

# THE WASHTENAW VOICE

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www.washtenawvoice.com

## New WCC website launches Dec. 4

BY LILLY KUJAWSKI  
Editor

Tomorrow, WCC is expected to launch a new website at [wcnet.edu](http://wcnet.edu), with a fresh design, new features and improved mobile compatibility.

The website project has been ongoing since July 2017. The site was expected to “soft launch” last March, but it was postponed to make functionality improvements. Since then, the website team has held a series of focus group sessions to identify areas of improvement, said John Powell, a web design and content manager at WCC.

The Dec. 4 rollout will be a full launch, completely replacing the old site, said Brendan Prebo, associate vice president of marketing and communications at WCC.

A notable feature of the new site is its mobile optimization, Prebo said.

The total cost for the new website was \$365,000.

Many design aspects had students specifically in mind; users will now find a “student dashboard” on their MyWCCGateway account, Powell said. The student dashboard houses links to some of the tools and resources students use the most—DegreeWorks, class registration, tuition payment portal and the option to schedule an appointment with an adviser.

The new website is also organized by topic, instead of by office, which is meant to cater to students who may not know which department a

particular service falls under, Powell said.

Staff members may need some time to adjust to this new organizational method, Powell said. Prebo added that the “vastly improved” search capabilities of the new site should aid in locating specific items.

Users will see a change in WCC’s sub-sites for various departments and groups. These will all be folded back into the main site, said Powell, except for the Bailey Library website, which will later see its own revamp.

Powell’s team is working to train departments on how to maintain their own pages.

Over time, the new website will see some updates, but not major changes or redesigns, Prebo said.

“We had the focus groups and we really identified a lot of areas for improvement, and I think... continuing phases will be to just follow up in those areas and make incremental improvements to the website as we go along,” Prebo said.

The new website uses OU Campus, a web content management system developed by the California-based company OmniUpdate. Also contracted for the project were the Understanding Group in Ann Arbor and VisionPoint Marketing of Raleigh, N.C. .

A series of information station tables will be held across campus from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow to provide information about the site to students.



Medical marijuana patient Craig Stokes, left, and employee Jacob Samways discuss products at Exclusive Ann Arbor Provisioning, a local cannabis shop. Exclusive Ann Arbor is one of the first shops in Michigan licensed to make recreational marijuana sales starting Dec. 1.

## Commercial cannabis sales hit Michigan

BY LILLY KUJAWSKI  
Editor

With more than a year since Michigan voters passed the proposal to legalize recreational marijuana statewide, consumers can expect to see it commercially available soon.

The recreational marijuana law assigned responsibility for licensing, regulation and enforcement to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, or LARA.

The first recreational marijuana sales were allowed this past Sunday, Dec. 1, according to David Harns, communications manager for LARA. Recreational marijuana, or “adult-

use marijuana,” is regulated similarly to alcohol. The law requires users to be at 21 years or older to purchase, consume and possess cannabis.

A few companies will be eligible to sell recreational cannabis commercially starting Dec. 1, but Harns anticipates a slow build of availability throughout the rest of the year and early 2020, as more companies become licensed.

A “vast majority” of the companies that have applied for licenses are from Ann Arbor, Harns said. The review time varies, depending on what kind of license a company applies for, but by law, a decision must be made about an applicant within 90 days.

### WCC remains drug-free

Even though adult-use marijuana is legal in the state, cannabis use and possession is still prohibited on WCC’s campus, even for those with a medical marijuana license.

Using marijuana on campus can result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, said Linda Blakey, vice president of student and academic services.

Blakey added that any drug use is prohibited at WCC, which receives federal funding. To qualify for this funding, tobacco and drug use must be banned on campus.

SEE CANNABIS, A3

## College pilots new business electives

### Esports, nonprofit management on the roster for winter semester

BY BRIAN BABCOCK  
Staff Writer

Starting in the winter 2020 semester, WCC is offering two new business classes: Introduction to Esports and Non-profit Management.

Both courses offer three credits and can make for great electives, said Kelli Smith, a part-time faculty member at the college who will teach the first esports class. When business faculty member Randy Van Wagnen approached Smith with the idea of creating a new class, she was enthusiastic.

“I do love esports; I’ve been following the [League of Legends] esports team, and I also love teaching and finding students who know nothing about the subject I’m teaching and educating them,” said Smith.

Esports is a major source of entertainment, said Smith, and may provide students with the opportunity to mix their passions for video games with managing or owning a business.

“I think it will be a really good opportunity for people to get jobs in that market,” said Smith.

“I’m glad it’s come to light



Students who love gaming can now consider the new esports business class offered in winter semester.

and now has a huge fan base,” Smith said. Esports have been around for a long time, but have recently increased in popularity, she added.

To put the scale of esports popularity into perspective, in November 2018, the League of Legends World Championship drew nearly 100 million viewers to the online event. In comparison, last year’s Super Bowl had a little over 98 million viewers.

Ultimately, the business

department’s goal is course expansion, so that students can take their passion for video games and transfer those skills into a professional career.

“I’m looking forward to seeing it grow,” Smith said. If the program is well-received, there is a possibility that WCC will develop an Esports Management certificate that could transfer to other universities, said Smith.

WCC will also be rolling

out a new nonprofit management course.

This course is a business management elective and will offer a basic intro-level experience for students curious about working for a nonprofit or starting their own someday. The class will primarily operate seminar-style, with guest speakers, collaborative classroom projects and a hands-on learning approach.

SEE NEW CLASSES, A5

## WCC Foundation makes deadlines more flexible

### Foundation strives to increase scholarship accessibility

BY LILLY KUJAWSKI  
Editor

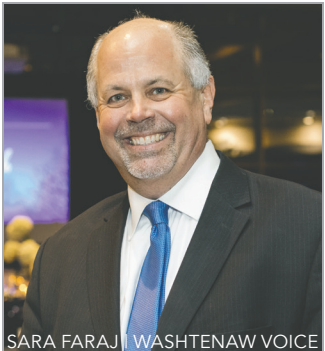
After the WCC Foundation changed its deadline procedure for the WCC Foundation Scholarship, the number of applications the foundation received more than doubled.

The foundation used to follow the same deadlines that the WCC financial aid office used, according to Phil Snyder, associate vice president of college advancement at the foundation. The hard cut-off dates to apply were usually June 10 for the fall semester, Oct. 10 for the winter semester and Feb. 10 for the spring/summer semester.

Beginning July 1 of this year, though, the foundation changed that deadline system.

The foundation still gives students the “soft deadlines” of June 10, Oct. 10 and Feb. 10 to help them remember to apply. After reaching that date, however, the application immediately reopens and remains open until about mid-way through the semester.

