



THE WASHTENAW VOICE

VOL. 33, No. 6

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

The student publication of Washtenaw Community College

Ann Arbor, Michigan

www.washtenawvoice.com

Photos a gift to cancer patients and families

WCC photography department volunteers take portraits of U-M patients

BY GRACE CRANDALL
Staff Writer

Weekends are usually quiet on WCC's campus. But on Saturday, March 18, the campus was a center of activity as volunteers gathered in WCC's photography studio to prepare for the Life Images event, a portrait session offered to patients and families from the Rogel Cancer Center of University of Michigan (U-M).

In a partnership with WCC Digital Media Arts department, the Rogel Cancer Center offers photoshoots at no cost to cancer patients, sending them home with both printed photos and a flash drive with a photo collection. Life Images is a biannual event, with one session hosted in spring, and one in fall.

As volunteers arrived and introduced themselves, Madison McTevia, a child life specialist at the Rogel Cancer Center, reminded everyone that the event was not about "people with cancer", but rather about giving patients an opportunity to just be themselves with their families.

"They're not walking into here as a Rogel Cancer Center patient, but as, 'I am a mother,' 'I am a spouse,' or, 'This is my family,' and they're being captured in their organic selves," said McTevia. "I think that's so powerful for them to have that remembrance of this time, wherever they are in their cancer treatment or experience, just to document and memorialize that."

Volunteers prepared for the sessions by adjusting studio lights, taping down wires, and testing the cameras. Three lightboxes were arranged, each with a different background to add variety to the shoot.

Rogel Cancer Center staff stood at the door to wel-



Chief administrative officer of the Rogel Cancer Center, Julie Brabbs, and her husband pose for a photo.

come the families and to offer any needed assistance, as well as provide a familiar face.

Patients and their families arrived at staggered times, allowing photographers and assistants to focus on each family as long as needed. After the shoot, the photos were uploaded to a computer, where student volunteers worked on post-production.

Life Images is a volunteer based, donor funded event, made up of U-M staff and WCC staff, as well as WCC students. WCC students in the Digital Media Arts program assist in taking photos as well as post production and printing. Volunteers who once were students at WCC often come back to help, or have even become crucial in making Life Images happen.

Stephanie Prechter is one such volunteer. Prechter began as an intern through WCC's Digital Media Arts program. Prechter would spend her time at the Rogel Cancer Center, recording cancer patients' journeys through photography. Prechter's time spent with cancer patients solidified her passion for making the arts, like photography, a bigger part of healthcare. For Prechter, events such as Life Images are significant ways to improve one's mental healing process.

"People then view the arts as something more than 'art in a gallery.' It elevates it in a way that promotes healing," said Prechter.

Only three students after Prechter were able to experience the photography inter-

ship, due to COVID-19 putting the internship to a halt. Prechter hopes that WCC will one day resume the internship.

"To be able to get that opportunity is a game changer," said Prechter.

Prechter now coordinates the Life Images event, but she made sure to mention that coordinating is not a one-man job. Staff and volunteers from both WCC and U-M make this event possible.

Don Werthmann, WCC photography instructor, and Donna Murphy, director of Family Patient Support Services at the Rogel Cancer Center,

CONTINUED ON A3



WCC's Collegiate Recovery Program holds a business meeting.

WCC group offers aid in opioid crisis

BY ROBIN WYLLIE-SCHOLZ
Deputy Editor

Walking into the International Student Center, the sight of flags from around the globe is to be expected. One flag is larger than the rest, however, and belongs not to a faraway country but something much closer to home—the Collegiate Recovery Program (CRP). CRP's flag, a bright yellowish-green, rests in the corner of the room that hosts not only international students, but CRP meetings as well. The group, founded in 2019, provides support for students who want to change their relationship with substances, like alcohol or opioids.

The opioid crisis has been a major public health concern since the '90s, according to the Harvard School of Public Health, and is only getting worse.

Opioid-related deaths in Washtenaw County rose from 61 to 75 – a 23% increase – from 2020 to 2022, according to the Washtenaw County Health Department.

Continued lack of social interaction caused by the pandemic was a major factor in this spike, according to Mario Nanos, co-founder of Washtenaw Families Against Narcotics.

"One of the primary predictors of relapse is isolation," Nanos said.

The loneliness of quarantine was hard for many people. Global rates of depression and anxiety jumped up by 25% in the first year of the pandemic, according to a report by the World Health Organization.

Issues with mental health and substance use can often

go hand-in-hand.

"People use for physical pain and for mental pain too," said Matt Strang, CRP officer and peer educator.

Strang experienced this in his own struggle with Substance Use Disorder (SUD). For him,

"the depression was always leading to the substance use."

Recovery looks differently for everyone. Strang found a surprising source of relief—psilocybin, the chemical compound that gives magic mushrooms their hallucinogenic properties. Strang tried microdosing psilocybin, and "two days later [he] wasn't depressed anymore".

Though it may sound like a miracle cure, the effects of psilocybin are still in question. While some studies have found positive results for people microdosing psilocybin, like one published in Scientific Reports that found psilocybin microdosing led to improved mood, other studies have found mixed or negative results. A study for Translational Psychiatry found some positive "subjective effects", but no objective evidence that psilocybin microdosing caused "enhanced well-being, creativity and cognitive function".

Recovery is not one-size fits all. CRP stresses meeting people where they're at and supporting individual choice. If someone is uncomfortable with a certain path of care, it probably won't help them.

CONTINUED ON A3

Engineering club hosts 1st event

Leaders and members improvise through obstacles

BY WILLOW SYMONDS
Staff Writer

Before the Engineering Club began their Electronics Evening on March 23, the leaders had to solve a problem: Why wasn't their pre-programmed code working? The code had worked for each servo just earlier that Thursday, but now it would power only two servos instead of the intended three.

Club Secretary John Martelli, club member Jeremiah Freece, and guest speaker Nick Ristow soon discovered another cause for problems: the joystick they were using

was damaged before they'd used it. The leaders replaced the joystick and chose to stick with the two working servos.

Pre-engineering students and roommates Mark Nitkiewicz and Ben Cousino founded the Engineering Club this January. Each meeting was a baby step toward their first event of the semester, the Electronics Evening.

"Past meetings have been about the concepts. ... We might spend the whole time working on how to write some code," Nitkiewicz explained. "This time, we're now applying it to the project."

However, since not all attendees had been to previous meetings, all four leaders

wore black t-shirts with 'ENGINEERING' boldly printed across the front. They wanted new members to feel encouraged to ask questions and join in, not excluded by others who may have had more knowledge.

Nitkiewicz, Cousino, and Ristow explained helpful skill sets and the foundations of the day's activity: building a crane.

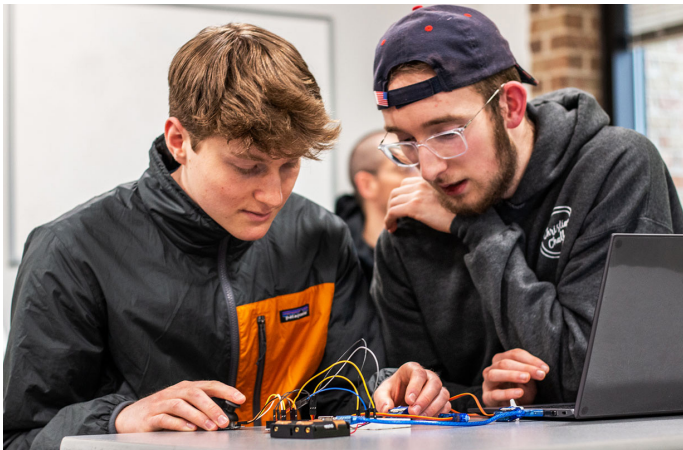
Once moving onto the meeting's project, Nitkiewicz explained the process of building a crane, which included planning, writing code, wiring the circuit, and building a frame to hold all components together. Everyone in attendance split into three

groups, and Nitkiewicz told them to "build an epic crane that's better than the other groups' crane."

