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A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

washtenawvoice.com

# THE WASHTENAW VOICE

December 23, 2013  
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The student publication of Washtenaw Community College  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Always Listening

## COMMENTARY

### Got rape insurance? No thanks.

By CHRISTINA FLEMING

On Tuesday, Dec. 11, both chambers of the Michigan legislature quickly passed a law that requires insurance providers to require a separate rider for women who might need abortion coverage.

And this includes most of us. It means that any woman purchasing private insurance for herself will now have to consider the additional purchase of a rider in order to cover the need of an unforeseeable event such as rape, incest or even a planned pregnancy gone horribly wrong. It also means that a woman who receives employer-provided insurance will have to request the rider from her employer.



Gretchen Whitmer

The law passed under an obscure provision known as a citizens initiative, which began with a Grand Rapids-based pro-life petition drive called NO Taxes for Abortion Insurance Petition, signed by about 315,000 voters in about 120 days after Gov. Rick Snyder vetoed the bill. This gave lawmakers 40 days to act, which they did, passing it by a wide margin in both the House and the Senate.

There are, however, three very specific exceptions outlined in the law. One, this does not affect the coverage of birth control; two, an abortion may be covered if the woman's life is in danger; and three, if the woman is experiencing a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy. Absent from the

**RAPE INSURANCE**  
CONTINUED A5



ESL Instructor Betsy Foss was starstruck when she met Alex Trebek COURTESY PHOTO | BETSY FOSS

### WCC's Foss on Jeopardy!

By NATALIE WRIGHT  
Managing Editor

Betsy Foss is a trivia whiz. "Dumb facts just congregate in my head," she said. "I'm sure there's a lot of important stuff that gets squeezed out because of it."

So it was only natural that she would fall in love with Jeopardy! and last week, after seven years of trying, she finally appeared on the show.

Before she began teaching English as a Second Language at Washtenaw Community College 10 years ago, Foss was a reference librarian, a career that only encouraged her trivia habit, she said.

Knowing a little bit about a lot of things is very useful in that job.

It has also been useful in her job as a teacher, said Marawan Saaldeldin, 19, one of Foss's ESL students from Egypt. When he has trouble with other classes, Foss is usually able to help him.

Foss has been vying to get on Jeopardy! since January 2006, when she first took the online test and was invited to the in-person search in Chicago that June.

"I had a blast," she said. "But I never got a call back."

But she didn't give up. For the next seven years, she took the online test every January. And finally, last June, she was invited to the in-person search again, this time in Detroit.

**JEOPARDY**  
CONTINUED A3

### Gifts that transform

Masco Foundation to help veterans and Ypsi students succeed

By MARIA RIGOU  
Editor

Masco Corporation Foundation has awarded Washtenaw Community College a gift of \$250,000 to use for veterans development programs and for students from Ypsilanti Community Schools who are dually enrolled in the residential construction program while continuing their high school education.

Of the total donation, \$100,000 is intended to support WCC's Veterans Center. The money will be used to develop what administrators call the "Masco Tool Box for Success."

"They might actually be real tools, or it could be seminars or workshops," said Krissa Rumsey, director of Advancement. "We get to be creative and talk to faculty and students to know where the actual needs are."

The "Tool Box for Success" course will provide veterans exposure to career opportunities and access to on-campus counseling and support services. Additionally, the grant will also help veterans in the Construction Technology program with other tools, like employer events, to support their career in the construction industry.

"We are very honored to receive this grant from Masco Corporation and its Foundation on behalf of the hundreds of military veterans," WCC President Dr. Rose Bellanca said in a press release. "This financial support will allow us to use our resources to assure our valued veterans acquire the skills and

**MASCO**  
CONTINUED A6



KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Some sweet student projects took over the culinary display in the TI building. Find out how they were created on page A8

### Combating violence: Ypsilanti goes to war

By ALAINA O'CONNOR  
Staff Writer

Students come from all over Michigan, and the world, to area schools with dreams of earning a degree and working toward a better life. But recently those dreams have turned to nightmares as a wave of violence has swept over Ypsilanti and the surrounding areas.

The central point of the recent violence is the LeForge Road area across the street from Eastern Michigan University, where murder, homicide and unresolved acts of violence occurred at two off-campus apartment complexes.

The most recent incident happened at Peninsular Place apartments on Dec. 2 in the home of 20-year-old Eastern Michigan University student Destinee Leapheart, who was shot in the shoulder by a stray bullet that came through her bedroom wall.

"It's scary," said Candace Rathod, a 19-year-old WCC liberal arts transfer. "I know people that stay at Peninsular Place."

Leapheart pressed the panic button, a feature installed in all Peninsular Place apartments, and waited for a security guard from Signal 88, a private security company hired by Peninsular Place complex owner

American Campus Communities. She was shocked that no one from the complex came to her rescue, according to the *Ann Arbor News*.

Two months prior on the night of Oct. 19, an EMU student was assaulted in the parking lot by five men in a silver van and in early April, John Lawrence, a 46-year-old Detroit man who was helping his daughter resolve a dispute with roommates, was killed in what has been called a homicide. Police still have not filed charges.

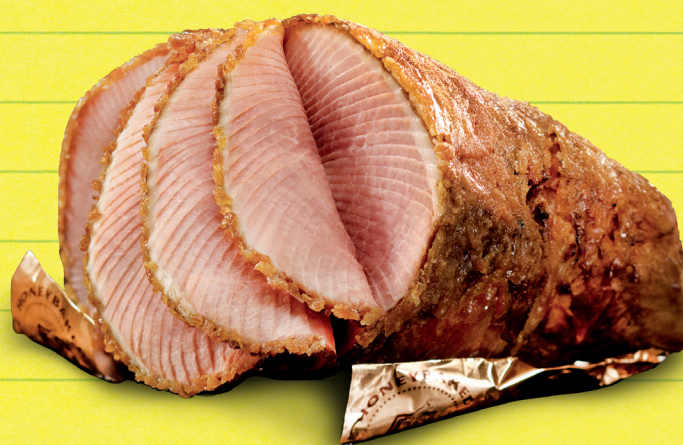
"I knew the girl whose dad got killed, she told me about it," said Blake Brown a 19-year-old WCC student from Belleville. "Yeah, it's kind of messed up around here, but you know, can't do nothing about it."

Peninsular Place resident Tywanice Walker, a 23-year-old EMU student from Detroit who is earning her bachelor's in paralegal studies, has a late class that ends after dark. She



Demarius Reed

**VIOLENCE**  
CONTINUED A6



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](http://livebreathebusiness.org/Ham). Winter classes begin January 6.**

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**Ticket: U of M Hockey Games!**  
**Penn State and Ohio State**  
Only \$10  
February 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>  
6:30p.m.  
Yost Ice Arena  
Purchase tickets at the Cashier's Office

**Ticket: Skate at Yost!**  
Bring your friends and family! Ticket includes: Pizza or hotdogs/pop Optional skate rental \$1  
Only \$5  
March 8<sup>th</sup>  
Yost Ice Arena  
Purchase tickets at the Cashier's Office

**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 1<sup>st</sup> floor & 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!**

**Women's Basketball Tryouts:**

January 6, 8, 13 & 15 from 9:30-11:00 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center.

**Co-ed Ice Hockey Tryouts:**

Wednesday, January 8 and 15 from 9-10 p.m. at Buhr Park.

**Men's Basketball Tryouts:**

Monday, January 13 and Wednesday, January 15 from 9:30-11:00 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center.

**Men's and Women's Volleyball Tryouts:**

Tuesday, January 14 and Thursday, January 16 and Tuesday, January 21 from 9:30-11:00 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center.

**Wrestling First Practices:**

Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm in ML110 (Police Academy Training Room).

**Intramural Dodge Ball:**

Registration dates are January 6-16. Game dates: Every Sunday from January 19 through February 16 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center.

**Intramural Tennis:**

Registration dates are January 6-23. Game dates: Every Monday from January 27-February 17 from 9-10 p.m. at the Chippewa Tennis Center in Ypsilanti.

For all information and registrations stop by SC116, call us at 734-973-3720 or email [elemm@wccnet.edu](mailto:elemm@wccnet.edu)

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

# WTMC students banned from SC couches

By MEGAN MICHAEL  
AND ALLISON SHERMAN  
*Voice Correspondents*

Washtenaw Technical Middle College students have been prohibited from congregating around the couches near Garrett’s restaurant in the Student Center.

WTMC Dean Karl Covert announced the ban last month after speaking to students about immature behavior – being loud to the point of disrupting business in the fine-dining restaurant run by culinary arts students, lying down on the couches, and consistently leaving trash on and around the couch area.

In other words, these students weren’t displaying “college-ready behavior,” Covert said.

But the dean was adamant about not “blanketing” the entire WTMC population, which is why he didn’t send out an email to all its students.

“We don’t want to chastise all the students – just the people that sit on the couches,” Covert said.

And if they do? “I’m going to bring them up here and talk to them,” Covert said, adding that consequences could include students being de-credentialed, meaning that they could be pulled from their college classes and be restricted to their high school classes on campus.

Some students were outraged over the ban.

“I think it’s unreasonable and stupid,” said Shelan Mizuree, 17, of Ypsilanti.

“I really don’t like it. I feel like there was a select few who actually did something wrong, and I feel like it’s not fair to punish the whole WTMC group,” said Sam Latimer, 15, of Grass Lake.

While many students were angered, others understood the ban.

“I don’t really know the point,” said Austin Holland, 17, of Fenton. “I know there needs to be a consequence.”

“I can understand where he is coming from, and something needed to be done,” said Katelin Simpson, 17, of Ypsilanti.

This was not the first time that the dean has had to ban students from using a section of the WCC campus.

In recent years, WTMC students were temporarily banned from the TI lobby, where they were told numerous times to settle down after being rowdy.

To ensure that history will not repeat itself a third time, WTMC students are already thinking about how they will get continued use of the Student Center couches when classes resume in January and Covert relaxes his ban.

Mizuree said she was going to make sure that when she’s around the couches, the students will act maturely as well as pick up their trash. Latimer is going to ask people who are being rowdy and messy to check themselves, and their behavior, before they get banned again.



