VALENTINE'S DATE ASHION TRENDS Find the perfect date night outfit on page 14. The Schoolcraft's LGBTQI ALLIANCE BRINGS PEOPLE OF Different Sexual Preferences together. Read Bout the club on page 10. The Schoolcraft Connection

VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 8

High school headache

Michigan swaps the ACT for the SAT starting spring 2016

BY ELIZABETH CHAPA ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In the spring of 2016, high school students across the state of Michigan will be required to take the SAT test in replacement of the American College Test (ACT). Since 2007, all Michigan juniors were required to take the ACT as part of the Michigan Merit Exam, as it is a Michigan law that all high school students take a college entrance exam. According to mLive, this change will affect about 115,000 Michigan high school students who will take a college entrance exam and a work skills assessment each year for free.

The state of Michigan announced this decision on Jan. 7, which includes a three-year contract valued at \$17.1 million for the assessment to be given at high schools awarded by the state to the College Board.

According to Michigan Radio, Michigan Department of Education said the contract with the College Board should save the state about \$15.4 million over three years than the next bidder.

The cost of switch to the SAT is almost cutting the price in half over what it cost to run the ACT.

Those students who have taken the ACT in the recent years also had to take the WorkKeys as a work skills assessment the days following the ACT. It is Michigan law that high school students take a college entrance exam and a work skills assessment. Although the state is switching to SAT, ACT Incorporated will continue to provide the Work-Keys assessment for all high school students. The WorkKeys test gauges career readiness. Both the SAT and WorkKeys will be administered as part of the Michigan Merit Exam. The three-year contract for the WorkKeys assessment will cost \$12.2

Free community college:



PHOTO BY ETHAN MILLER | ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

President Barack Obama kicked off the new Congressional term by shocking many when announing his plan to give all Americans access to community college.

Transparency in society An Ohio transgender teen pleads for equality

BY REBECCA BREAZEALE STAFF WRITER

A fantasy or a close reality?

Obama proposes two free years of community college for students

BY ELIZABETH CASELLA

Community college could soon be free for students across the country. In a speech given in Tennessee on Jan. 9 during his countrywide tour, President Obama announced his plan to help make community college more affordable. The plan is still in early stages of development, but it is on the top of Obama's agenda before he leaves office. Reuters online reported an early estimated price tag of \$60 billion over 10 years for the federal government. Obama would like to enact this plan by the upcoming September semester.

The plan for free community college is based off a Tennessee model system called the Tennessee Promise, and this system would be a state-bystate decision—not a federal law.

According to tnpromise.gov, the Tennessee Promise funds college scholarships using lottery reserve revenues the state has in partnership with an outside scholarship program. Students enrolled in the Tennessee Promise must maintain a 2.5 GPA and complete eight hours of community service each semester to withhold the funding.

FEBRUARY 9, 2015

According to the Huffington Post, if a state decided to adopt the system, the federal government would offer a grant to pay the excess tuition students are left with after the state funding they receive. The money students receive can be used for tuition, books, housing and other school related expenses. The plan would be in partnership with any Pell grants students receive.

"What I'd like to do is see the first two years of community college free for everybody who's willing to work for it," said President Obama in a speech about the plan. "It's something we can accomplish

> SEE FREE COLLEGE ON PAGE 5



Mourners gather during a candlelight vigil to grieve over the death of 17-yearold Leelah Alcorn who committed suicide in protest of transgender mistreatment.

SEE ACT/SAT ON PAGE 2

In the last few years, the gay, lesbian and bisexual community have made great strides for equality; however, there is another group of people who have not received the same amount of progressive support. Transgender people are individuals who do not identify with the gender they are assigned at birth. They are often thought of as people who are confused or in a phase by the heterosexual community. These thoughts are destructive and often leave transgender

people feeling unloved and

unaccepted in society.

On Dec. 28, 2014, Leelah Alcorn, a 17-year-old transgender woman, committed suicide by walking in front of a semi-truck on Interstate 71 at 2:30 a.m. Prior to her suicide, Alcorn posted a suicide note to her Tumblr account that was to be posted at 5:30 p.m. on the day of her death. The post was a cry for action, pleading to society to fix the way they view transgender people in society. "The only way I will rest in

"The only way I will rest in peace is if one day transgender people aren't treated the way I was. They're treated like humans, with valid feelings and

PHOTO BY AP PHOTO | THE ENQUIRER, MEG VOGEL

human rights. Gender needs to be taught in schools, the earlier the better. My death needs to mean something; my death needs to be counted in the number of people who commit suicide this year. Fix society. Please," Alcorn wrote on her blog, according to Cincinnati. com, which her family has since taken down.

The blog post soon attracted international attention and has helped raise awareness on the issues transgender individuals face in today's society. While suicide is an issue that transcends sexuality and gen-

SEE TRANSGENDER SUICIDE ON PAGE 5

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NEWSANDFEATURES 2

Board games galore

new lounge.

lounge will be able to attract

afloat, but Erwin thinks he has

"We do offer memberships

that give members a 50 per-

cent discount. We also have

for hosting field trips, birth-

day parties, clubs, retirement

homes and even engagement

wedding showers," said Erwin.

The 3&UP staff is required

to have a good knowledge

on most of the games in the

lounge, and they encourage

guests to try new games as

and teaches the customers

how to play. There is also a

well. Every Thursday at 7 p.m.,

where the staff chooses a game

3&UP hosts "Learn and Play,"

two party rooms that are great

enough customers to stay

that problem solved.

News briefs

BY ELAINE GEROU MANAGING EDITOR

DISCOVERY OF MISSING TAIL SECTION

On Jan. 7, searchers used sonar to find the tail section of the AirAsia Flight QZ850, which went missing on Dec. 28, 2014, in the depths of the Java Sea. Voice recorders and flight information recorders, also known as "Black boxes" were also found and will be analyzed by specialists in attempts to find out what happened to the commercial plane before it plummeted into the sea.

In addition to the tail, black boxes and other wreckage found, 40 of the 162 people that died on board were found. The rest of the bodies and the fuselage hopefully will be lifted from the seafloor soon. **MICHIGAN OIL**

Exploration for gas and oil may pick up in areas close to Manistee and Traverse City in Michigan this year, as in 2014, Colorado based Wyotex Drilling Ventures applied for five drilling permits in Manistee and Grand Traverse Counties.

In the 70s and 80s, hundreds of oil and gas wells were drilled in the same counties deep underground in the formation called the Niagaran Reef. Now, the A-1 Carbonate formation is being looked at, which is right above the Niagaran Reef.

It is possible that existing, abandoned wells from the Niagaran Reef could be used for drilling, as they shot directly through the A-1 layer.

Although this is a sign of life in the drilling industry, some residents don't want their beautiful land industrialized.

The group, Ban Michigan Fracking, is trying to ensure no hydraulic fracturing will be used.

EBOLA VACCINE

Ebola vaccination final-stage trials have begun in the West African countries that were hit hardest by the disease, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). If the vaccine proves to be effective, shots will be available a few months later. The WHO would like the sense of urgency to remain with the Ebola disease, as many healthcare workers are still contracting the disease that killed over 8,000 people in 2014. GAVI, a global Vaccine Alliance, is committing as much as \$300 million towards the Ebola vaccines.

Unplug, relax and reconnect at Downtown Plymouth business

BY JOE ZYLKA NEWS EDITOR

In today's busy electronic world, it can be difficult for one to put down their devices for many reasons. One is because most devices are full of games and entertainment, where the user can play against the computer or against their peers in a lonely, computerized environment, far away from any physical contact or spoken words with the other parties.

That is where Christopher Erwin has a problem.

Erwin and his wife, Angela Space, were sick and tired of the technology craze of the 21st century, with people buried six feet deep into their phones and having less and less human interaction. Together they founded 3&UP Board Game Lounge last July in the heart of Downtown Plymouth in an effort to promote interaction between families and friends.

"It is a board game lounge with over 1,000 games designed to fit every demographic," said Erwin. "We have games from the 1950s and 60s all the way up to the popular games of today. Games are organized into seven categories: family, children, strategy, abstract strategy, war, party and themed."

Many businesses like 3&UP have been popping up all over Metro Detroit because there is a reignited passion for games and interaction, especially from parents who are concerned with the amount of "screen time" their children are receiving.

However, there are many who doubt a board game

> Between the two assessments, there are only minor differences including the test style, penalty for wrong answers and difficulty level. In the SAT, the questions are tricky and are difficult to decipher, along with the level of difficulty increasing as test takers moves through.

snack bar, which only serves foods and drinks from Michigan-based companies.

3&UP Board Game Lounge in Downtown Plymouth is a safe haven for some good-old-fashioned

"I went there last summer with some friends. The workers were very passionate about the electronic-free concept, which I think will get more people into it," said Jana Boster, Schoolcraft student. "I really like the idea behind it myself. People need to step away from their technology once in a while and have some fun with people they care about."

Boster added that since there are not many places for teens or young adults to hang out at anymore, 3&UP gives them a cool place to go.

portion, compared to the ACT, which test takers would get tested on the content of each area including English, math, reading, writing and science, all at once. The SAT is also broken up into 10 sections of reading, math and writing, which might make it easier to take on.

SAT does not include a science

also be more challenging to prepare students for the SAT. According to the Detroit News, Wendy Zdeb-Roper, Michigan Association of Sec ondary School Principals Executive Director, said in a statement the switch will be even more challenging because the SAT's administrator announced a significant retooling of the test beginning in 2016 and little information about it is available.



PHOTO BY ANDREW RELLINGER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

board game fun. (from left to right) Joe Gudobba of Dearborn, Becky Rea of Northville and Jon Stoddart of Garden City enjoy a collection of over 1,000 games from the 1950s through today at the

3&UP Board Game Lounge

630 South Main Street Downtown Plymouth

(734) 667-3650

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Friday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. to midnight

LOW UNEMPLOYMENT

At 6.3 percent, Michigan ended 2014 with the lowest jobless rate in over 12 years. From December 2013, Michigan added 44,000 payroll jobs, and Michigan had an overall employment gain by 138,000 jobs. The state labor force also grew by 47,000.

million.

ACT/SAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I don't really understand why they are changing it," said Schoolcraft student Sarah Bridges. "On one hand it's a pain that they have to change everything that everyone is used to, but then on the other hand, the money situation hopefully will be put to good use. I will have to look more into it before actually forming an opinion."

The SAT is commonly more popular on the west and east coasts of the country, where as the central and Midwest regions are more heavy ACT takers. Every four-year college in the U.S. accepts both the ACT and SAT, so why is there so much controversy about switching to the SAT?

In the ACT, the questions are less difficult to decipher and are more straightforward; however, the difficulty level is random throughout.

Another key difference between the two is the penalty of wrong answers. In the ACT test takers do not lose points, and in the SAT ¼ of a point would be deducted for every incorrect answer. This component is a major factor for students preparing for the exam.

The transition from ACT to SAT should not cause too many problems overall. The SAT may even be used as a strategy to raise scores. The

With that in mind, it is possible that students could score higher on the SAT versus the ACT.

One problem that could arise is not with the students, but with the teaching staff. Teachers that deal with the junior level of high school students have built and taught a curriculum around the ACT. Now that the ACT will be phased out, educators will have to work with a new goal and objective to teach their eleventh grade students.

Not only will the curriculum have to be restructured, it will

"I kind of wish that they would have given us more of a notice that it was changing, seeing as I heard from friends that they were changing it and not from the school itself," said Livonia Franklin sophomore Katelyn Guest.

The ACT will still be available for students to take, but must be done outside of school hours, just as the SAT was available in the same manner when the ACT was the college assessment test.

Relief at the pump Be wary of gas prices quickly rising again

BY JOE ZYLKA NEWS EDITOR

As the winter months swing into full effect, many Michiganders like to hit the slopes at different ski resorts across the state and the country. Someone else is hitting the slopes in 2015 as well, and his name is gas prices.

Gas prices used to be the guy everyone hated, he was overpriced, caused drama within families and acted in rude and unpredictable ways, mostly by always going up. However, he is now a friend to many Americans, with some even posting the cost of their fill-up on social media, the first time that has happened since Internet social media became popular.

So why have gas prices gone from foe to friend so quickly? At this time last year, the average cost of a gallon of gas in the U.S. was \$3.29 per gallon; now it's just above \$2 per gallon. On Jan. 27, AAA said the price of a barrel of oil rose for the first time in 123 days. That 123 day decline of oil on the

stock market was the longest such streak ever recorded by AAA.