The club's leaders had planned every detail beforehand, but they still had to improvise throughout the evening.

Each group was supposed to screw the metal frames into the circuit's sides to create a complete robotic device. Due to Nitkiewicz forgetting the screwdrivers at home (a mistake he hopes not to repeat), the groups abandoned the screws and bolts and fastened the frames with zip ties instead.

Later, several members realized another problem mirrored what Martelli and Freece had gone through ear-



Club secretary John Martelli and club member Jeremiah Freece look through code to correct any mistakes.

lier: the joysticks were faulty, and the groups had to use new ones.

The three groups got the circuits working at least halfway, but the end results were "absolutely prototypes," in Nitkiewicz and other attendees' words.

Most meetings run from 4:30-6:30 p.m., but this event

lasted an hour longer. To the leaders' surprise, some members continued to socialize and build well after 7:30 p.m. Due to time limits and technical errors, they expanded their project into next Thursday, a decision the leaders hadn't anticipated.

CONTINUED ON A3



WASHTENAWVOICE.COM

WASHTENAWVOICE | WASHTENAWVOICE

Did you know...

VOICE STUDENTS ARE PAID AND GET SCHOLARSHIPS

THE VOICE IS WCC'S STUDENT NEWS PUBLICATION

- ✓ **READ IT AT [WASHTENAWVOICE.COM](https://washtenawvoice.com)**
- ✓ **GRAB A PRINT EDITION ON CAMPUS**
- ✓ **GET INVOLVED. WE WELCOME NEW WRITERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, DESIGNERS & DIGITAL PROS**

VISIT SC 109

CONTACT US AT

thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com



40% OF FOOD IN AMERICA IS WASTED

COOK IT, STORE IT, SHARE IT.
JUST DON'T WASTE IT.

[SAVETHEFOOD.COM](https://savethefood.com)



Thank you to all the students of WISD

The young-adults program aims to help students become as successful and independent as possible in their adult roles. WCC is one of nine community sites that host the program.

More information can be found at:



Students pictured are: Aria, Chi, Marcell, Boone, Noah, Victoria, Alexander, Hamaz, Mohamed. Posed with WCC staff Lavinia and Chelsea.

RUBY GO | WASHTENAW VOICE

Opioid

CONTINUED FROM A1

“You can’t force people into treatment. It just doesn’t work,” said Strang.

Having options is crucial for someone beginning their journey with recovery. It’s important to “keep choice and what people are willing to do in the center,” said CRP coordinator and health educator Teresa Herzog.

Decriminalization and increased societal support for people struggling with sub-

stance use are two important pillars of CRP’s mission. Washtenaw County decriminalized psilocybin in 2021, making it a more accessible treatment option. Decriminalization of opioid use would make it easier to get help without having to worry about legal repercussions.

“That fear can stop people from getting care,” said Herzog.

Addressing the systemic issues that lead people to substance use, like poverty and difficulty accessing healthcare, is also crucial. Rising housing

costs means that there are people who “can’t afford to live in this community where they go to school,” said Herzog. “[That could] cause anyone’s mental health to plummet.”

A lack of societal support and access to care puts many people in a very difficult spot, and this can lead to substance use.

“People are dying because they don’t feel that there’s another option but to use,” said CRP officer and peer educator Cornelius “Corn” Williams.

Though things are bleak right now, Williams is hopeful. He came back to school after getting a bachelor’s because he believes in the progress that is being made.

“The idea that I could participate in this movement...

“People are dying because they don’t feel that there’s another option but to use.”

- Cornelius “Corn” Williams

was motivation enough to come back [to school],” Williams said.

Williams and the rest of CRP believe that Washtenaw County and the state of Michigan are poised to be at the forefront of this change.

“We’re gonna be a state where people from across the country can come and get treatment,” said Williams.

CRP holds weekly recovery meetings Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. in LA 229. CRP officer and peer educator Scott Hughes stressed that the meetings are open to all.

“If you’re a human, you’re welcome,” Hughes said.



Cornelius “Corn” Williams smiles during a CRP meeting.

PAULA FARMER | WASHTENAW VOICE



Matt Strang offers his perspective.

PAULA FARMER | WASHTENAW VOICE



Scott Hughes and Teresa Herzog discuss barriers to getting help in a CRP meeting.

PAULA FARMER | WASHTENAW VOICE

Portraits

CONTINUED FROM A1

have been part of the process since its beginning. The cancer center reached out to WCC, interested in partnering with the Digital Media Arts department due to the photography program’s good reputation, said Murphy.

When the sessions began in 2013, they were held on site of the cancer center. Murphy recalled that the room would allow photographers to capture only 2-3 people in a shot. After several sessions in this small space, they decided to move the event to WCC.

“The power of integration of that partnership with WCC has made these photo-shoots more robust and amazing,” said Murphy.

Since then, the event has only grown. Ten to 12 slots are offered during each event, making a total of 24 each year.

“The Family Patient Support Services put out an invite to the patients,” said Devyn Baker, who manages the event and contacts patients. “It filled up within a day – all 12 slots.”

There have been times when coordinators have added slots due to patient demand, Baker said.

While the program has continued to grow and reach a greater demand, the goal remains the same: to give patients a memorable family portrait. Patients are encouraged to submit feedback on their session as well.

One patient, Julie Brabbs, is the Chief Administrative Officer of the Rogel Cancer Center. Brabbs shared her experience of being photo-

graphed with her family.

“The interaction with the photographers was really special, (they had an) ability to bring us together as a family and capture those moments. I think they were really skilled at helping to make that happen.”

Six years into her role as Chief Administrative Officer, Brabbs is familiar with Life Images. But she never anticipated seeing it from the perspective of a patient.

“When I came into my role, I knew about (Life Images) because it was under the scope of my job,” said Brabbs. “I guess I never thought that I would be a patient and participate in it. But now to be a patient and see it from that view is really different and meaningful.”



Chief administrative officer of the Rogel Cancer Center, Julie Brabbs, poses for a photo.

RUBY GO | WASHTENAW VOICE



Engineering Club member Jeremiah Freece inspects a servo, a motor-driven device, for any problems.

RUBY GO | WASHTENAW VOICE

Engineering

CONTINUED FROM A1

They also weren’t expecting mathematics professor Laura Perez, who’d matched the leaders with her ‘ENGINEERING’ shirt, to bring both homemade fettuccine

“Being able to think like an engineer is something you learn, not something you’re born with,”

-Mark Nitkiewicz

and pecan cheesecake.

The Engineering Club invited Perez to their meetings when the Math Club she’d advised had disbanded earlier this semester. She thought the event was “amazing.”

“All three teams developed a working robotic machine,” Perez said. “There was excellent interaction between them, as well as some competitive spirit.”

Miles Larson, a pre-engineering transfer student, had happened to notice a flier advertising the Electronics Evening the day before. Though he hadn’t attended previous meetings and didn’t know much about circuits, he still “learned a lot in a couple of hours ... with really passionate and down-to-earth

people.”

