 2 or more; experience with MIG welding; familiar with robotic automation systems (Panasonic OS 4.0+); own hand tools; able to operate as part of a team as well as independently; PLC experience a plus (Ormon CX ONE).

Childcare Assistants. Maintain a positive, safe, and healthy environment while being actively involved with children. Accountable for preparing all the materials

needed for the day’s lesson plans (organized by the lead teacher). Assistant is assigned a group of children within a designated classroom and works as the primary caregiver for this group.

Bakehouse Early Morning Delivery Driver. Deliver bread to our customers in and around Southeast Michigan. Must have great communication skills and positive attitude to interact with our customers.

Motorcycle Service Technician. Seeking an entry level Motorcycle Service Technician. Part-time position running from March-August 2014.Responsibilities will include basic maintenance, brake service and tire service on Japanese motorcycles.

Administrative Assistant. Preferred Skill Sets/Experience: Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable (Quickbooks knowledge desired, but not required) and/or highly accurate data entry.

High personal standards of excellence and an aptitude for creative thought; computer skills including but not limited to Microsoft Office, research tools and database/record keeping; strong communication, problem-solving and organizational skills.

Graphics and Marketing Coordinator. Seeking a full-time design-savvy, enthusiastic and diligent individual to create, implement, and maintain graphics and marketing strategies. This position is in support of existing branding materials and reports directly to the company’s founders. This is an excellent opportunity for recent graduates of design to get practical, hands-on experience in graphics and marketing while expanding their work portfolio.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: Aggressive and energetic marketing interns needed to build Liberty Tax Service brand in Canton. End-of-year bonus available. Email resume to joechampagne@libertytax.com.

THE VOICE

washtenawvoice.com
December 9, 2013



GOODWILL HUNTING

The season of giving is upon us. This time of year, many people start looking for ways to help others enjoy the holidays. However, we shouldn't forget that year-round there are people dedicating their time and resources to benefit those in need.

So *The Voice* decided to go hunting for these do-gooders. Inside, you will find

nine stories about the goodwill that local philanthropists have spread throughout the year.

Along the bottom of each page, you will find information about non-profits related to the stories. Each of these have been highly rated in efficiency and transparency by Charity Navigator, a non-profit which guides people in smart giving.



An aerial photo shows the scene after Typhoon Haiyan hit Leyte Province, Nov. 10, 2013. The most powerful typhoon in the Philippines in its history, engulfed many areas in Leyte, Eastern Samar, Western and Central Visayas, Bicol and Northern Mindanao regions. RYAN LIM/XINHUA/ZUMA PRESS/MCT

'Hope for Haiyan'

Filipino youth group performs for charity

BY ALAINA O'CONNOR
Staff Writer

At a small, dimly lit community center that's seen better days, large round tables flank a carpeted platform stage, a potluck-style buffet of Filipino delicacies wait to be devoured and boxes filled with clothes, blankets and toys are counted and organized.

A group of 30 Filipinos, community organizers and supporters gather to support an urgent cause.

"It's crucial that we come together to support each other," said Leslie Nuñez, a 24-year-old former WCC student who now works as a personal home care nurse. "A lot of people here today still have family members in the Philippines."

Nuñez has always been active in the Filipino community in Michigan and was an organizer for the Filipino

Youth Initiative (FYI) when she was in high school.

"You learned about your heritage," said Nuñez. "We'd meet to learn Tagalog and the history of the Philippines."

After Typhoon Haiyan hit on Nov. 7, Nuñez knew she needed to do something, so she contacted FYI members and worked with the Filipino American Community Council (FILAMCCO) of Michigan to put together a charity event to benefit typhoon victims.

"Everyone in the community wanted to do something to help," Nuñez said. "There were so many different events cropping up in the weeks after the typhoon. We wanted to do something different."

FYI hosted Hope For Haiyan, a charity concert from which all donations went towards Philippine typhoon relief in Quezon, one of the cities that make up

metropolitan Manila, the capital of the Philippines.

The event was held on Nov. 23 at the Philippine American Community Center of Michigan in Southfield and featured performances by high school and college students from across Southeast Michigan.

Melissa Angelo, an American-born Filipino and Avondale High School student from Auburn Hills, spearheaded the event that featured high school and college students showcasing their talents.

"I posted the event on Facebook and encouraged people in the community to attend the event and donate what they could to the cause," Angelo said. "I was happy to see how many people were interested."

All-girl band, Electric Graffiti, from Rochester Hills, performed a short set featuring covers of popular songs and a

few originals.

"Melissa sent us a message on Facebook asking if we would be interested in performing at the benefit," said lead singer Candace Gregg, 16, of Rochester Hills. "We didn't think twice about. We wanted to help."

Laili Radha, a Wayne State University student, performed a solo hip-hop dance set, while Garri Madero a former Eastern Michigan University student solicited laughs with his stand-up comedy routine.

