

HOLIDAY MOVIES?!

FOR MORE ON HOLIDAY
FLICKS — SEE PAGE 18.

Love noodles?

LOOK FOR THE COUPON — SEE PAGE 9.



The Schoolcraft Connection

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DECEMBER 7, 2015

Spring into construction season

Thirteen miles of I-275 to be shut down in the spring of 2016



BY JAMES DYER &
ELAINE GEROU
NEWS EDITOR
&
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Come Spring 2016, many Schoolcraft commuters will need to find alternatives routes to campus due to upcoming highway closures. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has scheduled I-275 to be reconstructed in the upcoming year, thus affecting nearly

all local travel. Local motorists voted in favor of this construction on Tuesday, Oct. 13, and it will come to fruition in just a few short months.

"It's going to cause a hassle for sure, but it'll be worth it in the end. Driving down 275 is terrible [now]," said Schoolcraft Student and Canton resident Aaron Pelachyk.

The total cost of the project is projected to be a \$70 to 80 million dollar investment, while traffic control and costs are believed to be as high as \$1.04

million. Encompassing a 13 mile stretch of the freeway, fixtures will include pavement patches, repairing of ramps, drainage, 16 bridges and transportation works, and the construction hopefully will improve travel in the future.

Respondents asked for the method of traffic flow to be handled between 5 Mile and I-96/696 interchange, so important exits for many Schoolcraft staff and students will be closed.

In the past three years, this is the second project that will

consume a large area of Metro-Detroit, I-96 reconstruction having taken place in 2014. The upcoming I-275 construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2016, but there is no official start or end date decided yet.

According to Livonia Police Chief Curtis Caid, Livonia's officers already have training in the field of detours due to the recent I-96 construction of last year that crowded the streets of the local cities affected. Therefore, traffic control will be taken with more precaution and handled with

more ease. While Schoolcraft commuters will be affected, the detours should be handled well.

Much like the I-96 construction, MDOT took the citizens' surveys into consideration, and after a recent survey of 3,765 Michigan residents, it was decided to close one direction at a time instead of both directions at once in the upcoming construction. This is unlike the recent I-96 project due to the

SEE 275
ON PAGE 3

IMAGE BY JAKE MULKA | PHOTO EDITOR

Welding the gap

Welding program enrollment continues to climb

BY ELAINE GEROU
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Schoolcraft College is continuing to increase the push for trade route jobs, and students seem to be following suite. Since Schoolcraft Full-time Welding Instructor Coley McLean's first day on the job in 2014, the welding program has seen enrollment increases up 60 percent. There are now over 60 students in the program, which could be due to McLean industrializing the program.

"I think honestly Coley turning it around, making it more industrial for the trades has a big

influence on why our enrollment is up. Before, my impression of Schoolcraft was welding at home for art," said Don Neilson, part-time welding instructor.

There are now a substantially increased number of course objectives.

"Before I got here, in one class, students were performing nine welds for the semester. The same class now performs 50 welds for the semester," McLean said. "We have talked to industry leaders to ensure we are teaching processes and techniques the industry needs."

The dedicated instructors are



IMAGE BY ALEC ADAMIC | PHOTO INTERN

Welding Instructor Don Neilson informs the class of what valves emit gasses necessary for welding.

what make this program special though.

"We have employed some amazing instructors who all have come directly from the field," said McLean of her coworkers who are all American Welding Society certified.

Neilson was one of those instructors and is now teaching his third semester. He actually ran his own welding business

from 2002 to 2014 in Westland and taught at Washtenaw for five years, which is where he met McLean, before coming to Schoolcraft.

"The one-on-one instructor student time is really good. The amount of attention that the students can get out of the instructors is just priceless," said Neilson.

The instructors are well liked

by the students as well.

"We all get along, joke around and help each other out," said Schoolcraft welding student Gabe McBay who is working towards a two-year degree to go into structural welding.

With the workspace holding 15 booths for students to utilize,

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News briefs



COMPILED BY ELAINE GEROU
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

LOCAL

Protesting ISIS

On Black Friday, about 100 people protested ISIS in the rain a half mile away from Fairlane Town Center at Dearborn’s Henry Ford Centennial Library. The group called them selves Dearborn Muslims Against Terrorism and felt that is was necessary for southeast Michigan’s Muslims to show opposition in the name of Islam. Islamophobia may be at an all time high, but the group wants peace and would like to help Syria refugees in the U.S.

STATE

Canada to store nuke waste in Great Lake

In May, a controversial plan to bury nuclear waste within a mile of Lake Huron was recommended by a three-member Canadian Joint Review Panel. Ontario Power Generation would like to build a 37,000 square foot facility underground to store low and intermediate level radioactive waste from the 20 nuclear reactors in the province.

Michigan and the United States has shown great opposition and has managed to negotiate a delay in final decision of the plan until March 1, 2016.

It is slightly potential that the Great Lakes would get contaminated if the plan were to go through, and more than 1.5 million jobs that generate \$62 billion in wages could be affected.

NATIONAL

SeaWorld to phase out orca shows

In 2016, SeaWorld’s CEO, Joel Manby, plans to phase out the controversial “theatrical killer whale experience” at San Diego’s park after protests that began after the documentary “Blackfish” showing that films can have a huge impact on society. Rather than the shows that have been traditional at the amusement park, they plan to implement “an all new orca experience focused on the natural environment [of the whales],” in 2017 according to theguardian.com.

This decision came after losing half of the SeaWorld market since the 2013 release of the documentary and just a few days after congressman Adam Schiff said he would introduce legislation to end captivity of orcas. The next step for SeaWorld is to create a habitat actually large enough for the orcas. San Diego’s park planned to nearly double the size of their current 9.6 million gallon tank, which homes 11 orcas. It didn’t go through though, as the California coastal commission would only approve the plan if breeding were to end, and SeaWorld is not willing to give breeding up yet.

Staying on track

Early Alert System proves helpful towards student’s success

BY CAMYLE CRYDERMAN
MANAGING EDITOR

With busy schedules filled with work, school and everyday life, it can be hard to stay up to date on every aspect. While school is generally in the forefront, and assignments are turned in on time, it is often difficult to know just how well one is doing in a class. Because of this, it is easier than ever thought to fall behind. Thanks to Schoolcraft’s Early Alert System implemented in the Fall of 2015, students are improving their grades now more than ever before.

The Early Alert System is a prevention program that allows faculty to make note of a student’s academic struggles electronically. The student is then notified and given suggestions on what would best help them personally improve their grades. Since its debut in September of 2015, this system has proven vital in the success of many students.

“Student success is a college wide mission. As faculty we are in the best position to identify students in need. By using the alert system we can create a connection between the student and a wide variety of institutional support,” said Michelle Randall, Schoolcraft Professor of Accounting and staff member who has utilized the Early Alert System.

In the past three months, there have been over 400 alerts from

staff of students who may need additional help. The reason this is so important is because without this system, many students do not know how they are doing in a class. If a student were to continue going to class thinking they were doing fine, when in reality they were on the verge of failing, their chances of success in school would plummet. Thanks to the Early Alert System, students now have an ample amount of time to improve their grades before it’s too late.

“The best part of the Early Alert System is the holistic approach the college faculty and staff are taking, together, to provide proactive outreach to students. As a college we are challenging our students, but also guiding them to academic and other support resources,” said Melissa Schultz, Director of Student Success and Retention.

So far, 150 staff members have utilized the system to help their students. With its quick success thus far, the system is only becoming more widely used throughout campus to prevent all problems a student might have. Not only do professors find this system helpful, but the students greatly appreciate it as well. Although it is never enjoyable to hear of personal struggles, it is great to be given the chance to improve. This system gives students the resources and help they need to be the best student they



IMAGES BY JAKE MULKA | PHOTO EDITOR

Thanks to Schoolcraft’s Early Alert System, students have a greater opportunity to improve their grades.

can be.

“The verbal feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive,” said Schultz. “Students are receiving information on options or resources they may not have been aware of prior to outreach.”

Matthew Monti is one of many students giving positive feedback.

“This program is helpful because students have a tough time trying to find the resources that they need. It is a great way for students to get the experiences they need to succeed,” said Monti.

In all aspects of a student’s academic success and well-being, Schoolcraft truly does care. By providing students with more avenues to improve their grades, not only will the individual student benefit, but the college as a whole will continue to improve.

For more information on the system as a whole, see “Preventing Problems” from issue two of the Schoolcraft Connection at schoolcraftconnection.com/2015/10/05/preventing-problems/.

Welding

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the maximum class size is 15. With this low number and a few hours being devoted to practicing welds each class period, students are able get ample supervision and critique in order to become successful.

“You have to be in the booth welding. You can talk about it all day long, but it’s not going to make you a better welder,” Neilson said. “It’s all hands on.”

He recommends that students who enjoy cars or even artistic sculptures should consider welding as an option.

“I love it. It’s something way different,” welding student Amani Pewitt said who was originally just trying out the program.

Schoolcraft offers both a fabrication certificate and a two-year associate degree. The certificate will get an entry-level welding job, which can be completed in less than a year. Whereas the degree is something for a student looking for a more advanced position in the field or even move on

to a four-year welding engineering technology career. There is also a Pre-apprentice certificate designed for students who want to be in a union. Students who complete this particular certificate get the chance to start off as a second semester apprentice with the Local 25 Iron Worker union, which Schoolcraft is partnered with.

“Certifications are becoming more in demand due to liability reasons,” said McLean, which mirrors the enrollment increase.

Forty students have already become certified since Schoolcraft’s welding program became an accredited test facility in May. Last year, Schoolcraft also took fifth place in the Skills USA welding competition, and they plan to compete again this year.

The welding program plans to continue pushing forward, getting more students jobs in the field. Only time will tell what advancements will be made next.



IMAGES BY ALEC ADAMIC | PHOTO INTERN

Above: A group of students watch close as their teacher demonstrates the assignment the class is working on.



Left: Welding Instructor Don Neilson shows the class what the flame coming from the torch means exactly and which gasses to balance for the flame to work properly.

Era of Nara begins

Westland shoe business refurbishes old shoes and makes them new again

BY JAMES DYER
NEWS EDITOR

This past September, local shoe store Nara Detroit opened its doors to the public. Located in Westland off of Ford Road between Wayne Road and Venoy Road on the borders of Westland and Garden City, this shop is not your typical shoe store. Aiming to reimagine the shoe business, Nara focusses on restoration to bring new life into pre-loved soles. Local entrepreneur and owner Marlin Thompson got the idea for this creation from his love of Jordan’s shoes as a child. “I started Nara when I started to see a demand of older tennis shoes, and they weren’t being taken advantage of in a good use,” said Thompson.

What makes Nara unique and sets it apart from its competitors is that it is a shoe restoration, repair and resale shop rather than a seller of manufactured designs. They can clean, desalt, touch up and consign nearly any shoe. The store does not go after or seek out new shoes to take on as a project, but instead puts their effort into

improving what people bring to them. Nara can repair any footwear aside from dress shoe soles and always puts their best foot forward in their work. Thompson works side by side with his partner, Paris Kelley, as well as intern Cole Ferguson to get the job done.

With Nara’s unique business and restoration purpose, Thompson hopes to take the footwear industry by storm. He takes great pride in his customer loyalty and hopes to bring more than satisfaction to all of his customers.

“It’s a great feeling seeing these kids come in and the look on their face when they see their shoes after being restored. I’d love to keep that going,” said Thompson.

The shop has a steady customer base with regulars infiltrating in and out of the store weekly, but Marlin hopes to expand his clientele and expand his business.

Nara held its own shoe convention coined, “Soles on Ice” on Nov. 28 at High Velocity in Canton. “Soles on Ice” allowed for shoe owners to come into High Velocity and rent tables for the



IMAGES BY JAKE MULKA | PHOTO EDITOR

Owner Marlin Thompson poses in front of his new store's logo “Nara,” which opened in September this year.

day in hopes to sell their shoes to locals. Nara hopes to hold another convention in the near future. “Soles on Ice” will be an annual convention ran by Thompson and his crew.

Nara is starting to show that old school style is in and is helping shoes last much longer than usual with its repairs.

For inquiries and services, Nara can be reached at 734-430-1888 or email through Nara.neveraged@gmail.com. On Naradetroit.com, it shows all inventory and clothing, such as t-shirts, hoodies and more. Prices for shoe consignment varies and can be appraised with in-store visits.



Thompson showcases the crisp pair of Jordons.

275

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of easy going detours. The surrounding streets would not be able to handle the traffic flow from a completely closed I-275, so one direction at a time will be shut down instead.

As always, drivers will have to be more aware with greater traffic flow on the road, and the Livonia Police and MDOT want drivers to take extreme precaution when driving in heavy traffic, especially around campus.

Much like the recent I-96 project, I-275’s construction will interrupt many people’s daily routines and routes.

“Getting to school isn’t a fun drive as is. With the highway shutdown, it’ll be ten times worse,” said Schoolcraft student, and Canton resident Kali Jervis.

The highway will have a direct impact on the students in the Plymouth/Canton and Livonia districts and the thousands of others that also rely on I-275 as their main route for commutes.

“We always encourage drivers to be cautious, but what they can expect is increased traffic flow on the main roads [surrounding Schoolcraft’s campus],” said Chief Steven Kaufman, Director of Campus Police Security.

Kaufman said that traffic could be expected to resemble dense holiday traffic for the entire duration of the construction which is only expected to take one construction season. Luckily for Schoolcraft students though, the Campus Police Authority’s Twitter page, twitter.com/SC-CampusPA, will be tweeting traffic and construction updates, as



IMAGE BY JAKE MULKA | PHOTO EDITOR

Although construction on 275 will be a lengthy process, one side of the freeway will be open at a time.

well as routes for drivers to avoid the highest traffic areas during the construction.

