


IS TIK TOK
HERE TO STAY?

SEE A9



FILM FEST
HIGHLIGHTS

SEE A2



'MINECRAFT'
MOVIE
FALLS FLAT

SEE A5



WCC reaffirms mission statement

Some policies under review amid federal changes

LILY COLE
Editor

At the March 25 Board of Trustees meeting, trustees unanimously reaffirmed WCC’s mission statement.

Dave Devarti, WCC Board of Trustees treasurer, said he personally believes WCC is doing everything right and he stands behind the reaffirmation of the mission statement.

“I personally am committed to standing behind everything we (the board) do,” he said. “We’re committed to the success of our students, and we want to make our institution accessible to everybody.”

Christina Fleming, WCC Board of Trustees chair, said the board reaffirmed WCC’s mission statement because they felt the need to reaffirm to the community that no matter what’s happening within the federal government, the board is going to stay committed to WCC’s roots.

“It doesn’t matter who you are, where you’re from you come to us asking for an education—we’re gonna meet you where you’re at and help you,” Fleming said.



ZAKERIA ALMAJRABI | WASHTENAW VOICE

The Morris Lawrence (ML) building is part of Washtenaw Community College. The board meetings are held at the ML building.

Policies under review amid federal changes

Currently, WCC policies that discuss diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are under review.

Policies like students’ rights, responsibilities and code of conduct, affirmative action, diversity in college employment, access, success and

equity, prohibiting discriminatory harassment and staff success are some that are being reevaluated.

As of March 12, WCC’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion webpage is under review, according to reporting by MLive.

Fleming said the review of policies was prompted by

orders from the Trump administration. Fleming said she doesn’t know the exact date the board began reviewing policies, but the review was prompted by a “Dear Colleague Letter” sent to universities from the Department of Education.

SEE POLICIES, A9

Board of Trustees to vote on programs

Possible cuts, additions to be discussed at next meeting



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

Eileen Peck is a trustee at WCC. The next board meeting to discuss the addition/discontinuation of programs will be on April 22.

YANA MCGUIRE
Staff Writer

WCC’s Board of Trustees will be voting on the addition of five programs on April 22, 2025.

the new programs, the Chair or Dean will discuss the reasons they were not approved and offer suggestions so that the proposal can be revised and resubmitted, according to WCC’s website.

If approved, WCC’s Fall 2025 program list will include an associate degree in construction technology, advanced certificates in advanced auto repair along with semiconductor & battery manufacturing and a certificate in education paraprofessional.

Brandon Tucker, WCC’s executive vice president for instruction, presented the recommendations to the board at the March 25 meeting in which he highlighted the 16-to-17-credit certificate in education paraprofessional as a direct entry to Talent Together’s “grow your own” teacher preparation program. This program helps K-12 teacher candidates gain a bachelor’s degree and teaching certification by offering free college tuition and fees.

When the Voice inquired with Tucker, he was unavailable for further comment at the time, according to Fran Lefort, WCC’s director of media relations.

Possible cuts

The Board of Trustees will also consider the discontinuation of eight programs. Associate degrees in elementary education and film studies, advanced certificates in advanced machine tool programming and digital video advanced production, certificates in applied data analytics, fluid power and foundations of information systems and a certificate of completion of introduction to manufacturing processes are all up on the chopping block.

Recommendations for the discontinuation of a program occur when there is a lack of interest from students and/or a notable change has happened within the program. Most of the time, courses within the program are still available and that would be the case for the programs listed above, according to Tucker’s board meeting presentation.

With the new work expectations paraprofessionals face, the certificate could help current professionals keep up with today’s education standards and create a pathway to filling 31,000 jobs in Michigan, according to Tucker at the meeting.

If the board votes against

The discontinuation of recommended programs, if approved, will have no impact on staff. In addition, students involved with these programs have either transitioned to relevant programs or have graduated, according to the meeting discussion notes provided by Lefort.

The Washtenaw Voice wins 30 awards

5 first place honors received, including general excellence

ALICE MCGUIRE
Deputy Editor

On April 5, members of the Voice staff traveled to Central Michigan University to represent Washtenaw Community College as they partook in the annual Michigan Community College Press Association Conference (MCCPA) awards ceremony, where they were granted 30 awards. Among them was first place in General Excellence for the newspaper as a whole.

Students from across the state gathered for a day of networking, critique and a variety of panels on subjects ranging from writing to photography, featuring speakers such as Adam Graham, reporter and film critic for The Detroit News. The event ended with the awards ceremony.



WASHTENAW VOICE

Some of the 2024-2025 scholarship team posing with awards after the ceremony. (Top row, from left to right) Alice McGuire, Beck Elandt, Jada Hauser, Zeinab Agbaria and Yana McGuire. (Bottom row, from left to right) Lily Cole, Courtney Prielipp and Natalie Kyle.

Jada Hauser.
Original Comic-Entertainment, Jada Hauser.

Second place
News Website, The Washtenaw Voice.
Inside Page Design, The Washtenaw Voice.
Best Blog, The Washtenaw Voice with Lily Cole’s Ear

Candy.
Personality Profile, Lily Cole.
First Amendment Reporting, Lily Cole.
Feature Story, Yana McGuire.
Photo Essay/Digital Slide-show, Courtney Prielipp.
Original Illustration, Skye Bawol.
Multimedia Reporting, Henry Sincic.

Third place
Free Speech Reporting, Alice McGuire.
Original Illustration, Jada Hauser.
Feature Photo, Paula Farmer.

For a full list of awards, visit washtenawvoice.com.

Ann Arbor joins nationwide ‘Hands Off!’ rally

ZACHARY CLEVELAND
Contributor

Upwards of 1,500 Washtenaw County residents gathered under a chilly grey sky on April 5 to add their voices to protests held in cities and

towns across the nation.

According to the Associated Press, more than 1,200 demonstrations were organized by a broad coalition of groups, including civil rights organizations, LGBTQ advocacy groups and labour unions.

In Ann Arbor, demon-

strators raised their signs high into the whipping wind, saying “Hands Off!” to what they say is an executive overreach of Donald Trump’s administration and federal workforce cuts of Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency.



63rd Ann Arbor film festival dazzles Michigan Theatre



The Michigan Theater hosted the 63rd Ann Arbor Film Festival. It was built in 1928 and is still in use to this day. The theater still remains a “focal point for arts and entertainment,” according to the Michigan Theater website.



Before the opening night screening, food was offered in the Grand Foyer at the Michigan Theater. All of the food was from local restaurants in the Ann Arbor area.



Christopher Taylor, the mayor of Ann Arbor, spoke during the opening of the festival. “You are here because you don’t mind your beauty being a little different. In fact, you kind of like it. You don’t mind your beauty being a little weird.”



Stephanie Miracle and Auden Lincoln-Vogel filmed and directed the short film, “Purgatorio.” It was a six-minute film showing abstract angles that followed from one frame into the next.



The Lieutenant Governor of Michigan, Garlin Gilchrist II, came to the opening night of the festival. “I want to thank all of you for supporting not only the arts but the institution,” said Gilchrist on opening night.

PHOTOS BY
COURTNEY PRIELIPP



Julie Korperich (left), Joanie Wind, Justin Kaminuma, Stephanie Miracle, Auden Lincoln-Vogel, and Karin Fisslthaler are six of the nine directors of the films being shown on Tuesday the 25.

SEE A5 FOR MOVIE
REVIEWS

WCC dance team pirouettes to first at national competition



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

On April 5, the WCC dance team were awarded national champions in all four categories. In the fall, they won 2nd place in all four categories.

BECK ELANDT
Staff Writer

Several teams from across the United States danced for first place in the Showcase America Unlimited competition, and WCC came out on top with their highest earned point tally this year.

Head coach Ashley Spiegelberg said one of the biggest contributions to their success is their bond.

“They work really well together,” said Spiegelberg, referencing the high levels of camaraderie and support the team shares.

