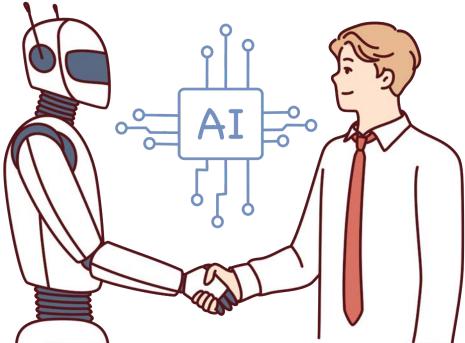
## SCHOOLCRAFT CONNECTI Vol. 36 | Issue 3 | November 27, 2023 | Follow us on our socials!

## **Maybe AI is our friend**

## Phi Theta Kappa Chapter investigates AI applications in education



**KATHRYN WENSKE** EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On the top of many people's minds, discussions have arised as Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming more and more integrated into our daily lives. There has been much concern

regarding its involvement in education, and if we should include it as a tool in instruction and assignments.

If we do decide to continue or begin AI use in classrooms, how do we do so ethically? Schoolcraft's Phi Theta Kappa Omicron Iota Chapter

(PTK) jumped onto the case, dedicating their Honors In Action Project (HIA) researching and analyzing how AI might be incorporated into campus life long-term.

"I've used [AI] myself to get clarification on questions or I'll have AI reword the question when I'm struggling on an assignment. I've seen it work, [but] also seen it not work," said PTK Secretary Kendall Borchant. "I feel like some people don't understand how to use it correctly, and I think it's very important to clarify that so that students aren't getting in trouble or accidents [happen]."

Due to the prevalence of AI as a topic, it became something the PTK team discussed as well when deciding what their project should be based on. They wanted to explore its utilization in specifically education, among other things,

as numerous other colleges have been experimenting with AI involvement in classroom settings. However, the team noticed many gray areas due to the absence of regulation and ethical standards because of how new AI is.

"There are genuine concerns around copyright, privacy, academic integrity and even human rights issues associated with generative AI that need to be addressed," said the Director of Academic Innovation Adam Authier. "Some of this feels outside of our control, but we, as an industry, also have an opportunity to shape the responses to these issues, which is encouraging. Scary, but encouraging."

The PTK team identified some hard questions, including how much AI may be used that

See 'Maybe AI is our friend' Page 5>



### Unlocking vour inner strength

See Campus Life Page 6



### Indigenous CI

See Arts and Entertainment Page 10



Coming in hot

Sports Page 18

## **NEWS**

## Artistic resilience

## Climate activists and Bangladeshi artists unite to spotlight the climate crisis and corporate hypocrisy

#### HOMAYRA ADIBA STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 25, notable Bangladeshi artists collaborated with a group of climate activists endeavored to deliver artwork to General Electric offices in Boston, MA, in a manner marked by civility to protest. However, security prevented the artists and activists from gaining entry.

This group was comprised of representatives from Market Forces, an Australian NGO devoted to diverting finance and investment away from environmentally harmful activities.

The Glasgow Actions Team formed around the United Nations Climate Conference in 2021, whom of which is committed to pushing the world's climate champions to go further, and the AP Images participated as well.

These artist and activist groups have been imploring major investors to closely examine the actions of the fossil fuel giants, especially in light of GE company's rebranding as "GE-Vernova," with promises of providing "sustainable energy" which came after the announcement of GE's power sector separation. Concurrently, GE persists in heavy investments in colossal fossil fuel projects in Vietnam and Bangladesh!

Art serves as the voice of this climate protest, with paintings and original artworks purposefully created to underscore the detrimental impacts of GE's fossil

#### fuel pursuits.

Ata Mojlish, a Bangladeshi artist and climate activist stressed "the consequences of GE's fossil fuel projects go beyond humanity's future. There are immediate impacts on the livelihoods of humans and animals, erasing identities, cultures and histories. With this artwork, we're reminding GE's investors to urgently reconsider their stake in GE's polluting projects."

In the Chattogram region of Bangladesh alone, power projects involving GE's liquefied natural gas would introduce roughly 430 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent into the atmosphere over the plant's operational lifespans. This is nearly double Bangladesh's annual national emissions.

Bangladesh contributes minimally to global fossil fuel emissions, yet it is disproportionately affected as a low-lying country susceptible to rising sea levels and devastating cyclones. Bangladeshi communities are increasingly alarmed and are incensed by GE's proposals for liquefied natural gas power plants, which would bind the country to decades of polluting fossil fuels.

"Bangladesh, a country with its unique cultural tapestry and vibrant heritage, is an embodiment of resilience and strength. Yet, it finds itself precariously positioned on the outskirts of the global power landscape, where decisions are often made far removed from its own voices and aspirations," said



From left, Artist Debashish Chakrabarty, activist Thahitun Miriam, and artist Ata Mojish along with activists followed their lead in front of General Electric's office in Boston, MA.

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Artist Debashish Chakrabarty. "I would like to ask those people, who live in the centers of the global power landscape and have the right to speak, to ask GE about their greenwashing."

Given its standing as one of the world's leading wind turbine manufacturers, ranking fifth globally for additional commissioned wind capacity in 2021, GE has the capacity to transition to wind energy.

The Boston movement was followed by an exhibition titled "Electric Bangladesh: Fossil Free Futures," curated by Zaid Islam, showcasing works of Monica Jahan Bose, Debashish Chakrabarty, Morshed Mishu, Ata Mojlish and AFM Moniruzzaman Shipu at Cambridge Foundry near GE headquarters in Boston.

The resilient curator Islam wrote in his note, "this is a tiny effort to draw the attention of stakeholders to GE Vernova. WE SEE YOU!"

This movement is a speck of hope for future collaborations of conscious citizens including Schoolcraft students in understanding the environmental hazards associated with greedy company's fossil-fuel-profit ventures.