Once the freeway is finished, all drivers will have a more enjoyable commute, free of potholes and cracks. Although the extended travel times and heavy

traffic will be a nuisance, it will ultimately be worth it in the end. For more information, visit michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9621_11008-366762--,00.html.

campus CRIME

COMPILED BY JAMES
DYER
NEWS EDITOR

Bud bust

A Campus Police Authority officer was walking around the South Parking lot on campus on Nov. 11 around 2:35 p.m. when he saw a white Land Rover with its headlights turned on. The passenger window was cracked open, and the officer could smell marijuana from the car. He looked into the car and saw flakes of marijuana on the console of the car with no one attending to the car itself. The officer followed the owner after he got into their vehicle and stopped him in the North Parking lot. The suspect admitted to smoking earlier that day in the parking lot. The officer then searched the car and found a grinder with marijuana residue, a digital scale, a large pipe used for marijuana and a pipe with what looked like crack cocaine residue as well as two bags of marijuana, totaling to twelve grams. There was also a book found in the backseat called

“How to make a Living off of Selling Marijuana.” The Livonia Police Department was called, and the suspect was taken into custody.

Scratch and scam

On Nov. 29, a Schoolcraft staff member had their car parked in the Liberal Arts staff parking lot. When she returned to her car around 6 p.m., she found the side of the vehicle and left, rear fender keyed. The Schoolcraft’s Technology Center has been viewing surveillance cameras to try to find the culprit and identify the suspect who caused the damage.

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for more info (734) 462-4422



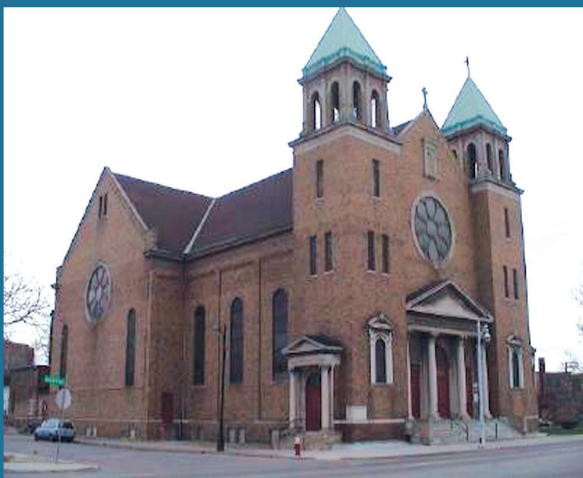
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For more info, call (734) 462-4422

Should We Wait Until Someone Else Intervenes?



Good luck on your final exams!

Remember, the fitness center is open until **3:00 p.m., December 23rd** so come in and work off your stress and extra holiday calories while you can! We re-open again on **Monday morning, January 4th at 5:30 a.m.**

For more information

See you in the Fitness Center!

Call 734-462-4348 or visit www.schoolcraft.edu/fitnesscenter



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-EDITORIAL-

Weigh the
options

Students
should attend
community
colleges before
universities

By The Schoolcraft
Connection Editorial
Staff

Since 2000, the average student debt that a four-year college graduate will have to pay back upon graduation has doubled. According to demos.org, the average 2015 graduate has over \$35,000 in loans to pay back—the highest amount ever in history. On top of the increasing university and debt costs are increasing interest rates on student loans.

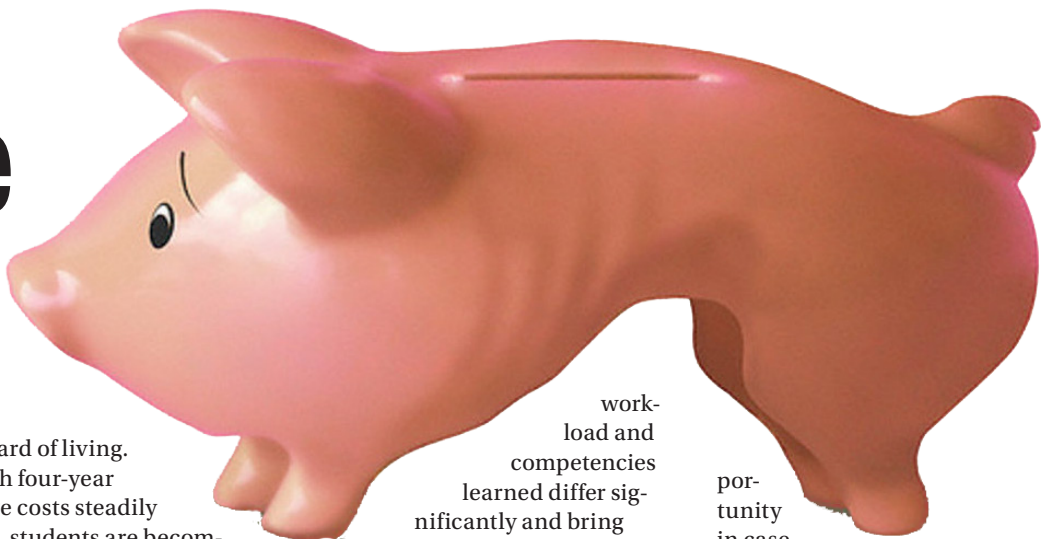
In order for a recent graduate with the average debt of \$35,000 and a five percent interest rate to pay back their loan in ten years, they have to pay over \$300 every month. With these payments, this will greatly hurt most people’s

standard of living.

With four-year college costs steadily rising, students are becoming indebted to the government. So why do many students continue to take the more expensive route by heading to a four-year college or university right after high school graduation?

High school graduates have several different options to earn a certificate, associate’s degree or a bachelor’s degree. Many parents encourage their kids to attend a university, thinking community college is not as prestigious; however, attending a community college before a university is a financially smart decision. According to collegeview.com, the average cost of tuition and fees at a two-year school is only \$3,131, just over one-third of the cost for a year at a four-year public institution, which saves them about \$6,000.

Community college is also a nice stepping-stone for adapting from high school to college. Students may assume the jump is simple, but the difference in



work-load and competencies learned differ significantly and bring challenges for many college freshmen. Smaller class sizes and one-on-one time available with professors at a community college helps better guide students before transferring to a university. Commuting to college also gives students time to change their lifestyle a little at a time, rather than leave their entire life they knew at home for university life, which can be additional stress on students.

What needs to be recognized as well is that a two-year degree or certificate from a community college can qualify students for a number of well-paying jobs. A plastics or welding certificate can open up professions just as worthwhile as those a bachelor’s degree would unlock. Some jobs, such as an air traffic controller or funeral director, only require two years of college. Even if a student is definitely pursuing a bachelor’s degree, an associate’s degree is a broader degree in which one can fall back on to open doors of op-

portunity in case plan A (the bachelor’s degree) doesn’t work out.

Community colleges can also be used strictly to stack up requirements before transferring. Most classes transfer, and academic advisors are available to help students decide what classes to take to ensure they will transfer to their university of choice.

On top of community colleges low costs in comparison to universities, the United States government has been recently discussing the possibility of providing it for free.

Whether a recent high school graduate or someone looking to get back into education, community college is the smart choice. Students can rack up pre-requisites or earn a certificate or associate degree in a fraction of the price of a university’s cost. Reduce debt and save your wallets. Your retirement fund will thank you later.

IMAGE FROM SODAHEAD.COM

Porn: affecting viewers worldwide



Elaine Gerou
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R-rated and
X-rated films are
detrimental to
society

Pornography, a \$10-12 billion industry in the United States, may come off as a harmless and successful business, but it negatively influences the entire world, and it is one of the largest issues society has swept under the carpet According to Nojin Kwak, a professor at the University of Michigan, 30 percent of all data transferred across the Internet is porn, and porn sites get more visitors each month than Netflix. Porn is also accessed through video sales and rentals, cable, On Demand, pay-per-view, phone sex, exotic dance clubs and more. Pornographic scenes have even seeped into popular television shows and films, such as “Game of Thrones.” This industry has been so incredibly successful because porn is not just a collection of provoc-

ative services, it is actually an addictive drug that rewires users’ brains and pleasure centers, making them act differently than they naturally would.

Like many addictive drugs, porn makes users feel pleasure due to a release of dopamine, but with consistent use, the brain becomes overwhelmed and takes away some of the dopamine receptors. Soon enough, it takes a higher dosage of the drug to attain the same high. Then, the brain acclimates to the new level of dopamine, and events that used to make the user happy, such as sex, may no longer have the same effect, according to fightthenewdrug.org, an organization raising awareness of the harmful effects of porn.

The use of pornography can lead to physical problems for men and women of not being satisfied with real sex and not being able to maintain arousal. If the addiction becomes extreme, sexual activity can cease to exist due to inability of arousal, according to fighthenewdrug.org.

Porn can heavily affect romantic relationships as well. Relationships are supposed to be about trust, love and commitment, but all too often, a viewer in a committed relationship hides their porn exposure from their partner. When the other partner finds out, trust is broken because the one they love has not been honest or completely devoted to

the relationship, seeking outside sources for pleasure. Porn causes viewers to rate themselves as less in love with their significant others and more critical of their partner’s appearance and sexual performance, according to fightthenewdrug.com. These factors make porn detrimental to otherwise successful relationships. Dr. Jill Manning concluded that 56 percent of divorces involved one spouse’s pornography use, according to an article titled “Porn can lead to divorce: study,” written by Catherine Briggs and published by Life Site News. This is not surprising when, according to psychologytoday.com’s “How Porn Really Affects Relationships,” most women feel fear and anxiety due to their partners’ sexual behavior.

Another fallacy of adult films is the constant degradation of women through verbal aggression and physical violence. This makes the connection in users’ brains between sex, violence and disrespect, which can influence viewers to be desensitized to rape and domestic violence. The Scoot and Schwalm Study in 1988 proved that, as there was a direct correlation between an increase in adult magazines circulated and an increase in rape rate. The adult film industry also portrays women as submissive and inferior to men, which feeds the unfair patriarchy system. On top of that, female porn stars are often surgically enhanced and airbrushed and many male porn stars rely on steroids and pharmaceuticals like

Viagra. This raises appearance and performance expectations for both man and women.

Unfortunately, many teens’ first sexual experience is porn, which teaches unhealthy tactics for building lasting relationships. These create contradicting desires between the viewer and their non-porn viewing partner related to marriage or a committed relationship.

Although all negativities mentioned thus far are detrimental to users and their significant others, the worst aspect to the industry is that sex trafficking fuels it. To add more gas to the flames, increased sexual content available on television and the Internet normalizes the porn culture. It has gotten to the point that children’s toys and clothing are revealing and sexual now. Skimpy bikinis are worn at both children’s beauty pageants and local swimming pools, and big-breasted dolls encourage it. These outfits and toys do not give children the correct ideas to self worth, but definitely give pedophiles preferable outfits to checkout.

Porn is definitely an overlooked issue that needs to be publically addressed. People, especially users, need to be informed of the negative effects porn has on themselves and the rest of society. If the porn culture continues to grow, only the future will tell how many marriages will start and survive, how many women and children will be forced into sex slavery and what youth will wear and play with.

IMAGE BY THEDAILYBEAST.COM

Unpunished crimes



Fame and fortune buying freedom is unacceptable

In this ever-changing age of digital media, one aspect that seems to unite us all is celebrities. Their faces are plastered all over the Internet, television and print media, and everyone has an opinion about them. These people are constantly in the lime-light, and any news of a celebrity committing a crime is widely broadcasted. However, unlike everyday people in our society, they all seem to evade legal punishment. This lack of legal action taken and followed through with against celebrities is appalling, and until they are treated as legal equals to the rest of society, it is

unacceptable. Simply because someone is rich and famous does not mean they should get a free pass from the law. The government is not a buy-out, and whether or not someone is faced with punishment should not be up for sale. If the average person were to commit the same crime that an affluent celebrity committed, the punishments would certainly not be equal. The celeb would be reprimanded, and possibly do a few community service hours, but since most Americans are unable to bribe lawmakers with thousands of dollars, a regular civilian would sit in jail. This treatment is unfair to the rest of society, and frankly, is unlawful. In 2007 Khloe Kardashian, a member of the family with a whopping \$300 million net worth was arrested for drunk driving and charged with a DUI. After sentencing, she was let go after less than three hours and served with no other punishment. While there is no record that a payment was made to bend the law, there is no other reasonable explanation for this unjust leniency. Fame and wealth allowed her to get off scot-free. According to drivinglaws.org, everyday people could have served up to a year in jail along with fines and probation. Not to mention that according to the same site, California, where Kardashian was arrested, has a minimum 48-hour jail time for DUIs, which she did not serve. So no, I nor the average American can

keep up with the Kardashians. Now, imagine being in possession of illegal drugs when police come over and ask to perform a search. Think of the fear that would build while waiting to see how harsh the punishment would be. But wait, there is something that can be done to stop it— bribery! Just ask Matthew McConaughey. During his sentencing in 1999 for possession of illegal drugs, not stated of what sort, and resisting arrest, I am sure he was not feeling that much pressure; just an easy \$50 fine to be paid and he was a clean man once again. The average person would have to pay a larger fine and serve some form of probation, or community service for the drug charge alone, which McConaughey obviously did not serve. This form of favoritism is unacceptable, and simply having the status of being rich should never give one more rights. In America today, fame and fortune should not have as big of an impact as they do. Celebrities should have to follow the same laws as those around them and deserve the same consequences. Bribery and favoritism in the legal system need to be an enforced crime and should not be overlooked. Americans deserve equal rights regardless of who we are and are given that under the constitution. Sentencing should be evaluated equally for all individuals who commit an illegal act, and regardless of who one is, the punishment needs to fit the crime.

IMAGE FROM ALL-FREE-DOWNLOAD.COM

Minimum wage battle



What is the concept behind our wages along with inflation?

