

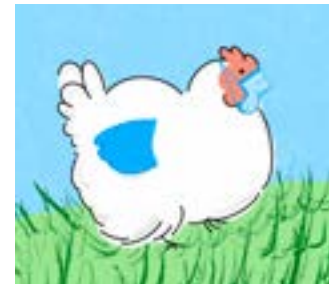
WILL THE MOB BE ENTERTAINED?

SEE A5



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FUN

SEE B1-B4



BIRD FLU INFORMATION & TIPS

SEE A8

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

VOL. 35, No. 7

The student publication of Washtenaw Community College

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

www.washtenawvoice.com

Exploring beyond space, science and Earth

WTMC student interns with SunRISE Ground RadioLab through U-M, sponsored by NASA

SASHA HATINGER
Staff Writer

Sruthilaya Rajavelu-Mohan, a pre-engineering WTMC student at WCC, is striving for more in the field of earth and space science.

Rajavelu-Mohan was an intern with SunRISE Ground RadioLab through the University of Michigan, sponsored by NASA this past summer. She worked closely with Doctor Shrish Soni, who is a postdoctoral research fellow and with Mojtaba Akhavan-Tafti, who is an associate research scientist.

"It was actually really exciting work. I'm so glad I got the opportunity to be a part of something so exciting and great," Rajavelu-Mohan conveyed. "I was with a team of a couple high school and college students at the University of Michigan's engineering department, and what we focused on was recording and analyzing solar radio burst data from a dual dipole antenna—which I plan on doing the same exact thing at the WCC campus as well."

The work Rajavelu-Mohan completed was important to the team she was part of. "My role specifically was to analyze all the data files that were present in the Dropbox and identify each solar radio burst [and] observe and classify them correctly," Rajavelu-Mohan explained.

She identified 122 'type three' solar radio bursts alone and created a document detailing the analysis process. When explained by Rajavelu-Mohan, she made her responsibilities sound very simple; but what does it all mean?

Akhavan-Tafti helped put things in simpler terms for better understanding. "SunRISE is a NASA mission that is going to launch sometime in the future," Akhavan-Tafti explained. "It's going to study radio waves coming from the Sun. These radio waves are generated because the Sun, once in a while, emits these structures called 'coronal mass ejections,'... You can think of it as bundles of magnetic fields and charged particles. And these bundles are the ones that typically cause the emission of radio waves."

He goes on to describe more about the internship program Rajavelu-Mohan was part of. "SunRISE Ground RadioLab is an effort to engage high school students and undergraduate and graduate students in the design, development, and deployment of ... ground-based radio antennae in the U.S.," Akhavan-Tafti described. "For the past year and a half, we have built and deployed 18 antennas at 18 high schools around the country—from Michigan to Puerto Rico, to West Virginia, to Illinois and elsewhere."

Rajavelu-Mohan invested a lot into her work with her summer internship and her hard work did not go unnoticed. "After her work with our project, with the summer internship, we are able to make a catalog of all those events, what we observed from all [the] antennas and that catalog is published now," Soni said.

Her goals and accomplishments don't stop there. Rajavelu-Mohan recently helped start the WTMC Earth and Space Science Club, which she is the president of.



COURTNET PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

Sruthilaya Rajavelu-Mohan, a pre-engineering WTMC student, is an intern with SunRISE Ground RadioLab through the University of Michigan. WTMC Earth and Space e Club and Rajavelu-Mohan are building WCC's own dual dipole antenna on top of the OE building.

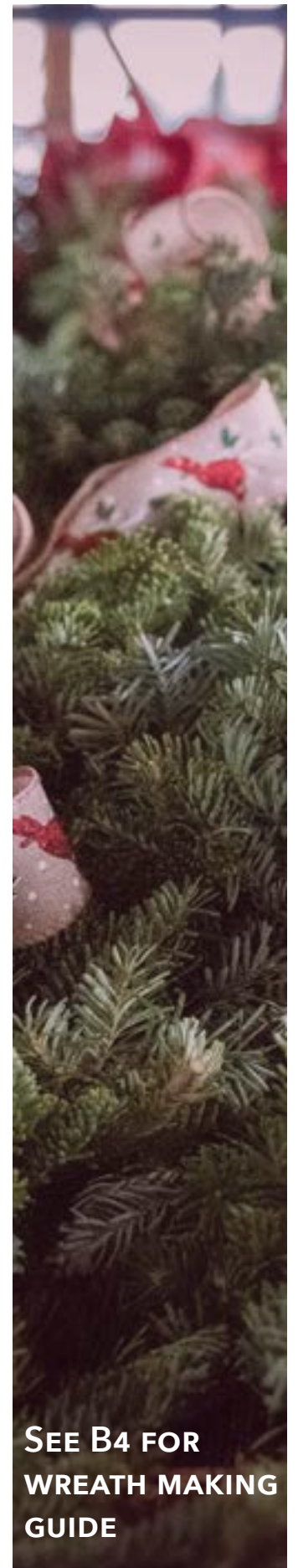
"I loved the knowledge that I gained and thought it would be amazing to share with people that have a similar passion for astronomy and radio space science, and also fields of Aerospace Engineering, for

example," Rajavelu-Mohan said. "So, I decided to partner up with NASA and the University of Michigan once more to have our own dual dipole antenna on the WCC campus. We are setting it up on top of

the OE building."

In her spare time, Rajavelu-Mohan also coaches Science Olympiad events and is involved in the Shanti Bhavan

SCIENCE, SEE A7



SEE B4 FOR
WREATH MAKING
GUIDE

Teacher preparation program selects WCC as top community college partner

YANA MCGUIRE
Staff Writer

Washtenaw Community College has been selected as the premiere community college to help address the teacher shortage in Michigan by Talent Together, a "grow your own" teacher preparation program.

The partnership will help K-12 teacher candidates gain a bachelor's degree and teaching certification by offering free college tuition and fees. It also offers degrees that can be obtained solely online to allow them to earn a living as a school district employee while attending college.

There are three key reasons why WCC stood out from other community colleges, according to Brandon Tucker, WCC executive vice president for instruction.

"They [Talent Together] recognized that not only do we have talented faculty, but we have a history," Tucker said. "[We have] many years of preparing the next generation of teachers and early



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

The Aspiring Educators of Michigan is a WCC student-led club that helps and provides education majors resources to help them become future leaders and teachers. Currently it is being led by (left) Emily Tebbetts, social media ambassador, Violet Andrade, community liaison, Sean Doran treasurer, Aiden Gego president, Hannah Wiles vice president, and Ava Nelson ambassador.

childhood educators. Thirdly, it would be our online presence."

In addition, Eastern's transfer partnership with WCC allows all credits earned to be transferable and makes tuition cost-efficient.

"Eastern is our leading transfer partner," Tucker said. "That also makes us a strong partner for the initiative because we literally have one of the best teacher education program transfer partners in the state. For many decades, Eastern has been known as a teacher's school."

1,768 teaching positions were vacant during the 2022-2023 school year, according to

the 2024 Michigan Teacher Shortage Study by the Education Policy Innovation Collaborative at Michigan State University.

"We are a community college, so, by design, we're going to always address the needs of the community," Tucker said. "We know teachers are needed here. So, being able to support that need by fueling the talent pipeline with passionate and prepared teachers, we are right within our mission. That is what makes it [the partnership] so great."

During the Fall 2024 semester, the partnership pilot program enrolled 16 teacher candidates in WCC courses.

Sierra Pauley, paraprofessional at Childs Elementary School in Ypsilanti was one of those students. Experiencing the effects of the teacher shortage firsthand, Pauley jumped on the chance to help provide quality education to the youth.

"You have to think like the parents are trusting us to be with their children so long every day. And that is such a huge responsibility and an honor," Pauley said.

A responsibility Pauley does not take lightly. She believes gaining the knowledge to properly instruct her future students is important. However,

TEACHERS, SEE A7

WCC to see new withdraw, audit process for 2024-2025 semester

SASHA HATINGER
Staff Writer

WCC has changed its withdrawal and audit process. Students can now withdraw from their classes up to 80% of the semester, compared to up to 50% in the previous withdrawal timeframe.

When students drop a class by the deadline, they receive a full refund on tuition and the course disappears from their transcript. When students withdraw by the 80% mark, they do not receive a refund and the course remains on their transcript with a "W" in place of a grade.

Students who audit a class receive an "AU" in place of a grade. Much like taking a class to receive a letter grade, students are responsible for paying full tuition and fees associated with the class they're

interested in auditing.

Kathy Currie, student services system architect/registrar, shared more information on both the withdrawal and audit process.

Currie explained that auditing and withdrawing from classes at WCC is now reported as a "status" on transcripts rather than receiving a grade.

"We have many students who want to audit," Currie indicated.

"While we were evaluating this process, we contacted other schools to see kind of what they were doing, and a lot of those other schools were having it at the end of the semester, kind of the eighty percent of the semester—and none of them were allowing grades to be given as 'W'—all the other schools were similar to what we moved to," Currie

WITHDRAW, SEE A7



WASHTENAWVOICE.COM

WASHTENAWVOICE

WASHTENAWVOICE

WCC Jazz Ensemble dazzles Towsley Auditorium

PHOTOS BY
ZAKERIA ALMAJRABI



(Left) Ted Badgerow jams out singing "Ain't Misbehavin'" by Fats Waller.



(Left) Eliza Adkins, Sage Cowan, and Emily Sherman of the WTMC Music Society perform "Bored" by Laufey.



Steve Sommers, WCC music instructor, plays his guitar part in "Feeling good" by Newley Bricusse.



Dale Simons sings the intro to "Feeling Good" by Newley Bricusse.



The WCC Jazz Ensemble plays a variety of songs including the jazz arrangement of "25 or 6 to 4."

Minding your mental health amidst finals season

LIV FOSTER
Contributor

The holiday season can be both the most wonderful and stressful time of the year, due to the imminent arrival of exams. While it can be hard to consider anything as important as getting that A, maintaining mental health is crucial in these times. There are a variety of strategies to utilize as well as resources available at WCC to help you.

Reach Out to Your Instructors

While it may seem daunting, if you have any concerns over preparing for the final or not fully understanding the material, bringing your concerns to your instructor is a great step. When asked if he had any advice regarding students stressing over finals, Michael Quail, a WCC math instructor, recommends talking to their instructors.

"My frustration is not seeing enough of my students [reaching out.] Most of the instructors at Washtenaw really care about their students. So, if they contact them, I'm sure they'll bend over backwards to help," he said.

Utilize Bailey Library Resources

The library boasts various mental health resources. You can check out either a sensory maze kit or therapy light via the library for up to seven days. The sensory maze kit is a multisensory labyrinth that is designed for you to trace with your fingers as a form of med-

itation. The therapy light kit features a "happiness lamp" that simulates sunlight, in turn boosting your mood, improving sleep and increasing focus. Quail also recommended taking advantage of the study groups and personal tutors the library provides.