But, the highlight of the evening was a breakdancing battle amongst a group of high school students from all over Southeast Michigan.

"We love performing, no matter where it is," said Joey Madison, a 17 year-old high school student from Ann Arbor. "It was cool getting everybody together to support FYI and raise some money."

The benefit was personal for some, as many of the attendees have family in the Philippines. As of Nov. 25, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that the death toll stood at 5,235 with more than four million people displaced and an estimated \$280 million worth of damage.

"Sometimes, here, we see natural disasters happening in other countries and we feel bad for those people, but there's a disconnect," Nuñez said. "If you know people who have family in those areas or you have family yourself, there's an emotional connection. You feel compelled to help."

The Filipino American Community Council (FILAMCCO) of Michigan's statewide fundraising campaign for the typhoon victims in Eastern Visayas region of the Philippines.

17356 Northland Park Court,
Southfield

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit
<http://www.filamccomichigan.org>

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE

The IRC is a leading organization in emergency relief around the world. It has committed to directing 100 percent of donations designated for relief in the Philippines to the people that have been affected by Typhoon Haiyan. www.rescue.org

WORLD FOOD PROGRAM USA

A branch of the United Nation's World Food Programme, the WFP USA works to increase awareness about global hunger and gather resources to alleviate hunger. It has promised to channel all donations designated Typhoon Haiyan relief to those affected in the Philippines. www.wfpusa.org

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The student publication of Washtenaw Community College
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Volume 20, Issue 9

4800 E. Huron River Dr.
TI 106
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 677-5125

thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com

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.

The Washtenaw Voice does not represent or endorse the accuracy or reliability of any of the information or content in advertisements contained in the newspaper or its website, www.washtenawvoice.com, nor the quality of any products, information or other materials displayed or obtained as a result of an advertisement or any other information or offer in or in connection with the services or products advertised.

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.

EDITOR

Maria Rigou
drigou@wccnet.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

Natalie Wright
nkwright@wccnet.edu

PHOTO EDITOR

Kelly Bracha
kbracha@wccnet.edu

DESIGNERS

Brian Auten
George O'Donovan

ONLINE EDITOR

Christina Fleming
cfleming@wccnet.edu

ADVERTISING MANAGER

Becky Alliston
ealliston@wccnet.edu

WRITERS

Joe Dahl
Ian Donnelly
Paul Erlandson
Braden King
Megan Michael
Alaina O'Connor
Emily Rose
Allie Sherman
Hafsa Tout
Adrianna Velazquez

ADVISER

Keith Gave
kgave@wccnet.edu

IF YOU HAD AN UNLIMITED SOURCE OF FUNDS, TO WHICH CHARITY WOULD YOU DONATE AND WHY?



"I'm a huge animal lover. I have three cats a couple of dogs. If I had the money, I would donate to wildlife preserves."

~ David Thornton, 20, Saline, biology

"I would donate to a charity for impoverished kids in Africa. I look at myself as a Black Nationalist or, you know, a Pan-Africanist. I feel like it's my duty to make sure my people are well-equipped."



~ Romain Talbert, 21, Ann Arbor, economics



"I would definitely want to donate to a children's homeless fund. I know a lot of people who lost their homes – some family friends. I try to give back as much as I can."

~ Rachael Behl, 18, Grand Rapids, liberal arts

"The Red Cross for victims of the typhoon in the Philippines. I know people who have family from there, so I'd want to try to help them."



~ Hannah Bos, 18, Ann Arbor, nursing



"I would donate to cancer research. I've had family members who suffered from breast cancer and bone cancer."

~ Jesse Wilkinson, 24, Howell, occupational therapy

"I give a lot when anyone asks, but one of my favorite non-profits is Random Acts of Kindness. I actually found out about it from the TV show 'Supernatural.' People do really nice things for other people for no particular reason other than to give back."



~ Rachel Parviz, 18, Ann Arbor, art major



"I would give to a breast cancer charity, because I have family members who battled with breast cancer."

~ Joshua Radloff, 23, Ann Arbor, graphic design

"I would donate to UNICEF, because I think that helping children is really important."



~ Nicole Ramanathan, 23, Ann Arbor, Web design



"I would donate to the Red Cross. I figure, you can't go wrong with the Red Cross."

~ Matt David, 16, Detroit, WTMC

VOICE BOX

Interviews and photos by Alaina O'Connor Staff Writer

Always Listening

BARBARA ANN KARMANOS CANCER INSTITUTE

Dedicated to the prevention, early detection and eventual eradication of cancer, the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute is one of the most highly rated breast cancer research organizations. It has been based in Detroit since 1943.

www.karmanos.org

UNITED STATES FUND FOR UNICEF

The United Nations Children's Fund works to save, protect and improve children's lives across the globe. It provides clean water, food, sanitation, vaccinations and other medicine. It also protects them from abuses and provides education.

www.unicefusa.org

Cool beans

Local church battles global hunger with rice and beans diet

BY PAUL ERLANDSON
Voice Correspondent

One in seven humans on Earth live on what is known as a subsistence diet – just enough food to survive each day, according to the World Food Programme, which boasts itself to be the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger.

