



Librarian
defends readers'
freedom

SEE A2



New dance
coach brings
the boogie

SEE A3



Books worse
off with TikTok

SEE A4



THE WASHTENAW VOICE



VOL. 32, No. 3

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

The student publication of Washtenaw Community College

Ann Arbor, Michigan

www.washtenawvoice.com



RUBY GO | WASHTENAW VOICE

Teresa Herzog, Coordinator of the Collegiate Recovery Program, introduces the agenda for a naloxone training session hosted by the CRP. The session was free and open to anyone, and it was part of the CRP's new weekly series of events entitled "Just Say KNOW".

New grant breathes fun and education into Collegiate Recovery Program

By JORDAN SCENNA
Deputy Editor

The WCC chapter of the Collegiate Recovery Program received a \$5,600 grant from the Jamie Daniels Foundation in June. The JDF was founded by Ken Daniels, long-time announcer for the Detroit Red Wings, and his wife Lisa Daniels-Goldman.

After losing their son Jamie to a Fentanyl overdose in 2016, the Daniels family formed the foundation to help children and young adults suffering from substance use disorder. In addition to the grant, a \$10,000 scholarship fund will be made available to

CRP students. Started in January 2019, CRP is a student-run organization that supports anyone seeking recovery from drugs, alcohol, or other mental health issues.

The scholarship won't be available until fall 2024, but the group plans to use the grant money to host more social events to help create a supportive campus community and to inject some fun into recovery.

"CRP gives support, community, and connection for healing, and that's real," said Theresa Herzog, CRP program director. "We also want students to have some fun and have some swag."

Past outings have included hiking and kayaking, but the infusion of grant money should spice up the options for this year. They're currently brainstorming ideas and laser tag has been mentioned as one option.

Providing a safe and sober environment for students to have fun is only one of CRP's goals. Some of the grant money is going toward the group's "Just Say Know" educational series, which meets Wednesdays at noon in the Student Center, and is open to everyone. Harm reduction is the focus at the weekly meeting, where topics will include vaping, canna-

bis, alcohol, and prescription drugs.

Harm reduction is an approach to substance abuse that aims to educate people who use drugs on overdose prevention, infectious disease transmission, and physical and mental well-being. According to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, harm reduction strategies attempt to "meet people 'where they are' on their own terms, and may serve as a pathway to additional prevention, treatment, and recovery services."

continued on A2

Meet the new chief of public safety

By RJ HUNT
Editor

This past May, John Leacher was hired to become WCC's new chief of public safety and emergency management. Deputy police chief Jamie Zecman is back to her traditional role as deputy after taking over the interim chief position since former chief Scott Hilden left WCC in January. Leacher takes the job with 35 years of experience in law enforcement services, serving in Romulus, Flat Rock, and Dearborn.

Leacher found out about the job opening on the Michigan association of chiefs of police website. Leacher was content with his job in Dearborn and even thought he was going to retire from law enforcement there. Then, he found out about the job opening at WCC. "Honestly, I looked at it and wasn't going to, but something kept calling me back," said Leacher. "I kept going, maybe this is the place where I have that niche and where I have a



Jon Leacher, chief of public safety.

RUBY GO | WASHTENAW VOICE

purpose again.

Leacher feels like the new position is going to allow him to interact and connect with the community. "Community policing is where my heart has always been," said Leacher. "There's no better place than (WCC) to engage with young people, to have conversa-

tions. Ones that I know will not always be easy." Leacher realizes people on campus will have concerns, but he wants those concerns to be heard. Leacher's goal is to encourage student success. "I always tell people that our very last result is arresting someone," said Leacher. Instead of arrest-

ing someone, Leacher would rather have a conversation, so there is an understanding of what and what can't happen on this campus.

WCC has been welcoming to Leacher. "Oh my gosh, this is an awesome campus," said

Leacher. He mentioned that everyone has been supportive and helpful since he's taken over the chief position.

Leacher wants to make sure students are successful at WCC and that they have what they need to feel safe on campus. He wants to emphasize he is open to talking to students and faculty and address whatever they feel is needed. He is willing to come to student groups and student organizations. He gets that they may not agree on everything, but he wants to at least have a conversation so everyone has an understanding of one another. "(We can) do a presentation on something or we can have a roundtable and talk," said Leacher. "I'm 100% all about that. People can stop by anytime."

State lawmakers push for more grads with new scholarship fund

Most students at community colleges eligible for up to \$2,750 per year

By JORDAN SCENNA
Deputy Editor

Michigan lawmakers have passed a bipartisan supplemental package to fund economic development and deliver scholarships for higher education. Students who attend community college will receive up to \$2,750 per year for up to three years, or \$5,500 for a public university for up to five years. Students must maintain "adequate academic progress" to keep the scholarship.

Approved last week, the Michigan Achievement Scholarship is designed to help Gov. Gretchen Whitmer achieve her "60 by 30" goal, which would see 60% of working adults hold a college degree or skill certificate by 2030.

Starting with the class of 2023, students whose families have an "expected family contribution" of less than \$25,000 are eligible for the scholarship. This is expected to cover 94% of students attending community college and 76% of students attending a public university.

Since 2012, enrollment at public universities is down nearly 46,000 students, according to reporting by bridgemi.com. The scholarship is intended to encourage highschoolers who are skittish about taking on loan debt to pursue a degree.

The scholarship is expected to cost the state \$169 million for the 2023-24 school year, and \$562 million over the next four years. This is an inconsequential sum according to Michigan Sen. Jeff Irwin, an Ann Arbor Democrat.

"This is going to help a lot of young kids get to college, it's going to help our economy and it's going to be good for a lot of people in our state," Irwin said.

State tuition help now tops \$4.5M

Michigan Reconnect gives state a more educated workforce

By AFUA SERWAH OSEI-BONSU
Contributor

Students at WCC have received more than \$4.5 million through a pair of new state scholarship programs.

Some 2,766 WCC students have enrolled in the Michigan Reconnect program, which started in the summer of 2021. Reconnect scholarships totaling \$2.07 million have been awarded.

The Michigan Reconnect program is open to state residents 25 and older who do not have a college degree. Michigan Reconnect covers tuition for eligible adults who want to pursue an associate's degree or skills certificate at community colleges. It supports Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's goal of increasing the number of Michigan adults with a college degree/certificate from 45% to 60%.

Some state lawmakers have recently talked about expanding the program by lowering the age limit to 21, at least on a temporary basis, according to MLive.

A separate program open to Michigan residents who worked "frontline" jobs in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, has awarded \$2.44 million to WCC students. That scholarship program has 2,409 enrollees at Washtenaw, according to Fran LeFort, media relations officer at WCC..

The initial program, Futures for Frontliners, is no longer accepting applications, but some of the students who got help with their tuition continue to work toward their degrees.

Additional support for students returning to the classroom through the two programs was highlighted this summer when Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist visited WCC to talk about a new grant to help with non-tuition expenses. A \$6 million commitment by the state government will provide up to \$550 each academic year to help Reconnect and Frontliner students with costs such as transportation, technology etc.

The added help is an important step in overcoming the barriers that stand in the way of a college education for many adult students, said WCC President Rose Bellanca.



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As book challenges mount, WCC librarian stands firm

By: JACOB KUIPER
Staff Writer

2022 is on pace to smash last year's record for number of library resources banned or challenged according to the American Library Association. (A "challenge" refers to an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A "ban" is the removal of said material.)

In 2021 there was a combined, year-long total of 729 attempts to restrict library materials across 1,597 unique titles.

At the time this was a record in the 20 years ALA has been collecting this information. This record is set to be topped this year as 681 attempts have been made across 1,651 unique titles. This growing trend is compounded by a dramatic increase in multi-book challenges. More than 70% of this year's challenges involved multiple titles, rather than the historic norm of specific, single target restriction attempts.



