# SCHOOLCRAFT CONNECTION

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# Reimagined

Vistatech Center completes renovations, opening with expanded amenities



Photo by Izabella Allie

The Collaborative Learning Studio, a designated classroom for precursors of courses and additional kitchens for the Culinary Arts program to utilize, was one of the new additions to the Vistatech Center.

KATHRYN WENSKE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This time last year portions of the Vistatech Center were closed as construction began on some much needed updates to the appearance, as well as renovations to provide students and the rest of the community more places to meet, relax and learn. As predicted, the front half of the building reopened its doors this fall 2023 semester.

Visitors can now walk through the newly renovated north entrance as the final touches are being added. The official grand opening ceremony and ribbon cutting is expected to happen Sept. 21 at 4 p.m.

"This investment is an opportunity to support the forward-thinking vision for students and the community served by Schoolcraft College," said past President of the Schoolcraft Foundation Board of Governors Lois McEntyre from the Schoolcraft Website. "This is the largest single grant commitment made through our Vision 2025 Campaign and a way for the College to leverage this support for future investments."

To recap from the Vistatech 2.0 story published in Sept 2022, the renovations include the Main Street Cafe, modernizing the American Harvest Restaurant and its operations, adding what is titled as the Collaborative Learning Studio, a designated classroom for precursors of

courses and additional kitchens for the Culinary Arts Programs to utilize. A later planned renovation was a kitchen designated to the new Ocelot Grille, attached to the Brew Pub in American Harvest, to reduce interference of the course work during restaurant operations.

"The feedback has been tremendous. The open air approach to showcasing [these additions and renovations] as you walk into Vistatech provides a great experience," said Schoolcraft College President Dr. Glenn Cerny. "The seating areas in the prefunction area off the Kehrl Auditorium and adjacent to the Frank Angileri Center will provide students and the community excellent places to collaborate, relax or enjoy the great amenities that will be available through the Culinary Operations department."

Collaboration is the main theme of the renovations, leaving nobody left behind and all a part of the conversation.

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# Friends of monarchs

See Campus Life Page 6



#### To the boys that play by different rules

See Arts and Entertainment Page 14



# Golf team returns after 5 year hiatus

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### **NEWS**

### Mending the gap

#### Schoolcraft partners with local healthcare systems to solidify jobs for nursing students

KATHRYN WENSKE **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** 

Most Michiganders can attest that our healthcare system has been in an exacerbated crisis for the last few years. Many students have interests in working in the field, but the financial burden of these often extensive classes and degrees pile up, turning away many students from this profession.

The education in the healthcare programs are essential, but the access, a.k.a cost of such programs can be more in reach for inquiring students. Due to the partnerships Schoolcraft has with some healthcare systems, like Corewell and Trinity Health, the college wanted to utilize such relations and even further mend the transition of college education to full time career.

"We approached Corewell, and they were more than willing to fund or at least to start with supporting 20 students, covering \$8,500 in their final year, in exchange for an agreement and a job at the end of their degree period," said Health Professions Liaison Donna Moir. "[Students] are able to get a fulltime job, get their last year of tuition paid for and the health systems win because they're able to work with these students in their clinical rotations, so they hit the ground running."

Students in the final year of their degree, specifically in Registered Nursing, will benefit from the Corewell agreement. As it is a newer agreement, the scholarship

is catered to nursing students, but will hope to expand on other nursing programs.

"It will give much needed financial support to students, a guarantee of employment and an opportunity to continue to progress on an upward path for gaining more skills to address the workforce pipeline shortages," said Schoolcraft College President Dr. Glenn Cerny.

Schoolcraft also has partnerships with Trinity Health, funding nine health profession programs through students' programs as well; including Surgical Technology AAS, Sterile Processing Skills Certificate, Pharmacy Technician Certificate, Radiology Technology AAS, Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Certificate, second year Registered Nursing AAS program, Diagnostic Medical Sonography and the **Emergency Medical or Paramedic** program.

"[Students]can go on Scholarship Universe and apply. I encourage all students to apply because we have more than just the Corwell and Trinity scholarships [for the health profession programs], but we also have a lot of scholarships for all majors," said Executive Director of The Schoolcraft Foundation and Alumni Relations Dawn Magretta.

The college only hopes to continue with these relationships, as well as continue to aid in addressing and aiding with deficits in the workforce. Moir specifically has been working with each healthcare system to address their shortages and come to an agreement that truly benefits and



**Photos courtesy of Schoolcraft College** 

Pictured are Representatives from Schoolcraft College and Corewell Health Michigan at a recent signing event celebrating a new partnership between the two institutions.



The agreement between the two institutions will help students and current Trinity Health employees with full tuition assistance to prepare for a career in the medical

has the best intentions for students.

"Partnerships are only as good as both entities providing resources, commitments and continuous conversation on how to improve the relationship. It is hard work to achieve the agreements, but more critical that the relationships keep maturing to add value over time,' said Dr. Cerny.

These agreements are designed to benefit everyone; a profession in dire need of support and students

who may need that extra help to complete their goals.

All offered scholarships are available throughout the year and open at various times but can be found in Schoolcraft's student portal Ocelot Access, under the Scholarship Universe tab.

For more information, visit Schoolcraft Financial Aid at www. schoolcraft.edu/aid/ or contact 34-462-4433 or finaid@schoolcraft.edu.



Photos by Izabella Allie

**Above: The newly Collaborative Learning** Studio features a state of the art kitchen.

Left: New equipment in the Main Street Cafe Kitchen to assist in making freshly made goods.

Below: The new reimagined lounge space sits adjacent to the Main Stree Cafe which will allow additional space for vistors to



#### 'Reimagined' cont'd from page 1>

Dr. Cerny, Executive Chef and Culinary Arts Program Coordinator Chris Misiak, the Culinary Operations Department, instructors and chefs who will be utilizing these spaces, students and the contractors have all been included in this project. The community, specifically, is also never forgotten and Schoolcraft prioritizes accessibility and usability for the public in efforts long lead in order to get them to give back.