When President Obama visited Detroit in early January, he erred on the side of caution with these low gas prices, telling the Detroit News, "I would strongly advise American consumers to continue to think about how you save money at the pump because it is good for the environment, it's good for family pocketbooks and if you go back to old habits and suddenly gas is back at \$3.50, you are going to not be real happy." Obama also talked about the rising demand for fuel in countries like China and India, and it will inevitably lead to higher gas prices here.

The main reason for the cliff dive of gas prices is the fact that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) have been pumping oil out of the ground like it is going out of style, causing a surge in oil supply. Couple that with a falling demand due to newer fuel alternatives, and gas prices have fallen off of a

cliff since last year.

However, there may be a method to the madness of OPEC pumping out a plethora of oil recently. According to a post by Forbes, OPEC did the same thing in the late 1970's and 80's; that is, allowing more cheap oil to flood the market in order to put American drilling out of business and renewable energy programs on hold. Once that happens, OPEC slows down the drilling of oil, causing the price of gas to go back up. This strategy has paid off in the past, and according to Martin E. Cobern, a former oil executive, it is OPEC's way of keeping a monopoly on oil prices.

"Since their beginnings over 150 years ago, oil cartels from Standard Oil, to the Texas Railroad Commission to its clone OPEC have been successful in controlling the market," said Cobern in an interview with Forbes. "The primary approach was to make competition economically impossible."

However, many Americans, including Schoolcraft student

benefits of low gas prices, "Whenever the price of gas is low, it's like a domino effect where people spend only about \$30 to \$40 per fill-up, and it gives them more spending money, which helps the econ omy. When the price of gas was high, I was putting in \$60 every time I filled up, now I'm only putting in \$30 and it's great knowing that I don't have to pinch pennies to fill my tank."

The added cash is a boon to many Americans, but one must be wary of prices going back up just as quickly as they went down.

Austin Sylvester, see the Gallons

ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH SISK | STAFF WRITER



BROKEN MERCHANDISE

On Dec. 17, a customer broke store merchandise and ran from the Bookstore. Inspecting the problem, the Bookstore employee witness, indicated that a student had been in the store selling used textbooks back at the buy-back counter. The witness stated the student had two small children. They described that a small boy who was one of the children, about four years old, had accidentally broken a mug that was for sale. The price of the mug was \$3.99. Later on, when the witness approached the children and the student informing them that they have to pay for the mug, the student ran from the counter and exited the store. Other bookstore employees reported that while running, the student called for the child to hurry up. Both children were gone upon police arrival.

Schoolcraft College, stated that they had gone to pick up the project. However, upon arrival, the project was missing. The student asked the instructor who the advisor was, but the instructor did not know. The student later checked various buildings and locked storages on campus, but could not locate the property. They said that it might have been a mistake where someone could have thought the project was scrap and removed it from its location. The SCPA was contacted and advised of the incident.

PEPPER SPRAY INCIDENT

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MISSING PROJECT

A school project, which had four tires on it, was made from two multi-color mountain bikes that were cut up and welded together. On Dec. 4, a complainant, who is a student at

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, a Schoolcraft student released pepper spray in the Lower Waterman of the VisTaTech Center. The area was quickly evacuated and the SCPA and the Livonia Fire & Rescue Department were called. Although there were no injuries reported, one student was treated by paramedics on the scene. The student in question said they did not mean to cause any harm, saying there was a small amount released, "to see how far it would go."

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

der identity, those who do not identify as straight have a much higher risk of suicide.

According to the trevor project.org, lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide as their straight peers. Suicide attempts are also six to eight times more deadly when made by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. Nearly half of young transgender people have thought about committing suicide, and 25 percent report making at least one suicide attempt.

These statistics show that even though tremendous strides have been made in the LGBT community, much more needs to be done, especially with young transgender people. After Alcorn had come out as transgender, she had received mainly positive reactions from her friends and peers at school, but her parents were beyond upset. Her parents proceeded to remove her from school and refused her access to a computer, phone or other media

sources outside from an online school course. Although Alcorn eventually did get her computer and phone back, her parents still isolated her in her house in attempt to control her identity issues, which drove her further into depression.

Even after Alcorn passed, her parents refused to accept her gender identity. Carla Alcorn, Leelah Alcorn's mother, spoke on Dec. 31, 2014, about her daughter identifying as transgender.

"We don't support that, religiously, but we told him that we love him unconditionally. We loved him no matter what. I loved my son. People need to know that I loved him. He was a good kid, a good boy," said Carla Alcorn in an interview with CNN a few days after her daughter's death.

The death of Alcorn, a transgender teen taken from the world too soon, has brought worldwide awareness of the dangers that transgender youth face both at home and in society. For more information on LGBT issues, visit www.gaycenter.org.

LEARN ABOUT SCHOOLCRAFT'S

LGBTQI ALLIANCE

ON PAGE 10.



Transgenders face adversity in their daily lives, which has started awareness and a push for equality in all circumstances. Schoolcraft supports equal rights for all sexual preferences through the LGBTQI Alliance.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and something that will train our work force so we can compete with anyone in the world."

Individual states would be responsible for instituting the program within their state and must also help pay for the costs the federal government will not cover, which make it a federal and state government partnership. President Obama hopes to introduce this plan to Congress before the end of March in order to reach his goal of having this funding available for freshmen students in fall 2015 semester.

Schoolcraft President Dr. Conway Jeffress cleared the air about the impact it would have at Schoolcraft after rumors began spreading across campus.

"If the proposed plan does indeed go through, we could distribute these new monies to the self-paying students and to those getting loans. The remainder of the students would continue to receive financial aid from Pell. That would mean that all of our students would have all of their tuition and fees paid from sources other than themselves," said Dr. Jeffress. "I have concerns about the proposed plan. Cost estimates by Bloomberg reporters speak of \$60 billion over a ten-year period. I fear that the monies may be taken from the Pell program to pay for the new proposal."

Republican opinion of the proposal has not been supportive. The majority of Republican representatives feel that states should take on plans to help out community college students with free tuition such as Schoolcraft College, which is only state run.

"I feel that if Obama can actually get the bill passed, it would be a great thing for low income students who may not be able to afford going to college," said Schoolcraft student Ruby Aleman. "I would hope Michigan would be able to incorporate the plan as well, but am not optimistic that will happen any time soon."

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The plan would have qualifications for students to be eligible to apply for this government funding, and the amount of funding students receive varies. Some qualifications are being at least a part time student with a job or a full time student, maintaining a 2.5 GPA and regularly attending classes. Other qualifications include community service and sending progress reports on a regular basis to show progress being made towards their prospected career. Continuing on to a four-year college or work-study program after receiving a two years associate's degree is also required.

This plan would be paid for from the existing 529 plans, which help families set aside money for college tuition, as well as from other places already in the national budget.

"There needs to be qualifications so the government can ensure that the money is being spent on students that really need assistance," said Schoolcraft freshmen Vincent Burk. "This program could be bad depending on how much it costs and where exactly the money is coming from. If this means more taxes for citizens, I don't know if I can support it."

The program has only vaguely been discussed by the president and has left many unanswered questions. Critics believe the plan will not work or would be too costly for success. Many who oppose the plan are counting on the new Republican-controlled Congress to shut down the plan before it can be voted on.





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-GROUP EDITORIAL-Disaster in disguise

Free community college is not as appealing as it sounds

President Barack Obama's proposal to provide community college tuition would make college education more accessible while benefitting work forces. With Obama's plan, students would be able to complete a two-year associate's program without having debt upon graduation.

Decent occupations often require a college education, and in turn workers receive salaries and benefits, including some sort of healthcare. If healthcare is covered for more people in the United States, fewer tax dollars will go towards covering those who cannot afford it. Having more people with college degrees would also allow more people to earn higher incomes, which would put more money back into the economy, benefitting everyone.

While Obama's plan clearly has benefits, providing free college education is not necessary and could result in disaster.

Since free college is already available for those who qualify through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAF-SA), the Pell Grant and other private and public scholarships, it does not make sense to increase taxes to support free education for everyone.

Additionally, if everyone got an associate's degree, no one would want to work low-income, hourly jobs at restaurants or retail stores. Past generations were fine with just a high school degree, and now a college degree, generally a Bachelor's, is required for most careers. If everyone got the chance to receive a free associate's degree, Master's and Doctoral degrees would be in higher demand, students would feel more pressure and there would be a greater demand to raise minimum wage. Achieving these types of degrees would ultimately cost more money than paying for a Bachelor's degree with the current system.

Not only would pressure for students increase, students would more likely be forced to attend school by their parents or be subjected to peer pressure by their friends; thus, people would most likely be lazier and contribute less than if they were paying for the class.

Along with affecting student ambition, it will cost taxpayers more out of their check. In the end, the proposal would only cause more trouble because one without children would still have to pay tuition taxes, and those who attend college would have to deal with students who do not actually want a degree, but attend school due to the fact that it is free.

Ultimately, those who desire a college degree will take the

IMAGE FROM ISTOCKPHOTO.COM



Although free college education seems appealing when first mentioned, further research proves Obama's proposal to be a poor decision. Instead of supporting his proposal, students and parents should continue taking extra precautions to ensure college can be paid for with personal expenses. Whether rich or poor, there is a reasonable solution to everyone's college tuition.

Tech-nically a problem

of technology even with effort.

The benefits the current era of advancement has provided are undeniable. Media and electronic devices can help kids gain knowledge, interact on different social levels and access educational resources, but the overuse of these advancements could be detrimental to current and future generations' development. Side effects include decreased handwriting and spelling skills, misinformation, less physical activity and undesirable media image.

Due to the excessive usage of online chatting, electronic games and social media, the writing skills of today's young generation has declined considerably. Children now rely more and more on digital communication, and due to the technology available, less stress is put on kids from par-

ILLUSTRATION BY MELISSA GREEN |STAFF ILLUSTRATOR

ents and teachers to have legible handwriting and be able to write in cursive. While one can go through life without cursive, it is not possible to be a successful adult without the ability to write with a pen and paper.

Not only is handwriting affected though, but due to the access of spell check, more children are misspelling common words when technology is not present and do not know how to use proper grammar. While new technology does not force a child to learn how to write and spell on paper, emerging speech recognition technology that converts speech to text can be a useful resource for students with writing disabilities.

While writing skills may be decreasing, access to Internet brings an ever-growing ability for kids to get in touch with information and educational resources. Although the Internet is a valuable tool for learning and development, there are times when it has negative consequences. Adults and older students know that trusted sources like universities or major educational organizations have websites that contain verifiable facts and information, while other websites may not have the same credibility. A child may take everything online as fact, leading to misinformation or even slightly skewed thoughts. Outside of the classroom, increased technology has discouraged the physical interaction skills of many children. While some parents are cautious about how much

tech-time their children get and encourage outdoor, interactive activities, others are totally oblivious to the fact that their child does not know how to effectively interact with others in-person. Increased technology has contributed to greater obesity rates in America as well.

Increased technology affects more than writing skills and physical health. Since children are introduced to technological devices at a young age, they are constantly overwhelmed with media images.

Television, magazines, radio, the Internet and other media outlets often glorify negative behaviors such as underage drinking, drug use and unsafe sexual situations. Unrealistic images of children, teenagers and young adults when it comes to weight and ap ance are also portrayed. Technology has a huge impact on the lives of children in the United States, but the influence does not seem to be nearly as powerful in underdeveloped countries. It is easy for American children to have a loss for writing talent, be misinformed on the web, engage in less physical activity, lack patience and rely too heavily on media images due to daily use of technology, but all of these results can be prevented with proper parenting techniques. Not all children are subject to the cons of advancement in technology, and it is undoubtedly important for children to become familiar with technology to be successful and competitive in future careers.

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is common for one to own a smartphone, be familiar with tablets, have social media accounts, use an iPod and consume LED televisions to watch Blu-ray movies or play video games. Most children cannot imagine a day without such items, while older generations find it

Lauren Lukens

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Kids will undergo

consequences

of technology

if risks are not

acknowledged

One cannot deny that it

hard to escape the usage

The selfish choice



Elaine Gerou MANAGING EDITOR elaine.gerou@apps.schoolcraft.edu

Drunk driving causes death, debt and destruction

Although there has been progress in reducing the number of drivers under the influence in the U.S., there are many people in our country who still make the poor decision to drive while under the influence of alcohol. People aged 21 to 25 are at the highest rate of drunk driving at 23.4 percent. It is our generation that needs to break the trend and live more safely and responsibly.

