

# THE WASHTENAW VOICE

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Ann Arbor, Michigan

www.washtenawvoice.com

## Graduate speaker inspires positivity

BECK ELANDT  
Staff Writer

When it comes to good role models, Bryan Wilson, this year's graduate speaker, has a gift in comforting those around him.

Wilson's career after high school began with an interest in graphic design and social media, learning enough on his own to work at Heartland Baptist Bible College in Oklahoma City and eventually picking up some videography.

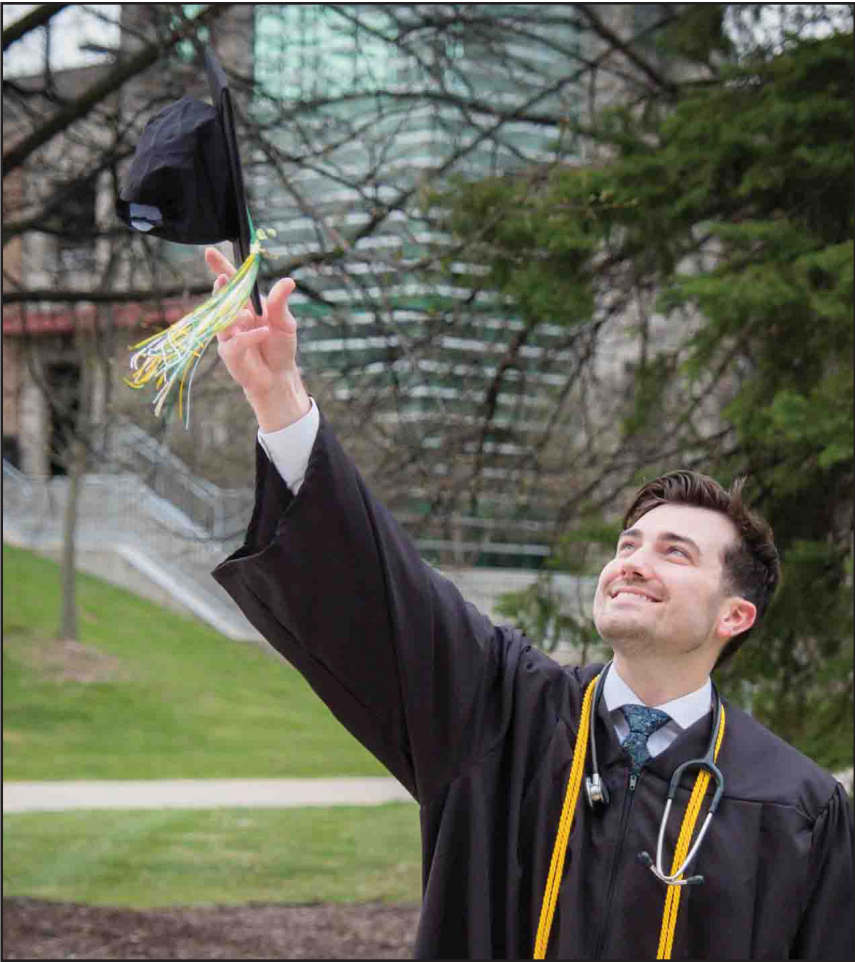
Currently, Wilson is a third-year nursing major at WCC, but he still uses his Oklahoma experience to complement his wife's photography business about three to four times a year as well as volunteering at church for their social media and designing graphics.

Matthew Scicluna, a classmate and close friend of Wilson, said that he and his classmates were challenged in the nursing program, and that Wilson was always making an effort to improve peoples' well-being.

"He's just so positive, and he makes them feel assured that everything's going to work out in class, cause it's a really tough program," Scicluna said.

Another classmate, Meghan Sullivan, is just wrapping up the nursing program with Wilson.

Having clinical experiences with him while working at different hospitals, Sullivan notes that Wilson was great at treating people with ease and was also super caring, compassionate



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE  
Bryan Wilson, a WCC student, is graduating this semester with his associates in nursing. Many of his classmates say that he is caring and compassionate when he works as a nurse in different hospitals.

and competent with what he does.

"Any organization would be very lucky to have him," said Sullivan. "He has a great personality and a great sense of humor. And being in the program with him made it fun."

Wilson stated that there have been several highs and lows through-

out his time at WCC, but what he found to be the greatest help throughout this time was his faith and the people he surrounded himself with.

A message Wilson strongly stands by is to "surround yourself with people who love and support you, and find something to believe in."

## Plastic water bottles no longer sold on campus

ALICE MCGUIRE  
Deputy Editor

Washtenaw Community College has eliminated the sale of plastic water bottles on campus, replacing them with more environmentally sustainable alternatives, such as boxed water and aluminum water bottles. This change has been in effect since April 1, 2025.

Rebecca Andrews, resource recovery manager at WCC, described her role as being in charge of trying to keep things that are discarded on campus out of the landfill. According to Andrews, about 60% of discarded material on campus does not end up in a landfill.

Andrews said that her biggest concern is that people might not realize that they can recycle boxed water.

"People just have to put them in the green bins, and that's where I have some concern that there might be confusion because it's a box and the green bins are labeled bottles, cans, containers," said Andrews.

Andrews also said that all water fountains on campus are in the process of being updated into filtered water refill stations, and that the one in the Student Center by the stairs has already been converted.

Edward Bottke, 31, a cybersecurity major who usually brings his own water bottle to campus, said he felt the change was a good step towards reducing waste. For students who might be investing in their first reusable water, Bottke recommended being sure to clean them regularly.

It is generally recommended to wash reusable water bottles daily.

Rebecca DeFauw, 18, a pre-engineering major, said that, while she wasn't completely sure of the environmental or health impacts of aluminum, she was glad to see the change due to concern over microplastics leaching into the water, adding, "the expiration date (on the bottle) is not



ZAKERIA ALMAJRABI | WASHTENAW VOICE  
A WTCM student, Talal Baker, is staying hydrated while avoiding microplastics. WCC has stopped the sale of plastic water bottles and instead is selling boxed water and aluminum water bottles.

for the water, it's for the plastic."

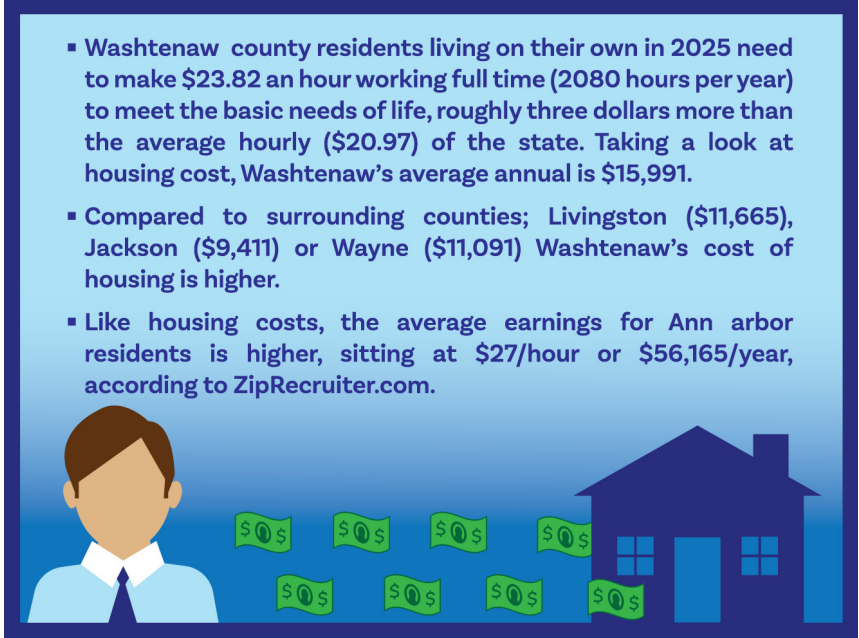
Right now, a 16 oz aluminum bottle of Aquafina is \$2.50 from the vending machine on the first floor in the Student Center, while an 18 oz aluminum bottle of Smart Water is \$2.99 from the campus bookstore.

Austin Chapman, 19, an environmental science major, said he used to use plastic water bottles, but that his major has made him cautious

about microplastics. He said he finds the aluminum bottles affordable and that he has found them easy to reuse. "It's just a net positive."

Emily Thompson, faculty in the biology department and faculty lead for the Center for Sustainability and Resilience, said "This has been a concern of students for a number of years, and we're so glad that this is something that we're moving forward on."

## Making employment work post-WCC



JADA HAUSER | WASHTENAW VOICE  
The cost of living in Washtenaw county is notably higher than in neighboring areas.

BECK ELANDT  
Staff Writer

As you walk around the campus, you will likely come across the following message: "What do you call someone who went to WCC? Employed."

It's not easy to track the career trajectory of students post-college, but it may be worth considering their limitless possible demographics. One can take classes to explore their options, transfer to another institution, earn a certificate or master a skill. One can be supported by their family, the government or themselves. One could be going through a rough patch in life, have everything planned out for the next five years or have no clue as to what they want to do.

Anchored in Ypsilanti, Eastern Michigan University (EMU) graduate and WCC alumnus Maggie Hanks makes a living through massage therapy and is a great example of how community can impact a life. Having spent time dabbling in different courses and careers, Hanks knew all along that Washtenaw's community was worth it.

"At WCC I got to experiment," said Hanks, adding, "I just have my roots here; this is my home, and I like learning for fun."

