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WASHTENAW VOICE

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Ukrainian student worries for homeland

Ann Arbor, Michigan

By RJ Hunt Editor

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Russia's president, Vladmir Putin, ordered what he called a "special military operation" on Ukraine on Feb 24. Putin's invasion is affecting millions of Ukrainian families including WCC's own Alona Dytynenko.

Dytynenko left Ukraine in August 2021 to move to the U.S. Her boyfriend, Platon Skynko, also from Ukraine, moved to the U.S. for work and she later followed. Unlike Dytynenko and Skynko, their families back home are witnessing the battles first hand.

Dytynenko's family, including her father, mother, brother, and grandmothers live in the surburbs 20 miles from Kyiv. Many in Ukraine have left for the suburbs because it's deemed safer than living in the city. Dytynenko said her family is able to hear the bombs from where they

"(My family) is safe for now, but everyday we are afraid that something bad might happen," said Dytynenko.



A Ukrainian evacuee hugs a child in the train station in Przemysl, near the Polish-Ukrainian border, on March 22, following Russia's military invasion launched on Ukraine. Inset at upper left is wcc student Alona VIA TRIBUNE MEDIA

The war has changed how much Dytynenko is in contact with her family. Before the war, Dytynenko would reach out to her family

once a week just to see how they were doing. Now she reaches out every day to make sure they are still OK. "It's really worrying of what you see

in Ukraine," said Dytynenko. "What you see on the American news is the truth."

The Dytnenko family chose not to leave Ukraine be-

cause it would be hard on her grandmothers to move. Also, her mother doesn't want to leave Dytynenko's father behind. Ukraine has an order in

place stating that all military aged men (ages 18-60) cannot leave the country, and since Dytynenko's father is 55 years old, he must stay.

Dytynenko's father is not forced to fight. He chooses not to because he is the only one in the family working. He is an entrepreneur who owns a small business and several properties. As the provider, he does not feel comfortable going to battle.

While Dytynenko's family decided to stay in Ukraine, her boyfriend, Platon Skynko's family decided to leave for Poland during the first week of the war. His father was forced to stay due to the military age order, but Skynko's mother, siblings, and grandmother moved to Poland.

The Skynko family's house is located in an area that Russia wanted to use for its troops. Skynko described his family telling him about the sleepless night they had during one of the first nights of the war. His family could hear explosions and gunshots.

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Free speech, economy linchpins for students

club not sure

By Jordan Scenna Deputy Editor

Inside room 128 on the first floor of the Liberal Arts and Science Building, popcorn is being made. Two students, Sandy Blindu and Sophia Tomlinson struggle with the small, red popper that Tomlinson brought from home. They laugh as they fiddle with the contraption, determined to figure out how the machine works.

It's movie night for the newly formed Turning Point USA club on the campus of Washtenaw Community College, and officers Tomlinson and Blindu are preparing the traditional treat for whoever wants to take part.

"We have seven members

president. "Three signed up through Campus Connect but they haven't shown up to any meetings yet."

After scrapping the movie, "The Patriot," for its long runtime, Blindu decides on "White House Down," a 2013 film about a terrorist attack on the White House.

Blindu's interest to form a WCC chapter of Turning Point peaked after attending a lecture by Charlie Kirk, the organization's founder, last October. The group's stated mission is to educate students about the importance of fiscal responsibility, limited government, free markets, and individual liberty.

The speech, followed by a Q&A, was part of Kirk's "Critical Racism Theory" tour that visited the University of Michigan. The event galvanized Blindu, who was unsure about starting the

LGBTQIA+ so far," said Blindu, the club's club. She was impressed by the questions from students and it motivated her to start a chapter at WCC.

> Turning Point USA is classified as a non-profit organization and boasts its presence on 3,000 college campuses nationwide.

> According to the Turning Point website, it's the "fastest growing youth organization in the country." In 2019, TPUSA received over 28 million dollars from contributions and fundraising.

Free speech is a keystone for the WCC group, which points to a threat against freedom of speech as one of its main concerns. They've seen a trending narrative that the first amendment only applies to speech that is "likable."

"You know, you look at a lot of other countries, and unfortunately, you see it coming into the U.S. more and more (censorship)," Tomlinson said.



WCC Turning Point USA officers Sophia Tomlinson, left, and Sandy Blindu, hold signs displaying the youth organizations slogans.

"I think one of the greatest things about the U.S. is free speech. Free speech is free speech, whether you like it or not, and that should be advocated for on campuses."

Tomlinson cites former president Donald Trump's Twitter ban as an example of this type of censorship.

"You look at Twitter and our 45th president being censored. I think it has a lot to do with social media platforms, but I see it more and more on college campuses. As long as they like what you're saying then it's considered free speech. If they don't, then you're labeled as something or you're not allowed to say it because it doesn't fit their opinion."

While banning Trump might have been a sticky precedent to set, it's hard to argue its legality. The First Amendment protects against government censorship, not against decisions made by private

In an interview with the The New York Times in January 2021, University of Utah law professor RonNell Anderson Jones said,

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SHELBY BEATY, WASHTENAW VOICE Students talk with art professor Jill Jepsen (right) in ART 112. In winter 2021, most art classes were still held virtually. Now, many of the art classes have returned to campus, and some offer in-person and virtual sections.

More in-person classes on horizon

By Ruby Go Staff Writer

In-person classes are making a comeback in the upcoming spring and fall semesters, but it is unlikely that life on campus will ever go back to how it was before the pandemic, said Kimberly Hurns, vice president of instruction.

"I don't think it will ever be the same," Hurns said.

Pre-pandemic, learning was nonexistent at

WCC; classes were either taken completely asynchronously (online) or in-person. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, in-person classes shifted to virtual formats which, at the time, were expected to only last for a few weeks. More than two years later, virtual classes are here to stay, Hurns said.

"We've done a really good job of meeting students' needs with our virtual classes, especially those who work 40 plus hours a week," Hurns said. "But when fall comes around, we're still not sure what (students) are going to be looking for."

There is currently no targeted or designated percentage of in-person classes being offered compared to previous semesters, Hurns said. The goal is to have more on-campus classes than virtual classes, but those numbers have been changing frequently as students register. Student demand will determine the types of classes offered.

"The schedule is very dynamic," Hurns said.

After the pandemic eliminated all but 15 percent of in-person classes in fall 2020, Improved conditions, including the availability of COVID vaccines, allowed an increase to about 38 percent in-person in fall 2021.