Well, one could say that it is no fun, and I agree; it sucks always having to be the designated driver because your friends don't want to sacrifice fun for the safety of their lives, but someone needs to make the sacrifice to ensure their friends' health.

According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), someone is injured in a drunk driving crash every two minutes and Drunk Driving kills 28 Americans every day. If these statistics aren't enough incentive to quit foolish habits, maybe money is. If one is caught while driv-

ing drunk in Michigan by

the po-po, it costs the driver initially anywhere from \$100 to \$500, without the extra expenses of probation, court fees, gas, drug/alcohol tests, and required treatment. Up to a six-month license suspension is also a possibility and would cause the driver to bum rides off of others. Many bummed rides cost the driver gas money, and nobody likes bums.

For a first offense, up to a 93-day jail sentence is also a possible consequence, which would most likely lose one their job; therefore, their money. Drunk drivers usually prefer to pay for a lawyer as well, which can cost a small fortune, and of course the consequences only increase for multiple offenses.

Drunk driving also affects taxpayers, as the misbehavior costs the United States \$199 billion a year, according to MADD, which equates to \$800 for every adult in the United States. This should be incentive for taxpayers to report drunk drivers.

While all the possible consequences of drunk driving listed are not pleasurable, the worst possible consequence would be to take one's life. The stupidity of one's decision has the possibility of taking someone from their friends and family for an eternity, which is nearly unforgivable and causes a negative ripple effect that can last a lifetime for those effected by the loss.

Unfortunately, MADD says about 300,000 people drive drunk every day in the United States, but fewer than 4,000 are caught and arrested. When will this mindless behavior end? The answer is never, if people do not change their attitudes. Responsibility and courtesy to everyone's health and safety should always come first.



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Drop a line online



ONLINE EDITOR caitlin.leroux@apps.schoolcraft.edu

Online dating may be useful, but not always safe

With the boom of social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter, society has created a completely different world of communication, and as a result, online dating is becoming the new norm for people. Whether one is looking for a "perfect match" through a program like e-Harmony or just scrolling through Tinder, online dating is completely changing the way people conduct relationships.

Despite the convenience online dating provides, it takes out many personal aspects of dating. Instead of going up to someone in person and asking them out to dinner, online dating encourages a faceless invitation, allowing people to hide behind their computers. The anonymity provided also allows people to stretch the truth about themselves, sometimes lying about jobs, family or even physical appearance, which is deceiving to those interested in them.

Beyond the degradation of personal communication, online dating can also be dangerous. While some people on the sites have innocent intentions, there are numerous with ulterior motives. Many people take advantage of those looking for love through online dating websites and chat rooms, robbing or scamming them when they finally meet. If the dating site does not conduct a background check on members, sexual predators and criminals can openly join. These people can even find a way around background checks by creating fake profiles.

Another detriment of online dating is the encouragement

activities they are not comfortable with wearing or doing



IMAGE FROM THIRTYSOMETHING.COM

Online dating can help one find their soulmate, but also brings potential dangers.

of "shopping around." Many people participate in online dating with the idea that there is always another option, with literally thousands of possibilities through sites. With this mentality, people are less likely to stick around for long lasting relationships or to work through issues. Online dating takes out a lot of the effort required to make real relationships work.

Online dating is not a sufficient substitute to traditional dating. While there are people that find long lasting and fulfilling relationships through online dating, it is important to recognize the possible risks. With unsecure web-

Where do these negative feelings start? Children feel

sites, it is imperative to look at the possibilities of running into criminals. As with any communication with strangers online, it's important to tread carefully. The best way to approach dating is to meet people face to face. While the United States lives in a digital age, personal communication should not be lost, as it helps people make connections that cannot be recognized through online sites. Asking people out in person shows other unwritten personality characteristics and lets one see if they mesh with someone before going on an unsuccessful date to find out.

should be able to be courageous.



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Casey Samyn cAMPUS LIFE EDITOR casey.samyn@apps.schoolcraft.edu

Hatred for other girls needs to stop

In a world full of oversexualization and an intense focus on one's waist size, it is already hard being a girl, but for one to call another rude names for wearing and doing themselves is horrible.

Tina Fey's character in the 2004 movie "Mean Girls" sums up this message quite well. "You all have got to stop calling each other sluts and whores. It just makes it okay for guys to call you sluts and whores," she said.

Most girls experience an issue with their body image while growing up. According to the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (NANAD), over half of teenage girls engage in unsafe behaviors like skipping meals and vomiting to control their weight, and suicide attempts in teenage girls are three times more likely than suicide attempts in males, due to reasons like bullying, stress and mental disorders.

jealousy at a young age starting with wanting toys other children have or wanting others' lunches. When girls get older, jealousy can take on more dangerous behaviors, and unfortunately, girls take out their insecurities on other girls.

Girls are scorned for wearing too much make-up, wearing too little make-up, having long hair, having short hair, dressing too boyish, wearing low cut shirts and how much or how little they weigh. This judgmental behavior is wrong in every way. For example, does wearing yoga pants and short shorts really make a girl promiscuous? The length of one's hem does not determine promiscuity. Wearing yoga pants makes a girl confident with her body, and every girl

Instead of filling the world with girl on girl hate, take a moment to think that maybe the girl wearing short shorts is finally comfortable enough after struggling with body image to start wearing them.

When a girl talks badly towards another girl, she not only disrespects herself, but also takes part in destroying another girl's self-esteem.

A major component in earning the respect women deserve from men is to help each other overcome insecurities and raise self-esteem for each other, regardless of style, race or sexuality. Bottomline, women need to stop bullying each other with degrading sexual terms to show others that it is not acceptable in today's society. Nate Jones Phone: (734) 462-4422 Email: scconnection@yahoo.com





Live in awareness, not fear



Fearlessly respond to threats on our society

The morning of Jan. 7 started out as just another Wednesday morning in Paris, France, the City of Light. However, the light was soon darkened when two gunmen affiliated with Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula stormed the offices of Charlie Hebdo, a weekly satirical newspaper located in the heart of Paris, and killed 11 editors and one French policeman. The attackers, who were brothers armed with assault rifles, managed to escape Paris and flee northward, but were later killed by French police after a hostage crisis.

Just days after the Charlie Hebdo attacks, another Muslim extremist named Amedi Coulibaly stormed into a kosher market with a submachine gun and killed four people and took several hostages until police stormed the market and killed Coulibaly.

Not only have attacks been taking place in France, but across Europe and many other Western nations. In October, Michael Zehaf-Bibeau killed a Canadian soldier in Ottawa, and in December, police took down an Islamic gunman who killed three inside a café in Sydney, Australia.

This outbreak of violence across the Western world has the post 9/11 hysteria machine humming yet again. After each attack, major cable news networks like MSNBC, Fox News and CNN explode along with social media sites into debate and questions, and they talk to so-called "experts" to see if America will be safe from these attacks. Instead of relying on the skewed opinions of our national media in order to feel safe, Americans must raise awareness about the events going on around the world, nation and local communities in order to make all three safer and more secure.

Where does the first step into a more secure world start? It starts with blocking out the noise and hysteria created by the mass media. When researching the events on an attack, like the attacks in Paris for example, consider not staring at the major news networks all day. Instead, listen for the facts, like a live report from the scene about what happened, and then shut it off when the on-air guessing game starts. That way, you will know the facts and not the confusing "what-ifs" associated with an event.

Individuals can also increase awareness by discussing topics like national security with friends, family and members of the community. It will not only be an interesting discussion, it will spread a conscious feeling across the nation, which leads into the last point.

The conscious human mind is a beautiful landscape filled with original thoughts, dreams, aspirations and hope. Albert Einstein said it best, "The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity."

Listening to too much hysteria quiets the deep thought and curiosity that every American (and human) has. Instead of fitting the mold of what the media wants Westerners to believe, those living in the West must question the responses of Western governments towards terrorism, so that the propaganda machine, in the name of National Security, does not trample personal freedoms or self-expression.

Small tunes



Supporting local musicians can give one the opportunity to see talent and passion

Music is the most popular form of art in today's society, with billions worldwide listening every day to the rhythmic tunes of their preference. While popular artists such as Drake, Iggy Azalea and Sam Smith dominate the airwaves, the heart and soul of music lies in local bands that perform at small venues and bars.

Local bands and artists tend to be inconspicuous, and most do not have record deals or studio contracts; however, they usually are incredibly talented musicians who are respected in their music scene for their incredible abilities.

Attending smaller venues featuring local artists also helps local economies and supports the currently fading music scene in Metro Detroit.

In the 1970s, my grandfather was a part of the Metro Detroit music scene and made his living playing music in large bars on the weekends and wherever he could for money during the week. The pay was not excellent, but the amount of time and effort he put into his music was equal to popular musicians. He was not influenced by money like most artists, but rather by the joy that his music brought to people and the relationships he formed with other musicians. Those he surrounded himself with were also similar in that manner, and although he is now retired forty years later, those people are still some of his closest friends.

I too am extremely lucky in that I have played with various bands at venues across Metro Detroit. I have played guitar and bass for different bands at the Token Lounge in Westland, The Bean in Plymouth, Bachelor One in Keego Harbor and the annual Detroit Flower festival held in Detroit's Eastern Market. I was also fortunate to have the opportunity to DJ a show under the alias "DJ Cheef Meesh" for Kris and X, a local, up-and-coming fusion rap duo from Livonia.

Every time I perform, no matter the size of the venue, I am always amazed that people are willing to pay me to go up on a stage and have fun for a few hours with my friends and sometimes family. I also play shows for free, like many other local bands, because being on stage is not about money, it is about the experience and enjoyment of performing.

Local artists can possibly turn into the next international rock stars, since most, if not all bands begin their careers playing in smaller venues close to their hometowns. Attending these shows give music lovers a first hand look at the future of music. Passion, drive and determination fuels these low paid talented musicians as they perform. Amateur artists can easily record songs and upload them to Youtube in an effort to publicize their music, but the ones that put in the effort of logging around heavy equipment seven days a week; memorizing hundreds of songs and practicing for hours everyday are the ones who truly love what they do.

I suggest that if one loves music, then attend an open mic night or a band playing at a local bar or coffee house to see and experience some of the most talented artists in the area share their music.



Another ordinary day



lizabath Casalla

another Valentine was recognized, but that has nothing to do with the what is celebrated today.

The silly day is now a big deal, and the tradition is to buy flowers, chocolates or stuffed animals to impress a girl and go out to dinner or a romantic movie, which is supposed to make the girl fall in love for the night or celebrate the love a couple may already have. Valentine's Day could be celebrated any day. Couples should take the time every day to celebrate being together, by going out to dinner once a week or just a show appreciation with nice compliments instead of just celebrating love especially on this particular day. Others who feel that Valentines Day is a chance to start a relationship should realize that that might be unrealistic. Any day is a good day to ask someone out, and trying to do it on the 14th puts an extra amount of pressure on everyone involved. It's better to look at Valentine's Day as just another ordinary day. It is a shame that one-day causes such a variety of emotions for so many who may not be in love. Valentine's Day should be terminated as a holiday and should not be taken as seriously. If it must be continued, it should be refocused to the religious backgrounds that it once was focused on.

LIIZADETN CASEIIA INTERN lizziecasella@gmail.com

Valentine's Day should not be a holiday

Dinner reservations for a fancy restaurant have been made for a week. The flowers and chocolates are waiting. A movie after dinner will end the night perfectly. It is no other day than Feb. 14, Valentine's Day — a day dedicated to romance and couples for as long as anyone can remember, but for what reason?

Valentine's Day is not a real holiday; it is a day that was created and promoted by commercial card and chocolate companies as a way to gain profit at a rather slow time of year.

Yes, the Catholic Church honors three saints, altogether known as Valentine. It has also been found in ancient Rome in the fifth century that "Accept challenges, so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory." - General George S. Patton

Commit to complete and challenge yourself to make an impact in your life and the lives of others.



Ocelot Opinions

Interviews and photos by Durwin Johnson Staff Photographer



Aurea Mack Major: Community Health "Michael B. Jordan—he just seems like a cool dude. He has a nice smile."



Gabriel Torres *Major: General Studies* "Katy Perry because she is a goddess"



Dani Lakkis *Major: Physics* "Shakira—her hips don't lie."



Tingjou Tseng *Major: Chemical Engineering* "My boyfriend because we are in a long distance relationship"



9

Zakk Fitch Major: Biomedical Engineering "Kaley Cuoco—her eyes are beautiful."