Now you see them, now you don’t: WTMC students were barred from lounging on the SC couches after multiple occurrences of poor behavior in the area.  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE



The recent performance of ‘The Nutcracker’ put a modern spin on the classic, but retained some of the old feel. DAVID FITCH | WASHTENAW VOICE

## WCC alumna puts a new spin on ‘The Nutcracker’

By DAVID FITCH  
*Staff Writer*

The Nutcracker has never been done quite like it was done on Dec. 14-15 at Washtenaw Community College, when Christie Sampier spearheaded a massive re-imagination of the Christmas classic.

Sampier, a WCC alumna, finally saw her imaginings come to fruition. The performance was a surreal.

Swing-dancers performed alongside ballerinas and hip-hop dancers as the story unfolded featuring modern music to match the modern dance. Thumping beats and electronic melodies, recorded for the show, filled the

Morris Lawrence Auditorium.

Sampier said she had been contemplating such a performance, involving the combined talents of dancers from various groups, for around five years. The first performance of the “Neo Nutcracker” was last year. But this year saw changes to the music as well as to the dances.

The changed show then had to be taught to performers from several different dance groups, including Mav Cru, Rare Paragon Gems, Patchwerk Dance Troupe, Sole Full of Rhythm, People Dancing, Suzanne Zelnick Swingers,

Randazzo Dance Company, Community High School and Arts in Motion.

The enormity of the collaborative process would have been enough to scare many away, but added to this was the need to replace the dancers playing the parts of Clara and Mrs. Staulbahr, two of the of the lead roles only a handful of days before the performance.

A replacement for Clara was found in Lisa Read, a 16 year-old dancer from Arts in Motion.

“We could not have found a better replacement,” said Laurice “Noonie” Anderson, who was involved with the project.

Sampier filled in for the part of Mrs. Staulbahr.

The performance would not have been successful, Sampier said, without the help of Anderson.

### JEOPARDY FROM A1

September, she flew out to California and on Oct. 1 began the preparation process. And there was a lot of preparation.

She filmed teasers for the website and TV, played mock round of Jeopardy! with the other contestants and tried out all of the equipment.

She had her make up done, and then they drew names.

“They drew my name first,” she said. “And all of a sudden, we were on stage and things were getting started.”

She said that the audience didn’t make her nervous. As a teacher, she talks in front of an audience every day. In fact, the crowd was a lot smaller than you would think – only about

150 people, she said.

The cameras, however, were a little unnerving, she said.

But the part that got to her the most was when Alex Trebek walked out on stage. After watching the show for years, Foss was a bit star-struck.

“I had this momentary brain lapse when I saw him,” she said, “but we were about to play so I had to tell myself, ‘No, no, no. Get focused.’”

The show got underway. Foss’s opponent, Matthew, a medical student from Canada, quickly jumped to the lead and held his ground there. Foss’s frantic thumb movements showed that she knew many of the answers, but was just too slow on the clicker.

“It’s so fast when it’s going on, it was all kind of a blur,” she said. “It only takes about 35 minutes to tape, so barely longer than it’s on TV.”

Heading in to Final Jeopardy, Foss was in third place, trailing second place by \$2,000 and the frontrunner, Matthew, by more than \$10,000.

The Final Jeopardy question was: “North Korea is the DPRK; this country is the LPDR.”

Foss answered incorrectly, writing Taiwan. It left her in third place with just \$1. Matthew gave the correct answer “Laos” and took home the grand prize.

Foss didn’t go home with only \$1, though. Everyone gets a prize, she said.

Third place gets \$1,000, second place gets \$2,000.

“So that helped to offset some of the travel experiences, at least,” she said.

When she returned home, she wasn’t allowed to talk about the outcome for two months, until the show aired on Dec. 18.

So when she invited friends and family out to Connor O’Neill’s in downtown Ann Arbor for a viewing party, the anticipation was high.

Anna Sowards, another WCC ESL instructor, joined Foss for the viewing party.

“I took over her classes for her while she was gone, so I thought for sure she would tell me what happened,”

Sowards said, “But she couldn’t.”

It was a really fun night despite the outcome, Sowards said.

“Personally watching it, I thought it was a really hard night (on the show),” Foss said. “Of course, I have to say that, but I really thought it was a tough one.”

It was just tough luck, she said, that none of the categories fit her strong suits.

“Language is the one I pray for,” said Foss, who speaks French, Spanish, Italian and Chinese.

But despite the tough luck, it was “the experience of a lifetime,” she said. “It’s something that has always been on my bucket list.”

## SNIPS



### WCC community garden

Washtenaw Community College will be creating a community garden in May of 2014. The college is looking for students willing to serve as “garden keepers.” Students will be trained by master gardeners. To sign up visit <http://tinyurl.com/wcccg>. For more information contact the Student Development and Activities office (SC 112) at 734-973-3500.

### Veterans holiday party

Debbi Freeman and other WCC faculty are participating in a holiday party for residents of the Ann Arbor VA Nursing Home on Dec. 24. To volunteer, call Beverly Lenesi at the VA at 734-845-3467.

### Updated financial aid ‘shopping sheet’

The Department of Education recently released an updated “Shopping Sheet” containing information intended to simplify financial aid for students. The document is effective for the 2014-15 school year.

Besides allowing students to compare aid options offered by different institutions, the list includes information about colleges’ median loan rates, loan default terms and more.

For more information, visit [www.ed.gov/financial-aid-shopping-sheet](http://www.ed.gov/financial-aid-shopping-sheet).

### Active-shooter response presentations

Members of the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department will present to faculty and staff at the Winter 2014 in-service regarding response to active shooters on campus.

The presentation, lasting about an hour, will be given on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014 at 10:00am and then repeated 2 p.m.

Sheriff’s Office presenters will be Director Derrick Jackson and Sergeant Beth Gieske. Jackson and Gieske are both members of the Community Engagement Department.

The same information will be made available to other businesses, schools, and members of the community at other presentations at WCC.

### Shorter office hours

Admissions, Cashier, Financial Aid, Student Connection and Student Records offices will be open Dec. 23, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### College closed

WCC will be closed for semester break Tuesday, Dec. 24-31 and for New Year’s Day holiday Wed. Jan 1. It will reopen Jan. 2 from 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

### Pistons vs. Memphis Grizzlies

The game is at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Sunday, Jan. 5 from 1-4 p.m. Tickets are available for \$25 for WCC students and \$30 for WCC employees. A voucher for concessions is included with ticket. Contact [rbarsch@wccnet.edu](mailto:rbarsch@wccnet.edu).

### Registration and payment deadline

Students who register by Monday, Jan. 6 for winter must pay by Jan. 6 to avoid being dropped from classes. Students who register between Jan. 7-24 must pay the day they register. No Registration on Friday, Jan. 10 from 8-10 a.m.

### Play tickets

A performance of “Bullet Catch” will take place at the Arthur Miller Theatre on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 7-10:30 p.m. Tickets available for \$20 for WCC students and \$30 for WCC employees. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/plth888> and contact [rbarsch@wccnet.edu](mailto:rbarsch@wccnet.edu).

### Eastern Michigan University visitation

A representative from EMU will be visiting campus on Jan. 9 from noon-4 p.m.

## SECURITY NOTES



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

### Drug Violation

A non-student male was found passed out in the men’s restroom on the first floor of the Student Center near Garrett’s Restaurant at about 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 11.

Security officials speculated the man had taken some type of drug, and when he awoke he was voluntarily taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

### Larceny

A male student got into a vehicle with a few acquaintances at about 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 12. When he left the vehicle, he had forgotten his backpack, which included his laptop.

When trying to retrieve his backpack, the individuals who had a hold of it refused to return it.

### Hit-and-Run

The Washtenaw County Sherriff’s Department is investigating a hit-and-run crash reported in the parking structure on Dec. 13 at 3:58 p.m.

### Assault

A disagreement between individuals in the LA building ended when one punched the other in the chest. The victim reported the incident to Campus Security on Dec. 16.

# Time to take aim at guns



MARIA RIGOU

I don't understand America's obsession with guns.

I do understand that this is a very controversial topic, and I might be hurting people's feelings when I say this, but... something has to be done. I'm not saying that we have to prohibit the access to guns; I'm saying that there needs to be more control when someone is getting a gun.

In the last week, there were two fatal shootings, one in Colorado, in a high school not far from Columbine, and the other one in Nevada, in a hospital.

The Colorado shooting happened on the eve of the one-year anniversary of the Newtown shootings in Sandy Hook Elementary School, where 20 children and six adult educators died.

According to police records, the person holding the gun at Arapahoe High School in Colorado was an 18-year-old student who apparently held a grudge against a teacher and intended to harm him.

The teacher managed to leave the premises, urging other students to leave with him as well.

The 18-year-old shooter died of a self-inflicted wound, but he left 17-year-old Claire Davis in a coma.

My question is: How do 18-year-olds get guns?

And, once they get a gun, why do they think that shooting someone will

resolve a problem?

This kid, because that is what he was, just a kid, thought that by hurting a teacher he was going to satiate his need for justice?

And what about all others? What about the family of Claire Davis, who is now in a coma? What about the parents of the 20 children – all first-graders – who died in the Newtown Massacre? How will they ever recover from losing a child?

I don't have children, but I can't possibly imagine how unnatural it would be to bury your own child. We are designed to have children, see them grow and then passing on. Not the other way around.

The shooters at Columbine not only left 13 dead and a number of others injured, they left families dismembered. And there is one thing I know: one thing cannot be fixed, and that is death.

After the ceremony of the one-year anniversary of the Newtown Massacre, President Obama addressed Americans and asked them to consider what role they have in preventing future violence, saying the country has not done enough to make communities safer since the tragedy.

And I agree.

Especially after hearing that there are four injured and one dead at a hospital (a hospital!) in Nevada.

"We have to do more to keep dangerous people from getting their hands on a gun so easily," Obama said. "We have to do more to heal troubled minds. We have to do everything we can to protect our children from harm and make them feel loved and valued and cared for."

And I agree.

Contact Editor Maria Rigou at [drigou@wccnet.edu](mailto:drigou@wccnet.edu) and follow her @mariarigou.

## Voices

The Washtenaw Voice

The Washtenaw Voice

### EDITORIAL

# Reflecting on 2013: We must do better



NATHAN CLARK | WASHTENAW VOICE

In reflecting on the year at Washtenaw Community College, there is one thing we can say with absolute certainty: It wasn't dull.