In today's society, many think the solution to personal and governmental financial issues is to raise minimum wage, but this far from the appropriate solution. Inflation shuts down every logical reason of putting a higher minimum wage into effect. Inflation is defined on investopedia.com as "a sustained increase in the general level of prices for goods and services. It is measured as an annual percentage increase. As inflation rises, every dollar you own buys a smaller percentage of a good or service." If the government decided to raise the minimum wage, the prices of almost everything would rise because the U.S. dollar would hold less value. Over the past 20 years, the costs of living and everyday items have

increased significantly. Prices have increased because salaries have grown and more money has been put into professional sports, movies and so on. Businesses would have to cut some workers' hours or fire them in order to repay for the \$8.45 to \$15 dollar minimum wage as well, which has been proposed across the nation. It could hurt the economy with such a large increase due to the unemployment and underemployment rates skyrocketing. Former Major League Baseball (MLB) star Mark McGwire, one of the best players in professional baseball during the mid 1990s, made close to 7 million dollars per season. Today, Miguel Cabrera, one of the MLB's best players makes close to 20 million, showing the significant decrease of the dollar value. With the exceptions of few, the majority of the people who request the \$15 minimum wage are in no position to ask for such

money. They likely didn't go to college and are limited to only a high school education. While there are many who spend the extra dollar to get educated, those who do not cannot expect to be rewarded. A paramedic, who has one the most troubling, difficult jobs, gets paid \$15 an hour. How does it make sense for a McDonald's worker to make equivalent as someone who saves lives and goes through horrible trauma on a day-to-day basis? When it comes down to the facts, time has shown that inflation will always be present in our governmental system. Because of it though, a higher minimum wage would not work out well. Due to increased wages, prices would have to increase in order for companies to retain the same profit on sales. Inflation will always proportion itself to society, as seen throughout the past; therefore, minimum wage does not need to increase and would possibly cause more problems than it would solve.



Workers wanting a higher minimum wage are mocking society.

Religion influences



Spiritual beliefs aid in forming personal identities

Finding oneself can take a lifetime to accomplish. One of the biggest influences one has is religion. Following a religion at a young age allows one to understand the spiritual side of life. If one is fortunate, their parents have established a religion in which they follow. Forming yourself around morals that are based off of religion will guide you through life. If one is exposed to religion at a young age, morals are established and presented to them, and it helps them find meaning and a personal identity earlier. As a human, we all are given a life and freewill to define ourselves and what we stand for. However, parents that expose their children to religion need to accept that once they are old enough to understand the ideologies, the child should have the choice of what religion they wish to be or not to be a part of. A parent should not forbid them

from choosing another spiritual following. Rather, they should be accepting and support their child's decision. Being exposed to a religion growing up does not mean that one has to stick to this religion or belief system for the rest of their life. Having the power to choose a religion or what one believes in will help define who they are. It will assist to pave the path to find who they are, which is the meaning to life. No one should tell or influence one person to believe that a single way of living is the only and right way. All religions have something in common, and that is that its followers believe in a higher power. There is no wrong religion or one specific belief that is right. The absence of spiritual beliefs will cause one to take more time to come to a realization of who they are and what they stand for. If one is lucky, they will spend their life defining who they are and achieve great things; others are not that lucky. As Americans, we are given the freedom of religion. This law is a privilege and needs to be practiced, not suppressed. A parent should not prohibit their child from exploring and finding what they believe in after they have exposed them to a religion to establish a spiritual upbringing. Having a spiritual belief is so important and will guide a person closer to finding who they are.



IMAGE FROM INDIA24.XYZ

Christianity is the largest religion in the world followed with over 2.4 billion followers, second to that is Islam which is followed by approximately 1.6 billion people across the globe.

Virtual reality takes over



Natalie Shirvanian
SPORTS EDITOR

yeran.shirvanian@apps.schoolcraft.edu

Technology limits essential human interaction

When the alarm clock buzzes, most college students check their phone for notifications before they even roll out of bed. Kim Kardashian tweeted nonsense that does not pertain to an average person's life; however, this is information that cannot be surpassed.

"Smart" devices and products have grown rapidly in society worldwide over the past two decades and continue to do so. Now, most people cannot enjoy a meal at the dinner table with family and friends without checking their phones every few minutes.

The virtual world is not completely a negative realm when it comes to communication. Many

resourceful websites are a click away from providing information and news that may be necessary to keep you informed and educated. On the Internet, people make new friends, date, take classes and have business meetings. It is convenient and simple to communicate across the world; yet, this form of communication has taken away from human interaction.

When people log in and connect through social media, they lose connection with reality. The actuality of the real world remains dull, so people post nonsense on a Facebook status or tweet to prove that their life is "better" than another's, which leaves viewers wondering if the compelling adventures posted are actually true.

The convenience and ease of communicating with one another virtually has become so simple that young children can access almost anything without a problem. The creation of tablets has developed devices now for not only young children, but also toddlers. Technological advances have left us with "smart" devices, leaving most adults feeling "dumb."

Technology has not only taken away from the real world when



IMAGE FROM OPTIMUS5.COM

The technological world has driven humans away from the real world.

it comes to people skills, but it progressively makes Americans lazier. The access of social media apps on iPhones, Androids and various tablets has created superficial people in our society. People have become more concerned with how many comments and likes they get on a selfie and

which couples are "Facebook official," becoming ignorant to important issues in the world, such as ISIS attacks, primary elections and police brutality.

Although technology has progressed and provides our world with resources at the click of a button, it takes away from fam-

ily, friends and the community feel. The amount of time spent on social media outlets should be limited and be much more difficult for young children and teens to access in order to restore human interaction to our society once again.

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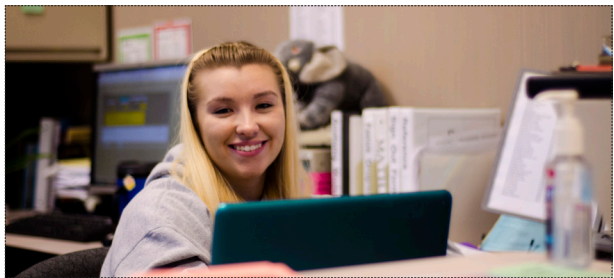


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Ocelot Opinions

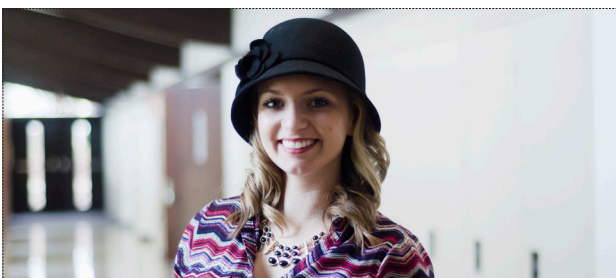
Interviews by Elizabeth Casella | Staff Writer
&
Images by Alec Adamic | Photo Intern



Cara Thomas
Major: *Pharmaceuticals*
“I will be staying home and catching up on my TV shows because I hurt my knee and can’t go anywhere.”



Claire Rish
Major: *Vet Technician*
“I’m going to see a rock concert in Cleveland with my family from there.”



Katie O’Meara
Major: *Undecided*
“I will be spending time with my family and friends.”



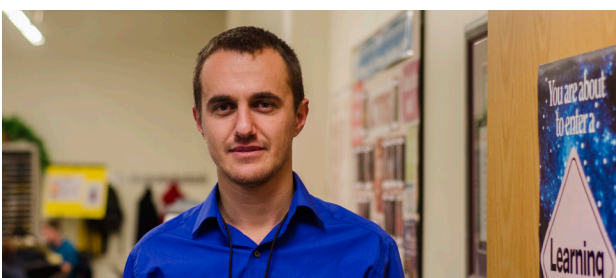
Kristen Rumon
Major: *Undecided*
“I will be going to visit friends at other Michigan colleges who I haven’t seen since summer.”



Kyle Kean
Major: *Music Composition*
“I will be writing music and spending time with my family.”



Roger Keep
Major: *Welding*
“I will be relaxing by the warm and cozy fire while watching Netflix.”



Taulant Carasale
Major: *Medical Engineering*
“I will be going to my cousin’s to eat food and help them cook.”



Tyler Evans
Major: *Computer Science*
“I am going to see my grandparents up north.”

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Sounds of the season

Music department presents holiday concert

**BY ELIZABETH CASELLA
STAFF WRITER**

Holiday songs and talented performers will come together in Schoolcraft’s Sounds of the Season music ensemble performance on Sat. Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. Guests are invited for a collaboration between the Schoolcraft Chorale, Synthesizer Ensemble and Wind Ensemble in the VisTaTech Center DiPonio room.

All ensembles have participants from the community, as well as Schoolcraft students, and all three directors have impressive credentials and are involved in groups outside of Schoolcraft while being dedicated to teaching music and inspiring students.

Synthesizer Ensemble
“The synthesizer ensemble is something that many do not know about. This band comprises of electric instruments, iPads, computers and other technology based instruments. It is becoming more popular in society and is a different way of playing music but still an art,” said Barton Polot, Schoolcraft music professor and Synthesizer Ensemble Director.

Polot directs the synthesizer band, which currently consists of 12 members. Polot has been involved with many outside groups during his 20 years of director at Schoolcraft. The ensemble will be performing “Prelude No. 9” by Bach, “Mystic Voyage” by vibraphonist Roy Ayers, “Another Day” by the group Dream Theatre and “Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly.” Polot was apart of the Gandy Dancer Restaurant solo piano performance, the Henry Ford Community College summer jazz program, and the Toledo Symphony

Jazz Combo.

Wind Ensemble
This group is quite intricate, consisting of 60 musicians who play together in harmony.

“The wind ensemble has prepared some very special pieces for this concert. Some are classic holiday songs that audiences will understand, and others are older songs that were composed for wind ensemble instruments. The band will feature newer themes, such as the Frozen theme as Elsa walks into the snow chapel,” said Paul Michalsen, Schoolcraft music professor and Wind Ensemble Director.

Michalsen has been directing for Schoolcraft for eight years

and plays with several groups, but can be seen near Greenville Village involved in the Dodson Saxhorn band that plays during holiday nights on original band instruments and is a creation of the 19th century band.

The finale will include the Wind Ensemble and Synthesizer Ensemble groups performing “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” by Chip Davis together.

Chorale
“We have prepared about four songs for the concert. These songs range from ‘Little Drummer Boy’ and ‘Peace on earth’ to an old German lyrical. We hope if the audience knows the words they will sing along,” said Jonathan Drake, Schoolcraft Director of Musical Studies.

The Chorale consists of approximately 40 members, and Drake has been directing the group for nine years. Drake is also a part of the Ford Motor Company chorus and Kirk in the hills church choir as well.

“This concert is going to be very exciting. We have all

been working very hard to make it great,” said Schoolcraft student and wind ensemble member Kristen Rumon.

This holiday concert offers a unique experience for audiences. It incorporates visual effects and audience participation. Sing along with Chorale and enjoy the music of the Synthesizer and Wind Ensembles at this family friendly event. The concert is free, but donations are accepted for the funding of Schoolcraft music majors scholarships.

Experience the wonderful tunes in the DiPonio room in the VisTaTech Center on Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m., free of charge. For more information, the Schoolcraft College Music Office can be reached by phone at 734-462-4403 or at music@schoolcraft.edu.

If you are interested in joining any of these ensembles, all are looking for new members for the 2016 academic year. To join the Chorale, contact Drake at jdrake@schoolcraft.edu, and to join the Wind Ensemble, contact Michalsen at pmichael@schoolcraft.edu. To join the synthesizer group, contact the Schoolcraft College Music Office.

IMAGE FROM ARCHIVES



Finishing strong

Exam-A-Rama aims to help students with final exam preparation

**BY CAMYLE CRYDERMAN
MANAGING EDITOR**

The end of the semester is quickly approaching, and only one item stands in the way between now and a relaxing break — final exams. Finishing out the semester strong is important for all students, but with fading motivation, studying for a full schedule of classes is the last thing on students’ minds. Schoolcraft is actively trying to make studying for these exams more accessible, and one of the most successful studying opportunities the Learning Assistance Center’s (LAC) Exam-A-Rama, is set to commence starting Dec. 10,

Exam-A-Rama is an annual event that utilizes the success of the Learning Assistance Center’s tutoring programs. Taking place on Thursday, Dec. 10 from 8pm-midnight; Friday, Dec. 11 from Noon-4pm and Saturday, Dec. 12 from Noon-4pm in the Livonia campus’s Bradner Library. Students are actively encouraged to attend this free event. Unlike typical tutoring though, these sessions are specialized for final exam review in the subjects of math, biology, physics, chemistry and accounting.

“Exam-A-Rama is a, course specific, review for Schoolcraft student’s final exams,” said LAC Program Assistant, Noor Charara.

“The sessions are run by LAC tutors and consist of either a review of the student’s final exam review packet, or a question and answer study session.”

While study sessions are not typically one on one, they focus on every person’s studying needs. There are two types of review session available during Exam-A-Rama. The structured final exam review sessions are aimed at students whose class uses a departmental course review packet. They take place in small to large groups and go over the review as a team. The question and answer sessions are aimed more for students whose classes do not have a departmental course review packet. These sessions are similar to regular LAC tutoring and will aid students in succeeding. More tutors will be available during the Exam-A-Rama than typical days to ensure everyone receives the help they need.

“Students enjoy that these sessions are presented in a fun and relaxed learning environment. The problems are broken down and presented in a simplified way,” said Charara.

All a student has to do to attend Exam-A-Rama is find their class on the study schedule and check in at the front desk of the LAC where they will be directed where to go for their session. For

students who are not enrolled in the specific classes on the Exam-A-Rama schedule, there will still be limited tutoring the week before and week of finals for all classes. Every student’s grade is valued, so do not put off getting help.

“Exam-A-Rama gives students a unique opportunity, outside the class room, to review the entire course they are taking. They get to see problems worked out by a highly trained tutor who was handpicked for their knowledge of the subject and tutoring skills,” said LAC Program Assistant and former lead tutor Steven Klie-mann.

Final exams are an important part of the year, but they can be highly stressful. Do not be afraid to sit down and study with others or ask for help. Take advantage of these free tutoring sessions at Exam-A-Rama, and watch grades climb.

“Exam-A-Rama is a great environment to get any questions answered, and many times, instructors give out extra credit for attending,” said Schoolcraft student and Lead LAC Tutor Rachael Lawrukovich.

Check-in begins 30 minutes prior to start time in the LAC with first-come-first-seated. Please come prepared and bring your review packets, the LAC does not

Exam-A-Rama Fall 2015

Livonia Campus

CLASS	DATE	TIME
Structured Final Exam Review Sessions		
Math 45	Friday, 12/11/2015	12 – 4pm
Math 47	Saturday, 12/12/2015	12 – 4pm
Math 53 A's Math 53 B's	Thursday, 12/10/2015 Saturday, 12/12/2015	8pm – 12am 12 – 4pm
Math 101	Thursday, 12/10/2015	8pm – 12am
Math 111	Saturday, 12/12/2015	12 – 4pm
Math 113 A's Math 113 B's	Thursday, 12/10/2015 Saturday, 12/12/2015	8pm – 12am 12 - 4pm
Math 129 A's	Friday, 12/11/2015	12 – 4pm
Question and Answer Sessions		
Math 122	Friday, 12/11/2015	12 – 4pm
Accounting	Friday, 12/11/2015	12 – 4pm
Biology	Thursday, 12/10/2015	8pm – 12am
Chemistry	Thursday, 12/10/2015	8pm – 12am
Physics	Thursday, 12/10/2015	8pm – 12am
Math 119,126,145,150,151,230,240,252	Thursday, 12/10/2015	8pm – 12am

Please check in at LAC for room assignment; check-ins begin 45 minutes before exam review start time.