This semester, nearly 5,000 students are taking an in-person class, according to WCC officials.

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Where are they now?

From football player to Amazon product manager

By RJ Hunt Editor

The purpose of "Where are they now" is to find WCC alumni to learn about their time at the school and how WCC helped them navigate their career paths.

Tyrone Pettygrue was not supposed to end up at WCC. Pettygrue spent 12 years of his life playing football. While playing for his high school, the Belleville Tigers, Pettygrue received a scholarship to Concordia University. After playing for Concordia for a season, he realized the school was not a good fit for him. Even though he had a scholarship, the school still cost more than what his budget would allow.

Pettygrue was searching for a new direction to go in. He ended up contacting an advisor from WCC and she helped him navigate a plan that would help him transfer to the University of Michigan. After talking to the advisor, Pettygrue knew WCC was for him, so he enrolled at WCC. With WCC not having a football team and Pettygrue not wanting to play the game anymore, his football career came to an end.

Pettygrue came to WCC looking to get his associates degree as a Liberal Arts Transfer, so he could go on to study history. He has very fond memories of learning history at WCC, especially his American history class. He enjoyed this class so much because of the interesting class discussions and having a great professor in John Gibson,



Pettygrue striking a pose in front of the two slabs outside of WCC's student center

who Pettygrue described as"

Not only did Pettygrue receive a good vibe from his professor, but he felt that vibe all over WCC. Pettygrue loved the diversity of the people around campus. "Washtenaw has a lot of different backgrounds, which I liked," said Pettygrue. "You have a lot of non-traditional students because you have some coming back to school and taking gap years. I felt like it was more (non-traditional) at WCC than other schools." At WCC, Pettygrue enjoyed getting to know his peers and teachers compared to other schools where he might only know the professor's name if anything.

After his first semester at

WCC, Pettygrue wanted to become more involved with student activities around the school. He noticed different job openings related to student activities. He applied for the student life office, and got the position. His roles included hosting events and networking with other groups and clubs around the school. It even had its entertainment perks, such as going on trips to places like Cedar Point and Mackinac Island.

Pettygrue also held a position in conference services. He helped senior citizens and residents of Washtenaw County register for classes and hosted events for community enrichment. Pettygrue held this position while he was attending the University of Michigan. The conference services position was one of three jobs Pettygrue held

While working in conference services for WCC, Pettygrue also worked at UofM's history museum to help him gain experience in the history field. Pettygrue also had a fellowship through optiMize, a program through U of M that helps students network and build their entrepreneur skills. Pettygrue's role with this program was to help transfer students get acclimated to their new university. He continued working for all three until the COVID-19 pandemic forced him to take a step back.

After graduating WCC with his Associates Degree, Pettygrue

graduated from UofM with a Bachelor's of Arts in History. This was a big milestone for Pettygrue because of how much he always liked history. "I was always one of those history kids with fun facts," said Pettygrue. "History was always my favorite subject. Even in elementary school, I would come home and watch the History Channel."

Pettygrue had a change of heart about what he wanted to do in life. While working at U of M's history museum, he would sit in on meetings and he could just feel something was off. "I found that it wasn't what it cracked out to be," said Pettygrue. Pettygrue thought about going into the museum field, but realized he would need more school so decided against it.

Being a federal agent was even considered for Pettygrue's future, but he then settled on something he always had a liking for, fashion. "I kind of knew I wanted to get into fashion and style after college," said Pettygrue. "Then I started sticking with fashion because I'm interested in luxury fashion...I set my sights on fashion."

Currently, Pettygrue works at Amazon. Since his time at Amazon began, Pettygrue has moved up the ranks from different positions. Recently, Pettygrue was promoted to product manager within Amazon's fashion team. He handles daily support with vendor managers such as Hanes, Uggs, and Tommy Hilfiger. Due to the pandemic, Pettygrue is working from home, but in the near future he will be moving to California due to his Amazon office being located in

Pettygrue still has his love for history but that passion for fashion is strong too. He's invested in how people style their clothes, specifically traditional men's wear and suiting. "I geek out on the ways fashion has evolved historically." Even though he's not directly using his degree in history, Pettygrue is still finding ways to incorporate his love for history into his career today.

For his future, Pettygrue wants to see more leadership roles come his way, including becoming a senior product manager and having his own team. "Eventually, I wouldn't mind leading a luxury brand or luxury department within Amazon," said Pettygrue. "The next goal for me is landing on the luxury side of fashion."

Pettygrue knows life can be challenging, but he offered words of encouragement to those in need.

"For anyone out there, never doubt yourself," said Pettygrue. "Coming out of high school I had a 2.3 GPA and a 17 ACT, but here I am now working for one of the biggest companies in the world. I never thought I'd be in this position five years ago. It takes hard work and you gotta keep grinding. Just keep pereserving because you'll land where you wanna be."

Pettygrue had the odds stacked against him. He didn't have the amazing grades and test scores, he had to let his football scholarship go, and reconsider his career path a few times; but at the end of the day, Tyrone Pettygrue got it done. He made something of himself and WCC was a part of that journey.



Free speech

Continued from A1

"It is certainly possible to violate the values embodied in the First Amendment without violating the First Amendment itself. But the basic legal question could hardly be more straightforward.

"It's become popular—to label all matters restricting anyone's speech as a 'First Amendment issue,' but the First Amendment only limits government actors, and a social media company is not the government.".

Tomlinson agrees that, as a private company, Twitter should be able to ban whoever it wants, if the terms of service were violated.

Socialism and the culture war

Every Wednesday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. the group tables in the Student Center to discuss topics like Second Amendment rights and economic policy. A battle for America's soul wages, and all students are welcome to come and draw their swords.

Blindu and Tomlinson have seen evidence of an increase in students who identify as socialist.

"We've been handing out surveys discussing political ideologies on campus, and we can see what they identify as politically, and I've seen socialist ones," Tomlinson said. "For the majority, it's usually liberal or conservative, but you can see what other schools have put in there too, and it's a ton of socialist ideals."

Socialism is a menace to the American free market economy, according to the Turning Point group. It points to politicians like Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez promoting socialistic policies and fueling the culture war, that Turning Point is hell-bent on winning.

Chris Gaffrey, a TPUSA senior field rep., defines the "culture war" as a "shaming" of opinions that might be unpopular. In an email, Gaffrey said, "The 'culture war' is referring to the fact that most young people in America are happy to and quick to shame someone for believing in limited government, free speech, the second amendment, etc., without ever hearing their actual reasoning for their beliefs."