Practice Self Care

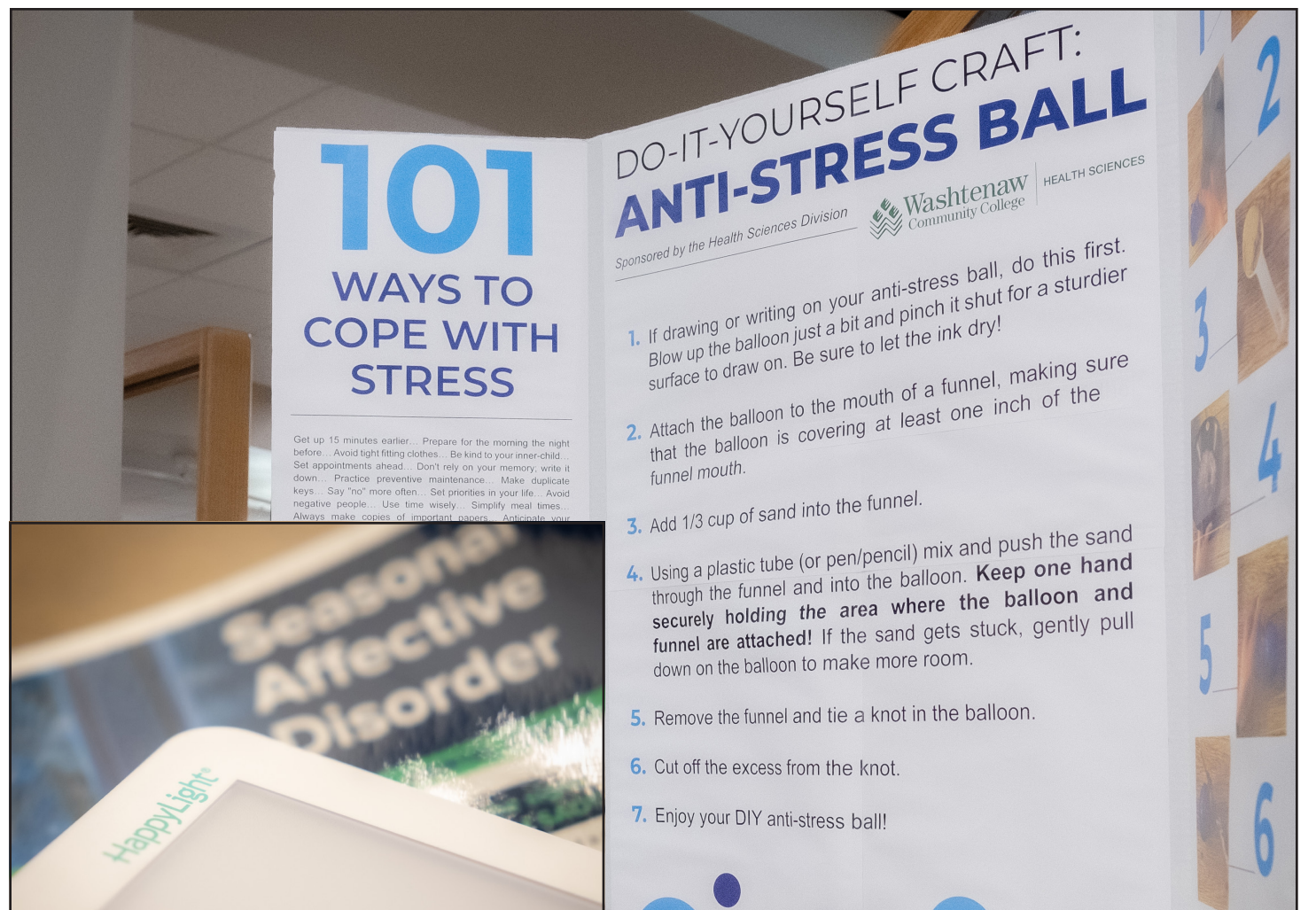
One way to practice self-care is through arts and crafts. Crafts have been proven to improve mental wellbeing, likely due to the sense of accomplishment and creativity that comes from completing a craft. You can visit the Bailey Library Dec. 2-12 for a DIY anti-stress ball kit, just in time for the end of the semester finals.

Another way to practice self-care is taking a walk. Any form of physical activity, even in short 10-15 minute sessions, is beneficial for your overall health.

Time Management

Time management is a crucial skill for students, especially when juggling school, family, holidays, work and other priorities during finals season. Think of time management as a budget for your time; try planning out days during busy times, allotting specific amounts of time to different priorities.

It doesn't have to be minute by minute, but creating a plan for yourself, such as spending an hour studying for your exam before work, taking a break to walk or rest after studying or accomplishing any studying goals before plans with family or friends can be incredibly beneficial. Having concrete and achievable goals



The Bailey Library has tools that can help students struggling with mental health, such as a step by step guide to make a stress ball or the HappyLight, which is a small indoor lightbox that mimics sunlight.

for completing any kind of task can be de-stressing in itself. Remember, you can always reach out to WCC success coaches to help you improve your time management skills!

Bettering Sleeping Habits

The majority of college students do not get enough sleep. Getting enough quality sleep is always important, but during stressful times especially, not getting enough will bog you down. It can affect you physically, negatively impact your mood, and decrease men-

tal performance. One strategy to improve sleep is cutting out caffeine a minimum of six hours before your intended bedtime. Even if you can drink a can of Monster right before you go to bed and fall asleep just fine, it's likely that it's impacting your quality of sleep. Another tactic is curbing your screen time before bed. Even something as minimal as putting your phone down 15 minutes before bed can make falling asleep easier. Try replacing those 15 minutes of screen time with

something beneficial to your mental health, such as journaling, reading a book, yoga or another nightly routine that works for you. Time management is key here as well. Setting a specific time you'd like to be in bed by and sticking to that time consistently, as well as aiming for at least 7 hours of sleep, will greatly improve your mood, energy levels and mental capacity.

COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

Schedule an appointment with WCC's free personal counselors by calling 734-677-5223

Download WellTrack Boost to track your mood and use CBT techniques to boost it-you can gain a free subscription through WCC

Visit <https://libguides.wccnet.edu/mentalhealth/overview> to access further reading on mental health & more WCC resources



VOICE BOX

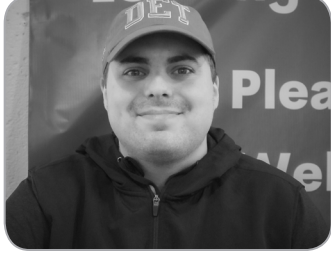
Lily Cole and Inayah Amir Bey - Washtenaw Voice

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

What is your ideal snow day and what would you do?

"My ideal snow day would be waking up past 12 and playing video games—more specifically Destiny."

Caleb Knisley
pre-pharm



"There would be a lot of snow, an absolute winter wonderland, and no class."

Dakota Kriebel
cybersecurity



"There would be two to three feet of snow. I'd sleep in and get a day off."

Dominick Poegel
chemistry



"There would be a foot of snow. I'd go sledding, build a snowman or stay inside and play video games."

Caden Moe
mechatronics



"Sleeping in, go outside, binge a show or a movie."

Zizi Khatib
general math and science



"Waking up, it would be completely white outside. I'd want to go outside and drink hot chocolate."

Masa Alhabal
general studies



"My ideal snow day would be waking up and knowing classes are canceled."

Hydar Al Tameemi
liberal arts transfer



Fashion

WASHTENAW

Jada Hauser - Graphic Designer



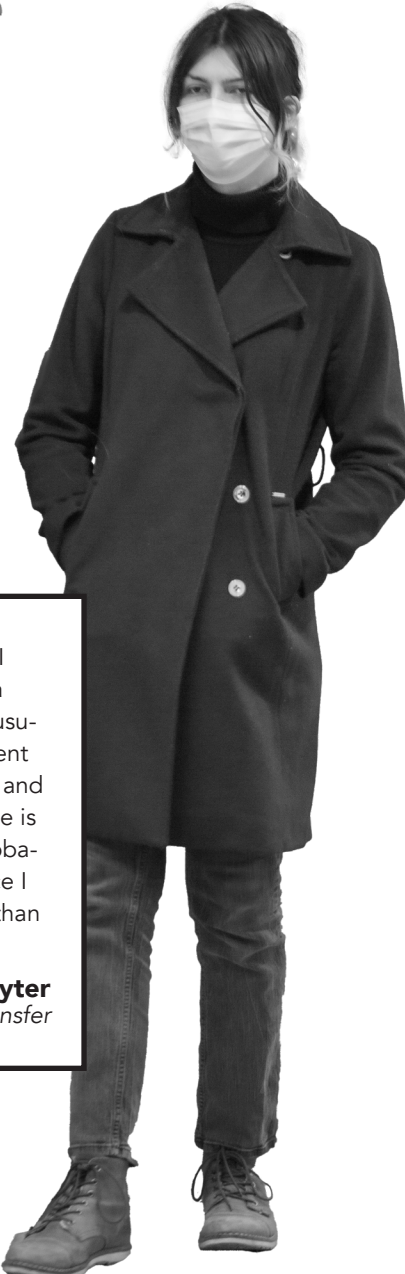
"I chose this outfit because I'm going caroling tonight and I want to look cute. Most of my clothes, I thrift or I receive them as hand-me-downs. I think I got the sweater from Walmart. My favorite article of clothing is probably my skirt, I love the skirt. It looks nice and it has slits on the sides, making it easy for me to move."

Zoe Culp
photography/WTMC



"The fleece-lined leggings and boots are very warm, as well as the sweater. I chose the skirt because I think it's cute. Not sure where I got it, I mostly shop at thrift stores, so I think that's where I got it. I like the skirt, it's very versatile."

Anya Montalva
math/science/WTMC



"I was feeling a little ill, so I decided to do something a little less flamboyant than usual. I believe I got the different pieces from Macy's, Kohl's, and Marshall's. My favorite piece is probably the jacket. It's probably the highest quality piece I have on and much bolder than everything else."

Aleks Denryter
liberal arts transfer

Lyric Lane

Alice McGuire - Deputy Editor

What is your favorite holiday song?

"Santa Tell Me" by Ariana Grande



"I like Ariana Grande."

Sarah Thompson
business administration

"Rocking Around the Christmas Tree" by Brenda Lee



"As a kid, I always heard it on the radio."

Brynn Guzi
liberal arts

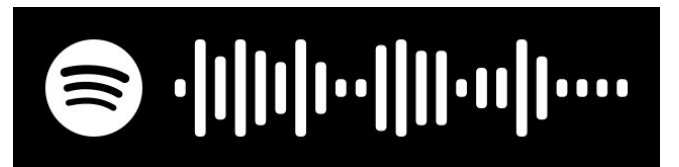
"All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey



"It really pumps me up for Christmas."

Keeley Leslie
criminal justice

"Silent Night" by Casting Crowns



"I love the origins of the song. It was written when they only had a guitar for Christmas service, so it was written for that."

Katelyn Bell
pre engineering



COLUMN

The Washtenaw Voice gears up for a social media rebrand



SASHA HATINGER
Staff Writer

As much as I consider myself to be “off the grid” in terms of social media, not participating with major platforms like Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly known as Twitter) and TikTok, I do recognize how important it is for The Washtenaw Voice to keep up with the times and reach a broader audience on WCC’s campus.

The first time I consciously chose to deactivate my Social Media accounts was after watching ‘The Social Dilemma’ in my Mass Communication class in 2022. Before that, I would keep my Facebook deactivated for the simple fact that I had almost five thousand ‘friends’ and didn’t really know any of them.