JACOB KUIPER | WASHTENAW VOICE.

WCC librarian Maureen Perault stands next to a display of banned and challenged books for Banned Books Week.

The ALA top 10 challenged books of 2021 are:

1. "Gender Queer" by Maia Kobabe
2. "Lawn Boy" by Jonathan Evison
3. "All Boys Aren't Blue" by George m. Johnson
4. "Out of Darkness" by Ashley Hope Perez
5. "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas
6. "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie
7. "Me and Earl and the Dying Girl" by Jesse Andrews
8. "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison
9. "This Book is Gay" by Juno Dawson
10. "Beyond Magenta" by Susan Kuklin

Despite this escalation, 20-plus year WCC veteran librarian Maureen Perault remains an advocate for controversial titles, "Librarians are fierce defenders of the freedom to read as a part of intellectual freedom. Banning books...is a violation

of the First Amendment," said Perault.

Not only does Perault see this as a freedom issue, she also sees it as a moral issue, "[When we censor this material] we lose our compassion for others. Books really do connect us. When we can't read about people in different circumstances than we have, we lose cognisance of them. We lose our humanity," said Perault.

This building of compassion is her main reason for defending controversial materials, particularly when it comes to the BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities: "[These books] make us aware of things we would perhaps have never been made aware of. When we limit access to books that show [a] side of the story that we aren't familiar with, it's denying that these people actually exist," said Perault.

Perault also advocates for remembering the humanity of librarians and library staff, "We are under attack...[for] just doing our job."



JACOB KUIPER | WASHTENAW VOICE.

Another display done by Maureen Perault for Banned Books Week of some of last year's most banned and challenged books.

And she worries that this censorship will create less informed people, "I don't know what it's protecting [people] from....The more informed you are the more equipped you are to make decisions...[and this guides the] principles you want to follow and the values you want to respect."

Despite her support for controversial material, no matter the content, Perault did note that not just any book makes it into Bailey Library, "We carefully analyze every single book that we buy to make sure that it's well reviewed and of high quality

information." And she appears to have been rewarded for her careful advocacy; despite Bailey Library carrying many banned and challenged books you would have trouble finding any of them on the shelves, but for a very different reason than you might think: "I can't put [them] on display because [they're] on reserve for classes....students always check them out."

Want to know more about how you can fight back against book bans and censorship? Visit ala.org or uniteagainstbookbans.org for more information and support.

Collegiate Recovery Program

Continued from A1

Matt Strang, a pre-med student at WCC, serves as the group's peer educator and has spent a year on the executive board of the Students for Sensible Drug Policy at the University of Michigan. Strang, who's in recovery himself, sees the CRP and harm reduction strategies as an integral part of helping people who might be dealing with substance abuse.

"We want to help [students] arrest anxiety at a young age with harm reduction," Strang said.

Both Strang and Herzog want to create a safe space for people who don't use drugs and alcohol, but also a place where students who do can come and talk about it without judgment.

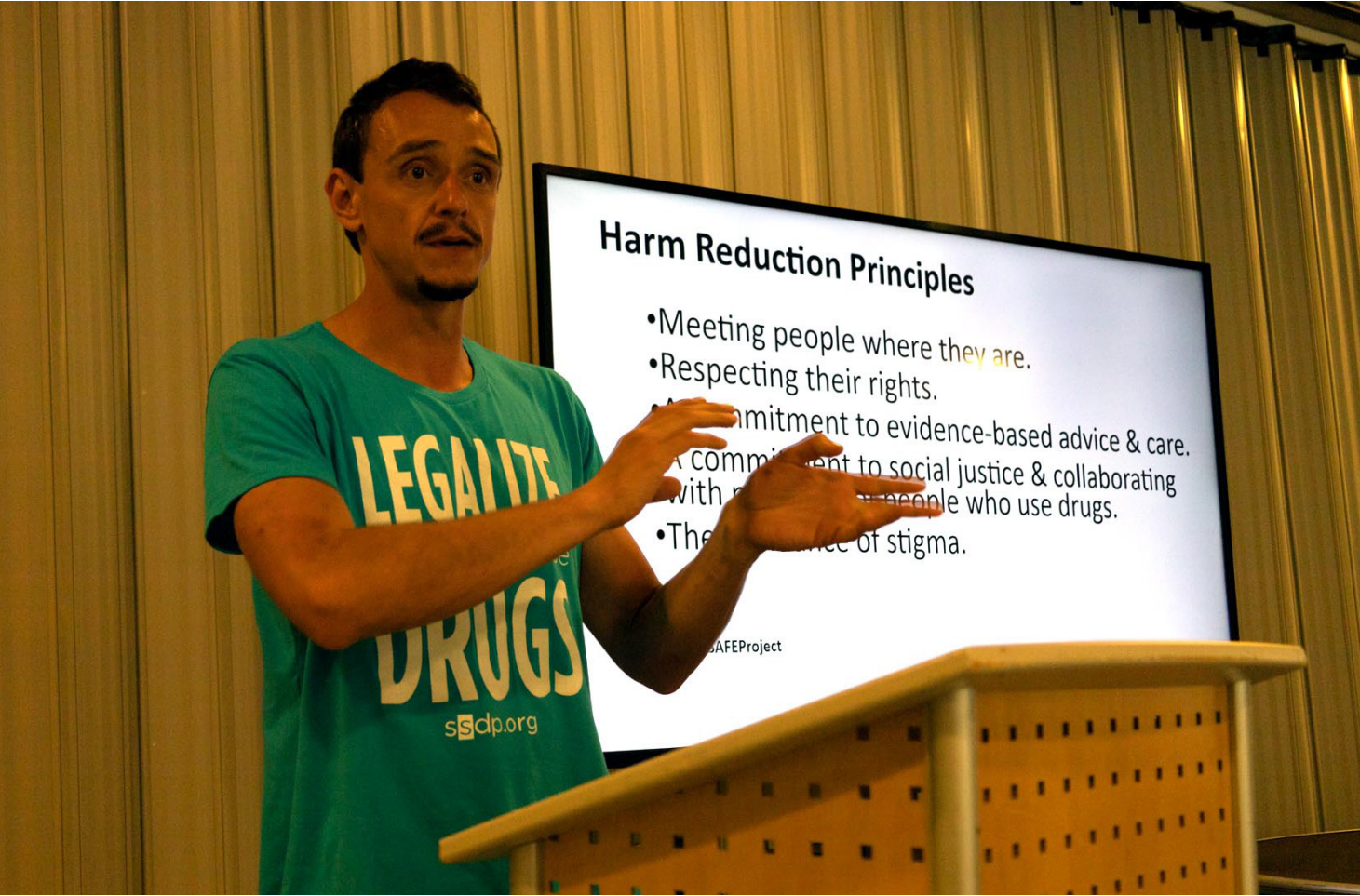
"We want to educate people," Herzog said. "If you vape and you want to stop, how do you do it? How do drugs affect

you, and what are some guidelines for safer, lower risk use."

The CRP is open to everyone on campus. Tyler Root, who joined the group in June as its graphic designer, is a recovery ally. A recovery ally is anyone who gives their support for people with substance abuse disorder.

"This was an opportunity to do important work and have a positive impact," Root said. Root sees the CRP as not only a place for recovery from substance abuse, but anyone seeking "mental health and general wellness."

The Collegiate Recovery Program meets every Monday at 4 p.m. in LA 229 and their "Just Say Know" educational series is held every Wednesday at noon in SC109 in the Student Center.



Matt Strang, peer educator for the CRP, talks about harm reduction strategies.