Tomlinson focuses on economics, "I think when we talk about a culture war, they're trying to shift the culture in America from a capitalist free market economy to a socialist one."

Asked how a socialistic approach might benefit the U.S. healthcare system, Tomlinson talked about the need for reform, but without using socialism to address the issues.

"I definitely think America needs to take a look at its healthcare system, but I don't think having a socialist perspective on healthcare is a good idea," she said.

She shared similar views on the high price of college. While it's an individual's choice to continue their education, the cost needs to be lower, Tomlinson said.

"You look at some people, when they get out of college, they're not even making enough to pay back their student-loan debt. If you could bring the cost down, more people would go to college and societies that are more educated would do better."

Tomlinson doesn't have a plan on how to lower education costs but thinks "universities could probably just lower the cost and do just fine."

Turning Point's presence puts LGBTQ+ community on alert

Outspace is a student-organized gender and sexuality alliance at WCC. The group promotes inclusivity for all students on campus, with a focus on expanding awareness to those at the margins of the LGBTQ+ community.

David Marshall, a computer science major and member of Outspace, has voiced safety issues concerning the presence of Turning Point on campus.

The Turning Point website offers video-blogs on cultural topics from a handful of contributors. Topics include cancel culture, vaccinations, education, and transgender issues. A vlog recorded by contributor Stephen Davis was of particular concern to Marshall. Entitled, "Transgenderism's Constant Attack on Womanhood," Davis gives his opinion on "what really constitutes being a woman," and says "transgenderism is tearing apart the very fabric of reality."

Marshall says that the idea that how someone exists is an attack on someone else is ridiculous. Marshall expressed fear of such ideas turning into violence.

"You are automatically at a higher risk being a member of the queer community — that's the world we live in. When people have a resentment for who you are, we've seen that resentment lead to violence."

Gaffrey said in an email, "TPUSA never advocates for violence and condemns those who do so."

Marshall hopes the WCC Turning Point group has good intentions but remains cautious.

"It would be great if they're just enthused about free markets and 'America is neat,' but it gives me a bad feeling," he said.

Marshall also draws attention to the dangers of nationalism. "(Turning Point) has a 'we are superior to you' attitude, and we decide who the 'we' are."

In an email response, Tomlinson said the WCC TPUSA chapter holds no resentment or hate toward any group or individuals on campus, and they don't delve into social issues. Tomlinson wrote that the articles on the TPUSA website make no difference to what her chapter believes (limited government, free markets, individual liberties). The WCC chapter does not hold the same values as every other chapter.

She said the group encourages those with different points of view to reach out.



Seed Library helps Washtenaw community livelihood

By WILLOW SYMONDS Staff Writer

When a student wants to start gardening, even with just one potted plant, they have a convenient and accessible place to find seeds: the Bailey Library, right here on campus.

Sandy McCarthy, a WCC librarian, proposed the Seed Library in 2014. A year later, she successfully started it with funding from the Sustainability Council. She now serves as the council's food and agriculture facilitator and manages the Seed Library.

Students can find the seed drawer in the library's first floor Periodicals section.

The Library, like most of the campus, went on a hiatus in March 2020 due to COVID. The Seed Library then reopened in May 2021 for pick-up only.

"We are expecting to end [the pick-up only policy] by the end of the term," McCarthy told the Voice. "Meaning, in May we should be open to all with no ID requirement. This is the plan unless something changes."

Packets of herbs, fruits, vegetables, and flowers sit in the Seed Library's drawers, waiting to be checked out. Once the borrower plants them, they harvest the newlygrown plant's seeds, dry them, then return them to the Seed Library in the packet they started with (or any packet as long as it has the correct

Returned seeds account for many of the packets in the drawers, while others were brought to start the chain of borrowing, planting, and returning. The Bailey Library only purchases from Nature & Nurture Seeds, a Dexterlocated farm that grows nonpollinated, non-GMO heirloom seeds with high rates of germination.

Heirloom describes a seed's heritage, specifically a documented heritage, passing down from generation to generation within a family or community. When a dormant seed successfully develops and grows again, gardeners call it "germination."

According to the Seed Library Annual Report 2019, 95% of the seeds were borrowed that year. Community members borrowed 26% of seeds, WCC employees bor-



(Left) Librarian Sandy McCarthy stands next to the Seed Library station.

SHELBY BEATY I WASHTENAW VOICE

(Right) Students can learn more from the free materials offered for themselves. WILLOW SYMONDS I WASHTENAW VOICE

rowed 19% of seeds, and students borrowed 55% of seeds. The remaining 5% of seeds stayed for the following year.

The Students for Sustainability Club helps with organizing and cutting seeds. After staying off campus for two years, they volunteered at the Seed Library again March 31, 2022. The club's teacher advisor, Dr. Emily Thompson, said that this allows Sustainability Students to learn more about responsibility, leadership, and gardening.

"[Gardening gives people] the health benefits of exercise and eating better foods, aesthetic benefits from putting in flowers to benefit pollinators, and social benefits because now we can garden together," Thompson told The Voice.

WCC isn't the only place with a seed library. Sandy McCarthy has consulted with other seed libraries to get them started, including Michigan State University and the Ann Arbor District Library. She believes that all libraries should supply people with the resources they need to better themselves, whether through books or seeds.

"I believe that the Seed Library can teach students about food security," McCarthy said. "Some non-credit courses help students learn the skills of starting a garden [as well]."

Starting this April, beginners and experienced gardeners can attend the Build Your Own Rain Garden webinar class every Tuesday, the Composting Made Easy webinar every Wednesday, and the in-person Container Gardening: A Plant in Every Pot class. Teacher Monica Milla instructs the latter, and also

Heirloom Flowers Gardening for Our Feline Friends on campus, where anyone can learn to grow plants their cats

McCarthy stressed the value of student involvement and the many ways the Seed Library strengthens people's lives and their relationships to each other and the environ-

"I believe that the Seed Library can [combat] climate change by eating a more plant-based diet, [...] promote healthy eating, and start community gardens in underserved communities," she said.

Make sure to visit the Seed Library website for more information.

The Bailey Library is looking for enthusiastic students to help with organizing and planning workshops, seed sorting, repacking, and much more! Contact Sandy McCarthy at mccarthy@wccnet. edu or GM 126 if interested.