Original source and for more information: https://mailchi.mp/ glasgowactions/boston-bangladeshaction.



## BeWell

## New mental health services free to credit students

KATHRYN WENSKE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Feeling stressed/anxious, struggling with mental health or hardships in relationships or academics?

Schoolcraft now offers free resources for all of the struggles students may face.

Launched Nov. 1, SC BeWell offers students counseling face-to-face or phone call, the Wellness Hub and other remote services that students on and off campus can utilize.

"We're hopeful this service becomes a valuable resource for our students and their mental health," said Schoolcraft Chief Student Services Officer Dr. Laurie Kattuah-Snyder in a Schoolcraft College press release. "We know our students' academic success is dependent on having the resources they need, and we're excited to begin offering these programs."

Supported with a grant from Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and The Ballmer Group, SC BeWell's initiative is to make mental health care more equitable and accessible for those who may not otherwise be able to get the support they need.

"A crisis is a time of intense emotional difficulty, trouble, or danger. We help those experiencing an emotional/mental health crisis by providing immediate and short-term assistance," as stated from the Student Relations section of the College website. "Depending on the individual situation, this can include recommendations to seek immediate assistance in an emergency room or nearby behavioral health facility."

Acting as a jack of all trades, SC BeWell includes a 24/7 Support Hotline at 833 569-1434 available any and all times of the day. The Wellness Hub in particular includes a database of articles, videos and other content associated with mental health. Students may meet with licensed counseling services in person or remotely as telehealth so that this support can be accessible for all.

According to the scbewell. com website, "remote therapy (video or phone) appointments are generally

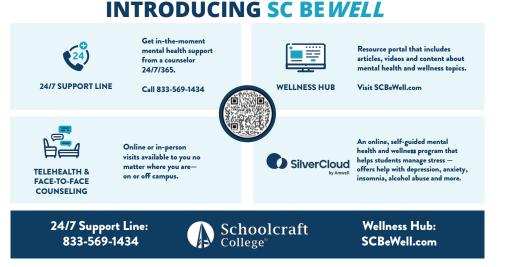
available for the same to the next day services that can be scheduled in the system while on the phone with a clinician from the 24/7 support line. If you prefer to meet with a counselor face-to-face, you will be referred to a therapist in the network who has appointment availability. The appointment will be scheduled based on your availability and preferences: including provider gender or specialties, insurances accepted and cultural or ethnic preferences."

An additional resource associated with this new program, SilverCloud, is a self-guided mental health program specifically designed to help students manage their stress, anxiety, insomnia, depression and substance abuse issues.

"At Schoolcraft, your personal and academic success is important to us. In addition to SC BeWell, the existing mental health resources through the office Student Relations, are available to you. Don't let mental health issues get in the way of achieving your goals," said Snyder from a campus-wide email addressed to students.

With the variety of options that satisfy the variety of students' needs, the SC BeWell program is sure to help students get back on their feet and accomplish their goals and they don't have to get through it on their own.

For information or to access this resource, go to scbewell.com, or contact Student Relations by phone at (734) 462-4486 or email studentrelations@ schoolcraft.edu.



## BUILDING A BULLDOG

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Our special partnership with Schoolcraft College offers a unique combination of Schoolcraft College and Ferris courses in Livonia and/or online, making Ferris accessible for students like you. At Ferris, we're here for you every step of the way. With **Building a Bulldog**, you'll receive one-on-one assistance from a Ferris expert to answer your questions and get you ready for spring semester.

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## "Maybe Al is our friend" Cont'd from page 1

will still maintain integrity in artwork and academics, addressing those gray areas, if AI encourages laziness and cheating in academics, and if it dissolves motivation and creativity. This was their starting point.

"AI is here and it will be better technologically. Just like the internet, people are divided in the intention, usage [and the] pros and cons of AI. From our research so far, we have found that it is here and can be used as a tool for our advancement." said PTK President Homayra Adiba. "However, how an individual decides to use AI is really up to the individual. Institutionally, it is our responsibility to shed some light on the topic to help students and teachers understand some of the diverse ways it could be a day-to-day part of education."

This topic also hits home for some of the PTK members as well, including Adiba, who are active in the artworld. As AI is new, there was a struggle regarding research but PTK did find a lead when exploring how AI has been applied so far; which stemmed from a famous photographer.

PTK hosted a discussion event with German artist Boris Eldagsen on Sept. 29, discussing his activism that started when he rejected his first place Sony World Photography Award. After he received the honor, he clarified that AI created the image and should be used as a tool like his camera, but not to quite literally manufacture an image.

He entered an AI-generated photo into the competition with the intention of the piece to draw attention to the possible manipulation of AI; which calls for the need to reconstruct guidelines in art exhibitions, museums and competitions.

This discussion with Eldagsen offered PTK a direction to how AI, arguably, should be used.

"What Boris is trying to say is that AI is nothing but a tool. For craftsmanship, if you do not have excellence and knowledge of the context, you are unable to create exceptional conceptual pieces with or without AI," said Adiba. "In education, the same could be argued. Authenticity, false news/ information, personal identity, etc. [have been necessary topics intertwined into ours and Eldagsen's discussions of AI.]"

PTK will continue to collaborate with on and off campus resources, including



Authier and Student Relations Associate Dean Nicole Wilson-Fennel, with their project dedicated to navigating how AI can be included in the college's curricula as a tool and designing regulations for AI use.

As a requirement for the honors organization that the Schoolcraft's Chapter runs out of, the team must choose one honors theme for their HIA Project as a guideline. The team chose Theme 4: Architecture and Design of Play.

The PTK team plans to utilize an interactive game, like Kahoot, to execute their action of obtaining the student perspective to provide recommendations for when the administrators of the college are designing regulations for AI usage, as well as the goal of accurately informing the campus overall.

As part of their research and getting the student perspective, the Omicron Iota Chapter hosted a panel discussion on Nov. 10 regarding AI in education and beyond, including surveys before and after the event to gain the thoughts students came with, and left with to gain the student perspective.