A few years later, I honestly had a reality check and

decided that managing an ‘alternate ego/lifestyle’ via my social media accounts was not helping me grow mentally, physically, emotionally, or spiritually. I then decided to permanently delete all my Social Media platforms, stop comparing myself and my life to others, and start living - for me.

With that being said, I was fortunate enough to attend a few social media sessions at the National College Media Conference in New Orleans in October. It was there that I learned the significance of having more of a presence on social media for our campus paper—to really connect with students and staff and meet them where they are.

One of the sessions I attended was called “This is the Convergence,” which really grabbed my attention when I saw it on the roster.

The University of Kentucky’s media advisor, Ryan Craig, led the discussion, highlighting how the university’s paper, The Kentucky Kernel, has seen significant growth since increasing its presence on social media.

In fact, according to Craig, their following on Instagram has increased by 130%, and their TikTok has nearly 18,000 followers since making their “convergence” into a pri-

marily digital news source.

“We’re a student media outlet,” Craig said. “We do still print newspapers. We print special sections, but we don’t print a weekly newspaper like we did for decades, and they were a daily newspaper before that.”

The Washtenaw Voice social media presence is essentially non-existent in comparison to The Kentucky Kernel.

My goal is to identify the needs of our readers, WCC students and staff.

Dena Blair, department chair for communication media and theater arts and lead faculty for the broadcast media arts Program at WCC, believes most of the school’s campus gets its news online.

“Whether it’s through their social media platforms. Whether it’s through news outlet platforms, but there’s that aspect of it,” Blair said.

But what pulls WCC students and staff—and, let’s face it, our society today—towards getting their news online?

“Social Media is addictive,” Blair stated. “Because we do get information, so incredibly quick nowadays, because of the access to the internet and our social media platforms.”

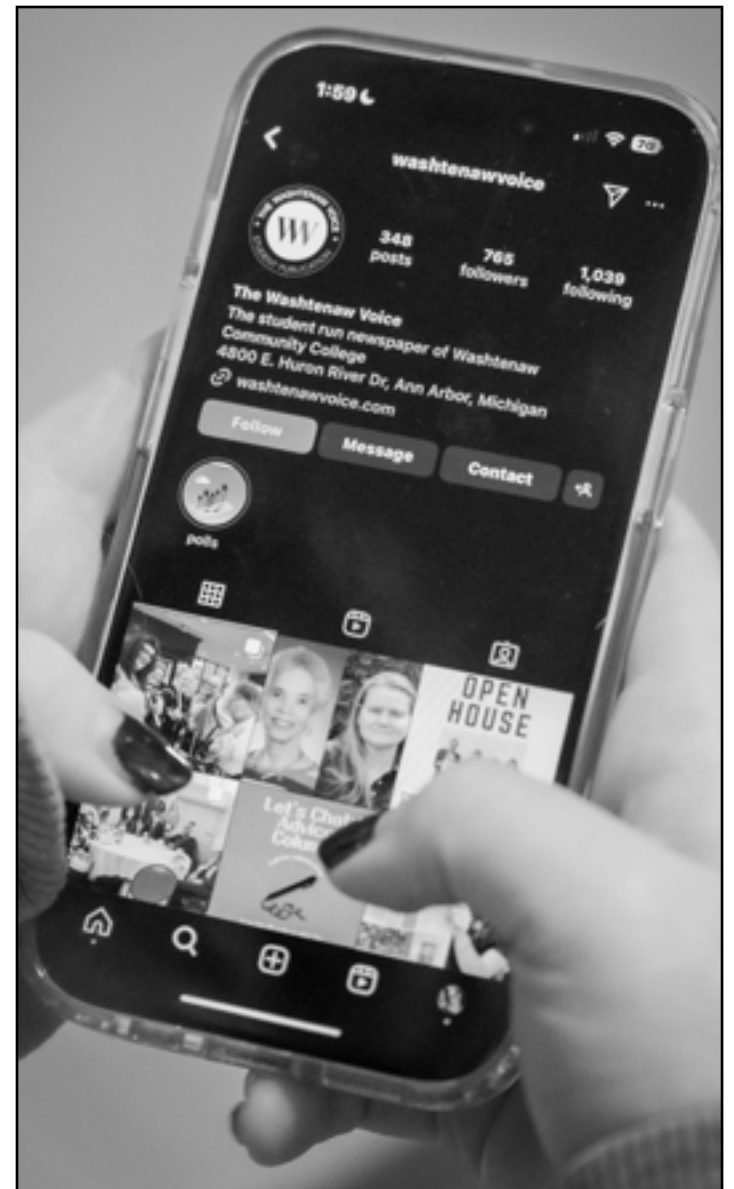
Generally speaking, almost everyone has phones—

including children. We have essentially unlimited access to information in the palm of our hands, at our fingertips, at any given time of the day. With that in mind, I can understand why so many are resorting to Social Media platforms to get live updates on current events.

“You know, it’s that we are so used to getting our ... instant gratification from the media. Whether it be to make us happy, to fear, whatever it might be, we’re looking for that instant gratification, and social media gives us that in real-time,” Blair explained.

The Washtenaw Voice is keeping a dying art alive. Printing newspapers is a thing of the past in the digital world we live in today. According to the United States Census Bureau website, “Total estimated weekday circulation of U.S. daily newspapers was 55.8 million in 2000 and dropped to 24.2 million by 2020, according to Editor & Publisher and the Pew Research Center.” (Adam Grundy, 2022) Those statistics are startling.

My opinion isn’t to eliminate the process of printing newspapers at The Washtenaw Voice—it is to incorporate a firm and strong digital presence, to establish more loyalty for the craft of journalism.



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE
The Washtenaw Voice is active on Instagram and YouTube. Find us under the Washtenaw Voice handle.

COLUMN

Family dynamics shift, but love always remains



LILY COLE
Editor

My mom changed her last name in 2018. This was a blow to my sister and I, who kept our dad’s last name when our parents divorced in 2017. I didn’t feel as close to her anymore. It felt weird living in a two name household where she would buy big HGTV-esque F’s to adorn the place, and the last name Ferrier seemed outlandish. What kind of last name is that?

The same feeling could be related to my stepdad, Dan. At the time, it felt weird that my mom married a man whose name was so close to “dad.”

When I met Dan, I didn’t know what to think—a 6’1 Hell’s Angel-looking guy who was bald with a surprisingly clean-cut goatee. He was the walking epitome of The Dude from the 1998 film “The Big Lebowski.” He was completely different from my dad, who was gentler-looking and still had hair.

The Center for Disease Control reports in their provisional number of marriages and marriage rating that in

2022, 673,989 people got divorced out of a population of 278,154,454. For Michigan, the US Census reports that the percentage of people divorced in 2023 was 6.2%. When my mom and dad told my sister and I that they were splitting, I hid in my closet for maybe 20 minutes. It felt like a lifetime, though, knowing that the two people I considered the most important people in my life would not be together anymore.

There are unique differences in each child and family. Despite the differences, divorce has been shown to negatively impact a child’s future competence in family relationships, education, emotional well-being and earning potential. Two major meta-analyses, one published in 1991 and the other in 2001 by the American Physiological Association, found that children of divorced parents consistently scored lower on measures of academic achievement, behavior, psychological adjustment, self-esteem and social relationships.

After my parent’s divorce, my sister and I switched school districts, moving from my mom’s house to my dad’s every week. My sister fell behind in class and needed help to keep up, a trend that would follow



JADA HAUSER | WASHTENAW VOICE

her until her senior year of high school.

My mom and dad always told my sister and me that there are two relationships in a family. One with the kids and adults and one with just the adults. My parents are firm and always told us they’d always put us first and always have. My parents didn’t and wouldn’t have the “normal” divorce and we’d always be a family.

Karolyn Lehn, a personal

just go for the communication and try to think of positive thoughts and positive regard for the other person. I think that makes the transition.”

Lehn emphasizes that parents must be flexible and open to their child’s timeline in these divorce situations.

“I think as a parent again, when communicating, try to understand the kid’s comfort level,” she said.

When ever a problem arises, Dan never breaks a sweat and always tries to talk through the situation. I can get a little overwhelmed with something that can’t be fixed at the drop of a hat, but with Dan, nothing is overwhelming. There’s something about his cool and calm demeanor that I idolize. He always wears a shirt with the “Got Milk?” font that says, “Don’t Freak Out.”

He taught me that maybe letting some things roll off your back isn’t bad. Maybe it’s what’s needed to get past a situation.

My mom talks about how Dan is just another person who loves me and my sister. While true, yes, I can’t help but think of him as another paternal figure in my life. He’s one

of the first people I call when something bad happens, and I can’t thank him enough for the lessons and endurance he’s taught me.

He recently got me a book on how to be a leader in the workplace after I expressed some fears about stepping into the editor role at the Voice. The book “Your First Leadership Job,” by Tacy M. Byham and Richard S. Wellins, provides tips and tricks for navigating situations within the leadership field.

A chapter I liked was “A Woman’s First Leadership Job” because it discusses “owning the moment.” Something Dan always tells my sister and me to do—sometimes sending texts in the morning saying, “Stay confident!!!” and “Kill it today!!!” And yes, it’s always with three exclamation points.

Since every family dynamic is different, parents who co-parent or step-parent may sometimes need to learn how to navigate these divorces and how their children respond. Lehn recommends the Mary A. Rackham Institute (MARI) of U-M, which offers evidence-based mental health, language, and literacy services, including therapy and assessments, for individuals of all ages.

For more information about workshops and MARI itself, visit <https://mari.umich.edu/>.



WASHTENAWVOICE.COM

WASHTENAWVOICE | WASHTENAWVOICE

OUR TEAM AND ITS ROLE

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

YOUR VOICE

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

CORRECTIONS

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

FIRST COPY’S FREE

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

EDITOR	Lily Cole	lvcole@wccnet.edu
DEPUTY EDITOR.....	Alice McGuire	chmcguire@wccnet.edu
BUSINESS MANAGER	Jack Sink	jsink@wccnet.edu
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS.....	Jada Hauser	jmhauser@wccnet.edu
	Zeinab Agbaria	zagbaria@wccnet.edu
PHOTO EDITOR.....	Courtney Prielipp	cprielipp@wccnet.edu
WRITERS	Yana McGuire	ymcguire@wccnet.edu
	Sasha Hatinger	shatinger@wccnet.edu
CONTRIBUTORS.....	Beck Elandt	belandt@wccnet.edu
	Zakeria Almajrabi	zalmajrabi@wccnet.edu
	Liv Foster	lpfoster@wccnet.edu
	Macaela Adams	cadams19@wccnet.edu
	Skay Bawol	sbawol@wccnet.edu
	Inayah Amir Bey	iamirbey@wccnet.edu
ADVISER.....	Lilly Kujawski	lgkujawski@wccnet.edu

'Gladiator II' swings high, misses historical mark



YANA MCGUIRE
Staff Writer

Rating: 3.5/5

This review contains spoilers for "Gladiator II," released in theaters Nov. 22.

