

THE

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MLK Day campus celebration invigorates change

BECK ELANDT
Staff Writer

Music, food and a re-sounding sense of equity could be found on the second floor of the student center on Jan. 16 at the campus wide Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. Black History Month means many things, namely the celebration and remembrance of African American perseverance, and its importance to society.

“Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education. The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate,” said King in his “The Purpose of Education” speech.

At WCC, the concept of equity is something embedded in WCC’s mission statement “Our college strives to make a positive difference in people’s lives through accessible and excellent educational programs and services.” Some students take it a step further, and proactively represent MLK’s sense of justice.

“In my case, I can use my capacity for empathy to enact



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

Tom Zimmerman (left), Ernesto Querijero, Emanuel Terrell, and Chantelle Franklin were given awards recognizing the importance of community and helping each other out. They embodied what MLK wanted for the future.

change in the world while I’m still here. We all have the power to feel empathy, and through it, we learn to sacrifice for the benefit of us all,” said Inayah Amir Bey who earned her associate in digital media arts from WCC, speaking before

the Equity in Action Awards, which represent an employee, a college department of initiative, or a community partner that has made an outstanding contribution in the areas of equity and inclusion for WCC and our greater community.

Through her endeavors, Amir Bey aims to embody King’s contributions and create a space where people can learn and prosper through her work.

SEE MLK DAY, A7

Welcome Day rescheduled for Feb. 4



PAULA FARMER | VOICE FILE PHOTO

Students laugh with each other by the radio station booth at 2024 Welcome Day.

LILY COLE
Editor

If you were looking forward to Welcome Day this year, don’t worry—the event has been moved to Feb. 4.

As Washtenaw county experienced cold weather throughout the week, WCC halted in-person classes on Jan. 21 and 22; because of this, some events and activities on those days were canceled or postponed.

According to an updated schedule posted to Campus Connect, the rescheduled Welcome Day will be held on

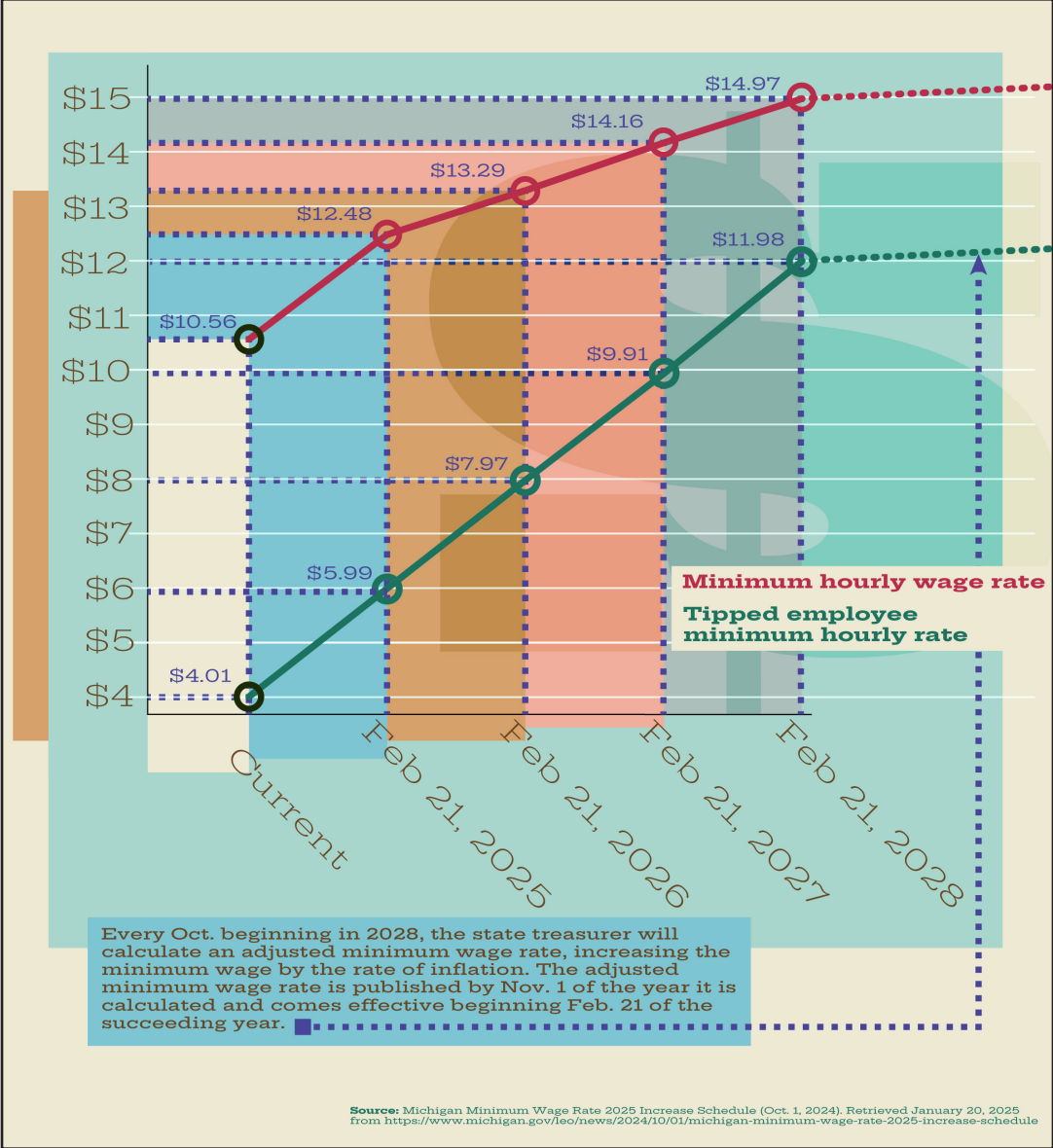
the first floor of the Student Center in two sessions: from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 to 5 p.m.

Welcome Day is an event designed to introduce students, faculty and staff to the WCC community. It provides information about clubs, activities on campus, work opportunities, events and more.

Whether you are a first-year student, a faculty member wanting to learn more or a returning student wondering what WCC offers—Welcome Day provides that opportunity through community and engagement.

Michigan increases minimum wage

Students, faculty weigh in on increase benefits, concerns



SKYE BAWOL | WASHTENAW VOICE

The minimum wage in Michigan will increase from \$10.56 to \$12.48, representing the largest single increase in state history (not accounting for inflation).

HENRY SINCIC
Contributor

On Feb. 21, the minimum wage in Michigan will increase from \$10.56 to \$12.48, representing the largest single increase in state history (not accounting for inflation).

The increase, the first in a

series of four step increases in the minimum wage culminating in a rate of \$14.97 in Feb. 2028, is in accordance with the recent Michigan Supreme Court reinstating of the Improved Workforce Opportunity Wage Act (IWOWA), which passed in 2018.

The act, which was enacted in Nov. 2018 as the result of a petition signed by over 200,000 Michigan voters,

became the subject of controversy when state legislators amended it by deferring the planned minimum wage changes to 2030.

“There was the ballot proposal, and then they basically changed the law after the ballot proposal passed, and that went to the courts,” said Gregg Heidebrink, a WCC professor of economics. In July, the Court of Claims decided in

favor of an action brought against the attorney general by multiple Michigan nonprofits who alleged that the “adopt and amend” policy was unconstitutional.