The PTK Chapter is still finalizing their project, but one thing for sure is that with the right direction/intention, AI can be a great tool for students, faculty and staff that does not have to erode creativity and integrity.

## CAMPUS LIFE



## Unlocking your inner strength

## Addressing mental health struggles and how to cope with them

#### CAITLIN CHERRY STAFF WRITER

Everyone endures stress throughout their life, especially in this busy modern world we live in today. Assignments that need to get done, tight deadlines for work that must be managed, expenses to be met, or family or mental issues weighing one down while the world moves on and on. Everyone has their own stressors, but not everyone knows how to live with them.

Luckily, Schoolcraft has its own support system, helping students cope with stressors. Considering the growing trend of people struggling around the country, it is unfortunately not surprising to hear that many students aren't doing so well. According to Dean of Students Marty Heator, noting from Active Minds and a medical journal, 39% of students in college experience a serious mental health issue, and more than 60% of them "met criteria for more than one mental health problem" during the 2020-2021 semesters.

It is also worth mentioning that the number of college students with symptoms of mental health issues has nearly doubled in the last decade. "We have not experienced a large increase in the number of students reporting mental health concerns,[but] experienced an increase in the severity of the mental health issues among our students," said Heator.

Of these issues, the most common ones for students are depression, anxiety and loneliness. Many students, he added, "describe feeling lonely and experiencing a lack of connection with others," which is something many students likely can relate to.

So, knowing this information, what are students doing?

Oftentimes, students will turn to harmful things like self-isolation, overeating/ eating unhealthy foods, drug or alcohol overuse or distracting themselves with work and school. Matters can become worse when students don't, or are unable to seek professional help for their problems due to various reasons, such as not having insurance or they have insurance but are ashamed if their parents know they are getting support.

So, with these struggles in mind, what can students do to cope?

Some of the simplest healthy ways of coping include exercising (walking, hiking, yoga, tai chi or a sport), sleeping enough and eating nutritious foods. Taking short breaks from working, studying or using a computer to stretch, walk around, take some deep breaths or even meditate can make a difference in how you feel. Actions like these can create a good baseline for your mental state and motivation to improve, and practicing these in the long-term can produce healthy coping habits for yourself to use in the future.

For more problem-based coping skills, taking actions like establishing healthy boundaries, managing time, making to-do lists and asking for support when you need it can also be beneficial to changing stressful situations.

Step one, however, starts with you.

Recognizing if you are struggling and being aware of what stresses you out, as well as balancing activities in your life so one doesn't overtake the other (school, work and personal life balance) to work towards a better mental, and physical health. Connecting with people around you and doing things to make those connections stronger. Doing a conscious act of kindness. Using methods of problem solving. Reaching out for help from a mental health professional. Taking action to be real with yourself and not denying your problems.

It is possible to get better, and it does not have to happen alone.

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## WHO WE ARE

Argentine entrepreneurs, artists, and culture lovers invite you to savor genuine street food. Bite into our empanadas for an instant journey to Buenos Aires' vibrant streets, immersing in the flavor, passion, and culture that define our homeland.

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Whether it's an elegant soirée or a lively celebration, our setup adapts to your event's theme! From vendor style food stations to full service catering, servers and buffet, our goal is to deliver an unforgettable experience for you and your guests.

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## WHAT WE DO

Empacho brings empanada's excellence to you! Discover our fullservice Catering, perfect for any special event or corporate gathering, ensuring the iconic flavors of our renowned empanadas that you won't want to miss.

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## **CAMPUS & CLUB EVENTS**

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



### "Knowing Burt Lake Band" in celebration of National Native American Heritage Month

### Nov. 28 6 p.m. Zoom: Meeting ID: 842 5993 4257

Hosted by Phi Theta Kappa and the Native American Student Organization listen to guest speakers: Kathy Kat (Director of the Burt Lake Band Traditional Foods Project), Deborah Richmond (Historian of Burt Lake Band) and Eva Roos (Landscape Designer of Izhi-Minoging Mashkikiwan/Place where Medicines Grow Well).

### Transfer Bridges Fall 2024 Application Workshop

Nov. 30 12 -2:45 p.m. McDowell Student Center Room MC100 A/D The University of Michigan LSA Transfer Bridge presents The Path to Your Success:

Tailored support and advising featuring Pre-Transfer Academic Advising, Transfer Mentorship, Connections with U-M Faculty and Departments and Learning and Social Experiences.

### Visit to the Cranbrook Institute of Science

Dec. 2 6-8 p.m. Cranbrook Institute of Science

## 39221 Woodward Ave,

**Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304** The Earth and Geoscience Club will be visiting the mineral, fossil and rock exhibits at the Cranbrook Institute of Science. Join us as we get an eyeful of more than 11,000 mineral and rock specimens from Michigan and around the world! If you are interested in joining us, please register no later than a week before the event. There will be an informational meeting on Monday, November 27 at 6 p.m. in Forum Building, Room F360. Registration is required to attend. Space is limited.

## Otaku U All Ages Anime Convention

### 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Vistatech Center

Ticket prices: Registration wristband at the door \$10. Pre-sales online are \$7 and \$5 for anyone 10 and under. Presales end 11:59 p.m. on December 1, 2023.

Tickets can be purchased at https:// tinyurl.com/otakuutickets Get ready for year 2 of OtakuU! Attractions include: Vendor Hall and Vendor filled with talented local vendors and artists, Anime AMV Viewing inside our Vendor Hall, Cosplay Contest/Cosplay hangouts/ photo ops, Video Gaming Play Lounge and Gaming Tournaments, Name that Anime Team Trivia Game, Evening Karaoke, Panels and more! For complete list of information go to www.otakuu.org.