Fans have long awaited the sequel to the epic historical action film "Gladiator." For 24 years to be exact. Will the mob be entertained? Ehh...probably not. To understand why Gladiator 2 doesn't live up to the hype, one must first understand why the original was so good.

The story begins in Rome in 180 AD. The conquering general Maximus Decimus Meridius (Russell Crowe) learns that Emperor Marcus Aurelius (Richard Harris) will name him successor to the throne.

The emperor's son, Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix), kills his father, Maximus' family and plans for the general's execution. Maximus escapes death, only to be sold into slavery, where he becomes a gladiator. His skills from war earn him a spot to face Commodus on the Colosseum floor. Compelling story, right?

DreamWorks released the visually pleasing film on May 5, 2000, and it became the year's second highest grossing film, raking in 465.5 million dollars worldwide. It also snagged five Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Actor for Crowe. The fact that Phoenix did not win for best supporting



actor is still beyond my understanding, but I digress.

Over the years, the film's director, Ridley Scott, noticed how well the movie aged and made it his mission to see the follow-up movie through."

Gladiator II follows Lucius (Paul Mescal), grandson of Marcus Aurelius, who lived under the alias Hanno for 16 years following the death of Maximus. After the African kingdom he was hiding in was conquered by the Roman army under the command of General Acacius (Pedro Pascal) and the death of his wife, Lucius was sold into slavery to Macrinus (Denzel Washington). On top of all that, the

deranged twin Emperors Geta (Joseph Quinn) and Caracalla (Fred Hechinger) conquer the home of his mother Lucilla (Connie Nielsen). Subsequently, Lucius goes on a journey of vengeance similar to Maximus.

The good

Recreating epic performances like Crowe and Phoenix seems impossible. This may be the reason Washington, who can command any movie he graces, was added to the cast.

Although Washington's character was so loosely based on the real life Macrinus that it was borderline disrespectful, Washington's performance embodied the true essence of the intellectual madness Rome

was experiencing at that time.

To my surprise, Mescal's portrayal of Lucius was stellar. As soon as he hit the screen, you could see Maximus's mannerisms and characteristics oozing out of him. Not in a cringey copycat sort of way though. It came across as if Lucius were truly Maximus's son, making the confusing movie trailer plot reveal actually believable.

The bad

The original Gladiator is considered to be the film that revitalized historical epic films to be popular today, despite Maximus being a fictional character and the real-life story of Marcus Aurelius and Commodus being completely

changed. The fact that many historical accuracies, like the opening war scene, weapons and armor, made the original film great.

The inaccuracies in the sequel were so rampant that even the intricate details were overlooked. In a battle scene, weapons that had not been invented yet were used. Cafés offered coffee to characters even though Italy knew nothing of coffee before the 17th century. Newspaper prints were not invented until the 1400s, yet a Roman noble, way ahead of his time, browsed the front-page news. These minor details may seem small to some, but this will be a turnoff if you want an epic historical film to

be, well, historical.

The ugly

Let us start with the obvious. The coolest factual aspect of the Colosseum was ruined by possibly the most unfathomable inaccuracy in movie history. The Romans staging mock naval battles in the Colosseum are true, so the naval battle scene could have been epic. However, adding sharks to the scene diminished that possibility. There was no way that sharks would be captured, transported, and used in any battle. Did 200 AD Romans even know sharks existed? This far-fetched detail made it hard for me to take any scene that came after seriously.

The confusing movie trailer plot revealing Maximus as Lucius' father was never explained. We were just told and expected to accept it, making the plot weaker than it could have been. Other story explanations were also left up in the air, giving off the vibe that either a lot of the movie was left on the cutting room floor or the focus was on battle scenes, not the storyline. Either way, it left me unfulfilled.

The rating

Overall, the movie was beautifully shot and surely met the visual expectations. The seamless exchange between flashback scenes from the old movie and the modern-day CGI enhancements allows the viewer to immerse themselves in the storyline and its surroundings.

There are many old movie quote references. If you haven't seen the original, it is imperative to watch it first. Will Gladiator 2 satisfy the nostalgia craving fans have suffered through for over 20 years? Yes, for sure.

Is it worth paying high box office ticket prices for? Definitely not.

'Wicked' soars, questions who gets to be 'good' or 'evil'



LILY COLE
Editor

Rating: 4/5

This review contains spoilers for "Wicked," released in theaters Nov. 22.

After two sold-out theater visits, almost buying four tickets for \$47 and finally settling on cuddle seats at Emagine because they were the cheapest, my friends and I saw the highly anticipated "Wicked" movie.

The scene is set in the magical land of Oz. It follows the unlikely friendship between Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, and Glinda, the popular and self-absorbed Good Witch, as they navigate political intrigue, personal ambition and the shifting definitions of good and evil.

The film "Wicked" is based on the 2003 Broadway musical, which is, in turn, loosely adapted from Gregory Maguire's 1995 novel "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West." While the musical draws inspiration from Maguire's book, it differs in terms of the plot and character arcs.

It's important to note that "Wicked" reimagines the classic world of L. Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz" offers a new perspective on the iconic

Sets, acting, Ariana Grande shine throughout movie musical

characters and events, focusing on Elphaba and Glinda. The 1939 film, starring Judy Garland, is itself a well-known adaptation of Baum's original novel.

My sister and I went into this movie ready for a life-changing experience, and my other two friends thought this was an alternate universe version of "The Wizard of Oz." While they were right, in a way, nothing could have prepared us for the powerhouse performances accompanying the film.

Thinking about the Broadway show I saw in 2022, with Lindsay Pearce as Elphaba and Allie Trimm as Glinda, the movie has differences. The main one is CGI, which one of my friends calls a "CGI mess." Obviously, a baby lion would never be that tame. But surprisingly, the movie prioritized using real sets rather than CGI. Audiences could definitely see the care and time it took to craft each set piece carefully—especially the giant effigy of Elphaba in "No One Mourns the Wicked." Production designer Nathan Crowley emphasizes practical effects to create an immersive audience experience.

The casting for this film was exceptional. Cynthia Erivo always impresses me. I first heard her singing "I'm Here" from The Color Purple on YouTube in my acting class

during my sophomore year of high school, and I've been obsessed with her rendition of "Alfie" by Dionne Warwick for months. Erivo's sound is a mixture of blues and musical theater with a belt that will tighten your chest until that last note fades away. I won't lie and say I didn't tear up from her acting in the

Ozdust Ballroom. She uses the mezzo-soprano role of Elphaba to showcase her softer side in "The Wizard and I" and blow us all away with that final riff in "Defying Gravity."

Ariana Grande stole the show for me with her characterization of Glinda. It was a mixture of Kristen Chenoweth and her own Cat Valentine, a character Grande played in the Nickelodeon TV show 'Victorious' all wrapped together. She talked quietly but didn't let

that soft, feminine sound overshadow Glinda's bubbly, egocentric nature. I was pleasantly surprised to hear her operatic notes while tight-sounding, they still effortlessly drifted through the air and into my soprano heart.

The film's theme focuses on gender. The Wizard symbolizes a history of persecuting women to control land and labor, i.e. using Elphaba's magic for his own gain. I feel this movie has a place in the hearts of many women trying

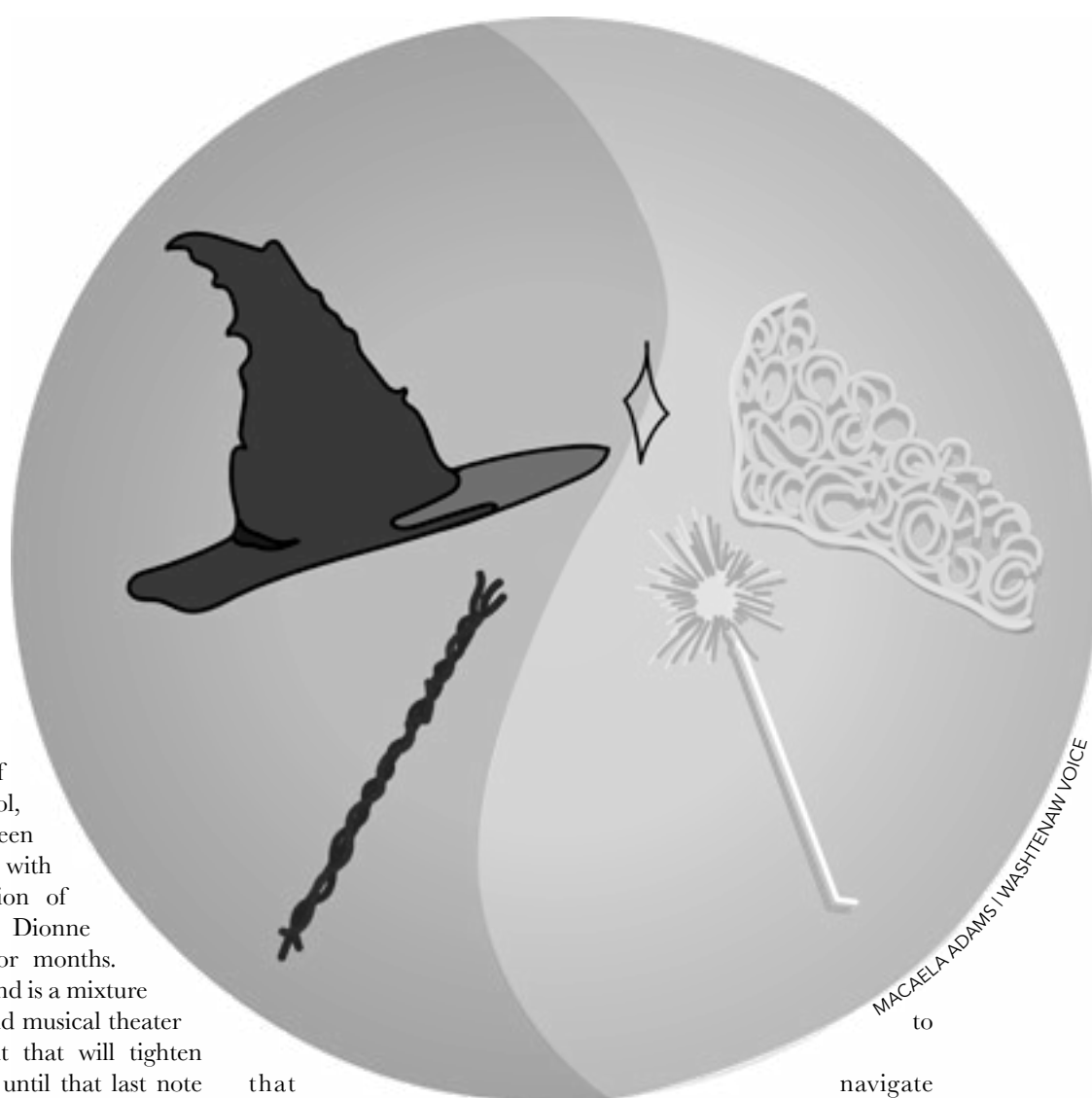
to navigate a world where we all feel "different."

The movie teaches that we need to make an effort to understand others' struggles and what makes them tick. Why would someone be "wicked?" This musical gives a soul to a being that most people dislike. It is a beautiful experience, and it intends to teach people never to judge a book by its cover.