Plan Ahead!

◀▶ Limited tutoring during finals week ▶▶

▶▶ Reviews begin promptly at start time ▶▶

▶▶ Bring your own review packet, we do not have extra copies ▶▶

LAC Livonia

Bradner Library-L119 ▶▶ 734-462-4436 ▶▶ www.schoolcraft.edu/LAC

IMAGE PROVIDED BY THE LAC

Take advantage of the LAC’s free final exam tutoring. See the photo for the full review schedule.

have extras.

For more information, call the LAC at 734-462-4436, email LAC@schoolcraft.edu, go to schoolcraft.edu/LAC or visit the LAC inside the Bradner Library.

Watch your words

Faculty required to report alarming student conversations

BY ELIZABETH CASELLA
STAFF WRTIER

Teachers in schools across the state have an obligation to parents and students to keep students safe to the best of their ability. Schoolcraft is one of these schools. The college is required under state law to report any incidents they hear or see that may put a student’s life in danger. Topics such as suicide, bullying or home abuse are serious issues that students may not want to talk about. In situations such as these where teachers may hear a student express they want to kill themselves or that they have problems at home, even in a joking tone, they must report to school officials before the situation becomes more serious. Student confidentiality is important to all schools in the state of Michigan, but student safety takes

precedent over all.

“It is important to keep students safe on and off campus. Student safety and well-being is a top priority for the college. If a student is at risk of hurting themselves or being harmed at home and a faculty member knows about it, the college wants to do anything it can to prevent harm from coming to the students,” said Cheryl Hagan, Vice President and Chief Student Affairs Officer.

Harm to a student can be a variety of terms under state law, but are all of concern. Counseling services for both parents and students are offered through the state and colleges to work through situations that may concern suicide, home abuse (physical or emotional) and in school abuse as well.

“I think it is very important for teachers to report things they

hear because a lot of times in situations like these, students don’t know how to ask for help. My only concern is that teachers know when students are actually in need of help and are not just kidding around,” said Schoolcraft student Abigail Fitz.

Faculty must report concerning information because if they do not and a situation does occur, they can be liable for negligence. Negligence results from some a wrongful action committed by one person, which results in injury to another person. By reporting situations that are not yet harmful to a student, but may lead to harm, faculty are not liable for negligence and are showing responsibility for the wellbeing of their students.

“There are programs that are in place at the school to educate students on reporting and tolerance for safety on campus. We target new students to educate them about what the school offers regarding safety and reporting when one does not feel safe,” said Marty Heator, Associate Dean of Enrollment Management and Student Relations.

Students can help make sure that faculty reports are not false by

“It is important to keep students safe on and off campus. Student safety and well-being is a top priority for the college. If a student is at risk of hurting themselves or being harmed at home and a faculty member knows about it, the college wants to do anything it can to prevent harm from coming to the students.”

—Cheryl Hagan
Vice President
and
Chief Student Affairs Officer

watching what they say and their meaning. If students are facing harmful situations, they can seek out help on campus in the counseling center, campus police authority or by talking to a trusted faculty member that can advise them and notify the concerned parties. Counseling can be contacted a734-462-4429 or by email at counseling@schoolcraft.edu, and the Campus Police Authority can be reached at 734-462-4424.



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Our name’s sake

The real animal behind Schoolcraft’s mascot

BY CAMYLE CRYDERMAN & ELAINE GEROU
MANAGING EDITOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Although Schoolcraft was founded in 1961, it did not have a mascot until years later. The Student Senate Review Committee chose five potential mascots for a vote to represent the school: Frontiersmen, Saxons, Sun Devils, Vikings and Ocelots. The students spoke on January 19, 1966, and the Schoolcraft Ocelot was born. Unlike the other common birds, big cats and people that typical Michigan colleges base their mascots on, the ocelot is not as well known. So what is an ocelot, and why is it our mascot?

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Mammalia
Order: Carnivora
Family: Felidae
Genus: Leopardus
Scientific name: Leopardus pardalis

Nickname: painted leopard, dwarf leopard

Prey: Rodents, small deer, frogs, monkeys, turtles, armadillos, anteaters, rabbits, birds, fish, crabs, lizards and snakes

Predators: Jaguar, puma, harpy eagle, bobcats, coyotes

Top speed: 38 mph

Habitats: tropical jungle, grassland, marshes, mangrove forests

Locations: South American tropics, dense jungles of the Amazon Basin, southern Texas, northern Argentina, Mexico

Population: 800,000
22-40 in
18 to 40 pounds

History

It is believed that ancient Peruvian cultures worshipped ocelots because they often depicted the beautiful animals in their artwork, just like the Egyptians did for cats. Form the 1960s to 1980s, the species was hunted vigorously for their fur called pelts. It nearly made the ocelot go extinct with up to 200,000 skins being traded each year and selling in the U.S. for \$40,000. They were also captured and kept as exotic pets, abstract artist Salvador Dali being one of the most famous people to own and travel with one.

Lifestyle

Ocelots are solitary, nocturnal animals that keep active for about 12 hours a day, traveling up to seven miles in that time. They have a home range that can be up to 30 square kilometers. During the day, ocelots sleep in dense vegetation or high on a leafy branch.

They are strong and agile to help them climb and run. They typically live below 1,200 meters above sea level but do survive in the Andes Mountains up to 3,800 meters above sea level. Because they swim well, they are sometimes living in seasonally flooded forests.

Reproduction

It takes two to three years until ocelots are sexually developed. They can mate year-round, but the season is near the end of summer. They typically communicate with soft meows, but they



IMAGE FROM FLICKR.COM
Although cute, Schoolcraft’s ocelot mascot is fierce.

use loud yowls when looking for a mate. Males that have ranges that overlap with female ranges have breeding rights with those females, and it typically occurs at the northern or southern end of the ocelot’s range.

A pregnancy lasts 79 to 85 days, producing litters of two to three kittens born blind with a thin fur coat. They are full grown at one-year-old, but mothers sometimes provide for their young for up to two years.

Hunting

Ocelots hunt primarily by stalking their prey on the ground. Their large diet variety makes them adaptable to many environments and makes them an essential part of the food chain as well. When there is not enough food though, ocelots have been known to eat domestic birds.

Their excellent sight, hearing and touch aid them in hunting.



IMAGE FROM KIDS.NATIONALGEOGRAPHIC.COM
Above, the yellow indicates where ocelots live.

They have retractable claws and fang teeth in the front of their mouth with blade like teeth in the back to tear food up.

2015

Now, the ocelot is a protected species in many countries, and the most prominent threat to them is deforestation. Luckily, it is at least concern of becoming extinct in their natural environment in the near future by International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Schoolcraft prides the ocelot as its mascot; it may seem small, but it is mighty.

For those with an interest in video games, card games and more, Project Playhem is the club to join. By having a fun group atmosphere, this club celebrates and plays various video games. The club hosts competitive, yet inviting tournaments

Come for the free pizza and pop; stay for the bible study and club meeting. Discuss the teachings of the Christian faith, and spread the word around campus.



Any interested persons may contact Johnathan Drake at jdrake@schoolcraft.edu for more information.



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That was sodium funny

I slapped my neon that one



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Macaulay Culkin at his best

Christmas classic “Home Alone” celebrates its 25th anniversary

BY JAMES PAXSON
STAFF WRITER

There’s no place like home for the holidays, but for one young star in the hit movie “Home Alone,” this phrase could not be further from the truth. Now, celebrating its 25-year anniversary, this Christmas movie classic is making a comeback as a holiday favorite for families across the nation.

Written and produced by Michigan’s own John Hughes and directed by Chris Columbus, “Home Alone” premiered on Nov. 16, 1990 and proved a box office hit earning more than \$476 million worldwide. It is still to this date the highest grossing live-action comedy film of all time.

The film is set in the McAlister family home where a

trip to Paris leaves young Kevin McAlister (Macaulay Culkin) lost in the rush. As the McAllister’s wake up late and hurry out the door, they mistakenly forget Kevin, as he was hiding in the house. Once the rest of the family realizes they left Kevin behind, it is too late, and he is left to fend for himself over the holidays.

The majority of the film is spent showcasing Kevin’s witty defense as “the wet bandits” (Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern) attempt to rob his house. Kevin’s elaborate set ups and the robber’s goofy sce-

narios create a timeless holiday film. This combination of grave humor and suspense give this movie a fun-for-all, Christmas classic feel.

To celebrate the success of such a movie, select AMC Theaters around the country re-released the film throughout this past November and made nearly \$600,000.

Drawing in reminiscent individuals and families alike. For those who were unable to make it to a showing on the big screen of “Home Alone,” the “Home Alone 25 Anniversary Ultimate Collector’s Edition” was released just for this occasion.

Including “Home Alone,” “Home Alone 2: Lost in New York,” “Home Alone 3,” “Home Alone: Taking Back the House” and “Home Alone: The Holiday Heist,” this is the first time all

five movies are being sold together. This collector’s edition also includes a limited-edition paint can, collectible ornament, fake spider, battle plan and wanted poster for the wet bandits and two hours of special features. It can be purchased at foxconnect.com for \$59.99.

The 25th anniversary also prompted numerous other interactive events related to the movie. The famous on-screen pizza shop “Little Nero’s” came to life for one day in downtown Los Angeles. On Nov. 6 fans of “Home Alone” and the tasty pizza advertised throughout the film could get a taste in real life. An ongoing contest is being held as well for the best recreation picture of the famous Culkin aftershave scene. Simply snap a picture of the iconic hands on the cheek scream and submit it to quirkbooks.com for a chance to win the Home Alone Collectors Edition as well as a recently released story book that portrays the film. The contest goes throughout the holiday season.

“Home Alone” has been a staple during the holiday season for so many people, as the film celebrates its 25 anniversary it has proven that it has stood up to the test of time. With a timeless storyline and enjoyable antics, this film is not going anywhere anytime soon.



IMAGE FROM PICEMGN.COM

Holiday screams

Have yourself a scary little Christmas

BY COLIN HICKSON
STAFF WRITER

Normally, Christmas is a time for peace, love and goodwill to all, but there are times when not even the joy of Christmas can save one from a crazed serial killer. If one is lucky enough to survive, watch these choices for a Christmas chiller.



“Gremlins”

This is one Christmas no one will forget. While looking for a present for his son, Billy (Zach Galligan) and inventor Rand Peltzer (Hoyt Axton) comes across a mysterious shop in Chinatown where he encounters a creature called a Mogwai. Despite the warning from the shopkeeper (Keye Luke), against taking the Mogwai, Rand is given it by the shopkeeper’s grandson, who tells him three rules to follow; keep it out of bright lights, do not get it wet and most importantly, never feed it after midnight.

Naturally, all three rules are broken, as Gizmo, the Mogwai, produces offspring that turn into murderous gremlins that unleash hell on New York. A delightfully deranged black comedy, “Gremlins” is masterfully directed by Joe Dante, who cleverly contrasts the Christmas setting with the carnage caused by the gremlins. Though be warned, it is definitely not for younger viewers due to the graphic nature of some of the scenes. However, it is a gem of the 80s and is a perfect Christmas horror film.



“The Twilight Zone: The Night of the Meek”

One of the most celebrated Twilight Zone episodes of all time “The Night of the Meek” focuses on Henry Corwin (Art Carney), a drunk who is fired from his job as a department store Santa on Christmas Eve. Tired of seeing the downtrodden never getting what they want for Christmas, Corwin wishes to “...see the meek inherit the earth.”

Much later, Corwin comes across a large bag bursting with packages and seems to have whatever someone wants inside. Though light on scares, “The Night of the Meek” is an ideal Christmas story thanks to its positive tone and sympathetic main character, and is a must see for anyone who is a fan of “The Twilight Zone.”



“Supernatural: A Very Supernatural Christmas”

Yes, the Winchesters fight supernatural forces even on Christmas. Investigating a disappearance in Ypsilanti, Michigan, Dean (Jensen Ackles) and Sam (Jared Padalecki) discover that an evil version of Santa is murdering people, and the brothers are also debating on whether or not to celebrate Christmas this year due to Dean’s pact with a demon in an earlier episode that leaves him with one year left to live. “A Very Supernatural Christmas” not only tells its own dark yuletide tale but adds on to the season’s story arc, being one of the stranger episodes of the long-running series. This episode proves that even people with numerous tragedies in their lives like Dean and Sam can enjoy the holidays.

Holiday cookie bake-off

Holiday cookie exchanges create intricate masterpieces

BY NATALIE SHIRVANIAN & ELIZABETH CHAPA
SPORTS EDITOR & ONLINE EDITOR

It's that time of year when taste buds crave sweets and waistlines do not matter anymore. Holiday cookie exchanges have become popular in recent years, raising an interesting and creative wave for ideas and recipes to make and share with friends and families.



Hot Chocolate Cups

Yield: 24
Credit: thegunnysack.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1 package Pillsbury Sugar Cookie Dough
- ½ c. heavy whipping cream
- 2 Tbl. hot cocoa mix
- 1 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ½ c. white chocolate chips
- 12 mini pretzels
- 1 c. Jet-Puffed Mallow Bits

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Put 1 tablespoon of the sugar cookie dough into each of the 24 greased mini muffin tins, pressing the dough around the sides to form "cups".
- Bake for 12 to 14 minutes at 375 degrees. Allow the cookies to cool completely in the pan before gently removing them.
- Make the chocolate ganache by bringing the whipping cream to a boil.
- Stir in the hot cocoa mix.
- Pour the hot cream over the semi-sweet chocolate chips and let it sit for three minutes. Then, stir until the chocolate chips are melted and the ganache is smooth.
- Break off the loops of some mini pretzels to use as handles.
- Melt the white chocolate and use it to attach the pretzel handles to the cookie cups.
- Spoon the chocolate ganache into the cookie cups and top with mini marshmallows.