Between controversial snow days (or lack thereof), vice presidential firings, contention about outsourcing, and a breakdown of communication between the college's administration and its faculty union and staff, it has been a tumultuous year to say the least.

The relationship between the WCC faculty and staff and the administration has been tense since President Rose Bellanca was hired in 2011, but it reached a tipping point last March when Vice President of Instruction Stuart Blacklaw was fired.

The strained lines of communication exploded, and we found ourselves exactly where every journalist wants to be – right in the thick of it.

While some parties were all too happy to air their concerns in our newspaper, others preferred to shut down when we tried to get their side of the story.

It's easy to understand why people clam-up in the face of tape recorders and notepads – they don't want to say something they'll regret.

But that is not the right solution.

When one side is happy to get on a soapbox and the other side tries to wait it out behind closed doors, it's nearly impossible for us to portray the truth. At times, "declined to comment" is the closest we could get to reporting one side of the story.

We had to navigate these waters carefully and we did so with much trepidation.

But, inevitably, we made some people mad and much of the anger that had built up throughout the year was suddenly aimed at our paper.

This is not uncommon in student journalism, or any journalism for that matter. When an issue sparks passionate debate, the media is almost always criticized by one side or both.

But when it gets to the point that a school administrator tells a student journalist that he is "full of shit" it is clear that neither the school, nor the newspaper, is in a good place.

So, come October when *The Voice* won a National Pacemaker Award, the highest honor in collegiate journalism, it meant everything to us. The approval of the Pacemaker judges, our professional peers, speaks louder than a million critics who have never been in our shoes.

But what did we learn from our experiences last spring? When communication breaks down, everyone looks bad.

The entire conflict between the administration and the faculty seems to have stemmed from a lack of communication. The faculty felt shut out when they tried to communicate their concerns. President Bellanca said that Blacklaw was to blame for the breakdown in communication.

And things were only exacerbated when people failed to communicate with *The Voice*, and therefore with the students and community.

This year, with a mostly brand-new staff, we wanted to make a fresh start. We vowed to mend our lines of communication with people throughout the school. No, we can't be best friends with anybody. Yes, we need to cover the news even when it's going to make people mad.

But we did our best to forge respectful, working relationships where before there was only silence and anger. This has proved to be good for our spirits, but not so good for our paper or our readers.

We have earned favor from a lot of people, but at what cost?

Up until our last issue, we hadn't

been reporting enough hard news.

We've had three stories about puppies in 10 issues. We've had a lot of fun pieces about students and staff, and events in the community. And it's not that those stories aren't good, because they are. They're necessary, and people love to read them, but they're not significant enough to carry a newspaper.

Walter Cronkite said that a journalist's job is to hold up a mirror to society. We've failed at this in a lot of ways this fall. But we're students, and we're here to learn from our mistakes, so that's what we're going to do.

We commit to you that beginning in January our top priority will be to report more hard news.

We feel the weight of our responsibility to be the voice of the students, especially with the lack of any organized student leadership on this campus.

Our first plan heading into the second half of the year is to gain access to the student opinion questionnaires (SOQs) and publish them in a way that

they will be meaningful to students and will hold instructors accountable.

We have been denied access after submitting a Freedom of Information Act request, but we promise this isn't

the end of the story. We are going to fight harder, because we think the student body has a right to this information. And that's more than a commitment to you.

We hope that all of the hard work we have put in to strengthening ties with the school will prove to have been worth it.

We hope that we can find a place where the relationships will remain respectful, but we can also do our job to the best of our ability. Because that is the only purpose of those relationships – to facilitate our newsgathering.

We hope this spring will be smoother than the last, but we can't make that happen by shying away from important stories.

The lines of communication need to stay open, even when we're asking the tough questions.

“We commit to you that beginning in January our top priority will be to report more hard news.”

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

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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.



# HEALTHY VOICE

Good fat, bad fat, what's the big deal?



M. M. DONALDSON

The myth of the Eskimo-Aleut language having multiple words for snow is quaint, but the multiple names we all have for fat are downright confusing. Triglyceride, HDL, lipid, polyunsaturated fatty acid, and the list goes on. Breaking it down into simpler terms for what's good and bad



M.M. DONALDSON | WASHTENAW VOICE

## How bad are burgers?

4 grams = 1 teaspoon of fat

5 Guys Burgers and Fries, Bacon Cheeseburger: 29.5g saturated fat source: [fiveguys.com](http://fiveguys.com)  
7.3 teaspoons

McDonalds, Double Quarter Pounder with Cheese: 19 grams saturated fat source: [mcdonalds.com](http://mcdonalds.com)  
4.75 teaspoons

Burger King, BK Triple Stack: 15 grams saturated fat source: [bk.com](http://bk.com)  
3.75 teaspoons

Voice Box

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY ERIC GARANT STAFF WRITER

What is your favorite memory from the holiday season?

LYDIA BASINGER

19, Ypsilanti, undecided

"We always go to Florida for Christmas, and one year it was super windy, and my parents put me in a tent and it blew into a tree. It was a lot more fun than it sounds. I got to fly in a tent. I was like 3."

MEGAN JOHANSSON

25, Ypsilanti, business

"My dad, he'd get more excited than the rest of us. He'd be more excited for us opening presents than we were. He'd bake and decorate the house. He's no longer with us, so to look back on that is a nice memory."

TRINA CRAIG

35, Belleville, elementary education

"Christmas at my grandma's. We'd all pile in and sing Christmas carols around the piano. I have a huge family. At the holidays, usually about 50 people, sometimes more. It's chaos, but it's fun... We probably have about 17 kids under the age of eight. They sing, too."

MICHAEL RECOB II

28, Saginaw, culinary arts

"There was the time I spent Christmas in St. Thomas (in the U.S. Virgin Islands) on the beach. I lived there for six years. It was like 87 degrees on the beach. It was a good time. We made a big pot of goat stew."

LEXI JUDKINS

24, Ann Arbor, business transfer

"My family owns a tree farm, so selling them and seeing little kids get super excited. We have this trailer, and one time a worker rode it dressed as Santa and the kids just went nuts."

SOPHIE MCCORMACK

21, Ann Arbor, psychology

"Last year I flew out to Spain on Christmas Eve and spent my first Christmas overseas. Me and my family all went out to a Spanish restaurant. It's definitely not as big of a holiday over there. It's definitely not as cold. There was no snow."



Ryan Ratzlaff volunteered some answers to various questions ranging from life to learning to 'Lord of the Rings.'

DAVID FITCH | WASHTENAW VOICE

By DAVID FITCH  
Staff Writer

Outside the Technical and Industrial Building the ground was white with snow. Ryan Ratzlaff, a 25-year-old computer networking major from Ypsilanti, sat in the lobby area looking at his phone, on the brink of winter break, an agonizing time for many students. We interrupted Ratzlaff to ask him a few questions about life, learning and the break to come.

**Washtenaw Voice:** What's one lesson you learned from 2013?  
**Ryan Ratzlaff:** It's been a fun year. Don't just dive into things. Put a little more thought first... I moved into a place with a roommate, just kind of a twitch-decision type of deal. It turned out to be

not the greatest person around. Just think about things first a little more, do more planning versus just diving head first into a lot of things.

**WV:** If you could pick one character from "Lord of the Rings" to be, who would it be?

**RR:** I'd want to be Smeagol because he's creepy. I love weirding people out. Who's better for that than him?

**WV:** What are your thoughts on the idea of Amazon delivery drones?

**RR:** I think it's awesome! I mean that's cool. It's like living in the future. It's just cool to see where technology is at with that. How well will they work out? I don't know, but I love the concept of it. Some could argue that it might put some people out of work, but at the same time, it could give more work to engineers. . . kind of start living in the age of the Jetsons.

People are waiting for hover cars, but check this out! We have robots delivering packages to us!

**WV:** What's your overall view of humanity at the end of 2013?

**RR:** Honestly, humanity hasn't changed throughout our entire history. I mean, there's always good with us, but it always comes with a lot of bad. History repeats itself, and I think at some point we get to a point where we can get rid of all the hate and all the bad and all the wars and that crap, but I don't see it going anywhere any time soon.

**WV:** Snowboard, ski or sled?

**RR:** I've always been interested in snowboarding. Skiing, not a fan of. But who doesn't like to go sledding down a hill? You just sit down... and go! Even tumbling off that thing can be fun. It takes no skill, and it's fun for everyone.

### RAPE INSURANCE FROM A1

exceptions are the cases of rape, incest dubbing this initiative by opponents "Rape Insurance."

Snyder opposed the law because it did not contain a rape provision. But because of the number of signatures on the petition drive and passage by both chambers in the legislature, the bill becomes law without Snyder's signature.

The voting was preceded by an impassioned plea from State Sen. Gretchen Whitmer, D-East Lansing. In explaining her "no" vote, she revealed that she was a victim of rape.

"I think you need to see the face of the women that you are impacting by this vote today," she said on the floor of the Senate.

And then her gutless colleagues submitted to the demands of Right to Life. "The Opt-Out Act" is set to become law in March 2014.

Whitmer argued that many who

signed the petition were led to believe that it had to do with prohibiting taxpayer money to pay for abortions. The link between taxpayer money comes through the Affordable Care Act. If you purchase a health plan through the ACA exchange and you receive a subsidy to pay for your insurance, that subsidy is taxpayer money. However, this public act includes private insurance, not just insurance policies purchased through the ACA.

Right to Life of Michigan maintained that it was tired of always having to request a negating insurance policy excluding abortions for its employees and wanted abortion to be excluded out of all policies by default. Many insurance companies, however, already offer different packages that exclude abortion coverage.

Last year, Snyder vetoed a bill that would have done just that, saying, "I don't believe it is appropriate to tell a woman who becomes pregnant due to a rape that she needed to select

elective insurance coverage, and, as a practical matter, I believe this type of policy is an overreach of government into the private market."

The Senate voted 27 in favor, 11 against. The House voted 62 in favor and 47 against with 1 non-voting.

Before the vote, an online petition began at letmidecide.com to gather momentum in opposition and tell representatives to vote no. If you signed the online petition you will also need to put your physical signature to the paper petition. Online signatures are not valid for a ballot referendum.