The three winning pets, from left to right: Odi the hedgehog, Tyrion the Pembroke Welsh Corgi, and Hennifer the turkey.

WCC shows off top three **Cutest Pet Contest winners**

Staff Writer

The Cutest Pet Contest announced the winners on March 10: Hennifer the turkey won third place, Odi the hedgehog won second place, and Tyrion the Welsh Corgi won first place.

Students and faculty members submitted photos of their furry friends to the Kudoboard. For many, the goal wasn't to win, but to share photos of their pets and meet other pet owners. Also, for "bragging rights," as Tyrion's owner, Kendall Reid, jokingly

told The Voice. Dogs and cats made up the majority, being 60 and 28 of the 95 contestants. Many of the photos showed them napping on couches and pet beds, relaxing outside in the grass and in the snow, playing with chew toys, wading in water, and in one case, dressed up as a flower girl for the owner's wedding.

Other animals had their place too, including a rabbit, a miniature pony, a snail, three birds (two of which were Indian ringnecks), two axolotls, which are a type of salamander, and, of course, a hedgehog and a turkey.

Both Kendall Reid, Tyrion's owner, and Vanessa Danci, Odi's owner, discovered the contest through WCC's student newsletter, The Washtenaw Weekly.

"I thought it would be a fun way to interact with other pet lovers," Danci said. "I found out Odi won after reading through the most recent Washtenaw Weekly newsletter. I didn't expect to place second because there were so many other cute entries."

Once the owners decided to enter their pets into the contest, they had to choose which photo showed just how cute their pet is. Both Reid and Danci have backstories behind their pictures.

"The photo I submitted was taken on Odi's first birthday," Danci said. "It was the first time I was able to reunite him with his sister, and both hedgehogs had a great time together."

Tyrion the Welsh Corgi's photo included props, such as a hockey net, a yellow helmet on the ground, and a mini scoreboard hanging up behind him.

"At (doggy) daycare, they have themed parties every other week and so that's where the hockey-themed picture came from," Reid said. "The picture was a no-brainer since he has a big smile on his face."

Reid and Danci are thankful for everyone who voted for Tyrion and Odi.

More in-person

Continued from A1

About 70% of all full-time faculty, advisers, counselors, librarians and lab technicians have now returned to working on campus, said Julie Kissel, president of the WCC faculty union.

"Some of it is personal choice. For me, I'm much happier coming to campus to separate my work life from my home life," Kissel said. "But it also depends on the classes we teach and student demand."

Preference for in-person or virtual classes seems to somewhat depend on the subject being taught, Hurns said. For example, students may prefer in-person math classes to online or virtual ones if math is something they struggle with.

Conversely, if a student usually excels at math, he or she might opt for an online or virtual class because there is more flexibility and less interaction with a teacher.

"I think it will be a big learning experience for us to see what students go for now that there are all three options," Hurns said.

While the subject may be an important factor in determining whether to choose inperson or virtual classes, many students say they still prefer in-person classes, overall.

"(In virtual classes) it's harder to ask questions and actually interact with other people," said Zeinab Agbaria, an 11th grade student at Washtenaw Technical Middle College, the high school at WCC. "Some people just won't speak at all and most keep their cameras off."

Agbaria, a nursing major, prefers in-person classes be-

cause they allow her to build better relationships with her peers and teachers. Although she hasn't taken any nursing classes yet (she recently switched majors), the in-person classes that she has taken have, overall, been more fruitful than her experiences in virtual classes, she said.

Emma Pearson, a general math and science major, also prefers in-person classes. This semester, she is taking all of her classes on campus. She came to WCC last year and has done her best to avoid taking virtual classes.

"I don't do very good with virtual classes," Pearson said. "I don't have the self-control to keep myself on track."

Pearson chooses not to work because she lives with her parents, but she says that, even if she did work, she would still look for in-person classes that fit her schedule.

"I get that some people with busy lives and jobs might do really well with (virtual) classes because of their flexibility, but the thing is, I need structure," she said.

On the flip side, in-person classes may trigger anxiety for some students, causing them to prefer virtual or online classes.

"I'm a computer student, so I could do most of my stuff from home anyway," said Phillip Ignatoski, a computer systems and networking major. "I really only like to interact with people when I have to."

Ignatoski is autistic, and he says in-person classes are harder for him because of his social anxiety. Being surrounded by other students makes him susceptible to comparing himself to them, and he worries that he is not as skilled or knowledgeable as they are. However, if a class requires more hands-on activities, he prefers to take the class in-person, despite his social anxiety. He works parttime at Office Depot where he repairs computers, and he says the subject of the class—not his job—is what determines if he will take it in-person or virtually.

When in a virtual class, he prefers to leave his camera off, which helps to soothe his social anxiety.

"When you're in a Zoom class, you don't really know the other people because you don't see or interact with them as often," he said. "That's the difference between virtual and in-person."

Michael Quail, a WCC mathematics professor, has been teaching remotely since the start of the pandemic. This semester, he is teaching all online classes and one virtual class, and the same is currently true for the fall semester. He is choosing to remain virtual mainly because of coronavirus concerns.

"I love being in the classroom, and I miss it terribly," Quail said. "When I'm confident that COVID is truly gone, I will be back in the classroom."

At the end of the day, both Kissel and Hurns say they have students' best interests in mind, and they applaud the WCC community's ability to adapt accordingly.

"Our goal is to do what makes the most sense to meet the student needs and keep everyone safe," Kissel said.

Ukrainian student worries for family in Ukraine

Continued from A1

His father explained that he got so used to hearing the loud noises that when he was finally able to go to sleep, he would wake up like 'Wait, what's going on,' when they finally stopped.

Both Dytynenko and Skynko's families are considered middle class. Skynko's mom stopped working because she left the country, but his dad still works at Romodanov Neurosurgery Institute as the head of spinal neurosurgery. Dytynenko's family is living off savings at the moment. They feel they

will be alright for the next few months. One of Dytynenko and Skynko's biggest worries seems to be Ukraians of more modest means. Skynko said he has no idea what Ukrainian citizens in lower economic classes will do because many aren't working while they shelter at home.

Dytynenko says she has had people come up to her to express their support for Ukraine. "People have come up to me saying 'Praying for Ukraine', and I really appreciate that," said Dytynenko. On the other hand, Skynko wishes the U.S. would do more to

The main thing Skynko wants to see the U.S. assist with is military support. "Ground troops would be helpful, but there's no shortage of people on the ground," said Skynko. So many people have tried to sign up to fight to the point the Ukrainian government spoke up and said they have enough people ready to battle.