"We always look at the student perspective, but we never forget about the community perspective and we are always doing things to help give back to the community," said Chef Misiak. "[For example,]There are volleyball and racquetball courts, swimming, [The Fitness Center] and our additional give back to the community is the revamped restaurant; selling things [at reduced prices without taking away the quality

of the food.1"

Due to this collaboration, communication really propelled the Vistatech Center construction plan with minimal changes. Great weather was a contributing factor for how quickly the renovations were completed, with a big portion of the construction being catapulted were pre-ordering items and materials that were when needed.

Soon, the Vistatech Center will be filled with fresh smells carrying through the hallways, alluring students, staff and the community. These renovations were motivated by the notion to further serve and give back, and provide students so many more opportunities to learn, relax and enjoy. With this now elevated atmosphere, there is no doubt the community will come to support and love.



Photo courtesy of Schoolcraft College

The Oeelot Grille housed inside the the Brew Pub will feature a variety of freshly brewed beers made by Schoolcratt students and a delectable menu of food to select from

GLOBALEYEZERS & PHI THETA KAPPA PRESENTS

### Photography & Promptography -

Relationship status: It's complicated

#### **A TALK WITH**

#### **Boris Eldagsen**

The future of photography is no longer defined by the medium itself, but by Al. Al image generators have internalised the photographic image language and can generate it synthetically as "promptography".

What does this mean for the relationship between photography and promptography?

Which skills do I need as a photographer, which as a promptographer?

Where do the two complement each other, where do they compete?



Join Boris Eldagsen as he analyzes a relationship that most people describe as "it's complicated" and shows where this relationship can develop in

#### ABOUT BORIS ELDAGSEN

Boris Eldagsen (\*1970) studied fine arts at art academies in Mainz, Prague and Hyderabad and philosophy at the universities of Cologne and Mainz. His background as a university lecturer, photo artist and digital media freelancer makes him one of the most requested AI image experts. He is "Head of Digital" of Deutsche Fotografische Akademie (Germany's oldest association of photographers,











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### **CAMPUS LIFE**

# Friends of monarchs

#### Unsung advocates in raising awareness for monarch butterflies

**HOMAYRA ADIBA** STAFF WRITER

After graduating from Schoolcraft in 2017, Alyssa Braun transferred to Eastern MI University and graduated in Elementary-Early Childhood Teaching. Currently, she teaches in Tonda Elementary School as a favorite of fourth graders. Besides teaching, her days go by on walks with Nova (her American bulldog), hiking, gardening, spending time with family and checking off the national parks in the USA. In the chaos of life, Braun never quits to advocate for monarch butterflies.

It all started when Braun moved to her current Westland residence in 2018. The natural growth of milkweed in her backyard was intriguing enough for her to research and start growing her butterflies.

Since then, every year Braun looks for monarch eggs underneath the milkweed leaves as soon as the weather gets warm. Since environmental change influences the migratory patterns of the butterflies, their arrival is unpredictable. As soon as they arrive in Michigan, they lay eggs. She collects the off-white and oval-shaped eggs by ripping the leaf off and putting it in a lunchbox with small holes allowing for air ventilation; close inspection that will reveal vertical ridges of the

When the larva develops, the egg

darkens in color before hatching in about three to five days. Once the eggs hatch, Braun moves the caterpillars to a habitat made with breathable, net fabric to provide airflow. She regularly provides fresh water and milkweed, which is the only food source for the caterpillars.

Others may raise butterflies indoors in reptile containers but Braun advocates against it.

"From the articles I've read and the people I've talked to, raising butterflies inside shields them from the natural elements they would normally be exposed to," said Braun. "Thus, the butterflies raised inside could be weaker and unable to make the long trip to Mexico when it comes time to migrate. The goal of raising monarchs is to increase their population as naturally as possible: raising them inside is more harmful than helpful," said Baun.

Debbie Barson from Barson's Greenhouse who has been working to raise awareness about native butterflies for years agrees with Braun. According to both of them, monarch butterflies are vulnerable because of natural predators, such as parasitic wasps, who lay their eggs on monarch caterpillars, and their larvae feed on the caterpillars. These habitats are designed to protect the monarchs from such predators without taking away natural properties.

Braun keeps her habitat on her porch and changes the food



Photo by Homayra Adiba

Braun enjoys investigating her flower plants in her backyard garden.

regularly until the caterpillars grow and develop into chrysalis; which becomes transparent in about nine to 14 days. Once the chrysalis is completely transparent, the butterfly emerges. According to Braun, "It takes four to six hours for their wings to dry out but it is best to release them within 24 hours."

Braun speaks highly of Barson's Greenhouse where she collects her habitat and native milkweed. This local nursery has been educating the community about native plants and butterflies and inspiring people like Braun.

Barson, a member of the family business says, "In 2012, a butterfly researcher named Brenda Dziedzic approached us and said that

she wanted to create a butterfly house to educate the community." The Barsons loved the idea and collaborated with her in making Brenda's Butterfly Habitat: now educating elementary school kids about the native butterflies of Michigan. They also take a dollar donation in return for caterpillars to donate to Monarch Watch; a nonprofit organization based at the University of Kansas dedicated to researching monarch butterflies and preserving natural habitats.

An additional collaborator, The South East Michigan Butterfly Association (SEMBA) also aids in the Habitat. However, these

see 'Friends of monarchs' page 7>

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#### 'Friends of monarchs' cont'd from page 6>

everyday unsung heroes of the community volunteer out of love for the butterflies.

Despite the efforts to raise the Monarch's population, Braun fears that the lack of sightings of Monarchs this year could be due to environmental change! At the U-M Biological Station, researchers had similar concerns and investigated if elevated carbon dioxide could be responsible for the decline of these migratory majesties. In an experiment, they grew four milkweed species with different levels of the protective compounds, called cardenolides. Half the plants were grown under usual CO2 levels including these great pollinators!

and the rest were bathed with almost twice that amount. They discovered that under elevated CO2 the most protective of the four milkweed species lost its medicinal properties. Monarchs are specialists in using milkweed's bitter toxins as medicine to fight predators and parasites. However, once these milkweeds bathed in elevated CO2 were fed to hundreds of caterpillars, they lost their ability to fight natural predators and parasites, and their lifespan was reduced by a week resulting in a relation between the reduction of monarch butterflies and rising carbon dioxide in the environment!