Making it into a movie with stars who know what they're doing, have been on Broadway, have performed and sung for years and know

their stuff makes the experience more enjoyable than just seeing the show in a seat at the Gershwin Theater in New York.

If you're looking for a movie for all ages with some laughable one-liners, definitely hold space just about a little over two and a half hours—for this movie musical.



LOOK FOR THE VOICE ON THE STANDS!

Read more on our website:



VISIT SC 109

Meetings every
Monday 5 p.m.

SEE YOUR WORK PUBLISHED

Now accepting applications:
Email Igkujawski@wccnet.edu to join the Voice's
Winter 2025 team and earn a scholarship.

CONTACT OR APPLY

thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com



Science

CONTINUED FROM A1

Student Alliance in Michigan, which focuses on education for underprivileged children in India.

"I would definitely recommend other students who are non WTMC [students] to look into this project if they are interested in radio astronomy and Earth science to check out the SunRISE systems science project that's going on," Rajavelu-Mohan shared. "Perhaps even start their own club focusing on collecting radio antenna data and learning and teaching and spreading news to the community, so we can all learn about it together."

For more information on SunRISE, visit their website at: <https://sunrise.umich.edu>.

Teachers

CONTINUED FROM A1

er, her quest to learn what it takes to be an amazing teacher is what made her decide to apply to the program.

Despite being suspicious of online learning initially, Pauley has enjoyed her first semester and looks forward to Winter 2025.

"I feel very happy with my classes," Pauley said. "I was worried about going into an entirely online format. I felt like it was either going to be too hard or a watered-down version of the courses. I don't feel either one of those is true."

During Winter 2025, 50 accepted teacher candidates are expected to register at WCC.

If you are interested in learning more about the program, please visit www.mital-enttogether.org/.

Fall enrollment up at WCC

YANA MCGUIRE
Staff Writer

The Washtenaw Community College fall 2024 semester headcount is 11,220, which is 409 more than fall of 2023, according to the data Linda Blakey, Provost & Chief Operating Officer provided in her enrollment profile presentation to WCC's board of trustees.

Degree-seeking students are 70% of the headcount

and transfer students are 58%. These numbers are considered to be misleading because dually enrolled students cannot be reported to the state or federal government as degree-seeking.

Dually enrolled students account for 1,489 students, an increase of 155 from the previous fall semester. These students are enrolled in college and high school diploma credits at the same time.

Out of the dually enrolled students, WTMC's percentage

has decreased from 32% to 27%.

53% of all students enrolled are female. This percentage is expected to shift for the 2024-2025 enrollment report after summer 2025 due to the substantial number of male trade students that will be attending during the summer semester.

Minority enrollment increased slightly from fall 2023's 38.3% to fall 2024's 39.7%. African American students

make up 16%, Hispanic make up 9%, and Asian make up 8%. Students who identify as two or more ethnicities make up 6%. White students are the majority with 60% of student enrollment.

"For all the categories except Asian, we are enrolling a higher percentage than what is in the population of the county," Blakey said.

Lily Cole contributed to the reporting of this story.

Withdraw

CONTINUED FROM A1

other schools were similar to what we moved to," Currie explained.

As of Fall of 2022, about 4% of students received 'W' as a grade, out of around 34,000 grades that are given in a semester.

For more information on withdrawing from, or dropping a class, visit, <https://www.wccnet.edu/learn/register/drop.php> to learn more.

CRIME LOG

The following events were reported by WCC Public Safety between Nov. 20 and Nov. 26

FRAUD

On Nov. 20, public safety responded to a stolen credit card incident. The WTMC group of two 15-year-old males and one 15-year-old female returned the card. The 19-year-old WCC victim did not want to press charges.

LARCENY

On Nov. 26, public safety responded to an incident in which an Auto-Electrode Defibrillator (AED) was stolen from the Business Education building. The suspect, a 32-year-old male WCC student, was caught on video footage stealing the AED. The suspect was brought in for questioning and said he would return it. Public Safety has not yet seen the AED.

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

BE AWARE

Chief of Public Safety, John Leacher, recommends looking around and underneath your vehicle as during the holiday season there are a lot of "crimes of opportunity" which is a crime that happens in the spur of the moment.

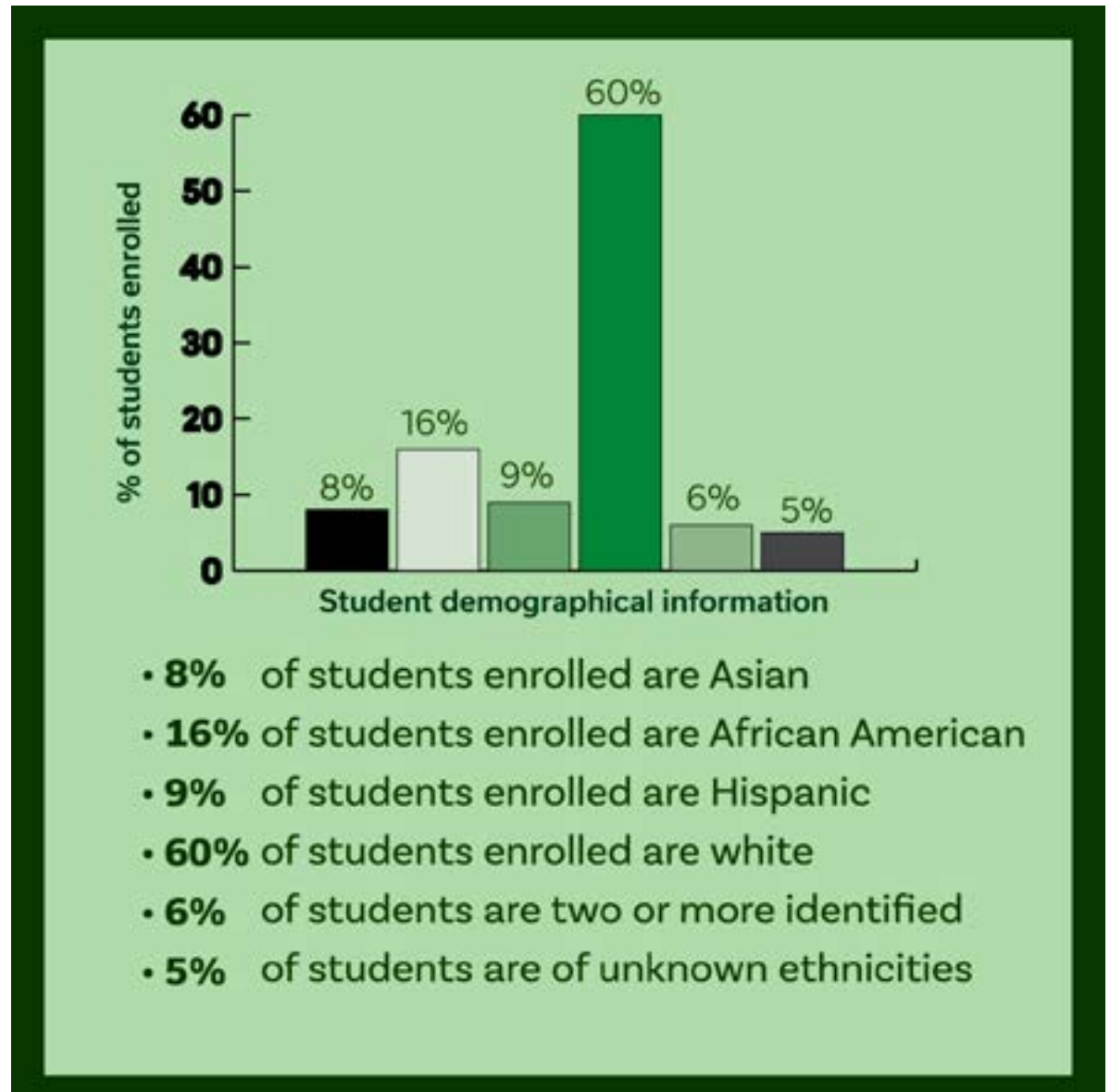
If you have night classes, Leacher says Public Safety offers escorts across campus if you feel unsafe. Reach Public Safety at 734-973-3411.

HOLIDAY PACKAGES

Leacher says if you have packages arriving at your house be sure to have another person there to grab them. He highly recommends investing in a Ring camera to monitor your porch, driveway, etc in the case you don't have someone to pick up packages early.

SICK SEASON

Cold and flu season is upon us. Don't be afraid to mask up if you are feeling ill. Leacher recommends keeping tissues and masks with you to do your diligence in keeping everyone safe during the sick season.



JADA HAUSER | WASHTENAW VOICE

WCC's student demographical information for the fall 2024 semester, according to a presentation presented by Linda Blakey, provost and chief operating officer, at the Nov. 12 board of trustees meeting.

how well do you know these girls?

Learn more about your breast health at KnowYourGirls.org

Ad Council | susan G. Komen

Get your car ready for the snowy season

BECK ELANDT
Contributor

With the temperature dropping and snowy, salty roads right around the corner, it's a good time to attend to your vehicle's maintenance.

"Tires that don't have proper tread depth put you in a very precarious position on slippery roads," says John Leacher, chief of Public Safety, on the topic of tire rotations; an important protocol for maintaining longevity as well as an even tread recession, for safety and financial sake.

"You're gonna be using the bug juice a lot more this time of the year," Leacher said, referring to windshield

de-icer spray, a thing many forget to refresh when their windshield ices up, that helps melt and clear away ice and snow.

In addition to the car's maintenance, another thing to keep in mind is how drivers should adapt to changing weather.

"Make sure you maintain larger distances than you think are necessary between you and the vehicle in front of you because stopping distances are going to increase," Leacher said.

Leacher notes that escape routes are key to avoiding collisions, and preparing your car with a blanket, extra clothes, and water is necessary if something unpredictable happens.



COURTNEY PRIELIPP | WASHTENAW VOICE

An important tool to keep in your car is an ice scraper. It will help your windshield defrost faster if you remove the snow and ice.

Is my food safe from the bird flu?

COURTNEY PRIELIPP
Photo Editor

2024 saw an increase in the number of dairy cattle affected by the bird flu or avian influenza. Bird flu is a viral infection that primarily affects birds, according to Kalthoum Bayz, a professor of life sciences at WCC.