WHO IS YOUR DREAM DATE?



Miranda Merideth *Major: Accounting* "I'd have to say Channing Tatum. He's very good looking."



Travis Wall *Major: Advertising and Graphic Design* "Mila Kunis"

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SOCIAL MEDIA



Esther Kaufmann *Major: Undecided* "Siwon Choi. He's a musician, composer, a Christian and a millionaire."



Brooke Hall *Major: Elementary Education* "Dave Franco because... just look at him!"





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CAMPUSLIFE Banding together on campus

Student organization advocates for awareness and understanding of the LGBTQI community

BY REBECCA BREAZEALE STAFF WRITER

Among the many student organizations at Schoolcraft College, there is one that seeks to advocate for the rights and freedoms of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer individuals. According to their mission statement, the "LGBTQI Alliance is a social connection for equality-minded individuals who want to create a safe environment to help change, support and educate our world one step at a time."

The club is the only one of its kind on campus, and students of all sexual preferences and identities are encouraged to attended meetings every Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Lower Waterman. "The LGBTQI Alliance is a club formed to give students at Schoolcraft a place to be accepted as they are. We welcome people from all backgrounds in discussion of current events regarding LGBTQI issues and equality in general," said Club President Matthew Solomon. "Also, we sponsor fun events throughout the semester that

are always entertaining and educational."

While most discussions of the club are not the same week to week, they are meaningful and tackle current issues, such as rights in the workplace, relationships and consent. Along with powerful discussions, the LGBTQI Alliance helps sponsor events on campus, such as the Sassy Game Night and a Halloween Dance.

The club has allowed for many students to have a sense of security and feel that they are making a difference in society. One member, Lee Samuels,



"It [the club] has given me so many opportunities, friends, support and most importantly, a voice. In a world that's filled with hatred and bigotry, the Schoolcraft LGBTQI Alliance made a team effort to lend a hand to those who ask for it and I couldn't be prouder to be a part of such an amazing organization," said Samuels.

The club has given many students a home to feel safe in and talk about their feelings regarding their sexuality or gender identity when they often have not been able to.

Although the club's mission is to support gender non-binary and those who do not identify as straight, straight and gender conforming people are welcome. Many members, like the Vice President, Shawn O'Brien, are allies who want to support other members of the club. Even people who are not members of the club offer support.

"I'm so happy the LGBTQI Alliance is a club. It is a great environment for all. Within the few times I attended the meetings to check the club out, I have made some wonderful friends," said student Nour Al-Janabi.

For more information about the club, contact President Matthew Solomon at schoolcraftlgbtqialliance@gmail.com or visit the Student Activities Office in the Lower Waterman building.

LESBIAN

A woman who is only attracted to other women.



Transgender women can also identify as lesbians.

GAY

A man who is only attracted to other men. This



includes transgender men.

BISEXUAL

One who is attracted to men and women, regardless of their



assigned gender.

TRANSGENDER

An individual who does not identify with the gender



they were assigned at birth. Typically, the two types are male to female or female to male.

QUEER/QUESTIONING

An umbrella term for those who do not identify as



the gender they were assigned at birth, but aren't necessarily transgender. This includes agender, genderqueer, asexual, pansexual and many other identifications.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CASEY SAMYN | CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Exploring English

hosted events such as Sassy Game Night and movie nights.

English as a Second Language assists international students with communication skills

(left to right) Club members Evan Jaslow, Matthew Solomon, Shaun O'Brien, Linzy Fleming, Lee

Samuels and Stephan Brown plan future events for anyone to attend. In the past, the club has



BY SAMVEL MIRAKYAN STAFF WRITER

Schoolcraft College students do not always come from metro Detroit, but instead from various countries around the world. Fortunately, Schoolcraft now offers classes to learn English as a Second Language (ESL), and the program continues to grow and expand to help better serve the community.

"Our new ESL state-of-theart computer lab is a regular part of our class where we use progressive, exciting ESL learning materials that include comprehensive online learning programs and workbooks. Students can then repeat this learning and listening practice at home as well. Self-paced learning is very effective, and a sound complement to group learning," said Carole Lowell, who has been teaching ESL at Schoolcraft for over seven years.

Students can be expected to interact with other students on campus and teach other ESL students lessons using computers and cameras, as it is key that students have an active learning experience to gain skills to communicate effectively. The goal is for each student to become confident with their English language, vocabulary and academic skills.

"I want them to gain the skills to communicate effectively in multiple parts of their lives. It's important that our students become a part of the Schoolcraft community, so we encourage them to join in on-campus organizations," said Lowell.

PHOTO BY NATHAN GARTNER | PHOTO EDITOR

Occasionally, students experience culture shock or homesickness, along with the normal challenges of working and finding new friends. Lowell connects them with students from the same country from another class or shares former student success stories with them. She suggests they take advantage of the many resources that Schoolcraft has to offer at no charge. Programs, like the LAC and Writing Fellows are always available to help out ESL students.

Mital Anghun, an ESL student who came from India said, "I understand a little, but I'm getting better in class."

The ESL program consists of five levels of classes rang-



PHOTO BY SILVIA PARRA DE MCCARTHY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

(clockwise from right to left) Instructor Brianne Radke works with students Hermann Tokou, Estefani Zepeda, Liliana Tellez, Racha Ghaddav, Leijla Bajramoj and Ariadna Urquiza to improve their English skills.

ing from English Language Skills—Communication, Speaking and Listening (ESL 051) up through English Reading and Writing Skills (ESL 102). Once courses are complete, students with a GPA of 2.0 or better can move into ENG 050, 051 or 101.

"My favorite part of ESL teaching at Schoolcraft is when I see a smile of confidence after my students have made a big jump in learning or they've given the best speech of their lives. In addition, I love it when former students come by to visit and share their successes," said Lowell.

The ESL program at Schoolcraft is not only geared to help students learn English, but also to help students find and connect with others from the same country. Students can contact the Answer Center at 734-462-4426 for more information.

Consult the facts

Learning the subtleties of when yes means yes at Schoolcraft's free event

BY CASEY SAMYN CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

In today's culture, there are different norms on dating and sex-life compared to the ideas of previous generations. People today tend to take a much more liberal stance when it comes to the topic of hookups.

Hook-ups happen frequently with the aid of social media, and while that is not something to be worried about, whether or not hook-ups are wanted should be. That is why the Student Activities Board, LGBTQI Alliance, Schoolcraft Counseling, Learning Support Services and the Student Relations office are presenting "The Hook Up: When it's Hot and When it's Not" on Feb. 18 at 1 p.m. in the DiPonio Room of the VisTaTech Center.

"I think it's something that most students should hear about. It's important for other students on campus to know about the difference between a healthy hook-up and a bad one," said Schoolcraft's LGBTQI Alliance President Matthew Solomon.

The presentation will consist of the research of Dr. David Lasik and an interactive discussion with the audience. Speakers will go over the significance of language, hook-up culture, sexual assault and bystander intervention.

"Bystander empowerment is when we see someone else who is at risk of being taken advantage of, we want to help them but don't always know how, this presentation will help teach people how to intervene safely," said Marty Heator, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Relations at Schoolcraft.

The Hook-Up will discuss the differences between sexual assault and regretted sex, as well as what healthy, consensual sex is. Students will learn what to look for in order to stop perpetrators of sexual crime.

"I work in the student relations office and I've seen situations with serious misunderstandings between students. I think this experience can help people understand the difference between a healthy hook-up, regretted sex and sexual assault. It's a problem not only in college but in all society," said Heator. "One result of our hook-up culture in America is confusion and consent. Too often two people get involved physically and one thinks the other is giving consent while the other really isn't."

Students can help by learning how to decrease the community's acceptance and lack of understanding of sexual predation. Please keep in mind that the presentation contains adult theme and language. For more information contact Marty Heator at 734-462-4604 or visit the Student Relations office in MC 110, located inside the Career Services office in the McDowell Center.

Secrets of the Quill

I just listened to the new Nikki Minaj album and I'm in love! I want to write a blog post about how great it was, but I'm lost. Where do I start? How do I write a good album review? -Music Lover

Dear Music Lover,

After listening to and experiencing a brand new album, many of us feel the urge to write about it and share our newfound obsession (or distaste) with other people. Music speaks to our senses; it has the ability to make us cry or make us laugh. Whether it is for a Facebook post or an album review for the newspaper, writing about music is a great skill to possess.

Writing about what one sees is easy; writing about what one hears is a bit more abstract. But do not let this discourage you. The first step to understanding and writing about music is to update your musical vocabulary. Think of other words that are associated with music: melody, tune, harmony, measure, hymn, fusion, beat, rhythm, and the list goes on. Utilizing these words throughout the review will make it more impressive. If I keep repeating the word "music" throughout this article, it will become repetitive and boring. Instead of saying, "Think about how music flows. How *music* can change your mood. How *music* can inspire," I can say, "Think about how a *melody* flows. How a *beat* can change your mood. How tempo can inspire." (One of those sentences is more exciting than the other). Once the vocabulary is renewed, the review is updated.

During the review, it is essential to define the genre of the artist or band. Is it Jazz? Rock-and-roll? Indie? Rap? If it is rap, what kind of rap is it? Is it Alternative Rap or Gangsta Rap? Defining the specific

genre of the music allows the audience to understand the album's foundation. Once the genre is defined, it is time to start analyzing individual songs on the album. Plug in some earbuds and listen, asking yourself questions along the way: What feelings are evoked? What is the mood? What are the lyrics saying to you? What is the song about? How is the rhythm intertwined with the theme? Do not be afraid to get into specifics. Is the rhythm slow, steady, or fast? Does the piano melody overpower the drums? How does the intro transition into the chorus? Are the vocals low-key or screaming? In many ways, writing about music is like writing about literature. Most books contain a mood, a theme, and words on the page that have a message, just as most songs contain a mood, a theme, and lyrics with a message. Not only are these aspects worthy of mention, but they also determine whether or not the album is a piece of art.

When reviewing an album, it helps to give background information about the artist as well. What was their intent or inspiration? For example: "Everything about David Bowie's Pin Ups is electric; the aggressive vocals, the power-driven guitar riffs, and the alluring lyrics of the past. In an interview, Bowie stated that Pin Ups was paying homage to his favorite English rock-n-roll hits of the 1960's." After reading this, the audience has a better grasp on David Bowie's inspiration behind his album, Pin Ups. The artist is part of the art, and it is important to include the artist throughout the review.

Writing what we hear is not easy; we must get in tune with our senses, our emotions, and analytical abilities. With time and practice, you will gain the power to blow peoples' minds with your ability to assess and write about musical fusion.

-Emily Podwoiski Writing Fellows



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The Student Activities Board participated in several local holiday parades in the 1970s, including the one pictured in 1974.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SCHOOLCRAFT ARCHIVES

(left to right front) Russ Olson (53), Ken Davenport (25), Clyde Long (31), Kenneth Cox (21), Al Strickland (23) and Dominic Giovanni (15)

(left to right back) Doug Garrett (Head Coach 1975-76), Dave Trowbridge, Darrell Wilson, Rick Young, Chuck Cleamons and Dave Kallman made up the 1975 to 1976 mens basketball team.

The 1970s contributed to the environment, programs and luxuries present at Schoolcraft today

library was dedicated to the first president of the college, Eric Bradner on Oct. 24, 1972. The Day Care Center opened in 1973, Students held the first School Daze, then known as Get Acquainted Week in the winter semester of 1973 and the Ocelot Grill opened in the Lower Waterman center where conference room E is now. Kids on Campus began as Adventures in Learning in 1979.

Roads to get to Schoolcraft from surrounding areas were small and offered limited safety for commuters. Alumnus Kent Lawless attended Schoolcraft from 1973 to 1975. Lawless grew up in Detroit and Livonia, recalls, "cross-country skiing to get to campus when roads were closed due to heavy snow storms, driving through thick fog to campus and seeing cars in the ditches along Six Mile Road." He also

The college offered cross-country, mens basketball, mens soccer, golf, tennis, mens swimming, wrestling, volleyball, gymnastics, womens basketball and a year of womens swimming starting in 1978. Increased sports teams led to greater student engagement outside of the classroom.

"I remember going to Uncle Sam's on Monday's for \$0.25 drink nights, doing the bump on the disco lighted floor, and one time there was two or three feet of snow outside [when I left]," said Kenneth Cox, an African-American on the mens basketball team. Cox grew up on the northeast side of Detroit and attended Schoolcraft from 1974 to 1976. "Ponderosa would be waiting for us on Wednesday's with steak dinner for \$5. Schoolcraft was nicknamed SchoolcraftU."

the city. Being a very outgoing person, myself and [my] teammates never felt any racial pressure in any of our travels. Schoolcraft College most definitely helped prepare me for life. I have been very successful in many endeavors," said Cox.