“Oh, and there was a pasta dish that was phenomenal,” he said in reference to Perez’s cooking.

For future events, Nitkiewicz would “give [himself] more time” beforehand, as the leaders had planned the Electronics Evening only three weeks after starting the club. Leading up to March 23, Nitkiewicz pulled all-nighters to work on the event.

“It takes more effort, but it’s more fun for me and everyone else afterward, so a bigger return on the investment,” he said.

“Being able to think like an engineer is something you learn, not something you’re born with,” Nitkiewicz said. “If you feel like you don’t have the skill set, you can gain traction somewhere. That’s what the Engineering Club is for.”



Engineering Club President, Mark Nitkiewicz, presents the meeting’s plan.

RUBY GO | WASHTENAW VOICE

Parking spaces go on sale, cause debate at WCC



BY WILLOW SYMONDS
Staff Writer

Not everyone is happy with WCC's new car parking system.

Students and faculty can now buy a parking space just for the week (\$15), the semester (\$45), or for eternity (payment methods unclear as of now). The spaces can't be bought for a single day, which

surprised many.

Originally, faculty had their own free parking lot, but WCC overturned this and now makes students and staff pay "like equals." The only spaces without a price tag are on the grass by the sewer ponds.

This sudden decision sparked a debate about the ethics of a community college selling parking spaces.

One 17-year-old WTC student believes this new rule disadvantages people who can't afford a parking space. He expressed this view at the latest Board of Trustees meeting, where over 100 students attended.

"This makes me really mad," Max Fyuhrie-Rhode said to the Board. "Every day,

the other students and I have to fight over the spaces no one even wants. I can't afford another broken windshield or my mom won't let me take the car anymore."

Fyuhrie-Rhode isn't the only one speaking out against this new rule. At least 17 posters appeared around campus this March, claiming an uprising "against tyranny" will start April 1. Other details include a website that leads to a 404 page, the location ("If you know, you know," the flier reads), and "B.Y.O.P.N."

FBI officials brought onto the scene believe the abbreviation stands for 'Bring Your Own Pool Noodle.' WCC banned swimming pool floating devices after the infamous Pool Noodle Incident

of 1989, and officials believe these uprisers want to recreate the events of that day, much to many people's horror.

Over the weekend, WCC administration sent a school-wide email, asking the perpetrators to turn themselves in. As of yet, no one has come forward.

Still, according to the school, students and faculty have bought 112 one-week-only spaces and 41 winter semester spaces. Another 27 sold for a lifetime pass, though WCC has had trouble getting money for those, as some buyers disappeared and haven't been sighted since.

Jane Faux, a 20-year-old Business student, bought a record-breaking number of semester-long spaces at once: 13.

"This 'uprising' thing seems like some kind of joke, but either way, I don't get why people are mad," Faux told The Voice. "Not all students are keeping the parking spaces to themselves. Sharing is caring and all that."

Faux wasn't the first student to rent parking lot spaces to others for a fee, but she was the most vocal about it. Because she allows students and faculty to rent her spaces for one day – something WCC doesn't offer – her property has become very popular.

The most popular space Faux owns resides near the Liberal Arts Building, costing students \$19.99 to rent for a semester. She also rents out the disabled parking spot parallel to it for \$59.99, no matter



WILLOW SYMONDS
An anonymous student reported a poster found in a Student Center women's bathroom. Courtesy of said student.

the amount of time.

"It's not all fun and games," she said. "I have to pay people to clean the bird [poop] off the cement, and I have to deal with students trying to sue me when they crash their own stupid cars. ... Still, it's a good investment."

As time creeps toward April 1, the tension around campus only heightens. Students openly opposing the system claim faculty and other students are more likely to ignore their presence – some-

times even becoming hostile.

Fyuhrie-Rhode, now a budding activist, created an online petition to repeal parking space prices, which currently has over 2,000 signatures. However, this inspired an anti-petition to repeal Fyuhrie-Rhode's petition; its creator remains unknown.

The Board of Trustees concluded the public forum with a short speech: "We hope to find a solution to this dilemma and wish everyone a happy April Fools Day."



WILLOW SYMONDS
Business major Jane Faux poses by a disabled parking space she bought outside the Liberal Arts Building.

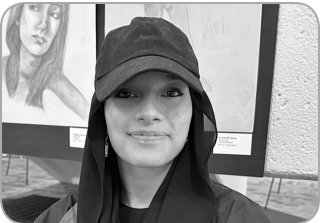
If you were to give a TED Talk, what would it be about?

WILLOW SYMONDS AND ALEJANDRA SMITH
Staff Writer and Contributor

VOICE BOX

"Probably about women's rights. I'd talk about how it is in other countries because I come from a country where women's rights don't exist. I want people here to appreciate what they have."

Selma Sarif, WTCM



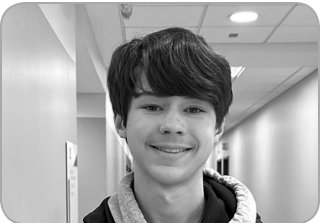
"You can't go wrong when talking about mental health. Since we're at school, I'd talk about school-work and balancing that with being happy. That's a TED Talk I'd need to hear."

Ricky Taylor, pre-nurse



"Education and the school system. Just about my feelings on it and how it functions. I'm in the middle [with opinions]."

Carson Bohnwagner, WTCM



"I'd say something like culture appreciation. For me, I'd talk about Nigeria and those places in that part of the world. So many people have misconceptions, so I'd want to enlighten them."

Ike Obiora, biochemistry



"The importance of education. That's always on my mind. Even more important is to make it accessible and get everyone at the table."

Tessa Kipke, undecided



"I'd say mental health – it's important. I've been struggling hard. Every time I'm just getting there and trying to work with my therapist, something puts me back where I started. It's very difficult for me."

Sarah Anmaita, business administration



"Permaculture. I know we have [a garden] on campus. It's what Native people did when farming, like the Three Sisters. It's the plants that work together and support each other in their growth. We might have to go back to that, due to climate change."

Anna Lyon, social work



WASHTENAWVOICE.COM

WASHTENAWVOICE | WASHTENAWVOICE

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

The Voice is committed to correcting any errors that appear in the newspaper or on its website. To report an error of fact, phone 734-677-5405 or email thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

FIRST COPY'S FREE

A copy of each edition of the Voice is free to everyone. Additional copies are available at The Voice newsroom, SC 109, for 25 cents each.

4800 E. Huron River Drive
Room SC 109 thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48105 734-677-5125

EDITOR.....	Ruby Go	rgo@wccnet.edu
DEPUTY EDITOR.....	Robin Wyllie-Scholz	mwylliesscholz@wccnet.edu
DIGITAL EDITOR.....	Santone Pope-White	spopewhite@wccnet.edu
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS...	Grace Faver	gfaver@wccnet.edu
	Laura Chodoroff	lchodoroff@wccnet.edu
PHOTO EDITOR.....	Paula Farmer	pgfarmer@wccnet.edu
WRITERS.....	Willow Symonds	wsymonds@wccnet.edu
	Jacob Kuiper	jkuiper@wccnet.edu
	Grace Crandall	gcrandall@wccnet.edu
	Savan Saiya-Cork	ssaiyacork@wccnet.edu
CONTRIBUTORS.....	Aidan Ross	aiross@wccnet.edu
	Alejandra Smith	asmith173@wccnet.edu
	Zakeria Almajrabi	zalmajrabi@wccnet.edu
	Pala	mpala@wccnet.edu
ADVISER.....	Judy McGovern	jumcgovern@wccnet.edu

Turning Point USA hosts conservative political speaker on WCC’s campus

The Daily Wire’s Cabot Phillips causes mixed reactions in audience

By Willow Symonds
Staff Writer

Politically conservative non-profit organization Turning Point USA rented the Morris J. Lawrence building for The Daily Wire’s senior editor Cabot Phillips, who presented ‘Everything the Media Won’t Tell You’ on Thursday, March 23.