While it's the student's job to pursue and decide on careers, it's the college's job to offer a variety of programs that lead to solid, in-demand career opportunities.

When people in Washtenaw pay property taxes, some of the funds go to supporting WCC and its programs, making it a reasonable investment in the local economy, similar to how Michigan roads are funded.

### Policy

On the topic of policy, look no further than the board of trustees.

Every program and course that WCC provides costs money. At the most recent board of trustees meeting on April 22, trustees approved five new programs. Trustee Eileen Peck was the only one who did not approve of the paraprofessional certificate program, citing the lack of pay it would provide as a career.

While there is currently little data on how many times or how often people switch careers in the state of Michigan, trustees agree that the community should pay attention to its workforce's needs and, ideally, it can provide workers for itself.

Regarding the cost of living in Washtenaw County, Peck said in an interview with the Voice that "WCC has a responsibility to create programs for students that will allow them to earn a high wage in high-demand fields."

Peck noted that "those kinds of programs can attract new employers and new investment in the economy,

and can help people find ways to afford to live in Washtenaw County."

### Cost of living

Referencing MIT's Living wage calculator, a Washtenaw resident living on their own in 2025 needs to make \$23.82 an hour working full time (2,080 hours per year) to meet the basic needs of life, roughly three dollars more than the average hourly wage (\$20.97) of the state.

Washtenaw's average annual housing cost is \$15,991, accounting for rent and mortgage. Compared to surrounding counties, Livingston (\$11,665), Jackson (\$9,411) or Wayne (\$11,091), it makes sense why someone might choose to live there instead.

Like cost, the average earnings for Ann Arbor residents are higher, at \$27 per hour or \$56,165 per year, according to ZipRecruiter.com. However, it's worth noting that the top three employers in Washtenaw County are all healthcare departments. Annarborusa.org names these as U-M healthcare, Trinity Health Michigan, and VA Ann Arbor, which are typically high-paying fields across the country.

### Commute consideration

Jason Beckerleg, an EMU and WCC alumnus, had a bachelor's in fine arts from EMU before earning a certificate in graphic design from WCC in 2009. After working freelance for newspapers in the Washtenaw area, Beckerleg secured a job as the director of marketing and communications for Emerson School and moved to Milan County from a pricey apartment in Ann Arbor, where he commutes.

"I'm tied," said Beckerleg about his Washtenaw roots, knowing he could "make a lot more money somewhere else." Beckerleg's best advice for anyone trying to afford a living while attending WCC is to make good connections with teachers and have a couple of good mentors. Beckerleg, like many other residents, loves the community and feels as though it is worth the cost.

It stands to reason that the closer someone can reside to their employer, the more effective their lifestyle. Putting an hour each workday on the commute clock can alter one's lifestyle.

An article on Indeed.com, a global job site, sheds light on what makes a commute worthwhile. Your morning routine, hobbies and family time can all be affected by a time crunch between work and home.

The team at Indeed said, "The commute is an important factor when trying to decide whether to accept a job offer."

SEE EMPLOYMENT, A2





War in the social media era uniquely impacts mental health

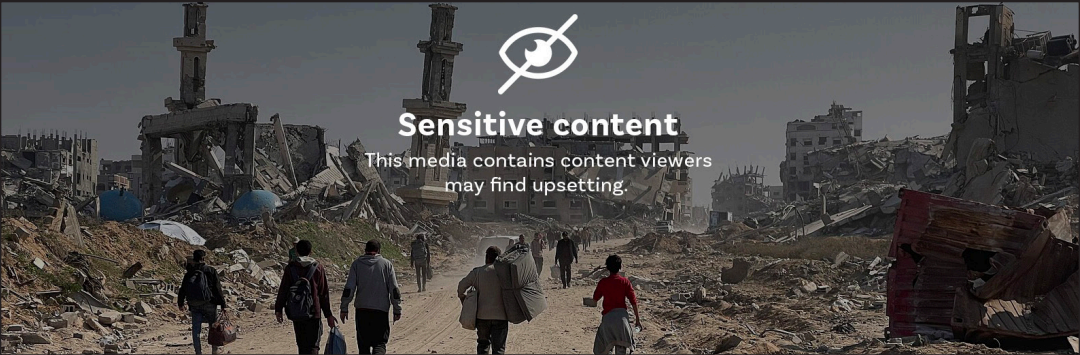


Photo illustration depicts displaced Palestinians in the Gaza Strip during Gaza-Israel war. Smartphones have made it so images, including graphic content of war, are accessible to users 24 hours a day.

CLAIRE HALL  
Contributor

The war on Gaza and the war on Ukraine have been heavily recorded and are posted on social medial platforms. While swiping on a platform like Instagram, one can run into an influencer talking about a war or a blurry video begging to be viewed, that depicts violence and gore. This has exposed students and teachers to the violence of war. “I’ve seen a few dead bodies,” said Nadeen Hussein, a WTMC student, explaining that her Instagram algorithm will sometimes suggest violent content, and it affects her. “Mostly what’s affected me is the negative things, for example, the kill count of children in Gaza.”

Since the declaration of war on Gaza in 2023, more than 60,000 Palestinians have been killed, and over 1,000 Israelis have been killed. According to Al Jazeera, 44% of Palestinians who have been killed are children. Millions of Palestinians have been displaced within the Gaza strip.

“We keep it on all the time,” said Selena Kahla, another WTMC student, speaking about her home, where the news runs on the TV all day. “It’s hard to see the stuff that’s going on there. A lot of them are just babies...just newborns.”

Over 100 children are killed a day in the Gaza Strip,

according to Al Jazeera. Sean Denomme, an engineering student at WCC, said with regards to the news, “you can’t seem to get away from it, and you’re not sure if you want to.”

He recalled that, during the peak of the war in Ukraine, it impacted his day-to-day life dramatically. According to UALosses.org, since the declaration of war in 2014, over 140,000 Ukrainian soldiers have lost their lives, and according to The Kyiv Independent, over 900,000 Russian soldiers have lost their lives.

The students mentioned that there are moments of hope online, but the videos that tend to stick in people’s heads the most are the negative ones.

“It’s a human reaction to be drawn into this type of content,” said Jim Bauer, a licensed professional counselor at WCC. The algorithms that control what people view know that the most intense content will get the most engagement.

Bauer advises students to be careful with how much content they view.

“I would say consume the minimal effective dose. How much do you need to stay on top of things—I do think it’s important.” He also suggests “focus on your mental well-being as well, create some guardrails to give yourself limits.”

Christina Herbin, professional faculty in the psychology department at WCC, said she

has been on a news cleanse as of late because over-exposure to the news has left her with stress, and a feeling of helplessness.

“We care so much and have a desire to alleviate another person’s suffering, but we can’t necessarily go there and change the circumstances, so it puts us in the spot of being really helpless.” She suggests for students to do research on organizations like UNICEF that are supplying food to those in need. She also recommends to rally, to talk to local elected officials, to sign petitions, or just little things to help.

Myron Covington, an Intercultural Communications Teacher at WCC, said there’s been an uptick in speeches in his classroom about the war on Gaza. Because of the amount of news and media coverage, it’s hard not to learn about it, and want to speak on it. But he warns that keeping to one side of a topic and never looking at the other side is dangerous.

“We like people who confirm us, we like people who identify with us...we like like-minded people,” said Covington, who emphasized that it’s important to listen to people and to try to understand them.

“Try to view that other person, and give them the benefit from the start. Make a genuine good-faith effort to say ‘this is a good person’ from the start,” said Covington.

WCC alumni take their dreams to infinity and beyond

SASHA HATINGER  
Staff Writer

WCC hosted a “space mission launch countdown,” celebrating two WCC alumni: Aisha Bowe, crew member, and Nathan Perry, launch vehicle test engineer, for the Blue Origin NS-31 recreational mission to space on Monday, April 14, in the Morris Lawrence Building.

The event honoring the two WCC alumni was filled to the brim with anticipation and excitement as a sense of pride and honor electrified the crowd collectively.

Gasps of shock broke the silence as the spacecraft blasted off, with roaring applause following quickly after. Audience members’ eyes were glued to the screen as the Blue Origin NS-31 soared into space, ascending through levels of the atmosphere.

The Blue Origin NS-31 mission was an inclusive experience between the astronauts and viewers as the astronauts had mics on, which allowed viewers to hear them in the spacecraft sharing their exhilaration during their journey into space. With about one-third of the spacecraft being windows, the astronauts brought viewers along, sharing their passion as they saw sights like the pink full moon.

This mission to space was the first of its kind, featuring six astronauts who were all women, including Aisha Bowe, singer Katy Perry, TV personality Gayle King, film producer Kerianne Flynn, activist Amanda Nguyễn and Lauren Sánchez, journalist and owner of Blue Origin Jeff Bezos’ fiancée.

The spaceship creates a noise as it is traveling faster than the speed of sound, as the astronaut’s trip to space nears an end and prepares for landing. The sonic boom reverberated loudly—echoing deeply through the desert of Texas. The astronaut’s trip to space



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JD SCOTT  
WCC President, Rose Bellanca, was in attendance for the Blue Origin NS-31 mission to space at WCC. Bellanca said that this is inspirational for students by encouraging them to make their dreams come true.

took around ten minutes to complete, reaching an altitude of 66 miles high, according to an article on the CBSNEWS website following the space launch.