Psychology Today said that dancing has scientifically proven benefits, improving “brain function on a variety of levels.” Dancing helps greatly with mind-muscle connection, and the added function of music brings everything together.

“It creates a sense of belonging,” said Spiegelberg, adding to the benefits of physical, mental and social well-being.

Team captain Eliza Williams is

a third-year nursing major at WCC, and feels she has a clear role in ensuring the team is on the same page and helping work out any struggles.

“Dance is all about having fun and expressing yourself,” she said.

The team competes in four separate categories: jazz, lyrical contemporary and pom, with as much spirit as possible.

For their final showcase, family, friends and the like gathered in Towlesley Auditorium on April 8 to witness the team’s full performance in light of their sweeping success.

At nationals, the team is scored based on their musicality, choreography and showmanship.

At their final practice, Spiegelberg assured that the team would score above 90 points come competition day, a number they had never earned before; and they did just that. For more information about competitive dancing opportunities, email Spiegelberg at aspiegelberg@wccnet.edu.

The hidden world of groundskeeping

BECK ELANDT
Staff Writer

When we see someone driving on a college campus in a small, orange vehicle, there’s little cause for alarm, unless it were filled with a bunch of rambunctious teenagers. Most of the time, however, this is a groundskeeper. It’s consistent that many outdoor workers at WCC have found a niche beyond groundskeeping; a duty in quietly supporting the campus.

Ron Shulz is a groundskeeper who has worked for 38 years at WCC’s campus. His first memories of groundskeeping are working with his grandfather and “making things look nice” on their own property.

When asked about what students might overlook regarding groundskeepers’ duties, Shulz had a clear answer.

“We are kind of our own mini security department, because we’re always outside and we see everything, so we help everybody,” he said. While the present-day campus sees little trouble, Shulz believes this is partly due to their presence.

“We are constantly on trash, even all around the outside. You don’t see junk, and that’s what makes this college pretty,” said Shulz. From Huron River drive to Clark Road, the department covers as much area as they feel necessary. The first task each morning is to clean each parking lot and dispose of trash properly.

Now that spring is in the air, you might see groundskeepers cleaning up flower beds, removing felled branches and trees, planting flowers and giving the grounds what they need to flourish for the rest of 2025.



BECK ELANDT | WASHTENAW VOICE

Ron Shulz, a full time WCC employee, cleans up trash from the WCC nature trail near the pond. Shulz has been working for WCC for 38 years and often cleans up the trash around campus.



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

Caleb Horvath uses a pitch fork to clean up the leftover edges of the garden. The WCC groundskeepers do a lot around the campus grounds such as planting, maintenance of the ground, bedding design and even moving snow.

Shulz loves being outside and feels a strong connection to the outdoors through his occupation. He certainly doesn’t mind the work.

“People like spring, I really don’t,” said Shulz referring to the weather.

“It’s too muddy.” While driving through the WCC nature trail, Shulz pointed out several native species, referring to the campus as a “zoo” due to the variety of habitats. Towards the end of our drive through the forest, the muddiness Shulz despised

manifested on the brim of a steep hill. After about 6-7 tries, Shulz managed the utility vehicle out of the trail, not without some serious reckoning.

To fully grasp the scope of groundskeeping, Holly Herman, the landscape grounds manager, said it’s easier to list the things they don’t do.

“We do everything outside,” said Herman. The only exception is electrical and utility systems like lighting and plumbing. Almost everywhere else, a groundskeeper has made their mark.

Apply to graduate

Application deadline: Friday, April 25

Commencement Ceremony is

MAY 17, 2025

SCAN CODE OR VISIT [WASHTENAW.CC/GRAD](https://washtenaw.cc/grad) FOR MORE INFORMATION

Washtenaw Community College



Fashion
WASHTENAW

Jenna Jabbar | Contributor



Ines Mato
Nursing, 16

"I get my inspo from Pinterest. My shoes are from Nike. I had them, like, for two years. I know the hoodie was from Target. I think the jacket is my sister's, I took it from her. My little scarf, my little hair wrap, got that from Shein. And the one that says Africa, I got it from my aunt. The beaded one is from when I went to Africa. And then the rest of them are from my mom. My necklaces. The one with my name on it is from Shein. Then the rest of the two is from my mother. And the charm on this one from my grandma."

Lyric Lane

Henry Sincic | Contributor

"What song do you love because of the lyrics?"

"Silverado for Sale" by Morgan Wallen



"It's about a truck, and I used to have an old Silverado, so I relate to it."

Ryan Pike
undecided, 20

"That's What I Get" by Orange Dog Club



"I just like the lyrics. I think they're well written and beautifully spoken too."

Liam Kaledas
general math and science, 16

"00:00 (Zero O'Clock)" by BTS



"The lyrics hit really hard. I cried the first time I listened to them."

Kateri Nachtrab
journalism, 24

"Take Me to Church" by Hozier



"A lot of the lyrics feel poetic. It flows well and provides vivid imagery."

Sophie Vasquez
animation, 19

"Everywhere, Everything" by Noah Kahan



"I think the lyrics are really pretty. It's like me and my boyfriend's song."

Lydia Goodwill
business administration, 17

VOICE BOX

Lily Cole and Inayah Amir Bey | The Washtenaw Voice

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



What's a piece of advice you'd give to your younger self?

"To not postpone everything and handle it right then and there."

Corey Brown
Music education, 19



"Take school seriously, pay attention and study."

Kyshaun Larsh
General studies, 18



"Be yourself and stay true to yourself."

Marrell Brown
Business management, 18



"Play soccer. You're not gonna grow any taller."

Khalil Foy
General studies, 17



"Purpose is really good. Slacking off is a real time waster."

Zainab Tello
Environmental science, 19



"Stop trying to think so much about what other people are doing."

Samantha Dark
General studies, 18



"You are smarter than you think you are. You can do more than you think you can do."

Kianna Martin
Nursing, 23



"To not weigh other people's opinions as harshly as I did. Live more for myself."

Blake Lovasz
General studies, 19



COLUMN

Seek to understand, don't let perfectionism control you

Advice for navigating perfectionism throughout your life.



SASHA HATINGER
Staff Writer

I have always had unrealistic and unhealthy expectations for myself, with the pressure for perfection riding heavily on my back. Striving for more, desiring to manifest my dreams into reality, I struggle balancing my all-or-nothing attitude in all that I do.

If I am going to invest my time and energy into a task, I commit to doing my best. There is little to no room for error, so I believed and so I lived by, for most of my life. I do my best to learn from mistakes, to ensure the likelihood of repetition is close to none.

I do all this not just for myself, but for my future self and generations to come. Having two children who are growing and developing before my eyes, I am teaching them good work ethic, commitment, a focus on studies, schooling and how to be more than productive members of society, but voices of change, willing to take action to do the necessary work.

There is a lot that goes into that, day to day. Managing and balancing kids, school, work and having a life outside of that is a lot for one person. Expecting that all that I do be perfect in all capacities is beyond impossible—it is something that can't be expected of a person. Yet, it is something



Asking the opinion of others, realigning expectations and practicing self-compassion are ways to combat perfectionism, according to Jessica A. Kent's article on Harvard Summer School's website.

that is more than common in the lives of students.

"I have always had unrealistic and unhealthy expectations for myself, with the pressure for perfection."

"A lot of students focus on the outcome that they want and don't recognize when they make progress," Carolyn Lehn said, a personal counselor at WCC.

"When students or anyone is constantly striving for

perfection, it's not sustainable," Lehn said.

Lehn went on to mention that the pressure for perfection that so many students feel leads them to breakdown or burn-out.

For me, instead of pursuing unattainable perfection, I should process the progress that has been made.

"I like the quote that (says) you should strive for progress, not perfection," Lehn said.

Seeking progress, rather than perfection, is a solid solution to the pressure for perfection.

I can focus my energy on doing my best in all I can do right today. With hopes of accomplishing a little more

each day, having the ability to self-reflect on all that has taken place allows me to see how much progress has been made.