Students at WCC, when surveyed, were almost universally in favor of the increase in the minimum wage.

“Personally, from the perspective of looking for a job, I’m of course happy to see that the minimum wage has increased,” said Elvy Yin, a 28 year old fine and performing Arts major, “I think that’s beneficial for the job seekers.

While most students supported the increase, some expressed concerns about what effect the changes might have on the economy.

“It (the increase) is nice in the short term, but I’m worried about how it’s going to affect the economy,” said Mary McLroy, a 25 year old student pursuing an environmental science degree, who currently works at a supermarket. “I think it’s gonna pass a cost out to the customers, and it’s gonna drive the cost of living up ... I think if the minimum wage increases, everyone’s wages should be increased.”

IWOWA will also serve to gradually increase the minimum wage of tipped employees in Michigan, culminating in those employees making 100% of the minimum hourly wage by February 21, 2030. Students asked about the rise in tipped employees’ wages responded overwhelmingly in the positive.

SEE MINIMUM WAGE, A7

Student Center bathroom renovations begin next month



SKYE BAWOL | WASHTENAW VOICE

During renovations only one set of bathrooms will be shut down at a time. Work will be done when campus is closed or on the weekends to ensure noise is kept to a minimum.

YANA MCGUIRE
Staff Writer

The WCC board of trustees approved the complete renovation of all 17 bathrooms in the Student Center on December 17, 2024. The projected 1,038,000 dollar project will start construction sometime in February, and is funded by the deferred maintenance fund.

There are two sets of male and female bathrooms on each floor that are used by students. During the renovations, only one set of bathrooms per floor

will be shut down at a time. The remaining staff bathrooms will be worked in a similar manner, according to Craig Whipstock, WCC’s Associate Vice President of Facilities Operations.

There have been plans put in place to ensure the noise level during campus hours is kept to a minimum. For instance, major work that would consist of loud noises will either be done on the weekends or after the campus has closed.

SEE SC RENOVATION, A7

Celebrate queer resilience with art, magic and joy

MCCGSC invites students, faculty, staff, community members to submit works

LILY COLE
Editor

The annual Michigan Community College Gender and Sexuality Conference (MCCGSC) is seeking submissions from students.

Students, faculty, staff and community members are invited to participate by submitting presentations, art and workshops by Feb. 13. The conference will be held at WCC on April 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The conference is free to students.

Josiah Jackson, WCC English instructor, was connected with the event for the first time last year. He explained that this year's theme of "Queer Resilience: Art, Magic & Joy" are three pillars that help queer identities maintain and stay true to who they are.

Christina Do, coordinator of equity and inclusion at WCC, said she's excited about the theme.

"We're going to be displaying some art by students and staff. We're looking to be able to provide some art workshops, so more hands-on activities," she said.

According to Mary Mullalond, English and college readiness faculty at WCC and OutSpace+ faculty advisor, the conference was initially conceptualized and organized by Zach Baker, a former writing center secretary and advocate



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCCGSC COMMITTEE | JD SCOTT PHOTOGRAPHY

The Michigan Community College Gender and Sexuality Conference is a place for students, faculty, staff and community members to come together and celebrate queer resilience. Presentations are given, works of art are presented and community is built.

for queer student support at community colleges, in 2018. After the COVID-19 pandemic, the event shifted to a virtual format under the leadership of a past OutSpace+ president, Latitude Brown, who coordinated an all-day virtual conference with the help of others.

The mission of the MC-

CGSC is to "support queer students and provide them an environment where they can feel support but also feel like they can make connections with each other and feel empowered to make the world a better place," Mullalond said.

She explains that in 2023, the MCCGSC transitioned to

a hybrid format, where students, faculty, staff and community members could attend even if they couldn't be at WCC in person. This happened with the help of a planning committee that included Do, and Janel Baker, a faculty member at WCC.

"The world is not always

safe out there ...you never know what somebody's gonna do or say. And we've all had negative experiences," Baker said. "So, being in a place that is specifically welcoming for every single person-it's unbelievable."

It's not just WCC students who can attend this confer-

ence, though. The MCCGSC invites students, faculty and staff from all Michigan community college campuses to attend.

For the 2023 conference, "the farthest folks came from the Upper Peninsula," Mullalond said. "Last year, it was up by Petoskey."

MCCGSC isn't just an academic experience but a learning opportunity, too. "It's a way to support one another, not just as human beings but also as academics," Baker said.

The MCCGSC is seeking two types of student submissions: traditional academic presentations to share research or ideas and creative art submissions.

These can be in any form, such as painting, poetry, dance, or textiles, and showcase how creativity fosters magic, joy or resiliency. You can present or simply display your work.

"It's so important just to see other queer people," Jackson said. "We do not do this quietly in one corner of the college campus, but something we loudly and proudly put out there and want people to see. We want people in this community to know they have a space where they can be valued, elevated and celebrated."

MCCGSC will have a table at Welcome Day on Feb. 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as well as one on Feb. 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Stay safe amid inclement weather at WCC

ALICE MCGUIRE
Deputy Editor

Over the course of inauguration week, Washtenaw County experienced some of the coldest weather since the polar vortex of 2019. Temperatures dropped to the single digits, with the wind chill dipping into the negatives. In response to the inclement weather, WCC closed from Jan. 21-22.

Provost and Chief Operating Officer Linda Blakey said that, while there is no set temperature at which the college closes, the inclement weather policy takes into account a wide range of factors, such as the amount of and timing of snowfall, ice, whether the facilities department is able to clear the parking lots, and what the state police are saying about road conditions.

"Generally, we try to make the decision before 5:30 a.m.," said Blakey.

One key factor has changed as online communications and classes have become common: "A lot of times, we may just be canceling on campus classes if, you know, for some reason, there's a campus issue with snow, or we can't get the parking lots cleared, then we will continue to have virtual classes and online class," said Blakey.

While online classes are generally unaffected by snow days, in-person classes are never shifted online for inclement weather.

Blakey emphasized that, even when the campus is closed, offices such as Student Services and the Welcome Center remain open and available virtually.

John Leacher, chief of Public Safety, said that the role of Public Safety during inclement weather is to monitor campus to ensure that it is safe, taking care of such duties as notifying the facilities department if a walkway is in need of salt or responding to individuals who need help



ZEINAB AGBARIA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Students can visit MyWCC to sign up for WCC Alert, a service which sends out emergency notifications in events such as inclement weather.

with common problems such as jump-starting a battery or opening a frozen car door. Public Safety is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Leacher said the best thing to do to get through a Michigan winter is to be prepared.

Rayan Salam, a media professional and instructor at WCC, said she always prepares a backup plan in case of school closures so that she can remain in communication with her students and avoid falling behind, "I use the same formula I used in COVID to prepare for these winter storms."

Dena Blair, who serves as department chair of communication media and theatre arts as well as lead faculty for the broadcast media arts program, said, "You've got to have the flexibility to be able to

pivot and go: 'Okay, we're not going to be able to have that plan. What can we do that is still going to bring value to the educational experience?'"

For drivers, Leacher recommends staying on top of maintenance, particularly with regards to tires and batteries as the efficacy of both is impacted by winter weather in a number of ways: batteries often fail to start, tire pressure drops and tread wear becomes dangerous on slick roads.