Italian Christmas Cookies

Yield: 2 dozen cookies
Credit: food.com

INGREDIENTS

- 4 eggs
- 1 c. sugar
- ½ c. butter
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 3 ½ c. flour
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 2 c. sifted confectioners' sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 6 tsp. water
- Sprinkles for decor

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Sift together the four eggs, one cup sugar, half-cup butter, two teaspoons vanilla, three and a half cups flour and four teaspoons baking powder. Cream butter and sugar, then beat in eggs. Then, add vanilla and the dry ingredients.
- Knead and add flour as needed to keep dough from sticking to hands.
- Pinch off dough, then roll in your hands to form a log to twirl into shape. Place on greased cookie sheets.
- Bake at 375 degrees for ten minutes.
- Combine the two-cup confectioner sugar, two teaspoons vanilla and six teaspoons water until creamy.
- Dip cookies in icing and sprinkle for decor.
- Place on wire rack with wax paper on counter to collect the dripping icing and sprinkles.



Chocolate Cherry Blossom Cookies

Yield: 36 cookies
Credit: bakingbeauty.net

INGREDIENTS

- 1 c. (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1 c. powdered sugar
- 2 tsp. maraschino cherry liquid
- Red food coloring
- ½ tsp. Vanilla Extract
- 2¼ c. all-purpose flour
- 10 oz. jar maraschino cherries
- 3 Tbl. white sugar
- 36 Hershey's Kisses, unwrapped

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Drain cherries of their liquid, but be sure to reserve 2 teaspoons of their juice.
- Cream butter using a mixer. Gradually stir in powdered sugar a little at a time.
- Stir in cherry juice, red food coloring, and vanilla
- Gradually stir in flour a little at a time. Mix until just combined.
- Gently mix in the cherries.
- Shape dough into 1 inch balls. Roll in white sugar. Gently flatten using a small juice glass.
- Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until the sides begin to brown. Remove from oven, and immediately press a kiss into the middle of each cookie.



Snowy Chocolate Pinecone Cookies

Yields: 6
Source: handmadecharlotte.com

INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups Chex Chocolate cereal
- 6 pretzel sticks
- ½ cup peanut butter
- ¼ cup chocolate hazelnut spread (Nutella)
- 3 tbs butter, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar

DIRECTIONS

- Mix peanut butter, Nutella, butter and powdered sugar in a bowl.
- Mold some of the peanut butter mixture around the pretzel, forming a slight cone shape.
- Holding the tip of the pretzel stick as a handle steady, insert pieces of cereal into the peanut butter mixture in a symmetrical pattern around the stick. While adding more cereal, stagger them as you move upward, until you get near the top.
- Cut several cereal pieces into triangles and add those to the top. It's better to take part of the pretzel stick off so the pinecone doesn't get too long.
- Dust pine cones with powdered sugar.



Crinkle Cookies

Yields: 2 dozen
Source: somethingswanky.com

INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup or 1 stick of unsalted butter
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1/2 cup confectioners (powdered) sugar

DIRECTIONS

- Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Prepare a baking sheet by lining it with paper or a silicone-baking mat.
- Cream together the butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy, then mix in eggs.
- Scoop by rounded tablespoons and roll each ball in the powdered sugar, evenly coating each one.
- Bake until cookies are set and the tops cracked, approximately for 13 minutes.
- Transfer cookies to wire rack to cool completely.
- Store in airtight container at room temperature for 3 to 4 days.

Making the cut

Ty Dolla \$ign releases debut album

BY ELIZABETH CHAPA
ONLINE EDITOR

Ty Dolla \$ign, is a Hip-Hop and R&B artist who just released his 16-track debut album “Free TC” on Nov. 13. Representing his brother whom was sentenced to a lifetime behind bars for a murder that both brothers claim was falsely convicted, he put this album out in the name of those who have received injustice in recent years.

“Blasé,” a song from the album that was pre-released in June of 2015 has been a radio hit and is the most popular single to date for Ty Dolla \$ign. The music video for the single was released in early September, which followed the high success of the radio hit, making it a perfect lead to his first album. The songs “Know Ya feat. Trey Songz” and “Saved feat. E-40” off the newly released album are sure to be future radio hits due to their catchy beats.

Hip-hop lord Kanye West is on the track “Guard Down” along with Diddy, boosting Ty Dolla \$ign’s fame. Early 2000s Hip-Hop/R&B beats shine through in this single, giving a throwback and nostalgic feel for the song. With lyrics express that one should

not let down their guard even when things are or are going to be difficult, slower sounding but a hopeful song.

Many of the songs on this album have a slower R&B rhythm, such as “Horses in the Stable” and “LA,” which add a nice melody as compared to other songs. Lyrics to the song “LA,” which features Kendrick Lamar, Brandy and James Fauntleroy, share how good doings can come out of a city that people have no hope for. “They said I wouldn’t make it—that this was a city of broken dreams, but somehow Los Angeles broke cages,” they all sing.

Both “Sitting Pretty” featuring Wiz Khalifa and “When I See Ya” featuring Fetty Wap were released before the album on iTunes and have been great successes for the artists. These songs have catchy beats, yet aggressive lyrics—the tamest of which say, “We got dumb lit, we turned the music up loud so they can’t hear.” Although “Sitting Pretty” is a softer sounding track, both songs will bring out the dance moves in anyone.

Ty Dolla \$ign has made many appearances on other artists’ songs, which gained him popularity in the music industry. Some popular singles the musician has



IMAGES FROM GILLAHNATION.COM

Ty Dolla \$ign released a mediocre debut album, titled “Free TC,” for those receiving injustice.

been featured in are “Play No Games” by Big Sean and “Banger” by Wiz Khalifa.

Overall, “Free TC” was average for being the first major release coming from Ty Dolla \$ign, but

had enjoyable moments; it lacked a wow factor to make it stand out from any other rap album on the market. There was a balance from all 16 tracks, added by the high number of superstar features

that are on the album. Having older artists, such as Jagged Edge and R. Kelly and new ones, like Fetty Wap, added to the variety that is heard throughout the latest release and made it well rounded.

Fallout 4 lives up to the hype

A post-apocalyptic review of one of the year’s biggest games

Developer: Bethesda
Publisher: Zenimax
Systems: PC, Xbox One, PlayStation 4

“Fallout 4” is easily one of the most anticipated games of the decade next to “Star Wars: Battlefront 3.” The game wasn’t announced until June of this year at Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) just months before its release, which is extremely uncommon for games of this magnitude. It officially was released on Nov. 10, shelving 12 million copies and having one of the

largest simultaneous player base on the digital game store Steam ever, within just a day of its release. While many rumors have flown over the past five years about the game among fans, nearly all were proven to be complete hogwash. The millions of fans can now rest easy, as it was worth the wait during the game’s seven-year development.

“Fallout 4” is a role-playing game that takes place in the Boston Area in the year 2287, six years after its predecessor Fallout: New Vegas. The setting assumes an atomic war took place in the year 2077 and

devastated the planet with many people surviving in high tech bunkers called vaults. “Fallout 4” focuses on the adventures of one character who leaves cryogenic stasis after 210 years to find Boston a wasteland. He learns new ways to survive in such a place, leaving a strange reminder that life can change completely in a moment.

The gameplay has not changed significantly from its predecessor but has become far more refined and streamlined to appeal to an even wider audience. The combat is mostly the same too except with greatly improved physics, yet still unrealistic this time around. When something is shot with a pistol in the leg and the entire body explodes in a bloody mess, and it is hard to know whether to feel pleased or disappointed.

The game’s narrative elements have changed as well, with the biggest edition being a voiced protagonist. In the previous games, the protagonist did not speak, but in “Fallout 4,” players are given substantially more role-playing leeway in the art of conversation.

The biggest additions to gameplay are the settlements. With crafting, players can build structures in settlement to

provide for settlers and create a player home. It’s a massive and highly addictive portion of the game that makes “Fallout 4” feel a lot more like “The Sims.” Players will spend dozens of hours just creating settlements alone.

“Fallout 4” also offers a huge expanse of areas to explore across post-apocalyptic Boston with factions to join, companions to travel with and most importantly, things to shoot at. The Commonwealth is even bigger than Bethesda’s “Skyrim.” Most players won’t end up exploring every nook and cranny, as there is just too much ground to cover.

“Fallout 4” offers endless hours of content and does not significantly change much of its predecessor’s award winning formula. Offering much of the same quality experience with some new additions and no major qualms, “Fallout 4” is definitely a game worthy of any gamer’s attention.



IMAGE FROM BRAINYANDNERDY.COM



Ann Arbor musicians make a splash

The Gravity Club ready to take on the local scene

IMAGES FROM FACEBOOK.COM

The Gravity Club performing some of their tunes for fans.

BY AUSTIN VICARS
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Gravity Club is an Ann Arbor based band that recently signed to Empty Mug Records in September and have only improved their sound since. Empty Mug Records is a student run, Ann Arbor based record label that is looking to help bands spread their music far and wide. The Gravity Club released their first album “A Faint Impression” on their new record label on Nov. 3 and have had positive reviews.

Despite the title, “A Faint Impression” leaves listeners with a less than a faint impression of The Gravity Club. Through brief (only 26 minutes long) “A Faint Impression” is front to back catchy. While this may be a rather simple way to explain the music, it suits the band’s style and enjoyable beats. Listeners will tap along to tunes on their steering wheel as they drive or sing along to songs like

“Morgan Town” in the shower. While many bands in Michigan’s local music scene are composed of the classic combination of guitar, bass, drums and vocals, The Gravity Club shoots a little higher. The group features Jake LeMond on guitar and vocals, Joe May on saxophone, Avery Bruni on violin, Karl Heitman on bass and vocals and Todd Watts on drums. This unique combination compliments LeMond’s and Heitman’s voices and sets up a soundscape that is memorable and musically pleasing.

The group played their latest shows on Nov. 19 at the University of Michigan League and Nov. 28 at Inspire Theater in Westland. Concertgoers can expect a well-constructed live performance out of the band, as they recorded several of their songs for their record live. Rather than rely on an external producer, the band’s violinist Bruni recorded the record himself. Bruni is a sound recording major at the University of Michigan, and his academic

studies shines through as “A Faint Impression” features fantastic production. The production on the album would hold up as quality for a professional band, but for a band still focusing on the local scene, “A Faint Impression” is one of the best sounding records to come around in quite some time. From the opening track to the closing song “No One But You,” this is a record with warm bass and drums, soft and sensitive saxophone and violin and clear vocals.

Although The Gravity Club is relatively new to the local scene, the group is already presenting a polished package. From an excellent debut to their new record home, The Gravity Club shows promise as a young up and coming group. How far this group can go is uncertain, but the future may hold bright opportunities for the young musicians of The Gravity Club.



The Gravity Club recently signed with Ann Arbor based record label Empty Mug Records.

THE GRAVITY CLUB A FAINT IMPRESSION



IMAGE FROM THEGRAVITYCLUB.BANDCAMP.COM
Good Tiger impresses in debut album “A Head Full Of Moonlight”.



Violinist Avery Bruni recorded and produced the Gravity Club’s debut album “A Faint Impression.”

the buzz

BY ELIZABETH CASELLA & ANNA NICHOLS
STAFF WRITER



Attraction **Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village**
Dec. 11-13, 17-23, 26-28
6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
20900 Oakwood, Dearborn, MI 48124

For a blast from the past, come to Greenfield Village this holiday season. Greenfield Village is hosting a retro Christmas event to celebrate the holiday season. This throwback event will allow friends and family to enjoy the holiday season as it was decades ago. More information can be found at thehenryford.org.



Attraction **Wild Lights**
Dec. 11-13, 18-23, 26-31 5:30 to 9 p.m.
8450 W 10 Mile Rd, Royal Oak, MI 48067

Stroll through the Detroit Zoo under more than five million LED lights. The iridescent paths will be filled with seasonal refreshments, ice sculptures and live entertainment. Tickets cost \$9 in advance on detroitzoo.org or \$11 at the gate with \$6 parking.



Theater **Moscow Ballet's "Great Russian Nutcracker"**
Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. and 7.p.m
The Fox Theatre 2211 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48201

Witness tradition beautifully being performed in Moscow Ballet's "Great Russian Nutcracker." The show's critically acclaimed dancers have awestruck audiences all across North America and now are coming to Detroit. From the dazzling costumes to characters like the three headed Rat King and Father Christmas, this classically captivating performance is a holiday must. Tickets start at \$28 on nutcracker.com.



Attraction **Cirque Dreams: Holidayze**
Dec. 22 & 23 at 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 24 at 3 p.m.
Dec. 26 at 3 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Dec. 27 at 3 p.m. & 7 p.m.
The Fox Theatre 2211 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48201

Cirque Dreams: Holidayze, a circus experience that is truly one of a kind, will be performing at The Fox Theatre. Tactful aerobatics, balancing acts and daring feats celebrating the most wonderful time of the year makes for quite the show. With 20 acts, this not a circus anyone should skip. Tickets start at \$57 on detroittheater.org.



Concert **Oakland University Jazz Band**
Sunday Jan. 10, 2016 at 6 p.m.
Soundboard at Mortorcity Casino Hotel (2901 Grand River Avenue Detroit, MI 48201)

This special event is a presentation by the Oakland University Jazz Band with a special performance by the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra. This band is made up of students from Oakland University that has performed at the school as well as with special guest such as Joe Magnarelli. The school offers visits and workshops for those wishing to possibly participate in the band in the future or attend school there. This event is open to all ages. Tickets are \$20 and \$10 for students. Tickets can be purchased at ticketmaster.com.



Theater **Neil Berg's Broadway Holiday**
Saturday Dec. 12, 2015 at 3 p.m.
Fox Theatre (2211 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI 48201)

Five of Broadway's finest stars and some of America's greatest Broadway hits are brought together for this season's number one touring Broadway concert. Audiences will be taken through Broadway history with the music of Kander and Ebb, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Andrew Lloyd Weber, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, Cole Porter, Irving Berlin and many more. This show will feature the old and the new songs of Broadway, including much-loved holiday tunes. Tickets range from \$19.50 to \$44.50 and can be purchased online at theatredetroit.com or by phone at 844.854.1450.