In the 2018 fall semester, the foundation received approximately 550 applications



SARA FARAJI | WASHTENAW VOICE  
Phillip Snyder, associate vice president of college advancement.

for the Foundation Scholarship, Snyder said. This fall, the foundation received more than 1,300 applications.

The goal was to make the scholarship “more accessible for students,” according to Shana Barker, scholarship and alumni coordinator for the foundation.

New students often don’t find out about the scholarship until they get to WCC, and by that time, the deadline had already passed, Barker said.

This is especially the case for some of the Ann Arbor area high school graduates who end up coming to WCC, Snyder said. In many cases, the deadline passes before high school seniors even graduate.

SEE FOUNDATION, A3



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BRIAN BABCOCK | WASHTENAW VOICE

Students gather at the international Thanksgiving dinner to share a potluck-style meal together.

## International Thanksgiving dinner highlights fashion, culture

BY BRIAN BABCOCK  
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, more than 100 people filled Garrett’s Restaurant at WCC’s Student Center to enjoy the college’s 5th annual international Thanksgiving dinner.

The evening began with an introduction to the dozens of authentic dishes prepared by students from around the globe. Music filled the space as people lined up to enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner with food from around the world. In addition to the food, students held a fashion show, with many dressing up in their respective cultural garbs. To top the ceremony off, every-

one joined together in a game of internationally themed Jeopardy.

Devin Streur is the man behind the college’s international Thanksgiving dinners. Five years ago, Streur joined the college as the new international student advisor.

“For me, it’s all about community. Showing off the diversity and communal aspect that our international student population has . . . it’s just an awesome way to showcase culture,” Streur said.

Currently, about 10% of the college’s student population consists of international students, according to Streur.

“If you want to broaden it to the furthest extension

of the definition, including green card-holders, basically anybody born from another country who is at the college, we’re at about 800 to 1000. It’s a large representation of our college, so it’s really cool to see and taste different parts of the world here at this event,” he said.

Streur didn’t stop at food though. He also mentioned the college’s “Diversity Extravaganza,” an event which took place four years prior, but went away with the dean who hosted it.

“We had had a fashion show with our Diversity Extravaganza about four years ago . . . so this is a cool way to still bring back that cultural

element,” Streur said.

This aspect of the college’s culture was revived again with strong popularity during the Thanksgiving event on Nov. 21.

Daniela Rivas Balanta is an international student from Colombia who won the fashion show in her Colombian dress. Balanta has been attending WCC for over two years, and has attended the international thanksgiving for the past three years.

“Having everybody with different backgrounds and cultures sharing in one experience is truly special . . . the food is amazing too. You get to travel the world in one day, basically.”

## Foundation

Continued from A1

“The nature of our students is they sometimes don’t know they’re going to be coming to Washtenaw, and all of a sudden they find out that they’re going to go to Washtenaw, so they want to get a scholarship; and up until last fall, we had to say to them... ‘I’m sorry, but you could apply for the winter,’ and that wasn’t any good because then the student couldn’t afford to come,” Snyder said.

Scholarship winners are determined by an external committee, which is an extension of the foundation’s board of directors, and an internal committee, Barker said.

The committees consider an applicant’s GPA, the number of family members in their household, income, any letters of recommendation and the personal statement included in their application.

“We take as much time on our students who we deny as [those] we do approve,” Barker said.

Some students might first be referred to an academic adviser. Other students might not be approved the first semester they apply because the committees need more information and want to see academic progress first. In other cases, foundation staff might have a conversation with a student about their goals to make sure they’re on the right

track.

The application process requires a personal statement of academic and career goals. This statement should articulate why a student deserves a foundation scholarship, Snyder said. Sometimes applicants are referred to the Writing Center if they’re having trouble writing this statement, Barker said.

This personal statement is important because the external committee relies heavily on what students write when making the decision, Snyder said.

“Don’t be afraid to share your story; it’s kept confidential,” Barker said. “The more I know about the student, the more I can see what funds are available.”

Students who demonstrate resilience and a particular drive to reach their goals, even in the face of obstacles, tend to stand out to Barker.

The Foundation Scholarship is a need-based scholarship, meaning applicants must be financially eligible. Eligibility is determined by the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which must be completed in order to apply for the scholarship.

Students who receive the Foundation Scholarship are invited to a luncheon each semester to meet donors. At the end of the semester, awardees are paired with a donor and are asked to write them a thank you note, Barker said.

“It’s like these students have this secret support group that they don’t even know about,” Barker said. “I think we see that when a student does receive a scholarship, it makes them want to perform greater because someone invested in your education.”

The Foundation Scholarship is funded by donations, which are kept in an endowment investment fund. The fund is managed by Commonfund, a Connecticut-based firm that manages nonprofit investments, Snyder said. With an independent company managing the investments, the foundation still has control over the investments, but on a day-to-day basis the funds are kept at “arms-length,” Snyder said.

The Foundation Scholarship is unique because it’s refundable, meaning besides tuition, it can be used for other educational and living expenses. It’s also not a one-

time scholarship. Students can apply and receive the scholarship over multiple semesters.

“The cool thing about the foundation is, once we support you, and if you continue to do well academically, we like to support you until you graduate; we like to help you until you finish,” Barker said.

Students are encouraged to meet the “soft” or “priority” deadline given for applications, especially because they’ll find out if they received the scholarship or not before the tuition payment deadline for the semester. Later applicants won’t know the decision until further into the semester.

Foundation Scholarship applications for the winter semester and spring/summer semester are open now and can be found on the WCC website. Award amounts range from \$250-1,000, depending on the number of credit hours the applicant is taking.



SARA FARAJ | WASHTENAW VOICE

At last year’s WCC Foundation fundraising gala, a short film played showing how foundation funds assists students. One video of Tabetha Chaney, a WCC student and artist, described how scholarship aid from the foundation helped her succeed at WCC.

## Cannabis

Continued from A1

### Medical concerns to consider

Marijuana users should also keep in mind that the effects of the drug are still being studied.

Smoking marijuana does have medical risks, such as lung injury, lung cancer and heart disease, said Dr. Brad

Uren in an email correspondence. Uren is an assistant professor of emergency medicine at Michigan Medicine, the University of Michigan’s health system.

Cannabis products can also contain varying levels of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. High levels of THC can be responsible for “acute intoxication” in novice cannabis users, Uren said.

Cases of cannabinoid hy-

peremesis syndrome, a cyclic vomiting condition that can occur from marijuana use, have been reported more frequently in states that have liberalized marijuana laws, Uren said. The condition doesn’t occur for every marijuana user, but for those who do develop it, abstinence from marijuana use is the only way to get rid of symptoms, he said.