### **Oppe(pie)mer Movie Night** Dec. 4 7 to 10:30 p.m.

Vistatech Center, Lower Level Join the Math and Physics Club for a movie night featuring Oppenheimer. Activities and Prizes will be awarded as well as pie for everyone!

### Empty Bowl Dec. 5 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Vistatech Center, Wilson Room

Help us erase hunger, join us for the Empty Bowl Luncheon. Proceeds to benefit the Schoolcraft Food Pantry. Purchase a hand crafted bowl created and donated by Schoolcraft ceramic students. Enjoy a bowl of hearty soup and fresh baked bread donated by Schoolcraft Culinary Operations.

### Bingo Night Dec. 6

6 to 9 p.m.

Vistatech Center, Lower Level

Join the Schoolcraft Spirit Squad and test your luck and skills while enjoying togetherness and attractive prizes. Register now and invite your friends. Admission to play is \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, which gets you 4 games and 2 slices of pizza. Pre-register to play by calling the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422.

### Upcycled Fashion Show and Clock Exhibit Dec. 7

1 to 4 p.m.

### Forum Building 400 Hallways

This show is presented by the Schoolcraft College Art Club and will feature an upcycled fashion show and clock exhibit.

### Wind Ensemble Winter Concert

Dec. 9

3 p.m.

### Vistatech Center, DiPonio Room

Join the Wind Ensemble for their annual winter concert featuring tunes for the holiday season. The event is free and open to the public.

### Schoolcraft Synthesizer Ensemble Winter Concert

Dec. 12

4 p.m.

**Forum Building, Auditorium** Join the Synthesizer Ensemble for their annual winter concert. The event is free and open to the public.

### Jazz Ensemble Winter Wonders Concert Dec. 18

7 p.m.

### Vistatech Center, DiPonio Join the Jazz Ensemble for their

annual winter concert. The event is free and open to the public.

### Schoolcraft Collegiate Chorale Winter Concert Dec. 19

7 p.m.

#### **Forum Building, Auditorium** Join the Schoolcraft Collegiate Chorale for their annual winter concert. The event is free and open to the public.

## Grow intellectually, think critically

## Scholars Honors Program's offers guaranteed scholarship up to \$2,400

#### KENDALL BORCHARDT STAFF WRITER

Students looking to challenge themselves academically while giving back to the community have a distinct opportunity on campus they can take advantage of.

The Schoolcraft Scholars Honors Program is currently accepting applications for the Winter 2024 semester until Dec. 28, offering students who get accepted up to a \$2,400 scholarship.

To be considered for this program, students must have a minimum GPA of 3.3, submit one letter of recommendation and complete the application on ScholarshipUniverse. There are one and two-year options to complete the program, which is chosen on an individual basis.

Once admitted, the program requires 50 service hours and 15 hours of enrichment to be completed throughout the program; as well as a total of six courses over either a one or twoyear period.

An additional positive, students in both the Honors program and Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society are now able to use service hours towards both programs.

#### Why become a scholar?

Students interested in furthering their education by joining the Honors program have the opportunity to gain volunteer experience within their community, and engage in enrichment activities related to their own interests. Students also have the opportunity to transfer into an honors program at a fouryear institution after Schoolcraft.

Not only does the program provide enriching educational opportunities, but also creates a network of other scholars who all have similar interests. The program offers several benefits both academically and socially, and can be completed in a variety of ways and majors.

To help those students who might be interested, several students and staff have shared their experiences with the program and encourage others to apply.

Current member of the Scholars Honors program and Engineering student Jonah Efrusy, explained the benefits of the program from the student perspective.

"The Scholars Honors Program is a great opportunity and a great way to get into the community and serve. Everyone who has a good standing GPA should apply for it," said Efrusy. Recounting his enjoyable experience throughout the program, he encourages other students to utilize this opportunity.

Being in the program for these past three semesters, Efrusy plans to transfer to a four-year university and believes the program will have positive effects on his transfer process.

Pre-Nursing student Amanda Lees, who has been in the program for two semesters highlights the benefits she has experienced as being an honors student.

"It is getting me to focus more

in the class," said Lee as she explained the benefits of the program go beyond the classroom and help her get involved with the community.

"My favorite part has been volunteering and enrichment," said Lees, adding that without these events she may not have been as active outside of her coursework. The Honors program has helped Lees in and out of the classroom by giving her a wider network of like-minded people to socialize and interact with.

However, due to the required credits needed to participate

in this program, Lees urges other students to "communicate with professors and try to get a sense of the class early on so you can plan ahead." Lees uses emailing as a tool to stay on top of her schoolwork and better understand the topics she is studying.

Program Coordinator Professor Errin Stegich-Moloney elaborates on the different aspects of the volunteer portion of the program. She explains that it is community based and while there are optional events every month for students to fulfill service hour requirements, they are also encouraged to find other organizations to volunteer with.

Stegich-Moloney highlights the two classes students are required to take once admitted to the program; Humanities 190 and a Capstone Project (Soc 290). Students then choose four other courses within their major to designate as honors courses and



complete a project specific to the materials taught in the course. The program also has a strong focus on helping students advance in areas they find enjoyable while tying their work to the community.

734-462-7671

"[The extracurriculars chosen to satisfy the Honors programs requirements should be] something students find intellectually stimulating, whether that be walking around the Detroit Institute of Art, or going to the STEAMZ conference in spring," said Stegich-Moloney.

Don't delay in applying as applications for Winter 2024 are only open until Dec. 28. To participate in the Honors Scholars program, students are encouraged to fill out the application and reach out to the program coordinator Errin Stegich-Moloney by emailing honors@schoolcraft.edu to schedule an appointment to meet with her and discuss options.

## **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**



## **Indigenous CI**

### Going undercover to save her people

#### WRITTEN BY JESS MICHEAL **STAFF WRITER**

Michigan author Angeline Boulley gives a peek into her own indigenous roots, located in Sault Ste. Marie (Soo-Saint-Mah-Ree), Michigan in her book "Firekeeper's Daughter."