One in four children experience stunted growth because of it. Many people in impoverished nations do not have clean drinking water, and travel far and wide just to quench their thirst. Poor nutrition accounts for nearly half of all deaths in children under the age of 5.

These are some of the staggering facts Kensington Community Church imparts on its congregation on a weekly basis. In this season of giving, members of its congregation made a commitment to helping the hungry by committing to a strict one-week diet of rice and beans – for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

"I never realized how I just quenched whatever urge I had with food," said Clint Dupin, a senior pastor at the Kensington campus in Birmingham. "The money that you save from not eating out or spending on groceries will go to 10 initiatives."

Recently, Kensington Church – which also has campuses in Troy, Orion, Clinton Township and Orlando, Fla. – raised more than \$1 million through a fundraiser in which people and businesses sponsored runners at the Detroit Free Press Marathon. The goal: drill clean water wells for impoverished Kenyans – one of those 10 initiatives the church has emphasized.

"We don't want people to just run on

the treadmill of faith at church and when they leave here find out that they haven't really gotten anywhere," said Dave Shuman, a minister at the church, "Money doesn't solve problems, action does."

"We feel like our eyes need to be opened in an entirely new way."

At the end of a recent Sunday service, everyone who wanted to make the commitment picked up a small burlap sack containing a daily tracker – to help keep



Parishioners at the Kensington Community Church campuses took home packets of rice and beans like this for a week-long diet to save money that they donated to church charities. PAUL ERLANDSON | WASHTENAW VOICE

an account of money saved on the diet – and a small bag of rice, a small bag of beans, and a recipe for "Frijoles de Negros."

The packet included a note that read: "Most of the world lives on what we call an existing diet – just enough food to survive each day. This week commit to joining them by eating rice and beans for ev-

ery meal, then use the money you save to help people around the block and around the world."

The opportunity was widely received.

"I would say that at least half of our people will follow through with this," parishioner Jason Combs said. "Most people will see it as a way to give money, I think."

After service on Sunday, Nov 10, the #eatlessgivelife tag was trending on Twitter and Instagram. Yet as the week dragged on, the reality of a diet consisting of only rice and beans began to make itself painfully known in the stomachs of the congregation.

The rules of the diet were simple: eat only rice and beans. Ingredients like salt and pepper or spices and seasonings that were already in the cupboard were an ex-

the hashtag right along with them. The images that began to pop up midweek were that of rice and beans dressed up in tortillas and cloaked in salsa and cheese and extra added ingredients.

"I went through statements to get an idea how much I was spending," said Usher Tom Martin, 60, of Lake Orion. "It was difficult to figure it out, but I rounded it out to be about \$250 a week, including toiletries and what not. We didn't just eat rice and beans for the thing. You gotta mix it up a bit. I think I lost about six pounds!"

Alex Morgan 25, of Rochester, stuck to his commitment, and he said it was enlightening.

"I did rice and beans, but more so not going out to eat and not buying food and eating what I already had stored to save money."

"The beans took especially long to cook. You wanted to reach out and get normality, but this way you get to normalize with other peoples' suffering."

One week later, the church opened up the sermon with a little tweak on the classic rap, "ice-ice baby" with "rice-rice baby" continuing the experimental fast for those who wished to take it all the way to Thanksgiving. It also offered the challenge to those who missed out on it from the previous week.

A week into the beans-and-rice challenge, the parishioners' savings were tallied up. The church had raised an astounding \$150,000 from the experiment – and the projected sum was anyone's guess.

"Poverty really is a lack of options," said Mike Nelson, one of the church leaders. "I mean, we have 30 different

varieties of Oreos, and these people can't choose between rice and beans. What I learned is that the decisions that we make to use money to make ourselves more comfortable could be used to benefit others."

For more information about the diet and its goals, visit: www.KensingtonChurch.org/riceandbeans

ception to the rule.

"Americans are the only ones that are trying to cut corners and trying to figure it out," said Dupin. "Rather than just going, 'alright I need to do this and I am committing to it,' there's no such word as try. It's either do it or not."

All along the journey, tweets decreased and Instagram photographs containing

FORTGOTTEN HARVEST

Founded in Oak Park in 1990, Forgotten Harvest has two missions: fighting hunger and waste. It collects surplus food from grocery stores, and restaurants among others, and delivers it to 250 food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens in metro Detroit. www.forgottenharvest.org

GLEANERS COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

GCFB is a member of the Feeding America network in Detroit. It works to fight hunger in southeast Michigan through its emergency food system. It provides millions of pounds of donated and purchased food to those in need, and also fights causes of hunger through education and advocacy. www.gcfb.org

Young girl hopes for dog days

Community rallies to help young epileptic get her service dog

BY MEGAN MICHAEL
Voice Correspondent

Ella Dover is just like any other 8-year-old girl. The only difference is that she was diagnosed with Lennox Gastault Syndrome – a rare, severe form of epilepsy – when she was 3.