Uren also warned users to be wary of the quality of the marijuana they consume and

to only purchase it from reputable sources.

Uren said that Michigan Medicine does see emergency visits for “acute intoxication” from marijuana regularly, though it’s not particularly common.

Marijuana-related emergency visits in Ann Arbor occasionally spike in correlation with the “Hash Bash” annual cannabis festival.



LILLY KUJAWSKI | WASHTENAW VOICE

Michael Naylor, WCC music program director.

## Jazz showcase unites, celebrates local talent

BY JOHN KOPELMAN  
Contributor

WCC is set to host its fall jazz showcase event on Dec. 9, which features musical performances from WCC students, local high school students, community groups and special guests.

Christopher Barrick, a saxophone soloist and Eastern Michigan University’s music/dance director, is the guest performer at the event and will perform with the WCC groups.

“The WCC jazz showcase events occur each year at the end of the fall and winter semesters,” said WCC jazz director and instructor Steve Somers. “In December, we feature students from the WCC jazz combo class and the new noncredit WCC jazz orchestra class.”

The showcase gives students from all skill levels and backgrounds a chance to get into a room and create music together, said Michael Naylor, the director of WCC’s music program.

WCC strives to nurture creativity and build community, and the music program is a place where a diverse group

of people can get together and create something valuable, Naylor said.

According to Naylor, musician Wynton Marsalis once said that jazz is essentially musical democracy—people bring what they have, respect each others experiences, and make something happen.

The showcase has musicians of different cultures, and ages range from 16-year-olds to people in their 70s, which gives young musicians a chance to learn from their older peers.

Besides Barrick, guest musicians performing in the showcase include: Corner Pocket from Ann Arbor’s Community High, Washtenaw International High School’s Jazz Ambassadors, The Big Band Theory and the Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra’s jazz ensemble.

**Fall Jazz Showcase**  
Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

Towsley Auditorium  
*Admission is free.*

## NEWS BRIEFS

By Lilly Kujawski | Editor

### WCC students talk addiction and recovery

Students from the Collegiate Recovery Program on campus present a discussion event about addiction and recovery. Students will present Ted Talk clips, answer questions, share their personal stories and lead a discussion. The event takes place on Dec. 4 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in LA 375 and food will be provided.

### Face off in the Gamer’s Club Super Smash Bros. tournament

The WCC Gamer’s Club hosts its final tournament of the semester on Dec. 11 with a Super Smash Bros. Ultimate competition. Prizes will be awarded to the top players. Registration for the tournament begins at 5 p.m. and the tournament kicks off at 6 p.m. A limited supply of food and drinks will be available.

Event will be held in the Student Center Community Room (SC 105). Those interested in practicing ahead of time are welcome to attend the club’s weekly meetings, held 5 to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays in GM 318.

### Submissions open for mini-grant proposals starting Dec. 9

Student Organizations Educational Mini-Grants fund student educational and service activities that are aligned with WCC’s Priorities, Campus Service Projects and Academic Learning. In the fall and winter semesters, 12 mini-grants of \$250 are awarded.

The student leader of a group or organization can submit a proposal for a project for which they want funding. More information, rules and details are available on the Office of Student Organizations page on Campus Connect.

## CAMPUS CRIME LOG

The following incidents were reported by WCC campus safety officials between Nov. 16-22

### Larceny

On Nov. 18, a student left their earpods in the testing center and returned to find them missing. The earpods are valued at around \$35. Campus police haven’t found any evidence of theft. The case is closed.

By Danny Villalobos | Contributor



VARDAN SARGSYAN | WASHTENAW VOICE

An employee at Exclusive Ann Arbor Provisioning, a local marijuana shop licensed to sell recreationally, weighs products to be sold.





COLUMN

Self-care in college is up to you



BY CLAIRE CONVIS  
Staff Writer

The schedule of a college student can be busier than Best Buy on Black Friday. Between discussion boards, work and a social life, there’s a lot to juggle. Oftentimes, our own self-care gets tossed to the wayside.

As the chaos of final exams and the holiday season draws near, it’s especially important to prioritize your self-care. Maybe that means a face mask, a five-minute meditation session, a solid meal or even just a nap. Self-care can look different for everyone.

I know it’s hard to remember, but try to make it a habit to take healthy snacks with you to school, like applesauce pouches, raisins, energy bars, veggies or string cheese. This will give you energy throughout the day, and also help you avoid headaches and hunger pains.

Commit to bringing a water bottle to class. I know the struggle of staying hydrated; sometimes I think the only reason I take my water bottle to school is to give it some time out of the apartment, but hey, baby steps.

Meal-prep is your friend. Take 30 minutes on a Sunday night to cook whatever you want for your upcoming week, so you won’t have to live off of chips from the vending machine all week. And your meal prep doesn’t have to be Pinterest-perfect organic goat cheese and home-grown kale. Keeping simple, ready-made meals on hand is a good way to still eat healthy when you’re in a hurry.

Another vital aspect of self-care is catching those Zs. In a 2019 TED Talk called “Sleep is Your Superpower,” sleep scientist Matt Walker discusses how getting sufficient sleep keeps your immune system intact, reduces stress and can help you focus on homework.

Also, don’t forget to make time for social bonds and hobbies that you enjoy! A creative outlet provides another form of identity, so that a college student doesn’t just feel like a college student all the time, but also a dancer, or a hiker, a yogi, a D&D player, or a makeup enthusiast, an