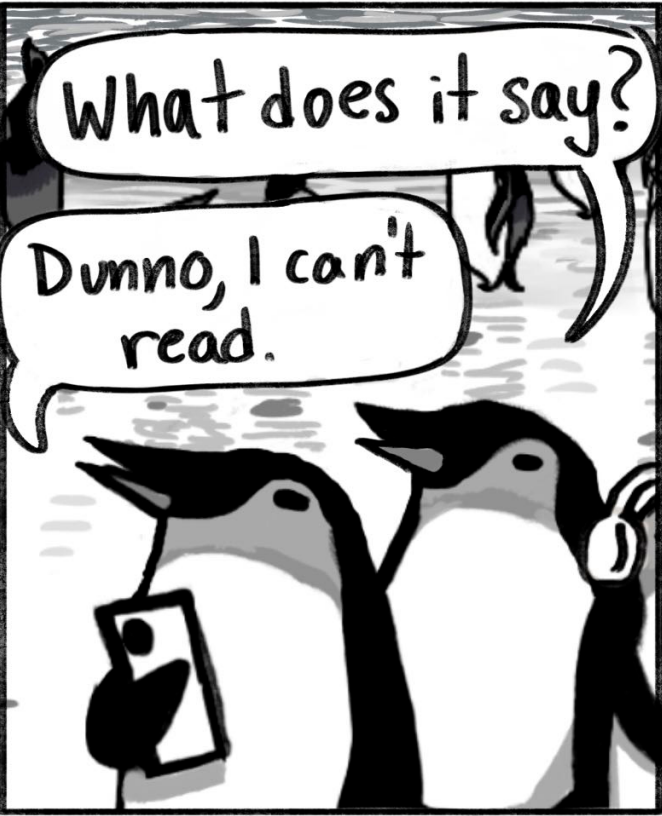
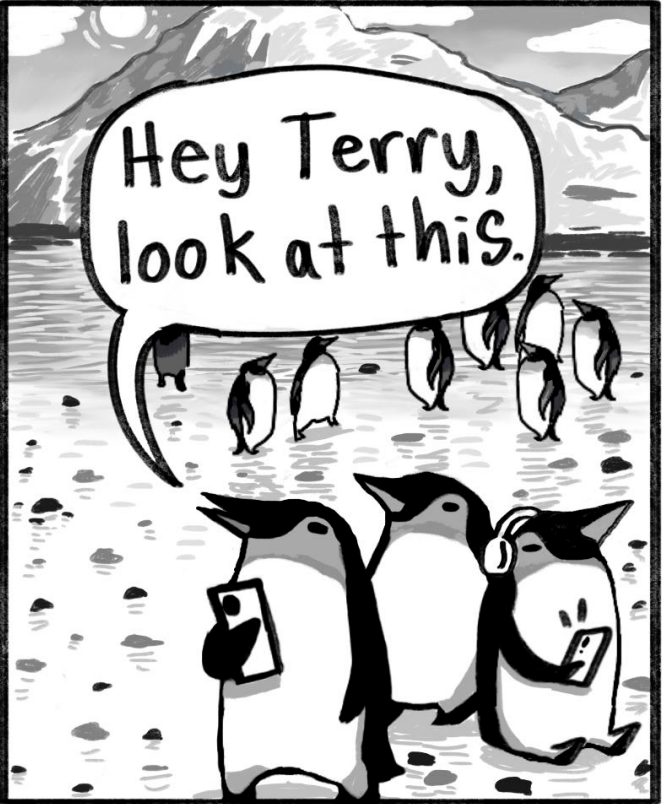
In an article on Harvard Summer School's website written by Jessica A. Kent, the topic of perfectionism is explored further, with solutions for those struggling with the need to be perfect. Asking the opinion of others, realigning expectations and practicing self-compassion are ways to combat perfectionism, according to Kent.

I know I can accomplish more by having a better attitude and mindset surrounding perfecting all that I do. All I can do, in reality, is my best.

COMIC

'TARRIFS ARE BAD'

CLAIRE HALL | WASHTENAW VOICE



CARTOON



DANA SUMMERS FROM GOCOMICS



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

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‘A Minecraft Movie’ makes an attempt at humor



★★★★★
RATING:
2 OUT OF 5 STARS

HENRY SINCIC
Contributor

It’s hard to make a movie out of a video game. That’s a bit of guesswork on my part—I’ve never tried to make one—but, if everything that’s come out of Hollywood over the past 30ish years is any indication, it can’t be easy. Video games are an entirely different beast of a medium to film in that they are inherently interactive and, thus, aren’t necessarily beholden to the same standards of storytelling. It’s easy to see how it might be difficult to craft an engaging plotline around something so inherently plotless. Enter “A Minecraft Movie,” a film that is exactly as mundane and unfunny as all the bad video game movies that have come before it.

There’s a certain kind of kids’ movie that has come to be dreaded by the moviegoing populace, and this movie checks most of the boxes. Celebrity actors? Check. Cringe-worthy jokes? You betcha. It’s not the worst thing I’ve ever seen, mind, but it fits a certain lackluster mold that will probably not provide much substance to anyone other than kids or Minecraft superfans. Pre-trailer drop, one could’ve been forgiven for thinking this movie had a chance. The director, Jared Hess, has proven himself in the field of quirky comedies, having previously directed “Napoleon Dynamite.” With Jack Black and Jason Momoa on board, the latter in a producing role in addition to starring, one would assume this movie would be a riot. Sadly, save for a few bright spots, it really isn’t. Part of the problem is that the movie has almost no character. There is an attempt at humor, but it is, for the most part, unbelievably forced. The characters in the movie have practically nothing to do other than to spout their overly-exaggerated personality traits until they can force a laugh. This is the sad case of Black as Steve who, aside from the already memetic “I am Steve” and “Chicken Jockey” moments, offers nothing much other than being a wide-eyed goof. Only Jeff Portnoy would otherwise be expected to stoop so low. Momoa’s



(From left to right) Jack Black, Jason Momoa and Sebastian Eugene Hansen star in “A Minecraft Movie.”

PHOTO FROM IMDB

character, Garrett Garrison, a play on the “world champions” of 80s arcade yore (the disgraced Billy Mitchell and Todd Rogers come to mind), could’ve gotten a few laughs, if for the predictably one-note jokes that were written for him. At least the adults are memorable in some way, something I can’t say for the two lead children of the movie. One is named Henry, and likes to invent things. That’s about it. So our lamely written caricatures go on a big quest to save the world of Minecraft from Malgosha, the ruler of

the Piglins, a race of pig-like creatures who reside in “the nether.” It’s pretty standard fare as far as a big colorful adventure flick goes, and I expect that it will please the kids. For me, though, I just see boring, predictable and unfunny writing set to an admittedly colorful, yet unreal backdrop. As CGI animated worlds go, the realm of “A Minecraft Movie” is perfectly serviceable. There is a lot of colorful and creative imagery on display, and while it’s nowhere near as visually pleasing as something like “The Super

Mario Bros. Movie,” one suspects that kids, particularly fans of “Minecraft,” will delight in the way the environments look. More suspect is the way the live actors are superimposed into the CGI worlds, giving it an uncanny “Spy Kids 3D” look. If you like this movie, that’s fine. It’s been interesting to see how successful it’s become in the short time it’s been out, and I’ve never been one to begrudge another’s success. But, for me, I would have hoped for far, far more.