“She is a full-of-life kind of wkid. She loves to go to the zoo; loves to go to the park,” said Lisa Dover, Ella’s mom. “She loves to initiate interaction.”

While she enjoys dancing and playing on her iPad, Ella isn’t able to communicate well through words. She uses her expressions and sign language to convey her thoughts, her mom says, adding that children who know her also know how to communicate with her.

But everyone around Ella must be very careful, because she could have a seizure at any moment, Lisa Dover said.

To help Ella, friends and family have been organizing fundraisers in an effort to raise money to purchase her a service dog that might help detect a seizure before it happens.

Among them is Lindsay Schryver, a 17-year-old Saline High School student, who met Ella and works with her on weekdays through a program called Connecting.

So what is Connecting?

“Oh, what isn’t it,” Schryver began. “You get assigned a school, and you get a teacher assigned. And they tell you who to work with and what to do.”

Schryver feeds Ella and plays with her. And she is there to catch Ella, just in case

a fundraiser that allowed the teachers to wear jeans to work if they paid \$5. In Cleveland, Ohio, a cousin of the Dovers had a bake sale for Ella.

On Nov. 17, a local television station told Ella’s story, and an anonymous donor gave \$1,000 to Ella’s cause.

“We hit our \$13,000 mark,” Lisa Dover said. “It really costs \$22,000. Anything above and beyond will be donated to 4 Paws for Ability.”

A non-profit service-dog training or-

ganization, 4 Paws for Ability is one of the

only service-dog training organizations that offers help to pediatric patients.

Many are helping, and a lot of them will gather at Saline High School on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 5-8 p.m., for a spaghetti dinner.

Panera Bread, on Eisenhower, also donated proceeds to 4 Paws for Ability during a recent fundraiser.

Ella will get a seizure alert dog; a dog that can sense when she is going to have a seizure. It will take about a year to train the dog. And her mother will continue her efforts on behalf of 4 Paws for Ability, while raising awareness about epilepsy.

Raising a child has myriad challenges without life-threatening illnesses. “A million other things come up,” Lisa Dover said, “not epilepsy.”

For more information about 4 Paws for Ability, or to help, visit: <http://4pawsforability.org/> and click the “How to Help” tab.



Ella Dover, an 8-year-old from Saline who suffers from a rare form of epilepsy, with the family dog, Cooper. The community has been working to raise funds to get her a service dog. LISA DOVER | WASHTENAW VOICE

she has a seizure.

“It’s really sad. I feel, like, helpless,” Schryver explained.

But she is not as helpless as she believes. At Saline High School, she and her friend, Skyler Dempsey, organized

ganization, 4 Paws for Ability is one of the only service-dog training organizations that offers help to pediatric patients.

Many are helping, and a lot of them will gather at Saline High School on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 5-8 p.m., for a

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Thursday, Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m.
Saline High School

To raise funds for a service dog for Ella Dover, 8, who suffers from a rare form of epilepsy.

COST: Family four: \$30.
\$10 for each additional person

TICKETS: Online at www.salinecommunityed.com; by phone (Saline Education) 734-429-8020; and in person at the Saline Community Education office at Liberty School, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Also available at the door, though organizers ask that tickets be purchased in advance so they know how much food to prepare.)

PUPPIES BEHIND BARS

Puppies Behind Bars trains prison inmates to raise service dogs that are later placed with wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.
www.puppiesbehindbars.com

PAWS WITH A CAUSE

Paws With A Cause trains assistance dogs nationally for people with disabilities and provides lifetime support that encourages independence. www.pawswithacause.org

Power of moms

Women unite to pamper single mothers in need

BY BRADEN KING
Voice Correspondent

Once a month, at Vineyard Church Ann Arbor, a group of about 70 single moms come together for what is called “Mom’s Night Out.”

Penny Johnson of Livonia knows how important it is to them. She has volunteered for the last six years, running the program for the last two.

“My mom had four kids, no child support, no outside support, so she was working four minimal wage type jobs to get by,” Johnson said, “and that made an impact on me growing up and recognizing that she had done that.”

Other volunteers with various specialties run the event. It takes about 60 volunteers to pull off one of these events, which are kicked off with a free restaurant-style dinner, prepared by volunteers.

“I don’t mean like hamburgers and hot dogs,” Johnson said. “They’re served gourmet-style food.”

Everything is prepared on-the-spot and frequently includes something that is not affordable for many of these women, like fresh produce. A wait staff, again all volunteers, serves everyone.

“Many of the moms can’t afford to go out to restaurants, so they get to sit and eat,” Johnson said, “and they eat off of

real plates. They drink out of real glasses.”

