



Caelan Saunders, this year's graduation speaker, poses in front of the Student Center. SHELBY BEATY | WASHTENAW VOICE

Graduation speaker seeks to make a difference in kids' lives

By RUBY GO
Staff Writer

Caelan Saunders' first time in college didn't go so well.

"I think I was just happy to be out of my parents' house. It felt like I really was an adult, but I don't think I was," he said. "I could barely take care of myself."

That was four years ago in Kansas City, Missouri. Now, Saunders is this year's graduation speaker and an aspiring social-studies teacher. While his transition from adolescence into adulthood was anything but easy, it is that very hardship that drives him to become a teacher.

Growing up, Saunders says his parents did the "bare minimum" in raising him: feeding him, clothing him, and giving him a roof over his head. In school, however, he says some of his teachers gave him the emotional support and understanding that was missing at home, which is why becoming a teacher is so important for him.

"Those teachers helped get me through many differ-

ent years ... it inspires me to be a role model for other people," he said. "I need to be producing and presenting my best at all times."

Saunders feels that many adults and people in authority tend to demand respect simply because they are older. But it is of the utmost importance to Saunders to actually be worthy of that respect.

"I really want to be somebody who deserves other people's respect," he said. "I could give up, but I wouldn't want my kids to see me do that."

In addition to caring a great deal for his future students, one of the most important goals for Saunders is to have his own children—ideally three or four, he said. His reasons for wanting to be a parent somewhat align with his reasons for wanting to be a teacher.

Upon reading several parenting books and delving into a bit of child psychology, Saunders came to the realization that parenting isn't as hard as some people make it out to be. He says that there are too many parents and teachers who fail to support

young people and treat them with kindness.

"It's so easy to just listen and be empathetic and apologize," he said. "I know that I could be that for people."

But Saunders wasn't always so noble. It wasn't until he met his now fiancé that he began to grow into the person he is today.

"He's been really amazing in not just allowing me to figure out who I am, but also for supporting me in the little things," Saunders said. "I couldn't have asked for a better person to be my partner."

The two of them met back in Missouri while they were in college. Before meeting his fiancé, Saunders feels that he was immature and did not know what direction his life would take. He says his decision to drop out of college at that time allowed him to sort out his internal conflicts, and he thanks his fiancé for giving him unconditional love and support.

"He really believes in me more than anyone," he said.

After WCC, Saunders plans on continuing his education for an additional two years at Eastern Michigan

University to earn at least a bachelor's degree. He is not yet sure if he wants to pursue a master's degree. In an effort to finish school sooner, he is weighing the values of his available options, one of which includes student teaching during the day and attending classes at night.

When asked if he has any advice for current students, Saunders furrowed his brow and made a long, careful pause before giving an answer.

"Finding your motivation is really important, but even more important is finding a way to sustain it, which I think is harder," he said. "A lot of people will get really excited about an idea and then lose all enthusiasm when there's any kind of obstacle, so developing some kind of skill to sustain that motivation is really important, and it's different for everyone."

What: WCC 2022 Commencement Ceremony

When: Saturday May 21 at 9:20 a.m.

Where: Gervin GameAbove Center

Tuition costs grounded as cost of living skyrockets

JORDAN SCENNA
Deputy Editor

In-district students can expect tuition costs to stay put after the Board of Trustees approved another freeze on April 26. The cost of tuition has remained stagnant for the past five years, partially due to the pandemic and the school's desire to keep costs down during a time of economic uncertainty.

This decision comes at a time when the U.S. inflation rate is at its highest since 1981. March of this year saw an inflation rate of 8.5% compared to 2.6% this time last year.

While the cost of living is exploding, WCC works to keep tuition affordable for students through careful budgeting.

In an email, Board of Trustees member Dr. Richard Landau said, "The WCC Budget includes not just tuition income, but also state aid and property tax revenues. All of these revenue sources fluctuate and we as a college are able to adjust the budget

accordingly to avoid tuition increases to the maximum extent possible."

Rates for on-campus, in-district tuition will remain at \$95 per credit hour, while distance learning is \$108 per credit hour.

WCC continues to be one of the most affordable community college options in the state.

Out of district students will see a moderate cost increase from \$167 to \$169 for on-campus classes, while distance learning is up one dollar to \$120 per credit hour.

The Board also approved an addition to the infrastructure fee of \$5 per credit hour to expand tech in labs and classrooms, improve bandwidth, and strengthen cybersecurity.

A student can expect to save approximately \$21,000 by attending WCC for their first two years, as opposed to a four-year university, according to 2020-2021 data from the National Center for Educational Statistics, U.S. Department of Education.

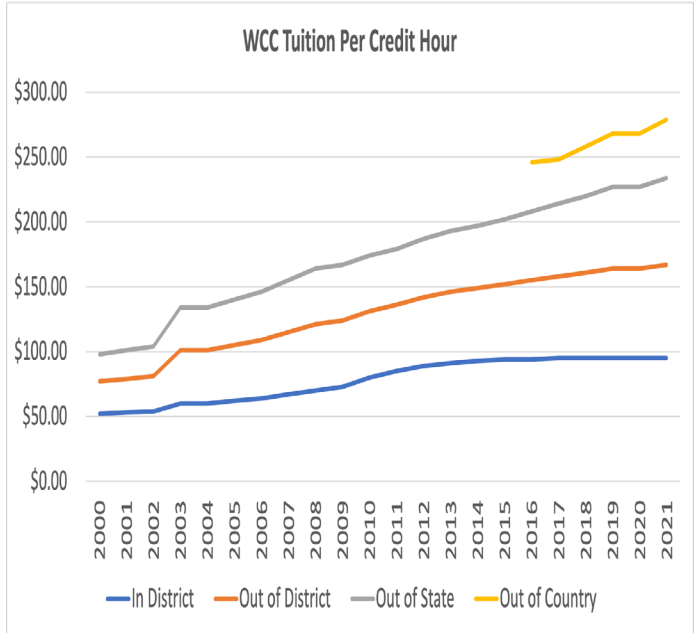


ILLUSTRATION BY JOELYN ARMSTRONG

From homeless to high honors, a WCC alum reflects

By JORDAN SCENNA
Deputy Editor

As Jacob Blevins brushed his teeth from an emptied liter of Popov Vodka, he never thought he'd be a college graduate. He was homeless, living out of his car which he parked at a rest stop in Howell, MI, just off I-96. Traveling families leaving the interstate to stretch their legs would be treated to a wild looking young man, complete with dirty clothes and a long, unkempt beard.

"These families would pull up and see me brushing my teeth with what they thought was vodka; it must have been a crazy sight,"



COURTESY OF JACOB BLEVINS

Jacob Blevins poses for his student ID at the University of Michigan. He began the master's program at the UofM school of Social Work August 2020.

Blevins said. "It was water, I drank the vodka."

Blevins struggled with severe depression coupled with

a substance abuse disorder that left him unable to care for himself. After exhausting the patience of every family member and burning every bridge, he found himself homeless; he was 25 years old.

Blevins didn't know it then, but his current situation was only a bookend to an incredible journey.

Flash-forward

Today, Blevins is an evaluation assistant in the masters program at the UofM School of Social Work. Instead of collecting cans for gas money, he's responsible for collecting and analyzing data for organizations designed to help those in need. He credits WCC for playing matchmaker with his

love of numbers.

As part of the Human Services program, he took a course in statistics and was surprised at how much he enjoyed pouring over data. This discovery changed his career path from therapy, to program evaluation and research, which is his focus at his internship at UofM.