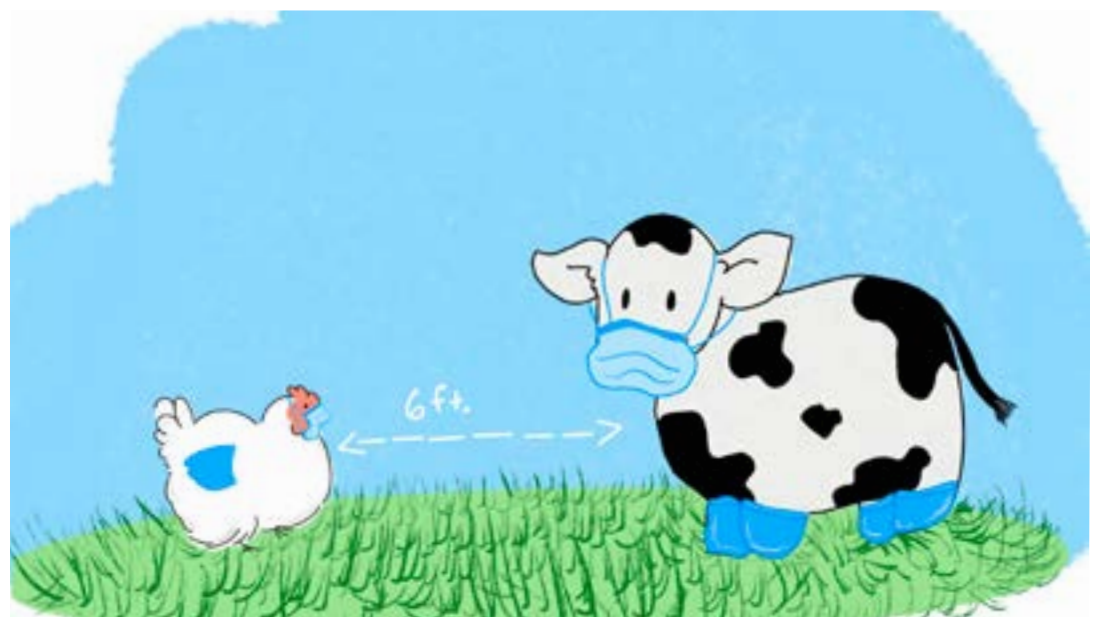
"New federal rules call for testing unpasteurized milk from dairy processors and for farm owners to provide details that would help officials identify and track cases more easily," according to New York Times reporting.

The bird flu has been an ongoing concern for the poultry industry.

"From a poultry industry perspective, they have been trying [to] mitigate this for a very long time," said Pierce Bennett, the livestock policy specialist for Michigan Farm Bureau. "In the last eight or so months, we (dairy industry) have seen a strain of avian influenza become transferable into dairy cattle. We first found those dairy cattle in Texas back in March of 2024 and have seen that spread across the country. It is not in all 50 states. "The bird flu has been a concern for poultry farms for decades, but just recently spread to dairy cattle," Bennett said.

This is due to a process known as spillover, according to Bayz. "This typically occurs when different species come into direct contact with each other such as on a farm through close feed or water. Viral genomes mutate, or change, frequently, which allows the virus to infect a new species."

According to Bennet, the best way to identify if a chicken or cow has bird flu is by seeing if they are up right, eating and drinking the normal amount, interacting with other animals in the barn or acting the way



ZEINAB AGBARIA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Bird flu can spread from chicken to cow if they are in a close contact environment or saliva being shared via water or feed. This process is called spillover, when a virus mutates to infect another species.

they normally would. But, in a case where a flock is identified with bird flu, they are immediately quarantined. That flock won't be put through production to be processed. The farm would then contact their state's department of agriculture to investigate where the virus came from. The flock is then put down humanely.

Fortunately, when an infected dairy cow is identified, they will be quarantined and back to production in a few days to a few weeks. But how do we know if the milk is safe even after the cow is better?

"This virus presents really heavily in the milk when researchers study viral load, where most viruses can be found in sick animals, where do you find it," Bennett said. Through the pasteurization process, which is a standard food safety process that is an essential part of the dairy industry that kills harmful bacteria, there is no risk to others who are consuming milk that has been pasteurized.

Currently, both industries have biosecurity practices for both animals and humans. Bennet states that the industry is making sure employees

are showering in or out, have sterile clothes and are washing their boots. This is alongside making sure that feed trucks are clean and sterile.

"There are vaccines in the works for both poultry and dairy currently in the works. In the states, there are several trials happening for the bird flu vaccine," says Bennet. Once those trials are towards the end, they can start working with the USDA to try to get the vaccine in use for commercial uses.

With a virus like the bird flu, the public doesn't know what it is. Rebekah Kojiro, a student majoring in general studies, said she "remembers learning about it in 6th or 7th grade, but I don't remember very much."

Even those who have heard of it, such as Kizzy Wade, a student majoring in business, said, "it didn't bother me for some reason because I'm not around birds."

An important factor in this case of a virus affecting the food industry is doing research. "When people hear about a virus affecting food sources, it triggers concerns about potential shortages and whether

the food is safe to consume. In some cases, misinformation spreads faster than the virus itself, exacerbating the fear," said Bayz.

Bennet encourages those to reach out and ask questions to your state department of agriculture, local farm bureau, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

CDC has not found any unusual flu activity in people and have stated that the current public health risk is low.

We have a safe and security food supply, no need to go to the grocery store and worry.

Don't consume raw milk. Pasteurized milk will be clean from the bird flu.

Farms are actively engaged in mitigating the virus.

Do research and reach out to depmarts such as the MDA, CDC, or the FDA.



The Loop

news for and by students



Get Washtenaw Voice headlines in your inbox every week

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

WINTER WONDERLAND



See Inside

GIFT GUIDE, SLEDDING, AND
STAFF HOLIDAY/WINTER
MOVIE PICKS **B2**

PLAY PAGE & CLASSIFIEDS **B3**

WINTER ACTIVITIES & WREATH
MAKING TUTORIAL **B4**

Students share tips on how to pick a meaningful gift

ALICE MCGUIRE
Deputy Editor

Contrary to many gift guides, picking the perfect present isn't about following the latest trends or spending the most money. Students at WCC took time to share some of their best memories and what they like to consider when giving and receiving gifts.

"When I was younger, I got a little kitchen set. I was smiling so hard in the pictures. When I look back at the pictures, it really makes me happy," said Emily Szilagyi, a student in the physical therapist assistant program, who went on to say that she likes gifts to be "something functional rather than a silly, decorative thing. Something that I know that they would use."

Tanvee Padhi, a game design and development major, thought back to when a friend had gifted her a plushie alongside a book that she had wanted to read for months, explaining "That my friend remembered that made it really special." Padhi said that, while she doesn't tend to like receiving gifts, she keeps in mind what people are interested in or "what they've always wanted but never had the chance to

get" when picking something out for others.

Rowland Jimenez De Castro, a WTMC student, said the first thing that came to mind was being given a PC, "my one and only," as a child by his older brother. "I don't see him a lot, and the fact that he felt like he needed to give me a PC, knowing that my parents probably wouldn't have, is really sweet to me. I still use it to this day." Jimenez De Castro went on to say, "I can't buy a lot, so I try to give what I have. Usually, I just give something small, but I try to make sure that it can impact them emotionally in some way so that they remember me."

Jalil "J.J." Boston, a student in the physical therapy assistant program, said it was difficult to pick one favorite memory of being given a gift because "I have a lot of people who care about me and do good things for me," but ultimately chose a trolls-themed birthday party that his girlfriend threw for him when they first started dating. "I just thought Tiny Diamond was the funniest character." Boston said that it was meaningful because "I've never really had a partner do something like that for me."

Sarah Vink, a student going into welding, thought back to when she was five years old and her older sister and brother combined their funds to buy her a "cherry pop doll." When shopping for others, Vink tries to "tailor it to something that we both like, that way we can talk about it after I give it to them. Or something that they need." While she enjoys the practice of gift giving in general, she feels strongly against joke gifts.

Beside Sarah Vink sat Susanah Vink, who said that the most heartfelt gift she had received was a letter from her sister. "I don't necessarily like specific things. I like heartfelt gifts from people."



ZEINAB AGBARIA | WASHTENAW VOICE
"I don't necessarily like specific things. I like heartfelt gifts from people," Susanah Vink.

WCC sleds into next year

BECK ELANDT
Contributor

With the holidays right around the corner, WCC students reflect on their favorite sledding hills this winter—boggans, snow pants and all.

According to Brian Lada, Meteorologist for AccuWeather; in an article forecasting the 2024-2025 winter season, the La Nina weather pattern is a major element of the forecast, "This phenomenon occurs when water temperatures near the equator in the eastern Pacific Ocean remain below the historical average for an extended period, which can significantly influence weather patterns across North America, including the trajectory of snowstorms."

Lada predicts that we will be using our snow shovels this year, making weather patterns

promising for sledders. "Although they could gather dust during part of the season as the weather patterns play tug-of-war between mild and rainy, and cold and snowy."

WCC students should be ready to sled their hearts out when Michigan gets snow.

Hunt Park-Ann Arbor

Charlie Eggleston, a business major at WCC's favorite place to go, is Hunt Park, an uncrowded hill on the north side of Ann Arbor.

"It's nice and steep, and it lasts a pretty long while," Eggleston said. Another favorite sport is Vets Park, a slightly busier location.

Rolling hills- Ypsilanti

Jeremy Horn, an engineering major at WCC, refers to Rolling Hills Park in Ypsilanti township. "It's pretty big, and it's pretty steep," he notes.

"One of the best parts of

the Rolling Hills Sledding Hill is that there are fenced return paths on either side so you can safely climb back up to the top of the hill," says Anna Mac, a Washtenaw Resident, in her article "Rocket Down The Best Ann Arbor Sledding Hills This Winter",

making it an option for families and thrill seekers alike, taking into account the \$6-day pass or \$30 annual. Students at WCC say the hills at the Huron Hills Golf Club can't be matched.

Huron Hills Golf Club-Ann Arbor

"The hills there are huge, and you can get really fast speeds on them," says Zabir Saif, a general math and science major. With hills of many different sizes, this location is an option for family and friends. Also referred to as "The mother of all sledding hills" by Ann Arbor News.



ZEINAB AGBARIA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Many students at WCC have their favorite sledding hills in Washtenaw County.

Voice staff holiday movie picks to enjoy on a cold winter day

ANASTASIA
ANIMATED/MUSICAL/HISTORICAL FICTION

Jada Hauser
Graphic Designer

When I was a girl, my mom and I would watch this movie every year around the holiday season. I enjoy singing along to the music, as well as the star-studded cast.



Courtney Prielipp
Photo Editor

HOME ALONE

FAMILY/COMEDY

Home Alone is the perfect representation of what children think being home alone is like. Putting someone's hair on fire, throwing paint cans and the classic line of, "Merry Christmas you filthy animal."



A CHRISTMAS STORY

FAMILY/COMEDY

Alice McGuire
Deputy Editor

One of my greatest accomplishments as a child was successfully watching all 24 hours of "A Christmas Story" on TBS. It still makes me feel like a kid on Christmas Day.



THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS

FAMILY/MUSICAL

Jack Sink
Business Manager

My favorite Christmas movie on the other hand has got to be "The Nightmare Before Christmas" because it has elements of my favorite holiday (Halloween). I also love the claymation style it's made in.



ELF

FAMILY/COMEDY

Yana McGuire
Staff Writer

This movie is both heartwarming and funny. A perfect recipe for good times with the family. My family and I are big Will Ferrell fans, so this movie is a holiday must see.



HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

FAMILY/COMEDY

Lily Cole
Editor

This is my go-to holiday film when cabin fever starts to creep up on me. My cousins, sister and I quote it throughout the year because of the hilarious one-liners. It's definitely something that will make you laugh—from Jim Carey's crazy performance to songs that bring a smile to your face.