The changing environment affects all aspects of the planet

Monarchs travel up to 3,000 miles each year to fly from the northeastern U.S. and southern Canada to their wintering grounds, forested highlands of central Mexico. People like Braun are idols working tirelessly to help these incredible species capable of flying at 10,000 feet elevation at 12mph.

The Schoolcraft community can help to improve the butterfly population by volunteering at Brenda's Butterfly Habitat at 6414 Merriman Rd, Westland, MI 48185. Initiating to collect eggs to raise and protect monarchs is incredible. However, advocating against global warming and for milkweed growth are other ways one can help these majesties.

For more information on Barson's Greenhouse and tips

for starting a butterfly garden, visit. https://www.barsons.com/ butterflies.

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# **COPING WITH COLLEGE: ANXIETY AND** THE STRESS OF STUDENT LIFE

- Group counseling sessions facilitated by **Solid Ground Counseling**
- Some in-person, some remote
- · Free to Schoolcraft students.
- Space is limited.
- Sign up by emailing studentrelations@schoolcraft.edu

Want to speak one-on-one with a professional counselor? Call 734-462-4486 or email studentrelations@schoolcraft.edu to discuss resources and referral options.



Ad sponsored by the Student Relations Office, McDowell Student Center, room 175, studentrelations@schoolcraft.edu

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# Free college y'all

### Michigan Reconnect program removes the cost barrier for students

KATHRYN WENSKE **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** 

Jobs with requirements of education besides a high school diploma just became that much more accessible.

To remove the financial barrier have lived in Michigan for that often blocks people from attaining such requirements, the Michigan Reconnect program is designed to allow people in the workforce to re-enter with new and stronger skills to succeed even further in the state.

"I am hopeful that the Michigan Reconnect program will significantly increase the accessibility of college education by eliminating financial obstacles," said Chief Student **Enrollment Officer Melissa** Schultz. "This program will empower eager individuals to either complete their unfinished education or [start] a new academic journey to enhance their knowledge and skills in their present or prospective careers, ultimately leading to an increased potential for higher lifetime earnings.

The program offers free indistrict tuition at Michigan Community Colleges for those achieving an associates degree/ Pell-eligible skill certificate or financial assistance, including up to \$1,500 in tuition costs for those pursuing a career training

To qualify for the Michigan

Reconnect program, you must be and powering small businesses in 25 years of age or older, which Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer is trying to extend it to 21 years of age or older, have a highschool diploma or equivalent, at least a year and have not previously completed a college degree. Students must also annually complete their FAFSA, meaning this program may not be accessible to international students.

"[Michigan residents] have taken an important step to chase their

learn dreams, new skills, and land a goodpaying job to support themselves and their families." said Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer according to Michigan.gov. "Because of their grit and determination, we can keep growing Michigan's economy, supporting and attracting hardworking people,

every region of our great state."

An additional requirement specifically for Schoolcraft includes that students must maintain a 2.0 GPA while receiving the Reconnect aid. The college will cover the resident rate of tuition for both residents and non-residents. as well as cover mandatory fees by other restricted tuition aid. This financial aid is quoted as a last dollar scholarship

because it only covers eligible charges that are not already paid by other restricted tuition aid, pell grants and other methods of payment that have been pursued

first before applying for Michigan Reconnect. However, the program is designed for individuals of varying income to be able to access it.

"College is expensive, and with Michigan Reconnect [the state has] opened the door to help with financing students' return to college.' said the Executive Director of the Schoolcraft Foundation and Alumni Relations Dawn Magretta. "[The program] doesn't eliminate the need for scholarships and a lot of times we fill the gap, but I think your money goes a longer way at community colleges and it's a great place for those who don't know exactly what they wanna study or where their career path

With already 1,830 students from Schoolcraft accessing the Michigan Reconnect program, they have been awarded \$1,744,515 from this grant within the 2022-2023 academic year. Financial burdens and sacrifices can be removed from the equation, making it much easier for families to gain a higher education, thus substantially increasing the support for their family in the long run.

For additional support, call 517-636-7000 or email mistudentaid@michigan.gov, as well as the Schoolcraft Financial Aid at 734-462-4433 or email finaid@schoolcraft.edu.



#### **ATTEND EVENTS**



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#### **JOIN A CLUB**



JOIN A CLUB OR ORGANIZATION TODAY BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

For more information, contact the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422



### **CAMPUS & CLUB EVENTS**

(All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted)



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### School Daze Fall Festival

Sept. 18 and 19 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### Trinity Elite Sports Center

Some attractions will include: Club Fair offered by our student organizations, Campus resources, Wellness Fair coordinated by the Hinkle Student Resource Center, Marketplace with local businesses and the Transfer College Section.

### Doha Debates Deep Dive Part 2

Sept. 20 1 p.m. Vistatech Center, Kehrl Auditorium

Tired of polarized debates, at best go nowhere? At worst, lead to increased separation and decreased understanding? There is a better way. We can all build the skills to create a safer container where we are emotionally and intellectually supported to share our views and explore the views of others. Majlisstyle debate is a different form of public reasoning aimed towards consensus building and collective solutions to complex issues. Join us to learn more about Doha Debates, meet young ambassadors from the program and practice Majlis-style debate with their expert facilitation!

#### Transfer Bridges : University of Michigan Kickoff Celebration

Sept. 20 5 to 7 p.m. Vistatech Center, Sutherland Room

For more information, contact the

Center for Experiential Learning at 734-462-7296

#### **Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Orientation**

Sept. 26

#### 7 p.m. Vistatech Center, Kehrl Auditorium

Join the largest organization on campus! Found out more on how to graduate with honors, transfer scholarships, gain leadership skills, build resume criteria, get involved on campus, community service, meet new people and create friendships. RSVP to 734-462-4422.