She is an enrolled tribe member of the Chippewa Natives. Boulley writes in her author notes she wrote this for the Indigenous girls/women growing up in a world without many books that represent them without the attached Indigenous stereotypes. This story gives us a little perspective of what it is like to be a Native Woman and to appreciate some of their enriching culture. It includes their beautiful language, ceremonies and traditions.

Regarding the book itself, Daunis Fountaine is a recent high school graduate who thought she would be going to the University of Michigan to become a doctor. Those plans changed when her grandmother, referred to as GrandMary, had a stroke at her graduation party. With plans of staying in Sault Ste. Marie to help take care of GrandMary, she decides to attend the local college Lake State. She plans to attend with her best friend Lily, as they buy books together and pick the same classes; though Lily is struggling with an on and off boyfriend, Travis. She plans to move on with her life in the hopes he will get help. Fontaine soon meets Jamie Johnson, a new high school student who will be playing on the high school hockey team

with Fontaine's younger brother Levi.

Levi asks Fontaine to be

Johnson's ambassador. showing him around town, requiring her to be around Jamie more. The problem with that is Fontaine used to be a Hockey player and has a strict rule of not blending the hockey world with the regular world. As she spends more time with Johnson, she becomes more interested in her world and she begins to have feelings

for Jamie. And so begins the

KEEPER'S

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blending of the two worlds. Fontaine and Johnson attend

a powwow together so that he can learn more about tribal culture. Afterwards, they attend a gathering called "Minor Forty Niners." which is the afterparty specifically for teens that happens after a powwow. Walking away from the party for a moment, Fontaine watches her world as it is ripped to shreds. She witnesses her best friend Lily, murdered by Lily's drug-addicted boyfriend.

Unable to move as she watches

Lily fall to the ground and Travis take his own life right before her eyes, Johnson casually walks to the bodies to check their pulses, not noticing her until she makes a noise. She is startled by how calm he remains.

Fontaine begins to piece together that he is at least a police officer. When she confronts Johnson, he admits he is an FBI agent investigating a new drug that has been circulating in nearby tribes, Jamie's Uncle Ron, who is the new science teacher replacing her Uncle David who was believed to have died from an overdose. She learns

S

**Firekeepers's Daughter by Angeline Boulley** Genre: Young Adult / New Adult Available in: Hardcover. Kindle, Audible Published: March 16, 2021 Rating: 5/5

her Uncle David was actually murdered because he was a CI for the FBI. Using the science skills that her Uncle taught her along with navigating her life as Native women. she works with Johnson and Ron to save her people from this powerful poison.

This beautifully written book is filled with twists, turns and secrets you never saw coming. Boulley does a wonderful job enticing you with just enough breadcrumbs that you may not notice till the very end: being delightfully surprised is something that can be hard to come by, which the "Firekeeper's Daughter " does just that. The way Boulley grazes sensitive topics with grace leaves one less traumatized but able to sympathize with her characters.

The sensitive topics do serve a purpose to the storyline. Boulley has stated that the novel "Firekeeper's Daughter" is based on her imaginative thoughts on a new guy at her friend's school when she was vounder.

"When I was in high school,

See 'Indigenous Cl' Page 11>

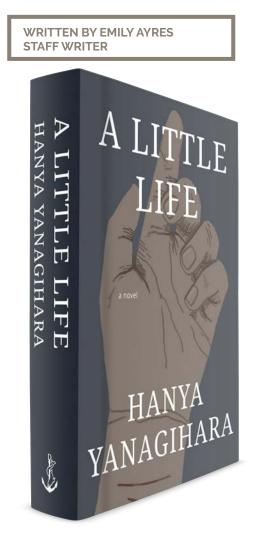
## **"Indigenous CI"** Cont'd from page 10

a friend mentioned a new guy at her school who was just my type. Although I never met him, it was later revealed he was actually an undercover narcotics officer," (Boulley authors note).

Boulley tells further that she grew up loving Nancy Drew: combining both ideas of mystery and a new guy in town she began the work of "Firekeeper's Daughter." This book touches on several sensitive subjects that should be considered before reading. This includes murder, suicide, racism, drug abuse and sexual assault. The point of reading is to enjoy, learn and possibly grow. Eyes are opened to racism and violence Indigenous women face even to this day but that isn't the main focus of the story. Daunis is smart and deals with a lot as an 18 year old kid: she faces so much and she prevails. This is definitely a character that an Indigenous person can look up to, which was Boulley's entire goal. This book is a must read for November, Indigenous Peoples month and is no doubt a 5 star read.



## The utter rawness of friendship



Hanya Yanagihara writes in an unmeasurably beautiful way. Unfortunately, she uses that to create misery.

The novel, "A Little Life," is centered around four friends who move to New York to achieve their large-scale dreams. Jean-Baptiste Marion or JB, a plus-sized black man, well known artist for his unusual mediums. Malcom Irvine, half black and half white, is an architect in charge of redoing the majority of his friends' interior designs but otherwise very successful. Willem Ragnar sson, an immigrant who is noticed on the streets for his acting: and finally, Jude St. Francis who is a top shelf lawyer.

The story predominantly follows around that of Francis. We. the readers. and his friends alike know little to nothing about him. We do not know his race, his place of birth, his childhood or even his family. However, it is sensed very early on that Jude is troubled as his past is not one that he likes to share or even think about. Often, he is confined to a wheelchair or crutches for injuries he never speaks about. Inside Francis's mind. he believes he cannot be loved. He is either too ugly, too broken or too used.

His trust has been permanently shattered.

Ragnarsson is the closest person to Francis. They lived together for years, and even when they moved apart, they still had a room for one another. Ragnarsson attempts to learn more about Francis but is calculatedly shut down every time. It takes time, years, for the cement bricks to wither down on Francis's mind, and when they do, it's devastating.