Attraction **8th Annual Fire and Ice Festival**
Friday Jan. 22 through Sunday Jan. 24, 2016
Third and Water Streets
Downtown Rochester

This festival is another fun free way to celebrate the holiday season ith family and friends in Rochester Michigan. The festival offers dog sled-ding, ice-skating, the popular tubing hill and many other outdoors winter activities. There is also a bright light show featured for all during the festival. Local restaurants, businesses and shopping outlets can be enjoyed as well throughout the nights. There are no set times for events currently online and all events runt throughout the day and into the night. More information can be found at www.destinationoakland.com/fireandice or by phone at 248.656.0060.



Attraction **North American International Auto Show**
Saturday Jan. 16 through Sunday Jan. 24, 2016 at
Saturday Jan. 16 to Saturday Jan. 23 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday Jan. 24 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Cobo Center (I Washington Boulevard Detroit, MI 48226)

The care event of the season is back in town for another exciting year. Each year the show gets bigger and better thanks to the car vendors and the show itself raising the stakes. This year is no different. Different events and activities are offered at every station and by every automaker presenting cars. This is a fun an educational experience open to all. Tickets cost \$7 for children and seniors and \$13 for adults. Children and senior tickets must be purchased at the door. All other tickets can be purchased at naias.com. More information can also be found at this site regarding times and presentations.



Attraction **Christmas in Plymouth**
Dec. 10 from 5 to 9 p.m.
Downtown Plymouth Michigan

Explore Plymouth in a whole new light on a Horse and Carriage tour. Shops and restaurants will be offering specials as Kellogg Park is filled with free holiday music. Schoolcraft's own Brass Ensemble will be performing too as the Cherry Hill Singers. More information can be found on downtownplymouth.org.



Attraction **Campus Martius Ice Skating**
Winter Season Hours Vary
Campus Martius Park (800 Woodward Avenue Detroit, MI 48226)

Winter is in the air and that means the time for ice-skating has arrived. On Nov. 20, the Campus Martius skating rink opened for business. The family fun area is open all through the winter months and is fun for all ages. The area welcomes groups of any sizes and even has a broomball league. Admission price for seniors and children 12 and under is \$7. Adults ages 13 to 49 cost \$8. Bringing your own skates is allowed or skates are offered for rental at the low price of \$3. Pricing can be found at campusmartiuspark.org.



Attraction **Plymouth Ice Festival**
Friday Jan. 8 through Sunday Jan. 10, 2016 at Friday at 3 to 10 p.m. Saturday at 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday at 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Kellogg Park (298 South Main Street Plymouth, MI 48170)

This event is free and is meant for everyone's viewing pleasure. This event features interactive ice sculptures, an ice sculpture playground and a dueling chainsaw show. This show features artist that duel with chainsaws to create ice sculptures on the spot in a certain time period in the plain sight of viewers. There is also a winter clothing drive featured, a College carving competition, and live music entertainment. This is a fun and family oriented event that can be viewed 24 hours a day. More information can be found at plymouthicefestival.com.



Attraction **2015 Wayne County Lightfest**
Until Dec. 31 (closed Dec. 25)
Monday through Thursday: 7 to 10 p.m.
Friday through Sunday: 6 to10 p.m.
Hines Drive, off Merriman Road between Ann Arbor Trail and Warren Road Westland, MI

Gather up some family of friends and cruise through the Midwest's largest and longest light show. Enjoy a local tradition and marvel at the four miles of decked out holiday displays along Hines Drive. The admission fee is \$5 per a vehicle.

Great boredom busters in store

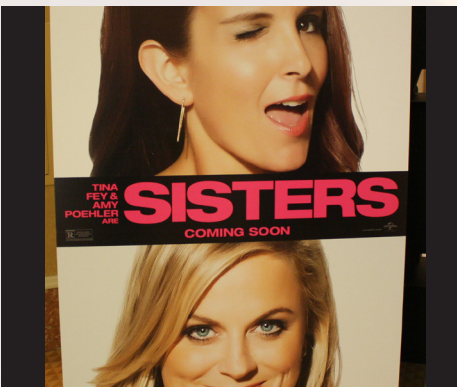
December hosts an array of films for movie buffs

BY KIM SORENSON
STAFF WRITER

From holidays like Christmas or Kwanzaa to leisurely activities like sledding and drinking hot chocolate, there are many things to do in winter, but seeing a movie is always a good time. With the cold air and snow, winter brings an array of films for movie buffs to dive into.



“Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens”
December 18
Continuing the Star Wars saga where “Return of the Jedi” left off, “Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens” will be premiering in theaters on Friday, Dec. 18. Expect plenty of sci-fi action, adventure and violence in the latest installment of the series, set approximately 30 years after “Return of the Jedi”. Many of the iconic characters will be returning; including Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Chewbacca and more. There will also be a star-studded cast, including Oscar winner Lupita Nyong’o, Directed by JJ Abrams, this latest movie in the series is sure to be a blockbuster.



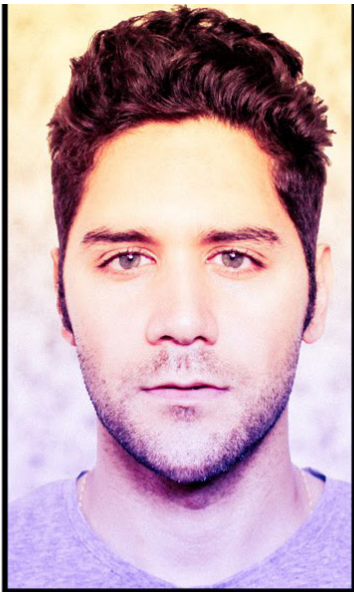
“Sisters”
December 18
To get some comedic relief over the holidays, be sure to catch Tina Fey and Amy Poehler in “Sisters” premiering on Friday, Dec 18. Playing two sisters, they return to their childhood home to clean out their old bedrooms before the house is sold. After being left alone for the night, they decide to make up for lost childhood experiences and throw a huge party. Those on the guest list include John Cena, Maya Rudolph, Rachael Dratch and many more. “Sisters” is another enjoyable collaboration between Fey and Poehler and is poised to be just as good, if not more so, than their previous movies, like “Mean Girls” and “Baby Mamma.” This is definitely a must-see over winter break.



“Joy”
December 25
For a dramatic twist to the holiday check out Jennifer Lawrence in “Joy,” set to release on Christmas Day. Lawrence plays an intelligent businesswoman breaking free from the familial obligations that have held her back. Watch Lawrence as Joy as she fights her way to the top and builds a business empire while discovering her inner power. “Joy” will take the audience on a roller coaster of emotions, through betrayal and heartbreak to triumph and success. Robert de Niro and Bradley Cooper also play leading roles in “Joy,” a trio that has proved to produce Oscar winning movies in the past, like “Sliver Linings Playbook.” This movie is expected to be of the same quality.



“Concussion”
December 25
On Christmas Day be sure to watch Will Smith as Dr. Bennet Omalu in “Concussion.” Based on a true story, Smith faces off with the entire National Football League to bring awareness to the serious and deadly side effects of the head injuries that football players endure. Of course, the NFL does not take these allegations lightly and does everything in its power to stop Smith from taking his findings to the public. “Concussion” has a full cast of award winning actors, including Alec Baldwin, Luke Wilson and David Morse. With all the twists and turns in the plot, “Concussion” will keep the audience at the edge of their seats until the very end.



A roaring debut

Good Tiger pounces onto the music scene

BY AUSTIN VICARS
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Good Tiger does not have the typical origin story of most bands. While a group of friends forming a band in high school seems to be the common affair, Good Tiger was conceived differently — in the ashes of previously successful musicians in search of a new sound. The band is comprised of vocalist Elliot Coleman (formerly of TesseractT), guitarists Derya Nagle and Joaquin Ardiles (both formerly of The Safety Fire), bassist Morgan Sinclair (formerly of Architects) and drummer Alex Rudinger (formerly of The Faceless). All of the members, aside from Rudinger who is American, are natives of the United Kingdom.

On Nov. 6, Good Tiger released their debut album “A Head Full of Moonlight.” Being formed by musicians of different backgrounds, Good Tiger takes their array of influ-



GOOD TIGER

ences and backgrounds to form a unique blend of post hardcore and progressive rock/metal. While everyone in the band comes from heavier groups prior to their current project, Good Tiger focuses more on groove and catchy hooks rather than brute force.

The LP starts off with “Where Are The Birds.” The track sets the mood for the rest of the album as Coleman sings overtop Rudinger, Sinclair’s strong feel for grove and dynamic guitar playing by both Nagle and Ardiles. The second song “Snake Oil” was released as a single over the summer. The tune has a more aggressive take on Good Tiger’s sound and is only one of two songs on the LP to feature Coleman’s hasty screams. Outside of heavily screamed verses, “Snake Oil” has a very catchy chorus where Coleman croons, “I took a look outside my window / I painted wings and tried to fly / Closed my eyes and

jumped / Imagination ran dry.”

The song is capped off by former Safety Fire guitarist showing their virtuosity as the two trade off solos up until the songs final chorus.

Other highlight tracks include the final two songs “Understanding Silence” and “67 Firebird.” “Understanding Silence” is one of the mellowest songs featured on the album. With no drums and reverb soaked guitars, Coleman is given the floor, and his vocals shine bright. The song ends with several layers of Coleman’s voice hitting various notes to form a truly beautiful and impressive display of vocal capability.

“67 Firebird” takes a different direction than the soft “Understanding Silence.” The song stars off with a down tuned guitar riff that shakes listeners’ ears. It features some of the record’s most intense riffing and is the heaviest of the LP’s nine tracks. The song ends with Coleman screaming atop the records most intense drums and heaviest riffs. Staying true to form, Good Tiger simmers off of the heavy and ends the piece with a beautiful guitar led instrumental passage.

Good Tiger showcases a rare display of hook based songs over technical instrumentation. It is not often a band can show such technically impressive chops while maintaining catchy hook based melodies. Good Tiger manages to make a short but sweet debut and should be on everyone’s radar.

An incredible work of art

Logic's sophomore album meets fans' expectations



BY CHRIS SKARNULIS
STAFF WRITER



Sir Robert Bryson Hall II, better known by his stage name Logic, or "Young Sinatra," quenched

fans' thirst for new music with the release of his new album "The Incredible True Story." This sophomore studio album was released nationwide on Nov. 13 under Visionary Music Group and Def Jam Recordings. Prior to being affiliated with Visionary and Def Jam, Logic was an

independent artist. His independent debut mixtape, "Young, Broke, and Infamous" was re-

leased in Dec. 2010 and caught the attention of Chris Zarou, founder of record label Visionary Music Group.

He was quickly signed to the label in 2011, and released three mixtapes under the label in the course of two years. With his credibility as a talented rapper being established, his latest album "The Incredible True Story" lives up to the hype and proves spectacular.

"The Incredible True Story" is essentially a sci-fi motion picture where tracks revolve around

space exploration and create vivid mental images. The album's synopsis is as follows: 500 years into the future, mankind has abandoned Earth because it has become inhabitable. The re-

maining human survivors take refuge in spaceships and explore the galaxy in search of a habitable planet called "Paradise."

For the entirety of the album, Logic acts as newly appointed commander-in-chief of Aquarius III, his ship. Along for the ride include four space cadets: Quentin Thomas, the pilot of Aquarius III, William Kai, Logic's first mate, Thalia, the ship's computer AI and Christopher Smith, the deceased captain of Aquarius III. The album is accompanied by vocals from featured artists including: Logic's friend Big Lenbo, singer Lucy Rose, producer Dria, and producer Jesse Boykins III.

Standout tracks include "Like Woah," "Young Jesus," "Lord Willin'" and "City of Stars." "City

of Stars" shines brightest of the eighteen tracks. Its production samples beats from Kanye West's "Flashing Lights," and includes a heavily auto-tuned Logic rapping about the personal

obstacles he's overcome, his upbringing in the hip-hop scene and the dilemmas that plague hip-

hop today, most notably racial controversy in the music industry. On the track, Logic raps, "I love hip-hop and I hate hip-hop / Cause people that love Pac hope Drake gets shot / Cause he raps about money and b****s, for heaven's sake / Pac did the same shit just on a drum break"

In addition to the songs, coordinating skits play a key role in the flow of the album. Skits -- comedic sketches performed by

the featured artist, use wit and light-hearted humor to bring life to the characters and the album as a whole. What makes this album unique is that Logic utilizes his greatest influences to piece the album together.

Multiple Quentin Tarantino movie references, 90s hip-hop and his never-ending love for the Star Wars franchise make the entire project special.

"The Incredible True Story" is an excellent progression from "Under Pressure." Through the use

of personal narrative, wit, and the spectacular sci-fi theme, Logic is sure to draw an even larger

fan-base and more anticipation for his upcoming projects.