#### **Blood Drive**

Sept. 26 and 27
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Vistatech Center, Lower Level
Appointments preferred, walk-ins

Appointments preferred, walk-ins welcome as the schedule allows Call 866-MIBLOOD, visit www.versiti.org/MI

#### **FREE Cider and Donuts**

Sept. 26 12 to 2 p.m.

Vistatech Center, Lower Level We know how to make your day

better. Join the Student Activities
Board for Free Cider Donuts while
supplies last.

#### Birds of Prey Wildlife Education Program

Sept. 26
Show at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Vistatech Center, Lower Level
Join Joe Rogers from the Wildlife

Recovery Association who will feature over 10 live raptors. This event is FREE and open to the

#### Pageturners Book Club-It Came From Mars Book Discussion

Sept. 26 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. BTC 120

public.

Join Pageturners for their September book discussion, "It Came from Mars" by Joseph Zettlemaier.

### Block Party

Sept. 27 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Grass area between the Liberal Arts and Forum Buildings Join the Black Student Union for Food, games, music and fun!

#### Make-it-Take-it Ice Cream Social

Sept. 27 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vistatech Center, Lower Level

This scoops on us! Join the Student Activities Board for some free ice cream sundaes with over 20 toppings to select from.

#### Pageturners Book Club-Movie Screening of War of the Worlds

Sept. 28 2:30

MC 100 B and C

Join Pageturners for their September movie screening of, "War of the Worlds."

#### **Pickleball Tournament**

Sept. 29 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Trinity Elite Sports Center Check in begins at 9 a.m. Warmup/practice 9-10 a.m.

Join in on the fun and take part in the 8 team field pickleball tournament. Signup in advance by calling the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422 or stop by the office located in the Vistatech Center, Lower Level. \$50 1st place gift card, \$20 2nd place gift card per team member.

#### Photography and Promptography-Relationship status: It's complicated A Talk with Boris Eldagsen

Sept. 29 Noon Zoom: Meeting ID: 897 8248 7952

The future of photography is no longer defined by the medium itself, but by Al. Al image generators have internalized the photographic image language and can generate it synthetically as "promptography". What does this mean for the relationship between photography and promptography? Which skills do I need as a photographer, which as a promptographer? Where do the two complement each other, where do they compete? Boris Eldagsen analyzes a relationship that most people describe as "it's complicated" and shows where this relationship can develop in the future.

#### Sept. 30 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Schoolcraft College Manufacturing and

Touch a Job

Engineering Center
13001 Merriman Road
Livonia, MI (South of I-96)
This event is free and open to th
public. Middle and High School
students along with community

This event is free and open to the public. Middle and High School students along with community members will rotate through 45 min sessions at various career sites in and around the Manufacturing and Engineering Center.

#### Navratri • Diwali • Christmas Autumn Celebration Bazaar 2023

Sept. 30 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Schoolcraft College Vistatech Center, DiPonio Room

FREE admission
Bring friends and family and join
us for a fun and immersive cultural
experience! Clothing and Jewelry,
Refreshments and Food, Fashion
Show, Home Decor, Face Painting
and Games for Children, Dance
Performances and more.

### **2023 Fall Career Fair** Oct. 12

4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Trinity Elite Sports Center

Students, alumni, and community members are all invited to attend. No registration required. Representatives from 90+ organizations will be available to discuss career opportunities offered. Sector spotlights include Healthcare, Education, Accounting, Supply Chain, Business, and Manufacturing & Engineering. This event is free and open to the public. Bring copies of your resume. For more information, contact Career Services at 734-462-4421.

#### Visit Wayne State on Us Fall Bus Trip

Oct. 20 9:30 a.m. Bus Departs from Schoolcraft College Liberal Arts building 10 a.m. to noon: Arrive in

Detroit, tour campus, learn about WSU and enjoy Lunch 1 p.m.: Bus Departs from Wayne State

Wayne State University's Transfer Student Success Center (TSSC) is hosting an event for Schoolcraft College students to tour the campus and learn about: Transfer Pathways, Transfer Credit, Scholarships and Financial Aid. Visit our beautiful Midtown campus on a FREE bus trip and experience all that Wayne State University has to offer!

#### Do you have an upcoming event you would like listed in our Campus & Club Events?

Please email sc.connection@apps. schoolcraft.edu or call 734-462-4422





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### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**



# Renaissance HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Testival

The 44th annual Michigan Renaissance Festival is in full swing until October 1 in Holly, Michigan. Immerse yourself in the magical 16th century Hollygrove and the join in with the local villagers for 17 stages of exciting entertainment. Over the course of 7 weekends, patrons can interact with musicians, magicians, jugglers and jousting.

Over 100 artisans fill the Festival marketplace to display and sell their handcrafted goods for visitors shopping experience. Interact with characters and become a part of experience. Don't forget about the food options as well with over 100 vendors to sample from. Each weekend is themed for attendees to dress up, embrace the experience and join in onspecial games and events for the weekends. Themes include: Pirates and Pups, Highland Fling, Vikings Invasion, Wonders of the World, Shamrocks and Shenanigans, Harvest Huzzah, Festival Friday and Sweet Endings.

Festival tickets are \$25.95 for adults, \$15.95 for children and \$23.95 for seniors when purchased upon arrival. Tickets for adults are \$22.95 and \$12.95 for children when purchased online. The Michigan Renaissance Fest is located at 12600 Dixie Hwy., Holly, MI 48442. For more information about the festival, including events, food, vendors and tickets, visit michrenfest.com.

1. Chris Arabian (Right) Kevin Price (Left) enjoying the Michigan Renaissance Festival on Sept. 2, 2023 in Holly, MI.

2. Peter Manomete performing for guests at the Michigan Renaissance Festival.

3. The Amazing Flec otherwise known as Flec the Fool. The Amazing Flec loves to make people smile and laugh while teaching people magic on his YouTube channel. (TheamazingFlec)

4. The valiant combat company performed at the Michigan Renaissance Festival.

5. Pictured left to right: Danielle DeJonge, Ryan Li, John Bess, and Wolfgang Moorhouse posed for a photo while enjoying the Michigan Renaissance Festival.

6. Sir Kenuric and Lelend "The Blue Knight" wore their best gear to celebrate the Michigan Renaissance Festival in style!