After dinner, the connection begins. A different volunteer comes in every month and coaches the moms on topics, ranging from parenting to self-image. The coaching doesn’t stop there. In-house coaching takes place as well.

The moms range in age from their early 20’s to their 70’s.

“For the moms in their 70’s, their kids are grown, but they’re still single and they’re there to help mentor these other moms,” Johnson said. “They’re there to say, ‘hey, I know what you’re going through, it’s hard, but I’m here to tell you, you will survive this.’”

Each woman has her own story, her own background. Some are more fortunate than others.

“Our single moms range from women that are unemployed to those who have their PhD’s and everything in-between,” said Johnson.

The moms are encouraged to bring their children as well. Nerf football, crafts, air hockey and foosball are all offered and a kid-friendly meal is served.

When the night ends, the moms leave with things that help them out at home, like laundry detergent, toilet paper,

Kleenex, toothpaste, things that their public-assistance programs are not allowed to pay for. It helps stretch their budget.

The event has filled to capacity. So, Vineyard church is using another outlet.



Women gather each month for a special ‘Moms Night Out,’ a support group for single mothers. COURTESY PHOTO | MOMS NIGHT OUT

“We are now trying to help other churches start this ministry,” Johnson said. Through conversation and coaching, two other churches have started their own single mom’s ministry.

For some of the single-mom families, Christmas is a very difficult time of the year. So the group has what it calls “Christmas Blessing,” in which individ-

uals can “adopt” a family, and help make their Christmas a little brighter.

“At Christmas time, we have the moms that feel like they have the most need, can request to be adopted by other members of the church, it might be other outside organizations,” said Johnson.

This event shows moms they’re not alone, and there are people who are willing to help.

“We try to give them tools, we give them support, and we try to give them another network of people they can rely on,” Johnson said.

A mom who has been attending the church for the past 20 years has been fortunate enough to be on both ends – once being adopted, and later adopting her own family in need.

A small group adopted her and her daughter a couple years ago. The daughter was interested in quilting, so the group bought her things so she could practice. Later a member of the small group came to the house and showed her how

to quilt.

“That was extremely meaningful for my daughter,” the mom said.

“The goal is to build these relationships, you know?” she said. “If they just brought a package to you, it’s not as meaningful as meeting with a small group where you can connect with people.”

LIGHTHOUSE OF OAKLAND COUNTY

Lighthouse of Oakland County has been helping low-income families in Oakland County since 1972. Lighthouse PATH helps women achieve self-sufficiency and a healthy family environment for their children by helping them find long-term housing.
www.lighthouseoakland.org

WARREN VILLAGE

Warren Village helps low-income, single parent families achieve sustainable development and has already provided shelter to more than 3,500 families since it was established in 1974.
www.warrenvillage.org



Kyle Treganowan (above) and Lani Hennings, both senior honors students at Whitmore Lake High School, spend a day helping elderly residents with the fall cleanup as part of their annual Rake 'n' Run campaign. PHOTO BY EMELIA TRUHN

Raking for Seniors

Students honor seniors with a day of volunteering

BY ADRIANNA VELAZQUEZ
Voice Correspondent

This fall, students and faculty of Whitmore Lake High School took a day off to give back to the community through an annual event called Rake 'n' Run.

Rake 'n' Run is a National Honor Society-sponsored event in which students take a break from their normal routine and spend the school day raking leaves for senior citizens.

Students in each grade level are broken into groups and are assigned a number of locations. They then board school buses that transport them to and from each location, where they unload and begin raking leaves for the elderly.

"The work might not be the best part, but doing it with your friends makes it enjoyable," said Cody Beckstein, 15, of Whitmore Lake. "The community does a lot for the school by paying for our textbooks and supplies so this is what we do to say thank you."

Rake 'n' Run is one event that truly showcases the strong connection between the schools and community.

"Schools are such an important part of every community and I think especially so in small communities like Whitmore Lake," said National Honor Society adviser Jill Henry. "The students care about the community and community cares about the students."

"An event like Rake 'n' Run highlights our strong connection."

More than 40 community residents benefit from the event each year, she said. And they're grateful.

"They're wonderful kids. It certainly helps us seniors," said Susan Gow, 65 of Whitmore Lake. "My yard is enormous,

and I just couldn't do it myself, I couldn't. I'd have to hire to have it done, so I usually donate something to the school.

"They do my neighbor's, too, and she's 87. She totally appreciates it. She stands out there and watches every move they make. It's one of the nicest, kindest things they can do for the seniors in the neighborhood."

This year Whitmore Lake High School partnered with Broadscape Landscape Supply on Whitmore Lake Road, where the leaves were transported and spread.

"We were very excited to begin a partnership with Broadscape," Henry said. "They were so supportive of our efforts."