Minorities were not only engaging in college activities, but also in careers. Women particularly started gaining better, higher paying jobs aside their college education.

"I worked full time, 40 to 50 hours per week, at Metro Airport," said Debra Lawson, who grew up in Garden City and attended Schoolcraft from 1972 to 1975. "I ended up having a very good first career, becoming the Director of Marketing and General Manager for a name car rental company."

The 70s paved the way for a much clearer idea of the college known today, with an added curriculum of continuing education classes and other events involving the community. Expansion in every area of the college led to an emphasis on community for Schoolcraft, which to be continued to grow in the upcoming decades.

Growing tradition

BY LAUREN LUKENS AND CASEY SAMYN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Thinking of the 1970s, people may reminisce about the Watergate scandal, Elvis Presley's passing, the first observed Earth Day or Apollo 17, the enterprise that landed the first humans on the moon. Gas cost an average of \$0.36 a gallon and minimum wage was raised to a whopping \$2 an hour in 1974, opposed to the \$1.60 that was consistent since 1968. During this progression of events, technology and economy, Schoolcraft College was simultaneously improving to benefit its students for years to come.

COMMUNITY GROWTH

By 1970, Schoolcraft College continued to expand its physical presence. Additional buildings were built to include the Applied Science building, then known as the Technical Vocational Building, which was dedicated in 1967; the now-demolished Continuing Education and Professional Development building, which was the Student Affairs Office at the time; the South parking lot in 1966 and the Liberal Arts building in 1968.

In 1970 the Physical Education building was built and the



Schoolcraft's



second heavy ice storm." president, Dr. C. Nelson

Grote, held office from 1971 to 1981.

RIGHT: An aerial view of the campus in 1970 shows the significant growth that Schoolcraft went through

in just one decade.

remembers "sparkling views of Detroit basin following a

GREATER STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Throughout the 70s, Schoolcraft's campus had major growth with student population and sports. Schoolcraft started catering to those similar to the student population of today, with an average age of 23 and to some who lived outside metro Detroit.

DECREASED DISCRIMINATION

After the Civil Rights Act of 1964, schools across the country were welcoming minorities to join the classroom and sporting teams. After centuries of discrimination against African Americans, women and other minorities, America truly began the melting pot. "During my stay in Livonia, there were only about three



FIND US ONLINE AT WWW.SCHOOLCRAFTCONNECTION.COM 13



COMPILED BY KELLY RESPONDEK STAFF WRITER

THE FOLLOWING CLUBS TAKE PLACE IN THE LOWER WATERMAN CONFERENCE ROOMS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE AT 734-462-4422.

ARTISAN NOW ART CLUB

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY FROM 1 TO 3 P.M. (NEXT MEETING FEB. 13)

Aspiring artists at Schoolcraft can display their art and share ideas with each other. This group helps students express themselves artistically and boost their confidence by receiving constructive criticism on their artwork from peers.

BUSINESS CLUB

TUESDAYS FROM 2 TO 3 P.M.

Come for guidance and to develop one's knowledge of the business world. Discuss anything and everything business related at meetings, and attend additional seminars and network possibilities related to future employment.

CHESS CLUB

FIRST AND THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 12:30 P.M.

This club aims to create a network of chess players and teach people how to strategically play the game. Learn what moves to make and when to make them. Whether you are a seasoned player or just a beginner, all experience levels are welcome.

CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE

TUESDAYS AT NOON

This club challenges participants to explore the Lord's Word and improve the overall college experience through God. Help others grow spiritually by promoting friendship and participating in Bible discussions.

COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

EVERY OTHER MONDAY AT 3 P.M. (NEXT MEETING FEB. 16)

This club wishes to gain more members of the party at the collegiate level by developing a greater understanding of the U.S. Constitution through sponsoring speakers, hosting question and answer sessions with public officials and discussing current events.

DOCTOR WHO CLUB

WEDNESDAYS FROM NOON TO 2 P.M. This group brings students with an interest in science fiction together and introduces newcomers to the show "Doctor Who." The club hosts social events like costume parties and game nights themed around the show.

LGBTQI ALLIANCE

WEDNESDAYS AT 1 P.M.

The alliance creates awareness of gender and sexual identities and creates a safe place for LGBTQI people worldwide. Come help inspire change and educate others through events such as co-sponsored symposiums and social gatherings.

PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR Society

WEDNESDAYS FROM 7 TO 8 P.M. AND Saturdays from 10 to 11 A.M.

Those who have a 3.5 GPA or higher and have completed 12 credit hours above the 100 level are invited to join this prestigious society with ability to apply for certain scholarships. At meetings, leaders welcome new members and direct existing members on upcoming events to attend.

PING PONG CLUB

THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS FROM 6 TO 7 P.M.

Ping Pong can be taken to several levels, one being serious world competitions. Come to this club for practices and casual mini tournaments where contestants play up to 11 points and the winner continues on to the next round.

POKE PALS

WEDNESDAYS FROM 4 TO 6 P.M.

This club is the place for those who are long-time Pokémon fans and people just starting out. Play Pokémon and discuss the various facets of Pokémon, such as the television show. Anyone interested in Pokémon is encouraged to come.

PROJECT PLAYHEM GAMING CLUB

MONDAYS AT 3 P.M.

This group unites members by creating a sense of community among student gamers academi-

cally, socially and competitively. Like-minded individuals can connect for tournaments and get-togethers.

THE SCHOOLCRAFT CONNECTION

MONDAYS FROM 4 TO 5 P.M.

Become part of the bi-monthly, award winning student newspaper and help express student opinion and report college and world news related to Schoolcraft. Photograph, write, design, produce videos and multimedia and edit to find a niche in the media.

STUDENTS OF ACTIVELY MOVING FORWARD (AMF)

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY AT 6 P.M. (NEXT MEETING FEB.12)

This is a nonprofit organization run by students, dedicated to emotionally supporting college students grieving the illness or death of a loved one. The group connects students together for support and aims to raise awareness about the needs of various grieving college students.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD

THURSDAYS AT 4 P.M.

Along with involving students in community, the SAB hosts service projects on campus and with local charities.

TABLE TOP GAMING CLUB

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 2 TO 10 P.M.

This club is responsible for facilitating a fun and comfortable environment in which students can enjoy various non-electronic games. Students who enjoy classic games can join for fun and to make friends.

VIDEO PRODUCTION CLUB

THURSDAYS AT 1 P.M.

This club helps those interested in the multimedia field learn more about the dynamics of media through writing, producing and more. Anyone interested in acting, writing or editing is welcome to attend. THESE CLUBS ARE SPONSORED AND HELD AT SCHOOLCRAFT BUT NOT IN THE LOWER WATERMAN. UNDER THE CLUB MEETING TIMES, ONE CAN FIND THE LOCATION OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS.

BREAK DANCE CLUB

FRIDAYS FROM 2:45 TO 5:15 P.M.

PE 140

This club provides students with a chance to express themselves through dance. Attendees have fun while learning about various dance styles, practicing them and meeting new people. Students can compete amongst themselves and showcase their skills.

CHEMISTRY CLUB

FIRST MEETING JAN. 26

F 120

This brand new club offers students an extra look into the exciting science of chemistry. Whether a person is a passionate amateur chemist or just beginning to develop an interest, this club is sure to be a fun time for learning for everyone.

CIVIL RIGHTS – CIVIL RIGHTS ACTION CLUB

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY AT 3 P.M.

LA 130 This organization promotes, educates and works towards the expression of identity and rights of those on campus and beyond. Members strive to involve students, faculty, staff and the community to promote this purpose.

FIT CLUB

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS FROM 2:30 TO 3:30 P.M.

FITNESS CENTER, PE BUILDING

This group introduces various fitness principles and proper techniques through different exercises that will improve fitness levels and team building skills. Students who come to this club will improve their overall health and mindset.

MATH AND PHYSICS CLUB

WEDNESDAYS FROM 5 TO 6 P.M.

BTC 300

This group brings students currently seeking degrees in math or science related fields together. The club strives to foster higher levels of interest and understand-

ALL EVENTS, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ARE FREE OF CHARGE. FOR MORE

INFORMATIÓN, CONTACT THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE AT 734-462-4422.

ing in math and physics related topics. Members receive the opportunity to participate in lectures and contests.

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE CLUB (NACC)

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS FROM 11:30 A.M. TO 12:50 P.M.

LA 140

This club fosters an understanding of Native American culture, history and tradition through showing films, sponsoring guest speakers and hosting other cultural events. Learn and cultivate your knowledge of the Native American culture.

RUGBY CLUB

This is the first rugby team at Schoolcraft College. Rugby combines speed, strength and strategy. The club is preparing to compete in the Michigan Rugby League against other rugby teams from the state in the spring.

WALLYBALL CLUB

MONDAY, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS FROM 1:30 TO 3 P.M.

WALLYBALL COURTS, PE BUILDING

Wallyball is played on a racquetball court and is similar to volleyball, but players utilize the walls. Many teams play on a competitive level, but students can join regardless of their intents for a friendly, high-paced atmosphere.



campus EVENTS

ASK AN ATTORNEY

MCDOWELL CENTER, MC 105

Community members will be able to gain information from an attorney about divorce and family law. This service is offered on a first come, first serve basis.

Monday, Feb. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m.

istration Regulations. The fee is Career \$45.00. For more information visit instruc http://bit.ly/1wFE5Aw. intervie

COMPILED BY KELLY RESPONDEK

STAFF WRITER

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

THURSDAY, FEB. 12, FROM 4 TO 7 P.M.

JEFFRESS CENTER, JC 110 This seminar is for those seeking financial management advice. A variety of topics will be covered, from how to apply information from key financial statements to cash flow analysis. The fee is \$45.00. For more information call 734-462-4438. Career Services Office, advice and instruction on resume-making and interviewing and job fair etiquette is given to those seeking jobs.

.. NOON CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, FROM NOON TO 1 P.M.

PRESENTATION ROOM, VISTATECH CENTER Schoolcraft has invited several excellent performers to play in the noon winter concert series. This month's installment is the Gene Parker Quartet. There will be a collection at the door to for donations to go towards student scholarships.

COLLEGE VISITS

The attorney will be from the Creighton, McLean & Shea Law Firm. Monday, Feb. 16, from 4 to 6 p.m. The attorney will be from the firm of Marie A. Pulte.

DIVORCE SUPPORT GROUP

TUESDAY, FEB. 10, FROM 7 TO 9 P.M.

MCDOWELL CENTER, MC 105

The Divorce Support Group will be facilitated by Cynthia Koppin, MA, LLP, LPC, PLLC. Attorney Patricia A. Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting.

ITAR & EAR: AN OVERVIEW WITH FOCUS ON EXPORT CONTROL REFORM

THURSDAY, FEB. 12, FROM 9 A.M. TO NOON

JEFFRESS CENTER, JC 103

In this workshop, attendees who are interested in the Defense Industry will be given overviews of the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR), the Export Control Reform and Export Admin-

UNITED LAWNSCAPE ON CAMPUS RECRUITING

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, FROM 11 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Henry's in VisTaTech Center United Lawnscape is coming to campus looking to hire for their landscaping crews. The company asks that those interested in a position bring their resume and dress professionally.

JOB SEARCH SOLUTIONS WORKSHOP SERIES-SHARPENING INTERVIEW SKILLS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18, FROM 11:30 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

VISTATECH CENTER, W 210

In this series of workshops presented by the Schoolcraft College

COOKING UP A SUCCESSFUL FOOD RELATED BUSINESS

THURSDAY, FEB. 19, FROM 6 TO 9 P.M.

JEFFRESS CENTER, JC112

For those passionate about creating a successful food business of their own, this seminar is the perfect platform to help make it a reality. The fee for this workshop is \$249.00. For more information call 734-462-4438. **EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS VISIT** Monday, Feb. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Henry's, Waterman in VisTaTech Center

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS VISIT

Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Henry's, Waterman in VisTaTech Center

COLLEGE FOR CREATIVE STUDIES PRESENTATION FOR STUDENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Forum

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS VISIT

Thursday, Feb. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon Henry's, Waterman in VisTaTech Center



14 ARTSANDENTERTAINMENT

DATE NIGHT OUTFITS

BY ELIZABETH CHAPA ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Excessive money does not need to be spent on a Valentine's Day outfit. These items may be in your closet already and just need to be paired up.