"I love data science," Blevins said. "Using software and different tools to analyze information, it's fun."

Blevins was always going to be an academic. His father and older brother are both UofM graduates who went on to become lawyers, and another brother graduated from Michigan State's nursing program.

"I knew I wasn't going to be satisfied unless I explored that (academic) side of things."

Beans the magical fruit?

Flashback five years and Blevins' family is visiting him at the roadside bathroom he's calling home. Obviously worried, they confronted him about his health and his plans.

"I took a walk with my brother and he was asking me how I was. I showed him this bag of uncooked Kidney beans I bought from Meijer. He looked at me like I was insane, but in my head I was like, 'I have this bag of beans so I'm OK.'"

CONTINUED ON A5

Voice writer awarded top honor from press group



MCCPA Student Journalist of the year, Ruby Go. WASHTENAW VOICE | SHELBY BEATY

Voice team members recognized for reporting, writing, illustration, design

Washtenaw Voice staff writer, Ruby Go, has been named student journalist of the year by the Michigan Community College Press Association. Dubbed the Janet Nellis Mender Student Journalist of the Year, the honor is awarded based on stories published between March 2021 and Feb. 28, 2022. It was among the dozens of awards announced by the statewide student-journalism organization on Wednesday. Voice writers were also recognized for best in-depth reporting, feature and sports column writing, and information-graphics among Michigan community colleges. The Voice tied with Lansing Community College for first-place in general excellence Voice writers swept

the in-depth news category, taking first, second and third for substantial reporting projects.

The Voice winners included:

- First place**
Sports column, Voice editor R.J. Hunt for a piece about the sleepy Mondays that follow Super Bowl Sunday
Feature writing, Elinor Epperson, for her story about beekeeping
In-depth reporting, Cydney Heed, for reporting on tuition and state funding for higher ed
Information graphics, Jessica Pace for her presentation of data around homelessness
General excellence, tie, the Voice team
- Second place**
In-depth reporting, Voice deputy editor Jordan Scenna, for his package on campus safety amid mass shootings
Personality profile, Ruby Go for her story about a WCC art

- student pursuing her passion later in life
Editorial cartoon, Ian Loomis, for a cartoon about the ironies of Earth Day
Illustration, Jessica Pace, for a piece illustrating a column about night work
Best website, the Voice team

- Third place**
News story, James Cason, for a story about campus reopening in the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic
In-depth reporting, Doina Plop, for reporting on local homelessness
Illustration, Ian Loomis, for work accompanying a column about bossy coworkers

- Honorable mention**
Illustration, Cassie Stewart, for work accompanying a column about re-adjusting to in-person learning
Feature writing, Ethan Berman, for a story about students pursuing new hobbies during the COVID-10 pandemic
Critical review, James Cason, for a review of a popular noodle bar
Sports news story, R.J. Hunt, for a story about the return of in-person sports at WCC
Feature photo, Brenda Anderson, for photos of beekeepers at work
Headline writing, Voice team

Judges for the annual contest come from the ranks of professional journalists, educators, and other communication specialists. Among them was Dave Clark, editor of the Midland Daily News, who judged the journalist of the year competition. In his comments, Clark noted winner Ruby Go's strong ledes and choice of quotes show an understanding of voice and restraint. "There is a maturity and confidence in her writing that will grow and strengthen with every story she writes," Clark said. The award was renamed this year to honor longtime Michigan journalist and educator Janet Nellis Mender, a staunch supporter of the MCCPA. Mender died last year at 75.

Thanks to the students in WISD adult transitions program



Pictured from left are teachers and students: Marcie, Tonie, Che, Aysha, Leah; (back row) Kamar, Boone, Marcell, Colin, Pheobe, Chelsea, Noah, Jassen. (Team members are identified by first name only to protect students' privacy.) WASHTENAW VOICE | SHELBY BEATY

Students in the Washtenaw Intermediate School District's Young Adult Program pose in the TI building as the winter semester comes to an end. The young adult program serves students with cognitive and motor impairments, ages 18 to 22, as they transition from high schoolers into young adults. Washtenaw Intermediate School District operates the program at locations across the community, including WCC. Students

split their time between classroom work and jobs like delivering the Washtenaw Voice. The WISD team fills news racks around campus with each new issue, a gift to the Voice students and the campus community.



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Body cameras rolling, bicycle wheels rolling

Campus police use bikes, body cams to keep students and themselves safe

By Willow Symonds
Staff Writer

WCC's Public Safety Department made many changes this past year, and not just in response to COVID. Recently, sworn officers received two new additions: bicycle training and body cameras.

Before the bicycle program, security traveled across campus by motorized vehicle or by foot. The cars made much of the campus less accessible and harder to navigate.

The on-campus police department has two types of security: sworn and non-sworn. Sworn officers went through the police academy, carry firearms, respond to crimes, and have arrest authority. Non-sworn staff don't get bicycle training and instead focus on patrolling by foot, locking up doors, and helping students find their way around campus.

Utility designed their Body Worn cameras to resemble smartphones that can be zipped up into vests. Full-time Deputy Chief Jamie Zecman's camera sports a thick, black case, and the screen shows the digital time when held up.

Sworn police officers are required to wear body cameras anytime they're on duty. However, they can turn the video recording on and off at will. When they tap their palms against the cameras in their vest, the voice announces, "RECORDING," loud enough for both the officers and people nearby to hear.

The body cameras can also help police officers directly: they alert other officers if the wearer of the body camera appears to be lying down for too long. Zecman demonstrated by leaning over, to which the camera's voice recording almost immediately began to count down from ten. When she sat up right, the countdown stopped.

However, lying down and tapping their cameras aren't the only way to activate them. If they take their firearm out, their gun holster's sensor triggers the recording. Students will most likely never see this happen, as officers pull their guns very rarely.

"Thankfully, WCC is very safe," Zecman said. "Occasionally though, we do have crimes on campus. I would categorize it as rare compared to a big city police department."

In summer 2021, the previous chief, Scott Hilden, sent two sworn officers to get certified in the bicycle program. The training teaches them how to ride up and down stairs, how to do the job when their heart-rate is up, and effectively and safely dismounting. Even though the department owns the Giant-brand bikes, the trainees also learn bike maintenance.

At the moment, three officers have received certification in bicycle riding, including Jamie Zecman, David Pasko, and Cameron Bauer.

Zecman believes that bikes are useful to the WCC officers because they have access to more areas, such as the sidewalks. They can zig-zag between cars in the parking lot. The bicycles also make hearing and talking to people easier, as they can get closer and don't have to roll down windows.

"This makes interacting with the community easier," she said. "We're more approachable this way."



Officer Cameron Bauer sits on a WCC Safety Department Giant-brand bike.

COURTESY OF JAMIE ZECMAN.

The class costs \$700 per trainee. Luckily, the General Fund pays for the classes, along with the bicycles, the helmets, and the uniforms.

While bikes can't carry as many items as motorized vehicles, officers can attach pouches that read "POLICE" above the back wheel. These pouches hold anything they can't wear on their belt while riding, such as paperwork, ticket books, and medical supplies.

A WCC welding major, Nathaniel Burke, who believes that having a police force on campus is important, said he's in favor of these changes.

"I do believe the body cams will provide the officers with [...] security and safety against wrong accusations as well as helping document the crimes," Burke said. "As for the bikes, I believe that they will provide the officers a more versatile method of transport on campus."

Jamie Zecman thinks that

the bicycles and the body cameras have "absolutely" been an improvement.