Whitmore Lake High Senior honors students Rory Kitchen (left) and Nick Reed (right), fill bags with fallen leaves. PHOTO BY EMELIA TRUHN

SENIOR NEIGHBORS

Senior Neighbors has promoted the health and well-being of older adults since 1972. It provides crisis assistance to frail and low-income seniors with chores and simple home maintenance tasks.

www.seniorneighbors.org

THE OHIO MASONIC HOME

The Ohio Masonic Home's mission is to help people age respectfully. The charity provides relief to those who are distressed by enabling individuals achieve their goals.

www.ohiomasonichome.org

Palestinian boy brought to U-M for medical care

BY HAFSA TOUT
Voice Correspondent

Somewhere along the perpetual line of political debate on raging civil wars and oppressive governments in the Middle East, people become too absorbed with fresh news from a theatrical media to pay attention to the older and less popularized.

That is why the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, which was established in 1991, has since helped to repeatedly remind people of these forgotten issues even as the world is consumed with other conflicts.

This non-profit international organization tends to the medical needs of Middle Eastern children whose treatments are otherwise unavailable locally.

Detroit's chapter of the PCRF most recently welcomed 13-year-old Naserallah Nassar.

Nassar was only 3 months old when a bomb exploded near his home in Khalil,

Palestine, leaving severe burns across his body and resulting in the loss of his left hand and several fingers on his right hand.

He was brought to the United States by the PCRF for a series of reconstructive surgeries at the University of Michigan.

Yasmeen Hamed, president of the PCRF's Detroit chapter, says teams of medical professionals are often sent into the areas overseas rather than bringing children here, depending on the circumstances.

"We had a meet-and-greet for Naserallah in Ann Arbor about two weeks ago," Hamed says. "I was hoping to let people get to know him so that when he went in for surgery that he'd have a support team."

Nassar is staying with a host family nearby. Kawther Omar, the matriarch of the family, is a nurse at the Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital.

"I love what I do," she says. "I have a passion for what I do."

Omar was introduced to the PCRF at a fundraiser and volunteered to host Nassar with her three daughters.

"They chose me as a host family because I'm close to Ann Arbor," she said. "I have kids, I'm a nurse and I could help in that aspect."

Her family takes Nassar out to have fun while she is at work.

"I have two nephews... and he spends a lot of time with them," Omar said. "Naserallah is like their big brother now. He's their best friend now."

Omar's three daughters have also formed a close relationship with Nassar.

"The girls look at him as the brother they don't have," she said.

Nour Samaha is a member of one of the families with whom Nassar spends time in the weeks before the surgeries.

"After a (PCRF) meeting, we decided that we would take him out so we took him out to Kohl's and I had him pick out a cologne, and then my mom bought him T-shirts and stuff," said Samaha, 17, of Ypsilanti. "Then we went to Chuck. E. Cheese after."

Samaha's family took Nassar to places like Toys R Us, where she noticed that "even though he was 13, and we were worried he wouldn't like it, he was really happy."

"I compared it to a 13-year-old from here, from the States," she said, "and it just made me think that we take things for granted sometimes and we don't realize that we have a lot that God gives us."

Nassar had three appointments scheduled for this month, after which he will undergo several surgeries at the U-M hospitals.

For more information, or to volunteer to spend time with children like Nassar, visit www.pcrf.net.



Naserallah Nassar



Naserallah Nassar, who as an infant was seriously injured by a bomb explosion near his home in Palestine, is surrounded by volunteers of the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. He is in Ann Arbor undergoing several surgeries at University of Michigan hospitals. PHOTO BY ELIJAH BATCHELOR

UNITED PALESTINIAN APPEAL, INC.

UPA has been provides aid to Palestinians in need, especially children, in the Middle East. UPA delivers efficient charitable services at low costs in education, health care, child sponsorship and agricultural and community development. www.helpupa.org

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S HEART FOUNDATION

Founded in 1994, ICHF works to bring the skills, technology and knowledge to cure and care for children with congenital heart disease in developing countries. www.babyheart.org



Sisters Angelina, 13, Jenabiebe, 7 and Madison, 5, were among thousands of local youngsters who enjoyed a shopping spree for winter clothing thanks to 'Warm the Children,' an Ann Arbor charity. IAN DONNELLY | WASHTENAW VOICE

'Warm the Children' provides basic needs for thousands

BY IAN DONNELLY
Voice Correspondent

A single mother of three who had recently lost her home, Ria was doing anything and everything in her power to supply her children with warm clothes this winter.

Enter "Warm the Children," an organization that has protected thousands of children from the winter's chill since it was founded 25 years ago by Mack Stewart.

Today, Mack's daughter, Mary Stewart, coordinates the charity. Its goal this season is to raise \$270,000 in order to serve 3,000 children in Washtenaw and Livingston counties, she said. Infants and children up to the age of 16 get \$90 each to spend on warm clothes during a shopping excursion to Target.

This year, Ria's children – Angelina, 13, Jenabiebe, 7, and Madison, 5, were among them. On a recent shopping trip with a Warm the Children volunteer, they picked out warm boots and sweatshirts.