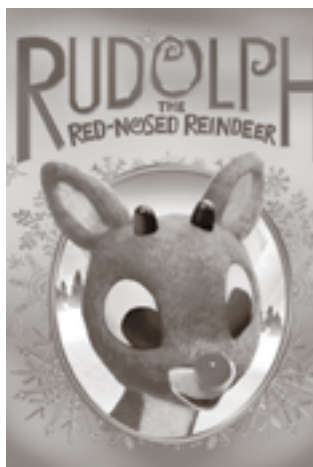


RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

FAMILY/MUSICAL

Sasha Hatinger
Staff Writer

This iconic and classic Claymation Christmas movie will always hold a tender spot in my heart. This movie, which is from 1964, is also one of my Dad's Christmas favorites. With memorable lines like, "From now on, gang, we won't let Rudolph join in any reindeer games," to "The Island of Misfit Toys," and of course, "Bumbles Bounce!" I have so many good memories from this movie and it's something I plan to pass down to my kids too.



DIARY OF A WIMPY KID: CABIN FEVER

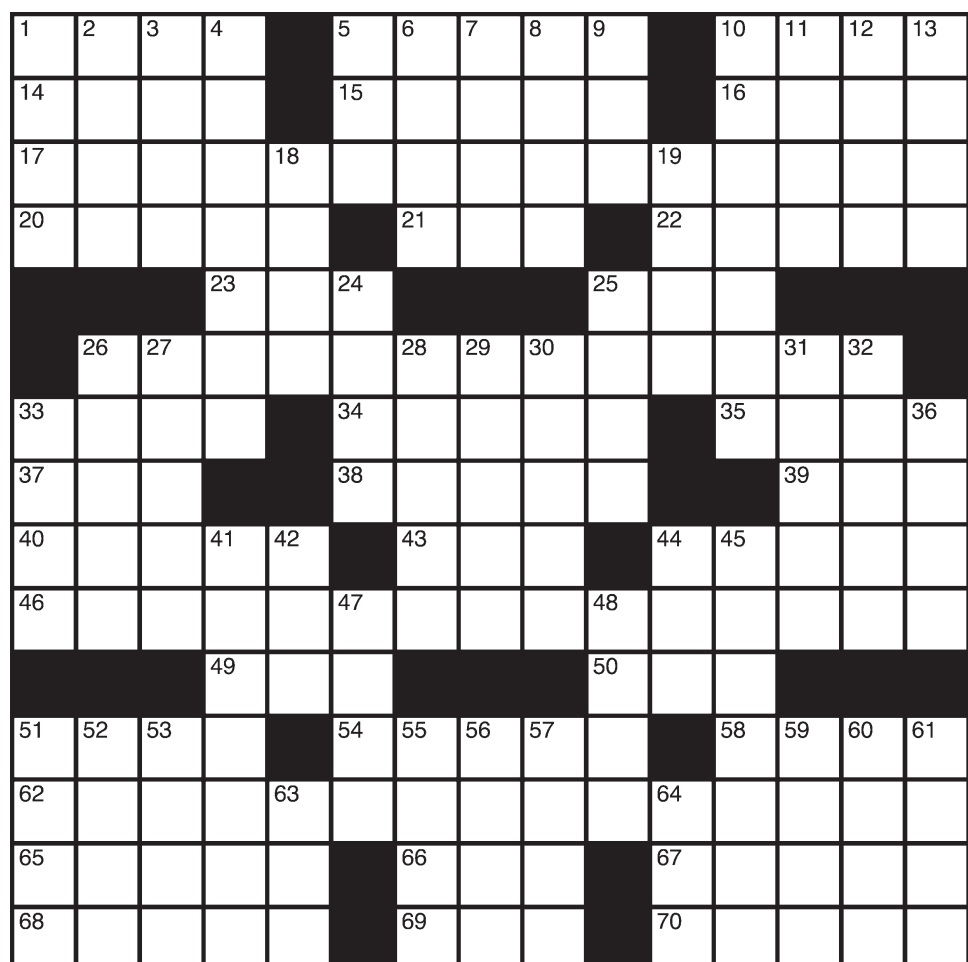
COMEDY/ADVENTURE

Zeinab Agbaria
Graphic Designer

As the family and neighborhood go through a power outage before Christmas, they try to survive and spend time together while Greg and Rowley run away from the cops. I like this movie because it shows you at the end of the day there should always be time for family and come forward with the truth.



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Insect that builds a paper nest
- 5 "Snowy" wading bird
- 10 Tiniest bit
- 14 Actress Fanning
- 15 Little Haiti's city
- 16 Flatbread full of bubbles
- 17 Film scene from a character's perspective
- 20 Adagio or allegro
- 21 Lunar festival in Saigon
- 22 Sorority residence
- 23 Pioneering ISP
- 25 Deep fryer liquid
- 26 Garment with patterned circles
- 33 Purring pets
- 34 Broth often made with bonito flakes
- 35 Fly like an eagle
- 37 "Whadja say?"
- 38 Defeated, as a dragon
- 39 Go green, perhaps?
- 40 Choose by ballot
- 43 Stat indicated by tree rings
- 44 Pebble's big cousin
- 46 Lasting mere moments
- 49 DOD intel arm
- 50 One day ___ time
- 51 Temaki fish
- 54 More slippery

- 58 Like muted colors
- 62 Break during a road trip, and what can be found in 17-, 26-, and 46-Across
- 65 Whittles (down)
- 66 Animal that loves mud
- 67 Atmospheric layer with holes
- 68 ___ kebab
- 69 UFO passengers
- 70 Fuses with heat

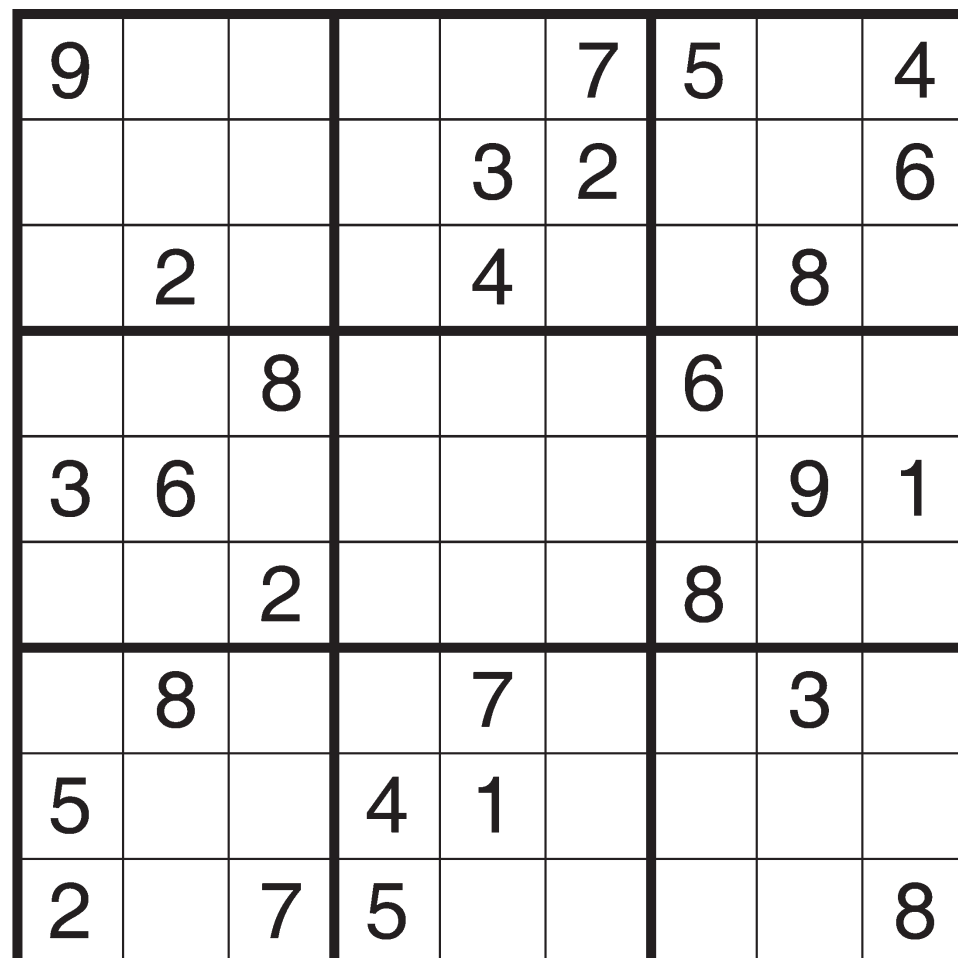
DOWN

- 1 Broke down in tears
- 2 Healing succulent
- 3 Unlikely, as a chance
- 4 Letter-exchanging friends
- 5 Panic! at the Disco genre
- 6 Natural talent
- 7 Party with electronic music
- 8 Radiate
- 9 Cause for overtime
- 10 Shoe cushions
- 11 Island northwest of Molokai
- 12 New Mexico town in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains
- 13 Poker stake
- 18 Confiscated
- 19 Propeller noise
- 24 Young fellows
- 25 All-father of Norse myth
- 26 São __, Brazil
- 27 "None of the above" choice

- 28 ___ Lama
- 29 Missouri River tributary
- 30 Crook
- 31 "Same here!"
- 32 Pass on an offer
- 33 Many a cookbook author
- 36 Basketry plant
- 41 Cocktail hour appetizers
- 42 "Impractical Jokers" network
- 44 Ready to proceed
- 45 Bar for circus acrobats
- 47 Public transit option
- 48 Hair line?
- 51 Fish sauce amts.
- 52 Arches National Park state
- 53 Temaki cone
- 55 Get by
- 56 Still competing
- 57 Ingredients that are cracked to make khai jiao
- 59 USAF truant
- 60 Hit the runway
- 61 Organs with lids
- 63 Barbecue residue
- 64 "___ did you do that?"

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES FOUND AT WASHTENAWVOICE.COM

SUDOKU



FINAL COUNTDOWN BY JADA HAUSER



"That end of semester feeling..."

CLASSIFIEDS

WCC students and employees can place classified ads in The Washtenaw Voice for free.

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS Looking for help? As a service to our students, you may place "help wanted" ads in The Washtenaw Voice for free.

THE DEADLINE in 5 p.m. the Tuesday before publication.

SEND ADS to wcc.voice.advertising@gmail.com

JOB POSTINGS

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

Marketing, Sales & Service Field Zone Manager Summer Internship at Ford Motor Company.

Our program gives you an outstanding opportunity to learn about Ford Motor Company, Marketing, Sales & Service Team and explore life in various markets around the United States or at the General Office in Dearborn, MI. Internships are project-oriented, and they challenge you to demonstrate strong business acumen and technical skills. Our program gives you an outstanding opportunity to learn about Ford Motor Company, Market-

ing, Sales & Service Team and explore life in various markets around the United States or at the General Office in Dearborn, MI. Internships are project-oriented, and they challenge you to demonstrate strong business acumen and technical skills.

Team Member at SHAKE SHACK.

Job Responsibilities : Embody enlightened hospitality by leading interactions with genuine warmth and care towards both team members and guests. Prepare and assemble food orders according to Shake Shack's standards and recipes. Master all stations and rotate through them, keeping each day fresh and exciting. Follow all food safety and sanitation procedures to ensure the safety of guests and team members. Stand for something good by aligning with Shake Shack's values of integrity, inclusivity, and community engagement.