In the next 90 days 161,305 valid signatures will need to be collected. The time is now to call your elected representatives in Lansing and tell them how you feel about this. Those of us who believe in women's reproductive rights – and the right to abort a pregnancy that was the result of being raped – can sign petitions and get things done as well.

# AA mayor, council at odds on crosswalk ordinance

By ERIC GARANT  
Staff Writer

Guessing games, in many contexts, are a lot fun. Behind the wheel of a car is not among them, nor is crossing a busy street. These are situations where what is expected of you should be free of ambiguity.

Ann Arbor's crosswalk ordinance, passed in 2010 and revised in 2011, is potentially a source of such ambiguity. It requires motorists to stop for pedestrians within a crosswalk and for pedestrians at the curb waiting to cross.

But signs at city crosswalks say only "Stop for pedestrians within crosswalk." According to city councilman Stephen Kunselman, D-3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, the signs are designated by the state and cannot be altered.

The signs do not reflect what the ordinance requires of drivers, and are potential causes for confusion in an area where confusion could be fatal.

At its Dec. 2 meeting, Ann Arbor's city council voted 6-4 to repeal the law, but Mayor John Hieftje vetoed this decision, keeping it in effect.

A repeal of the ordinance would

have returned Ann Arbor to Michigan's Uniform Traffic Code, which requires that drivers stop for pedestrians within a crosswalk but not for those at the curb.

Reviews were mixed.

"It's wise, because (otherwise) people would get hit," Jasmine McCann, 18, an undecided major from Los Angeles, said. "It's the driver's responsibility to stop."

Others disagreed.

"It sucks because (pedestrians) just walk and don't pay attention to where they are and they just expect cars to stop when they're in the middle of the street," said Andrea Welch, a 23-year-old business tech management major from Ypsilanti. "It's actually really dangerous."

"I think it's great for the bad drivers and kind of stupid for the good drivers," said Matt Wilken, 34, an exercise physiology major from Ann Arbor. "But you make laws for the lowest-common denominator."

The debate over the law contains another layer of complexity in that Hieftje, who not seek reelection in 2014, co-sponsored and helped revise

the ordinance. Vetoing its repeal by elected representatives could be perceived as Hieftje pushing his own edict against the public's interest.

"It sounds like there's some power struggles between the mayor and the city council," Wilken added. "I think to some degree he's fighting for some of the things he did."

According to records from the city of Ann Arbor, there were 123 car-pedestrians crashes between 2011 and 2012, up from 87 such crashes in the two years prior.

Traffic enforcement in general was cited by several councilpersons as their constituents' biggest gripe at the council's Dec. 16 meeting, with Kunselman specifically mentioning the problem of cars going around those stopped for pedestrians at crosswalks.

"Weekly, we get more complaints about traffic enforcement than anything," Jane Lumm, Independent-2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, said.

After lengthy discussion, the group voted 11-1 in favor of a resolution to allocate an additional \$125,000 to fund police overtime for traffic enforcement.



ILLUSTRATION BY PETER HOCHGRAF | WASHTENAW VOICE

# Mandela Club to host a memorial

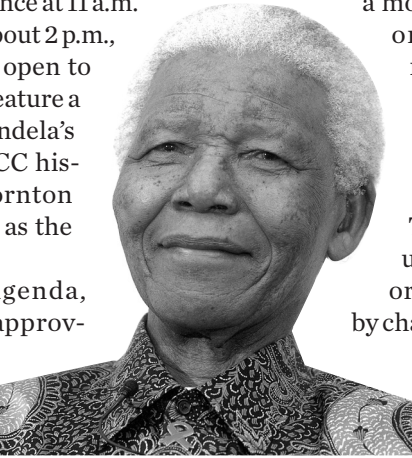
By JON PRICE  
Staff Writer

The recent passing of former South-African president Nelson Mandela has inspired many to take another look at the man who ended apartheid in his homeland and inspired millions worldwide. Including Washtenaw Community College.

On Jan. 23, the WCC community will have an opportunity to take part in honoring the world leader in a memorial to be held in the Community Room of the Student Center.

This free event, sponsored by WCC's Nelson Mandela Club, is scheduled to commence at 11 a.m. and continue until about 2 p.m., organizers say. It is open to everybody and will feature a presentation on Mandela's life and work by WCC history professor Thornton Perkins, who serves as the club's adviser.

Also on the agenda, which still needs approval from Student Activities, are tributes by community members,



live music, traditional African cuisine and a memorial to the civil rights giant.

The club, which was started approximately two months ago by WCC students Fatima Oumar, an early childhood education major from Madagascar, and Aissata Traore, a business student from West Africa. They were inspired to start a student organization to honor Mandela's legacy.

"We want people to know apartheid is still existing," Traore said, "and we have to have something we can stand up for."

The leaders of the organization said they are planning to have a more visible presence on campus in the near future, hoping to get students involved with charity work and fundraisers for social causes. The timely (or rather untimely) birth of the organization was not by chance, Oumar admits.

"We knew he was sick," Oumar said, "but we thought, now it's time to

do something."

Oumar and Traore said it is vital for students to not only know Mandela's work in a historical context, but to continue teaching his philosophy and carrying on the Mandela legacy through education and work in the community.

The group has about 15 members and meets every Tuesday at 5 p.m. in the Business Education Building, room 110.

"We want to show who he was, his achievements and be able to give youth hope so they can embrace change," Oumar said.

For more information about the club or the Mandela event it is planning

**WHAT:** Nelson Mandela Tribute

**WHEN:** Thursday, Jan. 23, 11 a.m.

**WHERE:** Community Room in the Student Center

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Email [atraore@wccnet.edu](mailto:atraore@wccnet.edu) or [foumarribier@wccnet.edu](mailto:foumarribier@wccnet.edu).

## MASCO FROM A1

knowledge they need to successfully transition into jobs that are in high demand in today's economy."

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Michigan ranks 11th in the number of military veterans. And the number of veterans enrolling at WCC is growing at a rate faster than the traditional population at WCC. To support this growth, the college opened the Veterans Center last year to help men and women who served in the military.

"Masco understands the needs (of veterans)," Rumsey said. "This also opens up more opportunities for additional philanthropy."

Rumsey explained that there are already donors lined up who are interested in supporting this program because of the gift that Masco made to WCC.

In addition to the donation for veterans, Masco provided \$150,000 to Ypsilanti Community School students who are enrolled in the residential construction program while finishing up their high school degrees.

"Students who decide to continue their studies at WCC after graduating Ypsilanti High School will be eligible for scholarships because of this grant," Rumsey said. "This creates a promise, students who might think that they can't go to college now will be able to start thinking about it because there are more opportunities for them."

Rumsey said the population targeted with this grant has been identified as at-risk. She explained that the recently merged Ypsilanti and Willow Run school districts had an average graduation rate of 68 percent, and an average dropout rate of 16 percent.

"Some schools don't offer construction programs for their students," Rumsey said. "The program that we offer at WCC is a comprehensive program; we work on skill-building so that students are college-ready by the time they graduate high school."

The Masco gift will serve just more than 100 students in both programs.

"We like to say that this gift will be transformative," Rumsey said. "It can change outcomes for two populations in a significant way."

## VIOLENCE FROM A1

carries pepper spray with her on her walk home.

"I'm kind of scared," said Walker. "I feel safe on campus, but not safe walking home."

Peninsular Place isn't the only LeForge-area apartment complex that has been plagued by violence. One of the most high-profile incidents in the past few months occurred at University Green apartments located a block away from Peninsular Place.

In the early morning of Oct. 18, two men shot and killed 20-year-old Eastern Michigan University football player Demarius Reed. Witnesses told police that Reed was targeted for his expensive looking clothes.

"I knew Demarius. We met once or twice, and he seemed really nice," Walker said. "It's tragic what happened to him over some clothes."

Brittany Perry, an 18-year-old EMU student pursuing a teaching degree, moved into University Green

apartments with her boyfriend in early October.

"You hear that kind of thing is happening," said Perry. "I heard people passed him in the hallway. They didn't know he got shot."

Though she's only lived at University Green apartments for two months, Perry is already considering moving out and is disappointed by the lack of security at the apartment complex.

"The old management was not doing what they should be doing," Perry said. "The locks were bad. The front door wouldn't shut all the way."

In response to the fears plaguing students and residents, EMU's Department of Public Safety announced in a press release on Dec. 10 that it plans to increase its police force by one-third by September.

"These additional officers will provide a crucial new dimension to our policing efforts," said EMU Chief of Police Robert Heighes in the press

release. "We will maintain the highly effective and extensive safety operations we have in place on Eastern's campus, while greatly increasing off-campus efforts."

In addition, efforts are being made all across Washtenaw County to raise awareness of problems plaguing not just Ypsilanti, but across the county.

On Dec. 9, family, friends and supporters gathered for a candlelight vigil honoring the memory of EMU student Julia Niswender, who was found dead in her bathtub at Peninsular Place on Dec. 11, 2012.

Police are still investigating the homicide and her killer is still at large.

Though most of the incidents have occurred in Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor hasn't been immune to random crime.

In July, 25-year-old University of Michigan medical student Paul DeWolf was shot to death in his home by two men who robbed him and later fled to South Carolina. Ann Arbor police arrested the men and brought

them back to Michigan for a preliminary exam on Dec. 13.

Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje was at the vigil to show his support not only for the victims of Newtown and for local victims.

"I really feel for Ypsilanti and the people of Ypsilanti," said Hieftje. "I think it was a very positive step that EMU is stepping up with more police officers that are going to patrol outside of the campus areas in the neighborhoods where students live. I think that's going to be very helpful.

"Resources have a lot to do with this. You can't have a police officer on every corner. It's people watching out for each other. People being aware that there could be problems around them. People being aware of the people they see and being willing to testify if they see something wrong. We all need to work together to get through this."

So the question remains: What are Peninsular Place and University Green doing to help students feel safe?

"They added electronic locks," said Walker, referring to Peninsular Place apartment's safety and security changes. "They send out emails about things; crime, and they're talking about adding security cameras."

As for University Green?

"We got new management," said Perry. "Now, we have courtesy patrol and I've seen more cops right after the football player was killed."

But is it enough?