Skynko feels Ukraine's biggest issue is the air. Ukraine is able to defend the ground, but they are not the best equipped to fight in the air. He wants the U.S. and other nations to close the sky and turn Ukraine into

a "no fly zone." That means no aircraft would be able to fly over the country of Ukraine. The problem is that to enforce this rule, there must be strong military action ready to put in play and the U.S. is hesitant,

Skynko noted that when Ukraine's president talked to the U.S. Congress, he brought up Pearl Harbor and 9/11. Those kinds of attacks are happening in Ukraine every day now, Skynko said.

Skynko wants people to know that moral support is appreciated, but he thinks the best way to help and show support is by donating money

to different organizations and the Ukrainian government.

Skynko suggested that another way Americans can support is to... stop complaining about the increasing gas prices. The U.S. banned importing Russian oil and gas which did cause gas prices to go up.

"Nobody knew what was going to happen, nobody knew how long this was going to take, nobody knew if Ukraine was going to be able to stand up to Russia," said Skynko. "But, as you can see Ukraine can stand up to Russia."

If you want to help Ukraine, here are links to donate to or other ways to volunteer help:

Visit GoFundMe. com for Ukraine Humanitarian Fund

Visit the Center for International Disaster Information's website cidi.org and click on the Ukraine **COLUMN**

The unfortunate business of being sick in 2022



By Jordan Scenna Deputy Editor

The following is what we like to call, "based on a true story." It's my experience of a recent bout with a nasty virus, and my subsequent attempt to get treatment. The pandemic has changed many cultural norms, from wearing masks in public places, to working from home. Getting sick, and going to see a doctor, isn't what it used to be.

Today, we love to filter our images. We create our preferred versions of ourselves, and present that person to the world. We communicate an approximation of the truth. It's life told through different lenses, and let me assure you, this tale is no different.

This particular incident is shaped by the lesser talked about symptom of any illness-other than amnesia, of course—an ailing memory.

After night-sweating through three shirts and dealing with a cough that was going from nagging to outright demanding, I decided to make a doctor's appointment.

I went online to my provider's website and scrolled down to my personal general practitioner, and saw that he didn't have an opening for an-



other week. No problem, he's a busy doctor after all. I'll just schedule an appointment with another provider in the office.

Lucky for me, I found an appointment the very next morning. I click on the time and a prompt comes up. "Are you experiencing any of these symptoms of COVID; sore throat, fever, cough fatigue?"

Yes, I click.

"This time isn't reserved for people experiencing symptoms of COVID," the website responds.

"Would you like to set up a video visit, the computer

Yes, I would, since I'm feeling sicker by the moment. I don't know how you can properly diagnose me without a "can you take a deep breath," or "open up and say ah," but it'll have to do. I click the little button for a welcomed video visit. The website explodes with pop-up boxes and red fonts. "No time available," the computer shouts.

"Sorry," I mutter. I feel like I'm bothering it.

"Oh well," I think to myself as I cough up a dollop of yellow goo onto my shirt sleeve. There's always Urgent Care, let me give them a call.

"The provider can see you as soon as he gets here," says the nurse over the phone.

It's 30 minutes past opening. The woman is calm and polite, as if the doctor's tardiness isn't out of the ordinary.

"Where is he," I ask?

"I don't know," says the nurse. She's probably not a nurse; more like nurse cosplay.

I'm parked in the alley behind Urgent Care, waiting to be seen by a provider. You can't wait inside if you're sick. I walked in and someone's yelling at me.

"Have you experienced any of these symptoms in the past 48 hours; sore throat, fever, cough, fatigue.

"Yes," I say, "that's why I'm here."

"Have you been in close contact with another person who's tested positive for COVID?"

"Countless, I'm sure."

"OK, please leave," the woman wearing scrubs says, "and pull around back."

"Around back," I ask? "Yes," she says. "There's

an alley in the back."

"Sure thing."

I'm sitting in my car, halfconscious from illness and nosleep, when I get a phone call from an unknown number.

"This is Robert, your provider, what are your symptoms?"

"Sore throat, fever, cough, fatigue."

"It sounds like a respiratory infection, it needs to run its course. Go get some medicated cough drops."

"What about a strep test," I ask? "You haven't even taken my temperature. Where are you?"

"I know what I'm doing,"

the doctor reassures me.

"Do you have health insurance," he asks?

"Yes."

"That'll be a hundred dol-

"But I have insurance," I

"Yes," he responds. "Is there anything else I can do for you?"

When I was a kid, my family doctor had a wonderful fish tank in his waiting room. The fish, covered in bright colors and swimming around their well-kept aquarium, soothed many a child's flu. The doctor knew your name; knew your family. If necessary, they'd call in a prescription without you even having to go to the office. It's what you might call health

Today, we're left out in the cold; parked next to a large blue dumpster, and made to stare at a brick wall while trying not to vomit in our car. All for the price, of what is for some, an entire day's pay.

Doctors are often referred to as providers, but too often, all they provide is another headache. Between overpriced treatments, insurance hassles, and backdoor deals with drug companies, patients have been transformed into numbers.

With other news grabbing headlines, like Ukraine or Hunter Biden's laptop, the discussion about health care reform has all but vanished. The fractures in our system are only examined every few years, usually just in time for the next election; and then, poof, it's gone, like a miracle. Everyday people put off seeing a doctor whether because of cost or quality of care.

We can do better.

It's no secret that we're living in trying times. What motivates you to continue your education?

RJ Hunt | Editor

"I came back to school just before the pandemic. For me, just knowing I can (get my associates) and pushing through to get it done. It's been challenging but, I want to prove to myself I can do it."

> Sarah Turnbull **Business Management**



I look forward to different careers and opportunities. I want to continue my education, so I can reach those opportunities. Without education, I won't be able to."

"Partially it's my parents motivating me, but it's also that

Suhhayb Said General Studies





"My parents motivate me to continue my education."

Leylan Kazi

General Math and Science

"Looking forward to the future and having something I can do later on."

> Jerome Howell WTMC student

"The more that I learn, the better I'll become as a person. That simple fact keeps me going."

> **Robert Rice** Engineering

"After everything that's happened and being stuck in quarantine, seeing people around me inspires me to keep moving forward."

> Tyler Bailey Art and Game Design

"My parents. Also, thinking about my future and how I will support my family."