Moviegoers brave the elements for Ann Arbor film festival
First-time attendee’s top 3 experimental films



YANA MCGUIRE
Staff Writer

Echos of cell phone alerts warning of severe weather filled the Michigan Theater as guests arrived for the 63rd Ann Arbor Film Festival Winners Night on March 30. Finding a seat in an unusually decorated theater while facing the threat of personal safety definitely goes against the norm and was the perfect setting to present the best of this year’s experimental film entries. Experimental films use various abstracting techniques that differ from traditional mainstream and documentary filmmaking. Also known as the avant-garde cinema, this style of filmmaking has been around since the creation of the camera, according to Deadline. Although there were many talented winners showcased on this stormy night, let’s take a look at three films that stood out to me as a first-time festival attendee and why. Ken Burns Award for Best of Festival Title: “Razeh-del” ٻار ڙار Filmmaker: Maryam Tafakory Learn more: www.instagram.com/maryamtafakory

While this film is mostly a silent film with subtitles, Iranian filmmaker Maryam Tafakory uses strategically placed, emotionally evoking visuals to tell the story of two schoolgirls who sent a letter to Iran’s first-ever women’s newspaper, “Zan”. For example, a match was lit after the girls completed a task, instantly turning the scene into a thermal night vision filter scene, which was used throughout the movie to represent the heat and intense scrutiny they faced during their journey. This visual style allowed the audience to grasp the severity of their situation and was brilliantly used. Use of various abstracting techniques to encourage viewers to dive deeper into a internationally relatable story made this film not only award winning but the night’s crowd favorite.



The 63rd Ann Arbor Film Festival draws crowds to the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.

PATRICK SULLIVAN | WASHTENAW VOICE

The No. 1 African Film Award Title: “We are not alone” Filmmaker: Adebukola Bodunrin Learn more: www.adebukolabodunrin.com An introverted Nigerian immigrant believes the solution to her loneliness is a mysterious object approaching Earth’s orbit and seeks help from a stranger to make contact. Bodunrin’s ability to mesmerize movie-goers with the film’s experimental animation techniques infused into textured live action was proven as the crowd promptly shushed Bodunrin when he explained to the projectionist that the movie had audio during the first run. No one cared that they couldn’t hear the dialogue because the visuals were stunning. The Edge of Your Seat Award Title: “The Princess and the Peacock” Filmmaker: Daniel Baker-Wells Learn more: www.instagram.com/daniel.baker.wells

An experimental documentary that follows European transfeminine “freak-show” performer Mona Guyard’s discovery of drag. The film vividly displays Guyard as she puts needles attached to peacock feathers in her skin and performs in front of a female, lesbian, inter, non-binary, trans and agender people (FLINTA) audience. The intensity of the feather removal was hard to watch, especially for someone who may have a fear of needles. Yet, no one could turn away from the oddly beautiful display of human pain. Capturing the essence of that performance that happened live with an audience was challenging, according to filmmaker Daniel Baker-Wells. However, being granted the opportunity to showcase Guyard in a unique way was a true honor. “The most enjoyable thing was really working closely with Mona, and being invited into her practice and her work,” Baker-Wells said.

Enter the bizarre world of Oingo Boingo



(Left to right) Dale Turner, Sam Phipps, John Avila, Steve Bartek, Danny Elfman, Johnny Hernandez, Mike Bacich and Leon Schneiderman pose for a photoshoot in 1987.

PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



LILY COLE
Editor

My favorite anime series of all time is “JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure” (JJBA). It’s a seriously silly anime about a family and their extensive fight against good and evil. A main aspect of JJBA is that the writer, Hirohiko Araki, frequently references popular Western music, fashion and culture to portray characters, abilities and places. One such being the brothers “Oingo” and “Boingo,” based on the 1979 band of the same name. After seeing these characters in the series, I was immediately intrigued by the band’s name and music style. Something about it was captivating, and I dove headfirst into the Oingo Boingo swimming pool. An American new wave band, Oingo Boingo was formed by Danny Elfman in 1979, evolving from his surrealist musical theater troupe, The Mystic Knights of the Oingo Boingo. The band was known for their energetic live shows and diverse sound blending punk, ska, rock, pop and jazz. Their song “Weird Science” (the theme song for the 1985 movie “Weird Science”) reached No. 45 on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1985.

After multiple line-up changes and a move toward a more guitar-driven rock style in 1994, the band retired in 1995 following a farewell concert. Some of their standout hits are “What You See,” “Running On A Treadmill” and “Pictures of You.” I religiously listened to “Running On A Treadmill” every time I drove three summers ago. “Running On A Treadmill” uses a myriad of instruments, most prominently horns, to convey a sense of, you guessed it, continuously running. The horns fade in and out to resemble this idea. Most of Oingo Boingo’s songs have this theatrical style to them. The band often explores dark themes within their music, such as death, madness and existential angst, but are presented in a way that could also be fun and even humorous, such as the song “Dead Man’s Party.” They have catchy pop melodies, bizarre time signatures and infectious rhythms. In terms of image, the band is known for their highly theatrical performances with elaborate costumes and choreography. Elfman would lead the charge of live performances with his charismatic and eccentric stage presence. While the band isn’t around anymore, they made an impact within the music scene, influencing some popular bands like Talking Heads, B-52’s and Devo. So, if you’re into some weird, eccentric and bizarre stuff, diving headfirst into the Oingo Boingo swimming pool is definitely the move.



Crosswordby Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Giant bugs in "Them!"

5 Tiny pests

10 Riyadh resident

14 Pixar fish

15 R2-D2, e.g.

16 Jewelry chain founder

17 Type of shark

18 Lists one by one

20 Blameless

22 Nurses take these

23 Custom-made

24 Numbskull

25 Many a cable co.

26 Test subject

31 Dislikes intensely

33 Photographer Leibovitz

34 Excitement

35 Budget rival

36 Tour of duty

37 Dirt clump

38 Man of the cloth, slangily

39 Hotel upgrade

40 Black-tie events

41 Boating item (with "life")

43 Poetic sphere

44 Arborist's concern

45 Uttar ____ (home to the Taj Mahal)

49 Vail trail

52 Legitimate target

53 Fixed limits

55 Kind of code

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DOWN

1 Go off script

2 "...said ____ ever"

3 Type of verb

4 Brief reviews

5 Athens native

6 Positive, as numbers

7 Be up against

8 Holland or Hardy

9 "Hurry up!"

10 Spring bloomer

11 Charlie Brown expletive

12 Toward shelter

13 First lady before Mamie

19 Calcutta coin

21 Heat in "The Heat"

24 Social event

27 Join together

28 Lifter at a funeral

29 Matinee hero

30 Mount Olympus dwellers

31 Angelic strings

32 Say it's so

36 Certainty

37 Old maid, e.g.

39 Truth ____

40 Male swine

42 Pound critters, usually

46 Stair part

47 Bad-mouth

48 Qualifying races

49 Quick trip

50 "Citizenner ____"

51 Exasperates

52 Achievement

54 FL airport letters

'THE MEOWSTIAN BARGAIN'BY JADA HAUSER

"Fluffy is beginning to think trading his soul for infinite tunas is starting to sound a little fishy."

SUDOKUEdited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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HOW TO SOLVE:
Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

(Answer appears elsewhere in this issue)

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES FOUND AT WASHTENAWVOICE.COM/CATEGORY/PUZZLES

CLASSIFIEDS

JOB POSTINGS

Center for Career Success

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 Twitter: @WCC_Careers | Facebook: @WCC.CenterforCareerSuccess | LinkedIn: WCCCenterforCareerSuccess | Instagram: @wcccenterforcareersuccess

Medical Assistant - Primary Care at IHA.

Assists in the examination and treatment of patients by tracking patient information, documenting the medical record, assisting with in-office procedures and testing, administering medications and providing patient and caregiver education. Duties are performed under the oversight and direction of professional clinical staff and providers as outlined in the Clinical Support Staff Scope of Practice document.

Audit or Tax - Entry Level Staff 2026 at Plan-te Moran.

In this position, you'll instill confi-

dence in organizations large and small by assuring their financial health. We'll give you the flexibility to craft business solutions, not just spreadsheets. Your work will include, but not be limited to: Participating in different phases of the audit and/or tax engagement. Planning, testing, researching, and reporting. Working with compilations, reviews, compliance, financial statements, and benefit plans. Engaging in corporate, partnership, individual, international federal, and state & local taxes. Meaningful interactions with staff at all levels as well as with our impressive repertoire of clients. Experience working with a wealth of business opportunities throughout a professional services firm. The qualifications : Detail-oriented leader with problem solving, communication, and analytical skills. Bachelor's degree with an emphasis in accounting; or Master's degree in accounting or tax. Academic success (a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0). Completion of the requisite degree and supporting credits to sit for the CPA exam, with the goal of successfully obtaining your CPA license.