"It's good that people have money to donate," said Angelina, who was worried about how her family was going to afford such a shopping trip for basic necessities.

"I'm really happy because we don't really get anything," said Jenabiebe.

And their mother was grateful.

"I'm always trying to get any funding I can," she said. "I always love new help."

Over the years, Warm the Children has served over 29,000 children in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties. Thanks to a partnership with *The Ann Arbor News*, the charity has raised more than \$3 million since the start of the charity.

But donating money – and every penny collected goes toward keeping children warm – is just half of it. The other half is volunteering to be a shopper and

assisting needy families.

"It takes their effort too," Mary Stewart said. "They look forward to it every year. It's their way to be a part of the community."

Linda Maier, a veteran volunteer for more than a decade, agrees. She first heard about Warm the Children through the newspaper, and has been getting friends and co-workers involved ever since.

"I first started doing it to make my little boys realize that they were lucky kids," Maier said. "We would go as a family, and they would help the other kids pick out their clothes."

"Some families had up to nine kids. Some families could barely speak English."

Local Schools and social workers help to identify families that seem to be in need and refer them to Stewart. She then assigns a volunteer shopper to the family.

Maier said she's in it for the long haul. "As long as there's a need," she said, "I'll do it."

To learn more about Warm the Children, visit: <https://www.mlivemedia-group.com/warm-the-children>

HOW TO DONATE

Donors can contribute to Warm the Children at any United Bank & Trust branch in Washtenaw County or Livingston County. Also, you can download a form, complete it and send your donations to:

Warm the Children
c/o United Bank & Trust
PO Box 1127
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1127

MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION

Toys for Tots collects toys to deliver at Christmas in hopes to deliver healthy messages to needy youngsters that will motivate them to grow into responsible adults. Donations in form of toys are accepted. The Health and Fitness Center has collection boxes throughout its facilities. www.toysfortots.org

COVENANT HOUSE MICHIGAN

Since 1997, Covenant House Michigan has been helping homeless, runaway and at-risk youth ages 13-22 providing shelter, education and vocational programs. CHM's main goal is to redirect youth into a path toward a meaningful and successful life. www.covenanthousemi.org



Work your body, work your mind!

WCC students can join The Health & Fitness Center with three options:

PEA 115—sign up when you register for classes and receive half a credit*

Semester membership—take advantage of the new lower student rate of only \$140

Student monthly membership rate of \$43



The Health & Fitness Center at Washtenaw Community College has all the latest exercise equipment, group exercise rooms, two pools, luxurious locker rooms and is right across the street!

Register now. For more information call the Student Connection at (734) 973-3543.

4833 East Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor wccfitness.org



The Health & Fitness Center
AT WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Live life to the fittest.



Washtenaw
Community College

*must also be enrolled in at least 3 credits for the fall semester.

Local church trucks to Appalachia to give hope to distressed families

BY EMILY ROSE
Voice Correspondent

On a cold and cloudy morning in the Appalachian Mountains, the people of Welch, W.Va., stood in line for more than three hours to get food for their families – and gifts that would probably be the only presents their children would get for Christmas.

Welch, located in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains and 100 miles southeast of Charleston, is the poorest city in West Virginia, and arguably the United States. Welch used to be a very prosperous coal-mining town, reaching almost 100,000 residents in the 1950s.

During the following years the population decreased rapidly as many young people left to seek more promising futures. In the 1980s, machines began taking over and the central Appalachian Mountains lost more than 70,000 coal-mining jobs.

Today, Welch's population is more 2,000, according to the 2010 Census.

Compelled Church, located in Temperance, Mich., just north of the Ohio line, headed to Welch last month. More than 60 members from the church made the 400-mile trip.

Many people wouldn't consider traveling nine hours to a different state as a mission trip," said Abby Elarton, 19, of Temperance, "but it truly is."

The church filled up a 53-foot semi-truck with 25 tons of food from Hope and Encouragement for Humanity (HEH), located in Blissfield, east of Adrian. The food was stacked eight to nine feet high in pallets. Alger Road Tabernacle Church, in Ithaca, just north of Lansing, also loaded up a truck filled with clothes, toys, hygiene items and household goods.

The Rev. Nate Elarton, the lead pastor of Compelled Church, planned the trip alongside his wife, Wendy. They began raising their goal of \$12,000 in

September. The church members gave about \$9,000, and the rest came from the church budget.

The outreach was located at the National Guard Armory of Welch, which the church rented for two days for \$500. During the outreach, the families were given a meal, consisting of chili, hotdogs, and apples. The apples were a huge hit, because they don't get to buy fresh produce; it's too expensive.

The church hosted a small service at the armory, with a puppet show for the children, music, and an encouraging message for more than 700 people in attendance.

The families were able to walk through and pick out different items, which were separated amongst tables, according to church members. Every family left with a large box of food and an additional three bags of food. They also had three boxes of other goods, including hygiene items, clothes and toys. The church needed more than 20 people to help them carry everything, because one person couldn't carry it all.