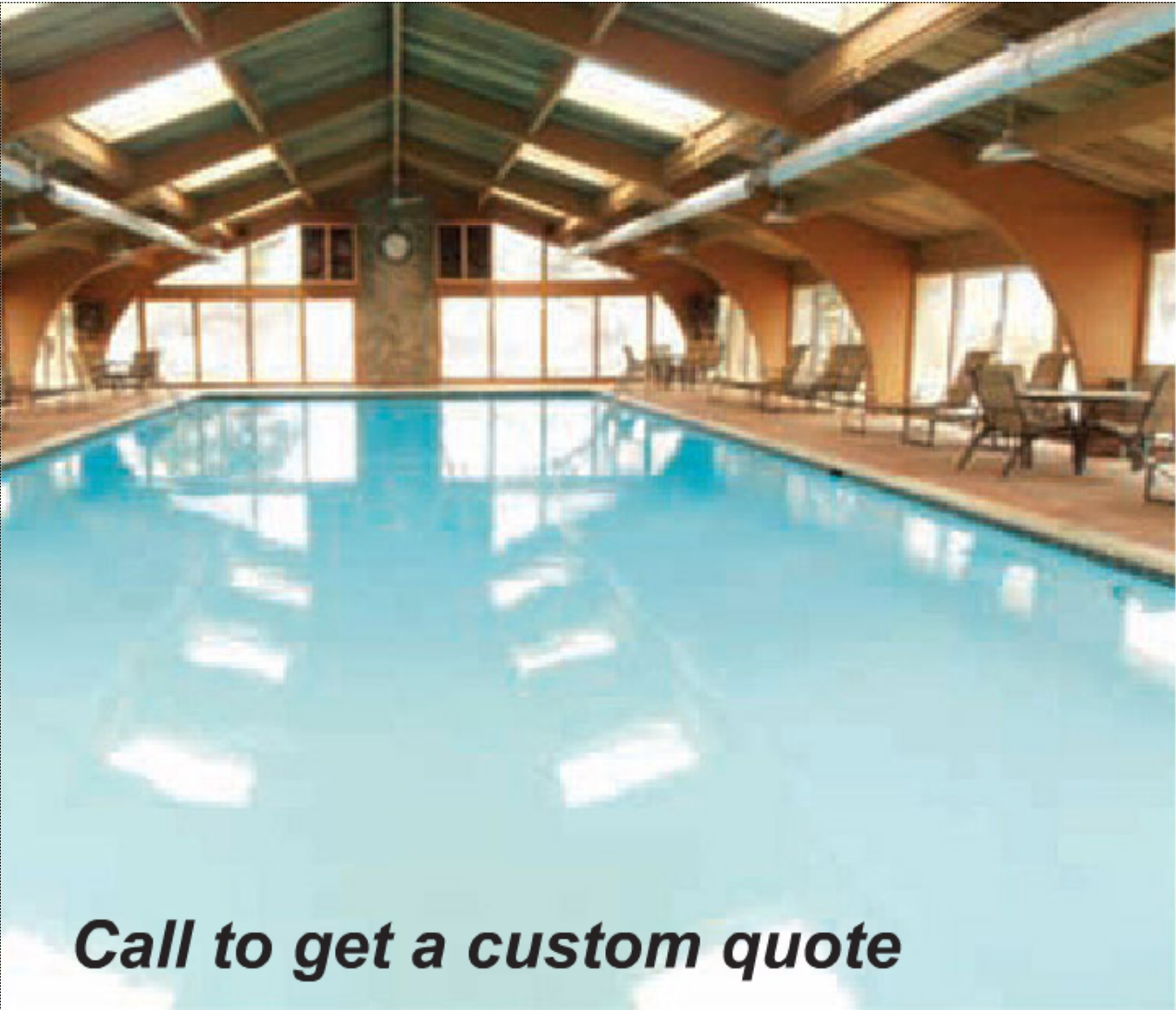
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Men's basketball continues to stay on top with 6-1 record

BY EMMANUEL BATES & NATALIE SHIRVANIAN
STAFF WRITER & SPORTS EDITOR



IMAGES BY ALEX REGISH STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Forward Anthony Wartley-Fritz (#24) creates space between him and a Lake Michigan defender to pull back and make the short range shot at Schoolcraft College on Nov 11.



Freshman Guard Esa Abduljami (#15) rushes up court to get through to the basket at Schoolcraft College on Nov 11.



Schoolcraft Sophomore Guard Tyron Hamby (#12) jumps up and under the basket past a defender to put in the layup in a 40 point landslide win against Lake Michigan at Schoolcraft College on Nov 11.

The Schoolcraft Men's Basketball team remains on top in the Michigan Community College Athletics Association (MCCAA) and continues to be ranked number one in the country in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II Men's Basketball pre-season poll. Through six games the team has captured victories over Jackson CC (92-62), Grand Rapids CC (87-66), Lorain County CC (82-61), Lake Michigan College (101-61), Cuyahoga Community College (82-68) and the latest victory coming off a double-digit win over Owens Community College (117-83).

On Nov. 21, the Ocelots traveled to Toledo, Ohio to match up against rival Owens. Schoolcraft shot an impressive 61.8 percent in field goals in the first half, leading by 11 points at the end of the half and followed up with 60.9 percent field goal shooting in the second. Sophomore guard and captain Ja'Christian Biles went 12-17 in field goal shooting and 8-13 from the three-point territory. Freshmen center R.J. Coil lead the team in rebounds with 11 grabs and shot 5-9 from field-goal range, followed by sophomore forward Davon Taylor who had seven rebounds and went 8-12 from field-goal range.

The domination taken over by Schoolcraft against Owens came to show their biggest game of the season. With a win of 117-83, both teams played hard in the first half, while the Ocelots had a 11 point lead over Owens, 55-44.

"Ja'Christian played really well with 32 point six steals and six rebounds; also, RJ played his best game so far killing it on the glass and making hustle plays which was key going in the game," said Taylor.

Two minutes into the game, Biles went hard with a steal from Owen's Derrick Jamerson, Jr. scoring with a dunk for the Ocelots. Schoolcraft scored four three-pointers in the first half by Biles with two, sophomore guard Dre Black and sophomore guard Tyler Johnson

Heading into the second half, the Ocelots were prepared to not only take another victory, but also to take the court by fire. Taylor put ten on the board for the Ocelots, followed by Biles with eight.

With 19 seconds to the end of the game, freshman Dwayne Chastain, Jr. completed a three, and also had four assists in the second half.

"When we look at ourselves in the mirror, we see ourselves, those are the only people that can beat us. Being the number one team in

the country puts a chip on our shoulder, but others might not see it like that," said Chastain, Jr.

Go hard in the paint

On Nov. 14, the Ocelots hosted Cuyahoga. In the first half, the score was tied 31-31 with Schoolcraft shooting 34.4 percent from field goal range, and Cuyahoga shooting 44.4 percent. Sophomore forward Anthony Wartley-Fritz and Biles tied in rebounds with nine; Biles went 7-18 from field goal range and 5-12 from three-point territory and Wartley-Fritz went 4-9 from field goal range.

"We figured out we can still win games even when we're not playing well. Our lack of focus and energy hurt us, but our depth proved to be critical, as some of our reserves stepped up in critical situations" said head coach Abe Mashhour, relaying how the Ocelot's bench scored 21 points.

Jumping into the second half, the Ocelots put up an impressive

sive 51 points, helping towards the win over Cuyahoga 82-68.

The Ocelots are playing disciplined and focused basketball. One can expect great things from them as they finish off the first half of the season and enter the second half come January. Schoolcraft returned to the court on Dec. 2 at Lansing Community College 90-80 (LCC) and on Dec. 5 at home, hosting Owens (recaps online). For more information about schedules, stats and rosters, visit MCCA.org.



Schoolcraft Freshman Guard Dwayne Chastain Jr. (#3) knocks down the quick three to help push his team to a large victory at Schoolcraft College on Nov 11.



IMAGES BY ALEX WOODLIFF | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Lady Ocelots discuss strategy during a timeout against Lake Michigan at Schoolcraft college on Nov 11.

Queens of the court

The Schoolcraft Women's Basketball team off to 5-0 start

BY JAMES PAXSON
STAFF WRITER



Freshman Guard Jamyra Wilson (#15) looks for an open Lady Ocelot to pass the ball to for a scoring opportunity against Lake Michigan on Nov 11 at Schoolcraft College.

Just one month into the 2015-16 season, the lady Ocelots' basketball team is demonstrating why they are ranked eighth in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II women's basketball pre-season poll. With five games into their season, the team sits on top of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) Eastern Conference with a perfect record of 5-0.

"Being undefeated is a great feeling," said head coach Kara Kinzer. "I am proud of the team but we are definitely not getting ahead of ourselves. We have a long way to go till the end of the season," added Kinzer.

Winning for many is an even better feeling when it is earned after a tough game, and Schoolcraft had their toughest match-up of the year against division rival Owens Community College on Nov. 21 at Owens.

Owens took control and kept control until the end of the first quarter, with a score of 29-7. The ladies could not hit any shots in the first quarter, having missed more shots than made shots. They also did not play the usual defense that they use to control the competition.

For Schoolcraft to win this game, the ladies knew they would have to make a miracle comeback after being down over 20 points.

"In this game, we encouraged each other on and off the court. We had a challenge to win this game, and we succeeded," said sophomore guard T'era Nesbitt.

Nesbitt led the team with 28 points, while sophomore guard Rikki Sherdt led the team with 14 rebounds, helping the Ocelots come back on the scoreboard. Schoolcraft inched closer by the end of the first half, 39-23.

Going into the second half, freshman guard Rainy McCune had 11 points coming off of the bench. Schoolcraft had everything working for them. Schoolcraft won against Owens with a final score of 66-59.

"We are just going to try to beat whoever is the next team we are playing, no matter who it is," said Sherdt.

Controlling the conference

On Nov. 14, Schoolcraft played host to Cuyahoga Community College. The Ocelots started off strong in the first quarter with a dominating start with a 29-14 lead before heading into the second quarter.

Freshman Guard Ashley Bland and Nesbit controlled the offense and took the lead early. Nesbit led the Ocelots with 19 points and five rebounds in the first half, while bland followed behind with seven points and three rebounds.

"The team played great; I'm very happy with how my team is playing," said sophomore guard Ashley Bland.

The Ocelots controlled Cuyahoga throughout the game with both defense and ball movement. Nesbit lead the team with 28 points, and also sharing six rebounds each with Bland. Freshman guard Jamyra Wilson made five impressive steals, along with four assists. Schoolcraft took the victory against Cuyahoga, 71-51 moving their record to 4-0.

The Ocelots hosted Owens at home on Dec. 5 (recap online), and Schoolcraft will be embark on a long road stand through the end of December. The team will return home on January 6 to play host to Wayne County Community College at 5:30 p.m.

For more information about schedules, stats and rosters, visit MCCAA.org.



Freshman Guard Jamyra Wilson (#15) looks for an open Lady Ocelot to pass the ball to for a scoring opportunity against Lake Michigan on Nov 11 at Schoolcraft College.



Freshman Guard Jamyra Wilson (#15) charges down the court on an offensive drive against Lake Michigan on Nov 11.

Keeping warm

Six indoor activities to help keep you active during the winter season

BY ROSS GUIDER
STAFF WRITER

Batten down the hatches, the winter season is approaching. In Michigan, too often as the temperature drops so do activity levels. Here are six indoor activities to keep anyone on the go when there is snow. The winter season may bring lots of snow, but it also sparks new opportunities. These six locations with action packed activities will help set down the hot chocolate and break anyone out of their comfort zone to try something new.



Novi Ice Arena

42400 Nick Lidstrom Drive Novi, MI 48375
248-347-1010
noviicearena.com

Maintaining an outdoor ice rink can be difficult, so check out the indoor Novi Ice Arena instead. The rink is open to the public to learn, play and skate. Skating lessons are available for people of all ages, and adult hockey leagues are also offered. At the pro shop, customers can rent equipment and buy merchandise. The schedule can be found online.



Merri Bowl

30950 5 Mile Road, Livonia, MI, 48150
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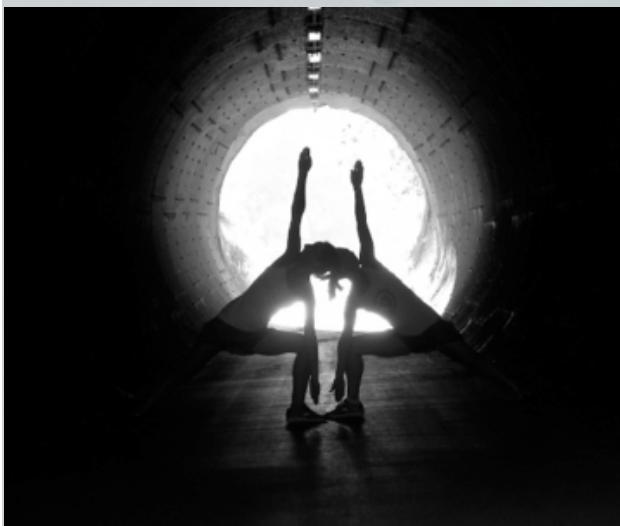
Searching for a fun, competitive way to hang out with friends? Merry Bowl is the spot. Customers have the option to participate in leagues or relaxed games, Monday through Sunday. No ball, no shoes, no problem. Bowling balls and bowling shoes are available for rental in various weights and sizes. Hours: Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Monday through Saturday: 9:00a.m. to midnight.



Riverside Arena

36635 Plymouth RD. Livonia, MI 48150
734-421-3540
riversidearena.com

Take some time to get out of the ice-cold weather to enjoy time at the public roller-skating rink Riverside Arena. Located in Livonia, the arena offers a wide variety of skating types. Playing hits from the 70s, 80s and 90s on music night and hosting family event nights, Riverside Arena will find a fit for anyone. Roller-skating lessons and equipment rental is also offered. Call Riverside Arena for skating information.

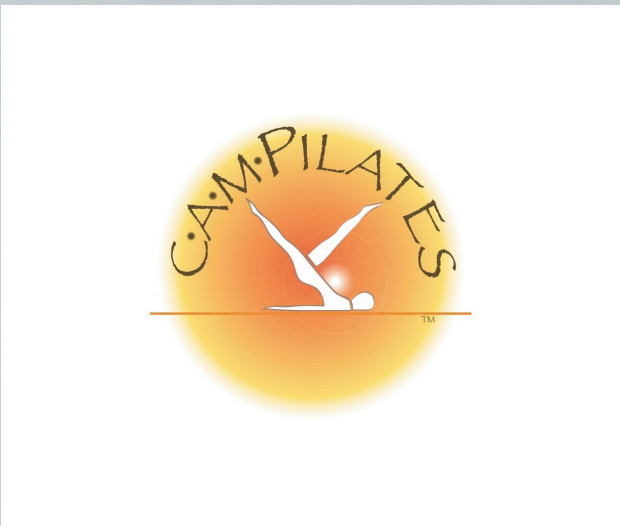


Bikram Yoga Studio

122 Maincentre Northville, MI 48167
248-924-2002
bikramyogadetroit.com

Stay stretched out and loose during the cold creaky months at the Bikram Yoga studio in Northville. With 12 certified instructors, this studio teaches seven types of yoga: Kids, Core Club, Warm, Yin, Warm Vinyasa, New Hot 60 and Classic Hot. The studio strives to promote health and awareness through physical exercise. Massages, beverages, healthy snacks and informational yoga materials are also available to purchase.