Leacher also recommends keeping bottled water and nonperishable food such as granola bars and blankets on hand in case of an emergency.

Whether commuting by car or bus, Leacher stressed the importance of dressing appropriately for the season: "What happens if your car breaks



down and you're on your way to school? And you've got your sweatshirt and a pair of shorts on because you think you're just going to run from the car into the building-and now you're three miles away from campus?"

Leacher said that it doesn't take long for bare skin to suffer from frostbite when the wind chill is low, especially in extremities, and to be mindful of early warning signs such as numbness and pain.

Students can visit MyWCC to sign up for WCC Alert, a service which sends out emergency notifications in events such as inclement weather. Additionally, Leacher recommends students check out the WCC Safe app, "There's nothing on here that's gonna waste your time."

I SHOULD
~~PROBABLY~~
GET A
RIDE
HOME.

BUZZED DRIVING
IS DRUNK DRIVING



VOICE BOX

Teresa Quinones and Inayah Amir Bey | Washtenaw Voice

For a longer Voice Box, visit our YouTube channel:
The Washtenaw Voice
Video edited by Inayah Amir Bey



Compared to the fall semester, what do you want to make different for the winter?

Have a better school life balance.

Molly Stone,
Liberal arts, 18



Develop a more consistent study schedule to stay more organized with my classes.

Isabelle Bully
General studies, 17



Improve how I organize my time for my classes. Spend more time practicing my Spanish speaking and listening skills.

Abby Bully
General studies, 17

Focus on getting my work done first to avoid procrastination.

Amalia Hughes
General studies, 15



Double-check Rate My Professor before registering for classes and use more of my time for studying.

Rowan Wojtasinsk
HVAC, 17



I am teaching online classes this semester, so I would like to have them be enjoyable for students who do not prefer this type of format. My goal is for the students to foster connections with each other.

Josiah Jackson
Full time English and college readiness faculty, 30

Lyric Lane

Henry Sincic | Contributor

What song do you listen to when you need a blast from the past, and why?

“Shoota” by Playboi Carti



“I used to listen to [the song] a lot when I was at my grandparents’ house—on the train, around 2017/2018, on the way to my grandparents’ house. That was just the overall vibe of that year. It just sticks out to me, in terms of nostalgia.”

Mohammed Shaded
General studies in math & science, 16



“Wasted Years” by Iron Maiden

“Because my dad is a massive Iron Maiden fan, and he would play them all the time. And that song’s about, you know, wasted years—nostalgia. So I guess whenever I’m trying to listen to something nostalgic, I put on that or another Iron Maiden song.”

John Ryan Salvado
Art, 18

Guns N’ Roses, in general



“It’s hard to think of a particular song. I’m named for Axl Rose because my dad is a huge Guns N’ Roses fan. I don’t really listen to them, but when I do hear them, I’d consider them nostalgic.”

Axl Edgar
Undecided, 17



“Fireflies” by Owl City

“Mainly because it was the most prevalent song when I was younger, and this was still during the time when MTV was still kind of riding off into the sunset from its fame in previous years. So I remember seeing it on MTV, you know—it’s a very iconic music video.”

Caiden Sandusky
3D animation for game art, 20

“Need 2” by Pinegrove



“I heard it a lot when I was younger and it’s just a good song.”

Tucker St George
Undecided, 14

Fashion

WASHTENAW

Jada Hauser | Graphic Designer



“I like colors. The sweatshirt is from Zumiez. I think my pants are probably my favorite piece I’m wearing because they’re comfy and have a lot of pockets.”

Ingrid Lamble
Undecided



“I was doing my weekly go-through of my closet and found the nightgown. I put the sweater over it because I thought it would look good. The denim jacket is from my boyfriend, the sweater/nightgown are both thrifted, tights are from Target and the shoes are from my best friend’s grandma. My favorite piece right now is probably my scarf because it’s like the scarf the Doctor in Doctor Who wears.”

Emma Akio
General education



MUSIC REVIEW

Doechii redefines the future of hip-hop with unforgettable sound



LILY COLE
Editor

Introducing the Voice's new music review column: Ear Candy. Ear Candy is a way for students to get new information about artists, genres and beats that may be unknown. So, relax, read, put on some headphones and enjoy some "Ear Candy."

In the pursuit of new music to listen to this year, I stumbled upon an NPR TinyDesk concert on YouTube. I'm no stranger to TinyDesk concerts—some favorites being Laufey and The Marias. But when I watched Doechii perform, she blew me away. The look on my face when she opened with "BOOM BAP" was priceless. My jaw was on the floor and I ran into my sister's room to show her who I

just found. We've literally been on a Doechii kick ever since.

Doechii, also known as Jaylah Ji'mya Hickmon, the self-proclaimed "Swamp Princess," rose to prominence with her 2020 release, "Oh the Places You'll Go," a mixtape about childhood and tween life. Since then, she has gained fame with her 2024 album, "Alligator Bites Never Heal," and, more specifically, with a 2021 song that went viral on TikTok from "Oh the Places You'll Go," "Yucky Blucky Fruitcake."

With critics comparing her to the likes of Nicki Minaj and Missy Elliott, Doechii puts her own spin on rhythms and rhymes. Some standouts from "Alligator Bites Never Heal" are "DENIAL IS A RIVER," "CATFISH," and the popular "NISSAN ALTIMA."

Doechii's sound is unique. Her raps resemble poetry, and paired with her stage presence and the realness of her music; she brings a breath of fresh air to the mainstream music scene.

She's on point throughout each of her songs. She is unapologetic, empowering and emotional. Her complex raps paired with her melodic tempo are something to strive for. Her music is playful, with quirky production and a sense of humor that comes through

in delivery and lyrics.

She describes her sound as alternative hip-hop, drawing inspiration from big names like Lauryn Hill and SZA. SZA and Doechii are the only two female artists to be signed with Top Dawg Entertainment, an independent record label specializing in hip-hop and R&B artists. Recently, she was featured on Tyler, the Creator's new studio album, "Chromakopia," in the song "Balloon."

Doechii is nominated for three Grammys this year: Best Rap Album ("Alligator Bites Never Heal"), Best New Artist ("Alligator Bites Never Heal"), and Best Rap Performance ("NISSAN ALTIMA").

I, for one, want to see her win Best New Artist, hopefully beating out some pop stars who have had their time in the spotlight, like Sabrina Carpenter and Chappell Roan.

If you're looking for a little more upbeat and defiant sound, Doechii is the way to go. She will not disappoint. I think the best way to end this little review is by using Doechii's lyrics from "DENIAL IS A RIVER."

But we ain't got time to stop / the charts need us (and they do).

And they really do, Doechii. The charts need you.



Doechii released 'Alligator Bites Never Heal' in 2024. This year, she has been nominated for three Grammys.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

SHENEMAN
TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY



“ 2024 WAS THE HOTTEST YEAR ON RECORD, AND THAT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. NO, SERIOUSLY. THE TIP IS ALL THAT'S LEFT. ”



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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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Join a club on campus to foster lasting connections

SASHA HATINGER
Staff Writer

Looking for a community of like-minded individuals? Perhaps a group of peers in which you have similar interests? Are you desiring opportunities for personal growth, skill development and networking? Joining a student-led club at WCC may be your answer.

Why join a club at WCC?