Photostory layout by Izabella Allie and photos by Josh Hardy





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### To the boys that play by different rules

#### Dream alongside Aristotle and Dante as they find themselves facing the world

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
Genres: Young Adult, 390 pages
Available in Paperback, Hardcover, Kindle
First published: Feb. 21, 2012
Rating: \*\*\*\* (4/5)

SARA MALLORY
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Just like their namesakes, "Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe" is an imaginative coming of age novel filled with wonder and philosophy of two Mexican-American teens struggling to answer the question: who am I

Written by Benjamin Alire Sáenz and released Feb. 21, 2012 the young adult novel falls into the romance genre and tackles issues like racism, transphobia and homophobia while successfully portraying the everyday life of two teenagers struggling to get to tomorrow.

Dante is outgoing, articulate and confident. Aristotle is insecure and closed off from the world. Dante's life can not seem to be any more perfect, whereas Aristotle, in contrast, struggles in the shadow of his jailed older brother, forever tainted by his presence.

The author, Sáenz, has mastered the ability to command poetic prose which heightens the novel's capacity to explore the deep relationship between the boys as it naturally progresses over the course of the novel.

Simple yet complicated. Complicated yet simple.

That natural progression is enhanced by the simplicity in the story's writing. There are few complex sentences and fewer compound ones. Yet the diction in the novel transcends its own limitations as even the simplest of sentences often hold the great emotion: "I hated being volunteered. The problem with my life is it was someone else's idea," (Aristotle, Benjamin Alire Sáenz).

That simplicity is found in every description of Dante's laugh, every time the boys would call each other weird, every moment they spent together: it feels like real interactions of everyday friends. This is so much so, that the reader could physically be there experiencing their friendship and their bond.

There is no issue understanding the novel or character motivations but there is an issue understanding characterization.

Despite the power and



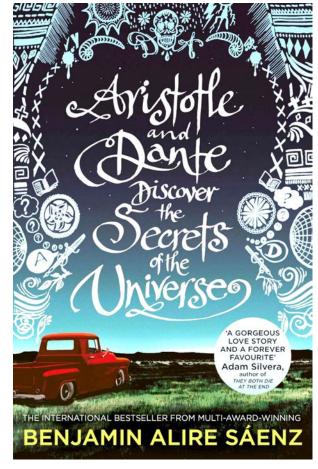
strength the author instills in the boy's story, its greatest limitation is how it handles Dante's perspective or lack thereof.

"I got to thinking that poems were like people. Some people you get right off the bat. Some people you just didn't get, and never would get" (Aristotle, Benjamin Alire Sáenz).

The book makes the mistake of assuming the reader can

understand Dante without giving him a chance to share his perspective. The entire book is written from Aristotle's perspective, which is arguably a more interesting and story driven one but fails to deliver on Dantes character by revoking his chance to narrate his emotions and feelings. Because of this, it's easy to despise his character when the readers are clearly intended to root for him.

The book makes up for this fault in two ways. By making the lack of understanding of



Dante's character intentional and by making him the more expressive character. However, despite this effort it does not make up for a clear flaw in the novel.

Overall, the novel is a solid four out of five stars and has been adapted into a feature film that was released internationally on Sept. 8, 2023.

Even if you are not a fan of reading, there is no reason to not give the adaptation a watch!



# Go big or go home

#### Golf team returns after five year hiatus

KATHRYN WENSKE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Didn't know we had a golf team?

We didn't either.

After five years on hiatus, the Golf team is back at it. The team is run by two familiar faces, Men's Soccer Head Coach Rick Larson and Assistant Coach Johnny Garcia.

Due to this half decade hiatus, the development of the team was somewhat unusual. In sophomore Owen Fisher's case, Coach Garcia recruited him after a clarifying conversation at Fisher's work as the coach was wearing the college's golf hat.

Ever since he was little, Fisher learned to play golf at a young age from his grandparents' old country club. He then joined the Salem High School Golf Team, and after graduating played recreational until now.

"I get a lot of self confidence and conflict resolution when I play. Since the sport is a game against yourself, it is all a mental [test]. If I can keep a good mindset when golfing, I tend to do better," said Fisher. "This also translates to things in life and being able to have confidence in yourself while also being able to analyze yourself."

Fisher not only internalizes

his confidence, but also externally for the future of the team's season. "The team has been meshing well together. We are always talking and having a good time whether that be on the course, at workouts or at team dinners that our coach wrongly scheduled."

Another member of the team and a close friend of 10 years with Fisher, Paul Cassatta, found out about the revival of the college's Golf team and immediately jumped in.

"I started [playing golf] around August of 2020 and I had a job at a golf course so it [didn't] hurt to learn the game," said Cassatta. "[By playing the sport,] it keeps me active so I can get outside, get a nice tan and it helps me improve at golf. From what I've seen of my teammates I think that we could do well."

However, the resurfacing of this team is no coincidence.

The Athletics Department has been looking to expand its offerings and include sports like golf to campus, which Coach Larson took on. After coaching Schoolcraft for the past 19 years, he has been able to develop a strong rapport with the community schools and clubs; making him the right coach to start the initial



Photo by Summer Sultana

schoolcraftconnection.com

The 2023 - 24 Schoolcraft golf team poses for a team photo prior to their invitational. The golf team returned after a 5 year hiatus and looks to build the program for years to come.

recruiting for this returning sport.

"We're really looking forward to hosting our first meet on Sept. 11. I think all the conditions were correct for us to start golf and in this land of college recruiting, the players are always the best recruiters. We have a bunch of guys on the team that are a bunch of buddies and they all knew each other. I'm excited to deploy the players on, and we'll see how [the season] plays out for these guys."

There may be a learning curve for this team as there was no previous team to develop off of, but that may also benefit the team to truly make a solid foundation for the future seasons.

The intention the golf team

has is to have fun, and enjoy playing with friends. The coaches also get to play free golf, which isn't arguably half bad.

For more information on the team's season and other athletic teams, visit

www.schoolcraftocelots.com.