Many families who came to the outreach carpooled, because not every family owns a car. Many had to strap food on the roof of their cars, because they were packed full.

"On this mission trip I was able to watch our church show the love of Jesus to others," Abby said. "I spent most of the day spending time with children that were waiting for their parents. I was also able to help carry loads of groceries out to people's cars and the thankfulness and joy that they expressed to me was humbling."

"We needed to meet some physical needs, and share with them that they haven't been forgotten, and that God hasn't forgotten about them," Nate said. "The number-one objective of the trip was to show people the love of Christ in a practical way."

Louise Stacey, 54, of Welch, helped with planning the outreach.

"Compelled Church has a vision for the hurting," Stacey said. "I saw such gentleness and tender love from this group, in their songs, preaching and loading the vehicles. We look forward to them coming to town."

Many people from the church were very touched by the experience. Lisa Shaull, the children's pastor at Compelled Church, helped with planning the puppet show for the children.

"It was a very amazing trip for all of us," Shaull said. "We are all eternally changed. Not to mention our team really bonded and we had a lot of great laughs."

"I feel very blessed and humbled. I met so many amazing people, who even though they had nothing, Jesus was their everything. I want that kind of faith," said Missi Bauer, 34, of Temperance.

"Welch, West Virginia, needed us to come down there, but we needed Welch more," Nate said. "I say that about every mission trip, because it just does so much to the team that goes. It was a materialistic check of how blessed we really are, compared to most of the world."

"Were there signs, miracles, and wonders? I hope so, but I can't confirm that," said Sean Shepherd, 35, of Temperance. "But was there love? 'Yes.' Without a doubt... and love never fails."



Grateful families in Welch, W.Va., whose community has been hard hit with the loss of thousands of coal-mining jobs, line up for food, household items and gifts for children, courtesy of the Compelled Church in Temperance. COMPELLED CHURCH | COURTESY PHOTO



Shelves lined with food in the WCC Food Bank, administered by the Student Women's and Resource Center on the second floor of the Student Center. ALLISON SHERMAN | WASHTENAW VOICE

WCC's food bank helps hungry students

BY ALLIE SHERMAN
Voice Correspondent

"Removing obstacles for your academic success." This is the motto for the Washtenaw Community College Student and Women's Resource Center.

Tucked away in a small closet of the Resource Center, located on the second floor of the Student Center, is the Emergency Food Pantry, a food bank from which students in need can receive an emergency supply of food.

The food bank began in fall of 2000, "when we realized the food problems on campus. We saw that we could help with that need," said Elizabeth Orbits, manager SWRC. "We came to the conclusion that it would be a creative way to help students."

Each academic year, food bank helps 70-80 ranging from two-to-five members.

"I have received a daycare credit for the past three semesters," said a 22-year-old single father from Hartland who has found help at the Resource Center. "A fellow student told me about it. But, I was concerned I would not be able to receive help because I am not a woman."

When asked about the Emergency Food Pantry, he said, "I would probably be more comfortable receiving help from there because I am a student at WCC. It would be the first place I would go."

Many organizations on campus and throughout the community help

the food bank by donating food. They include: Food Gatherers, the Bailey Library, and First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor. The college staff and faculty also has been "really generous" and have donated hygiene packs for both men and women, Orbits said.

The organization receives monetary donations as well. The Washtenaw Community College Foundation donated \$1,000 to the SWRC.

"Because we haven't been able to get as much food as needed this year, community members have been very generous," said Orbits.

Students are also encouraged to help with the Emergency Food Pantry by donating food or hygiene items.

Campus events and fundraisers have helped to supply the food bank. "Food for fines" is an event held by the Richard Bailey Library once a semester, giving students the opportunity to donate food items to eliminate some of their library fines.

Another event held for the food bank is the "Cheers Group," which is a WCC faculty/staff development program. It plans a holiday meal for a local family.

The Student Women's and Resource Center also offers many other programs to help students overcome obstacles that may stand in the way of their education.

In order to receive help from the Resource Center, a student must schedule an appointment with a case manager by calling 734-677-5105, or emailing srwc@wccnet.edu.

HUNTINGTON AREA FOOD BANK

The HAFB is a distribution center for about 200 food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and school feeding programs around West Virginia. www.hafb.org

UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL WEST VIRGINIA

The organization partners with 26 human service agencies to improve the lives of the citizens of West Virginia through education, health and financial stability programs. www.unitedwaycww.org

FOOD GATHERERS

Founded in Ann Arbor by Zingerman's Delicatessen in 1988, Food Gatherers is Michigan's first food rescue program and the first ever to be founded by a for-profit company. Its mission is to curb hunger and eradicate its causes. It provides more than 15,000 meals a day throughout Washtenaw County.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

There are canned goods donation barrels for Food Gatherers outside of the Student Activities office on the first floor of the Student Center. Or you can contact the organization at 734-761-2796.