Trooper/ Police Officer/ Statewide at Michigan State Police.

For those looking for a career serving the community, being a role model and making a difference in many lives, has an opportunity for training and job placement with the state's law enforcement agency. A Michigan State Trooper performs a full range of law enforcement assignments and is a certified police officer by the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES). A trooper typically works out of a State Police post and patrols

the roads of an assigned geographical area to prevent or detect traffic law violations, conduct criminal investigations, and provide a variety of related services to the public.

Behavioral Technician and Registered Behavior Technician at Illuminate ABA Therapy.

Illuminate ABA Therapy is seeking a fun, energetic, individual to work part-time providing evidence-based, behavioral therapy to individuals on the autism spectrum. Our program is overseen by Clinical Directors and highly experienced BCBA's that can offer supervision as well. For those without registration, RBT training is provided, and fees are covered by Illuminate.

Caregiver at Synergy HomeCare of Ann Arbor.

Are you looking for a job that provides flexibility and works around your class schedule? Do you: Enjoy serving others? Have a big heart with a lot of love to share? Take charge with a warm smile? As a companionship caregiver with SYNERGY HomeCare, you will: Provide attention to clients' non-medical needs, including companionship and social engagement Assist client with light house-keeping, meal preparation, and medication reminders Establish communication and a professional relationship with

clients, family members, and co-workers

Provide reliable care by being punctual and consistently covering shifts

Student Researcher, BS/MS, Winter/Summer 2025 at Google, Inc.

The Student Researcher Program's primary objective is to foster academic collaborations with students through research at Google. Join us for a paid Student Researcher position that offers the opportunity to work directly with Google research scientists and engineers on research projects.

The Student Researcher Program offers more opportunities for research students to work on critical research projects at Google in a less structured way. The program allows opportunities beyond the limitations of our traditional internship program on aspects such as duration, time commitment, and working location (with options for on-site or remote). The topics student researchers work on tend to be open-ended and exploratory, and don't always have a clear deliverable like a traditional internship would.

Summer Intern - Global Workplace Safety at General Motors.

At GM, we are committed to safety in everything we do. As a Global Workplace Safety Intern you are dedicated to this aspect of our culture daily. Your work could directly affect the safety standards of the plant. You would have the opportunity

to implement and coordinate projects on a global scale with a hands-on approach.

What You'll Do: Assist in the management of safety and industrial hygiene processes related to manufacturing, engineering and non-manufacturing operations. Gain a diversified knowledge of global workplace safety topics including Industrial Hygiene principles and practices to assist in the creation, coordination and implementation of workplace safety processes. **IT Support Tech Level 1 at DenBe Computer Consulting.**

DenBe Computer Consulting is a Managed IT Services company that takes care of dozens of companies across Michigan and Ohio. A Support Tech Level 1 is an entry level position that would be great for computer science majors or anyone with an aptitude for computers and technology. You will be fully trained on our software systems and tools as part of your on-boarding. **Certified Lifeguard at Ann Arbor YMCA.**

The lifeguard is responsible for the safety of all patrons in and around the pool area. ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS Include: Serve as a role model to members and Y staff and live the mission, vision and values of the YMCA movement. Adhere to and enforce aquatic rules and procedures consistently and fairly. Maintain constant surveillance of water and pool deck areas. Wear rescue fanny pack and rescue tube at all times while on duty. Maintain

cleanliness of pool area when not performing primary duties. Accurately record and submit incident reports as required.

Summer 2025 Retail Banking Internship - Michigan at KeyBank.

Key's Retail Banking Internship is a 12-week program that provides interns an opportunity to work alongside our Tellers, Personal Bankers, Private Client Bankers, and Branch Managers operating from a KeyBank branch. Interns will learn customer service, conversational banking skills, and how to create a great client experience while helping bring our Financial Wellness strategy to life. High-performing interns will have an opportunity to be considered for a full-time retail banking position as well as admission into Key's Leadership Excellence Acceleration Program after six months' employment.

Interns will be involved in a host of retail bank line of business specific work that directly impact and benefit Key's business and strategic pillars. The program includes networking with Key teammates across all levels of the consumer bank, an executive speaker series that will provide insight on Key's competitive landscape, financial wellness, and professional development best practices. Interns will be provided with mentorship and will receive consistent feedback that will spark excitement and interest in bringing one's full-time career to Key post college.



events

Compiled by Lily Cole | Editor

ARTS & CRAFTS MUSIC & FUN NOT A HOLIDAY FAN?

FISHVILLE FARMS CHRISTMAS AT THE FAIR CRAFT SHOW AND FOOD DONATION DRIVE

Dec. 14-15 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Chelsea Fair Grounds | 1434 Old Manchester Rd., Chelsea

Join us for a free, family-friendly craft and vendor show at the Chelsea Fairgrounds on Dec. 14-15. The show will feature over 50 local artisans, small businesses and food trucks. Enjoy free Santa visits and kids' activities, and support local foster care and shelter donations while completing your holiday shopping!

YPSILANTI ARTISANS HOLIDAY MARKET

Dec. 21-22 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Ypsilanti Freighthouse | 100 Market Pl., Ypsilanti

Get ready for a holiday shopping spree like no other at the Ypsilanti Artisan Holiday Market. Browse handmade treasures from over 40 local artisans, featuring everything from jewelry and ceramics to fiber art and wood crafts. Enjoy live music, tasty bites and festive vibes. Admission and parking are free.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE: KIWANIS CENTER

Every Friday & Saturday, Nov. 29-Dec. 21 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. (Fri.) & 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Sat.)

Kiwanis Center West | 100 N. Staebler Rd., Ann Arbor

Shop 'til you drop and explore a fabulous sale of used toys, seasonal goodies, sporting gear, kitchen finds, collectibles, books, jewelry, furniture and so much more. Whether you're looking for gifts, bargains or something quirky, there's something for everyone.

NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS STARRING HALLOWEEN THE HEAVY METAL HORROR SHOW

Dec. 13-14 | 7 p.m.-1 a.m.

Diamondback Music Hall | 49345 Interstate 94 S Service Drive Van Buren Charter Township

Join Detroit's legendary shock rock pioneers, Halloween, for a spine-chilling night of heavy metal horror at Diamondback Music Hall on Dec. 13. Ages 21 and up. This a full night of electrifying performances you won't want to miss. Tickets go for \$20.

ANN ARBOR UGLY SWEATER BAR CRAWL

Dec. 21 | 4-10 p.m.

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

Get ready for the Ugly Sweater Bar Crawl. Ages 21 and up. Join for an epic night of festive cheer, holiday fun and drink specials at local bars. Don your ugliest sweater, gather your friends, and enjoy an unforgettable evening of laughter, new friends and holiday merriment.

SANTA AT DOMINO PETTING FARM

Dec. 14 | 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Domino's Petting Farm | 3001 Earhart Rd., Ann Arbor

Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit Domino Petting Farm for a special event with kids! Pre-registration is required: \$10 per family for members and \$20 per family for non-members. The price includes time with Mrs. Claus and 3 minutes with Santa—bring your own camera or get a photo from the farm.

ANN ARBOR 200 FILM SERIES

Dec. 23 | 6-7:30 p.m.

Downtown Library: 1st Floor Lobby | 343 South Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor

Join the AA Public Library for weekly screenings in Dec. of short documentary films celebrating Ann Arbor's history, commissioned by AADL for the city's bicentennial. Enjoy four to five films each week, followed by a Q&A with local filmmakers, exploring topics like businesses, traditions and historical stories.

STUDIO TOURS: STEPHENSON CERAMIC STUDIO

Dec. 27 or all year | 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Stephenson Ceramic Studio | 4380 Waters Rd., Ann Arbor

Step into the creative world of John and Susanne Stephenson, where a lifetime of stunning ceramic and metal art fills every corner of their whimsical woodland studio. Explore their new gallery, art-filled storage nooks and the charming Winter Sculpture Garden. Free and fun for all ages.

"ANNIE": THE ENCORE MUSICAL THEATRE COMPANY

Dec. 5-Jan. 12 | 7:30 p.m. (Thurs.-Sat., except Dec. 12), 3 p.m., 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.)

Encore | 7714 Ann Arbor St., Dexter.

Catch the Tony Award-winning musical Annie at Encore! This heartwarming show features iconic songs like "Tomorrow" and "It's a Hard-Knock Life." It follows Annie's adventures from the orphanage to Daddy Warbucks' mansion. Performances are Thursday-Saturday evenings and weekend matinees. Tickets from \$43.50-\$60.50 are available at theencoretheatre.org.

How to deck your door with homemade wreaths

Courtney Prielipp - Photo Editor

Editor's note: The writer of this story has family members who makes wreaths. Prielipp took this opportunity to photograph and explain the process for readers to try at home.



Christmas wreaths take a ton of time and storage to produce a mass amount. Wreaths aren't just made of evergreen, but can be made up of many different types of branches.

Step #1: Gathering supplies

Many products are needed to make a mass variety of wreaths.

Evergreen branches are cut off of imperfect trees and sorted into 20-25 lb bundles to be shipped off and used in wreaths.

Other trees can be used, such as white pine, cedar, gold tip cedar, noble ferns, blueberry juniper, boxwood bushes and winter berries.



Basic red ribbon isn't the only ribbon used to decorate a wreath. There are many different colors and patterns available. They can range from a purple ribbon to one with dogs on it.

Step #3: Enjoy the product

Wreaths are used as typical decorations for the Christmas season.

Many holiday decorations can be made with products used for wreath making such as roping, centerpieces and porch pots. If you are purchasing your wreath, some places can do special orders.



Ribbons can have different colors or subjects on them. But the most common ribbon use the basic red.



A variety of different equipment is used just for one wreath. It's always important to make sure you wear safety gear, such as gloves to make sure you protect your hands from the equipment.

Step #2: Making the wreaths

Wreaths are made in different styles, depending on their size and purpose.

For a grave blanket, the branches are trimmed into a short length. The trimmed branches would then be stuck into a special foam, called florist foam, that has a wood support board. Keep putting in branches and layering it until it is nice and full. After that, you can decorate the blanket with bows, pine cones, berries and other Christmas decorations.

For a wreath, you would cut/trim the branches into the amount needed based off of the wire rings stakes. If there are 14 stakes in one wire ring, you would need 14 trimmed branches. If there are 48 stakes in one wire wreath, you would



When making a wreath, blanket, or pillow, you will always have to cut smaller pieces off a bigger branch. These smaller pieces will then be used in making the wreaths.

need 48 trimmed branches. Once you have your wire ring and the needed amount of branches, you will use a machine called a clammer to bend the stakes over the branches. Clammers are used when making a mass production of wreaths. But, at home, you can use clippers and wire cutters.

Then, you would use a hammer to make sure the stakes are done. After repeating those steps as needed, you can decorate the wreath. You can put in bows (the size of the bow depends on the size of the wreath), pine cones, berries and other Christmas decorations.



Christmas wreaths, blankets, pillows or indoor decorations always have another element added to it. These items are most commonly red bows, pine cones, flowers or winter berries that would be added around the wreath.



Wreaths are always made with a base ring called a wire ring. The rings can come in different shapes and sizes. The largest has 48 stakes while the smallest has 6 stakes.