For the ladies, a dress is perfect for a date. Since it is Valentine's Day, a red color would be fitting. It can be a skater dress that is fitted at the top and flares out on the bottom or a bodycon dress that is tight fitting throughout. Keep in mind that the dress can be a color other than red. One could wear a pale pink or even white; if it has lace, even better.

Since February tends to be cold, a pair of tights could be ideal. If one is wearing a skater dress, black tights look great paired up with it, and if one is wearing tights, it looks more polished with flats. If the tights are skipped, wedges or heels are okay. Layer a cardigan over the dress, and top it with a thin belt to go over one's mid section. To accessorize, a small, dainty charm necklace would look precise. A couple examples are a small heart locket or an arrow charm, which is not too flashy or heavy and will give one a more delicate and girly style. Do not forget about the purse. A small clutch would be convenient, as it can either be a crossbody or a handbag. It should be small, making it very chic and will go great with the Valentine's Day outfit chosen.





For guys, a practical, stylish outfit would be a button up shirt with khakis or chino pants. Underneath the button up, one could wear a plain t-shirt or V-neck. With this outfit, guys should wear oxford style shoes because they look dressy without overdoing it. To accessorize this casual outfit, wear a nice watch and a beanie if preferred. Also, adding a belt will give this outfit a polished and put together look.

One should keep in mind that with these items they are just suggestions and can easily be replaced for something that is more suitable to fit any style. Along to accommodate to ones wardrobe selection, it might be easier to just purchase a few items and pair it up with items already owned. Now one can decide on what to wear for a date at ease while maintaining a budget.

IMAGES FROM POLYVORE.COM

VALENTINE'S DAY GIFTS ON A BUDGET



Valentine's Day can sometimes be stressful and a struggle for those who are unsure of what to get their significant other. These gift ideas are great to personalize, while being simple and affordable.

SHRINKY DINK JEWELRY

Number six plastic containers, a good substitute for the Shrinky Dink sheets, which are generally the clear salad bar containers. There is no need for a specialized oven, a real oven works just as well. Draw a design on them with permanent marker, keeping in mind that it will shrink to about one third of the size, and cut the design out in one's desired shape. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and place a sheet of aluminum with the designs on top of it directly on the lowest rack. Leave them to shrink for about three and a half minutes to make personalized key chains, necklace charms, magnets and more.

SEVEN DAYS

For long distance relationships or for those who cannot see each other often, this gift is perfect. Get seven envelopes and write one day of the week on each. Fill each envelope with notes, candies, pictures and other fitting, personalized items. One could mark the first envelope as Saturday, since Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday this year. For long distance relationships, mail the envelopes in one big mailing envelope and change the days of the week to say "day one," "day two," "day three" and so on, up to seven.

52 REASONS WHY

This gift is perfect for someone who has a lot to say to their significant other, but wants to do something more creative than a note. Get a deck of playing cards and hole punch each one. List reasons why they are loved on each one. One could add pictures to personalize it or stickers to brighten it up. String a ribbon through each hole and tie it loosely in a bow, so the deck can be read like a book. As long as the face of each card is mostly flat, it should be able to be put back in the deck back in the box for exchanging gifts.

THE SCHOOLCRAFT CONNECTION | ISSUE 8 | FEBRUARY 9, 2015



BY ELIZABETH CHAPA AND REBECCA BREAZELE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR AND STAFF WRITER

One could always use some suggestions on where to go out to eat. Finding unique and quaint restaurants can be difficult to track down. Here are some places that are worth taking a significant other out to eat.

Rojo Mexican Bistro

44375 TWELVE MILE ROAD, SUITE G-147 NOVI MI 48377

HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY 11 A.M. TO 10 P.M., THURSDAY 11 A.M. TO 11 P.M., FRIDAY 11 A.M. TO MIDNIGHT, SATURDAY 12 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT AND SUNDAY 12 P.M. TO 9

PHONE: (248) 374-4600

Spice things up with this sumptuous restaurant for some Mexican cuisine. Patrons could go for the Rojo Burger: a blend of ground beef and chorizo sausage topped with pico de gallo, lettuce and chipotle aioli served on a brioche bun. Dare your date to try the Shrimp Diabla, one of the signature entrees. The plates are sure to be bold, eye appealing and flavorful.

Miki Sushi

106 SOUTH 1ST STREET, ANN ARBOR. MI 48104

HOURS: SUNDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 11:30 A.M. TO 10 P.M. AND FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 11:30 A.M. TO 11 P.M.

PHONE: (734) 665-8226

Miki Sushi serves some of the best sushi around the metro area where customers are welcome to dine either at a table or at the sushi bar. There is an exquisite and extended menu containing only sushi rolls. This is the perfect place for a new experience. If patrons are feeling adventurous they can try the flaming Hawaiian Volcano Roll: a spicy tuna, avocado and cucumber roll topped with red snapper, spicy mayo and eel sauce served on a flaming skillet.

The Melting Pot

309 S MAIN ST, ANN ARBOR, MI 48104

HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 4 TO 10 P.M., FRIDAY 4 TO 11 P.M., Saturday 12 To 11 P.M. and Sunday 12 TO 9 P.M.

PHONE: (734) 622-0055

The Melting Pot is the perfect spot for a romantic evening or night out with friends. Dine-ins have the option of cheese or chocolate fondue served at the table with dipping items paired for the fondue. Salads are made fresh, and entrees are cooked at the table for entertainment. This restaurant would make a suitable choice to take a date out, due to the elegant, aesthetic décor and fun food items.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CHAPA ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Indulge in a hand tossed pizza that can be shared and enjoyed to savor the taste.

Luigi's Pizza Cafe

31530 PLYMOUTH ROAD, LIVONIA, MI 48150

HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 11 A.M. TO 10 P.M., SATURDAY 12 TO 10 P.M. AND SUNDAY 3 TO 9 P.M.

PHONE: (734) 261-0600

Take a night out to this restaurant for excellent, authentic Italian food. With the wide variety the menu offers, guest are sure to find something to please any appetite. All pastas are served with fresh homemade sauce made on location. Indulge and try the famous, hand tossed brick-oven pizza to split. If one is looking to just

grab a drink with someone, Luigi's Pizza Cafe has a full bar including liquor, beer and wine, all served in a comfortable and romantic ambiance.

fast, do not rush it. There is no need to rush into people, the relationship can only grow stronger

If being with this girl is right at this time, be

If you are truly serious about this girl, then make her your girl.

Tahini Mediterranean

17378 HAGGERTY ROAD, LIVONIA, MI 48152

HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY 8 A.M. TO 8 P.M., THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY 8 A.M. TO 9 P.M. AND CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

PHONE: (734) 744-8050

Tahini Mediterranean focuses on Mediterranean and fusion dishes rooted in Middle Eastern cuisine. These dishes are made fresh without additives and fillers and are a healthier choice for those looking to dine out this Valentine's Day. When one is looking for something out of the ordinary with a clean, friendly atmosphere, Tahini Mediterranean is a terrific place to eat without breaking the bank or one's diet.



PHOTO BY JORDAN FANCO LAYOUT EDITOR Customers will marvel at

these delicious sweets on *display before ordering* at local food spot, Tahini Mediterranean.



15

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CHAPA ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR Erica Rivett, takes a customers order while

co-owner John Kizy cooks up some burgers.

Jays Stuffed Burgers

600 W. ANN ARBOR TRAIL, PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY 11 A.M. TO 9 P.M. AND SUNDAY 2 TO 8 P.M.

PHONE: (734) 386-0654

Jays Stuffed Burgers is a fresh, intuitive take on the classic burger joint. While most places stack toppings on top of the patty, this restaurant changes things up, stuffing them inside the patty. A burger can be stuffed with the choice of cheese, protein or veggies. The diner is both affordable and enjoyable with the change of pace, making it easy to avoid the awkward Valentines Day date with an upbeat and casual dinner, while still providing a memorable experience.



Love and War: A Live Storytelling Event

Friday, Feb. 20, at 8 p.m.

- The Charles H. Wright Museum of
- African American History

Wayne State University, 315 East Warren Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202

Join the Secret Society of Twisted Storytellers, a non-profit organization founded by award-winning performer and writer Satori Shakoor for a night of stories filled with love and war. The storyteller's website describes the stories as "human, hilariously funny, heartbreaking and inspiring." Doors open at 7 p.m., and admission is \$20. Tickets are available at secretstorytellers.com/tickets.

ready to commit to her. Think about if your lifestyle is going to have to change because you are with her. Also, are you ready to deal with the heartbreak if the relationship goes south?

Although all of this debate is just to be cautious, sometimes one just needs to not be so worried and just take the risk. If it is for love then the experience of it in itself is worth it.



-ADVICE COLUMN-

ASK LIZ

Q: I have been talking to this girl for a couple months now. I want to ask her out, but I don't know if it is too soon. Should I do it, and if so, how?

A: The only way to know if it is too soon is to analyze your feelings towards this girl.

An important question to consider is if you have both talked about how you feel towards each other. Before committing to a relationship, it is important that you know how she feels about dating. Knowing what page she is on will help determine if it is too soon. It is possible that she is ready to date and is just waiting for you, or it could be the opposite; she might feel that she needs time before dating. Before moving forward, it is vital to figure out how she feels about the two of you being together.

If it is you feeling that it is too soon to date and you are having doubts about moving too

Asking her out does not need to be a big extravagant deal, it can simply just be you asking the question when you two are hanging out. It really is just asking to put a title on the relationship, but it could mean more to one person than another. If that is not you and making an impression is and sweeping her off her feet is your ideal way then I would suggest stepping outside the box and planning a whole evening out before asking her.

Think of something that both of you share in common and love doing, whether it is going on adventures outdoors or going to an art museum, and plan the night around the location.

One could never go wrong with going to an evening dinner, making reservations at a quaint, romantic restaurant downtown. One could also plan to cook a dinner at home. That way you could set up dinner and accent the table with candles for a more visionary ambiance. Trust your instinct and gut feeling, and if you feel that it is right, it more than likely it is. Just remember, if you go for it and ask her to be your girlfriend, be sure you are ready to commit.



Performance of "Yellowman"

Thursday, Feb. 12, at 7:30

p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 15, at 2 p.m.

Performance Network Theatre

for Drama, the show is re-

p.m., Friday, Feb. 13, at 8 p.m.,

Saturday, Feb. 14, at 3 p.m. and 8

A 2002 Pulitzer Prize finalist

nowned for its powerful impact.

It tells the tragic love story be-

tween two African-Americans,

while tackling racial prejudice,

parental abuse and alcoholism.

Tickets range from \$13 to \$39.

To purchase visit pnttheather.

org under their show listings.

Leonardo da Vinci: Man-Inventor-Artist-Genius Exhibit Art Saturday, Jan. 24, through Saturday, May 23 (hours of operation on website) Alden B. Dow Museum of Science & Art 1801 West Saint Andrews Road, Midland, MI 48640

The international exhibition showcases over 60 of Da Vinci's invention models with interactive simulations, 23 artworks replicated to scale, his compositions and much more. Adult admission is \$12 and the museum's hours of operation can be found at mcfta.org. Only in Michigan for a short period of time, it's an exhibit one will not want to miss. Visit mcfta.org for tickets.



Joshua Radin Concert Music Saturday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. The Crofoot Ballroom

Currently celebrating his sixth studio album "Onward and Sideways," Radin is touring with alternative artist Rachel Yamagata and the indie rock artist, Cary Brothers. His songs have been featured in many hit television shows including "Grey's Anatomy" and "House." Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online on ticketmaster.com.



IMAGE FROM IMPAWARDS.COM

Bradley Cooper stars in "American Sniper," which was released Dec. 25. The film portrays war hero Chris Kyle— America's most lethal sniper in history.

Celebrating a hero

"American Sniper" lives up to the hype

BY ELIZABETH CASELLA INTERN

Rating: 7.5 out of 10 stars Duration: 132 minutes Rated: R

The film "American Sniper," based off the true story of Navy Seal Sniper Chris Kyle, was released in selected teathers Dec. 25 and nationwide on Jan. 16. The movie follows the life of Kyle, portrayed by Bradley Cooper, whose pinpoint accuracy saves a countless number of lives on the battlefield, making him well-known as an American legend after serving four tours of duty.