15-year-old Ajahnae Harrison was an attendee of the event. Harrison shared that she met Aisha Bowe at one of Bowe’s STEM LINGO camps at WCC almost three years ago, mentioning that she had worked closely with Bowe for a few summers and had even taught a STEM LINGO camp in Bowe’s absence.

Harrison described watching Bowe’s mission to space as being “an emotional roller-coaster,” stating that she was proud of Bowe and her team.

“Wow, I really know her, and I really worked with her and to see her going to space—

that’s phenomenal,” Harrison said.

WCC President, Rose Bellanca, was also in attendance for the Blue Origin NS-31 mission to space at WCC.

Bellanca shared feelings of pride for both Bowe and Perry and all their accomplishments, highlighting that all faculty and staff of WCC and Washtenaw County taxpayers are here to support students and their success and dreams.

“It’s so inspirational for our students because anyone’s dreams can come true. Of course, there will be barriers or twists and turns in the road, but that’s life. Keep your eye on the prize, you’ll get there. We’re going to do all we can to help you while you’re here with us,” Bellanca said.

CRIME LOG

The following event was reported by WCC Public Safety on April 15.

FRAUD

On April 15, Public Safety responded to a fraud incident at WCC. WCC received a past due notice on their account from O-X Studios, an architectural firm that does business with the college, for \$15,000. According to the investigation, the vendor’s email was hacked, and the payment that WCC sent to the email was sent to another routing number. WCC is waiting to see if they can reverse the payment. That is still pending. This is an open investigation.

Corrections

In the April 15, 2025 edition of the Washtenaw Voice, the following errors were identified.

**Correction 1:** The caption of a photo from the Ann Arbor Film Festival mistakenly identified the subject as Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor. The identity of the subject is not known.

**Correction 2:** The name of groundskeeper Ronald Schulz was misspelled.

**Correction 3:** The book club run by the Sustainability Literacy Task Force meets only in the fall and winter semesters.

**Clarification:** A headline on The Voice website for an article about the WCC dance team was updated. The team does not perform ballet and the original headline was misleading.

Employment

CONTINUED FROM A1

Through the services WCC’s Center for Career Success provides, students can receive career advising, help prepare for interviews, and receive resume reviews, in addition to accessing career opportunities through the “Handshake” platform. Kordilia Noble, director of the Center of Career Success, promotes the connection between college students and their careers. “We don’t want to limit students’ opportunities,” she says.

WCC has served as a springboard for the lives of its former students. For those interested in WCC and how its programs extend into the workforce, visit the Center for Career Success in SC 112 or online through the WCC website.

For information about graduation/transfer out rates and other enrollment statistics, visit the National Center for Education Statistics and search for Washtenaw Community College.

Japanese Language & Culture Club

The JLCC will be hosting a **Cosplay Cafe** on **Friday, May 2nd**, from 2pm to 6pm at Garrett’s in the Student Center. Entrance fees at the door are \$15/person, and will include a **food, drinks, desserts** and **games**. We are also partnering with WCC’s Esports to host a **Smash Brothers tournament** at the TI Building Arena. Please use the QR code above for more info! **ありがとうございます!**





Fashion  
WASHTENAW

Sara Elizabeth Dugger | Contributor



“It’s based on an anime called “Demon Slayer.” It’s my favorite character, Tomioka Giyuu. My favorite part of the outfit is the wig!”

**Samantha Peach**  
Criminal justice, 19



“It was something easy. I wanted something easy to party in! I’m going out tonight, so that’s important! My favorite piece is definitely the sweater. I also really like the jewelry!”

**Martina Reading Sunol**  
Environmental science, 19

Lyric Lane

Henry Sincic | Contributor

What was your favorite ‘song of the summer’ growing up?

“Rollin’ (Air Raid Vehicle)” by Limp Bizkit



“It sounds like a carefree song. It’s the kind of song to cruise around with the windows down to.”

**Leo Mitchell**  
Exercise science, 18

“Crazy Train” by Ozzy Osbourne



“It’s the first rock and roll song I heard growing up. I had a little flip phone and that was one of the ring tones on it.”

**Terrence Wysocki**  
Applied sciences, 20

“Call Me Maybe” by Carly Rae Jepsen



“It’s a song I listened to a lot as a kid, so it kind of reminds me of (summer).”

**Nova Barksdale**  
Undecided, 15

“GONE, GONE / THANK YOU” by Tyler, the Creator



“The vibes of it are great. The instruments remind me of summer.”

**Samantha Twichell**  
Social work, 16

“Just The Way You Are” by Billy Joel



“I grew up listening to Billy Joel, and it reminds me of being at home, listening to my parents playing it.”

**Maddie Wilson**  
Undecided, 15

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 are you looking forward to for summer?

“Spending more time with friends. I have some electives coming up, and I’d spend time outside, probably explore the trails out back.”

**Katie Ulinski**  
Liberal arts, 16



“The good weather. It’s picnic season. I like hiking and going outside with friends.”

**Keaka Cagle**  
Undecided, 24



“Just getting stuff together. I’d probably do creative stuff, preparing for the next stage, start a band, join a band or get a second job.”

**Nelson Portis**  
3D animation, 23

“I’m looking forward to taking a lighting class with friends, the warm weather and a Kalahari convention trip.”

**Jillian Sullivan**  
Digital media arts, 24



“The summer lighting class with friends, dressing up for Comic Con, the nice weather and going outside.”

**Kayla Winters**  
Digital media arts, 24





# Stand up against attacks on free speech, press

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Student voices have been among the first to be silenced within this political climate. One of the first was Mahmoud Kahlil, a green card holder, prominent Palestinian activist and recent graduate of Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs. Kahlil led campus protests against the Gaza war, negotiated with administrators on divestment from Israel and is a green card holder married to a U.S. citizen expecting a baby soon. He was at the forefront of many protests on Columbia’s campus.

Last month, Kahlil was followed to his building and detained by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer, handcuffed and detained after agents claimed to act on a State Department order, before being transferred from New Jersey to Louisiana.

The arrest of Kahlil was a declaration from President Donald Trump as the first of many in his campaign to deport international students involved in pro-Palestinian protests, framing them as antisemitic Hamas sympathizers.

The Student Press Law Center, co-signed by other national student media organizations, released a media alert following the detainment of Rumeysa Ozturk, a Turkish doctoral student from Tufts University. Ozturk’s “only



Students protest the Israel-Hamas war at the Victory Salute statue at San Jose State University

SAMMY SPARTAN | WIKIMEDIA

demonstrated offence was co-authoring an opinion piece published in her student newspaper” complied with current U.S. policy, according to the alert.

Today, the essence of free speech is being tested, and it’s essential to reflect on the cru-

cial role it plays in our society, especially in student journalism.

Student journalists are at the forefront of topics that affect their campus. The First Amendment protects five freedoms, including speech and the press. All students at pub-

lic institutions are protected under this law. From administrative censorship and retaliation to the complex pressures of maintaining objectivity in a politically charged environment, the hurdles faced by student journalists are becoming more prevalent.

The Voice is aware of these concerns, and we take pride in our promise to seek the truth, even when it is difficult or unpopular. We uphold our journalistic integrity through a Code of Ethics set by the Society of Professional Journalists, which calls for

seeking the truth and reporting it, minimizing harm, acting independently and being accountable and transparent.

In a world where the exchange of ideas is increasingly polarized, we must protect our rights to speak freely, without fear of punishment or reprisal from the government.

Now more than ever, we must stand firm in our belief that free speech and a free press are not just privileges but essential cornerstones of democracy.

Anyone can speak their opinion, not just student journalists. As long as the student does not violate college policies or interrupt classes, they have the right to speak out. Each college will have a different description of what is considered disruptive. Yet, the college finding your position disagreeable is not enough to qualify as disruptive behavior, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Due to the uncertainty of the current political climate, familiarize yourself thoroughly with campus policy before you begin any activism. Policies for WCC can be found at <https://www.wccnet.edu/about/policies/>.

Standing up for First Amendment rights is all of our responsibilities, whether you agree with the content or not. Speak out, do your research and we can create a climate where everyone can thrive and voices can be heard.

## REVIEW

### ‘White Nights’ book teaches timeless lessons in love

JENNA JABBAR  
Contributor

“White Nights,” the prominent book by Fyodor Dostoevsky, is considered one of the most influential books in human sentiment and philosophy due to the ‘hidden’ messages in the book.

“White Nights” discusses the miserable condition of the narrator, whose name we do not know, and how he falls in love with Nastenka: a 16 year old girl grieving for her lover.

In the book, the narrator helps Nastenka reconnect with her lover, whom he promised would propose, yet did not. At the end of the book, the narrator bursts into emotion and sentiment, telling Nastenka that he loves her and is very fond of her. While she was about to run off with him, her lover made an appearance. Nastenka runs off with her lover and leaves the narrator stranded and bewildered.