Through love and friendship,

A Little Life By Hanya Yanagihara Genre: LGBT/Adult Fiction, 814 Pages Published: March 10, 2015 Rating: 4/5

this story is nothing short of a masterpiece. Yanagihara perfectly articulates the way people struggle both physically and mentally. It is through her writing that Francis and Ragnarsson become not just people on paper, but real life humans struggling day to day.

To be transparent, the book is long and brutal. Some details are not for the faint of heart. Some descriptions and themes are not meant for everyone. But, there is a beauty within it. It reaches into the core of being human and what it means to live- or survive.

Drugs, addiction, found family, depression, suicide, death, success, failure, pride and love.

It reminds us of the extreme contractual obligation of living a little life.

The novel has been recreated into a theater preformance starring James Norton, Luke Thompson, Omari Douglas, Zach Wyatt and many more. Sadly, the full performance is not yet available in America. However if you are a visual person, perhaps take a peek at the trailer and get a feel for what this beautiful work has to offer.



## Welcome to Disney's Dreamlight Valley A video game where your Disney dreams come true

#### ELIZABETH LUX STAFF WRITER

Disney Dreamlight Valley is a breathtaking and delightfully imaginative video game that was released on Sep. 6, 2022 for the platforms Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch and PC. This video game warmly welcomes players to immerse themselves in the magical world of Disney by designing and playing in their very own enchanting world called Dreamlight Valley.

Inside their valley, players will battle "the forgetting" while helping some of their favorite Disney and Pixar characters with quests. Players are also able to

decorate their valley, craft items and furniture, cook up some delicious meals and participate in fun activities such as gardening, mining, digging, fishing and so much more. Disney Dreamlight Valley includes many customizable options for character creation including body and skin tone, facial features and makeup, hair style and color, clothing, jewelry and more as well as world and house customization. Players can create new items from a workbench or purchase additional Disney themed clothing and furniture from Scrooge McDucks shop with free in-game gold, or use real currency to purchase moonstones through their

platform's online store.

**Disney Dreamlight Valley** features beautifully detailed and clear graphics and a smooth gameplay style with easy to use controls. It also includes seasonal events and content releases, including a "Star Path" that grants players exclusive rewards that are themed to match its seasonal content. Disney Dreamlight Valley also provides content updates throughout the year for free that add new Disney characters, items and worlds, among other things to help players continue expanding their Dreamlight Valley.

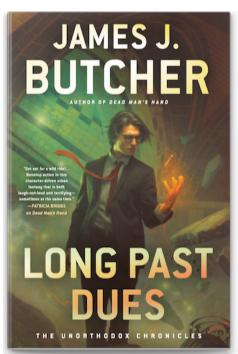
This game does feature some drawbacks as gameplay becomes limited after you have completed all available quest lines and worlds, and some tasks are performed slowly such as gardening and mining which can be timely and slightly boring. It is also unfortunately not error free as some updates can have issues, although they do get fixed in a timely manner.

Despite the minor flaws, Disney fans will absolutely love immersing themselves in this game with its endless creative and excitingly fun possibilities.

Prepare yourself for long hours of play because this game is hands down Disney's best console made game to date for creative and adventurous fun.

## A fantasy for everyone

## An opportunity for readers to escape reality



The second book of "Unorthodox Chronicles" by James Butcher, titled "Long Past Dues" is, blatantly put, one of the best urban fantasy books of this year.

#### LOGAN DUCHARME STAFF WRITER

No matter what one likes, they can find it weaved within these pages. Be it action that leaves one on the edge of their seats or wit that will make you laugh out loud, this book may satisfy all readers' niches. This book also includes masterfully done moments of introspection, as the characters struggle with loss, love, duty and courage.

The story follows Griswold Grimsby, who had become an auditor in the events of the previous book.

However, things are not smooth sailing.

He is regulated to mundane busy work and has to constantly prove himself to his superiors. (Un)luckily for him, trouble seems to find him. However, he will also find ample opportunities to prove himself as he navigates dangerous curses, treacherous politics and rogue werewolves as he investigates an unknown ritual of nefarious intent.

Overall, fans of the previous book and of urban fantasy in general will find plenty to enjoy in this book as James Butcher continues to refine his writing style and continues to play to his strengths. The characters are so real they feel like they could walk off the page and the author created a world so deep one can get lost in it.

The only real downsides are that it relies on one to have read the previous book to understand key context and several of the twists can be seen coming from a mile away.

All in all, anybody who enjoys the fantasy genre, deep characters and rich humor should give "Long Past Dues" a try.



## FEELING BORED?

Check out our Diversions on page 26 to brighten your day!







Check out the Schoolcraft Connection Photo Story of the Flavors of the World at schoolcraftconnection.com

## The songs of plants

## Kimmerer's gift of indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge to understand nature

HOMAYRA ADIBA STAFF WRITER

"Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer is a poetic essence dressed up as a book, offering a heartfelt exploration of our relationship with nature through indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge. Kimmerer, an extraordinary botanist and descendant of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, bridges the gap between indigenous knowledge and Western science through this masterpiece of a book. She invites us to remember our intrinsic connection to the land, encouraging curiosity.

In the chapter "Asters and Goldenrod," we are introduced to the catalyst behind the author's pursuit of botany-a curiosity ignited by the complementary dance of asters and goldenrods in nature. Why is the melding of yellow and purple so aesthetically pleasing? Curiosities like these propelled Kimmerer toward botany which was not scientific enough in her advisor's opinion! The quest, however, is inherently scientific which unravels with an explanation of how the retinas and rods of our eyes respond to such color combinations in a way that makes it visually aesthetic. Like us, bees are drawn to the duet of purple and yellow as well. Asters and Goldenrod grow

together in nature to attract their pollinators! The beauty of flowers is not necessarily to please humans. In contrast to modern science, indigenous wisdom does not center on human supremacy but instead recognizes our vulnerability and interdependence. Nature, as a teacher, imparts lessons that transcend textbook learning. This narrative is interwoven with Kimmerer's journey of rekindling curiosity, learning and unlearning Western scientific norms, and rediscovering indigenous knowledge. "Learning from nature," rather than learning about nature, vields a deeper comprehension of our existence.