The TPUSA organization reserved the event through the WCC’s Conference Services Department, according to Veronica Capraru, supervisor of Student Organizations. Neither WCC nor the school’s on-campus TPUSA student chapter (the individual club) hosted said event, though the latter collaborated with the Leadership Institute – an organization where Cabot began his career – to organize and decorate the double seminar room.

TPUSA had provided signs on all 80 seats, sporting slogans such as “America runs on patriotism” in the Dunkin’ Donuts font and “Let freedom ring.” Audience members filled most seats and either placed these signs on the ground or held them in their laps.

Outside of the room, workers unaffiliated with WCC took the names and email addresses of unregistered people to sign them up for TPUSA’s newsletter. Around 10 students in attendance were members of WCC’s TPUSA chapter. An Oxford Early Middle College student in the front row told Phillips that he and his friends drove 40 minutes to see him talk.

“We [The Daily Wire and their podcast Morning Wire] just report on things going on in the world without giving our opinions,” Phillips told the crowd. “It’s this crazy thing called, I dunno... journalism?”

The audience laughed.



WILLOW SYMONDS | WASHTENAW VOICE

After the event, students pose with Cabot Phillips, holding signs supplied by Turning Point USA.

Phillips said he spent six years in Washington before “escaping” to his current home in Tennessee. But his time in the capital city let him experience media outlets behind the scenes “first-hand.”

Phillips called wearing the American flag on a shirt – which applied for several audience members that day – a “political act.”

“It’s hard to change America’s core values if people are proud of their country,” Phillips said.

Many attendees listened enthusiastically, but not everyone in the audience agreed with Phillips.

One of these students was Zack Kanaan, a WCC social work major, who attended the event with friends without planning to do so beforehand. From the back of the room, Kanaan typed questions on his notes app in response to Phillips’ points.

Phillips believes “liberal privilege” trumps other types of privilege that have become common vocabulary in recent years, such as white privilege and straight privilege.

During the Q&A, Kanaan highlighted what Phillips said about privilege: “You talk about white privilege not being real, but how come [I], as an Arab male, get stopped at six years old by the TSA [Transportation Security Ad-

ministration].” Kanaan went on to describe the racist remarks that he faced from the TSA.

When answering, Phillips avoided the race aspect of the question and instead called out the TSA, elaborating how “they say hugely offensive things and are ineffective.”

“I think that’s a good example of big government interfering with things they shouldn’t,” he said.

Kanaan doesn’t have strong political stances, but Phillips’ answers “astounded” him. When he wasn’t typing questions, he was texting a friend, “pissed off the whole time,” he said.

Kanaan also believes he asked “one of the only serious questions” during the Q&A. Other attendees inquired about Phillips’ boss, Ben Shapiro, and how to share conservative views with their friends and family.

After the event, three different audience members approached Kanaan and told him their grievances with the TSA. One was Robert Zimmerman, a Republican candidate for Washtenaw County commissioner in 2022. He told Kanaan no one should be discriminated against, “no matter their skin tone.”

“[This event] was very student dominated, as it should be,” Zimmerman said.

“Older people, we’re resources for young conservatives. Together, the generations are stronger.”

Early childhood development major Ariana M. attended the event because “there’s no conservative voices being heard in this school,” and she wanted to find those with beliefs like hers. Being a fan of The Daily Wire also gave her incentive to go.

Phillips spoke at the University of Pittsburgh the day after presenting at WCC, where he faced greater backlash. Pennsylvania representative LaTasha Mayes condemned the university for allowing Phillips and two other conservative speakers on campus, citing their “transphobic beliefs.”

“I’ve had a lot of pushback, but this talk [at WCC] was very friendly,” Phillips told the Voice. “Sometimes I’m happy with having liberal students come to these, because I have a conversation I wouldn’t normally have.”

WCC’s TPUSA chapter president, Sandy Blindu, “wouldn’t change a thing” for future events.

“[We] accomplished something big and as president, I’m proud of my chapter,” she wrote in an email. “We look forward to hosting more events like this on campus.”



VOICE FILE PHOTO

The Tedx Talk will take place at the Morris Lawrence building.

College to present its 1st TEDx Talk

By Pala
Contributor

WCC will present its first campus TED Talk on Thursday April 6 in the Towsley Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence building from 6-7:30 p.m.

TED Talks, a nonprofit venture, grew from the idea that technology, entertainment and design (TED) were converging and the commitment to seek out the most interesting people on Earth and let them communicate their passion.

This TEDxWCC is the first TED on campus, inspired by WCC student Sabina Montalva, who had previously participated in a local TEDx Talk and who “had a great experience, so I wanted to bring it to WCC.” Montalva coordinated with fellow students Maya Clarren, and together they approached WCC Communication faculty member Claire Sparklin. Sparklin is the academic advisor to the Discovery Club, which has the goal to “explore engaging topics outside of the classroom while creating professional experiences for students of diverse backgrounds.” With a TEDx Talk being an ideal fit with the club’s mission, a full planning committee was formed.

“These talks are a conversation starter that will leave the audience thinking and talking about them for months to come,”

-Claire Sparklin

The first order of business was getting licensed by the national TED organization, and understanding all the rules and requirements. Meeting those requirements has taken campus-wide involvement – ranging in complexity from reserving the auditorium to Transportation Technologies faculty member Shawn Deron volunteering to 3D-print the iconic TED letters to be displayed on the stage. And they

needed a theme.

“Our theme is Open Doors, which we thought was a good fit for WCC because it relates to our community,” said Clarren, noting the college’s open door admissions policy.

The group advertised for, and reviewed applications, then pared them down to the nine speakers who will reach the stage.

These are the nine guest speakers from the local community who will share ideas:

- **Karen Shaper:** Find Your Purpose
- **Priti Shah:** The Art of Receiving Feedback
- **Chase Hyatt:** The Transformative Power of Positive Male Role Models
- **Luis Paez-Cano:** Migration: Identity and Belonging
- **Shaila Vratny-Andrews:** Healing One Breath at a Time
- **Kian Theeke:** Weaving the Threads of History
- **Stosh Zasadny:** Ninth Grade Newlywed
- **Rayan Salam:** Master Your Perception: Manage Your Social Media Habits
- **David Schuit:** Simplify Life, Amplify Meaning

“These talks are a conversation starter that will leave the audience thinking and talking about them for months to come,” said Communication faculty member Claire Sparklin.

Scan this QR code to register to attend the event:



WILLOW SYMONDS | WASHTENAW VOICE

The Daily Wire’s senior editor, Cabot Phillips, speaks about ‘Everything the Media Won’t Tell You’ at the Morris J. Lawrence building on Thursday, March 23.



State welding competition held at WCC

By RUBY GO
Editor

WCC hosted a large majority of the SkillsUSA state welding competition. All of Michigan's

regional qualifiers came to WCC to compete in welding. The contest took place at the Occupational Education building. Contestants

demonstrated their ability to perform welding skills outlined by the SkillsUSA Welding Technical Committee. In order to be eligible

to compete, contestants only needed to be in a program with welding as the occupational objective. SkillsUSA is a career and technical

student organization serving almost 400,000 students across the nation to pursue various occupations. The purpose of the competition

was to “evaluate each contestant’s preparation for employment and recognize outstanding performance,” as stated SkillsUSA.