> **Umar Muhammad** General Math and Science











f WASHTENAWVOICE



WASHTENAWVOICE.COM

OUR TEAM AND ITS ROLE

The Washtenaw Voice is produced every other week by students of Washtenaw Community College. Editorial responsibility lies with the students. The views here are not endorsed or approved by the faculty, administration or Board of Trustees of WCC.

YOUR VOICE

The Voice welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words and include the author's name. A phone number and email address are required so letters can be verified before publication. The Voice welcomes news tips and story ideas.

CORRECTIONS

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The Washtenaw Voice offers its support for the people of Ukraine.

Hang this flag in a window in honor of the men, women, and children of Ukraine.

A national flag represents more than just the invented lines that make up a country's borders. It's a symbol for the people that live there; that work there; that raise their families there. Right now, those people are suffering and need our support.



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Art show highlights



FIRST PLACE

"Doorway" by Terese Basha Jarjoura



"Master Study" by Andrea Rose

SECOND

PLACE



PRESIDENT'S **CHOICE**

"Bridge to Evening" by Bob Rickman



PEOPLE'S CHOICE "The Runaways"

by Marissa Harris

THIRD

"Peace Bomb" by Galina Wachs

PLACE



DEAN'S CHOICE

"Untitled" by Nathan Shuppert



PROMISING ARTIST

"Dwelling #36" by Marissa Harris



The Weeknd performing a medley of his hits at the SuperBowl in Tampa February 2021 | Via Tribune Media

The Weekend belts out love ballads



By HUDA KAHN

With hits such as "Starboy", "Blinding Lights", and "Save Your Tears," it is no surprise that The Weeknd's music has seen so much success. His latest album, Dawn FM is no exception, debuting at #65 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart.

As usual, many of the

songs on the album discuss love. Singer-songwriter, The Weeknd, also points out his flaws and the mistakes he makes when it comes to love. He points out his lovers' failed attempts at saving him. For example, in the song "Less than Zero", he sings "You tried your best with me, I know". And in the song "Sacrifice", The Weeknd says "Uh, every time you try to fix me I know you'll never find that missing

piece".

But The Weeknd does not only discuss tales of love and heartbreak in this album. He includes the track "A Tale by Quincy," narrated by renowned music producer mogul, Quincy Jones, who

delves into saddening memories of his childhood.

Comedian and actor Jim Carrey contributes narration, and rap musicians, Tyler, the Creator and Lil Wayne are featured as well.

For fans of the 32-yearold Canadian artist (born Abel Makkonen Tesfaye), Dawn FM is a groundbreaking album that deserves recognition for its brilliance. It is The Weeknd's rawest, most thoughtful, and perhaps one of his greatest albums yet.

For those who want to see The Weeknd in concert, tickets are still available for his July concert in Detroit at Ford Field.

Will's bad rap over Oscars slap

By Melanie Chapman Staff Writer

"I know to do what we do, you gotta be able to take abuse and have people talk about you. In this business, you gotta have people disrespecting you, and you gotta smile and pretend that's ok," said Will Smith in his speech after winning an Oscar for best actor; one of the most anticipated categories at the world renowned film awards.

Moments before his win, Smith shocked viewers after slapping Chris Rock over a "joke" that was made about his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. Many (jokingly) call it, "the slap heard around the world." Many viewers, including me, assumed it was a joke due to how casually Smith approached Rock and how well he took the slap.

It's something I stopped caring about once the award show ended. It was something I found hilarious, laughed at, then moved on, but then I forgot that's not how people who swear they "don't care about celebrities" react. It's something I find myself being encouraged to write about, even outside of my classes. As a journalist, I understand, it is a hot topic, and everyone wants each other's opinions.

After sitting with my thoughts, I really found my-



Chris Rock, left, reacts to being slapped by Will Smith onstage during the 94th Academy Awards at the Dolby Theatre on Sunday, March 27, 2022, in Hollywood, California. | Myung Chun/Los Angeles Times via Tribune Media

self thinking about Jada Pinkett Smith. I found myself sympathizing with her compared to everyone else. As a black woman, I know how important our hair is to our culture, and as a black woman who has also suffered from hair loss, I could easily imagine how humiliated she must have felt. Chris Rock's comment was not OK. I've even had fellow peers say, "I'd understand if it was cancer" which is completely dense. It's common for black women to be the punching bag for jokes over our hair, and we're just expected to endure it.

So no, I'm not outraged by what Will Smith did. I'm more outraged by A-list celebrities and others on the internet pretending to care about Chris Rock and his televised "assault." Especially when said celebrities love to party on the weekends with rapists and abusers in their free time, but now they care?

I believe people love seeing famous celebrities who have never failed or had a scandal-ous moment, screw up. Will Smith has been acting since the early '90s and has never had one scandal... not one.

But now there's outrage, people expressing that he should have his Oscar taken away, even though Woody Allen has four and Harvey Weinstein with 81 Oscar wins. Yet, no one has taken their Oscars away, and Weinstein is currently in jail for his sex crimes.

SDOM of the

If you don't believe you are the best, then you will never achieve all that you are capable of.

Cristiano Ronaldo

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

Kim Kardashian

"I'm trying to show everybody that I'm a girl, and I'm five foot four, and you can do anything you want, no matter your gender. It's your world, too!"

Billie Eilish



"I'm telling you, people.
Everyday we wake up is
another blessing. Follow
your dreams and don't let
anyone stop you.
Never say never."

Justin Bieber

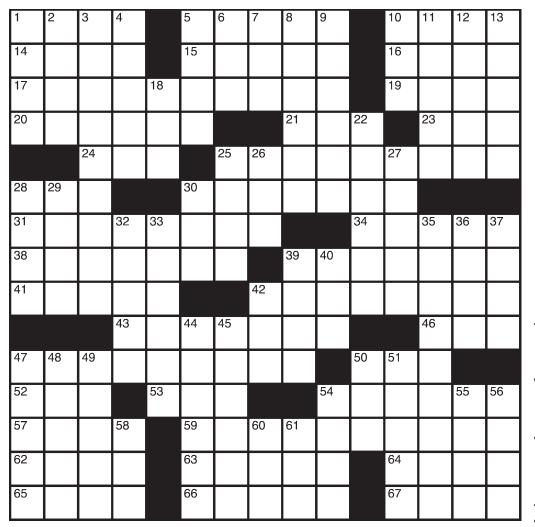
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6 4 2 6 5 8 7 6 5 8 Solutions to puzzles on washtenawvoice.com 5 9 5 8 2 9