Kimmerer conveys complex ecological concepts in an accessible and empathic way. She invites readers into the world of plants, animals and ecosystems with enthusiasm, vividly illustrating the intricate relationships that sustain life on our planet. Structured around a series of essays, each chapter focused on a particular aspect of the natural world and our lessons from them: guiding us through a diverse array of ecological phenomena. She challenges conventional narratives that view the Earth as a resource to be exploited, advocating for a worldview that recognizes nature as a

living, sentient entity deserving of respect and care. In the indigenous way of living, the act of harvesting sweetgrass is approached as a gift from nature rather than a crop for consumption. This practice embodies a dialogue between humans and nature; a recognition of mutual presence and a gesture of kindness. It teaches us the graceful art of taking only what is needed, never taking the first discovered batch because it

discovered batch because it could be the last one, echoing the wisdom of indigenous basket weavers who sustainably utilize sweetgrass for their craft. Kimmerer emphasizes that if we interact with plants respectfully, they will thrive alongside us. If we neglect them, they will disappear. This underscores the reciprocal nature of our relationship with the natural world, reminding us that we are stewards, not just consumers.

"Braiding Sweetgrass" prompts readers to reevaluate their own connections to their environment, calling for a reciprocal and sustainable way of living similar to the ancestors 'A hymn of love to the world'



## BRAIDING SWEETGRASS



Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants

### ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

of the land who cared for this space. It is an essential read for Michiganders to understand the land we live in and the beings that surround us. It offers any reader a deeper understanding of our responsibility in the natural world and a guide to nurturing a harmonious relationship with Mother Earth. Kimmerer's words of indigenous wisdom with scientific knowledge are profound enough to resonate with readers long after the last



## Jingle bell rock your way up to Frankenmuth

## Spectacular winter and holiday themed events perfect for the whole family

#### ELIZABETH LUX STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again featuring cold days that may or may not include snow, holiday music and a gingerbread flavored coffee. For those of us that love this holiday season, we are ready for all things holiday!

Just an hour and a half drive from campus, Michigan has its own Christmas Winter Wonderland located in Frankenmuth, Michigan. Frankenmuth annually hosts numerous events that entertain friends and family and features uniquely themed shops for delicious foods, treasured trinkets and more all year round. This winter, Frankenmuth will be having several events that are perfect for the whole family to celebrate the holiday season.

### Santa visits Bronner's Christmas Wonderland

Kick off your Christmas season with a trip to Frankenmuth for Santa visits at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland beginning Nov. 24 and running through Dec. 24, 2023. This is a perfect opportunity to bring the kids for a meeting and photo with Santa, and experience the world's largest Christmas store while making some magical memories that will last a lifetime. Be sure to check the Bronner's website for an up to date list of times for the visit, however special hours have been specifically noted for Nov. 24 and Christmas Eve, as well as noting they are closed on Christmas Day. It is recommended to plan accordingly for wait times to enter the store. Parking is available for free onsite with handicap accessible parking and no fees apply to enter or visit with Santa.

#### Holiday Breakfast Tea

A second delightful and unique holiday themed event, Holiday Breakfast Tea, will be hosted by Zehnder's Restaurant in Frankenmuth on Dec. 9 from 8:00 am until 10:00 am. The menu will include a variety of delicious teas, as well as delectable holiday themed breakfast items including desserts, salads and more. Each participant will also receive their own beautiful holiday-themed teacup and saucer!

Reservations are required, and the cost will be \$68 per person, including the tax and tip. Parking is free and available onsite along with handicap accessible parking, and this location is easily accessible from other areas in the downtown area.

**New Year's Eve Celebration** To celebrate the last day of 2023, the New Year's Eve Celebration at Zehnder's Splash Village is a fantastic event to



A front view of Bronner's Christmas Wonderland in Frankenmuth, MI. Photo by Izabella Allie.

inspire a winter getaway to Frankenmuth. This spectacular event will be held at the Zehnder's Splash Village Hotel and Waterpark from New Year's Eve until Jan. 2, 2024.

It will feature luxurious accommodations, such as a toast at midnight complete with party favors and fireworks, dinner buffet and dessert extravaganza, plenty of fun and exciting entertainment, a special in-room gift and more. This event is free to those with a required two night stay minimum at the hotel, with free parking available onsite as well as handicap accessible parking.

#### Zehnder's Snowfest

Lastly, Zehnder's Snowfest is happening from Jan. 24 to Jan. 28, 2024. This sensational event features incredible snow and ice sculptures located throughout the entire town, giving visitors a jaw-dropping adventure to see them all.

This event is free, and does not have specific parking because the sculptures are spread around town, allowing visitors a chance to see everything whether they are walking or driving.

Frankenmuth is the perfect location to celebrate the winter and holiday season, offering many unique and diverse events to choose from. As you travel through this winter-wonderland, you will be immersed into its incredible sights, fascinating history and the magical adventures that await you.

Are you ready to start planning your trip?

## **SPORTS**

## **Cheers to another season**

## Fall sports teams have reasons to celebrate

## ISABELLE RICHMOND

With the calendar now turning from fall to winter, it's time to look back at the athletic performances of the fall season.

### Men's Soccer

The Men's soccer team ended their overall season with a 17-4 record overall and 9-1 in conference play. Before going to Nationals, the only two teams they lost to were Northeast Community College and Grand Rapids Community College. While on their own turf they went 8-1 and 6-1 away. The team clinched the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) conference, becoming the #1 seed going into regionals and ranked #6 in the country.

The men won both NJCAA Region XII Division II games played on Oct. 28 and 29 in Marysville, MI. The team beat Cuyahoga Community College in the semifinal, 3-2 and their championship game 3-1, against Grand Rapids Community College.