PHOTOS BY ZAKERIA ALMAJRABI



Sparks fly at the competition.



Candace Randall quenches a piece of metal.



Shadow of a welding contestant.



Contestants prepare for the competition.



A student welds.



Equipment used by the contestants.



A students welds.

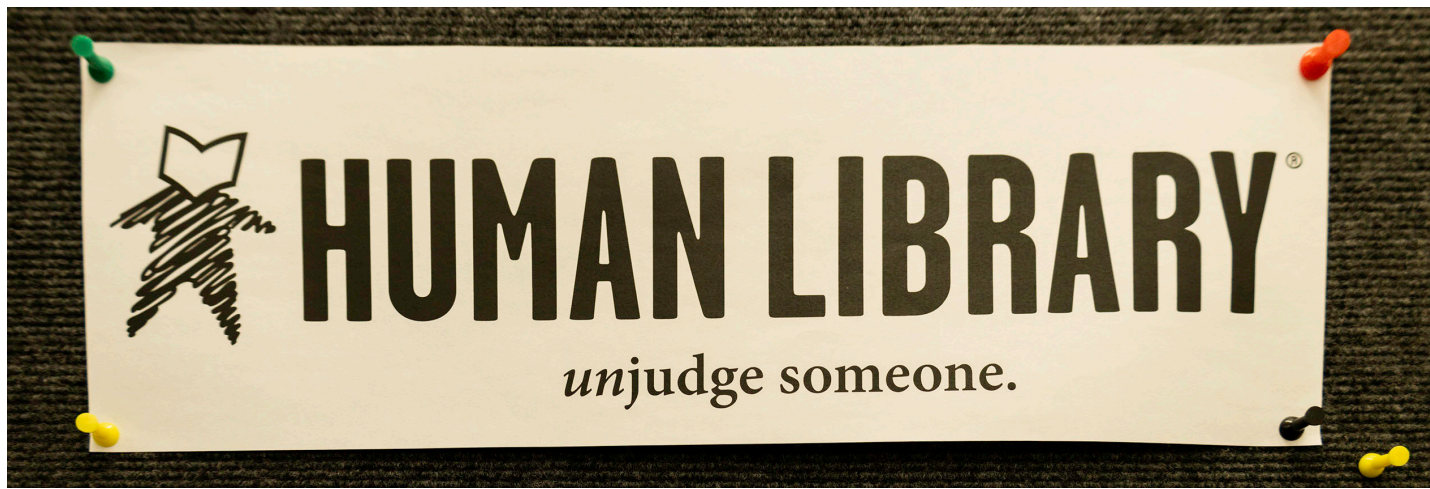
Unique stories shared at Human Library

The college held its sixth annual Human Library event on March 22. This was the first in-person Human Library since the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 40 “books” (people who volunteered to tell their stories) spoke at the event. Past books have included being a teen mom and living through war. A full story will be coming soon to the Voice’s website.

PHOTOS BY PAULA FARMER



Human “books” tell their stories to attendees.



The Human Library banner.



The event took place at WCC’s Bailey Library.



Candace Randall quenches a piece of metal.



Attendees listen intently to the human “books.”



Human “books” tell their stories to attendees.



A sign promoting this year’s Human Library.



An attendee reads the posters on display at the library.



Several people came to the event.

Diversify Your BOOKSHELF

BY WILLOW SYMONDS
Staff Writer

Diversify Your Bookshelf introduces readers to books written from marginalized perspectives, including racial minorities, LGBTQ+ people, disabled individuals, and more. These books come in all genres and targeted age groups, so there's something for everyone.

Babel, or the Necessity of Violence: An Arcane History by R.F. Kuang (2022)
Genre: Historical Fantasy

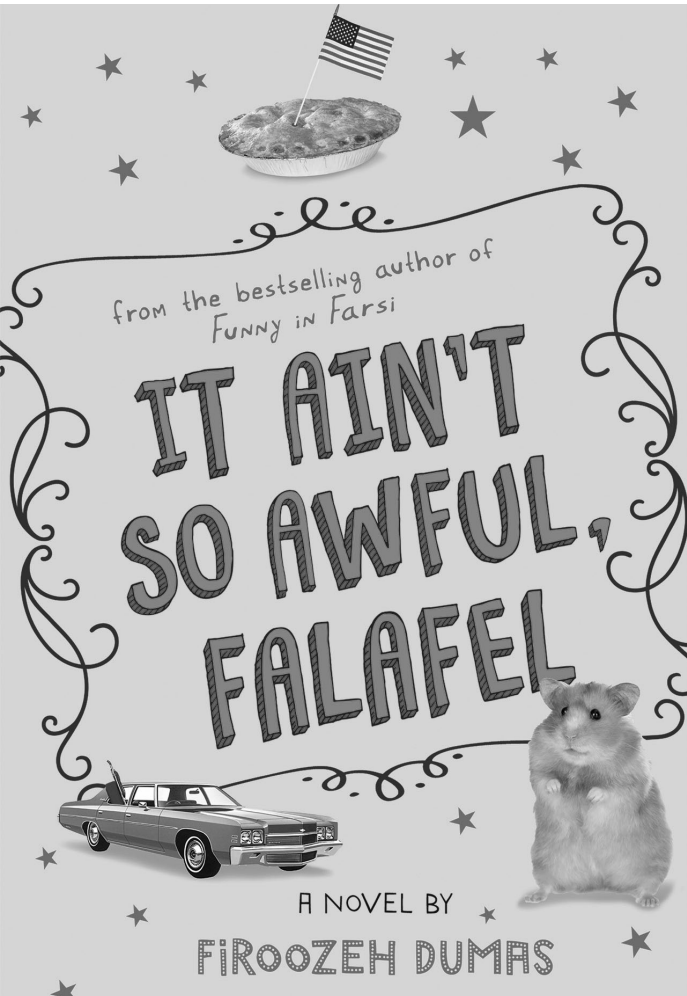
Award-winning author of “The Poppy Wars” trilogy followed with “Babel, or the Necessity of Violence,” a stand-alone epic. It’s the 1820s and 1830s, and Great Britain dominates the silver-working industry, a magical and lucrative way to keep entire countries running. How did they accomplish this? Through studying languages – specifically, foreign languages and their English translations. To Chinese immigrant Robin Swift, Babel, the Oxford school of languages, seems

like a dream come true: he makes the friends he never had and receives an education unavailable to most minorities. But he discovers Babel may be hiding something much darker, something that’s affected him and his home country personally: imperialism. The Hermes Society is willing to do something about it, but what is Robin willing to do?

“Babel, or the Necessity of Violence” combines a unique magic system and historical academia into an unforgettable journey through injustice, tragedy, and revolution.

It Ain't So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas (2016)
Genre: Middle Grade Historical Fiction

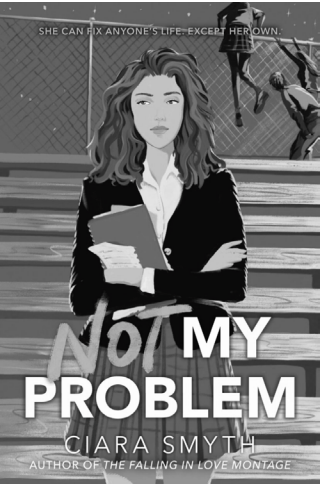
For eleven-year-old Zomorod (or Cindy, as she insists), this current move isn’t her first time being the new kid on the block. The Yousefzadeh family has moved from Iran to Compton, California, back to Iran, back to Compton, and now to Newport Beach. But this is the late 1970s, so Cindy’s neighbors and classmates don’t under-



It Ain't So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas (2016)

stand what to make of her family, who already have odd habits unrelated to being foreigners. Cindy tries to fit in as easily as possible... then her old country makes the news for what modern audiences know as the Iran hostage crisis. Will the friends Cindy’s made stay on her side against prejudice?