Becoming a member of a club at WCC provides a space for students to feel like they are, “part of something, producing something to be excited about,” said Fynn Boldenow, social media and communications manager of College Democrats of WCC.

“I also think it’s really cool to be able to meet people outside of your area of studies,” said Tessia Knollmeyer, vice president of College Democrats of WCC.

As students, time and attention are directed toward schoolwork and studies. Setting time aside to socialize, meet new people and become part of something bigger is possible when becoming a member of a club.

“Do something outside of academics. Have an hour at your club, where you’re able to stop thinking about your math

homework ... and you can just relax (and) do something you want and really enjoy. Find friends (and) community that way,” said Eli Waltman-Lewis, president of College Democrats of WCC.

Connecting with other students is an important part of getting the overall college experience. As a community college, WCC is unlike universities, in that there are no dorm rooms, etc. to make friends and connect with other students-joining a club offers a unique way to make lasting connections.

“An Esports club, just like any other club that we would have at WCC, helps foster relationships and fosters a whole network, which people can talk to each other and learn from each other and develop as human beings,” said Chris Zachow, event coordinator for the WCC Esports club and “Overwatch 2” team captain.

How to start your own club at WCC

Interested in more than what already exists for clubs at WCC? You can start your own club and help fill the gap that is currently missing. Students who are curious about how the process works can contact Christy Main, supervisor of student activities, at scmain@wccnet.edu.



ZAKERIA ALMAJRABI | WASHTENAW VOICE

Nolan Shee (left) and Lucas Vincent showcase the Super Smash Brothers and League of Legends teams at the WCC Esports club.

wccnet.edu.

Some key things to remember when interested in starting a club are making sure the club will have at least four members to start and securing a faculty advisor, which would be full-time staff or part-time faculty of WCC, for the new club. Students are also required to have a minimum of a 2.0 GPA and be enrolled in at least three credits at WCC. As well as coming up with a

logo and establishing a mission for the club, interested students must fill out paperwork, including a “registration form.” Registering your club every semester is also a requirement.

Possibilities for personal growth

Club members at WCC have opportunities to attend events and conferences as club members. Events such as the “Washtenaw County Democratic Party” and conventions

like, “Michigan Public Democrat,” are just a few occasions where members of The College Democrats of WCC can interact to foster personal expansion and development.

“Meeting all these people can be helpful for your future for networking, which can help you get a job or land other opportunities for internships later,” said Woltman-Lewis.

Making connections with peers through being part of a

club is fundamental for personal growth and encourages students to expand their connections for their future.

“Hopefully we can show data that proves that students who participate in clubs are getting better grades, better GPAs, (and) they’re more likely to stay for the course of their term and actually (are) able to graduate and receive their degrees,” Max Kuznia, coordinator of Esports said.

Register for motorcycle training at WCC, classes start in April



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

The best season to ride a motorcycle is during the spring. But when you are riding, be sure to have safety gear on.

BECK ELANDT
Staff Writer

WCC has its own motorcycle training program, and a popular one at that.

Whether you want to go fast, far or just want to enjoy the road a little more safely—confidence is a big priority in the WCC program.

Safety on a motorcycle may seem extremely demanding, even if you know how to ride. For Robert Pirsig, writer of the book *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*, what safety demands, the motorcycle gives, so to speak.

“You spend your time being aware of things and meditating on them. On sights and sounds, on the mood of the weather and things remembered, on the machine and the countryside you’re in,” writes Pirsig.

Students can learn more about safety through the motorcycle training program at WCC.

“I think I’ve sold 24 seats,” said Lindsey Higginbottom, program coordinator for the department. “Once you get a warm day sales will go sky high,” referencing the opening of course registration for April.

Higginbottom has been

helping teach the course since 1989 and says there’s usually 46 people for each basic rider course, of which there are eight sessions for the month of April.

“I’m an engineer, which tends to be very analytical, very numbers focused; teaching gets me out with people. I like the instructors. I like the students,” Higginbottom said on the topic of motorcycling.

The longest loop Higginbottom has ever rode was 14,000 miles, from Washtenaw, to Fairbanks, AK, to Phoenix AZ, to Wisconsin, all in one trip.

Aranka Baka, a nursing major at WCC has been riding for almost three years and doesn’t want people to be afraid of taking the course. It’s a place where you can make mistakes.

“I just liked that it was super hands-on, and I liked that they had a variety of motorcycles to choose from,” she said. “They had an in-class session beforehand, and I felt like that was really helpful.”

The course at WCC costs \$50, the same price Baka paid three years ago.

Register today through the college website, and interested students can learn to ride safely.

WCC club sports offers more than competitive edge

YANA MCGUIRE
Staff Writer

The bitter cold cannot stop the competitive yet positive spirit of the WCC club sports community. The winter 2025 season started off with enthusiasm after the WCC Gold women’s volleyball team finished first in the Fall 2024 University of Detroit Mercy tournament.

Matt Lucas, manager of WCC Sports, said he is grateful to have had the opportunity to watch the volleyball program grow from one team to two (The Green Team). Over the last ten years, Lucas said he has witnessed students in all programs improving their playing skills and commitment to rising up the ranks.

“I can remember back in the day when I just wanted to win a match within a tournament. Now it is like, hey, we won the whole tournament,” Lucas said. “That’s awesome.”

As exciting as a win can be for a sports manager, the dedication the club sports programs have towards helping the WCC community is what Lucas looks forward to the most this season.

The Wolfpack Dance Team, who placed second in the 2024 dance competition, participates in the annual Ann Arbor Making Strides Walk, according to Eliza Williams, a Wolfpack Dance Team member. Making Strides is the nation’s largest network of breast cancer walks who honor patients and survivors.

“We walk with them, we cheer them on and sometimes we are at the tables passing out things like water,” Williams said.

William states that during the current winter season the team will be actively looking for indoor activities to continue supporting the community.

Aiden Lenhardt, captain of the Men’s Soccer team, states they will be hosting a food drive for the WCC food pantry, in the Student Resource Center, although no dates have been set yet.

The success of the team’s food drive, held in October



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

A big part of sports is working together on and off the court. The women's volleyball team shows team comradery is a big part of the game and how to succeed.

2024, empowered Lenhardt to make it his mission to organize one for the winter semester.

“It’s hugely impactful, way more than I thought it would be,” Lenhardt said. “We got a post (on social media) about it from WCC. They ended up doing their own food drive to create awareness. Hopefully, if we keep doing it, the pantry can grow.”

The Sports Department also participated in the Adopt a Family program through WCC, which purchases gifts for families in need during the holiday season, according to Lucas.

“That stuff warms my heart more than anything else,” Lucas said. “These stu-

dents recognized that people needed something and said ‘let’s see how we can fill that gap.’”

Lucas believes that a student’s life on campus can be positively impacted by enjoying a club with people who have similar interests. Falling under the student development activities section of campus life, he enjoys finding a multitude of ways sports fans to engage.

For instance, the Intramural Sports club will offer students a way to engage with minimal physical activity by hosting a watch party for the first March Madness Game in March. The event will be held at Garrett’s, located on the first

floor of the Student Center, where students and faculty can enter tournament brackets.