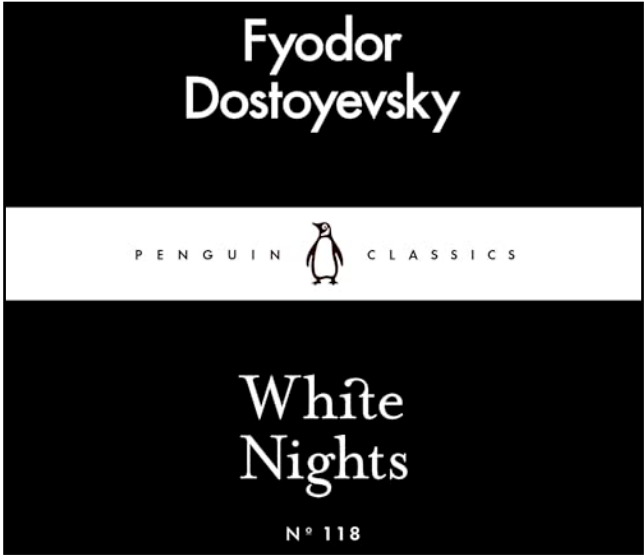


PHOTO FROM AUDIBLE

Although the book’s plot is very minimal and simple, it holds a lot of value. The book debates the human condition and how we value love and happy endings. We often conceive and expect a terrific intimate relationship with someone, regardless of the realistic condition of the person we love.

Most of the time, the person we daydream about only views us as a friend or an ac-

quaintance; just like in “White Nights,” where the Narrator was aware Nastenka could not be his because she was promised to another man, still, he fooled himself into thinking he could make her love him.

Nastenka also made it clear that her relationship with the narrator was just a friendship. This phenomenon is widespread amongst many individuals in which falling in love with somebody defines

their social status, and it is considered a burden if you are not in a relationship. I have widely seen this happen among young men and teenagers. Most of the time, they end up having childish affairs with little-to-no meaning, but they claim relationships happen to be the best thing even if it is not a good engagement.

In my opinion, this book should be read by anyone who is falling into a loophole of limerence. This book reminds us not to get too ahead of ourselves and excessively daydream about someone or to set unrealistic expectations for when, where and how we will meet our person. We should not be like the narrator who was so immersed in Nastenka that he did not properly introduce his name nor important information about him. All we know is how lonely he is: we can see how his loneliness was taking a toll on his mental health. A key takeaway from “White Nights” is to put ourselves first and to be acquainted with the appropriate person.

## FROM THE TEAM

### Goodbye for now



WASHTENAW VOICE

The winter 2024-2025 Voice scholarship team poses for a photo at the Michigan Community College Press Association conference.

Dear readers,

As we wrap up the winter semester, the Voice team wants to thank you for joining us on the journey. We want to congratulate all members of the WCC community on their achievements this semester, no matter how great or small. We will miss our team members who are graduating, but we are so excited to see what they do next. The Voice will return with more news in the fall semester. We hope to see you in the newsroom.

The Washtenaw Voice



WASHTENAWVOICE.COM

WASHTENAWVOICE | WASHTENAWVOICE

#### OUR TEAM AND ITS ROLE

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

#### YOUR VOICE

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

#### CORRECTIONS

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

#### FIRST COPY’S FREE

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

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# Beat the summer heat with iDKHOW



LILY COLE  
Editor

Ah summer. The time for beaches, sun-kissed skin, and staying up until your eyes become heavy, falling asleep with the windows open, with crickets playing a lullaby that just lulls you to sleep.

Ugh, I hate it. I never liked summer. It’s my least favorite season, mostly because of the heat. Spring and fall are my favorites, but I do love something about summer: the music.

You’ll find me playing a range of genres, from country to rhythm and blues. Some top artists for this season are N.E.R.D, Rascal Flatts and Frank Ocean—all artists who have a special place in my heart for the heat of summer. But who’s someone that screams summer, you can play all year-round? I don’t know, or maybe I do.

I DON’T KNOW HOW BUT THEY FOUND ME (stylized as iDKHOW) is an indie pop project led by Dallan Weekes, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Originally a duo with drummer Ryan Seaman (formerly from The Brobecks, which was Weekes and Seaman’s first band, they formed in 2003).

iDKHOW was formed in secret in 2014. Yep, in secret. Weekes and Seaman would deny that the band existed until they debuted publicly with “1981 Extended Play” in



PHOTO BY MANIC PROJECT

Dallan Weekes from iDKHOW. They released their latest album in Feb. 2024.

2018.

They gained attention as “the hottest unsigned band in the world” before signing with Fearless Records. Their debut album, “Razzmatazz”, was released in 2020. After Seaman left the band in 2023, iDKHOW became a solo project, and Weekes released the second album, “Gloom Division,” in 2024. Some of the band’s standout songs are “Clusterhug”, “Bleed Magic” and “DOWNSIDE.”

Every time iDKHOW comes to Michigan, my friends and I have to go. It’s a tradition. We even braved a snowstorm in the dead of winter just to see them perform. Weekes’s stage presence is electric, mirroring what the band represents in a mystifying way.

iDKHOW’s sound mixes 80s synth-pop, alternative rock, and new wave, featuring catchy tunes, dramatic basslines and dynamic vocals, making their music both catchy and dark. Playing with themes of media and identity, the band explores the struggles of dealing with fame and how tough it can be to manage one’s self-image, often using satire.

They also touch on feeling alone, having doubts about oneself and wanting to escape the attention. Even though the lyrics can feel dark or heavy, the music is usually upbeat and fun, creating a vibe that combines serious themes with a catchy, retro sound. It’s like they take deep, personal topics and wrap them in cool, danceable tunes.

Drawing inspiration from Marc Bolan, David Bowie, Elvis Costello, The Ink Spots and Joe Jackson, Weekes has described the band’s style as “hipster nonsense” and “Glam Wham.” When the band first started, they described themselves as, “a band out of time, one that faded into obscurity after struggling to find success in the late 70s and early 80s.”

Their music, look and social media presence are all heavily influenced by the 1980s, and Weekes has said he draws a lot of inspiration from the pop culture of that era.

Don’t drive through a snowstorm to see them in person. Streaming services are perfectly fine for listening to this enigmatic band.



# Summertime reads for seeing the good in others

Step into the light with these book recommendations

ALICE MCGUIRE  
Deputy Editor

If you’re anything like me, you’ve probably spent the winter semester brute forcing yourself through a state of frozen horror, clinging to the promise of sunlight and survival, straining against the limitations of your corporeal form in order to complete your everyday tasks as your calf muscles withered alongside your New Year’s resolutions. I don’t much like cold weather or grey skies.

As far as I’m concerned, summer is the season of self-improvement. And there is nothing I want to strengthen more than my own faith in love and humanity. So, if you’re in need of a book to take on the nature trail this summer semester, here are my top picks for seeing the good in literally anyone:

**‘Borderline, Narcissistic, and Schizoid Adaptations: The Pursuit of Love, Admiration, and Safety’ by Elinor Greenberg, Ph.D.**

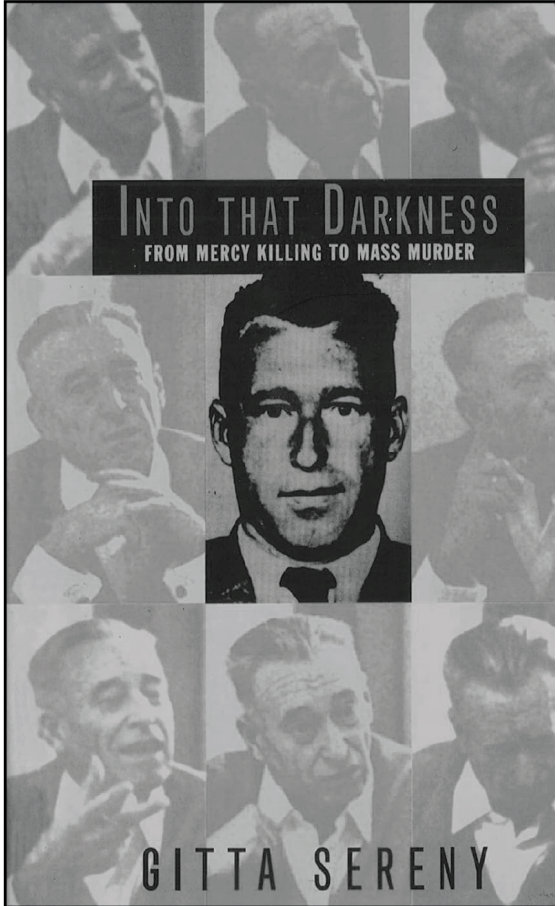
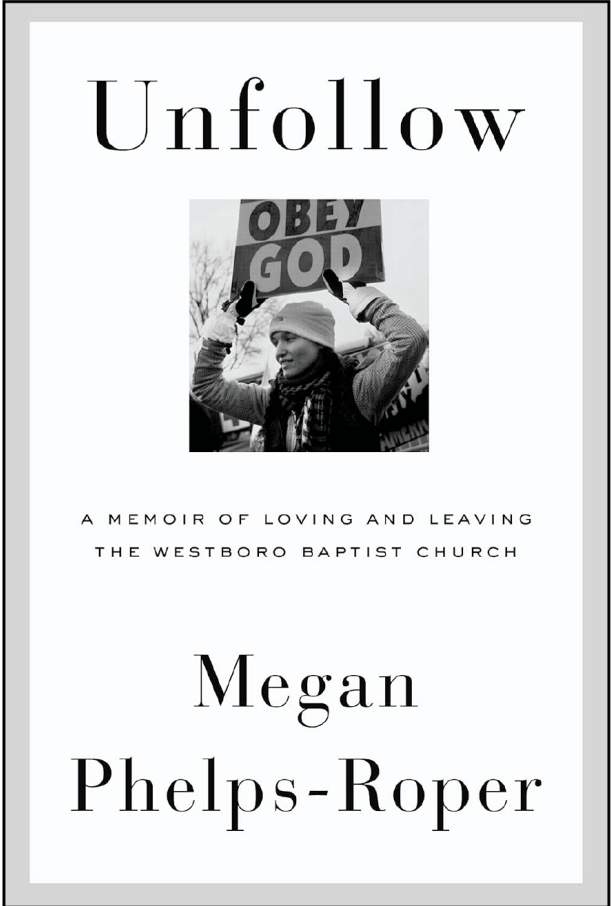
Are you tired of memes that claim every person who has ever caused harm is a narcissist and must be exiled from society? Using accessible language, Psychology Today writer and Gestalt therapy trainer Elinor Greenberg challenges the notion that a personality can be a disorder, leaving in its place a compassionate framework that renders it easy to name the patterns of strengths and weaknesses humans come to embody as a result of our nervous systems’ ability to adapt to survive our early environments. Unfortunately, the book is weirdly expensive, but it provides an opportunity to get acquainted with interlibrary loans through the Michigan eLibrary system at our beloved public libraries, just in time for summer reading challenges!