Summer Park Worker - Various State Park Locations at State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Imagine spending time in some of Michigan's most beautiful destinations? These part- and full- time seasonal positions are perfect for those laying the foundation for a career in natural resources, keeping busy in retirement and/or wanting to spend their summer in Michigan

state parks, boating facilities, state forest campgrounds and other outdoor spaces. Join the more than 1,300 seasonal park workers hired each spring/summer/fall! You'll have the opportunity to shape the customer experience all while learning valuable skills and working as part of a team. As a frontline staff member, you'll help answer visitor questions, register campers, clean park buildings, mow grass, maintain trails and more.

Production Supervisor Intern at Neapco, LLC.

The primary responsibilities for this role will be to assist in supervising production lines, in accordance with plant policies and procedures. Train and coach production line employees. Assist in production supervisor duties to include: work station assignments, employee training, employee vacations, employee overtime assignments, and back-up for absent employees. Coordinate production startups, shutdowns, and changeovers. Participate in production shift meetings

Network Engineer at Plastipak Packaging, Inc.

The Network Engineer is responsible for the daily operations, security, maintenance and configuration of all Routing, Switching, SDWAN and Wireless devices throughout the North American corporate network. In this role, you will partner with the Technical Services/ Infrastructure group to ensure all mission-critical networking systems and applications are available and functioning at all times. This is a fully on-site position in Plymouth, MI.

Assembly Technician at Solar Tonic, LLC.

Perform basic, standardized assembly operations. Ensure assemblies and components are properly handled and marked. Utilize hand tools and shop equipment. Visually inspect parts and components for proper insertion and placement. Work diligently to accomplish daily quota, tasks or assigned projects. Follow detailed written or verbal instructions, including visual aids. Monitor and re-stock parts bins as required. Ensure that assembly and warehouse area is clean and organized. Assist with testing and quality assurance procedures.

In Home Caregiver at Comfort Keepers of Livingston County.

Comfort Keepers is looking for a Caregiver to join our team. At Comfort Keepers, we provide uplifting in-home care for seniors and other adults who require a helping hand, a supportive companion, and day-to-day assistance in their homes. As a caregiver, you will have the opportunity to deliver one-on-one care that enhances quality of life and brings hope and joy to clients and their families. Up to \$17/hour plus weekend premium pay. Flexible schedule to fit your lifestyle. Work near your home. Weekly Pay - Direct Deposit.

Iron Worker at Ironworkers Local 25.

Journeyman Iron Worker (4 year program): The Journeyman Iron Worker can perform all types of ironwork, 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.

Team Members Needed!! at Plum Market Corporation.

Plum Market is a fast-growing leader in the Grocery, Food & Beverage Retail industry. We are dedicated to offering the finest selections of All Natural, Organic, Local, and Specialty Grocery items while delivering an exceptional experience to our Customers. At Plum Market, our Team Members are at the heart of everything we do. We are passionate about high-quality food, beverages, and grocery essentials, helping our Customers lead a better lifestyle. Our priority is creating a welcoming environment that supports both our Customers and our Team Members.

Accountant I (Entry) at Hyundai America Technical Center, Inc.

Review all transactions on the corporate card program for all cardholders. Reconcile each cardholder account monthly. Correspond with departmental administrators on any missing invoices on a monthly basis. Enforce cardholder agreement for the corporate card program for each cardholder. Report to management on the status of cardholder accounts. Report monthly on delinquent accounts. Issue warning letters for delinquent accounts. Facilitate requests for credit limit increas-

es to management for approval. Perform other tasks as assigned by manager. Ensure all corporate card accounting practices and procedures are in accordance to GAAP / IFRS.

Youth Specialist at Michigan Department of Health & Human Services.

Employees in this class series act in loco parentis supervising life skills, training, and therapeutic activities for delinquent youth in Juvenile Justice (JJ) facilities. The Youth Specialist, under proper direction, initiates, implements and supervises therapeutic experiences for youth and performs supportive record-keeping functions. Employees need to respond to the physical and emotional behavior of the youths, at times requiring physical intervention. Youth Specialist may be assigned to work on any day of the week on any shift. Employees are required to participate in training courses and to satisfactorily complete the course work.

Museum Docent at University of Michigan.

Docents help with programs for groups and visitors, birthday parties, events, the museum store, the planetarium and much more. Docents receive extensive paid training in informal education, customer service and basic instruction in several natural history topics, including paleontology, wildlife and ecology. Responsibilities: Greet visitors in Museum. Provide high quality customer service to visitors. Assist at Museum Public Events. Provide educational programming in natural history topics to groups.

WASHTENAWVOICE.COM

WASHTENAWVOICE | WASHTENAWVOICE

Writing club helps WTMC students turn ideas into anthologies

LEXI STEPHENS
Contributor

Washtenaw Technical Middle College (WTMC) is the high school program for WCC, which helps students prepare for college by taking classes for free while they are still in high school. Along with allowing students to take college classes early, the program features a wide variety of clubs. One of them is the WTMC writing club. When asked what made her want to start the writing club, Samantha Bekemeyer, the teacher advisor, said, “I was kind of grandfathered in when Ms. (Emily) Zdyrko left. The main motivation of the club is to give people a safe space to write. There’s also not an expectation for everyone to show up every week and produce something. Not having an expectation for club participants to show up every week and produce material is a great feature for

a writing club to have because it can really show the attendees that this is a safe space for them to express themselves without there being a time limit. At the end of the year, the club produces an anthology collection of work created by the students. When asked about what the process for producing the final anthology looked like, Zoey Culp, the club president said, “There’s a lot of different aspects that go into producing the anthology. We have help with peer review, free writing days, voting for cover art and title ideas and, finally, getting the due date and getting all the work submitted, formatted and published.” People who are interested in getting an anthology can pick one up from the WTMC office, located on the second floor of the TI building. They can also be found in the Bailey Library and are given out at the WTMC Welcome Day.

Quick bites for students Sweet, savory snack options

ANNALENA EISEL
Contributor

Ever find yourself wondering if the food you’re about to buy is going to be the food for you? Munching during and after classes, but having food that will keep one filled for classes, work, and the ride home is hard to find. Great Lake Chips - Buffalo Wing flavor Another flavor from chips mentioned before: Buffalo Wing. Not underwhelming like many chips are, the punch of cayenne pepper hits as soon as the chip touches your tongue. If you like a strong, true flavor

of chips, give this one a try. The Spot's Oreo Pie If you want a bit of sweetness that is rich in flavor while paying tribute to a classic cookie, try the Oreo Pie. With an Oreo cookie crust, anything will taste good. Topped with cream filling, with a dusting of the chocolatey cocoa and Oreos, it is served individually in large slices. So save room for dessert. Finding affordable and delicious foods that are close to where you’re at most is incredibly important to maintain your schedule. This week’s recipe is for anyone with a sweet tooth, but who still wants to eat healthily!

Quick Bites: Chocolate Covered Bananas

- Cut a banana vertically in half
- Spread peanut butter evenly
- Drizzle an even layer of melted chocolate over the peanut butter
- Sprinkle crushed peanuts on top

Enjoy!

JADA HAUSER | WASHTENAW VOICE
Chocolate covered bananas are a quick sweet treat.



Orchard Radio puts WCC students on air

ALISA CHMERENKO
Contributor

WCC gives students the chance to join a wide variety of clubs and organizations or to create their own, enabling each student to find a community that aligns with their interests. While not quite a club, Orchard Radio is one of the college resources that gives opportunities for scholars to blossom in their talents. According to the WCC website, students need to have a 2.5 GPA or higher to host their own radio show. Ryan Ehlke is a station manager who has led Orchard Radio for around 9 years. Ehlke has extensive experience in multiple radio stations that he utilizes to help students smoothly transition to becoming a DJ. “Not only do I hope students learn the aspects of the radio world, but I also live it as well and kinda have that experience to go along with what I teach them,” Ehlke said. Orchard Radio gives students the opportunity to create their own style and open up their potential. “I am here to teach you the technical aspects of everything, but then it comes to what you talk about here, your content and how you carry yourself, that’s where I take a step back and leave it to the students,” Ehlke shares. Students do not need any previous background or knowledge to join the radio station. For the first one or two shows, Ehlke will provide the training of running the sound board, automation system and usage of a mic.