#### 2023 - 24 Golf Team

Owen Fisher
Seth Elliot
Charlie Adamczyk
Devin Beauchamp
Matt Burns
Gabe Smith
Joseph Stewart
Tanner Younglas
Brenden Ware

### **Returners and newbies**

Soccer teams see big turnover, but stronger than ever

KATHRYN WENSKE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The fall 2023 sports season is underway and the Schoolcraft Men's and Women's Soccer teams are looking forward to playing with their teammates again, or for the first time. Both teams are off to a fast start. The Men's Soccer team is 5-2 overall and 3-1 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) conference while the Women's team is 6-3 overall and 4-1 in the MCCAA conference standings. Both teams are displaying a preview of what is to come as the season progresses.

Men's soccer left back, Diego Ayala, a returner from last season's 2022 NJCAA Regional XII Division 1 Men's Soccer Championship squad said the team is bonding extremely well and hopes the team will do even better than how they did last year.

"Probably the connection with each other [is the most special thing about this team.] I think everyone is looking and going in the same direction; like the national championship and [career path. Because of this,] we are competing with each other and getting everyone better, but it's still a really positive competition."

Relating to Ayalas, center mid Gavin Brose, who is quoted as a "mega returner" with this being his third year on the team,



**Photo courtesy of Schoolcraft College** 

Sophomore Tommy Mittelstadt carries the ball up the field during a recent game against Muskegon.

notices a tenacious switch in the dynamic of the team compared to years prior.

"This year, we have a lot more technical players in the front half of the team; a lot more goal scorers and overall a possession-minded team. With 15 new players coming in each vear, I think Coach Larson has to kind of mold the team with what he has and experimenting to see what works. After beating Morton and getting a good fight against Northeast with two men down, I think that we'll definitely be National contenders. I think that being humble and not getting overconfident is going to be a key point in our journey."

For the 15 newcomers, Bros recommends prioritizing managing schedules and preventing burnout early, as well as maintaining a sufficient load to be mentally stable through the season.

Striker Tommy Mittlestadt, a transfer student from Northwood University, is used to the college athlete scene but new to the Schoolcraft culture.

"I've met a lot of new guys just within the past month and to see how fast we're getting to gel and play together well is so different. I haven't seen players come together so fast," said Mittlestadt. "I think a lot of the guys are very open arms, want to help each other and they want to see everyone else do well: there's not much that can compare to just playing with your friends every day and being able to represent the school you're playing for."

The Women's soccer team has also had the same number of returners to newcomers, which for sophomore outside back Bella Elliot seemed daunting

see '**Returners and newbies**' page 19>



Photo by Nolan Gerou

Freshman forward Kyra Brandon controls the ball from a Delta College defender during the Sept. 8, 2023 match.

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## Grit and talent

#### Volleyball team runs deep with on court chemistry

KATHRYN WENSKE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Women's Volleyball team experienced a turnover at the end of last season, with only a few returning players coming into 2023. However, this year's squad's determination to win, along with developing a close, indestructible bond between each other has not wavered. With this motivation, there is hope to build their foundation and move up in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) standings.

One of the four returners, right side/defensive specialist Brooke Crawford noted excitement for the new members of the team; pushing them to connect with each other, as well as the community.

"Our freshmen are very hardworking and our mentality is on the same page this year: we're willing to work and win. I really believe that our bond is something special on and off the court," said Crawford.

Regarding her own experience, Crawford, like many other college athletes, adores being able to play their sport and proudly represent their school. "Being a college athlete is definitely difficult, but it has been one of the best experiences I've ever had in my entire life and I'm so glad I took the opportunity to come play at Schoolcraft."

Defensive Specialist/Libero Sophomore Evelyn Rummel agrees with Crawford, noting a positive difference in the bond of the team this year and the ability to proactively push each other in practices.

"I would say that we're all friends off the court, as well as on. I think we work together really well. We definitely have been pushing and holding each other accountable, but in a positive way; there's not any negativeness and we're holding each other up. We're there to support each other in school too, especially the freshman."

However, Rummel's beginning college sports experience is a little different than other returning athletes.

"I never thought that I would be able to play in college, because I went somewhere else my freshman year, but I was able to come to Schoolcraft to play. I've loved it so much and I think this is one of the best experiences of my life, and I'm so glad that I finally was able to make that dream come true."

One of the four new members on the team, Defensive Specialist/Libero Maya Pecovic has felt extremely welcomed by the returners and developed a bond so much faster than her prior experience playing on teams, which took years to establish.

"I love the team. We built such a close, tight-knit bond together so quickly; which was very heartwarming. We work so well together, like I can't stop saying it. No matter what the outcome



Photo by Nolan Gerou

The 2023 Women's Volleyball team huddles during a timeout at a recent match. This squad prides itself on teamwork and chemistry on and off the court.

is, it'll happen together."

With this eight women roster, Pecovic is confident the team has the hustle to make it to the postseason. Not only are the games important to her, but the experience itself is something she, and many of the players find the most fulfilling.

"[Being a college athlete] is hard, but it's one of the most rewarding experiences ever and it's already so beneficial to my life. I see us working extremely hard, and we're going push through whatever [comes our way.]" Regardless of the scores, these ladies are not letting anything stop them from simply and genuinely loving their sport. Whether it's supporting each other on the court, or in their academics, their bonds will very likely carry over into the rest of their lives.

For more information regarding rosters, schedules and results, as well as anyone interested in joining the Women's Volleyball team, visit www.schoolcraftocelots.com/

#### 'Returners and newbies'

cont'd from page 17

and difficult to find a rhythm with the team but even so they have been able to develop a great rapport and familiarity with each other.

"Honestly, it hasn't been hard. I feel like everyone's gotten along really well and we've made friendships so it doesn't seem like we're such a brand new team," said Elliot. "We've kind of gotten close early on. Everyone's making friendships, figuring out what each other likes, how they play, so the chemistry has been easier this year."

Transfer junior forward Kyra Brandon seconds Elliot's viewpoints of the team, with a different perspective as she is new to the team.

"{As] this is my first year playing soccer [on this team], I've been getting along with all the girls, just having fun playing soccer. We're getting the work done, and we're [definitely going to] make the [nationals] trip [this year.] Just have to give it our all and have fun."