ACROSS

- 1 Chesapeake shellfish
- 5 Swings at a fly
- 10 Perfect tennis serves
- 14 Can't stand
- 15 Band whose debut album "Dreamboat Annie" was released in the U.S. on Valentine's Day in 1976
- 16 Reclined
- 17 *__ day: on alternating days
- 19 Thought
- 20 Raised, as kids
- 21 What a vocalist may drop
- for emphasis 23 "What's the __?": "So
- what?"
 - 24 Pallid
 - 25 *Aussie's "Well done!"
 - 28 Historic period
 - 30 Deluge
 - 31 *One with the motto "Be Prepared"
 - 34 Trait carriers
 - 38 Brazenly obvious
 - 39 Morton condiment
 - 41 Determined to have 42 *Serves a prison sentence
 - 43 Daily record, as on a ship
 - 46 Almost on "E"
 - 47 *Part of the contract where gotchas might be found
- 50 Mantra syllables
- 52 United
- 53 Talk incessantly
- 54 "You're the One That I Want" musical
- 57 Bloody, as steak 59 The first words of the
- answers to starred clues are a mnemonic for this musical
- symbol's staff lines 62 Back up, on a PC
- 63 Philadelphia NFLer
- 64 Winter wear
- 65 Extreme disorder 66 Struck down, biblically
- 67 Pantry pests

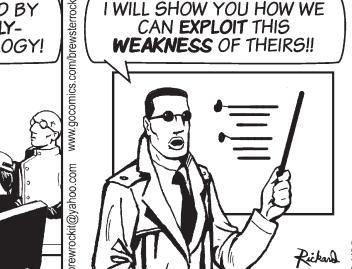
- 1 "Believe" singer
- 2 "Must-see" review
- 3 Eroded 4 Quotable Yogi
- 5 Not barefoot
- 6 Drenched, e.g. 7 "That feels good"
- 8 Seismic event 9 Long step
- 10 Comedian Wong
- 11 Escalade, casually
- 12 Kids' song refrain
- 13 Big blunder 18 Hankering
- 22 Barrel-shaped drums 25 Joint ailment
- 26 Uneaten morsel

DOWN

- 27 A-bomb tryout
- 28 Recedes to the sea 29 Part in a play
- 30 "An ounce of action is worth a __ of theory":
- Emerson (probably) 32 Pilfered
- 33 Suspended cover above a bed
- 35 Place for a manicure
- 36 "Tickle Me" Muppet 37 Hearty entrée
- 39 Chimney sweep's target
- 40 "A mouse!" 42 Cheadle who was Basher
- in "Ocean's" films
- 44 Fireplace inserts 45 Yoga-as-exercise
- namesake
- 47 Roman place of assembly 48 Foolish
- 49 Brainiacs, maybe
- 50 Valuable deposit
- 51 Muslim holy city 54 Joy
- 55 Usher's offering
- 56 Young newts
- 58 Dawn goddess
- 60 Alter __
- 61 Three-letter sandwich

BREWSTER ROCKIT By Tim Rickard







Note to Stankopolis readers

"Stankopolis is on hiatus. It will return in May's issue.

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

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

Success

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

Strategic Engagement Summer Intern.

Under the supervision of the director of strategic engagement, the strategic engagement intern will support MCAN's communication efforts across all departments. The incoming intern must be passionate about promoting the organization's mission of educational equity for low-income students, students of color, and first-generation college-going students. The ideal candidate is highly collaborative, self-motivated, technically-capable, detail-oriented, and has the ability to prioritize multiple tasks in a fastpaced, innovative environment. Applicants must have strong writing and editing skills. This internship is an in-person position at MCAN's office in Lansing, but

a hybrid option is available for an intern living outside of the greater

MI ECHO Scholarship Intern.

MCAN's MI ECHO Scholarship and passionate individual to help manage and sustain the scholarship program. The Michigan Equity, Courage, Hope and Opportunity Scholarship (MI ECHO) is a tuition-free pathway for students who worked in an essential industry during the not eligible for federal financial or certificate. It is designed to Protected Status immigrants, Special Immigrant Juveniles, and other populations who are excluded from most traditional financial aid opportunities. This remote work and some in-person work at our Lansing office.

Library and Information

Science Internship (3). Under the direction of the YDL-Whittaker Youth Services Department Head or YDL-Michigan Branch Manager, the Intern will perform a wide variety of duties and tasks, gaining full scope of public librarianship The ideal candidate for this job will be passionate about serving the community and empowering kids and parents. Duties will include but are not limited to the followina:

Part-time Communications

Lansing region.

Program is looking for a dedicated COVID-19 pandemic and who are aid to pursue an associate degree serve DACA recipients, Temporary will be a hybrid position with some

exposure to and experience in the typical of a busy youth department.

Under the general direction of the Community Relations Coordinator, the Intern will create high- quality branded content to share on the library's website, social media, and print newsletter. YDL's website uses original content to engage patrons. The Intern will assist staff with writing posts and gathering relevant community information. The Intern will also assist with photos, videos, livestreaming, and other digital content for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.

Aerodynamics Technician.

Our client in Ann Arbor is currently seeking an Aerodynamics Technician! This is a long-term position with the potential for hire that starts immediately. Apply today! Start work tomorrow! Support aerodynamic wind tunnel evaluations. Create exterior geometry based on 3D data. Evaluate key performance indicators in basic data analysis and post evaluation.

NVH Materials Technician.

As an NVH Materials Technician, you will: Prepare and execute tests on materials for internal and external customers. Prepare and test prototype noise and vibration material products. Perform calibration and preventive maintenance on lab equipment. Organize and clean lab facilities. **Video & Photo Content**

Creator.

Clear Choice Contractors creates beautiful outdoor living spaces for families in the greater Detroit area. We build custom decks, pools, landscaped yards, and concrete pavers that transform outdoor spaces. We are looking for a

student interested in photography and videography to help us build world-class visual content. The content you produce will be used in our new website (expected launch mid-April), social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn), digital advertising, and in promotional/ sales materials. To capture this content, you will ride along with our crews 15-20 hours per week to various job sites documenting the work you see. We'd love to have a mix of "polished" and "behind the scenes" content - so feel to have fun with it!