ALISA CHMERENKO | WASHTENAW VOICE

Located on the 2nd floor of the TI building, the production room is where students create their podcast or radio show. After understanding radio technology, students can run their show without supervision. Usually, students have an opportunity to run a one-hour weekly show. If they show commitment and interest, the show can be expanded in different ways. Students can work either in teams or individually. Usually, students do not have a restriction on choosing their topic. The only suggestion is to be respectful, have factual information if it is decided to speak about politics and not to use curse words. If someone is interested in broadcasting their own music, adding more music to the already created playlist or bringing guests for the podcast, they need to discuss it with Ehlke. While Orchard Radio does not offer internships or job opportunities, the staff of the radio and the broadcast media arts program will help and present different possibilities for students. On the question of what qualities make a great DJ, Ehlke said, “Someone who is driven, someone who is a self-starter, because a lot of the time you are alone in the room.” Ava Roth is one of the WCC students who decided to explore new opportunities. By deciding to change her business degree to broadcast media arts and communication and taking COM 150, introduction to radio production, she found out about the radio show. She has been doing her radio show for two semesters. Roth described the atmosphere of working at a radio station as casual and relaxed, but said that it also has clear structure. “They definitely want you to be creative, they want you to have a lot of freedom, they want you to find out what things you want to talk about, they want your style, your flair, what you are going to bring,” Roth said. Her preparation process includes looking through the news, finding something that she wants to share with the WCC students and arranging the notes for her show. For new students who decide to join the Orchard radio show, she recommends contacting Dena Blair or/and Ehlke for more information, listening to as much music as possible, reading more about artists, working at the timing skills and preparing the script for the radio show. Everyone is welcome to join the Orchard Radio and get a chance to try something new. “We are hoping to have more students come in and realize the opportunity that this presents,” Ehlke said. For more information about Orchard Radio, email radio@wccnet.edu.

‘Look twice, save a life’ Experts share tips for driving with caution around motorcyclists

BECK ELANDT
Staff Writer

Independent of their egos, motorcyclists have a need to stand out. Sunglasses, long hair, thick beards and leather jackets complete the look on a loud Harley Davidson, but bikers can also come looking like a blacked-out Power Ranger riding something straight out of the movie “Tron.” On the inside, they are fathers, mothers, sons and daughters—teachers, students, you name it. Motorcyclists are everywhere. Lindsey Higginbottom, an instructor for the WCC motorcycle endorsement course, said that no matter what kind of protective clothes you wear, “you’re still pretty much naked” compared to someone in a car. From a driver’s perspective, you are surrounded by a hard shell of metal, enforced with padding and safety features, contributing to a heavier vehicle. In the state of Michigan, “motorcyclists were nearly 17 times more likely than vehicle occupants overall to be killed in an automobile crash in 2019,” according to michiganautolaw.com. The national average is 28 to 30 times more likely.

Protection Handling, acceleration and braking are all better with a motorcycle than in a car, with the primary shortcoming being size. The number one cause of Michigan motorcycle accidents is motorists failing to see motorcycles, according to Callsam.com; even more fatal than head-on collisions. In spring, warm weather draws a lot of bikers out of their garages and onto the road, so you might not expect them to be there. Distractions One of the biggest reasons for driving collisions is cell phone usage. Texting, according to michigan injury lawyers, “is one of the main types of distracted driving,” while others include adjusting navigation systems and talking on the phone. John Leacher, Chief of Public Safety for WCC, wants all drivers to pay more attention and avoid driving distracted.



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

On a cold Saturday morning in a Great Lakes parking lot, Zak Purdon (second to the right), a motorcycle safety instructor, directs the class where they should stop when breaking. The advanced rider course teaches riders to be more comfortable with their bikes and how to improve on their control skills.



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

Christopher Fernandez, a student in the advanced rider course (left), and Uly Wong, a motorcycle instructor and WCC employee, comment on Fernandez’s handling on the course. Wong demonstrates to Fernandez that where your head looks is the direction the bike will go.

ed. Leacher reminds us that distracted driving is a very real thing, and it’s even more important to “maintain safe distances around motorcycles.” “Riders don’t pay enough attention,” said Higginbottom on accidents. Higginbottom believes that increased caution and thoughtfulness at any given moment during a ride can make the difference between life and death more than most riders think. According to Higginbottom, about 33% of motorcycle accidents involve only the rider, nobody else. About 66% of accidents involve other vehicles. Chris Fernandez, taking the advanced rider course at WCC, started riding motorcycles through YouTube inspiration. The advanced rider course allows riders to become familiar with their own bikes and improve their control/maneuvering skills. “It’s a much cheaper hobby than cars, and insurance rates are cheaper,” Fernandez said. His sticking piece of safety advice is, “you can never overthink.”



Stretch your legs with exercise science program

ALISA CHMERENKO
Contributor

WCC has an exercise science program that is designed to give students practical and theoretical knowledge of health and fitness for the workplace or prepare them to transfer to a university to get a higher education for more opportunities.

Patrick Johnson, a full-time biology instructor of the exercise science program, has a lot of experience in the health field and teaching, which he uses to improve the program and give students more opportunities. Right now, Johnson is working on expanding the program and its prospects: recruiting a tutor for the students, improving the transfer process to the universities, obtaining more high-tech equipment, finding smoother ways to get working experiences and much more.

Johnson said that WCC has advanced technology in the labs that helps students do measurement tests such as VO2 max, which is the maximum oxygen consumption during intense exercise, resting metabolic rate, and respiratory



Patrick Johnson, WCC professor in the biology department, makes an effort to expand opportunities in the exercise program and hopes to make the program more popular and accessible for students.

exchange ratio, providing students with hands-on experience. In addition, the lab has an electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) to measure electrical signals in the heart.

Johnson shared that stu-

dents who want to get a job right away after completing a WCC exercise science degree have two main career options: group exercise instructors or personal trainers. In addition, scholars can find jobs in the

healthcare industry related to exercise science with an associate degree.

On the question of continuing a student's education after getting an associate's degree, Johnson said, "It really

does depend on what your end goal is, and there is a lot you can take in exercise science."

Catherine Gammon is an associate professor of exercise science and undergraduate coordinator of EMU's Exercise Science Program. She visited the BIO 110 introduction to exercise science class and described the opportunities for career and transfer opportunities for future students.

Gammon explained that students typically fall into two categories: people who want to enter employment right after a bachelor's degree, such as strength and conditioning/sport performance, personal training and cardiac rehabilitation or people who want to pursue jobs that require further degrees, such as athletic training, occupational therapy, orthotics and prosthetics, physical therapy, physician's assistant, university teaching and researching.

"For students of WCC, you have two options for coming and joining us in the Eastern (EMU) and obtaining a bachelor's degree. Option one is that you can complete the Washtenaw and EMU's Articulation Agreement. Option

two is taking courses directly equivalent to the advanced exercise science program," explains Gammon.

For scholars who decided to take Eastern Michigan University's articulation agreement route, the requirement is 44 hours at EMU, instead of the usual 60 hours. After taking required courses at WCC, students can obtain a bachelor's degree from EMU in about four semesters. There are three groups of classes: general education courses at WCC (31 credits), exercise science courses at WCC (45 credits), and exercise science courses at EMU (44 hours). The students taking the second option must take WCC courses equivalent to EMU courses, transfer, and complete at least 60 hours at EMU.

In addition, EMU allows students to complete the combined programs (combined exercise science/orthotics and prosthetics, exercise science/athletic training, and exercise science/exercise physiology), which allows complete bachelor's and master's degrees in five years.