With the dynamics and optimism that are on each of these teams, there is a great chance they will go deep into the postseason. Each member of the team

has noted the absolute privilege they feel to have the opportunity to represent their school, as well as to play their sport.

Whether it's continuing to stay humble, prioritize balance and take care of self, these athletes only wish to stay healthy for themselves, and for each other.

For schedules, scores and highlights, visit https://www.schoolcraftocelots.com/landing/index.





Check out our additional content on our YouTube channel by searching Schoolcraft Connection!





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#### IN OUR OPINION

#### **Favorite Summer Movies**



With billions of movie-goers flocking to the theaters, the business has been notably booming this summer season.

This boom may be partly due to some specific movies that were especially publicized and pushed on social media (not hinting at any movies in particular), but nonetheless there is still something nostalgic about simply going to the movies.

Some films that were showing this season were a little controversial, and some were collectively agreed to just be really good. However, some summer films that were shown years or decades ago left an impression on the theaters and the viewers, and are our all time favorites to this day.

From a seemingly childish name and based on a 1973

Stephen King short story, The 2023 Boogevman is anything but naive and innocent. Most fittingly in the horror/ mystery category of movies, The Boogeyman features two sisters intensely grieving the loss of their mother along with their emotionally unavailable father who is a therapist. An oddly desperate patient visits the father, to then leave behind a terrifying supernatural entity which prays and feeds on the suffering of families. The film utilizes relatively simplistic tactics compared to current methods of terrors to scare the characters in the movie, but also the viewers. After watching this movie, you will continue to see those red eves

See 'Favorite Summer Movie' page 21>

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### Connection Editoral Offices

Student Activities Office Lower level of Waterman Campus center

#### 'Favorite Summer Movies'

cont'd from page 20

in dark spaces.

A cheesy 80's movie and an all time classic, Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure was released in 1989 and falls into the comedy/adventure category. Starring Alex Winter and Keanu Reeves we follow two radical teens, Bill and Ted respectively, as they desperately try to pass their history final. If they fail, the band geeks never write the song that will bring about world peace. So grab some popcorn and some friends to enjoy a good laugh with wacky time travel shenanigans. And in the spirit of Bill and Ted don't forget to be excellent to each other and party on dudes!

Day gone wrong, movie gone right! The 2019 "classic" film, Turkey Drop, brings a smile to your face, but not a turkey to the table. The movie follows Olivia Holt's character, Lucy, throughout the worst Thanksgiving Day of her life. The twists and turns take the turkey-filled day to another level. This movie will

remind

you of everything that can go wrong this holiday season... or everything that can go right.

Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse was released on June 2, 2023. The movie features the Marvel Comics character Miles Morales as Spider-Man. In the film, Miles goes on an adventure with Gwen Stacy who is Spider-Woman across the multiverse where he meets a team of Spider-People known as the Spider-Society, led by Miguel O'Hara, who is Spider-Man in 2099. A conflict arises between Miles and Miguel over handling the main villain Spot.

Put on your best pink outfit and grab your keys. Barbie is finally in theaters! Unlike your favorite childhood Barbie movies, this is a live action film. This new 2023 summer hit has pulled in nearly 1.5 billion dollars! If you haven't already, head to your nearest theater to follow Barbie as she navigates what it means to be a woman in today's society!

#### OCTOBER I IN CELEBRATION **OF NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY** Join Pride Team for the OUTober events 2023 **OUTober Sip and Chat:** Finding Yourself in Queer Joy OC112 p.m. to 1 p.m. In-person, Bradner Library L105, and Remote via Teams Join us for an informal discussion about Queer Joy and how you find it, cultivate it, and spread it. Allies welcome. **SCAN TO JOIN OUTober Queer Trivia** OCT 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Remote only, via Teams Join with a team or individually and test your Queer History knowledge! Moderate by Jennie Rokakis.



Check out previous news and events by visiting

the Office of Equity & Engagement webpage

For more information contact:

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# Elevating your fall attire

### A fusion of runway glamour and your personal flair





HEBA ASHMAWY STAFF WRITER

Amidst the changing colors of autumn, a new semester begins to unfold. It's more than just a return to classes, it's an opportunity to redefine our fashion statement. Taking inspiration from the latest trends of Winter/Autumn 2023 and integrating them into your



current closet can be a great way to step into campus this fall with a renewed sense of style.

Some of my favorites, like embracing the cozy allure of casual comfort outfits, draw inspiration from current trends but carry my distinctive touch. They remain unmistakably mine, and you can make them your own with your creative interpretations.

### **Embrace your style with unique accessories**

When it comes to personal style, I've learned that making a statement is all about incorporating standout pieces into your look. Whether it's a camel-colored backpack that exudes both warmth and sophistication or gold jewelry that mirrors autumn's palette while reflecting your personal journey, accessorizing becomes a form of self-expression.

### Elevate everyday comfort with effortless elegance

Incorporating tailored pants into my wardrobe has become a key element of my personal style. These versatile pants seamlessly transition from casual gatherings to campus activities. Paired with cozy,

earth-toned sweaters, your look embodies both comfort and style, reflecting your unique fashion sensibility.

### Revive classic black and white fashion

Transform classic black-and-white styles with a touch of your own. Draw inspiration from high fashion's stylish black coat for crisp mornings and reimagine the iconic white shirt. Add your personal touch with subtle tie-dye accents or handcrafted fabric patches, injecting a sense of freshness into these enduring fashion choices.

### Sparkle with shimmering confidence

Let your inner radiance shine with shimmery accents and metallic accessories. Elevate your look with personal touches like studded belts or bold jewelry – it's all about exuding confidence and energy.

### **Evoke mystery with dramatic florals**

I've been captivated by the enigmatic allure of dark florals seen on prestigious runways. If you want to infuse this trend with your personal touch,

consider layering a floral slip dress with an oversized sweater, or draping a dark floral cardigan over your favorite jeans and crop top. This fusion of styles creates a picture of casual allure that's entirely your own.