Kyle is the number one lethal sniper in American history. He killed over 125 enemy soldiers during his four tours and is well deserving of his title as "The Legend," which is more than any other American sniper.

In the commonly seen commercial sequence and opening scene of the trailer, Chris Kyle must make the call to shoot a young boy and his mother who are threatening his fellow soldiers with a grenade. The movie opens with this scene, but quickly switches to the story of Chris' childhood and life before he became a navy seal.

The film continues on to tell why Kyle initially signed up for duty and then gives moviegoers a personal account of his days in training. His patriotism is his drive to never give up. Kyle becomes a sniper due to his immense talent for shooting, nurtured by his father who taught him as a young child how to hunt. Kyle seemed to start off as a terrible shot due to the fact that he could not hit a still target to save his life, but he quickly proves his talent to his commanding officers by shooting live, moving animals, which he never misses.

After each tour, Kyle comes home to his wife and kids. He finds troubles of the war are hard to move past while at home. He feels that his job is not complete with each friend of his whom dies. He continues to return to the battlefield because he realizes that it is the war he cannot leave behind. He must complete his own personal mission to kill the number one sniper for the Iranians who has wounded and killed most of his friends, even with a price of \$180,000 bounty for his head.

Kyle's wife, Taya, portrayed by Sienna Miller, acts as his rock throughout the film. She pushes him to come home and helps him to recover from his Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Fellow soldiers and friends of Kyle helped motivate him throughout combat, especially his friends: Biggles, Tony and Dauber.

The film covers the span of Kyle's life after he comes home and finally learns to readjust to civilian life until the day he is killed by a fellow veteran he is trying to help recover. The film was released in selected theatres across the country on Christmas to be able to be nominated for the Oscars. The film was nominated for seven Oscars including Best Motion picture and best leading actor and made over \$321 million dollars worldwide since its release as of Feb. 4.

Bradley Cooper's performance as Kyle was spot on. The actor not only looked extremely similar to the real Kyle but had a real chemistry with all the other actors on set. He really brought the part to life and all of the ups and downs that come with being a soldier.

Overall, "American Sniper" was a gripping film that will entertain a variety of audiences including any viewers who enjoy war movies or movie based off of true stories, as it had an emotionally involved plot and was laid out well.

The story was a gripping tale and was portrayed that way on scene. At times, the film feels longer than it actually is and drags on in a few spots. Additionally, some scenes are hard to understand because it is difficult to hear the lines being spoken. This film is very intense and would not recommend it to anyone who can not handle seeing gruesome and gory scenes. The movie is well organized in its timeline throughout and is worth the ticket price for viewers who enjoy true stories about American heroes.

Remembered for "Centuries"

Fall Out Boy releases new music

BY AMANDA KOCHANOWSKI STAFF WRITER



Fans of Fall Out Boy rejoice, as the band has released, yet another album. After an eight year break, the group got back together to release "Save Rock and Roll" in 2013. With the success of their first return, they are at it again.

On Jan. 20, the alternative group released "American Beauty/American Psycho." The record includes 11 songs and was released under Island Records. This marks the band's sixth album.

Lead single "Centuries" took over both alternative and pop stations with its debut in September of 2014, where the song peaked at No. 13 on Billboard's Hot 100 just one week before the album's release date. What listeners may not know is that the track samples Suzanne Vega's hit "Tom's Diner." The catchy beginning beat first appeared in 1987 and gets some electric infusion for 2014 due to re-recording by singer Lolo.

"Immortals" is another tune fans will recognize, due to its role on the soundtrack of Disney's animated film "Big Hero 6." The song has many pop elements, but still contains that special something that makes it undeniably Fall Out Boy. Whether it is the vocals, lyrics or echoing, the song is sure to be a favorite for long-time fans and firsttime listeners.

TURN YOUR SCHOOLCRAFT ASSOCIATE DEGREE INTO A Madonna Bachelor's Degree!





IMAGE FROM JOSEPVINAIXA.COM

American rock band Fall Out Boy released their sixth studio album on Jan. 20, "American Beauty/American Psycho." The band has managed to keep their classic alternative sound similar for over a decade. However, they have stepped it up a level for their newest release. Fans will love the way the new tracks sound like their old favorites, but will also appreciate the addition of a more modern pop-rock sound.

Fall Out Boy will return to the stage this summer with co-headliner Wiz Khalifa on The Boys of Zummer Tour. They are set to play in Clarkston at the DTE Energy Music Theater on July 10. Tickets went on sale Jan. 23, and will sell out fast. The group will also promote their new album across the United Kingdom on their American Beauty/ American Psycho UK Tour starting in October.

"American Beauty/American Psycho" is available now on iTunes. For more information about anything concerning Fall Out Boy, visit their website at falloutboy.com. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - CHILD DEVELOPMENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRAPHIC DESIGN - HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT SIGN LANGUAGE STUDIES DUAL DEGREE Transfer more credits; up to 90 in some cases Small classes and block scheduling Schedule a campus tour!

MADONNA UNIVERSITY madonna.edu/transfer

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A new American era "House of Cards" premieres third season

BY ELIZABETH CASELLA INTERN

SPOILER ALERT: The final scene of season two shows Frank Underwood being inaugurated as the 46th president of the United States of America and followed by him banging his ring on the desk of the oval office left fans shocked and wanting more.

Season three of the popular Netflix series "House of Cards" is set to premiere on Feb. 27.

At the end of season two, Frank Underwood, played by Kevin Spacey, fulfilled his goal from the beginning of season one by becoming the President. Along the way, Spacey's character committed murder twice, intimidated almost everyone in Congress and strained his relationship with his wife, Claire, played by Robin Wright. Frank's devious plan to manipulate everyone has worked for him so far.

Season three has only released one trailer, which revealed little information. In the 46-second trailer, only three sentenced are spoken, the Russian president is shown and another clue is dropped. It is prospected that Claire and Frank's relationship will be put to the test, as they start to drift apart. The couple seems to be going in different directions personally and ca-

reer wise. Claire is also seen kissing the Russian president, which enrages her husband who is already on rocky terms with his foreign counterpart.

Spacey has hinted that Frank Underwood's insidious personality will only continue to get worse as he tries to keep his ghosts in the past and move towards an even brighter future for himself. Frank has already proved in the past two seasons that he will do whatever it takes to stay on top and not let those from his past destroy him.

With the show being inspired from a novel, fans should note that there was a BBC aired "House of Cards." The drama was a series of four episode which aired in the U.K. back in 1990. For fans of the show, one should consider taking the time to watch before the new season airs.

Feelings are mounting to dangerous levels it seems in the new season, and many questions about the series will be left unanswered by Netflix. The company that created the series has kept details under lock and key.

The series won a Golden Globe for best lead actor in a television performance and was nominated for several other awards in the Emmys. Fans await the much-anticipated premiere on Feb. 27 of season three.



Netflix sensation *"House* of Cards" stars Kevin Spacey in this political drama. Fans anticipate season three, which is set to stream Feb. 27.

ΦΘΚ

IMAGE FROM IBTIMES.COM

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New comics hit the stands

weather is cold, sit back and read of the brave and the bold.

BY COLIN HICKSON

STAFF WRITER It is a new year, and that means new comics are coming to local comic shops as collections and new issues. So while the



Unveiling Justice League through the years

BY COLIN HICKSON STAFF WRITER

The Justice League, DC's premiere Silver Age superhero group, celebrates their 55th anniversary of the 1960 debut of the twenty-eighth issue of "The Brave and the Bold." Justice League has had a long, rich history and a roster containing both A-listers like Superman, Batman and Aquaman, and B and C-listers like Aztek, Metamorpho and General Glory, but the team has also had some rather odd occurrences throughout their history.

1. The Justice League was once based in Detroit, and DC's greatest superheroes were based in Michigan. Following the destruction of the teams' satellite HQ via aliens, they relocated to Detroit, where the group was joined by Vixen, a supermodel who can copy animal powers, and Steel, the cyborg grandson of the retcon Golden Age superhero, Commander Steel. The latter heroes gave them a new headquarters in the form of his grandfather's old bunker under an abandoned Detroit factory. They were then joined by Vibe, an ex-gang member

and break-dancer with sound based powers, and later, Gypsy, a teenage runaway with camouflage and illusion casting. This team was not well received. While Gypsy did return to the team as a member of the Justice League Task Force, Vibe was given a second chance in the New 52.

2. There was once a twopart story where the then current writer of "Justice League of America" Cary Bates, best known for his fifteen year run as writer of "the Flash" and for various episodes of "Gargoyles," was transported to Earth-2, the home of DC's Golden Age heroes at the time, and served as the villain of the story.

3. Not one of DC's prouder titles from the 90s, "Extreme Justice," was a short-lived comic, focused on a proactive Justice League team led by Captain Atom and composed of the second Blue Beetle, Maxima, the second Amazing Man and Booster Gold. Despite the book's short run, it had two good achievements. First, it introduced the Wonder Twins from "Super Friends" into the main continuity and gave them more characterization. Second, it brought the

original Firestorm, Ronnie Raymond, out of retirement.

4. The Elongated Man is the first JLA (Justice League of America) member to not have a secret identity. For those not in the know, Ralph "The Elongated Man" Dibny is a globetrotting detective with Plastic Man-like powers, but what most Justice League fans may not know is that by the time the Ductile Detective joined the team, he did not have a secret identity. Shortly after Ralph married his girlfriend, Sue, the Flexible Flatfoot decided to forgo the standard "secret identity" aspect of superheroes, letting the public know who he really was, ditch ing his mask.

All in all, the Justice League has had some interesting adventures in their 55-year history. Even with the mishaps, the Justice League has avoided dullness and kept readers intrigued, as a fan over the years would still enjoy the exploits of DC's most iconic superhero team.

For more interesting facts on the Justice League, go to www.schoolcraftconnection. com under the Arts And Entertainment tab.

"My Little Pony: Friends Forever" #13





"Showcase Presents: Blue Beetle," Vol.1 Straight from the pages of "Crisis on Infinite Earths," The Azure Avenger protects Chicago from bizarre foes such as Overthrow, Carapax the Indestructible Man and Firefist. He also protects the Flash and the Atom's old foes, Dr. Alchemy and Chronos, in this 24 issue series.

The comic guest stars the Question and the Teen Titans. It was written by Len Wein, known for "Deadman," "Wolverine," "The Justice League of America" and "Batman," and by Joey Cavalieri who wrote "The Huntress."

The comic was illustrated by Paris Cullins, known for his work in "Blue Devil," Don Heck who illustrated in "The Avengers" and "Teen Titans," and Ross Andru, known for "Wonder Woman," "The Amazing Spider-Man" and "Metal Men." This comic has a set release date for Feb. 28.



"Iron Man Epic Collection: Stark Wars"

As if battling the old enemies, Spymaster and the Ghost, was not bad enough, Tony Stark discovers that the plans for the technology used for his Iron Man armor has been sold off to various villains such as the Controller and Force. With the guilt of knowing his technology is being used for villainous purposes, Iron Man begins a crusade to reclaim it, but as Iron Man's increasingly violent actions cause him to be expelled from the West Coast Avengers,

he comes into conflict with Stingray and Captain America, who is now referred to as "The Captain." Do Iron Man's actions justify the means?

Collecting "The Armor Wars" storyline is written by David Micheline, known for "The Avengers," "Aquaman" and "Venom;" Bob Layton, who has worked on "Hercules" and "The Second Life of Dr. Mirage;" M.D. Bright, known for "Icon," "Green Lantern" and "Power Man and Iron Fist" and Barry Windsor-Smith who wrote with "Conan the Barbarian" and "Archer and Armstrong." The comic went on sale Feb. 3.

"The Shadow Special 2014: Death Factory"



Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows. The legendary pulp hero once again finds himself up against the forces of injustice when a new factory opens, and an operative of the Shadow learns of the plans of its deranged owner. Can the Shadow pit a stop to the madman? Written by Phil Hester and illustrated by Ivan Rodriguez, the special comic was released Jan. 14 and is now on stands.

Morbidly appealing

Best-selling memoir makes no bones about experiences in forensics

BY SARAH SISK STAFF WRITER

As a young medical school graduate, Judy Melinek was determined to become a surgeon and save lives, but after an inhumanly, grueling tenure as a surgical trainee in Boston, she grew drawn to the forensics and pathological side of medicine. "Working Stiff" is the memoir of Melinek, co-authored with her husband, T. J. Mitchell, which chronicles her two years' worth of adventures as a medical examiner in New York City from July 2001 to June 2002.