"We're essential workers," Zecman said. "We have our doors open 24/7; we can't just close like a bank. [...] Especially during COVID, the cameras and the bikes have been successful."



WILLOW SYMONDS
I WASHTENAW VOICE
The body camera's screen shows the brand name, Body Worn, made by Utility.



COURTESY OF JAMIE ZECMAN.
Officer David Pasko sits on a WCC Safety Department Giant-brand bike.



The Loop

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COLUMN

What Miguel Cabrera means to me



“Miggy was at bat, and he turned the radio up. My uncle told me, “RJ, this is history.”

RJ HUNT
Editor

Most of those who know me will tell you I’m the biggest Detroit sports fan. The thing is, it was not always that way. When I was younger, the only sport I would watch was basketball. That started to change because of a man named Miguel Cabrera, known to his fans as just “Miggy.”

My parents would watch the news every night, and every time the sports segment came on, they would always bring up this Cabrera guy. I finally got to see this Miggy guy in action when my sister was given tickets to the Tigers’ game. To my sister, the most memorable moment that day was when she was able to walk on the field as she was honored with many other students for her grades. The moment for me was seeing Miggy hit a clutch home run to bring the Tigers back after being down earlier in the game.

From there on out, I was



Miguel Carbrera smiling at fans while playing 1st base. RAY CHAVEZ/BAY AREA NEWS GROUP VIA TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

hooked on baseball, I was hooked on the Tigers, and I was hooked on being a Miguel Cabrera fan.

I became a Miggy fan at the perfect time. I joined right as the Tigers started their consecutive seasons as the American League Central division champs. During this time, Miggy was named to multiple All Star teams, won back-to-back MVP awards, and the triple crown (leading the league in home runs, batting average, and RBIs), the first to do so since 1967.

I have this memory during

Miggy’s triple crown season. I was in the car with my uncle and he turned the radio to the Tigers’ game. Miggy was at bat, and he turned the radio up. My uncle told me, “RJ, this is history.” And he was right. The man was simply reaching once-in-a-generation accomplishments. As my uncle was telling me this was history we were listening to, Miggy went on to hit one of his many home runs that he would hit in his career.

I was too young to remember the Tigers going to the World Series in 2006,

but I remember them going in 2012. Therefore, I’ll never forget the night they clinched, nor the days that followed. It felt like everyone in Michigan was happy, I know I was. All of this excitement thanks to Miggy. The Tigers didn’t win that year’s World Series, but I still cherish that moment because a Detroit team hasn’t made it to a championship series/game since.

When Miggy reached his 500th home run, it was bittersweet for me. I was happy because my favorite baseball player of all time reached a

huge milestone, but I wasn’t there to see it in person for myself. Watching the moment on the TV didn’t do it justice. I made a vow, I’ll never miss a big moment like that again.

I kept my word.

I went through so many hoops and hurdles trying to see Miggy’s 3,000th hit in person. Between having a class in the middle of the game and weather delays changing the day of the game I had tickets to, I didn’t think I would make it. But Miggy waited on me. I somehow was able to get a ticket to the Tigers’ game for

Saturday April 23, 2022 for 1 p.m. That’s a day Tigers fans will never forget.

I remember getting to the ballpark and saying this is a great day to see history, and history happened. When Miggy hit the ball between the gap of the 1st and 2nd base bags, the crowd erupted. Just a joyous moment for everybody as the fans went crazy. Everyone was high fiving that person they never met and it didn’t even seem weird. We all shared the same happiness in that moment as we just watched a legend reach 3,000 hits, being the 33rd player in MLB history to do so.

Miggy literally has been a part of my childhood. When I was first introduced to him, I had a squeaky, baby face and I was in elementary school. Now, my voice has developed, I have facial hair, and I’m in college. I know his career is winding down, but I don’t know how I’m going to feel when he retires. I don’t know the Tigers without Miggy because he’s all I ever knew. Regardless, I cherish the memories he has brought to my life.

I just keep thinking back to the moment where Miggy was walking to the batter’s box before his 3,000th hit. I had brought my little cousin to the game with me. Even though he’s not into baseball, I wanted him to witness this moment. I told him to pull out his phone to record. Of course he asked why, and I responded “You are about to see history.” I’m glad he was able to see this moment as it was something I’m sure he will never forget. I know it’s one I’ll never forget.

VOICE BOX

If you had a Youtube channel, what videos would you make?

By Willow Symonds
Staff Writer

“Speed-drawings, maybe bird-watching and video games. I’d probably have different channels.”

Crystal Mendoza
Graphic design

“I’m very deep into the watch community, so I’d probably repair watches [and] help other people who want to do that.”

Robert Rice
Engineering



“Traveling. I’d vlog, recording the food [and] the culture.”

Catherine Kang
Early-Childhood Education

“Hair videos, talking about hair-dye and cosmetology. Those are always my go-to, so sharing that would be cool.”

Peyton Barrett
Business Administration

“I’m a Fine Arts major, so probably art, like painting and drawing.”

Sophie Stillwagon
Fine Arts

“I’d probably do guitar and guitar repair videos, or I would talk about the atheistic worldview and deconstructionism, [which] is analyzing the fundamentals of your life and self.”

Alexander Vance
Liberal Arts

“I’d be gaming, maybe Undertale or horror games.”

Tonantzi Sagastume-Carmona
Biology Pre-Med



Pride Month: What it means to our students & staff

By Willow Symonds
Staff Writer

June is officially dedicated to LGBTQ+ history and issues world-wide, and Washtenaw Community College has many LGBTQ+ students, faculty, and allies. Here, ten students and three staff members tell The Voice what they’re planning to do this June, who they look up to, and why Pride Month is important to them.

Are you planning on doing anything for pride month this year? Have you done anything for pride in the past?

“Yes! I usually go to YpsiPride and sometimes A2 Pride. [...] I’m still sad that YpsiPride isn’t happening, but we’ll probably go to A2’s.” ~Mary Mullalond, she/her, English faculty/Outspace+ advisor

“I’m planning on decorating my house with pride flags, possibly going to pride celebrations.” ~Joie Karas, they/them, WTCM general studies in math and science

“Yes, I have gone [to] pride festivals and plan to go again! I am super excited.” ~Shelby Vantreese, she/her, general education

“I’ve attended slightly larger Pride gatherings in the past, but with COVID still around and corporate fingers starting to get in all the major pics, the ‘official’ Pride stuff has started going out of what I would want to experience.” ~Eden Rudolph, she/they, journalism

What is your favorite pride-related memory?

“Last year, Outspace+ [WCC’s LGBTQ+ club] helped out with two different YpsiPride events. I loved getting together with a bunch of our club students to make buttons to give away at pride! So many vendors at pride charged for buttons, so [...] the faces of people lit up when they realized they could choose any identity or pride buttons they wanted for free, from the WCC booth!” ~Mary Mullalond, she/her, English faculty/Outspace+ advisor

“I met one of my best friends at a small Pride party



WCC's Outspace+ booth at Ypsi Pride on June 25, 2021. Pictured from left: Ira Smith, Emily Waters, Latitude Brown, and Karen Lewis.