**‘Unfollow: A Journey from Hatred to Hope’ by Meagan Phelps-Roper**

When I took SOC 100, I wrote a letter to the Westboro Baptist Church, urging them to reconsider their ways. I didn’t anticipate finding myself, years later, transformed by the writing of someone who grew up within it. Phelps-Roper’s love for her family makes this memoir shine, while her belief in the human capacity for change and growth is contagious. I’ve found myself more inclined than ever to believe in the power of being kind on the internet since encountering her story, and I am forever grateful that she made the decision to share it.

**‘Into That Darkness: An Examination of Conscience’ by Gitta Sereny**

This book details the worst sins humankind is capable of as well as how one goes about rationalizing away their own part in enabling them. Maybe that’s not a summer read to some, but I need sunlight to push through the darkness. I don’t think I’ve encountered an example of the banality of evil that affected me more than Sereny’s long-form interview with Franz Stangl, who was commandant of the extermination camp, Treblinka. At this point, you might be confused as to why this book gives me hope, but let me spoil the ending: He admitted to his guilt. I didn’t used to think such a thing was possible—at least not for someone quite so guilty.



AMAZON

The Michigan eLibrary system makes it easy to read books stocked at any library in the state.





Crossword by Margie E. Burke

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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  
56 Jet black  
57 Sudden burst  
58 Butcher's stock  
59 Sad ending?  
60 Nymph chaser  
61 Goofs up

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 "Citizen \_\_\_\_"  
51 Exasperates  
52 Achievement  
54 FL airport letters

"IS IT SUMMER YET?" BY JADA HAUSER



"Remember class: what doesn't break you will look great on your GPA!"

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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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.

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

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.

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.

Emergency Dispatcher at Michigan State Police.

The dispatcher is an essential and crucial part of the law enforcement team. Dispatchers act in partnership with police officers working the road and supply critical information and crucial services for their day-to-day operation. Preliminary investigations, interpretations of complex computer printouts, coordinating the deployment of emergency personnel and equipment during any crisis situation and routine assignments. A working knowledge of interrogation techniques, CPR and Basic First Aid is required for this position.

Dental Assistant at Dental Care of Canton.

We are looking for a full-time Dental Assistant for our location to join our team of professionals. Applicants for this job are required to have hands-on experience as dental assistants, or formal training in dental assisting. If you are passionate about making a difference in the lives of others and are committed to delivering the highest quality care, we encourage you to apply for this exciting opportunity.

Deli Associate at Kroger Ann Arbor.

Prepare deli/bakery/bistro items per customer requests using

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

tered care.

Landscaper/Driver (Canton) at BrightView.

We're currently seeking a Crew Member. You love to spend your day outdoors cultivating amazing landscapes. You treat grass, trees and plots with great care and attention, doing whatever it takes to help them thrive. Here at BrightView, we appreciate people with such love for landscaping and greenery. What you'll do: You'll contribute to the many activities that make grass, flowers and client relationships bloom. Using a variety of equipment such as mowers, blowers, clippers, and edgers to create and prep soil for plant placement. Team members are also responsible for set up and clean up, and taking good care of our trucks and machinery.

Security Operations Intern - Summer 2025 at Rocket.

As a Security Operations Intern, you'll provide assistance and office support to the Security Technology team and other related areas of the business. As a valued member of our team, you'll help to improve functionality and increase efficiency on a day-to-day basis through communication, reporting, troubleshooting, and project management.

Automotive Mechanic at Michigan Staffing LLC.

Our client, a global company that partners with large, well-known manufacturers in the automotive industry in the areas of design, prototype, test, integrate, manufacture and assemble in the areas of e-Mobility, Autonomous Vehicles, performance vehicles, race cars, etc., is in need of Mechanics at their Allen Park and Livonia locations. The positions are long-term contract with the possibility of direct hire.

Teller (Full-time) Hartland Branch at LOC Credit Union.

As a vital member of our team, you'll help members achieve their financial goals through our "Let's Win. Together." principle. You'll engage with members to understand their financial needs, ensure efficient transactions, and educate them on our products and services. You'll also support daily branch operations. We're looking for someone with excellent communication and organizational skills, strong sales abilities, good computer skills, and a passion for helping members and teammates. Previous experience in credit union or bank cash handling is preferred, and a GED or high school diploma is required.





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## VISIT SC 109

Meetings every  
Monday 5 p.m.

## SEE YOUR WORK PUBLISHED

Now accepting applications:  
Email [Igkujawski@wccnet.edu](mailto:Igkujawski@wccnet.edu) to join the Voice.

## CONTACT OR APPLY

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





# How ‘BookTok’ changes the way we view books

JENNA JABBAR  
Contributor

If you are on TikTok, you might know of something called BookTok. It is a community where readers share their thoughts about books, review what they read and recommend books.

Social media can provide a space for readers to connect.

“It sounds like a way to share titles that people are enthusiastic about,” said Maryam Barrie, an English instructor at WCC. “I am—have always been—the kind of reader who keeps a list of books I want to read in the future. If other people are like that, then it would be good to get more participants.”

TikTok users share book recommendations with one another.

Nesreen Elhedy, a dual-enrolled student, believes that “you can get really good books from BookTok.”

BookTok and social media can have an impact on readers of all sorts, said Rayan Salam, WCC mass communications instructor.

“I think the big influence is really coming from social media and BookTok itself. Its BookTok users are, like, actively engaged with books. They create content, and they influence each other,” said Salam.



SOLENE FEYISSA | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS  
TikTok is a mobile app on the App Store and Google Play. It has videos based on your own algorithm.

To some, BookTok is famous for featuring books that include fantasy and romance.

Elhedy elaborated by saying, “I feel like the dominating side (is) probably the romance, especially because Colleen Hoover and the whole romance novels that are being turned into movies.”

Romance novels draw in readers for numerous reasons.

“I think romance novels in general spend a lot of time on peoples’ feelings being heard and seen, and a part of that is accepting who they are sexually,” Barrie said.

Once controversial topics have now become more mainstream in the media, Barrie said.

“They (the writer) probably would have ended up in jail,” said Barrie, before adding, “Then, when it was finally not obscene, a lot of flowering of the logic or sexual content has happened since then.”

BookTok and the rise of social media has also allowed for a more direct connection between readers and authors, Salam said.

“But now that dynamic has changed. Now, authors are directly connected to the readers, the audience members, and people are able to discover books that are no longer just controlled by the publishers themselves,” Salam said.

# Beloved English instructor closes 40-year chapter this August

YANA MCGUIRE  
Staff Writer

Sunlight from the large window shone on the collection of diverse books beautifully displayed behind Maryam Barrie, WCC English and writing professor, as she quietly reflected on her career.

For 40 years, Barrie has inspired students and faculty with her devotion to developing students’ interests in reading and artistic writing. However, as this semester comes to a close, one of the most influential English professors WCC has ever seen will be logging out of her Zoom classroom for the last time. Barrie is set to retire in August of this year.

Barrie’s commitment stems from her own humble beginnings.

“I was pretty certain as a young woman that I would never go to college,” Barrie said. “I was a high school dropout. I took the GED and felt like school sucks.”

School was boring for Barrie. Although she generally did well in school, she just didn’t like being there.

In 1981, Barrie enrolled at WCC and met three English teachers who changed her life for the better. Hal Weidner, Lauren Erickson and the late Dan Minnick, who saw her potential and began to develop it.

“With those three teachers, I was able to be like an apprentice teacher,” Barrie fondly recalls as she leaned back in her chair enough for the sunlight to hit the slight smile on her face. “They would say, why don’t you develop a handout on personal poems or a handout on something else? I would get terribly excited about that.”

Her excitement and leadership led her to a position as a WCC writing center tutor before she became a part-time English instructor in 1985. For the next 12 years, while working part-time, Barrie contin-



MARYAM BARRIE, A SEASONED WCC ENGLISH AND WRITING PROFESSOR, IS SET TO RETIRE THIS AUGUST AFTER 40 YEARS.

ued to expand her knowledge by earning a Bachelor’s degree at the University of Michigan and then her Master’s degree at Eastern.

During that time, she met her husband and had two children. Barrie recalls how great this time of her life was because she had the “best of both worlds”.

“They (Barrie’s daughters) both did homeschool a bit at Washtenaw,” Barrie recalls. “So, they would read underneath my desk. I’d be talking to a student, and they’d look over and see, like, oh, there’s a body under there.”

In 2002, Barrie started teaching full-time at WCC.

According to her colleagues, Barrie has been a pioneer of the English department’s cultural growth.