The studio is open seven days a week. Monday: first class 8 a.m. and the last class 8:15 p.m., Tuesday: first class 6 a.m. and the last class is at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday: first class 7 a.m. and the last class 8:15 p.m., Thursday: first class 6 a.m. and the last class 7:30 p.m., Friday: first class 7 a.m. and the last class 6:30 p.m., Saturday: first class is at 8 a.m. and the last class 4:30 p.m., and Sunday: first class 8 a.m. and the last class 6:30 p.m.



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Call for address
248-342-3914
campilates.net

Looking for an activity that will help improve posture and balance, check out CAM Pilates in Northville. CAM Pilates has various types of equipment that target body parts of all kinds. The intimate studio offers individual and duet equipment lessons on the stability chair, cadillac, reformer and ladder barrel. Also, a maximum of six person mat class is offered, which works with light equipment that helps support and challenge individuals. Pilates is a fantastic way to lower stress and increase energy. Matt Hours: Monday 7 to 10 a.m. and 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 9 to 10 a.m. and 7 to 8 p.m., Wednesday 7 to 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 9 to 10 a.m. To contact the CAM Pilates instructor and receive the studio address, call or email cam@campilates.net.



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Leading the pack

Cross-Country coach inspires runners and Metro Detroit

BY ROSS GUIDER
STAFF WRITER

Athletes determine their own destiny, and when it comes to cross country and track and field, Edward Kozloff finishes first. Kozloff, who is Schoolcraft's cross country coach, is recognized as the "father of modern distance running" around Michigan due to his 25 years of contributions during the running boom in Michigan which started in 1978 with the first Detroit Free Press Marathon. After the 2015 race season and eight years as Schoolcraft's cross-country head coach, Kozloff decided to hang up his running shoes.

Early interest

Kozloff, had victorious running experiences throughout his years at Cooley High School in Detroit, where he graduated in 1961.

After graduating from Cooley, Kozloff moved on to the collegiate level and lettered in both track-and-field and cross-country at Wayne State University in Detroit.

"Being a student-athlete made me more proud to represent and be a student at the school and also helped me focus more on studying and being attentive in classes," said Kozloff. "The experiences

I gained from all of my coaches helped me develop my coaching methods."

After receiving his bachelors of Science degree from Wayne State, Kozloff continued to pursue postgraduate studies. He went on to receive a Master of Science at Colorado ,and a Ph.D. at Texas A & M University and Doctorate of Philosophy at Florida State University.

The passion continues

Kozloff personally competed in local road races, which eventually led to an opportunity of being a secretary officer for the Motor City Striders, a long distance running group in Metro Detroit that Kozloff accepted in 1972.

While working with the Striders, Kozloff directed over 1,000 races.

"I scheduled events, contacted cities to get approvals to run at their locations, measured the courses, obtained race insurance, prepared and distributed entry forms, contacted volunteers, made equipment arrangements, oversaw all of the race day activity, reported the race results and innumerable other things that make a club and race function," said Kozloff.

Nationally ranked events like the Motor City and Detroit Free Press marathons were just a few notable events directed by Kozloff.

By 1975, he earned a promotion to become the director of the Detroit Marathon and president of the Motor City Striders.

"One of my favorite races as a race director was Run the Reuther in 1989 when I-696 was opened, which to this day it is the largest first time race ever," said Kozloff.

With hard work and great leadership, the group successfully raised \$40,000,000 under his guidance which have contributed to many local organizations, including the American Cancer Society, Arthritis Foundation, the DIA and the Karmanos Cancer Institution.

Lifelong achievements

During his running career, Kozloff received the Amateur Athletics Union Long Distance Running Chairman of the Year, the Road Runners Club of America Club President of the Year and the Michigan Runner of the Year. Not to mention, the run Kozloff has currently as director for the Striders is the longest length of participation for a major club president in the United States.

Just recently, Kozloff was inducted into the Michigan Jewish Sports Hall of Fame where he is in elite company of Ernie Harwell, Mike Ilitch, Bo Schembechler, Scotty Bowman and Stevie Yzer-



PHOTO BY JAKE MULKA | PHOTO EDITOR

After eight years as Schoolcraft's Cross Country head coach, Edward Kozloff is retiring, leaving behind a legacy.

man, just to name a few.

"The Pillars of Excellence Award is to honor lifetime achievement and outstanding contributions to athletics and the enrichment of the community," said Kozloff. "Last year, I received the Alvin Foon Humanitarian Award that is given for outstanding contributions to athletics, community enrichment and for humanitarian efforts within the state of Michigan."

He is the only individual to receive both of these honors. His runners only had positive comments about him.

"Coach [Kozloff] has made me a more confident runner with all of the recognition he has given me about how much potential I have to become faster," said Schoolcraft freshman cross-country runner Chelsea Kovacs.

Athletic Director Sid Fox and

Kozloff have worked with each other for many years.

"When I was the Athletic Director at [the University of] Michigan—Dearborn, I hired Kozloff as the cross country coach at [the University of] Michigan—Dearborn in 1988 and then proceeded to hire him as the cross-country coach [at Schoolcraft] in 2008," said Fox.

Kozloff has a golden touch; practically every organization he partakes in turns to gold.

"Bringing communities together is his calling in life," said Fox.

This may be an ending for his journey as a coach, but the memories and guidance he established within Metro Detroit will stay close in the hearts of many.

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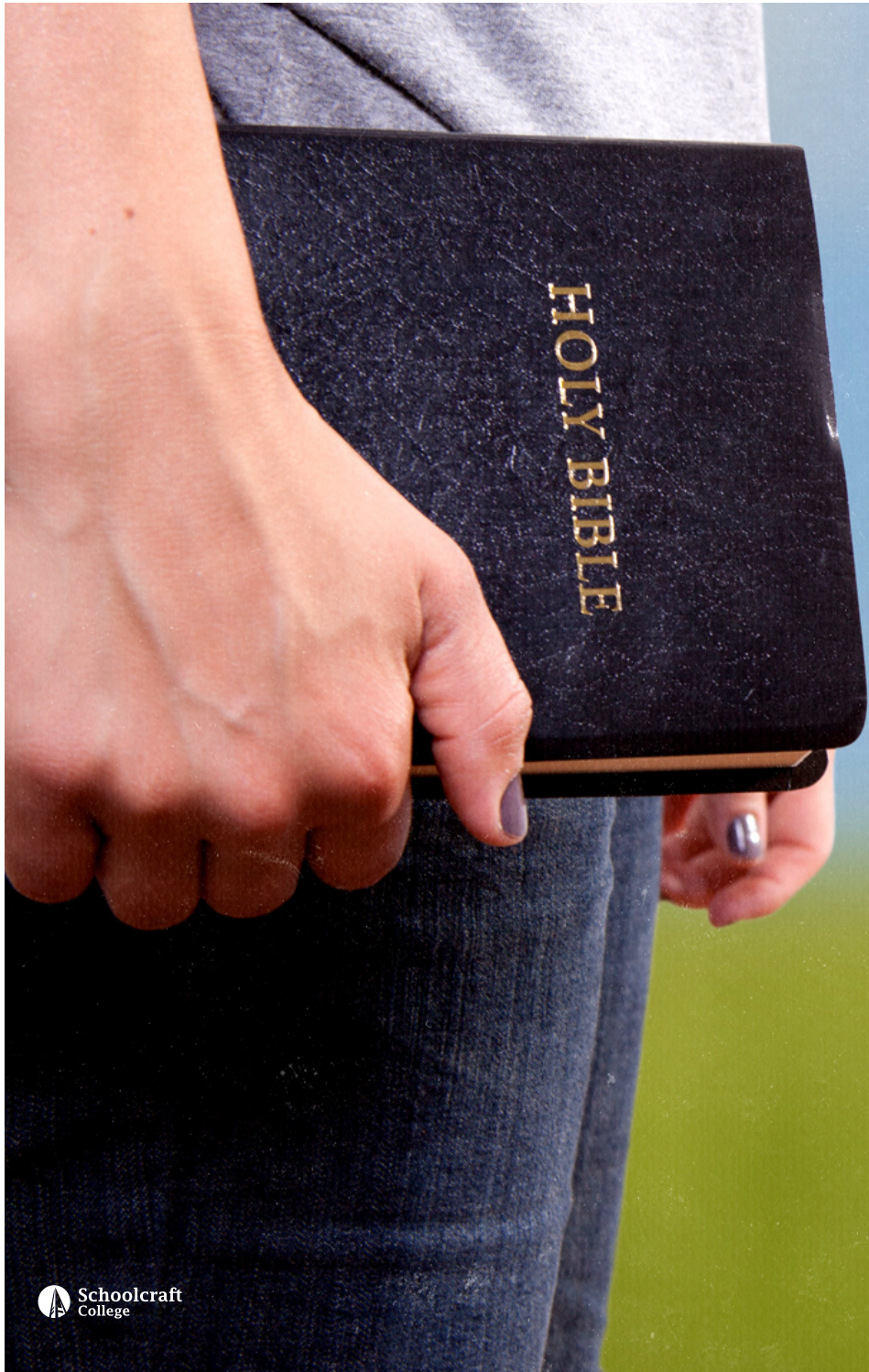
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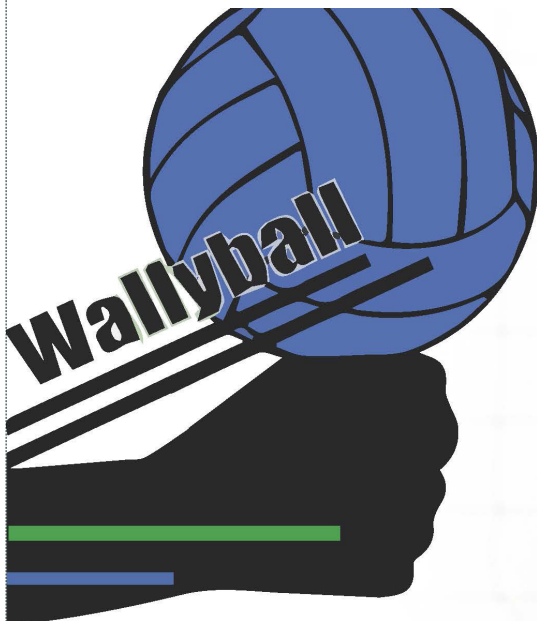
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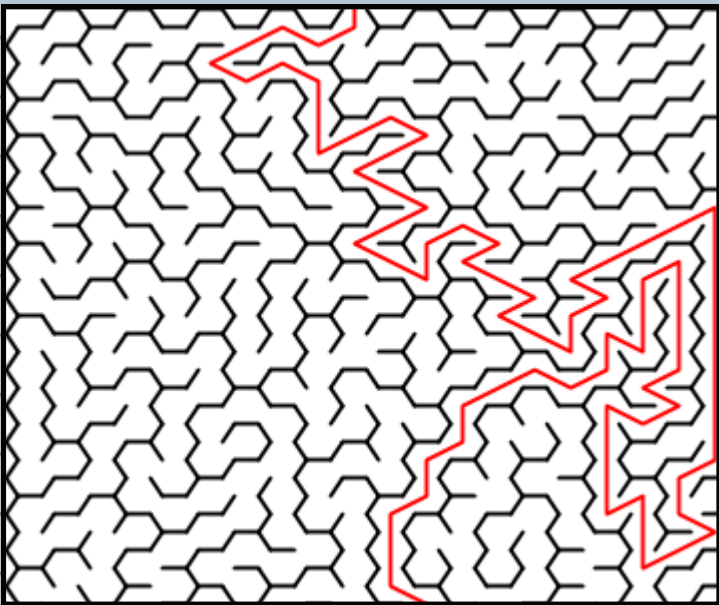
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Answer Key from Page 30

Alphabet Soup Answer:

The following 238 solutions exist for a total of 351 points

sea (1 pt) only (1 pt) gain (1 pt) elfins (3 pts) acinose (5 pts) eelfin (2 pts) eelf (1 pt) ear (1 pt) eales (2 pts) eale (1 pt) cypselae (1.1 pts) cypselae (5 pts) cire (1 pt) ciglar (2 pts) cig (1 pt) ciei (1 pt) caries (3 pts) care (1 pt) carafes (5 pts) carafe (3 pts) car (1 pt) cains (2 pts) cain (1 pt) cag (1 pt) cafes (2 pts) cafe (1 pt) ariel (2 pts) aria (1 pt) arf (1 pt) arefy (2 pts) arefies (5 pts) areal (2 pts) areae (2 pts) area (1 pt) are (1 pt) alps (1 pt) alp (1 pt) alir (1 pt) aff (1 pt) aies (1 pt) aief (1 pt) ale (1 pt) air (1 pt) ains (1 pt) ain (1 pt) agin (1 pt) afire (2 pts) atear (2 pts) atar (1 pt) aerfly (3 pts) aeries (3 pts) aerie (2 pts) acinose (5 pts)



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

LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAY SEASON

BY ELIZABETH CASELLA
STAFF WRITER

Wild Lights at the Detroit Zoo feature a fun night where over five million LED lights are used to light up the parks trees, buildings and more than 100 animal sculptures. These nights include live entertainment, arts and crafts, ice carving and a visit from Santa. New this year is the Polar Plunge slide. This is a 22-foot tall and 150-foot long slide. There is also the Wild Adventure zone

that features a 14 minute long 4-D experience film called "The Polar Express 4-D Experience." Wildlife of the Year exhibit will also be on display to add to the festivities. Experience the animals, the atmosphere and the winter holiday in a whole new way. Wild Lights is from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. every weekend through Dec. 30. It costs \$9 in advance or \$11 per person at the gate the night of.

Santa Clause sits upon his throne ready to ask many excited children what their desires for Christmas is.



Jason Barr and Meghan Barr race to the bottom of the new penguin slide attraction at the Detroit Zoo Wild Lights.



The No Strings Attached Choir sings joyful Christmas carols for the many attendees of the Detroit Zoo Wild Lights.



TJ Winters and Katelyn Chapana pause for a quick smile while enjoying the Detroit Zoo Wild Lights.



Carol Inhulsen of the Huron Valley Humane Society shows Dave and Lilley Hoover and family how to make a felt blanket.