Online book club connects students with nature

For over 15 years, students have gathered once a semester to read together



Sustainability Literacy Task Force club founders Emily Thompson (left) and Maryam Barrie (right).

ALICE MCGUIRE
Deputy Editor

Once a semester, the Sustainability Literacy Task Force (SLTF), a committee that runs "enrichment events" at WCC with regard to topics such as the environment and climate change, gives the campus community an opportunity to gather and read a book together.

The book club was founded by Maryam Barrie, a professor in the English department, and Emily Thompson, faculty in the biology department and faculty lead for the Center for Sustainability and Resilience. The two will be retiring after this semester, and hope to see the meetings continue.

Barrie explained that the two had been on the same committees together for some time before the foundation of the SLTF, which they hoped would provide them with opportunities to connect with teachers and students.

"At first, we tried to en-

courage folks to include sustainability in their curriculum, and then we just started to do more and more events," said Barrie, who went on to describe Thompson as "the main mover in all this."

"She comes to me every year and says, 'Come up with books.' And, you know, reading is just about all I do. So I come up with books," said Barrie.

Thompson said, of everything they had read together, the graphic novel, "The Pollinator's Corridor" by Aaron Birk, left a strong impression on her, explaining, "We got to the end of the book, and what stuck in my mind is the students turned the page and said, 'Wait what happens next?' There was no part two yet, so that was super fun."

Having originally debuted in person over 15 years ago, the book clubs shifted to Zoom meetings at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, a format which they discovered improved attendance and par-

ticipation, and which they have stuck with ever since.

"I think that people are more willing to risk being readers when it's a Zoom, whether or not they've chosen to be hidden or visible, because the stakes seem much lower than an event that's face to face," said Barrie.

Both Barrie and Thompson said that one of the most memorable book clubs, however, was during the pre-COVID-19 era, in which the group spent the day taking turns reading the entirety of "A Sand County Almanac" by Aldo Leopold. While that particular meeting kept them on campus from morning until evening, most last about an hour.


The most recent meeting was held on March 27 and featured Barbara J. Barton's "Manoomin: The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan," which was selected by Carolyn Crane, part-time English faculty. Crane explained that she picked the book to fit the

theme of "soil" and that the club generally tries to make its selections locally relevant whenever possible.

Participants read selections of the book as well as supplemental materials, such as maps and recipes, hosted on the online bulletin board service, Padlet. A highlight of the event was a series of video clips created by Crane, in which she showcased an interview that she had conducted with the author.




With regards to the future, Barrie said, "For the last couple years, my experience was that the poetry and book club events were the most fun I had. So I hope they find whatever is exciting and fun for them. And, you know, it seems like, if the presenters are passionate, the audience will come."

Thompson hopes to help the new leaders transition into carrying on the book club's legacy, but added that whatever "vision" there is of the future will be theirs to craft and carry on.



Smokey Bear is within us all.

For wildfire prevention tips, visit [SmokeyBear.com](https://www.smokeybear.com)





TikTok uncertainty tests app’s place in pop culture

ALICE MCGUIRE
Deputy Editor

For the second time, users of the social media platform TikTok were faced with the possibility of being cut off following the Supreme Court’s decision to ban the app unless it is sold to a US buyer.

On Jan. 19, the app was taken offline briefly before being brought back with a message thanking President Donald Trump for promising to issue an executive order delaying the ban once in office. On April 4, one day before the app was set to go offline again, President Donald Trump granted another 75-day extension to the sell-by deadline.

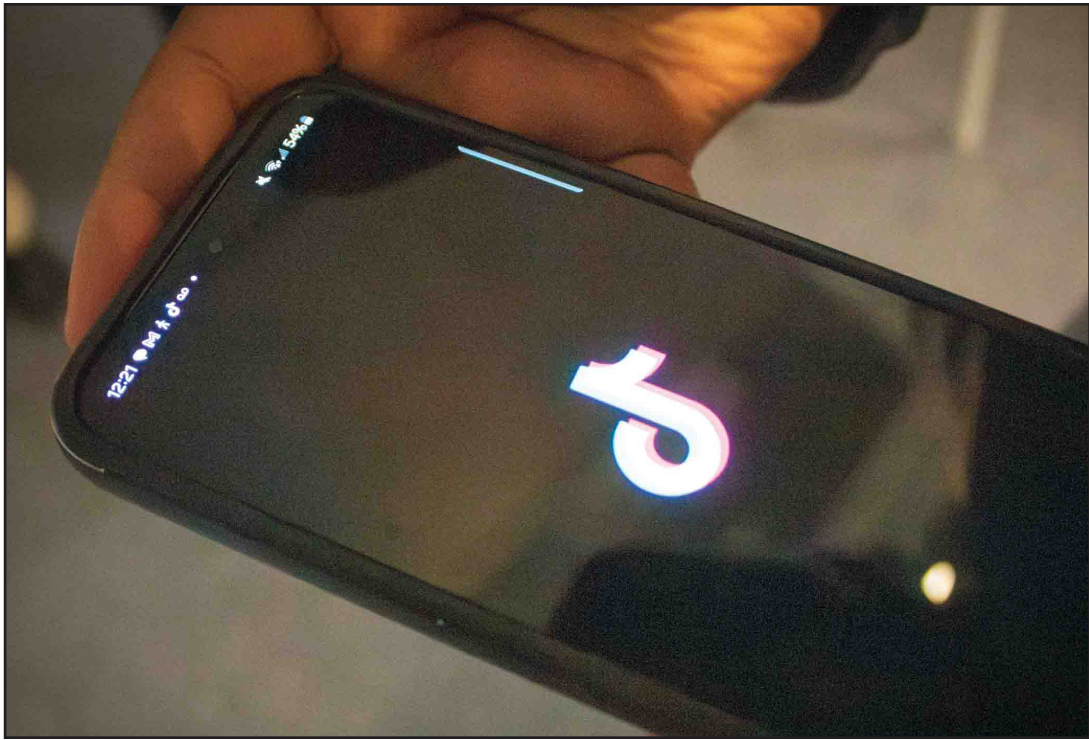
Rayan Salam, a mass communications instructor at WCC, said that the app being taken offline in Jan. had a significant impact on internet culture, with many users moving to different platforms.

“It really turned into, like, a pop culture moment online,” said Salam, who went on to say that the migration of users from TikTok to RedNote was particularly of interest due to the “cultural clash” between new users from the United States interacting with the existing Chinese user base.

“I don’t think we’ve seen anything like that throughout history,” Salam said.

Salam went on to say that, while the Jan. deadline incited a great deal of fear, users of the platform did not have the same reaction to the April deadline due to understanding that negotiations are underway to reach an agreement.

Sam Joewik, 22, an environmental science major, uses



ZAKERIA ALMAJRABI | WASHTENAW VOICE

Zayd Nur, a Washtenaw Technical Middle College student, expresses, “A lot of small businesses would be affected by the TikTok ban.”

TikTok for entertainment and keeping up to date with news, though she is careful not to fully trust what she sees on the platform before verifying it herself.

Joewik finds the app useful for its ability to convey lots of information in a quick manner, but said that the downside is that it cannot be trusted to be accurate.

“You got to be aware that anything on the internet, take it with a grain of salt. You got to do your own research for anything you see on there,” Joewik said.

Joewik said that she was “annoyed” with the initial shutdown of the platform and said that she thought that, “if it really was a threat to public security, it wouldn’t have been gone for less than a day.” She proceeded to say that she had

“barely even noticed” that the app was set to be banned on April 5.

Aiden Borden, 17, a mechatronics engineering major, does not use TikTok. He feels that the app has done “a little more harm than good,” adding that he preferred to spend his time online learning from YouTube.

Borden said that he felt the app had been beneficial to humanity in that it had given “a place for my generation to go.”

He went on to say that the downside is that those who are on TikTok “a lot” can find that their world revolves more around their online presence than reality.

“It’s a mixed bag, as with everything,” Borden said.