Registered Nurse-RN. The RN Registered Nurse is responsible for supervising nursing personnel to deliver nursing care and within scope of practice coordinates care delivery, which will ensure that patient's needs are met in accordance with professional standards of practice through physician orders, center policies and procedures, and federal, state and local guidelines. We are looking for clinicians who would like to combine their love for people and strong work ethic with the opportunities to advance their career.

Receptionist.

Fast paced medical office hiring for all positions. Full and Part time. Administrative and Billing skills are a plus. Willing to train the right candidate. Come grow with us.

Accounting Position Accounts payable Accounts receivable.

Commercial Construction Incorporated is a self-performing industrial general contractor headquartered in Brighton,

Michigan. For over two decades, CCI has specialized in capital construction, equipment installation and industrial maintenance across a broad spectrum of industrial markets. Phlebotomist - Ann Arbor, We are seeking a Phlebotomist

responsible for the efficient and

effective collection of plasma from donors by performing venipuncture, monitoring the pheresis process and following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This is a full-time Phlebotomist position located in our Genoa mental health pharmacy. The candidate must also be willing to assist as a pharmacy technician and become licensed and nationally certified as a pharmacy technician within 6 months of hire.

Office Manager / Bookkeeper.

Small CPA office administrative duties including invoicing, bill paying, scheduling of clients. Will also be involved with bookkeeping for multiple corporate and trust clients. Flexible 30 - 35 hours per week. **Vocal instructor Singing**

Coach.

We are looking for a vocal instructor, the ideal candidate would be a multi-instrumentalist. If you have a passion for teaching, give us a call. This is a part time position but the right person could work almost as much as they want, if you love music and want to work- we definitely want to hear from you. We need an enthusiastic, dependable instructor to join our team.

Lessons are primarily weekday afternoons and predominantly with youth. We are looking for someone with a background in music and a passion for helping others achieve their artistic goals. Previous teaching experience is not required, experience with kids is a big plus. A background check is part of the position.

SaaS Integrations Project Manager.

Shoptelligence is in search of a SaaS Integrations Project Manager to continue to enhance our state-of-the-art Al-powered retail platform as the company continues its growth and evolution.

Web Order Fulfillment Associate. We are looking for a highly

motivated, self-driven individual Web Order Fulfillment Associate at our Ann Arbor production facility and warehouse! This is an entry-level position with room for advancement! Prior experience in a production environment is not necessary. This position starts at \$14 per hour with the opportunity for advancement every 6 months up to \$18! We provide on the job, paid training!

Automation Controls Engineer.

BTI is seeking dedicated problemsolvers that enjoys tough technical challenges, are creative, assertive and have a love for learning. As an important member of our engineering team, you will provide full life-cycle technical support for the design, development, testing and implementation of precision measurement test and manufacturing systems.

Compiled by: Doina Plop | Contributor

events

AT WCC

IN THE COMMUNITY

THERAPAWS

Wed Apr 13th 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Bailey Library, Gunder Myran Building 1st Floor (4800 E. Huron River Dr.) Join Therapaws of Michigan volunteers and their therapy dogs at the Bailey Library and Learning Commons Lab.

ACTS OF RESILIENCE: POETRY OPEN MIC

April 13, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Online (zoom)

Join the poetry open mic event in celebration of National Poetry Month and Earth Day. The theme is acts of resilience. You are welcome to write a poem, to read one, or just join to listen.

WCC STUDENT SONGWRITING SHOWCASE

April 22, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Online (zoom)

If you enjoy writing songs, share your talent with your fellow students. The song theme is appreciation or connection to the natural world. Submit your work before April 15th.



EASTER EGG UNT

April 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m

Robin Hills Farm (20390 M-52, Chelsea, MI 48118)

Visit the Robin Hills Farm for an Easter Egg Hunt. You can collect eggs around the farm, get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny, or enjoy other activities with family and friends.

MIDWEST LITERARY WALK

April 23, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

A range of venues in downtown Chelsea, MI 48118

Midwest Literary Walk will host U.S. Poet Laureate, Billy Collins, and New York Times Best-selling authors Ashley Ford and Don Winslow. Join to attend the talks and Q&As.

YPSILANTI SPRING ARTISAN MARKET

May 1, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ypsilanti Freighthouse (100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48198) The Ypsilanti Freighthouse will host the Ypsilanti Artisan Market with over 40 local crafters, artisans, food vendors. Visit and shop while enjoying live music.



CHILI COOK-OFF

May 7, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Michigan Firehouse Museum (110 W Cross St, Ypsilanti, MI 48104) The Michigan Firehouse Museum offers a chance to taste chili recipes from contestants across Southeastern Michigan while listening to live music or grabbing a drink.

BOMBERS, BERRIES & BREWS

May 7, from 5 p.m to 8 p.m

Yankee Air Museum (47884 D St, Belleville, MI 48111) The Yankee Air Museum offers a sample of local craft beers and wines while viewing historic aircrafts.

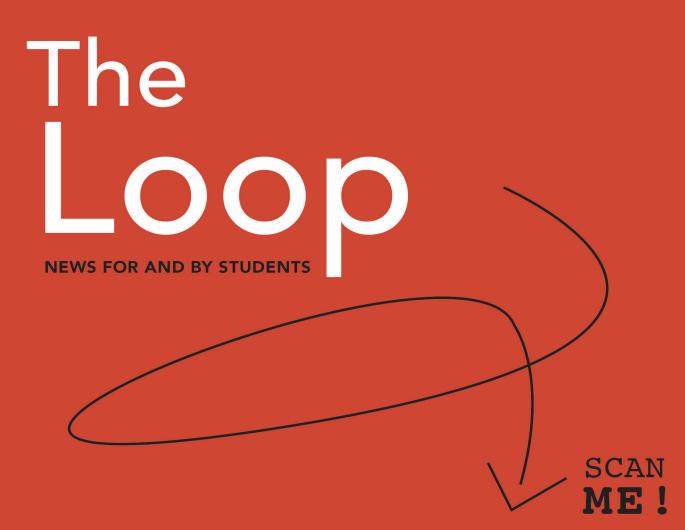
MOTHER'S DAY TIME TO TEAL 5K & FUN **RUN/WALK**

May 8, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Downtown Ann Arbor (315 E Eisenhower Pkwy, Ste 9, Ann Arbor, MI 48108) The Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance is celebrating Mother's Day and spreading awareness on ovarian cancer by hosting a 5k run. Participants can join the run downtown Ann Arbor or virtually.







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