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WHEN YOU see
BULLYING,
use THIS
EMOJI
TO do SOMETHING
ABOUT it.



I AM A WITNESS
IWitnessBullying.org

New coach energizes competitive dance program

By RJ HUNT
Editor

In August 2022, Permmella Harris was hired to be the new head coach of WCC’s competitive dance team, which started in fall 2014.

“I’m excited to bring some of my experience to the dance team,” said Harris. She comes with over 30 years of experience. She has owned her own cheerleading and dance facility for over 25 years and she

“I’m excited to bring some of my experience to the dance team,”

-Permmella Harris

judges competitions on the high school level, all-star level and college level for competitive cheer and dance. Harris has traveled the United States competing in different competitions which includes over 100 national, regional, and local titles.

Harris made it known to her team that she wants them to be disciplined. She told them that she wants them to act and behave accordingly because they are ambassadors of the college. She did make it known how she might be strict, but she knows how to have fun when the time calls for it. “I love Coach P,” said team captain, Eliza Williams. “She is amazing. She’s very passionate about (dancing). She’s the best coach I could ever ask for.”

Harris wants to make improvements to the dance club. “I am looking forward to making new traditions and putting the team out there”, said Harris. With that goal in mind, Harris has scheduled different events for the team to take part in. She has them competing in different competitions such as the AAU collegiate championship, and a collegiate competition at Hazel Park high school. Along with the competitions, Harris wants the team to give back to the community. They will be taking part in a trunk or



RJ HUNT | WASHTENAW VOICE.

The competitive dance team moves in unison as they learn a new routine during practice.

“This is the whole point of college, to try something new or something you wish you had done.”

-Permmella Harris

the team regardless of gender or experience. As long as students are willing to learn, she is willing to teach. “I don’t want people to be afraid to come out because they figured they have to have experience,” said Harris. “This is the whole point of college, to try something new or something you wish you had done.”

To join the competitive dance team:
No experience is required
Only have to be taking 3 credits
Winter 2023 tryouts are Dec. 5 and Dec. 6 from 7-9 p.m.
Bring a great attitude and a smile to tryouts, per Coach Harris.



RJ HUNT | WASHTENAW VOICE.

Permmella Harris, the competitive dance team coach, sports an ear-to-ear smile as she encourages her dancers.

Make sure to catch these fall activities before it gets too cold

By: Jacob Kuiper
Staff Writer

With the first days of October behind us this unfortunately means that summer truly is over, but the fun of fall is just beginning. Break out the cider, make sure everything tastes like pumpkin and don’t miss out on any of these amazing fall activities.

Take a trip down Huron River Drive to see the fall colors

Huron River Drive (between Hudson Mills Metropark and Barton Nature Area)
Hours: 24/7

Huron River Drive is the perfect scenic trip to take by car or bike to experience the fall colors. Stretching approximately 10 miles, HRD winds through beautiful forest and a handful of smaller communities along the elegant Huron River. Early October is the peak time for fall foliage so make sure to jump on it. Don’t be afraid to go slow and take your time, there are plenty of pit stops along the way.

Go apple picking at Wasem Fruit Farm

6580 Judd Road, Milan
Tuesday-Sunday 9a.m.-6p.m.
Free entry and parking. Minimum half bushel for pick-your-own apples.

Wasem Fruit Farm is a family-owned and family-oriented orchard specializing in pick-your-own apples, pumpkins, and cherries. Starting Oct. 7 you can get Ida Red Apples and Oct. 14 you can get Mutsu, Granny Smith, and Fuji Apples. Check out their website for a picking schedule to know when your favorite apples are perfectly ripe. While you're there make sure to try out their fresh, daily-made cider and donuts. If you can’t make it out there, you can catch them at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. They will be selling a variety of produce including red and black currants, gooseberries, plums, pears, and raspberries.

Get some fresh apple cider and donuts at Dexter Cider Mill

3685 Central Street, Dexter
Wednesday-Sunday 8a.m.-5p.m.
Free entry and parking.

Family owned and operated since 1886, Dexter Cider Mill is the oldest, continuously operating cider mill in Michigan. Still using its authentic oak press and variety of local Michigan apples, Dexter Cider Mill has changed little of its process in the past 136 years. Situated along the Huron River this is the place to experience a little piece of Michigan history. Most importantly, don’t forget about the food. Made daily from only the best fresh ingredients their famous apple cider and apple cider donuts are to die for. But the list of delectables doesn’t stop there, they also serve hand picked apples fresh or covered in delicious caramel, apple turnovers, apple strudel, cinnamon rolls with apple cider glaze, cider slushies, and apple fritters.

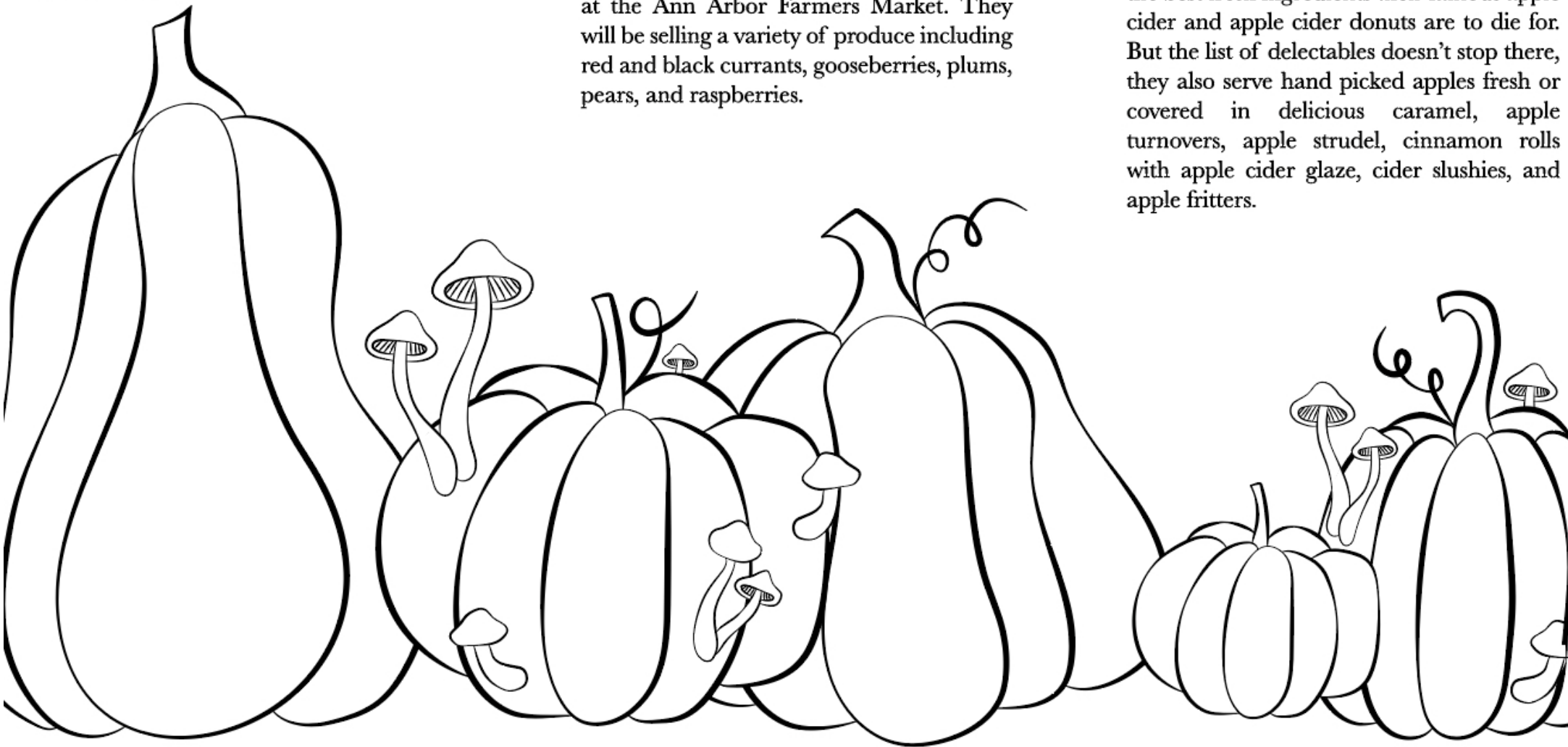


ILLUSTRATION | GRACE FAVER

COLUMN

TikTok is hurting how we talk about books



By Willow Symonds
Staff Writer

Alex Aster’s *Lightlark*, a new young adult fantasy, may be the biggest backfire of BookTok. Even before its official release, the biggest online reading community turned its even bigger expectations into outrage.