“She (Barrie) really developed our literature of the non-western world, which brought a world consciousness to our literature program,” Thomas Zimmerman, WCC’s writing center director and English professor, said. “It was groundbreaking because it brings in the whole idea of global culture, and not just the American or the European American perspective.”

Zimmerman, who has been with WCC since 1992, remembers how hard it was for anything outside of European literature to be accepted, and believes Barrie is a key factor in the modern style of instruction.

“I admire her adventurousness and her great humanity in doing that,” Zimmerman said.

“She helped to accelerate my awareness and acceptance of the fact that there’s a big world out there,” Zimmerman said. “Her moral perspective was very important to me, in a lot of ways, making me a better person and certainly a better teacher.”

Barrie served as president of the faculty union for a long time and was thought of as a sane and sensible leader, according to Zimmerman,

However, when asked what she would like her legacy at WCC to be, Barrie effortlessly replied that she wanted “people excited to pursue writing that makes them feel alive.”

“If students have authors that I’ve introduced them to that they’re excited to read, that would be great,” Barrie said.

## Quick bites Sweet and savory snacks on the go

ANNALENA EISEL  
Contributor

Ever find yourself wondering if the food you’re about to buy is going to be the food for you? Finding affordable and delicious foods that are close to where you’re at most is incredibly important to maintain your schedule.

### Great Lake Chips - Barbecue flavored

Another feature from The Spot, arguably the best chips around, is another student favorite and classic: barbecue flavor. Not underwhelming,

like many chips are. If you like a tangy barbecue sauce flavor on your chips, then give this one a try.

### The Hot Bar pizza

Fresh out of the oven and freshly baked in the kitchen, you cannot go wrong with this Italian classic. If you like a crispy crust and a cheesy topping with your favorite additions, you won’t need to order out anymore.

This week’s recipe includes an apple to keep the doctor away!

### Quick bites


Apple slices with a chocolate-covered peanut shell.



- Slice the apple to your desire.
- In a bag, crush peanuts and set aside.
- Drizzle melted chocolate chips onto apple slices.
- Sprinkle with crushed peanuts and freeze for one


### Enjoy!

ZEINAB AGBARIA | WASHTENAW VOICE  
Apples have a high fiber content, which helps with digestive health.



# The Loop

NEWS FOR AND BY STUDENTS



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See Inside

- MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS B2
- ACTIVITIES IN ANN ARBOR & MENTAL HEALTH TIPS B3
- ACTIVITIES TO DO IN SUMMER B4



# SUMMERTIME

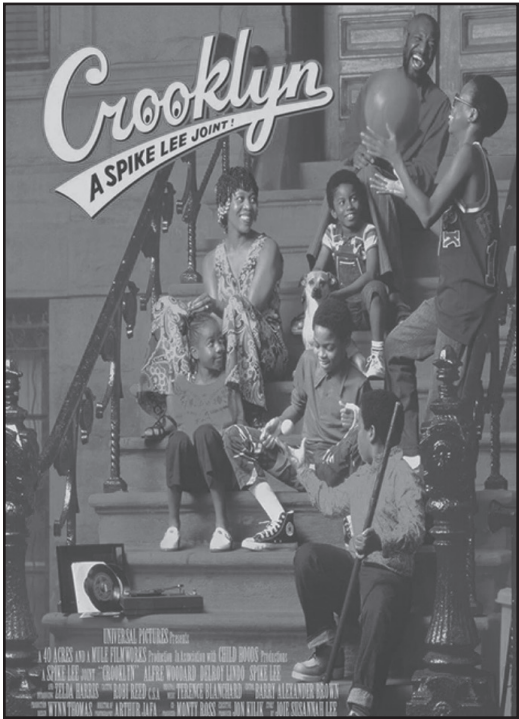
## MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

PHOTOS FROM IMDB

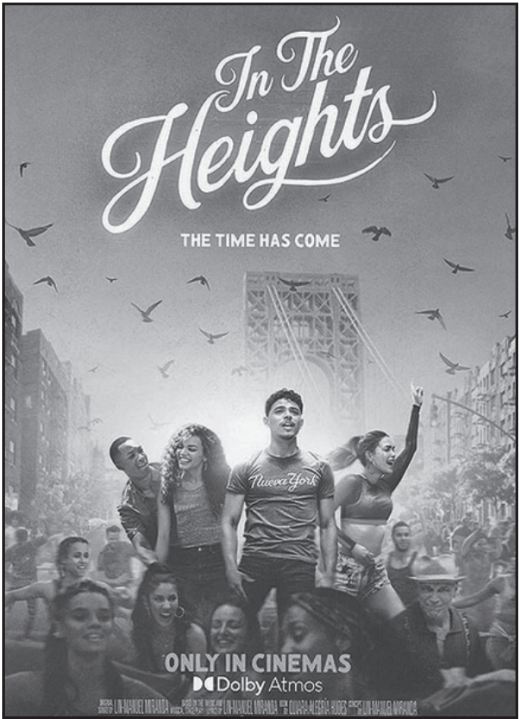


YANA MCGUIRE  
Staff Writer

Thinking back to my favorite summer memories, there are four words that come to mind: family, community, music and softball. In my world, the warm season activities heavily involve these things. The following three movies represent them all and will certainly trigger good memories for you too.



**'Crooklyn'**  
Year: 1994 Length: 1h 55m Rated: PG-13  
Director: Spike Lee Stars: Alfreë Woodard and Delroy Lindo  
Where to watch: Amazon Prime plus fee  
This semi-autobiographical classic was written by Spike Lee and his siblings. The plot takes place in Brooklyn during the summer of 1973 as nine-year-old Troy (Zelda Harris) navigates family life. As soon as the movie starts, you are creatively shown an accurate depiction of what fun in the sun looked like in those days. Lee's unique cinematic style mixed with the use of comedy to tell the dramatic truths of the times makes this summer pick a must-see.



**'In the Heights'**  
Year: 2021 Length: 2h 23m Rated: PG-13  
Director: Jon M. Chu Stars: Anthony Ramos and Corey Hawkins  
Where to watch: Amazon Prime plus fee  
In this feel-good movie, based off of the Tony-award-winning Broadway musical "In the Heights," we find New York bodega owner Usnavi (Anthony Ramos) working hard in order to save up enough money to rebuild his father's business in his homeland. Through some summer-vibing music and remarkable visuals, Usnavi and his tight-knit community express their dreams of a better life and the challenges that come with it.



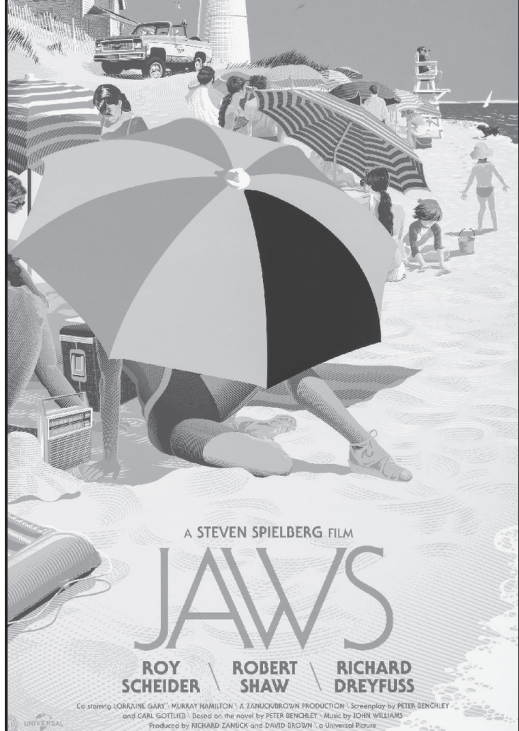
**'The Sandlot'**  
Year: 1993 Length: 1h 41m Rated: PG  
Director: David Mickey Evans Stars: Tom Guiry and Mike Vitar  
Where to watch: Disney+  
Young baseball prodigy, Benjamin (Mike Vitar), takes a liking to the new kid in the neighborhood, Scott (Tom Guiry), and introduces him to his sandlot team. From there, the crew embarks on numerous adventures that are both heartwarming and hilarious. The way this movie takes the viewer back to when being a kid during the summer was simple and fun is just one of the reasons why it is one of the best on this list.