“It Ain’t So Awful, Falafel” aims for a tween audience experiencing the same chapters of their life as Cindy, but readers of any age can enjoy the humor, heart, and timeless themes in this book.



Not My Problem by Ciara Smyth (2021)

Not My Problem by Ciara Smyth (2021)
Genre: Young Adult Contemporary; LGBTQ+

Aideen Cleary, a secondary school student in Northern Ireland, has many problems she can’t fix. At home, she has to manage her mother’s drinking habit. At school, her best (and only) friend grows distant. She’s also running out of fake illnesses to skip PE. What Aideen doesn’t expect is to find her one-sided enemy – class president Meabh Kowalska – throwing a fit in the girls locker room. Because Meabh admits to feeling unable to handle her academic and sport-filled life, Aideen sarcastically proposes to push Meabh down the stairs, which would clear yoga and gymnastics from her schedule. They go through with this plan, but another problem arises: chatterbox Kavi Thakrar witnesses Aideen’s dastardly deed... and recruits her into solving other people’s problems.

“Not My Problem” is funny with a fast-paced story, leaving readers turning the pages without stopping and growing attached to memorable characters.

Whitaker Malem: life and leather

BY ROBIN WYLLIE-SCHOLZ
Deputy Editor

Whitaker Malem, the iconic fashion duo composed of Patrick Whitaker and Keir Malem, was almost over before it began.

After Malem helped Whitaker put together a collection for his fashion design degree show in 1987, creative differences seemed to spell the end of their partnership.

“We vowed never to work together again,” said Whitaker.

Luckily for the two hundred-some students sitting rapt in the Michigan Theater, that vow didn’t last long. Thirty-five years later, Whitaker and Malem are not only business partners, but life partners as well.

The duo visited Ann Arbor as part of the Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series—a program in which Stamps, the University of Michigan’s art school, brings influential artists and creatives to speak to students and members of the public.

Walking onto the stage, the pair were quite a sight. Both are bald, and sported fantastic mustaches and thick black-rimmed glasses. Despite their imposing presence, they weren’t uptight— Malem gleefully admitted to the audience that his checkered blazer came from “a Nordstrom Rack ten years ago”.

With a comfortable banter that can only be established from decades of living and working together, Whitaker and Malem took their audience on a journey of their work.

As a “two-man company” Whitaker Malem has collaborated with fashion legends like Alexander McQueen and pop

stars like Doja Cat.

“Our touchstone is to try to work with people that we like,” said Whitaker.

That strategy has done them well. With input from costume designer Lindy Hemming and director Patty Jenkins, they created over 160 costumes for the Amazon warriors of 2017’s “Wonder Woman”.

“If you make something that’s interesting enough, someone’s gonna look.”

-Patrick Whitaker

Making armor for an island of fighters was a good fit for Whitaker Malem, whose medium of choice has long been leather.

“We like to think leather has a past, present and future,” said Whitaker, explaining their love of the material.

With their experience in film, fashion and art, Whitaker Malem have cemented themselves as icons.

“It’s amazing to see those two lifeforms standing in front of you that interact in so many different industries,” said Sutton Theodore, a student in Stamps who attended the talk.

Whitaker and Malem were quick to encourage the members of their audience who hope to pursue creative careers. Whitaker’s advice was to use the opportunity provided by social media to get into the spotlight.

“If you make something that’s interesting enough, someone’s gonna look.”



ROBIN WYLLIE-SCHOLZ | WASHTENAW VOICE

Keir Malem and Patrick Whitaker answer audience questions after their talk.

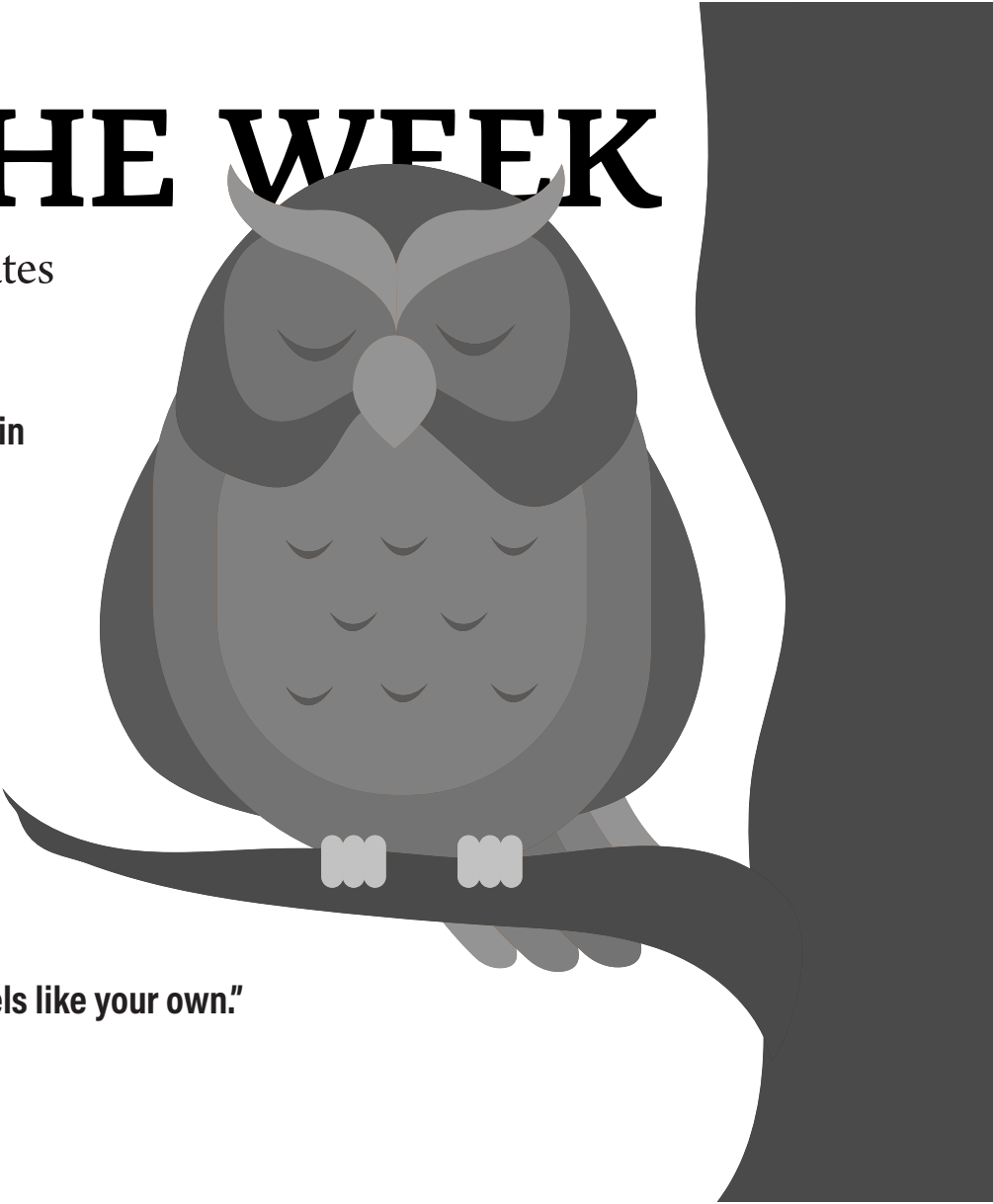
WISDOM OF THE WEEK

First Ladies of the United States

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”
- Eleanor Roosevelt

“Learning is not attained by chance - it must be sought for with ardor and diligence.”
- Abigail Adams