BookTok, as the name suggests, is the TikTok community dedicated to books, and the general public may not realize how much of an influence they hold. Think of how song snippets going viral on the app can boost the song on the charts, even if said song had existed years prior. The same thing happens with “TikTok books” and bestseller lists – for better or for worse.

BookTok tends to label books with specific tropes and aesthetics. *Lightlark*’s existence spawned from Aster listing specific tropes to her audience, asking if they would read a book including them. The TikTok got millions of views and plenty of enthusiastic comments, leading to its release a year and a half later,

an astonishingly quick time to go from first draft to the bookstore shelves.

One reviewer called *Lightlark* “the first clickbait novel.” While I don’t fully agree, this might be the first book TikTok hyped its way into publishing.

The TV Tropes website describes a trope as, “a storytelling shorthand ... the audience will recognize and understand instantly.” A trope isn’t the entire story, nor does it describe an entire character or setting. Yet, why does BookTok use a few select tropes to describe entire works?

When chosen and described correctly, recommending a book based on tropes or comparing a new novel to a popular pre-existing one can help said book reach its target audience.

Unfortunately, this marketing tactic isn’t limited to teenagers on TikTok.

In late August, Harry N. Abrams publishing released *Lightlark* advanced reader copies to people who’d pre-ordered the book. To their surprise, lines of dialogue and entire scenes Aster talked about online weren’t in the advanced-release copies. When a reader on TikTok asked about this, Aster told them that these scenes did exist at first but changed with edits and rewrites, and that two chapters missing from the advanced copies will be in the official book. I don’t think that

Aster is lying, but I internally questioned why she promoted her book in such a misleading way.

Then I remembered; tropes are the entire reason her original TikTok went viral. In later TikToks, Aster also promoted the story’s diversity, only for readers to be disappointed *Lightlark* had little on that front too.

Even without the drama and negative reviews, I wouldn’t have read *Lightlark*. *The Hunger Games* was a staple in American pop culture, but I can only read about a deadly competition among teenagers in otherworldly arenas and love-triangles so many times (an oddly specific set of tropes found in many early-2010s YA), and I definitely don’t want to read a book that almost everyone says is just bad.

This is the first time BookTok collectively pointed out false advertising, and it might be the first time they realized valuing tropes over substance leads to subpar books. However, this isn’t the first time an author or publisher has done this sort of thing. Although *Lightlark*’s average Goodreads rating was bombed with one-star reviews before official release (and I don’t condone people rating books they haven’t read, no matter positively or negatively), other authors have capitulated on specific tropes and

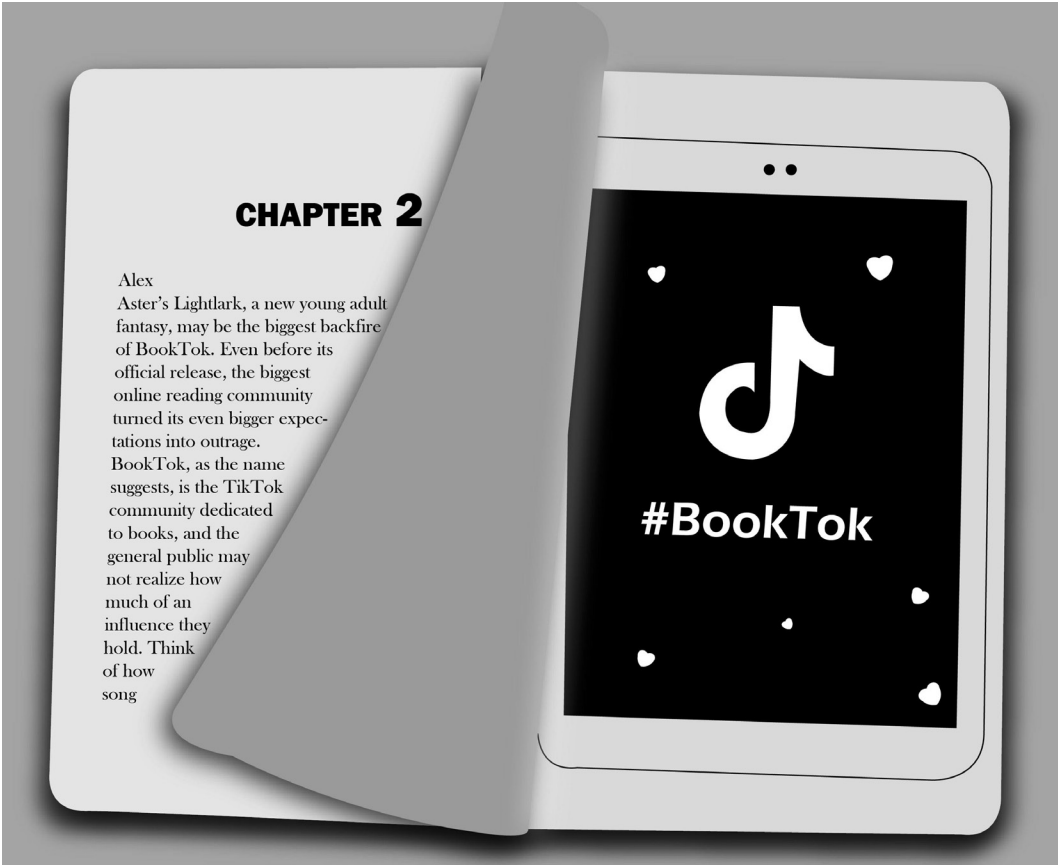


ILLUSTRATION | JANANI MURUGESAN

succeeded.

Enemies to lovers is a popular trope, both on TikTok and for marketers to use to their advantage. The WSJ bestselling *Zodiac Academy* series by Caroline Peckham and Susanne Valenti is an extreme example of this, as the plot and character arcs are nothing but new-girls-at-the-barely-developed-magic-college falling in love with their bullies. In the second or third book, the two girls suddenly decide that the guys’ psychopathic behavior is endearing.

A Court of Thorns and Roses also has love interests which readers criticized for being controlling and abusive without repercussions, so I think this goes into a related discussion about teen girls romanticizing the wrong things in fictional characters.

I won’t pretend that nothing good has come out of BookTok. Many BookTokers value diversity and promote #OwnVoices stories, of which I’m a huge fan. I’ve read several good books because of the app (Evelyn Hugo and

Celia St. James will always have my heart), and I have plenty of BookTok novels on my to-be-read list. TikTok in general has introduced me to music, content creators, and more that might’ve stayed out of my radar otherwise.

Even so, the past few years have shown what TikTok is truly capable of influencing. If the internet realizes both the good and the bad that emerge from this, then maybe we can stop the app’s worst elements from seeping into real life.

VOICE BOX

If you studied abroad, where would you want to go?