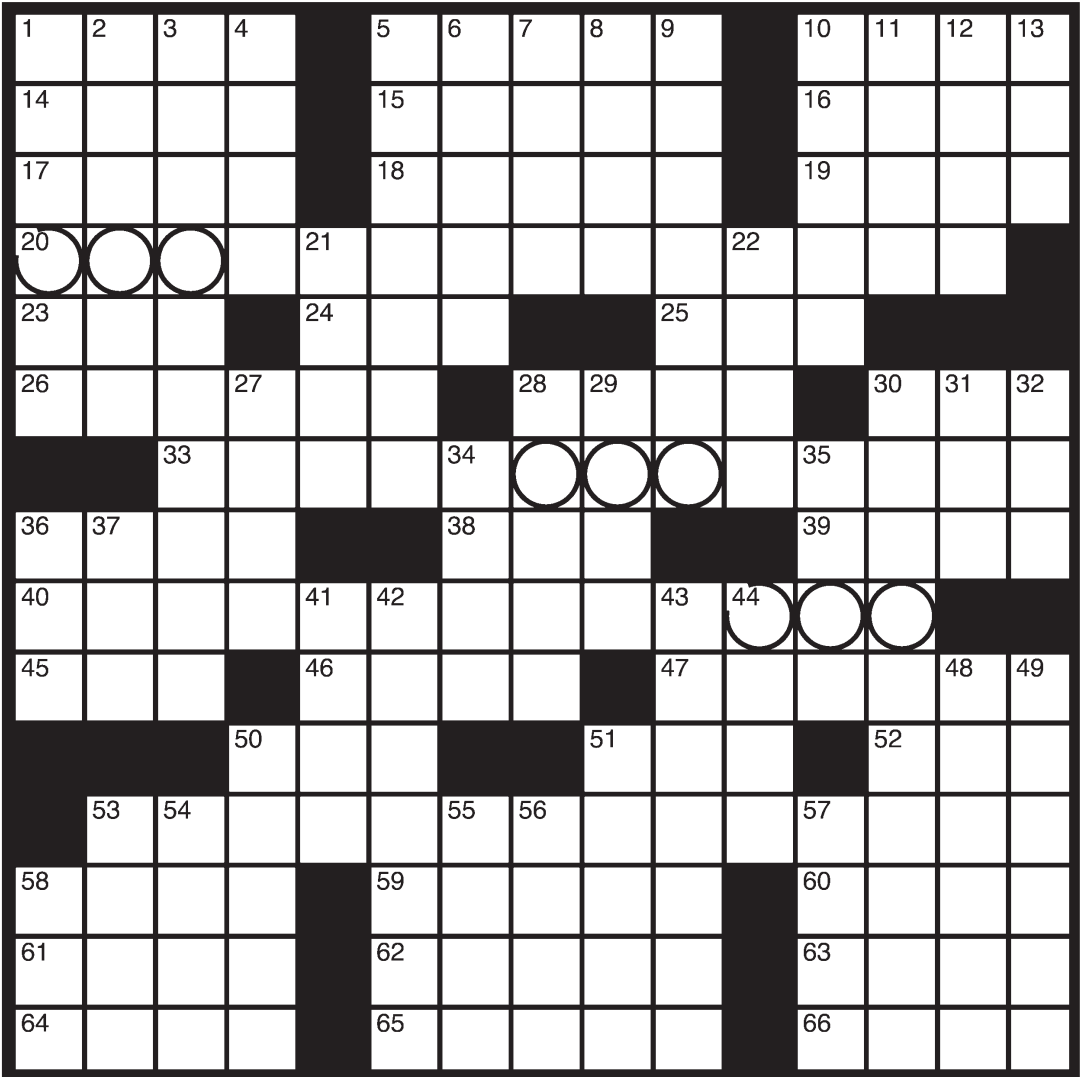
If you are interested in WCC Club Sports, tryouts for men and women’s soccer, baseball and softball are coming up this week.

However, Lucas encourages students who are interested in sports whose tryouts have already passed to still inquire about joining. Most teams will find room for you, meet you where you are at, and help you get to where you want to be, Lucas said.

For information about tryouts, visit washtenawvoice.com for a schedule.



CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**

1 Long, long time

5 Important ingredient in Toll House cookies

10 Touch

14 U2 lead singer

15 “___ and Juliet”

16 Friction fighter

17 Indian flatbread

18 No longer together

19 Neighborhood

20 Wide receiver who was the 2014 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year

23 Show on television

24 Photo ___

25 Punk subgenre

26 Loved by

28 Protagonist

30 ___ Moines, Iowa

33 Literary movement for Vonnegut and Pynchon

36 Bombard (with)

38 MSNBC host Melber

39 Roadie’s gear

40 Pushes one’s game to the next level

45 Actress de Armas

46 “General Hospital” actress Rylan

47 Long-armed shaggy apes,
- familiarly

50 Hon

51 E-file org.

52 Sign of a hot ticket on Broadway

53 Epitome of grace, and an apt title for this puzzle

58 Slangy coffee

59 Irritated

60 Oblong tomato

61 Receiving customers

62 Burstyn of “The First Lady”

63 Condo, e.g.

64 Places to find fuzzy navels

65 American Girls, e.g.

66 “¿Cómo ___ usted?”
- DOWN**

1 Overseas

2 Unexpected treat

3 Respond to court charges

4 Bed component?

5 Underwater trap

6 Aspirations

7 Apple desktop

8 Free lunch on Fridays, e.g.

9 “Told ya!”

10 Budget competitor

11 ___ Khalifa: world’s tallest building

12 Big name in food delivery
- 13 Spills the ___: gossips

21 Quite a few

22 Cupid’s domain

27 Becomes compost

28 Seabiscuit, for one

29 Work periodically?

30 Part of a design spec

31 Seer’s gift

32 Texting format

34 Polite term of address

35 Zippo

36 Links org.

37 Long, long time

41 Edged out

42 Came out of hiding

43 Church members who are encouraged to do missionary work

44 Roughly

48 Wallace’s claymation pal

49 Hyundai sedan

50 Spills the ___: blabs

51 Dirt dug up by moles

53 Grandad’s nickname

54 Finished

55 “I’ll never have this chance again, so why not!” letters

56 “___ all work out”

57 Immodest response to “You’re the best!”

58 Occupation

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE FOUND AT
WASHTENAWVOICE.COM

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

JOB POSTINGS

Below are recent employment want ads which have been posted with WCC Center for Career Success. WCC Students and alumni are invited to read these ads and to apply on Handshake™. For more information or assistance with applications, contact the Center for Career Success, SC 112 at careers@wccnet.edu or 734.677.5155. Follow us on X: @WCC_Careers | Facebook: @WCC.CenterforCareerSuccess | LinkedIn: WCCCenterforCareerSuccess | Instagram: @wcccenterforcareersuccess

Lunch & Learn at WCC: Getting a Job is a Project!

Get ready for an engaging discussion, hands-on activities, and practical takeaways that you can apply immediately. Join us for an exciting, 1-hour interactive LUNCH and LEARN: Getting a Job is a Project with Heinz Plaumann, High Impact Speaker, Leader, Culture Transformer, Executive Trainer, and Time Effectiveness Guru!

Thursday, January 29 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Technical and Industrial (TI) Building, room 118

Delicious lunch and refreshing drinks are on us!