## Sink into the 'goofy' 'jaws' of 'fury' with summer movies

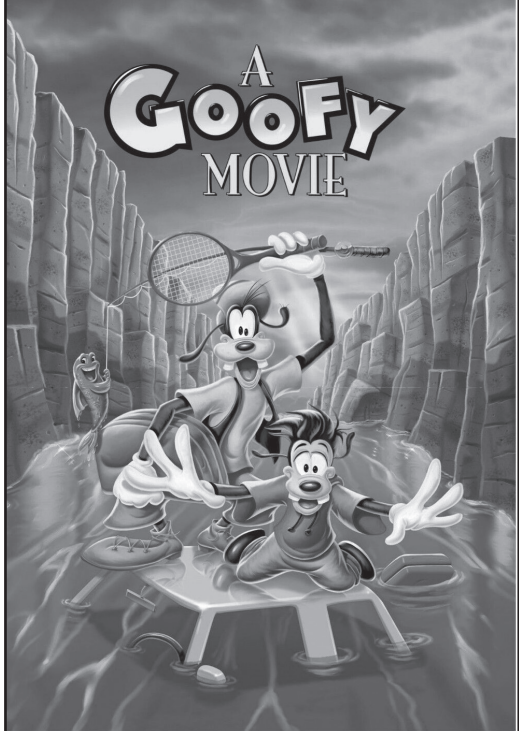


HENRY SINCIC  
Contributor

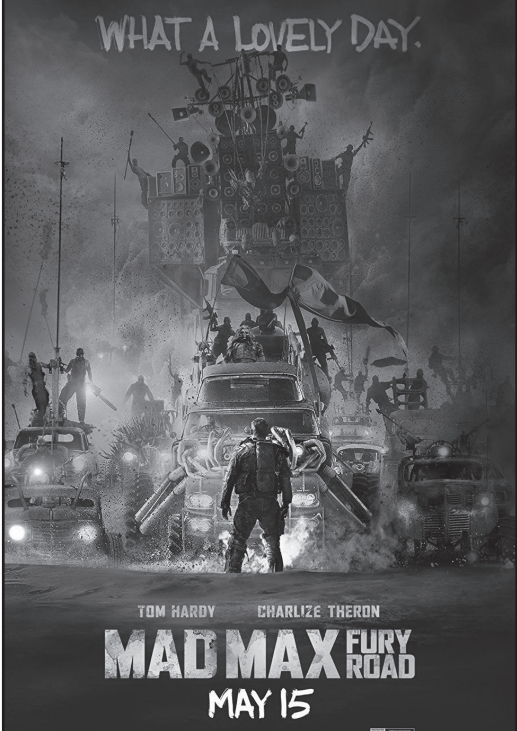
Summer is (almost) here, and I couldn't be happier about it. The beautiful weather and the break from school are highlights of the season, of course. But, for my money, I get equally excited about the prospect of seeing new summer movies. The coming months are positively rife with sure-to-be big cinematic events, from "Mission Impossible: Final Reckoning" to "Superman" (side note: reminder to plead with James Gunn not to disappoint me). There's a special sort of prestige that comes from being considered a "summer blockbuster," because one would be joining the pantheon of legendary summer flicks from ages past. The following three movies are of that ilk. They are my personal recommendations for movies that, in some way, connect to summer, having either been released in or around the season, or having a "summery" vibe to them. If you have not seen these movies, I hope you are urged to do so by my ramblings. Have a nice summer, and happy watching!



**'Jaws' (1975)**  
"Jaws" is a movie that means a lot to me, and it's a movie that, more than perhaps any other, really evokes "summer vibes." I have vivid memories of watching it with my dad when I was growing up. He always did have a penchant for introducing me to his favorite childhood movies. After all, he is the man who so gleefully showed me such kid-friendly flicks as "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Poltergeist" when I was barely 10. I guess he had a thing for Steven Spielberg, and rightfully so. It was this movie that put Spielberg's name on the map. Before "Jaws," his name didn't appear on the poster of the movie. Afterwards, there was no going back.  
The story is as simple as it gets: a small summer resort town is besieged by a nasty ol' great white shark, which chomps one swimmer after another as the town's authorities skirt their responsibility and continue to let people on their beaches, all in the name of money. It's up to a crack team consisting of an intrepid police chief, marine biologist and salty sea captain to hunt the shark down and save the day. The simplicity of the premise serves to the film's benefit, as it's really the wonderful characters and suspense that make this film a timeless classic. The titular novel it is based upon, written by Peter Benchley, is not to be missed, either!



**'A Goofy Movie' (1995)**  
I felt that this movie was destined to be picked for this smattering of summer movie recommendations. It deals with a road trip that occurs just as school is let out for summer break, and it has an atmosphere of fun and (dare I say) goofiness that befits the carefree summer months. It also just celebrated its 30th anniversary! The recent video interview on the official Disney YouTube channel between Bill Farmer (Goofy) and Jason Marsden (Max) is so sweet that it could probably make the Grinch's heart grow five sizes.  
This is one of my very favorite Disney animated features, right up there with "Aladdin." It's endlessly sweet and relatable for both the teenager wanting to strike out on their own, and the parent, desperately trying to hold onto the sweet innocence of their children. I mean, I guess I don't have children to be able to confirm how that feels, but I've heard so from people that do. The animation is stellar, the characters are great, and the songs are absolutely bangin'. So do yourself a favor this summer and see this movie. Until you do so, you and I may never see "I 2 I."



**'Mad Max: Fury Road' (2015)**  
Finally, here's the preeminent summer movie of my childhood. When "Mad Max: Fury Road" premiered in May of 2015, almost 10 years ago, it was a big deal. A big-name action franchise being resurrected from the dead with a gilded cast and budget to match, this movie had a lot of hype leading up to it. Luckily, the movie was excellent, and a box office smash to boot.  
As a series of films, "Mad Max" stands out to me as being one of the few long-running franchises to never (IMO) have a bad installment. My dad ensured I would become a fan by showing me the original films, and "Fury Road" contains a lot of the same kinetic action that those films are known for. The "Mad Max" films take place in a post-apocalyptic version of the "down under" filled with rogue gangs and weapons of vehicular manslaughter. There's a certain atmosphere to these films that really stands out: it's desolate, war-torn, and not altogether friendly, but the heroic actions of some create a glimmer of hope.  
"Fury Road" is an almost non-stop barrage of action, but it is excellently paced, and contains enough memorable characters and setpieces to never be boring. The music, done by Junkie XL, is also fantastic. Any fan of blood-pumping summer action flicks can scarcely do better than this one.



# Free activities in Ann Arbor to spice up your summer

TERESA QUINONES  
Contributor

As the sun starts to shine, flowers begin to bloom and schedules free up, many of us find ourselves eagerly anticipating summer. Here are a few ways to help you explore the local Ann Arbor area this season for free.

### Staying active and reconnecting with nature

There is no better time of the year to introduce physical activity into your daily routine than in the summer.

Some iconic Ann Arbor spots that are worth sight-seeing are the Kerrytown Market & Shops, Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Conservatory, Gallup Park and the Border-to-Border Trail.

Kerrytown Market & Shops is a shopping area in Downtown Ann Arbor, offering a variety of unique local markets and restaurants. It also features a farmers market on the weekends. This is the perfect place to go on a walk, experience the historic district, or invite a friend!

If you haven't yet explored the Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Conservatory, this is the summer to do it. With a diverse set of plants and gardens developed by the University of Michigan, it's also a great place to hone your photography skills. They offer many free events, such as a shuttle to the W.E. Upjohn Peony Garden at the end of May as well as Wonder Walks, which are guided walks held twice a week.

The May 14 and May 18 Wonder Walks will focus on hunting for spring ephemerals. Registration is not required and the walks are held on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 1:00 pm. The gardens and conservatory are located at 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

For walkers, runners, cyclists, rollerbladers, and more who are looking for scenic and well-maintained trails, check out the Border-to-Border



KALEB WIELAND | WASHTENAW VOICE

Trail and Gallup Park. The Border-to-Border Trail spans six trail corridors throughout Washtenaw county, ranging from 2.1 miles to 11.67. At Gallup park, you will find walking trails and paths, with a beautiful view of the Huron River.

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### The library: Home to community fun

The Ann Arbor District Library is a resource for Ann Arbor residents and it is free for any other Michigan residents as well. They host a number of great events in the summer including events with local authors, sewing labs and gardening workshops.

Some upcoming highlights include "Star Wars" Day (May 4), which is a huge celebration featuring screenings, crafts and more! Michi-

gan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson will be visiting the library on May 12 to talk about her book: "The Purposeful Warrior." For comic fans, the Ann Arbor Comic Arts Festival will take place June 14-15.

Check out many more events and activities by calling the library at 734-327-4200 or viewing their website.

The Ypsilanti District Library's downtown location has also reopened just in time for summer! There will be many recurring activities this summer like their intergenerational chess club and a guitar club, where you can practice guitar skills and play new songs.

Mark your calendar for Saturday events at the downtown Ypsilanti District Library like the Spring: All Ages Clothing Swap (May 24), where people of all ages and sizes can exchange clothing with their

community, and the Maker Afternoon: Pasta (May 31), an opportunity to make homemade pasta and experiment with different pasta shapes.

### Feeding the mind

For those looking to enrich their knowledge this summer, the University of Michigan offers several free museums in Ann Arbor.

Visit their Museum of Art to enjoy new collections and rotating exhibitions or their Museum of Natural History, which combines past and latest scientific research to provide an interactive experience with fun exhibits, such as the Planetarium & Dome Theater for all ages.

Register online for free events hosted by the university's museums such as the Exhibition Tour of La Raza art on May 11 from 2-3 p.m.

# Mental health tips for the summer semester



SKYE BAWOL | WASHTENAW VOICE

Taking a walk can be a quick way to boost your mood.

LEXI STEPHENS  
Contributor

Maintaining mental health is already a struggle, but it's especially hard when entering the summer semester and preparing yourself for fall. If you're looking for ways to manage your mental health during this time or just want to see how other people are working, you've come to the right place.

Jim Cockles, a success coach/counselor for WTMC, gave some excellent tips on how to make sure you don't get too burned out in this upcoming semester. For starters, he said going outside is always a great way to spend your spare time. There are many benefits to spending time outside, including mood boosts, stress relief and improved sleep.

Making sure that you're not isolating yourself is a great way to manage your mental health as well.

"Over the summer, a

big thing that will help with my mental health is seeing my friends and family," said Niveen Abed, a nursing major. "Over the summer, it's easy to forget about people you love, and it's good to see them."