By Willow Symonds | Staff Writer

Probably Australia. I’m a big nature person, and I’d want to see the different cultures and the different animals.

A-Nyja Scott
Healthcare Foundations

Spain. I’d like to get to know the culture. If they had a nursing program, that would be cool, because I know a lot of places there are struggling.

Olivia Mueller
Nursing

Germany has a nice history, from the 14th or 15th century to the 20th century. If I studied abroad, I’d be a history major.

Brendan Adams
WTMC General Math & Science

Italy. I would see all of the old things, lots of history and stuff. Just about anywhere has more of that than we do, though.

Dylan Radabaugh
Manufacturing & Design

I would go to Turkey. A lot of my family is from there, and a lot of them have been there, but I haven’t had the chance to go yet.

Avery Monsma
WTMC

Costa Rica. I want to learn more Spanish and more about the culture.

Alexandria Furgeson
Nursing

The U.K. I went once before and enjoyed it, and I speak the language.

Aiden Barcome
undecided

Probably Italy. I went there once, but I was quite young. I’d go back again and fully take in the culture.

Shelby Vantrees
General Studies

Norway seems pretty cool. It’s in the Europe area, and I have a friend who lives there. They also don’t have to take general education classes, just ones related to their major, which I like.

Paige Jones
Broadcasting

Probably France. They have such a different culture.

Noah Slone
WTMC

France. My first language is French. I’ve been to Paris, but I’d like to go to Leon.

Marian Hallha
undecided

COLUMN

The unfortunate business of being sick, part 2



BY JORDAN SCENNA
Deputy Editor

Have you ever heard the one about the guy who had gas so bad he went broke You know the one, a guy goes in to get a stomachache checked and they send him home with no answers and no money. You haven't heard of it? That's too bad because that one is hilarious! A real gut buster.

As a matter of fact, it's based on a true story. I know this because that guy was me. The year was 2016, and after spending three days with unexplained stomach pain I made the difficult decision to trade heaps of cash for medical assistance. I was armed with my health insurance card, so I assumed the fiscal damage would be manageable. Besides, the pain, which was increasingly becoming unmanageable, demanded I risk financial ruin and go see a professional. The palmfuls of tropical fruit Tums just weren't cutting it.

After they scoped my stomach, I sat down with the doctor. I felt vulnerable, like I had just told someone a deeply embarrassing secret. I asked him, "So what's wrong with my tum tum?" My eyes were wide, bracing for the worst. In this instance, you want some compassion from your provider, some humanity. Depending on the severity of the illness, a hug might be in order, and based on these premiums, should be considered "in-network."

He gave me what amounts to a \$2,000 shoulder shrug. They didn't know what the problem was. He tells me,



ILLUSTRATION | GRACE FAVER

"You're probably taking too much ibuprofen." I never went to medical school, but I imagine they don't teach these masters of medicine to use the word "probably" when communicating a diagnosis to a patient, and if they do, I have a curriculum change I'd like to suggest.

That was a lesson learned, in installments, paid out monthly over the following two years. I vowed not to make that mistake again. Next time, if it's not an emergency, if I'm not bleeding out of my ears, I'm taking six ibuprofen and going to bed.

Sadly, another appointment with these keepers of health secrets was inevitable. When you're a human and composed entirely of fragile, decaying organic matter, things break, they malfunction, or sometimes stop working altogether.

Recently, I awoke to discover I couldn't make a fist with my right hand without pain. I have Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, but the symptoms have never been this bad. My fingers were numb. I couldn't grip anything skinnier than a

soup can. Since so much of my day revolves around using my hands, I considered this a medical emergency. I've used Cortisone shots in the past to relieve the symptoms and, having learned from experience, decided to check my insurance to see how much this was going to cost.

I knew my insurance had a "cost estimator" function on their website. I'd seen it before, passing it by when I was making an appointment for some other bank-breaking medical emergency. Not this time though, they weren't going to get me again. Before I even opened the website, I was patting myself on the back. "Atta Boy! What a responsible adult you are; this will be easy, just check the cost so you know what you're getting into."

I type in "cortisone shots" and press return...no results.

I type in "Carpal Tunnel Syndrome," and press return...no results.

I type in "My hand has boo boo," and press return...surprisingly, no results.

Undeterred I picked up the phone and called the insurance

company to speak to a human. After listening to a robot go over menu options, and several Hail-Mary button presses, I reached a customer service agent. I told them about my issue with the website.

"You're doing it wrong, you need a CPT code from the hospital," the woman scolded. "You need a CPT code for the procedure you want and then we can tell you how much it costs, roughly."

"What do you mean, roughly," I asked.

"It'll be an approximation; it could be different."

"If you have the code, won't you know exactly how much they..."

"Just get the CPT code sir, is there anything else I can help you with," she said, interrupting. "Would you like to take a survey; we value your..."

I hung up on her and called the hospital. After the initial digital foreplay, I got a human. I tell them I need a CPT code for cortisone shots for Carpal Tunnel so my insurance can price it. After a few moments of silence, the

man said, "Can I put you on a brief hold while I look into this?"

"Sure," I say.

As I'm holding there's a voice with music in the background; it's telling me I should get my cholesterol checked.

The man returns and asks me if I can keep holding. My hand is going numb from the compressed nerve in my wrist.

"Why not," I say, "I can still feel three out of five fingers."

He stammers a thank you, and puts me on hold. Seven minutes go by and the voice with the music is telling me I should walk to reduce blood pressure and stress.

He comes back on and asks me "Where will the injection be?"

He's asking me this as if it's a serious question. "It's a cortisone shot, for Carpal Tunnel," I say. "They usually put it in my hand. Haven't you guys done this before?"

"I need to transfer you to the hand department," he says, completely serious.

"Hand Department!" "You do that, and while you're at it, can you transfer

me to the neck department, I'm starting to feel some discomfort."

"What was that sir," he asks.

"Never mind."

I'm now on the phone with the hand department and the guy can't find the code.

"Do you know what else is in the shot other than Cortisone, I think there's something else," he says.

"You're asking me!" "I don't know man!"

"Can I place you on a brief hold while I look into this," he asks?

I drop the phone because my entire hand is numb. I scramble to pick it up, terrified I'm going to get disconnected; I hit speaker and tell him, "Yeah, I'll hold."

After 10 minutes he comes back on the line and tells me he's discovered the CPT code for the shots.

"Give it to me, quick, before something happens," I yell.

As I'm calling my insurance company to finally get the cost of the procedure, I'm giving myself another "Atta boy." Never in my life have I employed so much patience to achieve an end. On the phone with my insurance company, I triumphantly call out the CPT code, enunciating each number slowly, savoring each digit. I have the code you demanded, and I waited through the muck to get it.

On the other end of the phone, I hear the tapping of the keyboard. At any moment she's going to come back on and tell me the cost. I outlasted them, through all their holds, and their transfers, and their infuriating commitment to red tape; I won. Granted, the prize is an overpriced injection of a, but it feels like a win. The tapping stops and there's a brief silence. After a few moments, she speaks,

"Sir, this is a CPT code, we need a J-code for this procedure."

Diversify Your BOOKSHELF

Horror Edition

BY WILLOW SYMONDS
Staff Writer

Mexican Gothic by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

After receiving a distressing letter from her newlywed cousin, socialite Noemi Taboada travels to High Place, an old mansion in the 1950s Mexican countryside. Concerned for her cousin's safety, Noemi refuses to leave, even though the house itself isn't any less strange, and her dreams in the guest bedroom might be trying to tell her something. This book suits its title extremely well, with gorgeous writing and a dark yet vivid atmosphere.