#### Wrap up in style

As the temperature falls, explore the chic versatility of blanket scarves. Showcase your heritage through pattern experimentation or embellish them with sentimental brooches. It's a blend of comfort and artistry wrapped up in one.

With every outfit choice, you weave a captivating narrative that celebrates the season's beauty and reflects your individuality.

Always remember, genuine elegance begins with self-care: prioritize your body through exercise, and pamper your hair, skin and nails.

Step out with confidence, redefining fall fashion with your own signature touch!



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# The hidden gem on campus

Learning Center assists students with pathway to academic success



Photos courtesy of Schoolcraft College

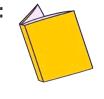
A student sits in the Learning Center going over his Anatomy and Physiology classwork and practices memorizing the different muscles in the human body.



Students can take advantage of one on one tutoring in the Learning Center. Tutors are available in many subjects such a math and science based classes.

#### **Learning Center Hours of Operation:**

Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays: 9am-7pm Wednesdays: 9:30-8pm Fridays: 10am-4pm Saturdays: Noon-4pm



#### YAN LI STAFF WRITER

The Learning Center, one of the most frequently visited places on campus due to its location in the Bradner Library, might seem well-known; however, considering its value, I am often surprised by how many students are unfamiliar with or do not utilize this facility enough.

As a math and biology tutor at the Learning Center, I was once a student who sought help there. Relating to parents with children and a tenvear break from school, returning to pursue one of the most challenging majors of Nursing, was initially daunting and overwhelming. I had no idea where to start until I turned to the Learning Center for assistance. The tips and guidance I received from tutors helped me conquer the tough Anatomy and Physiology class. As a result, I excelled in my first semester and eventually became a Learning Center member, offering help to other fellow students who may be struggling as much as I did.

What makes the Learning Center so special?

Not everyone's schedule aligns with professors' office hours, but engaging with peers is more feasible. Tutors who have experienced the same courses as students and succeeded, can share their insights, strategies and know what it takes to excel; including helping students avoid pitfalls.

The tutors receive training and are well-versed in the campus resources available to students. The team's motives are really to assist students without judgment and are focused solely on helping students thrive. For instance, I once helped a struggling student find a computer by connecting with my advisor and directing them to the Hinkle Center.

The Learning Center is also a lifeline for parents juggling work, kids and school. Sharing their frustrations and feeling heard fosters better mental well-being. While I can't offer advice, lending an empathetic ear makes a significant difference.

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The colleagues within the Learning Center team contribute to its uniqueness: they exemplify hard work and success, along with remarkable humility. Being surrounded by like-minded colleagues serves as motivation.

Lastly, the Learning Center Coordinator Elizabeth Kenney who manages the tutor team is calm and approachable; she is proof that effective leadership need not rely on ego or toughness. Kenney believes that every student has the capability to overcome challenges, build confidence, and achieve academic success.

"Through the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Program and dropin tutoring services, our team in the Learning Center is here to help each student along their academic journey. Within our department of Learning Support Services, we also have Academic Success Coaches and Librarians on staff to support students," said Kenney.

The Learning Center truly is a gem for numerous reasons. While often associated with aiding struggling students, it benefits everyone.

As a tutor and PAL, I still switch roles and visit the Learning Center for help in my own classes. It is most definitely a department all students should utilize, and they always love visits!

For more information on the Learning Center, please visit their website at www.schoolcraft.edu/





Check out the **Schoolcraft Connection sports** story 'Forwards on Fire' schoolcraftconnection.com

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# **Ocelot Opinions**



What is Al's impact on society and is it positive or negative?

**INTERVIEWS BY SARA MALLORY** CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR



With the rise of technology and science fiction, humanity has constantly played with the idea of artificial intelligence. In 2023 what was once science fiction has become a reality and advanced AI is now seen in the forms of chatbots, artists and voice modulators. It begs the question: What is Al's impact on society and is it positive or negative?



#### Carley Blush **Major: Nursing**

"I think it's really complicated. AI was made with really good intentions and a lot of people, instead of using it as a resource abuse it as a tool.

People use it to get out of working and be lazy. It's just not being used the way it was envisioned and because of that certain aspects of it are incredibly negative".



#### Joshua Carefelle-Boffarito Major: Undecided

"In a lot of wavs it is positive; in a lot of ways it is negative. I have to go with the negative. Have you

ever seen those AI voice modulators?

Where it sounds the same as the voice it imitates so much so it gets into the uncanny valley. I don't know, it just has a lot of dangerous implications".

#### **Abir Saad** Major: Radiology

"I think both. It started to make people really lazy, especially Chat GPT. But it can be very beneficial education wise and some kids are learning from it. I

am really 50/50. An educational quality is seen in AI generated articles where they can retrieve information for people at a whim. While my negative quality is how people are abusing Chat GPT by using it to write their homework for them."



### **FEELING BORED?**

**Check out our Diversions** on page 26 to brighten your day and cure your boredom!





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### $\bigvee F R \subseteq \bigcap \bigvee G$ Find Answers on Page 28!

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Sudoku & Word Puzzle & Diversions by Julien Moon

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Autumn Harvest Leaves Cooler Sweater
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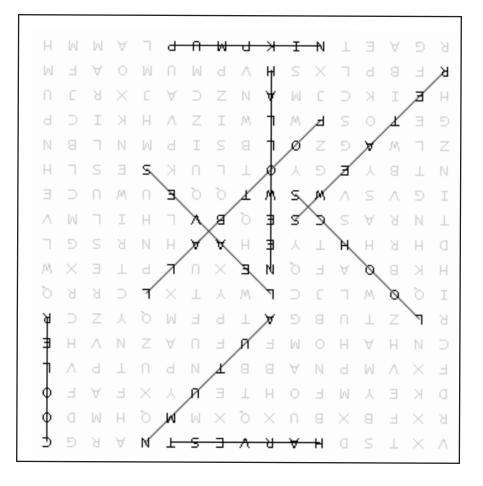
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All SC community members welcome, and will be randomly selected to be featured in every issue of the newspaper. Submission does not guarantee publication. For more info, call 734 462 4422.

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