Peninsular Place employees declined to comment, stating management requested that staff not discuss recent incidents while on the clock. Repeated calls to management sources for comment were not returned. Similar phone calls were made to University Place officials, but were not returned.

With apparent random acts of violence continuing to increase across the county only time will tell if Ypsilanti can combat what's on its doorstep and ultimately win the war.

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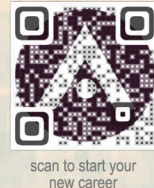
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The aquatic scene with 'Jeffrey' the fish (above) and 'Rupert and Lucy' (below) were created by WCC students in the Pastry Arts and Design class using a variety of sugar manipulation techniques. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE



Heather Neal, 23, Maya Davis, 19, and Alyce Basak, 24, spent more than 30 hours creating 'Rupert and Lucy.' GEORGE O'DONOVAN | WASHTENAW VOICE

# SWEET ART

By NATALIE WRIGHT  
Managing Editor

The new student-made sculptures in the display case near the south entrance of the Technical Industrial building did not come from an art class. The pieces were created by students in the Pastry Arts and Design class, and they are made entirely out of sugar.

Culinary students used a variety of manipulation techniques to shape the candy.

The bubble sugar technique resulted in a Swiss-cheese-like texture. Another technique involved blowing the sugar like glass. Students also pulled and poured the sugar to get different effects.

Each of these techniques shares one thing: The sugar needs to be hot, up to 312 degrees, culinary student Maya Davis said, glancing at her fingertips.

The class spent a lot of time talking about safety, said Davis, 19, of Ann Arbor.

"You have to be careful, and you have to be very smart about it," she said.

But at times, their fingertips were the least of their concerns, said Heather Neal, 23, a culinary student from Brighton.

The sculptures are very fragile, and there were several catastrophes amid the 30 hours the students spent creating their pieces. Neal and Davis's sculpture of a dragon and his owner (whom they've dubbed Rupert and Lucy) broke a several times, they said.

"There were tears, lots of tears," Davis said, "But it all worked out OK."

# Setting the foundation

## WCC students rebuild campus, community

By ALAINA O'CONNOR  
Staff Writer

On a bitterly cold December night, five men bundled up in padded jackets, thick gloves and heavy boots and gathered around a disassembled platform in Washtenaw Community College's Community Park. Equipped with construction tools, they proceeded to hammer foundation frames and pull up aged floorboards.

But these men weren't construction workers. They were students.

"We're preparing the boards on this deck to be replaced," said CON 104 instructor Angelo Gross. "They're rotten."

The project started in mid-November and served as a de facto final exam for the six students enrolled in the class.

"Our current project was talked about, but it took three weeks longer to get started, so that's why we're working on it so late in the semester," said Gross. "These kind of projects don't always work out with scheduling."

In lieu of available projects on campus, students also get the opportunity to work on off-site projects in collaboration with various community organizations.

"We work on projects in the shop, but we work with some non profits, too," Gross said.

Students looking to earn a Construction Technology certificate or associate degree often work with organizations like Growing Hope, a non profit in Ypsilanti that focuses on gardening and providing healthy food access.

"We built a deck for them and an enclosure for one of the greenhouses that has open ends," said Gross.

Students have also worked with Habitat for Humanity, rehabbing houses. One year, they rebuilt a home that was burned out.

Working on these types of projects is the perfect training ground for students like Jake Geindner, 19, from Ann Arbor, who worked at his father's Ann Arbor-based construction company, Top Flight.

"I worked in construction for years," Geindner said. "Plan to take over the business some day. Need the skills."

Other students like Stefan Szumko of Ypsilanti, started in teaching, but decided to go to back to school to earn some new skills.

"I spent 20 years as a science educator, teaching mostly in Michigan; taught as far away as Germany," said Szumko who has a teaching degree from Eastern Michigan University. "I spent about 14 years at the Leslie Science and Nature Center."

Szumko bought a house in Depot Town's historic district and started renovating it as a side project on weekends and found that he enjoyed it.

"I want to own my own remodeling company," Szumko said. "I want to make it more than just a hobby."



Austin Schacht, 19, from Westland, deconstructs the platform on WCC's Community Park as part of a final project for the Construction 104 class. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

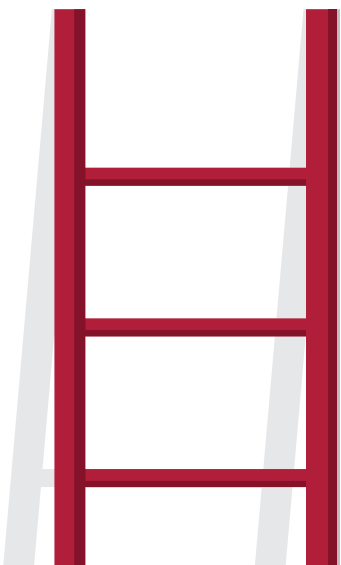
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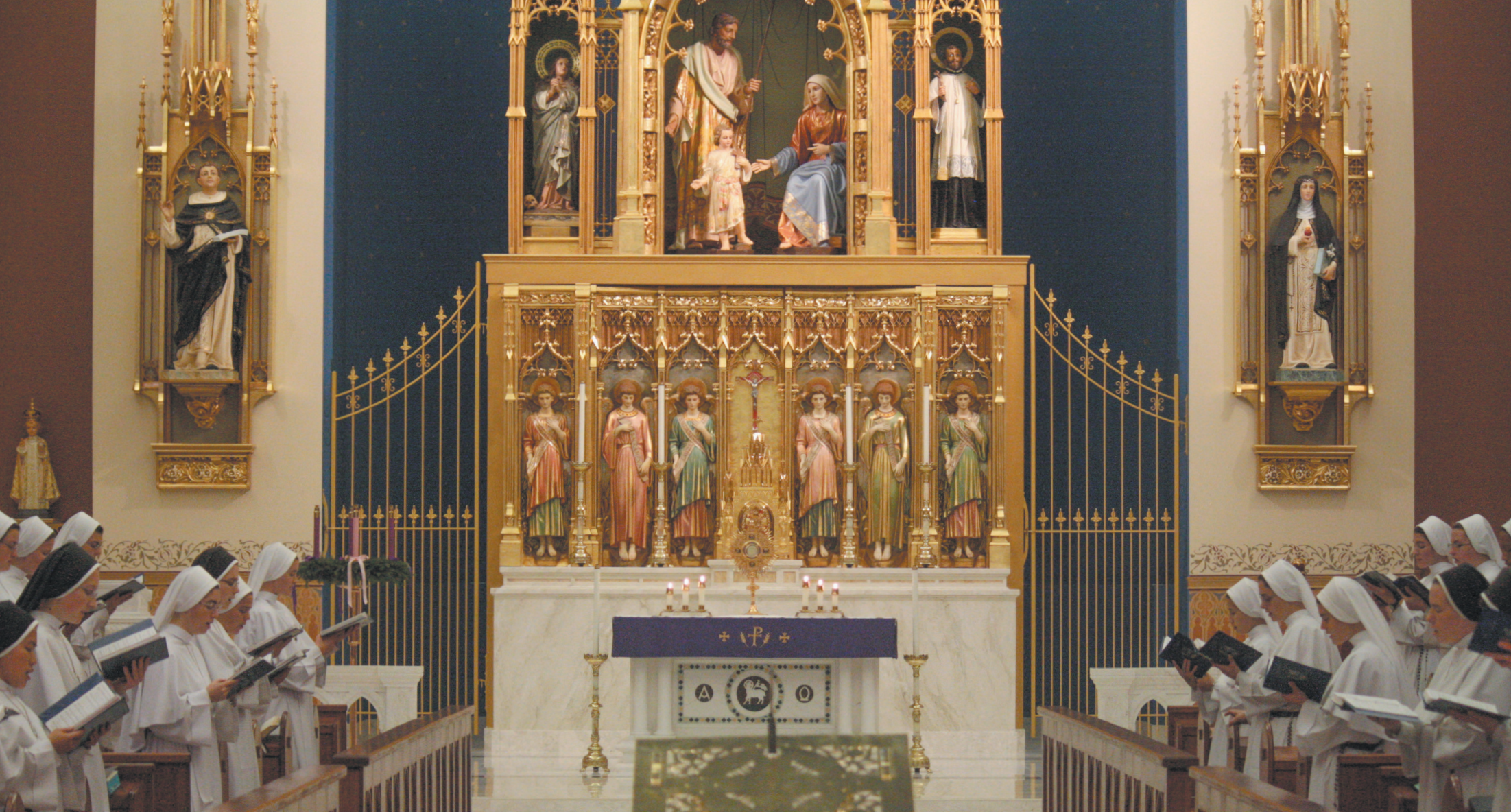
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# Sisters spread hope at WCC



Most of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist attend WCC and EMU to earn teaching degrees. They plan to become teachers at Catholic schools accross the county. JAMES SAUD | WASHTENAW VOICE

By NATALIE WRIGHT  
Managing Editor

If you spend much time at all on campus, it's hard to miss the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. In their white habits, the sisters stick out like a sore thumb among the sea of college students in jeans and sweatpants.

The sisters, who live in Ann Arbor, are in training to become teachers, and for most of them that training

includes taking courses at Washtenaw Community College.

Out of the 100 sisters, about 70 have come through WCC and Eastern Michigan University, Sister Veronica Marie said.

Marie, 28, is a WCC student, and like most of the sisters she is studying elementary education and plans to teach at a Catholic school after graduation.

"We want to work with children. That's our way of spreading God's love,"

she said.

While they are excited for the time when they can start sharing their knowledge and joy with children, for now the sisters are happy to be doing the same at WCC, Sister Rene Noel, 20, said.

And WCC is happy to have them. Psychology instructor Cassandra George-Sturges has had most of the sisters come through her classes.

"I love them so much," Sturges said. "Everything they do, they take it to a

level where it's just perfect."

The sisters say they have a calling to teach, she said. "And I'll say 'amen' to that."

They always go "beyond expectations," she said, and they are very open and helpful to the other students, too. They even make charts for exam reviews that they share with the class.

Geography instructor John Kerr said that the sisters help other students in his class by forming study groups. They are much more focused

than the average student, he said.

"They have a path that they've chosen, and WCC and this class (GEO 101) is a part of that path so that helps make them more motivated," he said.