Hell Followed With Us by Andrew Joseph White

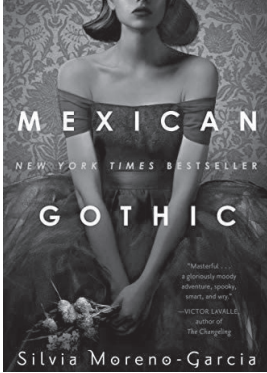
Trans teen Benji is on the run from the cult that made him a living bioweapon, the last stage of their manufactured Armageddon. Even with most of the world's population wiped out, he finds an LGBTQ+ Center willing to provide shelter, as long as Benji can use his unique mutations to help protect them in return. Soon enough, Benji discovers that the center, ACL, has an agenda of their own. This debut novel is labeled as young adult, but it still features plenty of unique body horror and a gritty apocalypse.

Jackal by Erin E. Adams

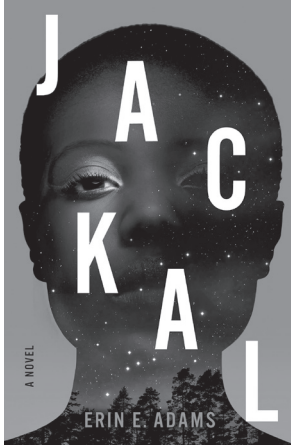
Liz Roacher returns to her predominately-white town for her best friend's wedding. She already wasn't too fond of being back in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, but the wedding day proves worse than she imagined: The bride's daughter disappears, leaving behind only white fabric covered in blood. No one seems to notice a pattern, but Liz does: This happened before, many years ago, when the only other Black girl in school followed a man into the same woods and was found with her heart missing. Liz ties herself to this case and to the many missing Black girls in this town's history. This debut novel releases on Oct 4 of this year, just in time for Halloween.



Hell Followed With Us (2022) Andrew Joseph White



Mexican Gothic (2020) Silvia Moreno Garcia



Jackal (2022) Erin Adams

WISDOM of the WEEK



"Turn your wounds into wisdom."

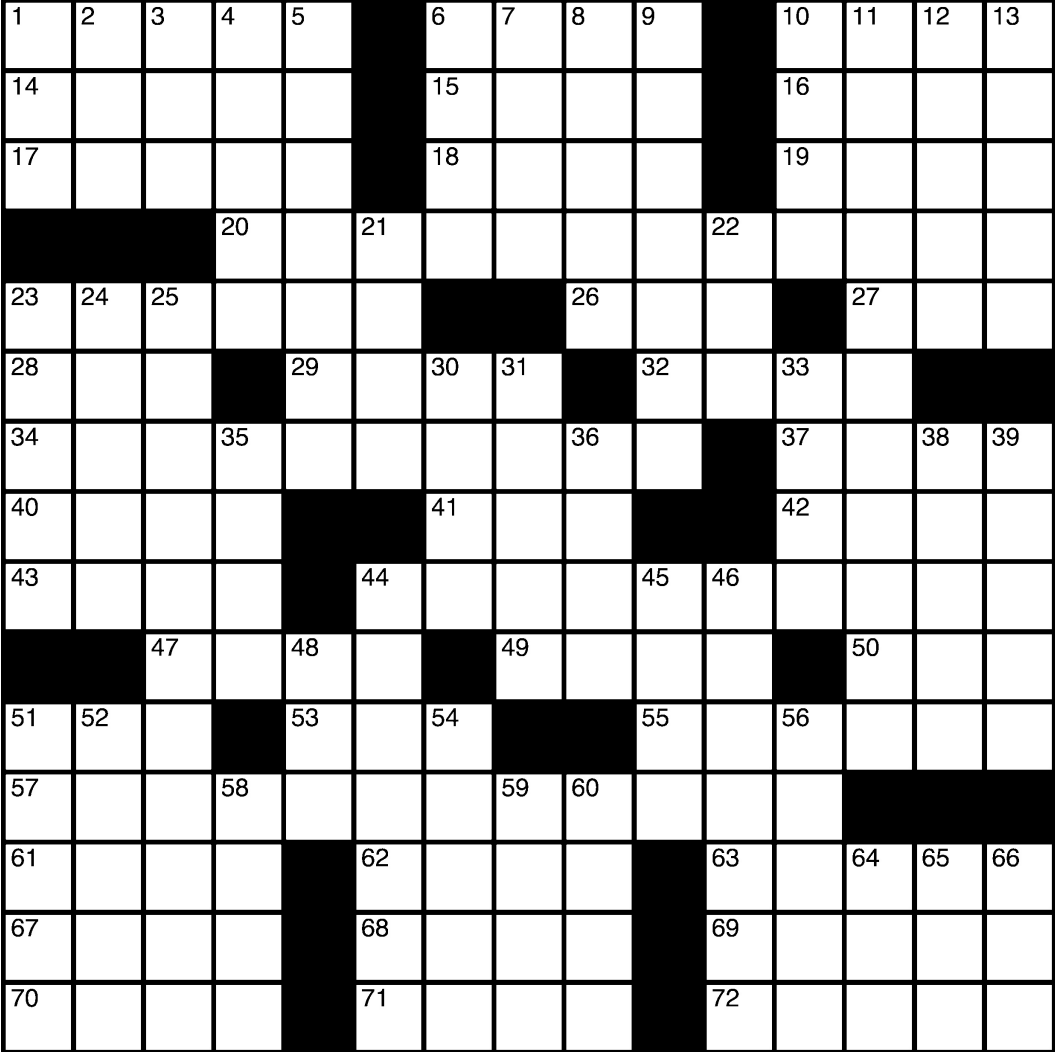
- Oprah Winfrey

"There's no master plan! I'm just going to be me and hope it all works out!"