“Success is only meaningful and enjoyable if it feels like your own.”
- Michelle Obama



1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17						18						19		
			20							21	22			
23	24	25			26				27					
28			29	30					31					
32						33	34	35			36			
		37			38					39				
40	41				42					43			44	45
46				47					48					
49						50	51	52				53		
54						55				56	57			
58				59	60						61	62	63	
64				65						66				
67				68						69				

Solutions to puzzles on washtenawvoice.com

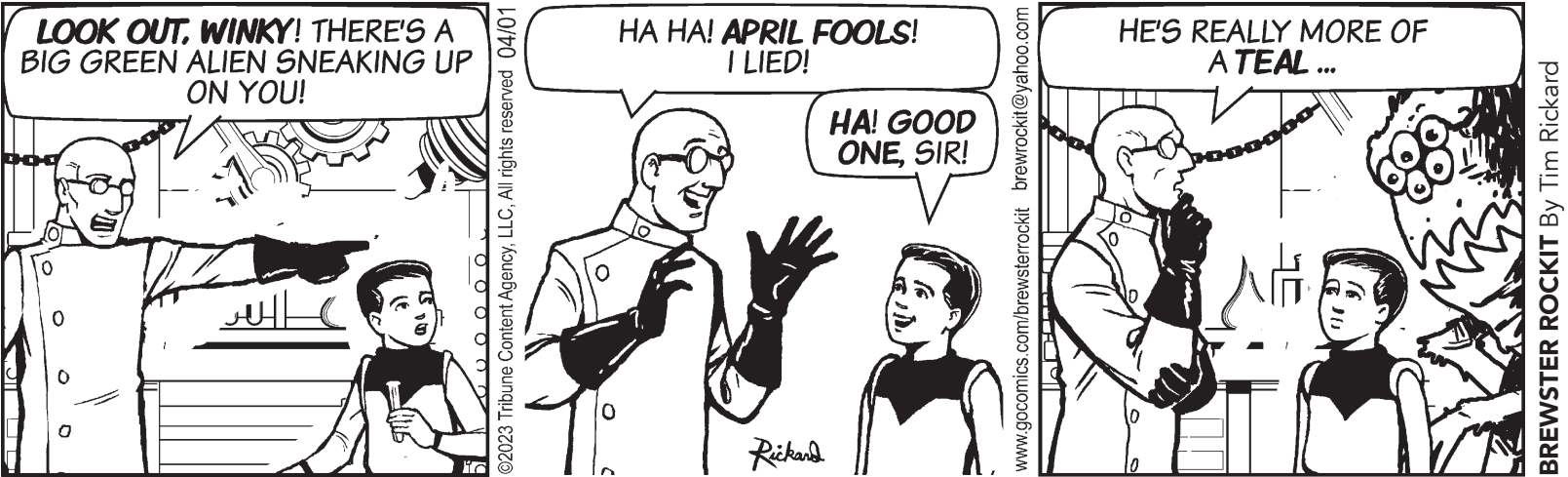
					6	1			2
6				3		4			
	7	4							
	8	2		5				6	
9		7					8		5
	5			7			3	9	
							1	7	
				9		5			
2				1	4				

ACROSS

- 1 Blow a gasket
6 Tediously familiar
11 "That's a pretty low ___"
14 Angled cut
15 Love, in Italian
16 Female sheep
17 Swimming trunks worn by some surfers
19 Youngster
20 One playing hooky
21 From stem to ___
23 Country music's ___ Brown Band
26 Plant family that includes tomatoes and eggplant
28 Cold-weather coat
31 Cheek colorers
- 32 Old Delta rival
33 Sample
36 Lemons
37 Guardian angel, e.g.
40 Telephone-on-the-web tech
42 Muslim scholar
43 Gumption
46 Consume, as food
48 Make precious
49 Salad vegetable that may be red, yellow, or green
53 Genetic material
54 Pay increase
55 Mount where Noah landed
58 Citrus drink suffix
- 59 Common time for homework, and where to find the starts of 17-, 26-, 37-, and
49-Across
64 La Brea ___ Pits
65 Inform against
66 Delivery room helper
67 Calm part of a hurricane
68 Scissors sounds
69 Blubbers

DOWN

- 1 Flow back
2 ___ Speedwagon
3 Charlottesville sch.
4 Jaunty
5 Abbr. before a synopsis
6 Persian faith that promotes spiritual unity
7 In the middle of
8 Word with due or true
9 Installation object
10 Not as much
11 Under fire
12 Bestowed, as a grant
13 Sign of irritation
18 Pocketed, as a pool ball
22 Landed hard
23 Hit with a laser
- 24 "Love, Victor" actress Ortiz
25 "The Godfather" right-hand man
27 Pants, slangily
29 Descends, as a rock wall
30 "Who ___ to judge?"
33 Low-lit
34 "When will u b here?"
35 Studio whose films begin with a roaring lion
38 Ceremonial event
39 Roadside lodging
40 Text alert option
41 Like many multivitamins
44 Passenger transport
45 Span of time
- 47 Asparagus units
48 ___ on the side of caution
50 Punk icon Smith
51 Area before surgery, briefly
52 Works hard for
56 "Thunderstruck" rock band
57 Recurring role for Chris Hemsworth
60 Groupie
61 French "yes"
62 Nashville's Grand ___ Opry
63 ___ Vegas Aces



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

Security Officer - Housing at University of Michigan.

The Division of Public Safety and Security (DPSS); Housing Security is a full-service, 24-hour public safety department that works to ensure a safe and secure environment for the University of Michigan community with a focus within Michigan Housing. Our officers and staff are highly trained security professionals equipped to serve all members of our community. We manage all security operations within Michigan Housing and offer an integrated and collaborative 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 and visiting our community. As a Housing Security Officer, you will report to the Director of Housing Security. Housing Security is a seven (7)

day per week, twenty-four (24) hour per day operation. Work schedules may include nights, afternoons, weekends holidays and occasional unanticipated overtime. This is a uniformed position following the DPSS uniformed dress code. Patrol assignments may include both mobile and building specific responsibilities.

Apprentice Ironworker at Ironworkers Local 25.

The Journeyman Iron Worker can perform all types of Iron-work, but the vast majority of the work that is performed by this classification is structural ironwork. This consists of the fabrication, handling, and erection of structural steel columns, beams and other members by welding or bolting. This work is primarily in the industrial and commercial sector on structures such as: towers, bridges, stadiums, high and low rise buildings, steel mills, hospitals, schools, conveyor systems, and other structures.

Playa Bowls Smoothie Shop at Playa Bowls Northville.