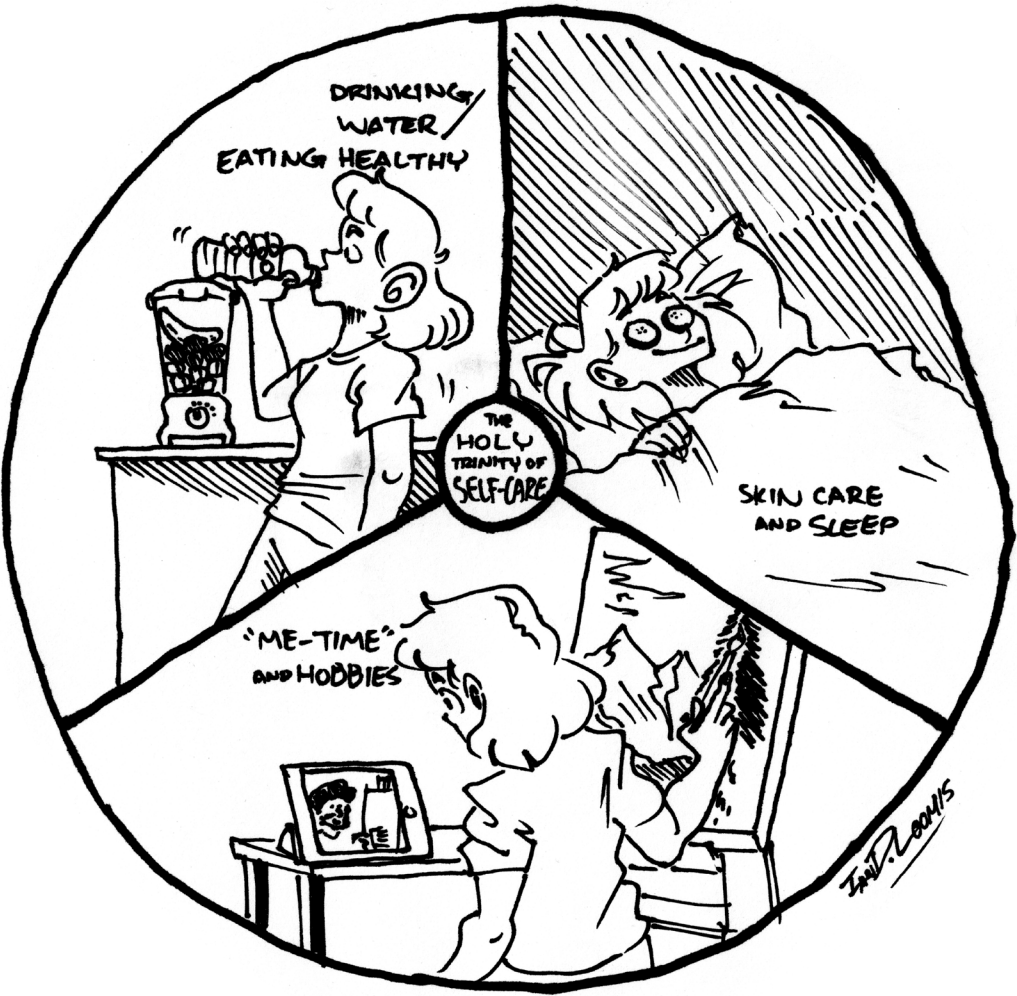
athlete, or a chess champion.

In an article from the American Psychological Association, Dr. Nabil Hassan El-Ghoroury said that staying in touch with friends and maintaining social bonds is an important part of practicing self-care. He recommended monitoring the symptoms of stress in your life and asking for help if you become overwhelmed. According to El-Ghoroury, regular exercise is key, too—and not just walking from one class to the next.

There is some stigma that practicing self-care is “selfish,” but if you don’t take care of yourself, how will you be able to take care of anyone else? Don’t run yourself into the ground until you’re burnt out.

Sneak some time away from your day to open Spotify, take a walk around your neighborhood, journal, read for pleasure, have a dance party, sing that Disney song you used to love, diffuse essential oils or whatever else brings you joy and relaxation—it’s up to you. Your self-care in college is up to you.

If you are feeling depressed or anxious, please tell someone. You don’t have to go through a struggle by yourself. Free counseling is available to WCC students who need someone to talk to.



**WCC Counseling Office**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Hours</b>                       | <b>Location</b>  |
| Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. | SC 206 (Student connections at second floor of Student Center) |
| Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.            |  |
| Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.          |  |

VOICE BOX

Q: “What are your plans for winter break?”  
By Claire Convis | Staff Writer

“Possibly staying at a friend’s grandma’s cabin up north, and looking to develop some music theory knowledge.”

**Wrena Sproat, 17**  
Psychology

“My family goes to Florida. We have family down there so we’ll go to the beach and spend Christmas with them.”

**Evangelina Varela, 18**  
Nursing

“I’m getting my wisdom teeth out. And I’ll probably go to Tennessee to see my family.”

**Kala Oakley, 22**  
Nursing



“Go home to Queens, New York. We’re a big family so we like to come together and eat a lot, but people come late so sometimes we have to wait ‘til 9 p.m. to eat.”

**Jarelle Walker, 19**  
Veterinary



“Probably going to Traverse City to visit a friend and to Chicago to visit my aunt.”

**Elijah Lennington, 20**  
Dance



“Spending time with my family and enjoying the holidays with my nephew. We’ll go sledding and see Santa.”

**María Berg, 20**  
Radiology



“Going to the Bahamas. My dad has a fishing company down there, so we’ll take our boat and go to fishing tournaments.”

**Lilly Hoffmann, 18**  
Biology



**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.

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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.

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BSU creates community, sparks dialogue

BY CLAIRE CONVIS  
Staff Writer

The WCC Black Student Union functions as a place of community, support and conversation, rooted in collaboration and justice.

Jenelle Smith and Anaya Bass, both 17 years old, are the two co-presidents of the Black Student Union, which they started at WCC this past August.

“This semester has been more about expansion and making ourselves known on campus,” said Smith, speaking about the group’s vision and goals. “Next semester we hope to work with the community and other groups on campus, to give back to the community and to promote cultural diversity and awareness across campus.”

Bass and Smith strive to open up a discussion to talk about

problems that people of color face in today’s society. There are various religions and countries represented in the group, but they all come together for conversation and connection.

“It’s been a place of safety, and a place of community for people who feel like they don’t have one,” said Smith.

The group discussion focused on issues including black-on-black crime, the way black women are targeted for human trafficking, police brutality, struggles with finding or keeping employment, and interracial couples.

“We represent our race everywhere we go,” Smith said. “Sometimes you’re the only black person in class, and you feel like you’re being judged for all black people, but not all black people think the same as me. I don’t want to speak for the entire race.”

“You don’t have to think a certain way to be a ‘good’ black person,” Smith said. “You should be okay with being different and okay with being black.”

Smith said that when she first came to WCC, she often felt alone and secluded from others on campus.

“I thought I had to change who I was to be accepted,” Smith said. Smith’s sister also became a student at WCC, and this inspired Smith to help start a group that would be a safe place for her sister and for others.

“I wanted [my sister] to have a place where she could come and be comfortable talking about what she thinks and feels,” Smith said. “I felt like making this group would help a plethora of people across campus to learn more and feel comfortable.”

New classes  
Continued from A1

Topics covered in the class will include: nonprofit legal compliance, board governance, nonprofit leadership and financial management. Students will also get the opportunity to craft their own professional nonprofit business plan from scratch.

“Many community colleges do not have a nonprofit track. It’s usually going to be something you gain at the four-year institution, so we wanted to give students a little bit of exposure early on in their academic career,” said Eva Samulski, head of the business and computer technologies department at WCC.

Samulski added that if the course has a successful launch, it may be embedded into one or more of the college’s degrees as a required course.

“We’re hoping that it takes off and that students have an interest. Because it’s a pilot, we wanted to leave it loose until we see if students are receptive to taking it . . . before we permanently place it somewhere,” Samulski said.