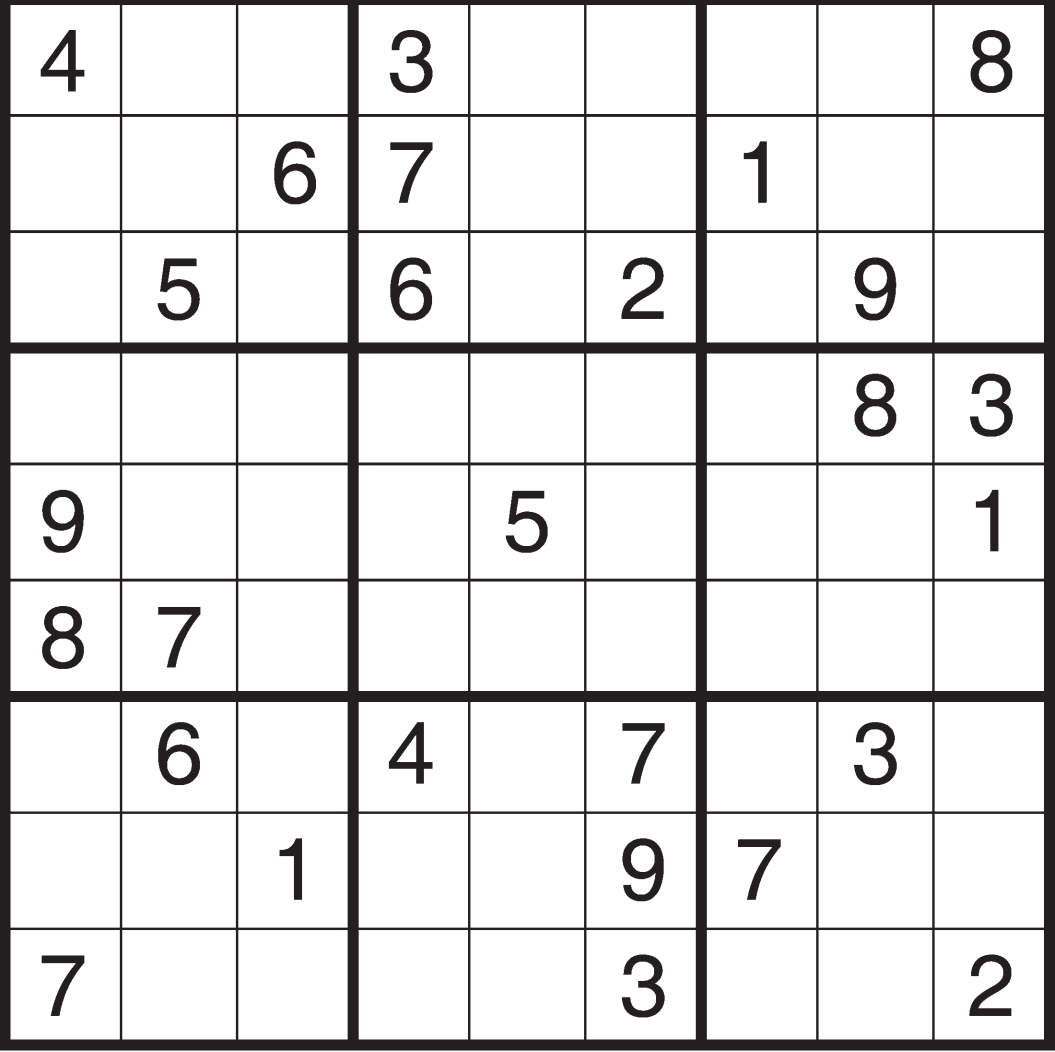
Britney Spears

"Find out who you are and be that person. That's what your soul was put on this Earth to be. Find that truth, live that truth and everything else will come."

Ellen DeGeneres



Solutions to puzzles on washtenawvoice.com



1 Short-legged Welsh dog breed
6 Opera star
10 Milk in a skinny latte
14 WNBA team in 53-Across
15 Minnesota representative Ilhan
16 Actress Olin
17 Cohort
18 Costa ____
19 Choir part
20 *Bright yellow sandwich topping
23 Broadway opening?
26 Sweet potato kin
27 Pt. of TGIF

ACROSS

28 Low sound?
29 Quran authority
32 Hostess snack
34 *Marinara ingredient
37 Messes up
40 Actress Petty
41 Quick qualifier
42 Harvest
43 Concludes
44 *Citrusy herb in Thai cuisine
47 Blues guitarist Baker
49 Longtime Swit co-star
50 Wanders in an airport?
51 Sunscreen letters

53 Ga. capital
55 Ready to go
57 Supermarket section of (as well as the complete answers to) the starred clues
61 Yesteryear
62 Goat group
63 Throwback diet
67 As soon as
68 ____ Canalway Trail: 365-mile stretch in New York
69 Zest alternative
70 Require
71 Group of two
72 Word before tea and toast

DOWN

1 Public health org. headed by Rochelle Walensky
2 British singer Rita
3 Top stripe of a pride flag
4 Actress Greta
5 "For real!"
6 Explorer in "The Lost City of Gold"
7 Hacker's triumphant cry
8 Time away, informally
9 Great Plains people
10 Smack
11 Underwater ecosystems
12 Prefix with faith
13 New Zealand native
21 Pixar clownfish

22 Punk subgenre
23 More than sufficient
24 Analogy punctuation
25 Exceptional performance
30 French friend
31 "____ Mia! Here We Go Again"
33 Greek goddess of marriage
35 57-Across spray
36 Hammer or saw
38 ____ the roof
39 Bad sound in the 57-Across
44 Fastened, in a way

45 Confidentiality contracts: Abbr.
46 Colorful play area
48 Greek letter before upsilon
51 Watch covertly
52 Inclined (to)
54 Wary (of)
56 Depart
58 Act
59 Opera solo
60 Named, briefly
64 Smoked salmon
65 Time period
66 Noises of exasperation

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

Meetings and Events Planner (Remote).

As a remote Meetings and Events Planner at Morley, you'll execute corporate meetings, events and incentive programs on our award-winning team, serving corporate Fortune 500 clients. You'll initialize and manage every last detail to make our clients' expectations come to life.

Accounting Clerk.

To assist in the efficient and accurate monitoring of the daily business operations at the LISD TECH Center.

Research Assistant I. Under general supervision, this position is responsible for participating as a research assistant in a variety of research activities focusing on the automotive industry and the public sector. This is a tempo-

rary part-time (up to 20 hours per week) position with the potential 32 hours per week from May to August. Hourly rate: \$15.00 - \$17.00, depending on experience.

Behavior Tech/Direct Line Therapist.

Starting pay from \$17-22/hour, dependent on experience; +\$3 additional bonus hourly for premium evening shifts. No experience necessary! If you have the desire to learn, energy, passion to make a difference, and willingness to have some fun while working hard, then you're qualified! Behavior Technicians, also referred to as Direct Line Therapists (DLTs), implement Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy programs working with children on the Autism Spectrum to facilitate language development, social interactions, independent living skills, and even play.

Automotive Co-op Test Technician.

We are currently seeking a Test Technician Co-op to join our team as a member of our co-op program at the Nissan Technical Center in Farmington Hills, MI and is a part-time role less than 30 hours per week. This position does not have a definite end date and may continue year-round. This Co-op position will primarily work in our vehicle crash lab but may expand to other experiences.

Receiving and Quality Associate.

Do you pride yourself on your

desire to succeed? If you enjoy physical work, possess leadership skills and are motivated, you must consider a career in manufacturing. Our company is looking for smart, energetic people who possess a strong work ethic to work full-time in our Shipping or Receiving departments at our plant in Plymouth, MI.

Community Engagement Intern (Littlefield Site).

The Brilliant Detroit Community Engagement Intern will provide support educational programming and events at our Littlefield location (12789 Indiana Avenue, Detroit, MI 48231). This will involve work in the fields of outreach and engagement, data management, communications, event and program facilitation, scheduling and logistical coordination, and more. Working at Brilliant Detroit will offer the intern the opportunity to work in a small, evolving non-profit department.

Motorparts: Supply Chain Intern – Summer 2023 (Southfield, MI or Remote).

Utilize SAP to execute MRP for a subset of SKUs, for purposes of learning inventory planning as well as gaining an overall view of the end-to-end supply chain. Candidates will learn to proactively resolve issues that may result in missed deliveries or supply disruptions. Perform full master data reconciliation on SKU lead-times, order quantities, and other system set up parameters. Candidates

will learn to identify data integrity issues and how to implement corrective actions.

Service and technical support specialist.

Entry level position for technical support and service. Duties include but are not limited to: System calibrations, Phone and onsite support for basic electrical, mechanical, and networking troubleshooting and setting up systems with our final assembly team.

Pet sitter/Dog walker.

Just a few things about the position with Perna's Pet Care...We are looking for mid-day dog walkers in Ypsilanti. Visits are usually 30 minutes. The hours would be approx. 10:30-2, varying slightly by day. Pet sitting is in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti usually between 7am-11:30am and 4:30pm-8pm - You are paid \$10/hr. with mileage reimbursement, travel time, tips, and bonus holiday pay which adds up to at least \$15 per hour. After a 90-day probationary period pay increases in a possibility. Employees get 100% of their tips and all the holiday surcharges.

Lead Preschool Teacher.

We are currently accepting applications for a Lead Preschool Teacher in Ann Arbor. An Early Childhood educational background is required. Applicants must also have at least one year of experience working in a group child care setting, supervisory experience, and be willing to give at least a one-year commitment. Must

be familiar with NAEYC and the HighScope Curriculum.

House Manager.

The House Manager provides managerial coverage of House Operations. The work schedule may include daytime, evening, weekends and/or holidays. Ability to periodically flex work schedule with required advanced notice.