Playa Bowls is New Jersey's Original Acai Shop™, and our mission is to bring super fruit bowls to the masses using only the freshest, highest quality ingredients while providing a fantastic in-store brand experience. What began as a pair of blenders, a patio table, and a fridge has flourished into 100+ stores, thousands of employees, and a mission to lead communities in healthy, sustainable living. Maintaining cleanliness and organization

throughout the restaurant. Manage time effectively and meet all job responsibilities. Maintain a positive work environment for guests and staff. Check products to ensure consistency, palatability, and flavor conformity. Perform food preparation or service tasks. Use point of sale cash register system. Addressing any questions or comments that customers may have. Take customer orders and assemble the orders. Replenish supplies and condiments and maintain inventory Notifying staff of any food orders or food shortages.

Sterile Processor at Hurley Medical Center.

Performs a variety of duties in sterile processing to assist the surgical team. Assignments include, but are not limited to, receiving, inspecting, preparing, storing, and delivering supplies, instruments, and equipment. Participates in quality assessment and continuous quality improvement activities. Complies with all appropriate safety and infection control standards. Performs all job duties and responsibilities in a courteous and customer-focused manner according to the Hurley Family Standards of Behavior.

Home Caregiver at Comfort Keepers Ann Arbor.

We are currently looking for empathetic, passionate people to add to our team to be the Comfort Keepers for in-home care for seniors. As a caregiver, you would be matched with clients that fit your schedule, driving distance, and skill level.

No experience needed.

Robot Technician at Elite Robotics, LLC.

An understanding of robot programming and motion planning with a minimum of 2 different types of robots. Set up i/o structure, robot start-up, and devicenet networks with minimal supervision. All programming activities under team lead supervision. Basic welding understanding (mid, spot, and projection). Assist with project robotic actives and assist others *controls, electrical, mechanical and project management) through to project complete experience – work/software. Proficiency in microsoft office (powerpoint, excel, word, etc.). Demonstrates problem solving skills. Demonstrates efficient written and oral communication skills. High school diploma + graduate with coop experience is a plus. College diploma or robotics certificate or related field of study

Host/Hostess Westland at Anna's House.

Looking to kickstart your career in the restaurant industry? Enjoy providing friendly and welcoming customer service? Anna's House has an opportunity for you! We are looking for a Host or Hostess to join our team and be the first point of contact for our guests. Host/Hostess responsibilities include greeting guests, providing accurate wait times, escorting customers to the dining area, and making sure our guests have a positive dining experience from the moment they arrive until their departure. The

Host or Hostess ensures every guest is provided excellent customer service and a pleasant dining experience. Anna's House Hosts warmly greets guests and seats them in appropriate seating arrangements, clears away dirty dishes, sets tables, and provides assistance to the server staff. Hosts manage the wait list and collaborates with managers and servers to serve guests.

Public Education Specialist at Gift of Life Michigan.

In support of Gift of Life Michigans core purpose and values, the employee is professional, determined, and compassionate. The Public Education Specialist initiates and implements educational opportunities that heighten knowledge and support of donation and increase awareness of the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. This position will be responsible for public education initiatives with a primary focus on implementing Gift of Lifes All of Us Youth Education Program in secondary schools within the designated area.

Phlebotomist Externship at Michigan Medicine.

Phlebotomy clinical externships at Michigan Medicine ambulatory outpatient phlebotomy draw sites in Brighton, Northville and Ann Arbor. The focus of the externship is to give the phlebotomy student clinical practice interacting with patients and performing venipuncture and dermal puncture procedures to obtain blood specimens for laboratory testing. The extern will complete 100-200 veni-

punctures during the externship. This clinical practice is required for students who seek national phlebotomy certification. Phlebotomy externs often find permanent positions with Michigan Medicine. See <https://mlabs.umich.edu/about/careers> for more information and to apply for phlebotomy open positions at Michigan Medicine.

Commercial HVAC Service Technician at Allied Building Service.

Allied Building Service is a family-owned Detroit-based commercial contractor that covers a wide range of building trades and various janitorial services. Our service area includes Southern Michigan, Northern Indiana, Northern Ohio, and the greater Denver, Colorado area. The trades and services our field staff cover include electrical, carpentry, plumbing, HVAC, dock and door, commercial cleaning, and high-rise window washing. We have a wide portfolio of commercial clients which includes various retail business, non-profit organizations, industrial buildings, and governmental entities. Our business is consistently growing and as a result, we are expanding our HVAC team to better aid our customer's needs. As an HVAC Technician at Allied, you'll work as part of a dedicated team servicing a wide variety of commercial and industrial properties. Our HVAC Technicians spend their days making service calls for our wide variety of customers.

Compiled by: Ruby Go | Editor

events

AT WCC IN THE COMMUNITY

TED x WCC

April 6 from 6-7:30 p.m.
Towsley Auditorium
The TEDxWCC event is a local gathering where live talks and performances feature ideas worth spreading. Just like any TED event, TEDxWCC lacks any commercial, religious, or political agenda.

FINISH THE LYRIC AND GOOGLE FEUD

April 12 from 4-6 p.m.
Garrett's on the first floor of SC
Do you know music? Can you pick up on song lyrics if you only hear a small portion? If you answered yes, this is the perfect event for you to test yourself. The event will end with a game of Google Feud.

JEOPARDY NIGHT

April 13 from 4-6 p.m.
Garrett's on the first floor of SC
Join Student Activities for a game of Jeopardy and free food.

STARTUP BUSINESS RESEARCH HELP

April 18 from 9:30-11:30 a.m.
WCC Entrepreneurship Center
Walk into the Entrepreneurship Center and talk with an expert librarian who will assist you in diving into business databases to find essential information to start a business.



MICHIGAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORKING EVENT

April 4 from 5-8 p.m.
1600 N. Huron River Dr.
This neighborhood networking event is designed to allow mental health professionals to connect and share resources, information, and empowerment to help solve the youth mental health crisis together.

FOOLMOON 2023

April 7 from 7-10 p.m.
Downtown Ann Arbor
Public art and lighting installations light up the heart of Ann Arbor. This year's theme is U.F.O.s (Unidentified Foolish Objects). Visit the Kerrytown and Main Street districts, and shine brightest on FoolMoon night.

EARTH DAY 2023: JUSTICE IN FOCUS

April 13 from 6:30-8 p.m.
915 E. Washington St.
After three years of COVID, we are emerging from multiple crises: global pandemic, economic downturn and mass inflation, and a crisis of racial inequality. Earth Day 2023: Justice in Focus seeks to put justice and Earth in the same conversation, removing the silos of environment, human social systems, and political ecology.



ASTRONOMY NIGHT

April 14 from 8-10:30 p.m.
1398 E. Ann Arbor St.
This event will include an Astronomy Roundtable with staff at the Detroit Observatory at U-M Ann Arbor, highlighting some of the cool projects, images, and observations that have been completed during the first year of reopening. Registration required at eventbrite.com.

EXTENDED REALITY (XR) AT MICHIGAN SUMMIT 2023

April 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
530 S. State St.
This event will be fully in-person for the first time ever, taking place on April 18 and 19 at the Michigan Union in the Rogel Ballroom and Pendleton Room. April 18 will feature industry professionals sharing their knowledge and insight around XR. April 19 will feature a vendor exhibit hall, student showcase presentations, and lightning talks on relevant topics in the application of XR.

CULTIVATE WORKSHOP SERIES

April 7 from noon-1 p.m.
Virtual
This is a workshop for any college student, young adult, or any person who wants to experience a positive change in school, work, or relationships. Email cherbin@harmony2c.com to enroll.



The Loop

NEWS FOR AND BY STUDENTS

Get Washtenaw Voice headlines in your inbox every week

Sign up for Washtenaw Voice's Newsletter, get a sticker and chance to win a shirt!