The college’s goal in creating these two new courses was to “create awareness” for nonprofit and esports management.

“I think it will give students a new area of management and business that they’re not familiar with,” Samulski said.

Students interested in nonprofit management or esports management can register to take either class in the coming winter 2020 semester. Seats are still open for both of the three-credit business elective courses.



WCC student playing video games at the student center.

New business management courses for the winter semester

BMG 264: Nonprofit Management

Credit hours: 3  
Course type: Business management elective  
Prerequisites: Academic reading and writing level of 6

The course will cover: Nonprofit legal compliance, board governance, nonprofit leadership, finances, history of nonprofits

BMG 164: Introduction to Esports

Credit hours: 3  
Course type: Business management elective  
Prerequisites: Academic reading and writing level of 6

The course will cover: Game history, related organizations, sports team management skills



Members of the Black Student Union at a meeting.

CAMPUS SNAPS

Photos taken around campus in the past few weeks



Two dogs, Kevin and Nala, take a stroll on WCC trails in their festive holiday onesies.



WCC nursing students pose with a presentation they had set up in the Student Center to educate the campus community about health and nutrition.



League of Women Voters representatives Susan Sefansky and Dave Solo were set up in the Student Center to help students register to vote.



The Spot now offers the Starbucks Holiday Blend coffee for the holiday

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS

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# Unique gifts for everyone on your list

By Catherine Engstrom-Hadley | *Staff Writer*



LILY MERRITT | WASHTENAW VOICE

## For the minimalist

Give the gift of Matthaei Botanical garden experiences all year long. A membership at Matthaei includes free parking, pre-sale invites, a reservation to Shakespeare in the Arb, discounts at the garden store and more! Sign up at [mbgna.umich.edu](http://mbgna.umich.edu).



LILY MERRITT | WASHTENAW VOICE

## For the Family

Grab your family a year's worth of movie night joy for all ages with a Disney+ subscription for \$69.99. Parents can share their classic Disney favorites with their children and kids get access to the entire library of Disney, Marvel, National Geographic and Pixar. Register at [disneyplus.com](http://disneyplus.com)



DESIGNED BY PROSTOOLEH

## For the young chef

Sprouting Chefs is a local company that provides cooking classes for kids and young adults. From learning to make a 3-course Italian dinner, to easy midweek meals, to professional culinary techniques, attendees will take home new skills that will last a lifetime. Get details at [sproutingchefs.org](http://sproutingchefs.org)



LILY MERRITT | WASHTENAW VOICE

## For the person always looking for their keys

Have a loved one that is always misplacing their keys, wallet or phone? Nudge them in the right direction with the Tile app, which makes finding personal items as easy as pressing a button. More information at [thetileapp.com](http://thetileapp.com).



VOICE FILE PHOTO

## For the comic book enthusiast

Vault of Midnight offers a subscription service for comic book fans. Get your loved one a few months of comics, ready for them every month when they are released. Find more information at [vaultofmidnight.com](http://vaultofmidnight.com)



DESIGNED BY WELCOMIA

## For the person who has everything

Make a donation in your loved one's name to Plant-A-Tree, a U.S. Forest Service program that helps reforest public lands. With a \$10 donation, the program can plant 10 seedlings and will provide a certificate to the honoree. Find more information under the donation tab on the U.S. Forest Service website.



COURTESY OF FOUND

## For the locavore

This locally designed tote bag from Found is the perfect market shopping bag for the townie who loves to rock Ann Arbor pride. Find it at [found-gallery.com/products/ann-arbor-coordinates-canvas-tote-bag](http://found-gallery.com/products/ann-arbor-coordinates-canvas-tote-bag)



COURTESY OF A2 HANDS ON MUSEUM

## For the kids

Nothing beats the winter blues like a trip to the Hands on Museum. Give them the gift of educational play and discovery. You can buy a membership or purchase admission for a few visits. Details at [aahom.org](http://aahom.org).



## DON'T GET DROPPED FROM WINTER CLASSES PAYMENT DEADLINES BEGIN DECEMBER 12, 2019

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ▶ Pay online or enroll in a payment plan today
- ▶ Make payment arrangements in person or call Student Accounting

### PAYMENT REMINDERS

- ▶ Make sure Student Accounting has proper authorization from your employer or other payees
- ▶ Be sure your financial aid is authorized and respond to any aid request

### WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Cashier or Student Accounting:

 734-973-7703

 [billing@wccnet.edu](mailto:billing@wccnet.edu)

 [WCCNET.EDU/PAY](http://WCCNET.EDU/PAY)



## Washtenaw Community College



# Creative ways to spend winter break

By Lilly Kujawski | Editor   Illustrations by Kaitlyn Carr

## Pleasure-read a 2019 release

### "Trick Mirror" by Jia Tolentino

From New Yorker staff writer Jia Tolentino, "Trick Mirror" is a collection of essays about self-delusion in American society. Tolentino explores and analyzes subjects like politics, feminism, social media, reality TV, scammer culture and self-image, and the ways they intersect.

### "The Travelers" by Regina Porter

Regina Porter's novel "The Travelers" chronicles the experiences of various characters and the way their lives are woven together in some way or another. Porter uses grace and intricacy to tell a story that grapples with race, relationships and what it means to be American.

### "Odes to Lithium" by Shira Erlichman

In her book of poems, "Odes to Lithium," Shira Erlichman illustrates her experiences with mental illness through a series of odes dedicated to the medication lithium, used to treat bipolar disorder. With honesty and precision, Erlichman's poems tackle the realities of sickness and recovery.

### "Find Me" by André Aciman

André Aciman returns with this sequel to his New York Times bestselling novel "Call Me By Your Name." "Find Me" follows Elio's father Samuel on a trip from Florence to Rome, moves to Paris with Elio, and catches up with Oliver in New England.



## Hide from the snow



### Take up a new hobby or pilot a project you've been putting off

Have you always wanted to learn how to knit, play guitar or speak sign language? Winter break is the perfect time to immerse yourself in a new hobby or skill. Or maybe you've been meaning to put together a collection of essays or set up a recipe box. A break from school is a great opportunity to catch up on all the projects that have fallen to the wayside to make room for academics.

### Up the stakes with a friendly game night

Invite a group of friends for a night of board game fun. Revisit an old classic, like chess, Monopoly or Clue, or try something new, such as What Do You Meme or Cards Against Humanity. Or, bring the fun to a family function. Just don't let a friendly game of cards turn into a family feud!