A typical career spans about 80,000 hours — the bulk of your adult life! In this engaging presentation, we'll dive into the essential steps of successfully navigating your job search and land your dream role. This event is completely interactive – NO POWERPOINT!

Career & Internship Fair is February 12

The WCC Center for Career Success will host its Winter 2025 Career & Internship Fair from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12, in the Morris Lawrence Building. Come prepared with multiple copies of your resume and questions to ask company representatives. Make new professional connections, gain insider information, stand out as a great candidate! Attend one of our career fair series

workshops in preparation for the event. All are welcome.

Autonomous Vehicle Technology Research Opportunity.

Kettering University is offering a PAID 10-week summer research program focused on the future of autonomous vehicle technology. This hands-on experience includes projects in AI-based misbehavior detection, safety, intelligent tires, and environmental perception. Application Deadline: February 1, 2025.

Kettering will select 10 students each year for this exclusive opportunity to collaborate with industry professionals and gain invaluable research experience. Apply today through the NSF ETAP website! For more details, contact Dr. Diane Peters (depters@kettering.edu) or Dr. Rui Zhu (rzhu@kettering.edu).

Early Childhood Special Education, Paraprofessional. Lincoln Consolidated Schools.

The Paraprofessional assists professional staff by supervising and helping students during classroom instruction and implementing individualized student programs, collaborating with professional staff.

Behavior Technician. ABA Pathways, LLC.

ABA Pathways, LLC is looking for compassionate, adaptable people who bring energy to their job and are looking to learn and grow within our company! Here at Pathways, we embrace an employment environment that promotes growth and discovery, a person-centered approach to treatment/services, and cultural competence.

Park Ranger. Pittsfield Charter Township.

Washtenaw County is accepting applications for the position of Park Ranger in the Parks and Recreation Division of the Municipal Services Department. This is a part-time position with approximately 24 work hours per week.

Summer Environmental Internship Program. Michigan Sea Grant.

Michigan Sea Grant’s undergraduate internship program coordinates and funds undergraduate students from an accredited community college, college, or university in Michigan to work with private businesses, local government, state and federal agencies, or environmental non-profit

organizations to plan or implement environmental stewardship projects in the Great Lakes. Students can work with academic faculty if their project also involves strong partnership with an organization outside the school.

Machine Technician. Black Diesel Coffee Services.

As an Espresso Machine Technician, you will be responsible for installing, maintaining, and repairing commercial espresso machines, grinders, and related equipment. This is a cross-functional technical role, where you will develop skills in areas such as pneumatics, hydraulics, and machine interface applications. You will work closely with our team to ensure all equipment is functioning at its best, ensuring customer satisfaction and efficiency. This is a great opportunity to learn the ins and outs of espresso machine service, with hands-on training and mentorship from experienced technicians.

University of Michigan Future Public Health Leaders Program.

The University of Michigan Future Public Health Leaders Program (Michigan FPHLP) is a residential summer program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Through field placements, skill building workshops and mentorship, Michigan FPHLP provides students with opportunities for growth, learning and awareness in the field of public health. The goal of the program is to increase the diversity of the public health workforce, and the people committed to reducing health disparities.

Summer 2025 Intern. University of Michigan – Information and Technology Services.

Information and Technology Services at the University of Michigan offers a summer internship experience. ITS Internships are paid, full-time positions that provide an opportunity for students to gain valuable experience while making connections in the professional field they are considering for a career. Interns have the opportunity to work on meaningful projects in a structured and supervised learning program. We have technical and non-technical opportunities in a variety of disciplines, including customer service, desktop support, administration, project management, software

development, infrastructure, networking, communications, human resources, business analysis, planning, and security. You will be matched to a department based on your interests and skills. Student interns are accepted from a variety of majors and are not limited to STEM. We are looking for 50+ interns for Summer 2025.

Clinical and Health Research Professional Pathways Program - Summer 2025.

Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research (MICHR), University of Michigan. MICHR offers a Clinical and Health Research Professional Pathways (CHRPP) Program for students pursuing a degree in health sciences from colleges and universities in Michigan. The ten-week full-time program is a paid hands-on research training program that combines curricular workshops and immersive research team shadowing experiences to build key research skills competencies. Continued part-time employment with a clinical or health research team beyond the program end date may be available.

DCM Supply Chain and Logistics Management Trainee Warehouse (Livonia, MI). Penske Logistics.

Are you ready to move your career forward? As a Logistics Trainee, you will be a part of a winning team that inspires the next chapter of growth. You will discover opportunities to proactively improve our service promise to customers, while being exposed to processes, policies, and procedures and focusing together on shared objectives. At Penske you will be introduced to top-tier technologies, collaborative teams, and ways to drive purposeful innovation and continuous improvement within our systems and operations. Things move fast at Penske. You will too. You'll be on a fast track to furthering your leadership career, with advancement opportunities upon graduation from the program.

Construction Management Intern. EJH Construction.

Construction Management Internship \$18-\$22 Hourly. Internship is 3-5 days per week & duration is flexible (Ad-hoc). Communicate with subcontractors, vendors, team members, and clients. Assist Project Managers with the logistics of running full cycle projects,

estimates, material ordering, scheduling, site visits, job files, etc. Assist carpenters with job site & warehouse labor. Deliver tools & material out to jobsites, pick up permits, take onsite pictures, etc.. Provide administrative support including filing, emails, scanning, answering phones, etc.

RN Med Surg Neuro. Corewell Health.

The RN, under the ANA scope of practice utilizes the framework of the nursing process to provide professional nursing care by incorporating patient-family centered care principles to assess, plan, implement, evaluate, and discharge. The RN provides quality patient care under the direction of the Nurse Leader according to Corewell Health policies and procedures and recognizes the impact of nursing care and patient/family partnerships on patient outcomes. The RN partners with and utilizes patient/family input and goals in planning plan of care and develops teaching strategies for patient/family; documents education and learning appropriately in health record.

Library Safety Assistant. Ann Arbor District Library.

Under the direction of the Safety Lead, and the supervision of the Safety Supervisor, the Library Safety Assistant patrols the buildings, parking lots, and grounds to assure a safe and secure environment for patrons and staff.

Presenters of African American History – Greenfield Village. The Henry Ford.

In preparation for the 2025 season in Greenfield Village, we are seeking skilled and passionate Presenters of African American History to join our team. This role involves delivering insightful and compelling presentations and facilitating interactive experiences that highlight over 200 years of African American history. Presenters will share narratives of resilience and achievement linked to various African American historical sites within Greenfield Village.

Library Social Worker. Ypsilanti District Library.

The Ypsilanti District Library is launching an exciting 3-year grant-funded project to develop a library social work program. YDL seeks an energetic, community-minded LMSW interested in building an innovative new service. The Li-

brary Social Worker will engage with the community at YDL's three locations to help provide information, support, referrals, and follow-through to people experiencing challenging life circumstances. The Library Social Worker will help patrons seeking community resources such as mental health services, substance use services, housing services, food, educational, and other social services.

Adventure Leadership Intern. University of Michigan Recreational Sports.