Keeping an active mind can help students stay sharp for the fall semester.

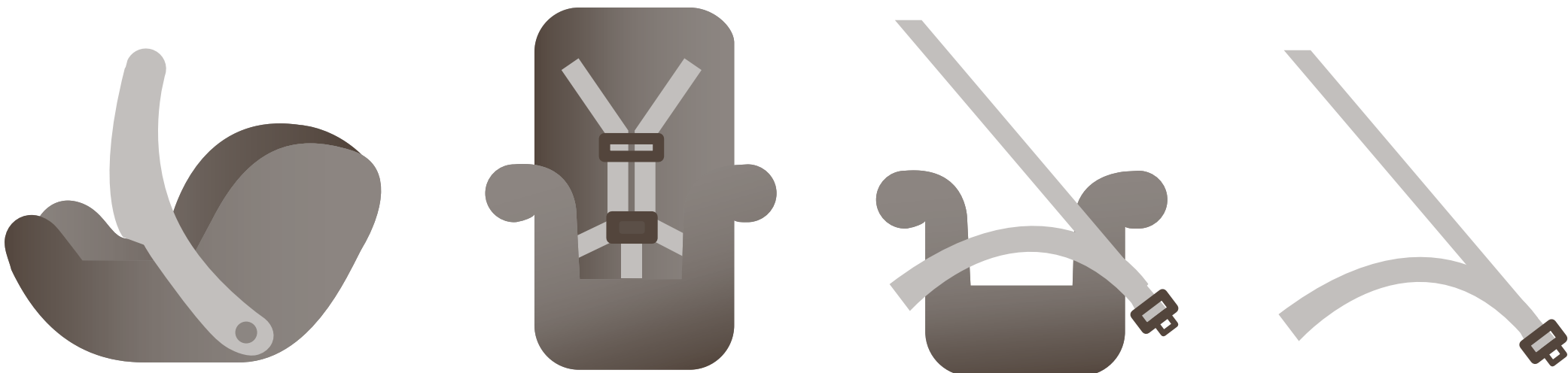
"I'm going to prepare myself for next semester by just practicing once in a while with different puzzles," said Michael Wayo Tetteh, a mechanical engineering major.

Doing self-care and doing things that you enjoy is one of the most common ways that people deal with stress.

According to Maya Hamad, an undecided student, a typical self-care day for her consists of showering, doing skincare, eating healthily, working out and cleaning her room. Having a clean and calm place to study is important, especially when you have a lot of work to do outside of class.

You can schedule an appointment with WCC's free personal counselors by calling 734-677-5223.

You can schedule a meeting with a WTMC counselor by visiting the main office, TI 214 or going on the WTMC website and booking an appointment with a counselor via their calendly.



# MAKE SURE THEY'RE IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT

# NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat





Compiled by: Beck Elandt | Staff Writer

# events

## MAY

### KEVIN JAMES: "OWLS DON'T WALK"

May 17 | 8 p.m.

Michigan Theatre | 603 E Liberty St., Ann Arbor

Kevin James began his career in stand-up on the Long Island comedy scene. After being highlighted at the 1996 Montreal Comedy Festival, James signed a network development deal to create his own sitcom, which can be seen in Ann Arbor. The cost is \$50 to \$95.

### "EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES:" MICHIGAN'S THIRD ANNUAL DIVERSITY DAY CELEBRATION

May 18 | 3-6 p.m.

WCC Morris Lawrence Building | 4800 E Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor

Come alive with the sights, sounds and flavors of Michigan's diverse communities during the third annual Diversity Day Celebration. This free community event invites attendees of all ages to celebrate the beauty of cultural expression through art, music, dance and food.

### CRAFT FLIX CRAFT AND MOVIE NIGHT

May 22 | 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Northfield Township area library | 125 Barker Rd., Whitmore Lake

Each month, a themed movie is shown at the library, paired with a unique craft project and tasty snacks. This May, watch "Mamma Mia!" and paint garden book bricks. Snacks are provided, and all young adults are welcome to attend. Pre-registration is required.



PHOTO FROM TV INSIDER

"Mamma Mia! The Movie" was released in 2008, starring Meryl Streep and Amanda Seyfried.

## JUNE

### JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION: YPSILANTI

June 20-22 | 11 a.m.

Downtown Ypsilanti | 107 Ferris St. Ypsilanti

A weekend of community gathering in Ypsilanti. Local vendors and entertainment in the form of live performances.

### WADE SHOWS' RIDES, GAMES AND FOOD SUMMER CARNIVAL

June 19-21 | Thursday: 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday: 12 p.m.

Grounds of the American Legion and Knights of Columbus | 8265 Dexter Chelsea Rd., Dexter

Wade shows partners with the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus to provide rides, games and food to the Dexter area, in the form of a family-friendly carnival

### ANN ARBOR SUMMER FESTIVAL

June 13-29

Takes place in downtown Ann Arbor. For more info about the location of specific events, their dates and times, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2utax2dc>.

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2025 is a highly anticipated event that promises an incredible lineup of events and artists for the vibrant city of Ann Arbor. Known for its eclectic mix of music, art and cultural experiences.

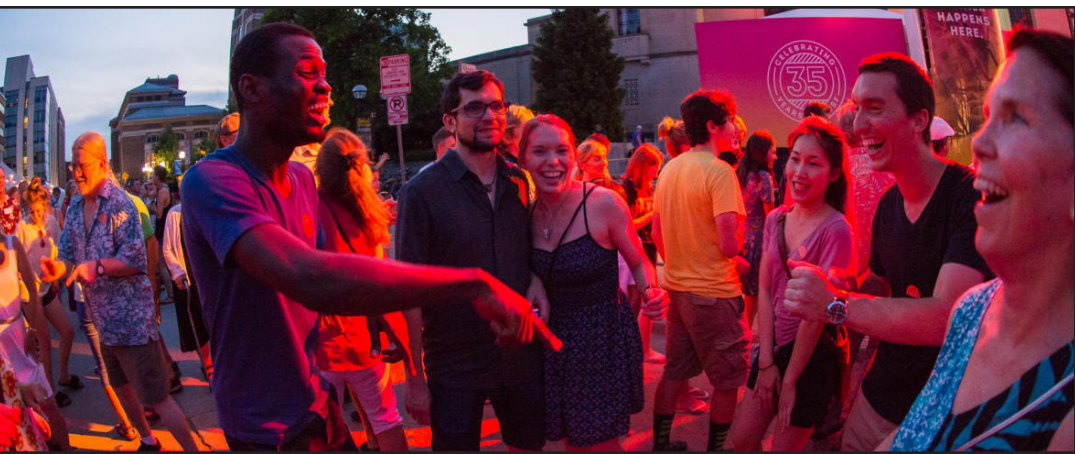


PHOTO FROM DESTINATION ANN ARBOR

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival is a nearly four-week festival that attracts many visitors.

## JULY

### SOUNDS AND SIGHTS FESTIVAL

July 25-26 | starts in the afternoon, ends at 8 p.m.

Downtown Chelsea | Intersection of Middle and Main Street.

To finish off the scene of immersion, Chelsea continues the final Sounds and Sights into the weekend, where there is even more entertainment, art and events. Join the Chelsea Community for an immersion into art, music, crafts and cars for the annual Sounds and Sights festival.

### ANN ARBOR ART FAIR

July 17-19 | Thursday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Downtown Ann Arbor / 650 S. Forest Ave, Ann Arbor

The annual Ann Arbor Art Fair showcases music and hundreds of vendors in downtown Ann Arbor, featuring art, sculpture, food and more, in a gathering that's booming with life and excitement.

### MICHIGAN CELTIC FESTIVAL

July 11-12 | Friday 5:00pm-Midnight Saturday 10:00am-Midnight

Washtenaw Farm Council grounds | 5055 Ann Arbor Saline Rd., Ann Arbor

This highly family-oriented event showcases arts and crafts, dance, live music and entertainment for all ages. Admission fee is \$10 online.



PHOTO FROM THE DETROIT NEWS

The Ann Arbor Art Fair will take place on July 17-19, 2025. It is a three-day event held in downtown Ann Arbor.

## AUGUST

### MR. B'S 28TH ANNUAL BLUES AND BOOGIE PIANO CELEBRATION

Aug. 23 | 7:30 p.m.

The Ark | 316 S Main St., Ann Arbor

Once a year, Mark "Mr. B" Braun, Ann Arbor's own wizard of blues and boogie piano music, comes together with other top piano players from around southeastern Michigan and beyond.

### VULTURES OF CULTURE: HORROR MOVIES IN THE MORNING, YELLOW NO. 5, LANTERNFLY

Aug. 13 | 7 p.m.

Blind Pig | 208 S 1st St., Ann Arbor

Come see these four fine artists perform at the Blind Pig this August. Tickets are \$10-\$30 Online and at the gate.

### SONIC LUNCH CONCERTS

Every Thursday of Aug. | 11:30 a.m.

Liberty Plaza | 310 South Division St., Ann Arbor

Sonic Lunch, through the bank of Ann Arbor, showcases free live music throughout the summer. Come check out Andrew Horowitz & friends, Karl Denson's Tiny Universe, Neal Francis and Jr. Jr. at Liberty Plaza.



PHOTO FROM MLIVE

Bank of Ann Arbor's Sonic Lunch is a free summer outdoor concert series happening at the corner of Liberty and Division in downtown Ann Arbor.