## Brave the cold

### Winter bird watching

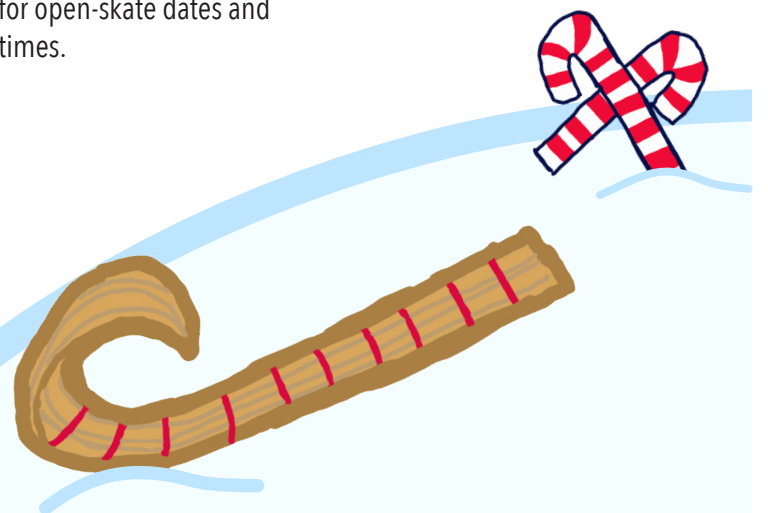
Winter is actually a great time for bird watching. Cardinals, Blue Jays, Morning Doves and Woodpeckers are just a few of the types of birds that can be spotted during Michigan winters. Study up on winter birds in Michigan, start putting out bird seed and grab some binoculars. Bird watching is sure to bring peace and relaxation to your winter break.

### Go ice skating

Round up friends or family for some classic winter fun at the ice rink. Buhr Park, Veterans Memorial Park and the Ann Arbor Ice Cube all offer open-skating and \$3 ice skate rentals. Admission prices ranges from \$3 to \$6. Check the ice rink websites for open-skate dates and times.

### Take to the hills

Dig out that old sled, find some friends who aren't afraid of the cold and revive the childhood joys of sledding.



## More fun ideas

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Reorganize your space                      | Throw a dance party                |
| Take a roadtrip                            | Write a loved one a letter         |
| Start a puzzle                             | Start a journal                    |
| Study an interesting subject for fun       | Watch a new show                   |
| Catch up on sleep                          | Start planning a garden for spring |
| Visit a friend you haven't seen in a while | Visit your favorite museums        |
| Try out a new recipe                       | Cook for your family               |
| Build a snowman                            | Create a scrapbook                 |
| Volunteer for a good cause                 | Do an indoor workout               |
|  | Bake holiday cookies               |





2019 holiday movie showdown

A descent into corny madness

By Catherine Engstrom-Hadley | Staff Writer

The time is upon us. Target has had Christmas trees out for nearly a month now (why?!)



"A Christmas Prince: The Royal Baby" Netflix (begins streaming Dec. 5)

Just when you thought you could escape, Queen Amber (Rose McIver) and King Richard (Ben Lamb) are back.



"Noelle" Disney+

Noelle (Anna Kendrick) is Santa Claus' daughter. She wants to make a difference in the North Pole but has a hard time finding her place.



"Christmas Break-In" Netflix

This movie has it all: drone skateboarding, weird criminals, Danny Glover and Denise Richards.



"The Knight Before Christmas" Netflix

If you came across a guy running around dressed like a medieval knight and carrying a sword would you: A) walk away slowly or B) invite him to live in your house for a while?



"Let It Snow" Netflix

Based on the YA novel, "Let It Snow" is by far the best holiday movie streaming right now.



Bittersweet day in the neighborhood

BY CLAIRE CONVIS Staff Writer

Grade: A See it if: You love Mister Rogers Skip it if: You're heartless

Opening with shots of the classic set from the beloved television show "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," this film sets itself up to be a heartwarming tearjerker, and it delivers.

"Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" features cute puppets, such as Daniel Tiger and King Friday, but also touches on deep topics such as war, divorce, anger and making mistakes.

The film is shot mainly from magazine writer Lloyd Vogel's perspective, as his editor assigns him to profile the beloved television personality Rogers.

Mister Rogers describes forgiveness to his audience as a decision that we make to release others from the feelings of anger we have towards them.

"It's strange, but sometimes it's the hardest to forgive people that we love," said Rogers; in the film, Vogel is struggling to be present for his newborn son, and to forgive his own father for abandoning him many years ago.

As Vogel continues his interviews, Rogers tells him that he always tries to give children "positive ways to deal with their feelings," and to be real with them about the experiences and challenges they will face in the world.

In one scene, Rogers films an episode where he is supposed to set up a tent, but he wrestles with the tent to no avail, before stopping and saying that assembling a tent must be a job for two grown-ups.

Even those who didn't grow up watching "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" can still enjoy this film, which has a "Saving Mr. Banks" vibe to it.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

"Get It Off Your Chest"

Introducing to the Voice our new advice column from contributing writer Adeline Griffith: Get it Off Your Chest.

Use your WCC email address and look for a response in the next issue. We'll use tried-and-true signature pseudonyms when we publish ("Steamed in Saline," for example) but we want to be sure we're hearing from members of the WCC community.

Just send your questions to: getitoffyourchestwithaddie@gmail.com



Adeline Griffith, our new advice columnist.

december horoscopes

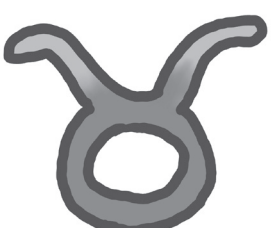
YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING LIST FOR EACH ZODIAC SIGN



aries

March 21-April 19

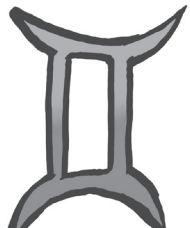
People born under Aries love to stay active, so they'll appreciate the gift of an experience the most.



taurus

April 20-May 21

Tauruses value beauty and luxury, and appreciate gifts they can enjoy using.



gemini

May 21-June 20

Always the curious one, Geminis love the pursuit of knowledge.



cancer

June 21-July 22

Sentimental Cancer will appreciate a gift from the heart.



leo

July 23-Aug. 22

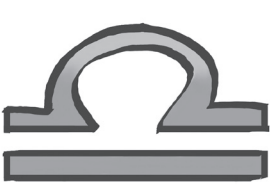
Leos can have notoriously expensive tastes, but you don't have to break the bank to get the Leo in your life something they'll love.



virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Virgo's keen eye for detail and tendency to take on too much means their holiday season is likely two chaotic months of non-stop planning, perfecting and list-making.



libra

Sept. 23-Oct. 22

A seeker of beauty and lover of the outdoors, Libra's taste is imaginative and luxurious.



scorpio

Oct. 23-Nov. 22

Mysterious Scorpio would probably be just as happy with cash, but will take pleasure in gifts of sophistication.



sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

People born under Sagittarius love travel and adventure.



capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 20

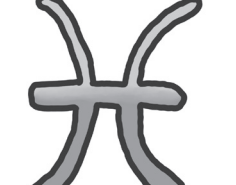
Capricorns appreciate stylish subtleties, traditional tastes and practicality.



aquarius

Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Inquisitive and deep-thinking Aquarius is drawn to the unusual and the unknown.