Adventure Leadership is an outdoor, activity-based, team building and skill development program. Adventure Leadership interns facilitate meaningful connections between people and the environment by engaging communities in purposeful, collaborative experiences. Programs are delivered using experiential tools which can include ground initiatives, low challenge course elements, high ropes course elements, and a climbing tower. As an intern, you will learn to design and execute custom experiential programs for students, educators, corporate groups, nonprofit organizations, and beyond. Interns can also learn how to create community by leading day, weekend, or week-long trips. Past trips have included dog sledding in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, backpacking Cumberland Island, and paddling the Huron River. Training will be provided, beginners are encouraged.

Outreach Specialist. Our Family Friend LLC.

We are seeking a dynamic and driven outreach specialist at Our Family Friend LLC to join our Marketing and Talent Acquisition team. In this entry level position, the outreach specialist will play a pivotal role in growing the company by developing and executing our “Boots-on-the ground” initiative. Our Family Friend takes pride in our supportive and collaborative company culture, where we prioritize team building and creating opportunities for our employees to learn, grow, and succeed together. We believe in fostering an environment that encourages open communication, innovation, and a strong sense of community, ensuring our team feels valued and empowered. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals looking to start their career in Marketing or Talent Acquisition!

TikTok goes dark but not for very long

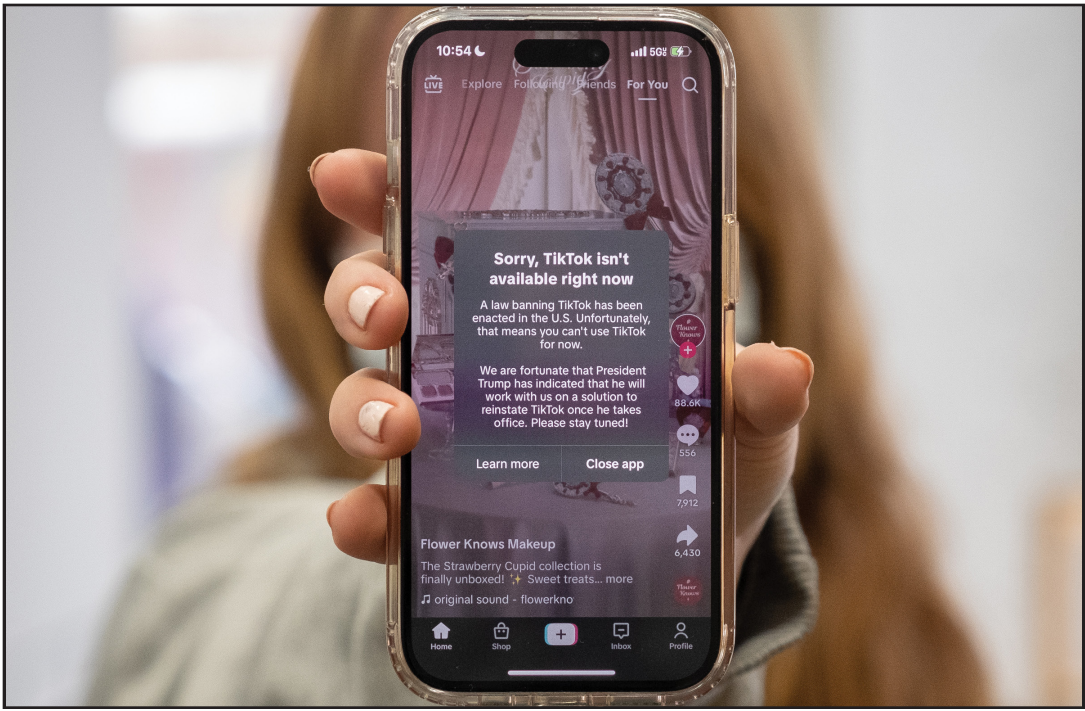
Alice McGuire
Deputy Editor

On January 19th, TikTok went dark, in accordance with the Supreme Court’s decision that the app should be banned if it is not sold to a U.S. buyer. That same day, the app was brought back online following President Trump’s promise to issue an executive order to delay the ban once in office.

Rayan Salam, a media professional and teacher at WCC as well as an avid TikTok user, said, “Sometimes we forget that free speech ends when we collide with other people’s rights or national security. Or things that can be threatening to our country, or invasion of privacy, or libel, or slander, or enticement against the government. So not everything that you see online is covered by free speech.”

What makes TikTok different from other social media, according to Salam, is that it is “not that social,” though it still “creates a sense of community.” Additionally, Salam pointed out that many people rely on TikTok for their livelihood as the app provides more ways in which content creators can earn income than many other social media platforms, such as through the TikTok shop.

Salam went on to say that she finds fears about TikTok’s impact on humans to be no different from the sort of fears which always arise in the advent of new forms of media. In particular, she finds the act of scrolling through TikTok similar to flipping through cable



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

TikTok was temporarily banned over concerns about its links to the Chinese government. Not even 24 hours later, the app was brought back.

television in the late 1900s—an activity that was once feared to create “couch potatoes.”

Nova Barksdale, 15, an undecided student, said that while she did not use TikTok much herself, she fears the ban will set a precedent for restricting access to content which is not owned and operated by a U.S. company, “Regardless of if I use TikTok or not, it will probably eventually come to affect me.”

Deborah Hares, 34, a student in the arts management program, enjoys watching TikTok videos on platforms other than TikTok, saying that she finds the app “too addicting” and that it is difficult to filter out misinformation.

Hares had mixed feelings about the ban, saying that she

could understand concerns over “privacy,” but that she appreciates a number of the ways in which TikTok has impacted culture, such as helping small businesses and elevating the voices of neurodivergent individuals.

Jomanah Alghazali, 15, a general math and science major, said that she thinks a ban would overall be for the best as the content on TikTok largely consists of “quick dopamine.” Alghazali expressed concern over the app impacting her attention span and sleep schedules, as well as those of her friends and teenagers in general.

Dena Blair, who serves as department chair of communication media and theatre arts as well as lead faculty for

the broadcast media arts program, has never been on TikTok. While Blair is “not sure of what TikTok is exactly,” she sees the app as fitting within a larger history of how social media usage follows trends, with apps coming and going.

“Everyone was friends with Tom on Myspace,” said Blair. “Tom” Anderson was the co-founder of Myspace, though he is perhaps better known for being the automatic first friend of users who registered for the platform. Blair went on to say she has noticed that, as time goes on, the content on social media platforms appears to be getting “smaller” and “more centralized” so that “the content goes through us quicker.”

Minimum wage

CONTINUED FROM A1

“I think that (the tipped employees’ wage raise) is very good due to the way that tips are usually processed,” Caden Hoffman, an 18 year old mechatronics engineering student said. “Even if you’re giving a tipped employee a 25% tip, they don’t usually see that full 25%,” Hoffman said, “Sometimes they also have to distribute those tips out to people that work in the back.”

While some outlets, like the Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association, have

advocated against the recent changes, citing the vulnerability of the industry to sudden wage hikes and the elimination of the tip credit as something that workers are against, others are more optimistic about the changes.

“We do it (tipping) for all sorts of reasons,” Heidebrink said. “I don’t think the fact that the wage rate is going up is likely to significantly change those tips, so I don’t think they (tipped employees) are going to be offset by lost tips there.”

SC renovation

CONTINUED FROM A1



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

The WCC board of trustees approved the complete renovation of all 17 bathrooms in the Student Center on December 17, 2024. This one is located at SC 120A.