The sisters said that they just try to be a good example for students, in both their schoolwork and the way they live their lives.

"The biggest thing is just for people

NUNS  
CONTINUED B7

# Love virtually

## Online dating isn't always what it seems

By EMILY ROSE  
Voice Correspondent

*Catfish: Someone who pretends to be someone they're not, using Facebook or other social media to create false identities, particularly to pursue deceptive online romances.*

Derek Reinwand fell in love with a girl online. Her name was Kristen, and she was "perfect."

Or so he thought. But, how did he know if Kristen was actually, well, Kristen? He became suspicious when she was always "babysitting," and never seemed to have time to meet Reinwand in person. She only showed Reinwand three pictures of herself, and never wanted to video chat. So, Reinwand contacted the producers of MTV's show "Catfish," a reality show that helps those who want to meet their online girlfriend or boyfriend. He was finally going to meet his true love.

More than 40 million people have tried dating on the Internet. The online dating industry brings in more than \$1 billion annually, according to Reuters, the international news agency. An average of \$250 is spent per customer every year.

But how do you know if the person you are talking to is who they say they are? Statistics show that both men and women lie on their online dating profile. Reuters reported that men lie most about their age, height, and income, and women lie most about their physical appearance, weight, and age.

Some people go as far as creating a double life while on the Web. They use fake pictures, names and careers to become someone else in order to pursue a relationship.

Reinwand, 23, of Pinckney, appeared on MTV's reality series "Catfish," a show that investigates the truths and lies of online dating. Reinwand contacted the hosts, Nev Schulman and Max Joseph, to find out if the girl he had a relationship with was actually who she said she was.

"Catfish" first aired in 2012 on MTV. The show was based on "Catfish: The Movie." In the film, Schulman was the one who was catfished online. Schulman was dating "Megan," a musician from Ishpeming, in the Upper Peninsula.

Schulman knew something was wrong when he discovered her songs were on Youtube by another musician. "Megan" turned out to be Angela, 45, a mother of four. Megan was a real person, but Schulman had never spoken to her, only to her mother, Angela. She created multiple Facebook accounts to manipulate Schulman and make their relationship seem real.

Reinwand had been talking online to "Kristen," who said she was a full-time babysitter from Tampa, Fla., for three months. Reinwand came across Kristen's profile on Facebook while serving in the U. S. Army in Baghdad, Iraq.

After Schulman and Joseph investigated Kristen, they arranged for Reinwand to meet her. "Kristen" was actually Chasity, a mother of two from Lake Orion, only 55 miles away. Chasity used pictures of a small, attractive woman that she stole from the



Kristen (AKA 'Chasity') meets for the first time with Derek Reinwand, 23, of Pinckney, who fell in love with her online and tracked her down through the 'Catfish' TV show. CATFISH/MTV | COURTESY PHOTO

Internet to get Reinwand interested in her. Chasity also used a fake name to attract Reinwand.

"There was a lot to process when they started telling me all of the information. I was trying to find out if any of it was actually true," Reinwand said. "It's definitely hard finding out the person you were talking to for as long as you were is entirely different, and has different things going on in their life other than what they told you."

Chasity came clean to setting up the fake Facebook, but she had good intentions. Her ex-boyfriend, whom she didn't have contact with, was

trying to gain visitation rights for their daughter. She said she set up the fake profile to document his behavior to show to the courts that he was not a good influence for their daughter.

Reinwand and Chasity became friends at the end of the episode, but after meeting up a few times, they quickly realized they weren't right for each other. Reinwand says that they still remain friends and keep in contact.

They are hardly alone.

Computer-mediated communication (CMC) has changed the way people begin talking to each other,

said Bonnie Tew, an Interpersonal Communication instructor at Washtenaw Community College. Messages you send behind a faceless screen can make you say things that don't hold any depth.

"When you have an online relationship, one thing you're missing that is very critical is the non-verbal element of communication," Tew said. "We rely on approximately 90 percent of the non-verbal message from someone. It can be problematic for some people."

CATFISH  
CONTINUED B3



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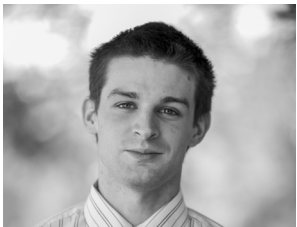
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# Down year figures to make 2014 a huge one for Hoke



ERIC GARANT

Seven wins and a bowl trip would be a fine season for most programs. Not Michigan.

Battling a team on a 23-game winning streak to the wire would constitute a moral victory for most programs. Not Michigan.

Having a player selected as a second-team All-America, as left tackle Taylor Lewan was, would be a point of pride for most programs. Not Michigan.

Average does not fly in Ann Arbor, and there's no way of getting around it: the team that ran through the tunnel at Michigan Stadium in 2013 was average.

The Wolverines were 64<sup>th</sup> in the nation in scoring defense, allowing 26.5 points per game – not terrible, but also not very good: average.

Quarterback Devin Gardner was brilliant in victories over Indiana and Notre Dame, and in the heart-breaking loss to Ohio State. But he was awful in close wins over listless Akron and Connecticut teams, and in consecutive losses to Michigan State and Nebraska that put the nail in Michigan's season.

Overall, he completed about 60 percent of his passes, threw 21 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. He ran well, but took too many sacks – not terrible, but also not very good: average.

Average defense and average quarterback play are sure routes to a ho-hum season. So is shoddy line play, which the Wolverines emphatically got on both sides of the ball. And so is a lack of stars, which the team, despite its lauded recruiting classes, doubtlessly has.

Wide receiver Jeremy Gallon was recently voted Team MVP, and Gallon indeed played up to his potential. So, too, did cornerback Blake Countess. That might be the complete list, though.

Lewan was very good but not great in his swan song in Ann Arbor, anchoring but not emboldening a young offensive line. And highly touted freshman running back Derrick Green flashed little of the potential that had the program buzzing in August.

Coach Brady Hoke impressively led the Wolverines to a BCS bowl victory in his first year at Michigan, but the last two seasons have not been nearly as kind. His team has underperformed and often looks underprepared. He is not getting enough out of his players, and that has to change. The gleam of the Sugar Bowl victory in 2012 won't last forever.

Hoke has remained loyal to his oft-criticized assistants, offensive coordinator Al Borges and defensive coordinator Greg Mattison, assuring that both will return in 2014.

Borges seemed to sleepwalk through most of the year before developing a brilliant, misdirection-heavy game plan that allowed the Wolverines to keep pace with Ohio State. He'll need to bring that type of creative energy much more regularly in the future to justify his position.

Mattison's game plans, too, left a lot to be desired this year. Given the team's inability to generate a pass rush and the relative softness of its secondary, Mattison was far too willing to stay vanilla. A great defense, like say, Michigan State's, can afford to line up and play its base defense all day. A so-so one, like Michigan's, can't.

Hoke's loyalty is admirable, but risky. A coach doesn't stay employed at Michigan for very long with 7-5 seasons. For him and for Michigan, a bounce-back year for his staff in 2014 is critical.

# Drake's Creighton to take over EMU football

New coach tasked with rebuilding, rehabilitating shamed program

By ERIC GARANT  
*Sports Writer*

The Eagles have landed their man. A little over a month after the dismissal of head football coach Ron English, Eastern Michigan University has chosen former Drake coach Chris Creighton to lead the team in 2014.

Creighton spoke with great passion and intensity about building the program from the ground up at the press conference announcing his hiring.

"I'm very, very, very honored and humbled to be entrusted with the leadership of this football program," Creighton said. "It's not something I will ever take lightly. And I can tell you right now, we will work incredibly hard to make Eastern Michigan University football a source of pride and joy for this school and this community."

His task is a tall one. He takes over a team that has lost 10 or more games in four of its last five seasons. And he takes over for a coach whose tenure ended when his profanity-laced tirade to his team, which included a homosexual slur, was leaked to the media.

Athletic Director Heather Lyke read a letter from one of Creighton's players at Drake that espoused the coach's value as a leader.

"You may measure his success in terms of wins and losses," the letter, whose sender Lyke did not name, said. "But I assure you that will not be what marks his career at Eastern Michigan. His career will be distinguished by how many boys he impacts and turns into men."

Following the ugly end to English's career in Ypsilanti, finding a replacement with a strong moral character was obviously a priority for Lyke, who said that hiring a head coach is the most important decision she makes as athletic director.



Chris Creighton

"Chris is a champion on the inside and out," Lyke said.

But the school also has a mandate to win.

"We are committed to a successful program. We will fill that stadium. We will go to a bowl game," EMU President Dr. Susan Martin said. "We will not rest until we field a championship team and engage in postseason bowl play."

Creighton has been very successful in his previous stops, winning 76.4 percent of his games and eight conference titles in his 17 years as a head coach, four at Ottawa University in Kansas, seven at Wabash College, and the last six at Drake, his first Football Bowl Subdivision job.

Creighton went 32-9 at Ottawa, 63-15 at Wabash, and 42-22 at Drake.

The step up to EMU is a significant one, and will represent new challenges. Drake is part of the Pioneer League, unique among FBS conferences in that its schools do not offer football scholarships.

Lyke described Creighton as a "difference-maker" in terms of recruiting, but he'll be competing for players at a depth that he hasn't yet encountered.

His ability to maintain his success on each rung of the ladder he's climbed so far, though, suggests it won't take Creighton too long to find his sea legs.

2013: Sports in review

➔ Read more of our year in review on Page B4



Jan. 1 – NHL cancelled the Winter Classic, a game between the Red Wings and the Toronto Maple Leafs, at The Big House, because of a labor dispute. The game is rescheduled for Jan. 1, 2014.  
MCT | COURTESY PHOTO



April 8 – Michigan lost the NCAA championship game to Louisville. Several incidents of couch-burning ensued in Ann Arbor.  
KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Dec. 7 – Michigan State defeated Ohio State to claim the Big 10 football title and earned a berth in the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1988.



Nov. 28 – Lions beat the Packers 40-10 on Thanksgiving Day, marking the team's first turkey-day victory since 2003.



Nov. 14 - Tigers third-baseman Miguel Cabrera won the American League Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive season.  
MCT | COURTESY PHOTO

Nov. 13 – Tigers pitcher Max Scherzer won an American League Cy Young award.