Construction Manager Intern.

Construction Management Internship for Commercial/Residential Construction. \$16-\$22 Hourly. Internship is 3-5 days per week (Ad Hoc). Communicate with subcontractors, team members, and clients. Assist Project Managers with logistics of jobs, estimates, materials, site visits, etc. Help create job files, punch lists, and assist with punch walks.

Guest Services Specialist. The Division of Public Safety and Security (DPSS) manages all police and security operations at the University of Michigan and offers an integrated approach to safety and security, partnering across the University to provide a safe community while improving the quality of life for all those living, learning, working, healing and visiting our community. Guest Service Specialists (GSS) are members of DPSS and report to the GSS Supervisor, under the direction of Michigan Medicine Security Deputy Director.

Court Recorder.

Prepares official transcripts of court events from audio or video recording systems for

the court as established by Michigan Court Rules. Appropriately distributes the transcripts to parties as required and maintains records of court proceedings as mandated by Michigan Court Rules. Prepares various court reports from audio dictation for filing with the court and distributes as directed. May be required to operate court recording systems and prepare court logs. Performs secretarial duties as needed, including filing, preparing copies, answering phones, and updating records. Assists with court business office procedures, assist hearing officers, caseworkers, clinicians, and other professional staff. Utilizes current Countywide and/or department specific software to complete assignments.

LPN & RN Opportunities at Glacier Hills (Trinity Health Senior Communities).

Glacier Hills is seeking RNs and LPNs for its community in Ann Arbor, MI. Glacier Hills is a member of Trinity Health Senior Communities (THSC), one of the nation's largest, multi-institutional Catholic health care delivery systems with over 40 communities in multiple states. From our amazing residents and guests who live and stay at our communities, to our colleague-centric culture, you'll find an environment that fosters a diversity of career options and promotes career growth within the greater Trinity network.

**Did you
know...**

**VOICE STUDENTS
ARE PAID AND GET
SCHOLARSHIPS**

**THE VOICE IS WCC'S STUDENT
NEWS PUBLICATION**

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AT WASHTENAWVOICE.COM**
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ON CAMPUS**
- ✓ **GET INVOLVED.
WE WELCOME NEW
WRITERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS,
DESIGNERS &
DIGITAL PROS**

**VISIT
SC 109**

CONTACT US AT

**[thewashtenawvoice@gmail.
com](mailto:thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com)**



events

Compiled by: Ruby Go | Contributor

AT WCC IN THE COMMUNITY

MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD – EXTERNAL TABLE

Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

First floor of the Student Center

A recruiter from the Michigan National Guard will be on the first floor of the Student Center to talk about the features and benefits of joining the Michigan Army National Guard and basic information about joining the ROTC.

E-SPORTS FREE PLAY TABLE AT STUDENT CENTER

Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

First floor of the Student Center

Occurring every Wednesday and Thursday on the first floor of the Student Center.

CLUB FAIR HIGHLIGHT

Oct. 11 from 12-1 p.m.

First floor of the Student Center

Find out more information about WCC's clubs.

U-M COLLEGE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS (LSA)

Oct. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

First floor of the Student Center

Find out information about what the transfer student experience is like at the University of Michigan.

FOLK SONG JAM ALONG

Oct. 4 at 6 p.m.

Ann Arbor District Library

All ages are welcome to join this family-friendly sing along. Participants are welcome to bring their own acoustic instruments.

“REPARISDAY THURSDAY”: ALL HANDS ACTIVE

Oct. 6 from 6-8 p.m.

Basement of 255 E. Liberty St.

All invited to drop in with broken electronics, furniture, or any other odd item for AHA members to try to repair and offer advice. Repairs not guaranteed. Mask required.

BUILD A SYNTH: SQUARE WAVE OSCILLATOR

Oct. 8 at noon

Ann Arbor District Library

The chance to learn soldering basics to build a basic musical synthesizer.

“CREATURE ENCOUNTERS”

Oct. 8 from 1-5 p.m.

Creature Conservancy

Conservancy animals show off some animals native to South America Cost: \$13; kids ages 2-11: \$11; under age 2: free

INTRO TO ARCHERY

Oct. 9 from 10-11:30 a.m. or 2-3:30 p.m.

Staebler Farm County Park

Hands-on demos for age 8 and up. Archery equipment provided. No prior experience necessary. Preregistration required at bit.ly/wcprc2022 (activity #811007).

SUNRISE NATURE HIKE

Oct. 11 from 8:30-10 a.m.

Baker Woods Preserve

Naturalist Elle Bogle leads a nature walk to explore the changes of autumn, including migrating birds and the winter preparations of woodland animals. Preregistration required by emailing boglee@washtenaw.org

NIGHT TERRORS

Oct. 15 from 7:30-11:30 p.m.

Wiard's Orchards

Four different scary attractions—a haunted hayride and more—bristling with scores of costumed monsters. Kids under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Cost: TBA

MARCHING BAND PRACTICE

Oct. 18 at 4:45 p.m.

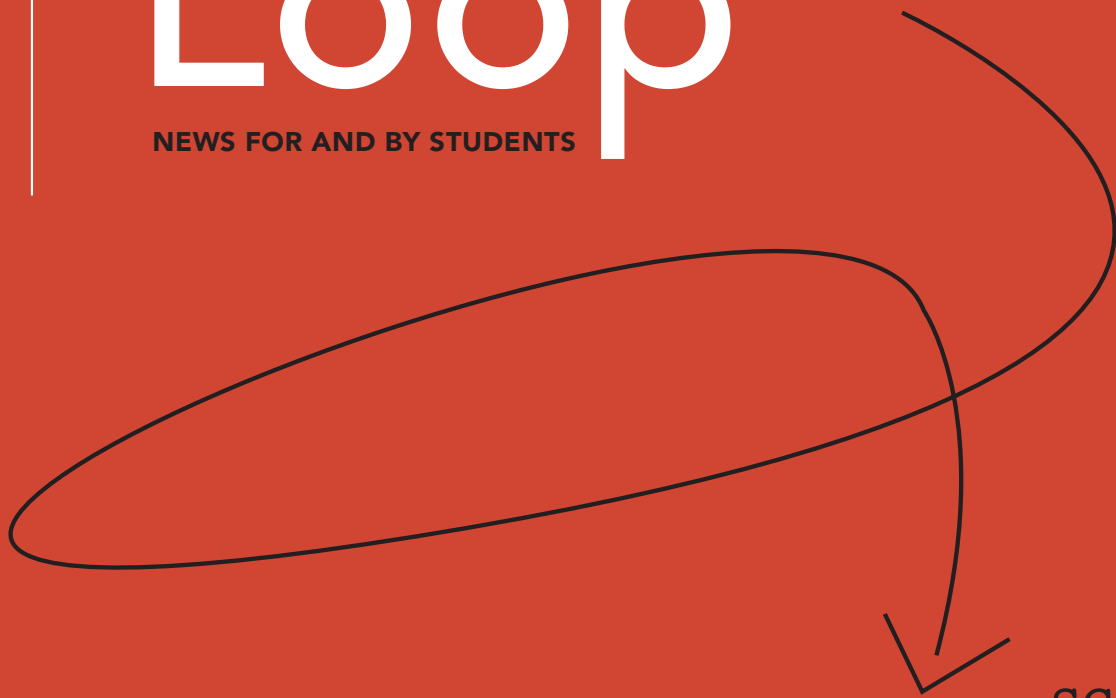
Elbel Field

The U-M's 200-plus-member marching band or sections thereof can be seen and heard practicing on Elbel Field. All welcome to find a spot in the bleachers and get a sneak preview of upcoming halftime shows.



The Loop

NEWS FOR AND BY STUDENTS



SCAN ME !



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