COURTESY OF MARY MULLALOND.

with another mutual friend.” ~Eden Rudolph, she/they, journalism

“I handed out rainbow heart stickers to friends and they all put it on their phone cases, water bottles, [etc]. It was really special to see.” ~Katrina Melvin, she/her, health sciences

“Marching in Traverse City. It stands out because I got to meet Chasten Buttigieg.” ~Grant Howe, he/him, nursing

“NYC Pride 2018. I was with my partner and we saw Spongebob the Musical.” ~Ira Smith, he/him, environmental studies

“My [favorite memory is] friends coming out to me because it makes me happy that they trust me enough and I’m always proud of them.” ~Tonantzi Sagustume, she/her, biology pre-med

What does pride month mean to you? Why do you believe it's important?

“What pride month means to me is that it’s a great month where people can celebrate who they are and their sexuality. I think it’s important because it shines light on everyone being different and it lets people express themselves.” ~Tonantzi Sagustume, she/

her, biology pre-med

“Pride Month is important for the community to remember that being queer can be very difficult, not just in the past, but now too. Thus, Pride Month is the opportunity to support and celebrate each other in this community.” ~Janel Baker, she/her, social studies faculty

“Pride month is an opportunity for the LGBT community to celebrate our own existence in a way that we often don’t get. [...] That said, Pride has been seriously dampened by corporate interests [...], the presence of organizations like the police at the larger events, and the continuing insistence of [cisgender, heterosexual] people that they deserve some sort of Pride celebration as well. I think the foundational idea of Pride is deeply important, but the current existence it holds has been seriously harmed.” ~Eden Rudolph, she/they, journalism

“Pride month is important to me because I’m part of the community in so many ways and it’s so nice to know that I am not alone in the way I feel. I think it’s so important because it lets people become [...] educated on different identities.” ~Julie Ross, all pronouns, general associates

“Pride is a defiant state-

ment that LGBT people have been here all along, and are not going anywhere.” ~Strider Toll, he/they, animation

Do you look up to any LGBT+ people, whether they're historical figures, cultural icons, or people you know in real life?

“Yes. Too many to name, but here are three that come to mind: Vito Russo [film historian, author of The Celluloid Closet]. Audre Lorde [author, poet, feminist, LGBT+ and civil rights activist]. Marsha P. Johnson [a transgender woman who threw the first brick at the 1969 Stonewall Riots].” ~Janel Baker, she/her, social studies faculty

“Marsha P. Johnson, my sibling, and all my queer friends.” ~Joie Karas, they/them, WTCM general studies in math and science

“Essentially all of the people involved in the original Stonewall riots, and the many, many people who marched (and died) for AIDS to be recognized and treated within the US.” ~Eden Rudolph, she/they, journalism

“A family friend [...] who is gay but still a practicing and devout Christian.” ~Grant Howe, he/him, nursing

Do you think WCC has a good environment for LGBTQ+ students?

“I haven’t really seen that side of WCC but I’d say yeah, from what I’ve seen. There’s not really a dress code or anything that would prohibit people from expressing themselves.” Coby Grant, he/him,



The Outspace+ gift bag booth at Ypsi Pride on June 25, 2021. From left: Katie Williams and Emily Finkenbine.

COURTESY OF MARY MULLALOND.

Jacob Blevins

Continued from A1

After a long discussion he decided his best bet was to go to Brighton Center for Recovery, a substance abuse rehabilitation center in Brighton, Michigan.

“It was either rehab or a Buddhist retreat in West Virginia. I think I made the right choice.”

The journey begins

After rehab Jacob moved into a three-quarter house where tenants are required to go to meetings and are subjected to drug screenings. It was then that he decided to go to school.

As a returning student in his mid-twenties, he was nervous about going back. He’s always had that little voice in the back of his mind that tells him he doesn’t belong, and that voice was screaming its little head off.

“I was very intimidated when I went back; I felt like I stuck out like a sore thumb,” Jacob said.

But he was also excited, and he found the instructors humble, which helped alleviate his own feelings of inferiority.

A mentor emerges

Jacob knew he wanted a career that focused on helping people, not only people facing mental health issues, but any group that needed it.

“I wanted to help, I just didn’t know what that meant yet,” Jacob said.

He took a class with Will Teague, a professor in the Human Services department, who Jacob still considers a mentor.

Teague’s unorthodox teaching style made an immediate impact on Jacob. He was motivating and energetic. Teague didn’t hold students’ hands through the curriculum. He was honest, and gave students a clear picture as to what being a social worker is like.

“He gave us an actual education; how to be effective in the field and not harm anyone. In his classroom everyone had a voice.”

Teague and Blevins still have a good relationship to this day, as the two continue to stay in touch.

WCC to the rescue

WCC helped Jacob achieve his academic goals and assisted him in navigating his career path. He attributes WCC in getting him used to the process of being a student.

“It felt like a slingshot... I had this pent up desire to learn...I was desperate to learn. Washtenaw showed me what it felt like to learn something. And it provided me with opportunities to feel like a professional.”

While attending WCC, Jacob worked in the Writing Center as a tutor.

After WCC he transferred to Eastern Michigan to get his bachelor’s degree in social work. He quickly realized how well WCC had prepared him.

“You could see so clearly who went to Washtenaw, they just knew more.”

He credits Will Teague and Kristy Norris with the strength of the WCC program.

Jacob graduated Summa Cum Laude from EMU in Summer 2020.

What now?

Jacob has come a long way, from living out of his Chevy Trailblazer to getting his master’s degree from the University of Michigan.

Moving forward, he hopes to get a job in research. He wants to increase access to data and improve the way data is communicated.

“Data needs to be written so people can understand it, especially the people it’s trying to help.”

For all first-year WCC students, he had this piece of advice:

“We are a lot stronger than we think, keep this in mind throughout your education.”



COURTESY OF JORDAN SCENNA

Jacob Blevins visits the Howell rest stop for the first time since he called it home for six weeks in the summer of 2016. Going back was both strange and cathartic for him. “I kept wishing I could find the former me and tell him that it’s alright, stop running away and let the community embrace you.”



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- VALORANT

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Compete against WCC Students, staff, and faculty in different championship tournaments or recreational play; both with in person and online opportunities.

- BOWLING
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For further information

SCAN ME!



Interested in college level sports?

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SC 116 - Student Center



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wccwolfpack@wccnet.edu

EXTRA

May 10, 2022

Summer Hikes

By JORDAN SCENNA
Deputy Editor

As the last tests are taken, presentations are presented, and papers are penned, students are getting ready for a summer of fun and adventure. Unless you are one of those over-achievers that the rest of us silently mock for taking summer classes, the season of

sun is the time to unplug, to explore, and to get outside and enjoy the untold wonders this world has to offer. But if you’re like me, and have the attention span of a hyperactive goldfish, then lying on the beach, or lazily sipping lemonade on the back porch might not be for you.

The alternative?
Have yourself a walk.
Here are some great hiking trails for both the local heel-to-toe, and a few for the more intrepid trekkers.

Hike Michigan!



Potawatomi Trail

Location: Pinckney, Michigan
Distance: 17.6 miles
Elevation Gain: 1,253 feet
Trail Type: Loop

Features: Hiking, Biking, Camping, Dogs(Leashed)

Potawatomi Trail is known as one of the best hiking trails in Southeast Michigan. It’s over 17 miles of hills, lakes, and creeks, accessible for both the novice, and the shoe-worn veteran alike. If you’re planning to take on the entire trail, there are multiple campsites along the way with working water pumps. If 17 miles is too daunting of a saunter, you can try the Crooked Lake Trail which measures 5.1miles, or the Silver Lake Trail which measures a mere 1.9 miles. If you didn’t get the recreation pass when you last renewed your driver’s license, parking will cost you \$17.