Reinwand meets with Nev Schulman and Max Joseph, star sleuths in 'Catfish,' who help online lovers get to the truth in their relationships. CATFISH/MTV | COURTESY PHOTO

## CATFISH FROM B1

She believes that online dating can be good for some, but there are other people who have specific expectations from a relationship that cannot be met through an online romance.

Kristyn, 22, of St. Clair Shores, also appeared on MTV's "Catfish." But, she appeared for a different reason. Kristyn was the one who did the catfishing. Kristyn was in a very bad car accident, causing her to lose her eye.

"I was really depressed when I catfished Mike," Kristyn said. "I didn't have anyone to talk to, and Mike was always there for me."

Kristyn says that she has met many friends online since the show aired, but she would never catfish anyone ever again because she could see how badly she had hurt Mike.

Shannon, 29, a photography major from Ann Arbor, was also a victim of catfishing. Shannon had an online relationship for six months when she found out that the person

she was talking to was a fake. She knew something wasn't right when she begged to talk on the phone and they refused, and when they did, he finally came clean.

"It was heartbreaking and devastating," Shannon said. "I developed a real bond with that person; we talked everyday online and had been together for six months. While I'm not naïve or anything, I had that thought, 'This isn't going to happen to me!'"

Shannon eventually forgave him, and they ended up dating long-distance for six years. They aren't together now, but they are still good friends.

While online dating can have a negative connotation to it, many people do have successful relationships.

Morgan, 21, of Ann Arbor, met her boyfriend on Myspace five years ago, and they have been together ever since. Morgan had a mutual friend with her boyfriend, but they began talking online and hit it off.

"I was catfished before when I was in middle school, so I was suspicious to start talking to someone online," Morgan said. "But because I knew someone who had actually met him,

it made me feel more comfortable. But in the back of my head, I was afraid he wouldn't be the person I knew from the Internet."

Nancy, 47, of Ann Arbor, has used Match.com to meet people online in the past. Nancy was faked when a guy sent her pictures that were more than 10 years old. She met him for a date, kept her shock silently to herself, and told him she had to "retrieve something from the car." She quickly left the scene.

Nancy advises those interested in dating online to use common sense when talking to someone new.

"Ask for multiple photos, communicate online for a while, and make sure you meet somewhere public," Nancy said. "If something doesn't feel right, then it probably isn't."

Fast forward seven months, after the cameras have stopped rolling on Reinwand's fake online relationship, and you can find him in with a new girlfriend. He is dating a girl from Wixom, and he says that she is "an awesome person."

And guess what? He met her on the Internet.



In the biggest story of 2013 at Washtenaw, biology instructor David Wooten addresses the college's Board of Trustees to publicly voice the faculty's concerns about President Rose Bellanca. He is backed by a standing-room-only crowd made up mostly of fellow faculty members. NATHAN CLARK | WASHTENAW VOICE



KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

**JAN. 22**

Anne Williams presided over her first meeting as the new chair of the board.

**FEB. 26**

WCC remained open during a snow storm that led most schools in the area to shut down for the day, while WCC trustees cancelled their meeting scheduled for that night.



NATHAN CLARK | WASHTENAW VOICE

**MARCH 12**

Trustees voted to lower the student rates at the Health and Fitness Center from \$160 per semester to \$140.

**MARCH 26**

Trustees voted unanimously to raise tuition for the fall, but also instituted a rate "freeze" for students who registered and paid by Aug. 1.

**MARCH 14**

WCC President Bellanca fired Vice President of Instruction Stuart Blacklaw, widening the rift between the administration and the faculty and staff, who had a close relationship with Blacklaw. Bellanca cited Blacklaw's "lack of initiative" and poor communication as reasons for his termination.

**MARCH 26**

More than 50 members of WCC's faculty union and gathered at the Board of Trustees meeting to air their grievances with Bellanca. They expressed anger over the circumstances of Blacklaw's firing, and voiced a growing discontent with the lack of communication between the administration and faculty and staff.

**APRIL 9**

Trustees issued their first formal statement in support of President Bellanca, amidst the faculty's escalating frustration with her.

**APRIL 23**

WCC's faculty union presented a 100-signature petition to the trustees. The signatures belonged to faculty and staff who could not attend the March 26 meeting and wanted to express their solidarity with those who raised concerns about the president.

**JUNE 25**

Trustees voted unanimously to renew Bellanca's contract until 2016 and award her a raise. Her salary was set at \$202,878 and she also received a \$15,000 housing allowance and \$9,500 to pay for expenses related to her office.

**MAY 18**

Graduation commencement. 1,825 students graduated last year and 42 percent graduated with honors; 632 associate degrees were awarded. Between the fall and winter semesters 1,870 associate degrees were awarded, according to President Rose Bellanca.



COURTESY OF WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**JUNE 15**

Five WCC digital video production students brought home Michigan Emmys. George Pariseau, Kevin Jackson, and Eileen Meier won for their documentary, "The Flow," in the Arts and Entertainment/Cultural Affairs category. Brad Tennant won the Director category for his film, "I'd Live for You." And Barb Morrissey won the Photography category for "Belle Isle Zoo."

**JUNE 30**

Continental Canteen Services ended its contract with WCC after seven years. Edibles and Bakuzio's Coffee Shop moved out to make way for a new vendor.

**JULY 1**

New food vendor, Aramark took over food service in the Student Center, opening the SC Spot and the Java Spot..



FILE PHOTO | WASHTENAW VOICE

**JULY 7**

Alex Pazkowski, a 22-year-old WCC student from Saline, took second place in welding at the 42nd WorldSkills International Competition held in Leipzig, Germany.

JAN.

FEB.

MAR.

APR.

MAY

JUN.

JUL.

AUG.

SEPT.

OCT.

NOV.

DEC.



POOL/IDE BURBANK | ORLANDO SENTINEL/INCT

**FEB. 26**

George Zimmerman shot Trayvon Martin.

**APRIL 11**

The state of Florida charged Zimmerman with second-degree murder, stating that he confronted Martin and shot him with no cause.

**JULY 13**

A jury ruled Zimmerman, who claimed self-defense, was innocent.



ALESSANDRO DI MEO | ANSA/ZUMA PRESS/INCT

**MARCH 13**

After a month of anticipation, the Cardinals elected Jorge Maria Bergoglio. He chose the name Pope Francis and is the first Jesuit pope and the first pope from the Americas. Since his election he made headlines for his progressive philosophy.

**APRIL 15**

At the Boston Marathon two bombs fashioned out of pressure cookers exploded, killing three people and leaving an estimated 264 wounded.

**APRIL 19**

Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev died in a gunfight with authorities, while the other suspect, his brother Dzhokhar escaped. Later that evening Dzhokhar was found and arrested.

**JUNE 6**

Edward Snowden leaked information about the federal government's mass surveillance program to the media and fled the country, eventually receiving temporary asylum in Russia.

**JUNE 26**

The Supreme Court voted 5-4 to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as a union between a man and woman. They declined to make a ruling on Proposition 8 which made same-sex marriage illegal in California.

**JULY 3**

Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was overthrown by the military and violence broke out across the country.



OLIVIER DOULIERY | ABACA PRESS/INCT

**JULY 18**

Detroit filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy in an effort to manage its estimated \$18-20 billion debt. It was the largest municipal bankruptcy filing in U.S. history.



REGINA H. BOONE | DETROIT FREE PRESS/INCT

**NOV. 5**

Mike Duggan was elected Mayor of Detroit.

**DEC. 3**

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes ruled that Detroit was eligible for Chapter 9 bankruptcy. Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr has said he will give more authority to Duggan to dig Detroit out of its financial woes.

**OCT. 1**

After a whirlwind of controversy, the Affordable Healthcare Act, dubbed "Obamacare," went into effect. Technical issues stopped thousands from signing up. U.S. Health and Human Services secretary Kathleen Sebelius took the brunt of the blame for the issues.

**DEC. 1**

A revamped healthcare.gov proves to be much more successful than the website's initial roll out. According to CNN, 29,000 enrolled in the first few days, topping the numbers from the entire month of October.



ADAM LOWIS | WASHTENAW VOICE

**OCT. 1-16**

The U.S. federal government shutdown all "non-essential" operations after Congress failed to pass a budget for 2014.

**OCT. 17**

Federal government operations resumed after Congress passed an interim budget.

**NOV. 8**

Typhoon Haiyan tore through the Philippines and Vietnam killing at least 6,129 people. It was one of the strongest tropical cyclones on record.

**NOV. 24**

Iran agreed to limit its nuclear development program in order to have sanctions lifted.

**DEC. 5**

The death of South African leader, Nelson Mandela at age 95 spurred global mourning.



ANACLETO RAPPING | LOS ANGELES TIMES/INCT

**DEC. 14**

Chang'e 3, a Chinese shuttle became the first to "soft land" on the Moon since 1976.

in review

BY NATALIE WRIGHT  
Managing Editor  
and  
BRIAN AUTEN  
Designer

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# Happy Holidays!

The Washtenaw Voice wishes the best in 2014 for all its advertising partners



NUNS FROM B1

to see us and to see that we exist,” Noel said. “They see us and the habits, and just by being seen we bring the thought of God to their minds. And that’s a great thing.”

People often come up to them and ask them for prayers, Sister Marie Karol, 21, said.

“It’s really humbling. We represent something bigger than ourselves. When we let them know that we will pray for them, we can see that brings them hope,” Karol said.

“It’s actually really beautiful, the respect that we get on campus,” Noel said.

The sisters have also gained respect on a national level after the release of their first album, “Mater Eucharistiae” on Aug. 13.

The album climbed to number one on the Classical charts upon its release.

They recorded the entire album in their chapel, so it sounds just like they sound when they sing every day, Karol said.

Singing every day is an important practice for the sisters.

“There are some things that you can say in singing that you can’t say otherwise,” Karol said. “St. Augustine said. ‘When you sing, you pray twice.’ That’s really true. It takes a lot more of a person to sing. It conveys another level of emotion.”

“These songs and chants on the CD are the ones we use for our daily devotions,” Karol said. “So it’s just great for us to be able to be sharing those prayers, those devotions with the world.”