With her husband's encouragement, the two relocated excitement whenever her meticulous process uncovers evidence that helps send criminals to jail and a righteous frustration when the evidence is not strong enough. She also takes the stand in court cases and frequently consoles the bereaved.

"The survivors are the ones who really matter," she wrote. "I work for them too."

Notwithstanding her line of



to New York with their young son, Melinek began the two most interesting years of her life at the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner.

At "The Pit," Melinek learns to autopsy like a detective and determines causes of death that range from the mundane to the impossibly bizarre. She hand-selects the most intriguing of these cases, some high profile and others just plain weird, and describes them in squeamish detail. Melinek educates the reader on the autopsy process, while entertaining them with unapologetically, vivid descriptions of her cases, mingling terminologically correct medical speech with a concisely, descriptive vocabulary that leaves little to the imagination.

Melinek describes a giddy

duty, Melinek describes herself as optimistic.

"That is so cool!" she said to her comrades when she found that she can trace the path of a bullet through a victim.

Her stories are better and stranger than television. "Killed by an egg roll machine," she assures the reader, is not the punch line to some joke. Melinek also has an answer to the question of what the worst possible way to die is. Although she is reluctant to impart it to the casual questioner, she holds nothing back on print.

Melinek may specialize in dead people, but her stories are alive with the drama of multi-departmental investigation and human emotions of loss and regret. The stories are rich and complex. Her



calm, familiar attitude about the gritty aspects of the body after death may be off-putting at first, but her directness gives her writing a snarky, yet sincere feel. Her acute sense of humanity also shines through. Most poignant, perhaps, is her frequent reflection of her father's own suicide, whose absence from her life haunts

her when she examines the

their own lives. Through her

encounters with death, she

bodies of those who took

relates how she has come to value life and worry less. "Working Stiff" may not be suitable for those with delicate digestion. But for those who love crime and medical dramas and desire a taste of the real deal, this book is ample fare.

"Working Stiff" was published in 2014 and is available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com.



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SPORTS 20

Eight straight

Third ranked mens basketball team keeps up impressive effort

> **BY BRYAN ZAZAIAN AND NICK MISIAK** STAFF WRITER AND SPORTS EDITOR

The Schoolcraft Mens Basketball team, now ranked third in the state, extended their season high winning streak to eight and got a little revenge with an 80-64 victory over Macomb Community College on Jan. 31.

Macomb handed Schoolcraft their only conference loss on Jan. 3, in a 91-81 win highlighted by Schoolcraft's sloppy play.

The win improved the Ocelots record to 19-3 (8-1 conference) and propelled them into first place in the MCCAA Eastern Conference. Macomb dropped to 10-10 (4-5 conference).

Freshman guard Ronald Booth shot 57 percent from the floor for 27 points. Sophomore forward Javon Thomas had 14 points and nine rebounds in his team high 35 minutes on the court to lead the Ocelots offensively. Freshman forward Marcus Williams added eight points and four rebounds.

Macomb came out of the gate strong, while the Ocelots struggled to find their shot. An 11-3 run gave Macomb an early eight-point lead before Schoolcraft began playing their game. Macomb rode a 36-31 lead into the half.

"I thought we were very sloppy defensively and that we were not making the best decisions when we had the ball," said Head Coach Abe Mashhour. "I gave the boys a little rally call during half time, and they responded nicely. We looked much better on both sides of the ball."

Schoolcraft scored 49 points in the second half, after pushing Macomb into foul trouble and dominated the flow of the game. Booth hit nine of 11 free throws in the half.

OCELOTS ROUT ST. CLAIR COUNTY

The Ocelots had control of the game from start to finish, as Schoolcraft cruised to an 87-52 victory over the Fighting Knights on Wednesday, Jan. 28, in Livonia.

The game opened with a bang, as the Ocelots began in attack-mode from opening tip. Quickly surging to a 7-0 lead, Schoolcraft controlled the tempo on both sides of the floor. The lead ballooned to 17 behind a 3-pointer from freshman forward Marcus Williams with 5:50 remaining in the opening session. The team shot a scorching 52 percent from the field in the first half and enjoyed an 18-point cushion heading into intermission.

Schoolcraft's first-half effort was paced by forward James Pruitt. The freshman made his mark with 10 points, 4 rebounds and several tremendous defensive plays.

Schoolcraft dominated the contest on both sides of the floor, but it was the Ocelot's defensive effort that made an imprint. Schoolcraft held St. Clair County to a paltry 28 percent shooting night from the field and forced 17 turnovers, turning them into 18 points. The Ocelots also recorded four blocked shots, including an emphatic chasedown rejection by Pruitt on a layup attempt from St. Clair County freshman Freddy Cook early in the second half.

The Fighting Knights struggled all night to muster up points against the swarming Schoolcraft defense, and it was something that Mashhour certainly appreciated.

"We made [St. Clair County] earn all their shots defensively," said Mashhour. "We did a nice job of playing



strong defensively together as a unit."

The high-percentage shooting and crisp ball movement was only part of the story. Ten of the total 11 players on the roster could find their names in the scoring column. Forward Javan Thomas, one of five Schoolcraft players to eclipse double-digit scoring, was a major factor in Schoolcraft's offensive attack. The sophomore finished the contest with 12 points and 3 assists.

"I play hard every possession and try to be a leader out there," said Thomas. "We just try to find each other out there, and we try not to be selfish. [We're] like brothers out there."

Schoolcraft continues its dominant season on Wednesday, Feb. 11, when they play at Oakland Community College before returning home for a Valentine's Day showdown against Henry Ford Community College on Saturday, Feb. 14, at 3 p.m. The Ocelots defeated OCC 80-75 on Jan. 14, and HFCC 125-89 on Jan. 17.

ABOVE: Freshman center Anthony Wartley-Fritz jumps up for the opening tip off as freshman guard Marcus Williams watches in the Ocelots 87-52 rout of St. Clair County on Jan. 28.

BELOW: Sophomore forward Javon Thomas put back a missed Ocelot shot for two of his 14 points against Macomb on Jan. 31.



Last minute heroics

Ocelots pull out comeback win over Macomb



BY BRYAN ZAZAIAN AND NICK MISIAK STAFF WRITER AND SPORTS EDITOR pulled the Ocelots back into the game when Macomb led 27-21 at the end of the second half.

Just over five minutes into the second half, sophomore guard Chelsey Wesley completed a three point play in which she was fouled during a layup attempt that went in to tie the game at 33-33.

Macomb rallied to increase their lead back to seven, but Tolbert and Nesbitt began hitting their shots and kept the Ocelots within striking distance of the Monarchs. Nesbitt then exploded with just under a minute left to go in the game, nailing four of her five free throws and completing a three point play of her own to give the Ocelots their first lead with only 38 seconds remaining. "The heart that these ladies showed today was absolutely incredible," said Head Coach Kara Kinzer after the game. "Personally, I didn't think we should have been in such a close game, but we were still able to overcome our mistakes and get a big win."

utes would quickly swing in St. Clair County's favor, as an avalanche of missed shots hurt the Ocelots' cause. Schoolcraft's modest 12-10 advantage suddenly became a 15-point deficit, as the Ocelots seemed to lose all rhythm offensively.

"[We] basically went in and out of spurts of playing hard defensively,"

PHOTO BY MARGARET SHAW | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore guard Chelsey Wesley attempts a difficult shot from beneath the rim against Macomb. Wesley had five points, five rebounds and two blocks in the Ocelots 51-48 victory.

Freshman guard T'era Nesbitt scored six points in the final 49 seconds of the game, turning a three-point deficit into a three-point victory on Jan. 31, as Schoolcraft Womens Basketball topped Macomb Community College in a 51-48 nail biter.

Schoolcraft now sits at 14-7 (6-3 conference), one game behind Delta Community College and St. Clair County Community College for the MCCAA Eastern Conference lead. Macomb fell to 14-6 (6-3 conference).

Nesbitt continued her stellar season by putting up 21 points, while freshman guard and leading scorer Ashley Bland scored 15 to go along with two rebounds, an assist and a steal.

Elise Tolbert, who had eight points, five steals, three rebounds, two assists and a block, was the only other starter to score for the Ocelots.

Schoolcraft did not have a stellar first half, but impressive team defense and late buckets by Bland and Nesbitt

SCHOOLCRAFT'S LOST FIGHT

Poor shooting and untimely turnovers ultimately cost Schoolcraft on Wednesday, Jan. 28, as the Ocelots fell to the St. Clair County Fighting Knights, 57-63.

What began as a back-and-forth contest during the opening 10 minCoach Kinzler explained. "We played selfish offense and didn't use our team pace."

The Ocelots finished the game shooting an atrocious 33% from the field, but one bright spot offensively for Schoolcraft came courtesy of guard T'era Nesbitt. The freshman poured in a game-high 19 points and also came away with 8 rebounds.

"We [weren't] clicking together. Everyone wasn't on the same page," said Nesbitt. "We're [going to] try connecting with each other better...Get a better feel for each other and a better understanding of who's better at doing certain things [offensively]."

Schoolcraft travels to Oakland Community College on Wednesday, Feb. 11 to face the Raiders before returning home on Saturday, Feb. 14 for a showdown with Henry Ford Community College at 1 p.m.

Rolling into the season

Mens and womens bowling teams embark on maiden voyage into MCCAA

BY NICK MISIAK SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time since the inception of the Schoolcraft bowling program, both the mens and womens bowling teams will have a conference they call home, the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA).

The teams have competed only within the National Junior College Athletic Association for its competitions. In years prior, the MCCAA did not have the required four teams to have the conference recognized by the National Junior College Athletic Association, the governing body of community college athletics.

With Kirtland Community College, Muskegon Community College and Wayne County Community College District yielding teams, along with Schoolcraft this season in both mens and womens bowling, the MCCAA will officially be recognized as a conference.

This means that the winner of the conference will earn an automatic bid to play in the NJCAA National Tournament.

"Its something we're very excited about because it gives us something tangible to go after. It's definitely one of our team goals to win our conference and get into the National Tournament," said first year Head Coach Patrick Yeslik.

Yeslik, who replaced former coach, Greg Collins after stepping down from the position in the offseason, has a strong background with bowling in high school and recreational leagues. He became the head coach of the mens and womens bowling teams over the summer. Yeslik looks to improve the Schoolcraft bowling program, and his high turnout for tryouts has given him a full roster of eight bowlers for the mens team and six for the womens team.

The mens team is lead by returners Colton Ma-Wu, Wesley Richards, Richard Rutenbar and Ben Berger. Berger has previous bowling experience with Schoolcraft, having bowled for the team three years ago. They are to be joined by newcomers Sam Berger, Josh Coffee, Leon Hutchcraft and Ben Jakes. Hutchcraft has generated some buzz with his talents, as he has bowled three



IMAGE FROM ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

The Schoolcraft bowling teams began their season on January 30 with impressive showings in Muskegon. The mens team finished second while the womens team finished fifth.

300 games in his career and received an invitation to participate in tryouts for the U.S. National Junior team for bowling.

"I feel like we have a good mesh of returners with some experience but also some first year players who are ready and eager to jump head first into all of this," said Yeslik. "Their enthusiasm really shows on the lanes."

The womens team features two returning players in Angela Rodriguez and Yvette Ayers. Rodriguez returns for her second year on the team after being named an All-American last season.

Bianca Greco, Ella Kearney, Bethany McCormick and Ameera Shiran join Rodriguez and Ayers to round out this season's roster. All of the newcomers have experience since they all participated in high school and play in several leagues.

"I want to instill a competitive nature into the kids," said Yeslik. "I like to see when the kids don't like to lose whether its bowling or basketball or video games I want them to really take ownership of coming out on top."

OCELOTS OPEN SEASON WITH IMPRESSIVE SHOWING

The Ocelots had their first match of the year on Friday Jan. 30 and the mens team placed second out of seven teams. The womens team placed fifth out of seven teams.

Richard Rutenbar placed highest for the Ocelots, bowling scores of 198, 220, 202 and 178 for a total of 798. Leon Hutchcraft bowled the highest score of the meet with a 265 in his final game. Sienna Heights bowler Kenny DeGraaf won the mens tournament with a final total of 947.

Angela Rodriguez finished third overall in the womens tournament with scores of 156, 224, 159 and 226 for a total of 765. Allison Caswell from Sienna Heights won the tournament with a total score of 809.

The Ocelots next match will be on Friday, Feb. 13 at Merri-Bowl Lanes at 11 a.m. when they host their own event, the Schoolcraft College Invitational.





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