Pictured Rocks

Chapel Loop-Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Location: Shingleton, Michigan
Distance: 10.2 miles
Elevation Gain: 754 feet
Trail Type: Loop

Features: Hiking, Camping, Swimming, No dogs

Pictured Rocks is located in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula just past the Mackinac Bridge. It’s famous for its kaleidoscopic rock cliffs, sea arches, coves, and waterfalls. This is the perfect hike to take in all that Pictured Rocks has to offer. You’ll experience amazing views off Pictured Rock Cliffs, see the Grand Portal arch (which partially collapsed in 2000) and Lover’s Leap, and have a swim at Chapel Beach. Don’t bring your pooch because dogs are not allowed on this trail, although other trails do allow them. It is \$10 per vehicle, and if you’re planning on camping, expect a \$5 per person fee.



Porcupine Mountains

Big Carp River Trail-Porcupine Mountains State Park,

Location: Ontonagon, Michigan
Distance: 16.2 miles
Elevation Gain: 1,423 feet
Trail Type: Out and Back

Features: Hiking, Camping, Birding, Dogs (Leashed)

The Porcupine Mountains, located near Ontonagon, Michigan is the largest wilderness area in the Midwest. It boasts over 90 miles of hiking trails with beautiful views of Lake Superior, creeks, bridges, and the majestic wilderness of the Porcupine Mountains. If you’re lucky, you may encounter some of the vibrant wildlife that shares these woods. Black Bears, Gray Wolves, foxes, porcupines, and moose all call the Porcupine Mountains their home. The park recommends an overnight stay as this is a long hike. A \$17 recreation pass is required, and a \$20 per night fee will be charged for camping

Hike America!



Mt. Tallac Lake Tahoe

Mt. Tallac-South Lake Tahoe

Location: South Lake Tahoe, California
Distance: 10.5 miles
Elevation Gain: 3,274 feet
Trail Type: Out and Back
Features: Hiking, Camping, Dogs (Leashed)

Lake Tahoe stands on the California/Nevada border and is a very popular tourist destination for both winter and summer fun. For hikers, Mt. Tallac is a must do when visiting Tahoe. This hike isn’t for the faint of heart, as Mt. Tallac stands 9,738 feet tall, complete with rocky terrain, and the latter part of the hike lacking shade. Your efforts will be greatly rewarded if you can reach the summit, with spectacular views of Fallen Leaf Lake, Lake Tahoe, and the Desolation Wilderness. Day hikers can issue themselves a permit at the trailhead, while campers can expect a \$5 fee for the first two nights.

Zion National Park

Angel’s Landing-Zion National Park

Location: Springdale, Utah
Distance: 5.2 miles
Elevation Gain: 1,604 feet
Trail Type: Out and Back

Features: Hiking, No dogs

Zion National Park is a nature preserve defined by its signature red cliff formations. Zion offers travelers many different hiking and camping experiences. One of those is the Angel’s Landing day hike. Angel’s Landing gives hikers great views of Zion Canyon and Scout Lookout. You’ll encounter paved trails and man-made switchbacks, fondly nicknamed “Walter’s Wiggles,” after the park’s first superintendent who engineered the path up to Angel’s Landing. Angels Landing is famous for its narrow, “rock fin” summit, where fixed steel chains have been placed into the rock face to help navigate the treacherous path. If you have a fear of heights this is not the hike for you. Expect a \$35 entrance fee.



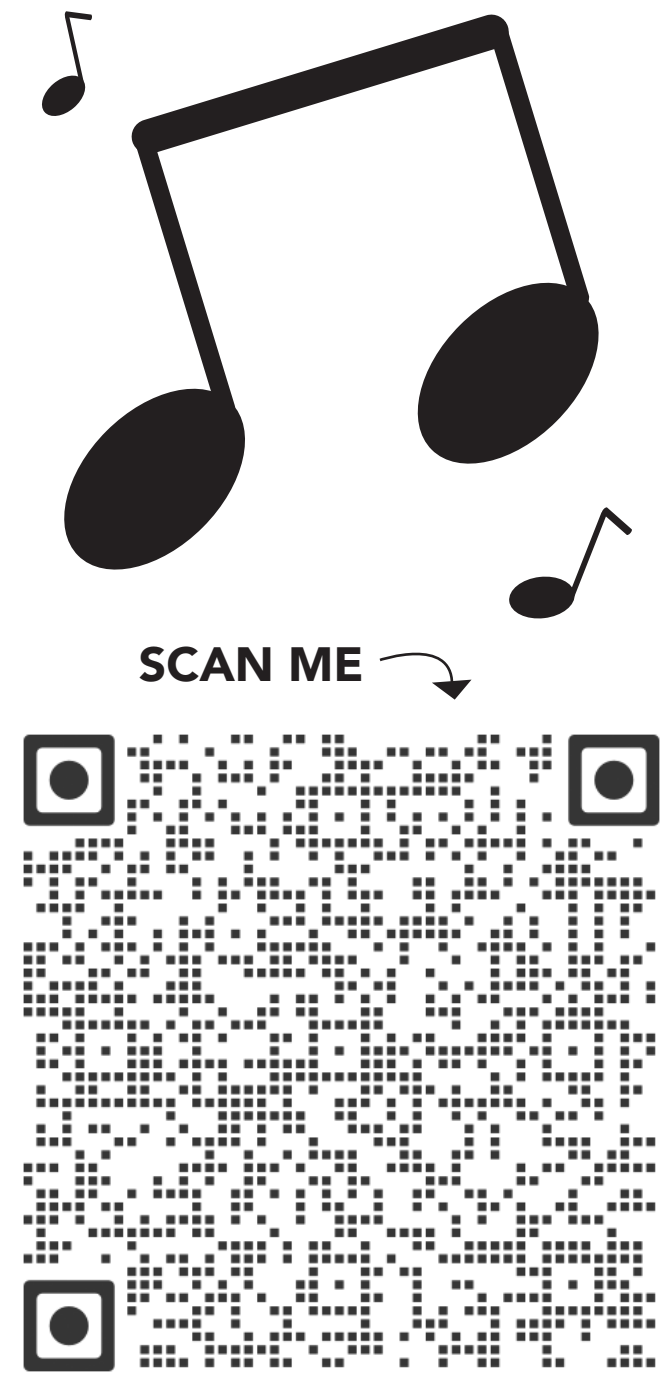
Sentinel Dome Yosemite

Sentinel Dome-Yosemite

Location: Mariposa, California
Distance: 2.1 miles
Elevation Gain: 456 feet
Trail Type: Out and Back

Features: Hiking, Camping, Biking Dogs (Leashed)

Yosemite National Park is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and is known for its diverse terrain featuring towering waterfalls, giant Sequoias, and well-known rock formations, El Capitan and Half Dome. The Sentinel Dome hike isn’t as famous, but stands out for its amazing views. Words can’t describe the surreal vista’s you’ll take in at the top of Sentinel Dome. You’ll get a 360 degree view of the Yosemite backcountry while taking in Yosemite Falls, Half Dome, and El Capitan. This hike is a must when visiting Yosemite. Expect a \$35 fee when driving into the park.



Summer 2022 Playlist

Melanie Chapman | Staff Writer

Song: As it was
By: Harry Styles

Harry Styles' new song is the perfect mix of happy and sad. Anyone can enjoy As it Was, with its upbeat tempo distracting listeners from the somber lyrics.

Song: Pink + White
By: Frank Ocean

Frank Ocean's Pink + White is the go-to picnic song to listen to with your friends, or while riding your bike or going for a morning walk. It is a soothing and relaxing song to listen to in the morning or at night.