Salman said that the most surprising part of this entire

situation was that it has been “eye-opening” to see how many people are turning from traditional professions to making a living off of online content.

One of the main things that distinguishes TikTok from other social media platforms is the “TikTok shop,” which enables content creators to earn an income from selling physical products. Many content creators earn their living entirely through TikTok.

“This is a media lesson here that we should never depend on one platform because platforms come and go. They change with time. However, your content should be your content, whatever you’re trying to do,” Salam said.

Frost laws delay EV charger install



KALEB WIELAND | WASHTENAW VOICE

There are four EV chargers currently at WCC Health and Fitness center (HFC). Along with the four at the HFC, there are EV chargers at the parking garage.

SASHA HATINGER
Staff Writer

Associate Vice President of Operations, Craig Whipstock shared updates on the current installation of Electric Vehicle chargers on Washtenaw Community College’s campus. Installing EV chargers is at a stand-still with the current frost laws in place. Frost laws prevent cement trucks from driving on the roads in the winter, according to Whipstock.

According to previous Voice reporting, six new 40-amp chargers will be installed in front of the Morris J. Lawrence building (lot one) and eight-level two chargers behind the Crane Liberal Arts and Science Building (lots six and seven) within a budget of \$306,280.

That budget is part of the Established Green Fund, created to subsidize anything

supporting the green initiative. The cost of purchasing fleet EVs or electric riding lawn mowers would be part of the Established Green Fund.

Pouring the cement pads is the next step, Whipstock said. With the underground cabling complete, the cement pads will be poured, and transformers will be set, along with the control panels and the finalization of the process to complete installation of the EV chargers—once the frost laws are lifted.

“We’re hoping to have this done by the end of May, beginning of June,” Whipstock said.

Two charging stations will go in parking lot one, six and seven.

“Each charging station will charge two cars, we’re putting in two chargers [in each lot], which means we’ll be able to charge four cars,” Whipstock said.

Policies

CONTINUED FROM A1

A “Dear Colleague Letter” is a form of subregulatory guidance federal agencies use to spread information about various legal issues, including the agency’s interpretation of law and enforcement priorities, according to Saul Ewing Law Firm, a Delaware-based law firm.

The federal government, mainly through the Department of Education, can communicate regulations or guidance that influence district policy or make funding contingent on certain policies. This is the same for state rules that may come from state education commissions and superintendents, executive orders from governors, or grant conditions, according to Ballotpedia. This means that institutions, like WCC, have to follow federal and state law.

The Voice inquired with Linda Blakey, provost of student services, on Feb. 24 regarding these changes. Blakey, who responded via email, said she had no additional information to share besides what she had said in a previous Voice reporting.

The Voice also emailed Clarence Jennings, vice president of student success, on March 12 for a comment with no response.

When asked what students can expect from the policy changes, Fleming said that she doesn’t expect much to change for students. Most of the changes the board is looking at are making sure the language across policies matches what the State of Michigan says.

“We have to abide by the state of Michigan, and the state of Michigan has to abide by the constitution ... so we’re going through and making sure all of our policies are normalized in their language so that it matches at least the state of Michigan,” she said.

Fran LeFort, director of WCC’s media relations, declined an interview with the Voice regarding the reevaluation of policies, but shared an email from WCC President Rose Bellanca’s office to faculty and staff reaffirming WCC’s commitment to open access to high-quality education and unwavering support for every student who walks through WCC’s doors.

The email also said that the college is closely monitoring new federal developments, reviewing and updating relevant pages on WCC’s website to ensure they provide the most accurate and up-to-date information.

CRIME LOG

The following events were reported by WCC Public Safety between March 27 and April 2.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

On March 27, Public Safety responded to a report of a student who was disrupting a class. The 18-year-old female overheard comments by two other students about her friend. The female student began screaming and causing a disruption. Public Safety was called and the disorderly conduct was handled with the instructor of the class.

LARCENY

On March 28, Public Safety responded to a report of a debit card being stolen. The student who reported the incident left the wallet in a classroom, when it was recovered cash and the debit card were not in the wallet. The card was used fraudulently off campus. Public Safety referred the victim to the Washtenaw County Sheriff.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY

On April 2, Public Safety received a report of an individual going through unlocked vehicles on lot six. The suspect was described as a male wearing a white surgical mask. The suspect was also seen wearing a navy blue shirt, red and white blocked jacket, green jogging pants, white sneakers and a fur lined hoodie. The license plate from the suspect was seen but Public Safety has no leads as of now.

TRESPASSING

On April 2, Public Safety responded to a report of an individual who was reported at the Health and Fitness Center (HFC) after being asked to not return without talking to HFC administration. This individual was not a student. The HFC called Public Safety and they asked the individual to leave.

Gun injuries are the #1 cause of death for children and teens in America.

Be part of the solution at
AgreeToAgree.org

Source: Gun Violence in the U.S. 2022, Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions.



Compiled by: Lexi Stephens and Lily Cole | The Washtenaw Voice

events

ARTS & CRAFTS

MUSIC & FUN

ON CAMPUS

CRULLERS AND CHURROS

April 16 | 6-9 p.m.

Zingerman's Bakehouse | 3723 Plaza Dr., Ann Arbor

If you're someone who loves to bake, this is an event for you! This hands-on, in-person event will show participants how to make Churros and Crullers. Participants will also leave with coupons.

KNITTING PLUS

April 22 | 6-8 p.m. | Meets weekly on Mondays

Whittaker Triangular Bay | 5577 Whittaker Rd., Ypsilanti MI

Looking to add a little knit to your life? Meet with other yarnies and share your projects and ideas. Open to all, any handcraft welcome!

CONSTELLATION CROSS STITCH

April 23 | 6-7 p.m.

Ann Arbor District Library | 343 South Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor, MI

Located in the Traverwood Branch program room, anyone is welcome to come and create a starry scene using white thread on dark blue cross stitch fabric. Some special stitches, like the Algerian Eye Star, connected by simple cross stitches, turn into a constellation!



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Cross stitching can sometimes take up to eight hours, depending on how big a stitch is.

TALK, TASTE & LEARN WITH WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

April 16 | 6-8 p.m.

Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea | 123 W Washington St., Ann Arbor

This event is part of the Women in Entrepreneurship series that is hosted at Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea. The guest speaker will be Christy Howden, CEO of Wolverine Pickleball.

IFFY: INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL YPSILANTI

April 17, 18, 19 | times vary

Riverside Arts Center | 76 N Huron St., Ypsilanti

This event features films from independent producers in the Michigan area. There will also be a creative workshop that aims to help the influx of independent film producers.

BLACK & WHITE BALL 2025 (SPRING GALA)

April 26 | 6 p.m.

Ann Arbor City Club | 1830 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor

The annual Ann Arbor symphony gala is back! Find tickets at <https://a2so.org/black-and-white-ball/>.



PHOTO FROM IFFY'S WEBSITE

Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti has been bringing local and independent films to the Ypsi/Arbor area since 2020.

TRIVIA NIGHT!

April 17 | 5-6 p.m.

Student Center | Garrett's

Gather a team of students and come to compete against other teams in trivia for a prize, hosted by the Department of Student Development and Activities every third Thursday of the month in the Student Center at Garrett's

MOVIE NIGHT: 'THE WILD ROBOT'

April 22 | 5-7 p.m.

Student Center | Community Room

Ready to celebrate Earth Day with a movie showing? Gather in the community room for a movie screening of "The Wild Robot." Free popcorn and food are included.

WCC IM KICKBALL

April 22 | 5-6:30 p.m.

WCC Athletic Fields

Wanna test out your kickball skills? RSVP to participate in this event hosted by the Office of WCC Sports. For more information, follow this link: <https://wccnet.campuslabs.com/engage/event/10755113>.



PAULA FARMER | VOICE FILE PHOTO

Rich Rezler, director of communications at WCC, pitches the ball for his team for the 2024 IM kickball game.



The Loop

NEWS FOR AND BY STUDENTS

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