The Student Center building is over 40 years old. Few renovations have been completed over the years, Whipstock said. This project will focus on replacing items including, but not limited to, wall/floor tiles, lighting, and domestic water piping. In addition, all toilets will be brought up to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance standard to ensure accessibility for people with mobility limitations.

All currently installed toilets are 15 inches off the ground. They will now be brought to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements of 17 to 19 inches.

“This is part of a five-year deferred maintenance plan,” Whipstock said. “The Student

Center is the first (set of) restrooms that we’re going to be renovating. Next, we’re going to hit the LA building.”

After the LA building is complete, the plan will move on to either the GM building or the OE building. It has not been determined which one will be next at the time of publication.

There were Seven contracting companies who bid on this project, with Krull winning due to being the most cost-efficient and responsible builder. Krull has worked with WCC on projects in the past. Most recently, they renovated the WTMC Office over the summer of 2024. The project was completed in September, according to Zoe Taube, WTMC Receptionist.

MLK Day

CONTINUED FROM A1

Equity awards

The First Equity in Action Award recognized Emanuel Terrell, manager of the Entrepreneurship Center. Terrell is passionate about mobilizing others economically to promote welfare through the individual and into society.

“No matter who I meet, I meet them where they are,” Terrell said in his speech. When asked to describe how diversity and inclusion support an aspect of community, Terrell responded with networking.

“Networking is key,” Terrell notes, emphasizing the construct of helping others, and too, that it’s a good thing to be helped.

The next award winners of the night were Ernesto Querijero and Tom Zimmerman, two professors representing the WCC Writing Center.

“It’s a little strange that Tom and I are getting the award because the writing center is so many people, it’s so many employees, its many students and student tutors, WTMC students, folks who have graduated here,” said Querijero during his speech, emphasizing both the level of cohesion about the writing center and the niche of community upheld by its subculture. The writing center at WCC is a useful resource, and one that Zimmerman urges students to take advantage of, irrelevant to our social standing.

The final award of the event was for the Girls Group organization, a community partner whose mission is to empower young women to achieve emotional and economic self-sufficiency, and to continue to foster connections in their lives be it with teachers, mentors, parents, and friends.

“As we reflect on Dr. King’s legacy, we are reminded of the importance of the community, and the collective



As the student speaker, Inayah Amir Bey explains how she embraces MLK’s messages. She wants to use her associates in digital media arts to create a space through her work for others to learn from and succeed.



Eric Reed, 2025 host of the WCC MLK Day Celebration, speaks about how important MLK is and how he wants the community to work together and help each other.



PHOTOS BY COURTNEY PRIELIPP

Steve Somers (left) and Matasha Allen lead the jazz band into song to perform for the people at the celebration.

effort required to bring about meaningful change,” said Chantelle Franklin, representing Girls Group.

“The partnership between Girls Group and WCC, has been essential to supporting our college and career-minded participants through initiatives like college tours, HBCU fairs, funding support and ongoing engagements with participants,” said Franklin.

In closing

After several photos, the WCC jazz ensemble led by Steven Sommers resumed, and the room filled with closure, music, handshakes and a con-

versation of energy.

From a more executive standpoint on equity, WCC has a written prompt for equal opportunity; code 8028 of the Policy Manual, which provides a foundation and support for adversity around the college.

“We want to make sure students have access and success in college,” said Eric Reed, Dean of Access, Success, Equity and Inclusion, on the subject of a diverse student body. “We’re giving everyone an opportunity to advance their social mobility.”

In case you missed this event or would like some more

exposure surrounding the MLK legacy and Black History Month in general, there will be an open-mic celebration by participants of the “Radiant Stars of Love” MLK writing workshop on Jan. 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Bailey Library on campus. Join in to see others feature themselves or even feature your own themes of social justice.

Editor’s note: Inayah Amir Bey, a student who gave a speech at the celebration, is a videography contributor at the Voice.

CRIME LOG

The following event was reported by WCC Public Safety on Jan. 14.

LARCENY

On Oct. 24, public safety responded to an incident of a laptop being stolen in the TI building. The professor reported he had his laptop stolen but it was recovered a day later. Public Safety does not have updates as of now. There is potential to review the security footage.



Compiled by: Beck Elandt | Staff Writer

events

ARTS & CRAFTS

MUSIC & FUN

ON CAMPUS

YPSI FINE ARTS CLUB

Feb. 8 | 5-8 p.m.

Riverside Arts center | 64 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti

Artists, art lovers, collectors and curators–everyone is welcome from Ypsi and beyond. Anyone is welcome to gather with our community and enjoy the incredible artwork.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CRASH COURSE–ANN ARBOR

Jan. 29 | 8 p.m.

Online | Zoom

Highlight the essentials to creating a business and becoming an entrepreneur. This is perfect for the successful professional who wants to become a successful entrepreneur but isn't sure how to get started. Free admission. Get your tickets here: <https://tinyurl.com/4fymwmhv>.

WINTER SOWING–NATIVE PLANTS

Jan. 30 | 5-7p.m.

Ypsilanti Farmers Marketplace Hall | 16 South Washington St., Ypsilanti

Join the Ypsi Farmers Marketplace for Winter Seed Sowing–Native Plants! Plants aren't just sown in the warmer months. By attending, you'll learn how to sow seeds of beautiful native plants in the cold season.



MATT LAVIN | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

For some seeds, cold weather is necessary for successful germination.

TAIMANE AND HER TRIO AT THE ARK

Jan. 28 | 8 p.m.

The Ark | 316 S Main St., Ann Arbor

Born and raised in Hawaii of hapa Samoan descent, ukulele virtuoso and songwriter Taimane is known for her fierce and inventive style of playing the four-string island staple. Free entry.

BOARD GAME NIGHT: BLØM MEAD + CIDER

Jan. 29 & Feb. 5 | 5-10 p.m.

Bløm Mead + Cider | 100 South 4th Avenue #STE 110, Ann Arbor

Huge selection of board games set up and ready to play at Bløm Mead + Cider restaurant, all welcome to bring their own as well. Food and drinks are available for purchase. Free to play.

CHOCOLATE EXTRAVAGANZA

Feb. 8 | All day

Across Downtown Chelsea | Agricole Farm Stop 118 N Main St., Chelsea

Chelsea's annual chocolate extravaganza will be filled with a wide variety of chocolate, cocoa, shopping and food. Completely free and open to the public.



FORMULATEHEALTH | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Chocolate melts at 93 degrees Fahrenheit.

HUSTLE YOUR HEART OUT

Feb. 7 | 7-9 p.m.

SC 105

Get ready to break a sweat and dance the night away with Washtenaw's Zeta and SGRho. This in-person Line-Dancing event is a great opportunity to connect with amazing women, get fit and have a blast. \$10 entry fee.

MLK OPEN MIC CELEBRATION

Jan. 30 | 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Bailey Library Active Learning Zone

Join the "Radiant Stars of Love" MLK Writing Workshop participants reading their work as well as other attendees who would like to share their writing about themes of love and social justice. All are welcome!

WELLNESS FAIR

Feb. 6 | 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

First floor of the Student Center

Come check out the Wellness Fair, where we will have a variety of vendors that are focused on your physical and mental wellbeing. Grab a snack and a stress ball and learn what our community has to offer!



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

WCC Celebrates Martin Luther King's legacy with the annual MLK Day celebration.



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!