Song: First Class
By: Jack Harlow

First class is easily going to be the 2022 song of the summer. Harlow sampled Fergie's Glamorous, which has been topping the charts since its release, making it work in his favor.

Song: Home
By: BTS

Everyone knows Dynamite and Butter by BTS, but in 2019 BTS released a summer song that may have gone unnoticed by some. Home is an exciting song with iconic one-liners, making it one of their most unforgettable B-sides.

Song: Fue mejor
By: Kali Uchis & SZA

Fue Mejor is a sexy summer song that can be listened to while taking a late-night drive or a "get ready" song before going out.

Song: Heat waves
By: Glass Animals

Heat waves have been a chart-topper since the beginning of this year, it first becoming popular from TikTok. The song has a nostalgic feel to it that is perfect for summer memories.

Song: Malibu
By: Miley Cyrus

Malibu by Miley Cyrus feels like summer, there's no other way to put it. The song alone will make you want to go visit Malibu or at least to your local beach.

Song: Megan's piano
By: Megan Thee Stallion

Megan's Piano is an easy confidence booster, it is the perfect song to replay while preparing for "hot girl summer". Megan thee Stallion's signature tidemark and another "get ready" song to listen before going out.

Song: Obsessive
By: Chase Atlantic

An alternative summer song that's easy to sing along to and a fun song to blast with friends.

Song: Kiss me more
By: Doja Cat & SZA

Kiss me more is a fun pop-rap song that can be played at any time of the day or event, and it will fit perfectly. This will be considered a timeless summer song in the coming years, and Doja Cat is a timeless artist.

The Voice staff looks forward to summer 2022 plans

RJ Hunt | Editor

My summer will be busy because I'll be having surgery, taking summer classes, and working. But, I'm going to Los Angeles for the first time. I'm looking forward to that.

RJ Hunt
Editor



I'm taking summer classes, and I'm actually excited about the Horror Film class. I'm also going to Disney's Star Wars Hotel with my family.

Willow Symonds
Staff writer



Other than working full-time, I plan on taking a creative writing class. I'm also traveling to Key West for Conch and kayaking, and heading up north to do some hiking.

Jordan Scenna
Deputy editor



My plans for the summer are to do everything I put off while I focused on school. So, I look forward to reading all the books I put aside. I also want to go to Pilates two times a week and enjoy the weather, go for walks, and visit Royal Oak and downtown Detroit. The last thing I am looking forward to is going to Universal Studios and Disneyland for my sister's 20th birthday, I also hope I will have time to visit Malibu while I am in California.

Melanie Chapman
Staff writer



I'm looking forward to serving at a restaurant and picking up some freelance graphic design work this summer.

Cassie Stewart
Graphic designer



My plans for this summer is to tour around Michigan because this is my first summer here. Hopefully it doesn't snow in the summer.

Janani Murugesan
Graphic designer



I'm just going to be working. I'm also going to be in a wedding in August.

Emily Landau
Digital editor



I'm taking photography and videography classes this summer. I also hope to get accepted into this summer program with the Detroit Free Press. I also want to start reading more.

Ruby Go
Staff writer



I plan on taking a road trip to Ohio, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. My other plan is going to my second concert in August. I'm seeing Lord Huron and I have front row seats.

Shelby Beaty
Photo editor



"I don't like to gamble, but if there's one thing I'm willing to bet on, it's myself."

Beyoncé

"Take a chance and don't ever look back. Never have regrets, just lessons learned."

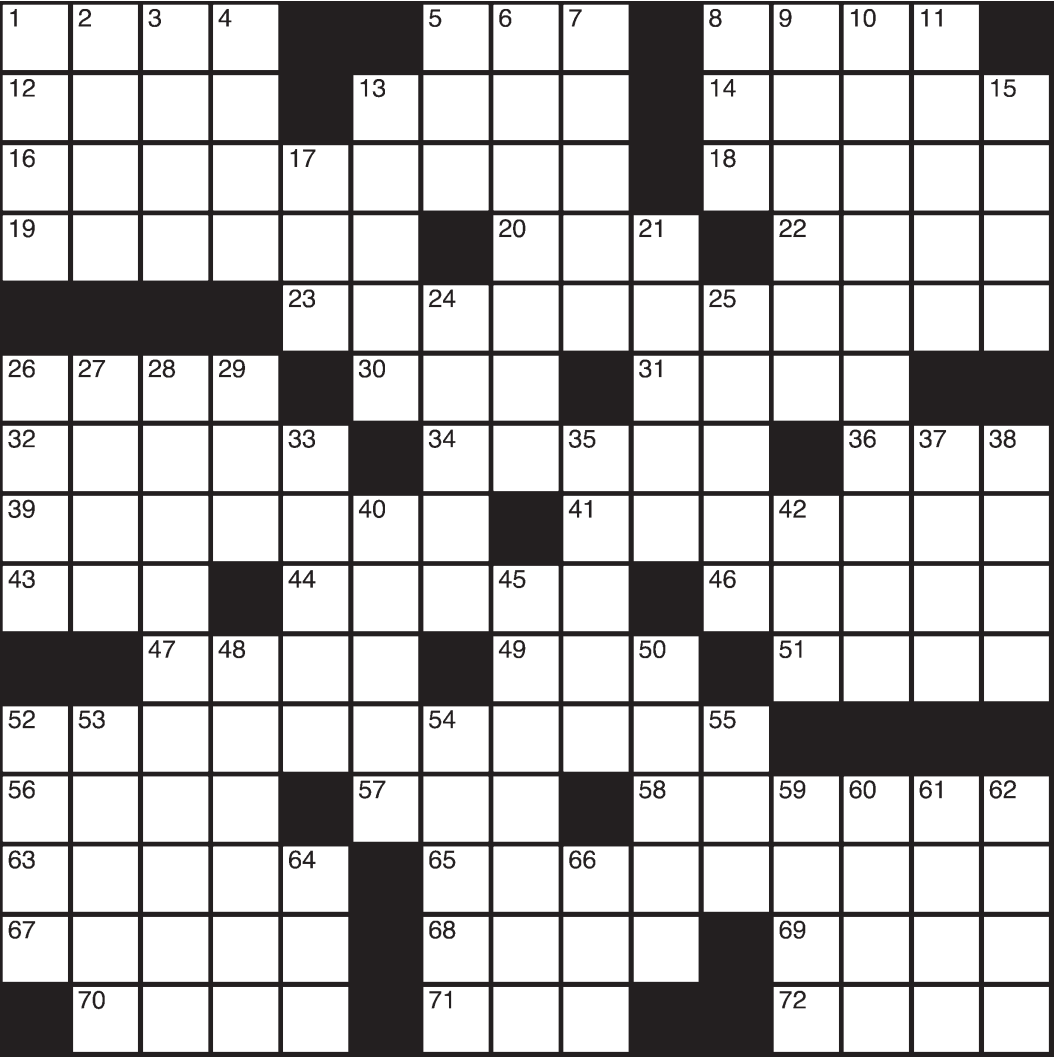
Kim Kardashian

"To me, fearless is not the absense of fear. It's not being completely unafraid. To me, Fearless is having fears. Fearless is having doubts. Lots of them. To me, fearless is living in spite of those things that scare you to death."