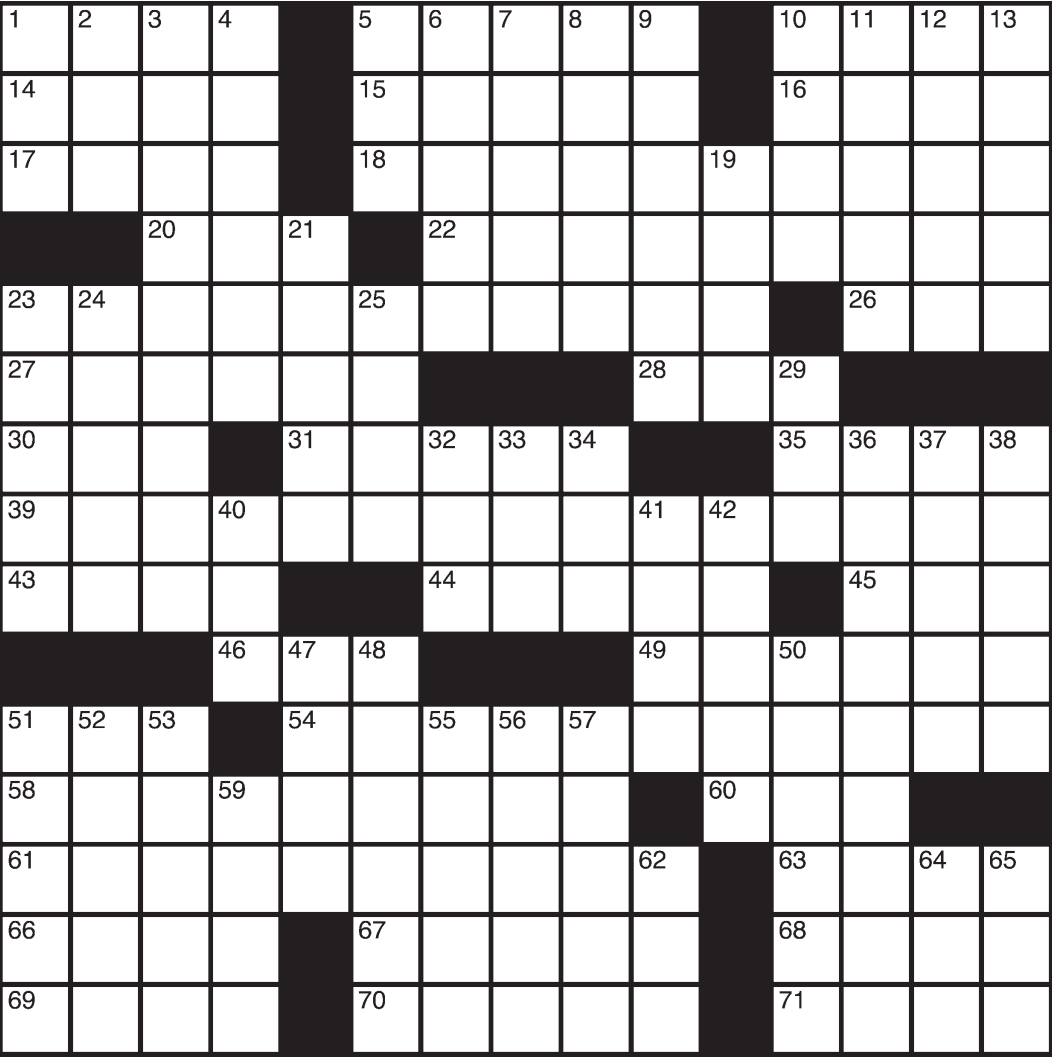


pisces

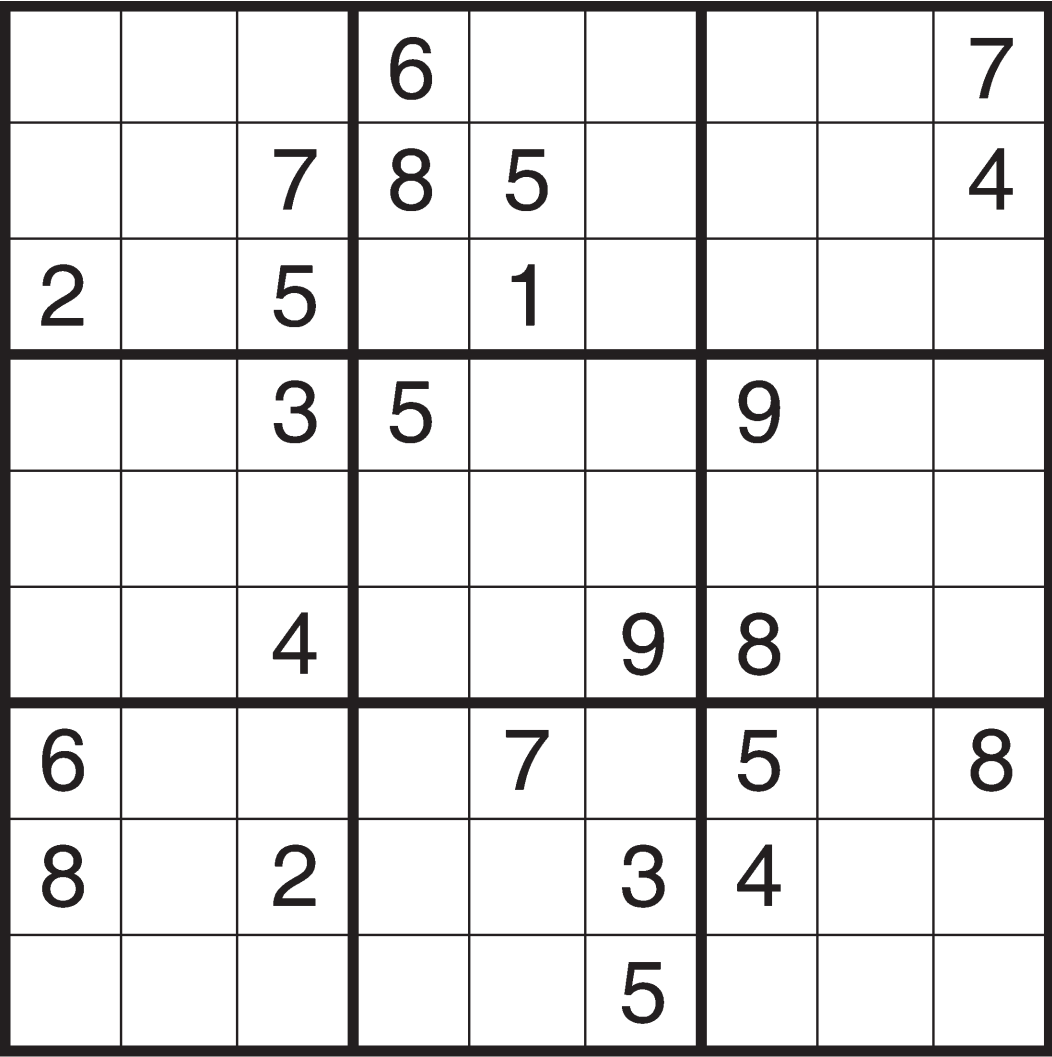
Feb. 19-March 20

Artistic Pisces will enjoy a gift that sparks their creativity.





Solutions to puzzles on washtenawvoice.com



ACROSS

- 1 Peruvian home  
5 German philosopher who wrote "The Phenomenology of Spirit"  
10 Microsoft Surface competitor  
14 Chopped down  
15 Amazon assistant  
23 \*Medieval entertainer  
26 Ave. and tpk.  
27 Hard to believe
- 28 Word with York or Jersey  
30 In shape  
31 Forgetful moment  
35 First part of a play  
39 Doing as told, in the military ... or what the starts of the answers to starred clues can literally have?  
43 Mario Kart console, initially  
44 "\_\_\_, but no cigar"  
45 Pencil eraser, e.g.  
46 Christen, as a knight  
49 Hurry up  
51 ISP option  
54 \*Hostel audience?
- 58 How chops or ribs are served  
60 That girl  
61 \*Comedian's suppliers  
63 Modern in-flight amenity  
66 Earl \_\_\_ tea  
67 Etsy's biz, e.g.  
68 Supply-and-demand sci.  
69 Cravings  
70 With a long face  
71 Stink

DOWN

- 1 Campus eatery, for short  
2 Guns N' Roses frontman Rose  
3 Slow-moving coastal critter  
4 Bothersome browser apps  
5 \_\_\_ and eggs  
6 Slip out to tie the knot  
7 Heredity units  
8 Apply, as pressure  
9 Joes who aren't pros  
10 Persia, now  
11 Rod for stirring a fire  
12 Change for the better  
13 Pub game  
19 Former filly  
21 Prefix for Venice's country
- 23 Perp's restraints  
24 Bagel flavoring  
25 "The Hunger Games" star, to fans  
29 Roll of bills  
32 Insta upload  
33 NBC late-night weekend staple, familiarly  
34 Freudian focus  
36 Heart of the rink  
37 More faithful  
38 13-digit pub. codes  
40 '60s hallucinogen  
41 Org. providing workplace safety posters  
42 Attain
- 47 Lyft competitor  
48 Bottle-fed tykes  
50 Backyard chef's stick  
51 Pooch, to a tyke  
52 Drum type  
53 Three-star mil. officer  
55 Panna \_\_: Italian dessert  
56 Work with dough  
57 Danger  
59 "I-" rds., e.g.  
62 Crafty  
64 Hardly a friend  
65 Confident crossword solver's choice





Compiled by Catherine Engstrom-Hadley | Staff Writer

events

ENTERTAINMENT LOCAL CAMPUS

THE LONGEST NIGHT

The Hosting presents “The Longest Night,” a fashion-inspired performance piece created by fiber artist Lindsey Leyland. Inspired by themes of the Divine Feminine, this show highlights wearable creations under the majesty of the Winter Solstice. Tickets are \$20 per person and available on the-hosting.org

Leon Loft at Len Speakers | 715 W. Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor

Dec. 11, 7 p.m.

KRAMPUS COSTUME BALL

Krampus is back. Event features special Krampus puppet performances, a DJ dance party, prizes for best costumes and more. This event is for those 21 and up with a \$5 suggested donation.