Sister Veronica Marie, 28, is taking classes at WCC and EMU to earn a teaching degree. After she graduates, she plans to teach at a Catholic school.  
NATALIE WRIGHT | WASHTENAW VOICE



The Sisters of Mary sing and chant every day to worship God.  
NATALIE WRIGHT | WASHTENAW VOICE

# Shooter wanted!

Photo Editor needed at The Washtenaw Voice.

This is a paid position requiring some photography and processing experience, knowledge of Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom and a long-term commitment to the newspaper. Looking for someone who can spend the Winter semester working alongside our current photo editor to take over the position next academic year.

For more information, email kgave@wccnet.edu.

# Sudoku

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# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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

**Note:** Deadline for the Jan. 13, 2014 issue is Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 5 p.m.

## SERVICES

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

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## 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/.

**Cashiers.** Sell and assist guests by completing point-of-sale transactions and providing information about food and beverages served. Position requires individuals with a high attention to detail, accurate cashier skills and a strong dedication to customer service along with a positive and friendly attitude.

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Saturday tours of the wedding facility, simple accounting and data entry for events. Must have computer skills, including Word and Excel. Duties cover several facets of running a business. A degree is not as important as common sense and the ability to work well with clients.

**IT Support.** Perform day-to-day UNIX/Linux, and Wintel configuration, consultation, and desktop support. This position works closely with internal and external customers regarding hardware and software related issues. CAD workstation and PC desktop support is a key component of this job. Additional responsibilities will include participating on teams both as a leader and a member, and working closely with the business managers within the organization throughout all phases of IT project implementation, incident resolution

and using the incident management system to handle and resolve service desk tickets.

**Air Duct Cleaning Technician.** For residential and commercial HVAC air duct systems. Prefer knowledge in HVAC. Must have a valid driver’s license. Non-smoking environment.

**Childcare.** Lead preschool teacher to teach in a classroom with 3-5-year old children. Plans and implement curriculum. Work well with other staff members and the director.

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**Marketing Assistant.** Responsible for helping to maintain Google Adwords keyword bid positions, generating various reports and various other basic marketing duties. Knowledge of Google Adwords/Analytics helpful. Candidates should have basic computer skills, understanding of basic marketing principles and superior organization skills.

# LA Times Crossword

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MCT CAMPUS

## ACROSS

- Given to back talk
- Not together
- Org. in many Tom Clancy novels
- Love lots
- Serious grime
- Former Boston Bruin Bobby
- \*Scoop for fruit
- Photo taker, briefly
- Place to swim
- Brand with a “Twist, Lick, Dunk” app
- Holy images
- Post-OR place
- Like some bases and kisses
- Parade debris
- Slump in one’s seat
- Stay away from
- The “I” in IBM: Abbr.
- However, for short
- Bishop’s domain
- Earlier than desired
- Finish
- Paris airport
- Totally out there
- Bank employee
- “M\*A\*S\*H” star
- Firstborn
- Battleship letters
- “My Cousin Vinny” star Joe
- Pressure from the cops
- Govt. job-safety gp.
- Gen. Eisenhower’s WWII command
- \*Single-minded auditor
- Bearded African beast
- More pathetic, as excuses go
- French Revolution figure killed by Corday
- Tree juice
- Piano practice piece
- Walks with difficulty

## DOWN

- Bedside light
- Thought: Pref.
- Sport played on horseback
- Very productive, as a writer
- Currency of Japan
- Many miles off
- Enters all at once
- Distribute in shares
- U.S. 66, for one
- Wave of excitement
- \*Certain palm tree extract
- Tehran’s country
- “A Farewell to —”
- Prizefight
- Corporate VIP
- Hand over
- Norwegian metropolis
- Army trainee
- Like ewes and rams
- \*Pasta-based first course
- Ballpark level
- Musical triad
- Civic or Accord
- Texter’s “until next time”
- Hopping mad
- Possesses
- Like Christmas wrap and tree ornaments
- Approached bedtime
- Partners’ legal entity: Abbr.
- Safe to consume
- Civic or Accord
- SeaWorld orca
- Wooden pins
- Europe’s highest active volcano
- Land measure
- Houston MLBer
- Noggin, and a hint to the starts of the answers to starred clues
- Liberal —
- Do lunch, say
- Official behind a catcher

# Answers

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

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

# Smaug the magnificent

By JAMES SAOUD  
Video Editor

“The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug” marks the second part in director Peter Jackson’s trilogy. While part one, “An Unexpected Journey,” managed to take viewers back to a world they fell in love with in 2001 with Jackson’s “Lord of the Rings” films, it also felt sluggish and bloated. With “Smaug,” this is hardly the case.

While the films are based on J.R.R. Tolkien’s children’s classic, “The Hobbit,” “Smaug” manages to follow the book almost directly and create plenty of new qualities. Almost everything that happens in the book happens in the movies, but the filmmakers have added new characters, dialogues and of course, action sequences to the mix.

In the first film, these additions slowed the movie down. In “Smaug,” for the most part, they help create a better cinematic realm for Tolkien’s story.

Martin Freeman returns as the hero of the story, Bilbo Baggins, playing the character almost perfectly. Freeman adds a nice comedic touch to the film, especially considering the humor is scant. Ian McKellen, playing the wizard Gandalf for a fifth time, has some of the most interesting of the subplots; tying together the events taking place in “The Hobbit” with those that take place “Lord of the Rings.”

Benedict Cumberbatch voices the magnificent Smaug the dragon and



the characters and landscapes appear as if they are directly in front of you.

While many improvements still need to be made with this technology, what Jackson and his team have pulled off with the past two Hobbit films is mesmerizing.

Though this is the shortest of Jackson’s Tolkien adaptations, the film is still too long. There are at least two side plots that could have been entirely cut out of the film. By this point, it seems senseless to have split this book into three films. It

would have benefitted from being just one or, maybe, two films.

While Jackson’s adaptation is overly long, this second installment is a huge improvement on the first film. It may not reach the same massive highs as “The Lord of the Rings,” but the technology, performances and the dragon make “The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug,” a film you’ll want to see in the theater.

**Grade:** A-  
**Genre:** Fantasy/Adventure  
**Length:** 160 minutes  
**Rating:** PG-13

ILLUSTRATION BY PETER HOCHGRAF | WASHTENAW VOICE

manages to completely steal the show. This dragon is easily the most fascinating technical achievement put on film since Jackson showed us Gollum in the “Lord of the Rings” trilogy.

However, the dragon isn’t the only massive technical achievement Jackson pulls off here. The film is being screened in HFR 3-D, or high-frame-rate 3-D. “The Hobbit” films were shot in 48 frames-per-second, as opposed to the usual 24 frames-per-second. This adds a much more immersive effect to the 3-D experience and makes

# Unrefined ‘Hustle’ saved by acting



COLLIDER.COM | COURTESY PHOTO

By JAMES SAOUD  
Video Editor

Writer/director David O’Russell returns after last year’s “Silver Linings Playbook” with “American Hustle.” The film, which is based loosely on the Abscam scandal in the ’70s and ’80s, is an enormous and hilarious enterprise featuring what are easily some of the best performances of the year.

The ensemble cast features Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper, Jennifer Lawrence, Michael Pena and Louis C.K, and each of their fantastic performances comes with a unique brand of humor that the rest of the film feeds off of.

Christian Bale gives one of his best and funniest performances as the wormy and manipulative con man, Irving Rosenfeld. O’Russell is a master at getting great performances, as he tends to keep things very loose on set. He lets his actors improvise and create their own characters through their actions, which makes them feel like living, breathing people.

The film is loaded with music from the ’70s and features a great score by Danny Elfman. The clothes and set design, mixed with the film’s free-form cinematography, create an almost completely immersive style that is

quirky and believable. Between the performances and attentive style, it’s hard not to get lost in the story. Until its story starts to lose you.

While the film is stylistic and well-performed, it does have some serious issues. The pacing seems to change from scene to scene, and its tone is inconsistent. The film manages to be hilarious, but often finds itself being funny when it really doesn’t need to be. By the time it reaches its third act, so many characters have been introduced and the story has shifted its momentum so many times that it’s easy to feel exhausted rather than entertained.

That said, “American Hustle” is a still very good film and proves to be an incredibly fun night out to the movies. However, it’s a film that could’ve, and should’ve, been great.

It’s hard not to point fingers toward its director, who should have put more time between “Silver Linings Playbook” and this, to create a more cohesive and grounded film.

**Grade:** B+  
**Genre:** Crime/Drama  
**Length:** 138 Minutes  
**Rating:** R

# Anchorman stays classy



ZENFS.COM | COURTESY PHOTO

By JAMES SAOUD  
Video Editor

Over time, “Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy” has become a cult classic and one of the most quoted films of all time. Nearly 10 years after the release of the first chapter, writer/star Will Ferrell and director Adam McKay continue their story of newsman Ron Burgundy in “Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues.”

After a decade away from these roles, each cast member manages to keep the characters feeling fresh. And with a plethora of hilarious cameos featuring everyone from Harrison Ford to Kanye West, it’s hard to keep a grin off your face.

The sequel, much like the first film, is strung together like a series of bizarre sketches. The plot line often seems to be put on the back burner to pave way for more jokes.

The humor in this film is consistent with the first film, which means pretty much anything goes. With tons of hilarious visual gags, ’80s music montages, and some of the best on-screen banter since the first “Anchorman” movie, the film will distill a familiar feeling in fans of the original.

However, the film often feels too familiar. Too many of the jokes in this sequel rely on nostalgia and references to the first film. Some scenes even touch the borders of remake territory, especially toward the end of the film.

When the characters deviate from their crowd-pleasing farce, they manage to deliver a hilarious and relevant satire on the current state of national news. This plot line feels alive and fresh, but is often pushed aside for recycled jokes to please the audience. For a two-hour-long movie, more plot development is necessary.

Fans of Ron Burgundy will not be disappointed by this sequel. It is funny, well-performed and surprisingly smart. The biggest flaw, as it is in so many sequels, is that the filmmakers could have taken a fresh new approach to the same old characters. Instead, they choose to take the same old approach.

**Grade:** B  
**Genre:** Comedy  
**Length:** 119 minutes  
**Rating:** PG-13

### Women’s Health and Fitness Day 2014

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AMWA at University of Michigan Medical School

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