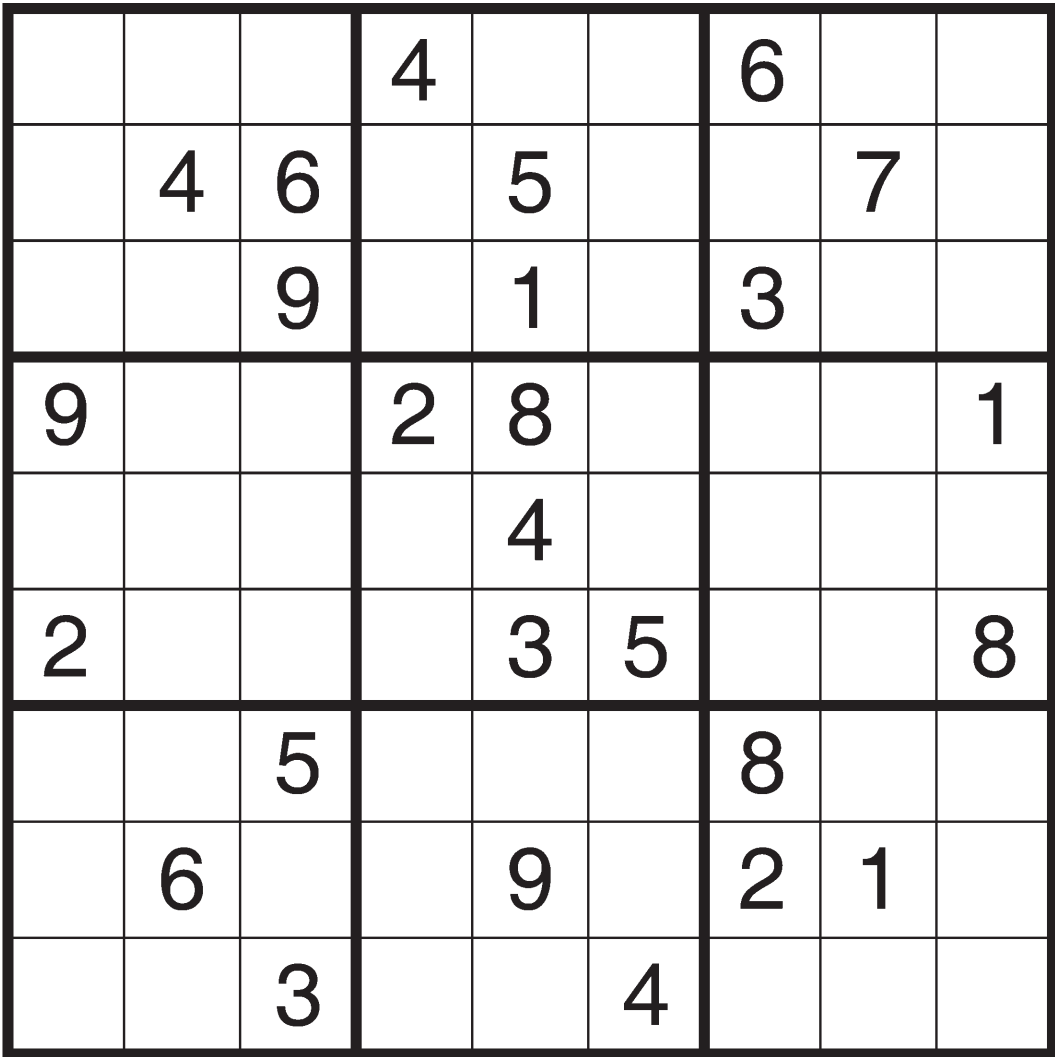
Taylor Swift

"If it's flipping hamburgers at McDonald's, be the best ham-burger flipper in the world. Whatever it is you do you have to master your craft."

Snoop Dogg



Solutions to puzzles on washtenawvoice.com



ACROSS

- 1 Flows back
5 Sci. major
8 Fisher of "Wedding Crashers"
12 Eight or nine on the Beaufort scale
13 Twinge
14 Hijab and niqab, e.g.
16 NVS
18 Like Keebler's animated bakers
19 Daze
20 Serpentine fish
22 Toy company with theme parks
23 TDS
- 26 Bound
30 Island chain
31 Parts of an island chain
32 Bagel flavor
34 Part of a flight
36 Steve Carell voice role
39 IC
41 MT
43 "___ been a while!"
44 Place to have a ball?
46 Smog element
47 Sweeping
49 Olive extract
51 Some Neruda poems
52 DVS
56 Costa ___
- 57 Pull the plug on
58 Top 10 U2 song from "Rattle and Hum"
63 High-five sounds
65 ODS
67 Totally fine
68 Cuatro y cuatro
69 Resale warning
70 "Betsy's Wedding" writer/director
71 Sporty truck, briefly
72 Zero

DOWN

- 1 What some layers cover
2 Toon boy known for chalkboard gags
3 Flag couleur
4 Flow slowly
5 ___ leaf
6 "This isn't optional!"
7 Nash who rhymed "Bronx" and "thonx"
8 First-person contraction
9 Date stamp
10 Apparel company with a smiling stick-figure icon
11 Set straight
13 Grave danger
15 Love thy neighbour, say?
- 17 Snarling sound
21 Saint ___: only country named for a woman
24 Sticky places?
25 Venice's Piazza San ___
26 Novelist Picout
27 Peck, e.g.
28 Notification while in silent mode, perhaps
29 Cauldron
33 Low point
35 Skirt
37 Mythological character?
38 Applications
40 ___ market
42 Aduba of "In Treatment"
- 45 Manage
48 Online grocer with green delivery trucks
50 Resulted in
52 ___ Major
53 Wafer brand
54 Short-necked pear
55 "Snowfall" law gp.
59 Graceful bird
60 "Assuming that's the case ..."
61 Mess up
62 Choice word
64 Genre with Jamaican roots
66 ___/her pronouns

BREWSTER ROCKIT
By Tim Rickard



CLASSIFIEDS

WCC students and employees can place classified ads in The Washtenaw Voice for free.

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS Looking for help? As a service to our students, you may place "help wanted" ads in The Washtenaw Voice for free.

THE DEADLINE in 5 p.m. the Tuesday before publication.

SEND ADS to wcc.voice.advertising@gmail.com

Center for Career Success

SC 112
734-677-5155
careers@wccnet.edu

These are among recent employment ad posted with WCC Center for Career Success.

Students may contact the Center for Career Success to find out how to apply for the openings.

To view more information, visit Career Connect at wccnet.edu/careerconnect

The Jackson Area Manufacturing Association

is hiring apprentices for the FAME USA Program. Apply here or at applytofame.com, the deadline to apply has been extended to 05-16-2022. Those enrolled into the FAME Program will start a work/study program to earn an associate degree and certification as an Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT). FAME Students attend classes at a local community college two days a week (8 hours or more each day) and will work at least 24 hours a week (8 hours or more each day for three days) for a local, sponsoring employer – being paid a competitive wage.

Navitas Systems is hiring for 3 internships

Mechanical Engineering Intern, Quality Engineering Intern. Interns are generally college students pursuing STEM degree programs. There are no specific restrictions on major, graduation year or progress. Successful candidates will be both quality and detail oriented, be team oriented and flexible. They will possess good interpersonal skills, be good in written and verbal communication and be able to interface with co-workers and management.

BCC Distribution, Inc.

is seeking a Sales & Marketing Administrator. BCCD, located in Canton, Michigan, is an industrial mobile software developer and equipment distributor that specializes in supply chain solutions for manufacturing and warehouse corporations in the US. BCCD is looking for a person that has their business associates or soon to acquire. The position is for a sales and marketing administrator.

Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority

is hiring for a Manager of Mobility Services who will be responsible for ensuring that mobility services provided by the agency maintain the highest standards

of safety, customer satisfaction, efficiency, and overall excellence in service delivery. Mobility services include all ADA-related service (A-ride, and fixed-route ADA passengers), NightRide, AirRide, FlexRide, and any other contracted services.

Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels-Michigan Medicine

has a position as a Client Services Coordinator who will play a vital role in protecting the health and quality of life for the individuals that are served through our program. With the support of more than 300 volunteers, AAMOW serves 400 individuals in our community each year who are homebound due to physical and/or mental health reasons. The individual in this role will be responsible for supporting AAMOW's front office operations, which includes significant client and volunteer contact and communication.

Applied Dynamics International

is hiring an Electronics Technician to troubleshoot boards to component level, inspect boards & cables to IPC 610 & 620 standards, and unit test of boards among other duties.

Sodexo Live has a part-time Dishwasher opening available.

This role is responsible for the proper washing and storage of china, glassware, tableware,

cooking utensils, and other food service equipment items. They will utilize manual cleaning methods as well as automated machinery to maintain Center-plate's standards for cleanliness and sanitation.

Adecco- Onsite at Truck Hero

has a 1st Shift Product Assembler position to assemble many products using different workstations. Associates build, inspect, and maintain these parts whiling sewing, sawing, and assembling various components.

Frankel Jewish Academy is hiring for 3 roles;

(1) Technical Support Specialist that will be responsible for the first tier of on-site technical support. The Technical Support Specialist reports to the Director of Technology and is a full-time employee. This is a 12-month position. (2) Business Office Associate to provide day-to-day administrative and financial project support to the Chief Operating Officer (COO). This is a hybrid position that provides effective administrative, human resources, and financial support, while maintaining a focus on quality, confidentiality and results oriented approach. (3) a STEM-Tech Coordinator as a specialist in the areas of technology, data, and/or innovation. This individual will bring a passion and expertise in one or more specific skill set areas. The specialist reports to a leadership position. This is a 12-month, full-time position.

Connections Academy is hiring for two roles;

(1) a Lighthouse Connections Academy - Attendance Specialist, 2021-2022 School Year to assist and support the school in maintaining appropriate attendance records for students. Additionally, the Attendance Administrative Assistant supports students and parents by serving as the initial point of contact for student absences and attendance records. (2) Lighthouse Connections Academy - School Registrar, 2021-2022 School Year responsible for the timely and accurate maintenance and processing of student official transcripts, managing course validation procedures, and performing additional support services. This job class requires attention to detail, organization skills, and the knowledge of specialized areas of school administration policies and procedures.

Redline Equipment is seeking a Part-Time or Full Time Parts Sales Specialist

Some responsibilities: proactively execute parts programs and campaigns to adhere to company directives. Interact with customers to ensure a positive dealer experience. Assist the Parts Sales Coordinator/Manager in achieving efficient operation and profitability goals. Fill parts order requests from outside and inside customers in a timely and efficient manner. Maintain stocking levels alerting supervisor when inventories are running low .

Ann Arbor District Library

is hiring for two positions; (1) a Library Safety Assistant - Part-Time (2) Library Safety Assistant - Full-Time Under the direction of the Facilities Associate Director, and the supervision of the Safety Lead, the Library Safety Assistant (PT & FT) patrols the build-ings, parking lots, and grounds to assure a safe and secure environment for patrons and staff. NOTE: The positions require up to 60 hours of paid, supervised training.

Lindamood-Bell Learning Center

is hiring Tutors. "We are looking for energetic, positive individuals to work as tutors we call Clinicians, in a Lindamood-Bell® Learning Center. Join us as we teach students of all ages to read and comprehend to their potential!" Hiring Bonuses Available!

Scooter's Coffee is hiring a Barista (part-time)

"We are looking for baristas with an outgoing, energetic, positive, and friendly personality to join the team at our newest drive-thru only store! Using our core values of integrity, love, humility, and courage as a guide, you'll serve amazing drinks, amazingly fast to the Brighton community. If coffee is new to you, don't worry. We'll teach you everything you need to know!" Hours: Flexible schedule with all shifts available



FREE SUMMER OUTDOORS CONCERTS

Free music by regional, national and international acts Thursdays 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in Ann Arbor’s Liberty Plaza, corner of Liberty and Division streets. Find the food truck and then find your friends. Presented by the Bank of Ann Arbor and its partners.
See [Soniclunch.com](#) for details.

A2 ART FAIRS

Whether you’re people watching or shopping, there’s plenty to see at the annual art fairs, July 21-23, beginning at 10 a.m. The sprawling event stretches from Ann Arbor’s Main Street to the University of Michigan campus. In addition to artists and food vendors, there’s free music.
Details at [theannarborartfair.com](#)

TIGERS GAME

Enjoy spending time at Comerica Park to see a Detroit Tigers game. A day at the ballpark is something the whole family can enjoy. Get on the ferris wheel, take a picture with Paws, or get lucky and catch a foul ball.
Check [mlb.com/tigers](#) for date and time of games.

CLUELESS ESCAPE ROOMS
Challenge your wits and skills to find clues and solve puzzles. Players between 9-17 must be accompanied by an adult.
Visit [a2clue.com](#) for more information.

ROLLING HILLS

If you want to cool yourself off on a hot summer day, grab some friends and head over to Rolling Hills water park. Feel the excitement of the wave pool or enjoy the relaxation of the lazy river. Rolling Hills is open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Go to [washtenaw.org/rolling-hills-water-park](#)

LIBERTY FEST

From June 16-June 18 Canton’s Liberty Fest will be taking place. Taste all the good eats provided by the food trucks, enjoy the carnival rides, and be amazed by the fireworks. All ages are welcome.
Visit [canton.mi.org/libertyfest](#) for more information.

THE CREATURE CONSERVANCY

Check out the wild animal conservancy with over 80 species of mostly exotic animals, many of whom are rescued former pets. Tickets must be purchased in advance from the website in order to limit audience size due to COVID-19 concerns.
See [thecreatureconservancy.org](#) for more information.

MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS

Visit the 300-acre garden with a variety of outdoor displays and nature trails for exploring. Open to the public Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and admission is free.
Visit [mbgna.umich.edu](#) for more information.

MOTOR CITY COMIC CON

Visit Novi’s 33rd annual comic convention this May! Guests can enter cosplay contests, get face paint, listen to panels, look through the artist gallery, take photos with actors and comic book creators, and more. Those interested can buy tickets for May 13, 14, or 15, whether online or in-person, at 46100 Grand River Ave.

SALTY SUMMER SOUNDS

Listen to live music every Thursday night in downtown Saline. Audiences can attend at 101 S Ann Arbor St., outside of Salt Springs Brewery. Open for all ages and no fee is required.

MOTOR CITY PRIDE

March in Detroit’s annual pride festival this June 12. This celebration of Michigan’s LGBTQIA+ community is a parade as well as a street festival, complete with food and entertainment. The parade starts at Griswold and Fort streets, and heads down Griswold to Jefferson St., ending at Hart Plaza.

FREE LIVE MUSIC AND MOVIES!

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival Top of the Park series returns to the Ingalls Mall on East Washington Street, June 10-July 3. A companion to Summer Festival’s slate of ticketed events, Top of the Park offers concerts, “movies by moonlight,” open-air street spectacles and family attractions.
See: [a2sf.org/top-of-the-park](#)