Dreamland Theater | 26 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti

Dec. 14, 6 p.m.-12 a.m.

SHREK THE MUSICAL

Ypsilanti Youth Theatre presents “Shrek the Musical.” With fun for all ages, see the story of an angry green ogre who learns the power of friendship and love. Visit ypsiyouththeatre.org for ticket link.

Riverside Arts Center | 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti

Dec. 5-8, times vary

TINY EXPO

Come out and enjoy creative works and handmade fares from more than 45 artists and crafters. Tiny Expo is celebrating its 10th year with family-friendly craft activities and more this year.

Ann Arbor District Library | 343 S Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor

Dec. 14, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

FREIGHTHOUSE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL

Visit with Santa and enjoy live music, storytelling and crafting. Handmade goods from local vendors will be available for purchase, so you can check items off your holiday shopping list. There will be a card and gift-tag making table and free hot cocoa and coffee will be provided at this free event.

Ypsilanti Freighthouse | 100 Market Place, Ypsilanti

Dec. 7, 12-4:30 p.m.

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

The perfect opportunity to get some holiday shopping in and ring in seasonal cheer. Enjoy a festive night on Main Street in Downtown Ann Arbor. Storefront windows will be fully decorated, with sidewalk entertainers and various businesses providing entertainment and cheer for all.

Main Street Area | Downtown Ann Arbor

Dec. 6, 5 p.m.-12 a.m.

FUEL-UP FOR FINALS

As the end-of-the-semester stress hits, stop by for special food treats to fuel your study sessions this finals season and receive study tips to help you ace your exams.

Student Center, first floor

Dec. 11, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

See the classic tale live. Presented by Wild Swan Theater, this version of the Charles Dickens tale is tailored especially for family audiences. The show is recommended for ages 8 and up. Tickets range from \$12 to \$18 and can be purchased at wildswantheater.thundertix.com.

Towsley Auditorium

Dec. 5-8, times vary

THE ART OF THE HOLIDAYS

Enjoy a free performance by the 80-piece Washtenaw Community Concert Band as it rings in the holiday season with a festive musical performance. Visit wccband.org for more details.

Towsley Auditorium

Dec. 13, 7:30-9 p.m.



TRIBUNE MEDIA



LILLY KUJAWSKI | WASHTENAW VOICE



VOICE FILE PHOTO

Launch date:  
**DECEMBER 4**

Upgrades include:  
**MORE STUDENT-FRIENDLY  
CONTENT ORGANIZATION  
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**RESPONSIVE DESIGN  
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