The win moved the Ocelots to the NJCAA Northeast District Championship game held at Schoolcraft College on Nov. 4.



On Nov. 4 the Men's soccer team captured the NJCAA Northeast District Championship. Photo courtesy of Schoolcraft College.

Last year the Ocelots fell in 2OT during the District Championship to Massasoit Community College ending their bid for a berth in the National tournament. Using the experience they gained, the team was focused on defeating their upcoming opponent and punching their ticket to Nationals.

The men faced a tough Mercer County Community College with the season on the line and beat Mercer, 2-0. The District win secured the Ocelots ticket to Nationals being held in Tucson, Arizona for the NJCAA DII Championship the week of Nov. 12. On Nov. 13 the Ocelots played Heartland Community College and lost, 4-3. The next day on Nov. 14 the team lost, 4-1 against CCBC Essex.

The Ocelots were backed all season by two dynamic goalkeepers, sophomore Brenden Ware and freshman Vedad Vila. Ware started 12 of 14 games for the Ocelots and had a goals against average of 1.45 (fifth in the MCCAA). He had logged 1024:24 minutes of playing time and made 71 saves (second in the MCCAA) on the season. Vila started 6 of 7 games, logged 510 minutes and had a goals-against average of 1.94. Both players had exceptional performances this season.

Forward Dante Davidson led the team with 31 goals (first in the MCCAA conference), followed by forward Tommy Mittelstadt with 16 (fourth in the MCCAA conference), midfielder Gavin Brose with 15 (fifth in the MCCAA conference), and forward Gavin Lamere with 12.

### **Women's Soccer**

The women's soccer team went 18-7 overall this season and 13-2 in conference play. While at home they held a 10-2 record and 7-2 away. The women, just like the men's team found success going into the postseason, placed second in the MCCAA, #1 seed in the region and were ranked #8 in the country.

The women played in the NJCAA Region XII Division II regional semifinal on Oct. 28 and won against Muskegon Community College in overtime, 1-0. The team then advanced to the following day for the championship game against Kellogg Community College and fell short 1-0 in overtime.

Despite what appeared to be a season ending loss at regionals,

see 'Cheers to another season' page 17>



The Women's Soccer team found out the Ocelots received a wild card entry on Nov. 7 into the NJCAA Division II national tournament in Tucson, Arizona. Photo courtesy of Schoolcraft College.

## 'Cheers to another season' cont'd from page 16>

the Ocelots received a wild card entry on Nov. 7 into the NJCAA Division II national tournament in Tucson, Arizona. On Nov.12 the women lost to Northeast Community College, 2-1. The following day Nov. 13 the team was defeated, 3-1 by Jones



Volleyball girls huddle prior to the start of their match. Photo by Nolan Gerou.

College.

Forward Ashley Hughes and forward Paige Stephens each scored 14 goals this season. Following shortly behind was forward Kyra Brandon with 11 goals. Leading the team with assists was Hughes with 13, defender Samantha Guciardo with 11 and tied at 10 was midfielder Daniel Alvarez and Stephens.

Jami Martindale backed the team in net and started all 25 games for the Ocelots. She logged 2025:40 minutes of playing time, had a 1.56 goals against average and saved 91 goals she faced.

**Women's Volleyball** The women's volleyball team went 3-17 this season and 3-9 in conference play. While at home the girls went 1-7 and on opposing courts 2-5. Despite what the record indicates, these Ocelots made strides as a team this season.

The Ocelots beat Oakland Community College, Henry Ford College and Oakland Community College. Amazing performances were shown by Diana Hassan, Kandace Stackpoole, Evelyn Rummel, Lily Timoszyk, Maya Pecovic, Brooke Crawford, Lillian DeJong and Delila Miller.

#### **Cross Country**

After being in hiatus the Athletics Department brought back the cross country team for the 2023 season. Although a small roster in its return, that didn't stop the Ocelots from shining.

This year's team had two runners, Noah Walters and Ryan Morris. Both runners competed in four invitationals in the NJCAA and MCCAA.

This year at the team's Regional meet on Oct. 27, Walters took 11th place in the 8000 meter (4.97 miles) with a time of 26:55.7. Morris placed 29th with a time of 28:31.2 during the Regional meet. Morris described his overall experience throughout the season and described his feelings about nationals. Morris said, "A highlight is obviously, qualifying for nationals. There were ups and downs but overall it was a great experience and I'm looking forward to next year.

Walters and Morris both finished with excellent times, as mentioned above and advanced to Nationals in Huntsville,



Left to right: Noah Walters, Coach Tobin Jones, Ryan Morris posed for a photo, courtesy of Schoolcraft College, after Reigonals.

Alabama for the NJCAA DII National Cross Country Championship held on Nov. 11. During their time at Nationals, Walters placed 49th overall and had a time of 26:45. Morris took 137th overall and his best time was 28:31. These times came from the 8K race which has a length of 4.97 miles.

For more information on rosters, stats and schedules go to www.schoolcraftocelots.com.



## **Coming in hot**

## Basketball Winter sports teams are ready to get back in the game

#### KATHRYN WENSKE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After a productive offseason, the Men's and Women's Basketball teams are jumping into their 2023-2024 season.

Both teams will officially start play Nov. 11 on the road against Kalamazoo Community College.

**Retooled and reloaded** Last season the Women's team had an impressive record of 20-4, the best performance the program has seen since 2015-2016., The Ocelots also made a run in the playoffs winning their NJCAA Great Lakes District A Semi-Final 63-48 win against Oakland Community College but fell just short in the District Finals, 69-66, against Lakeland Community College ending their season and dreams for a national tournament bid.

Key losses to graduation were Eve Parish (1st Team All-Conference, All-Region and All-MCCAA), Hunter Conway (2nd Team All-Conference), Ruby Garner (3rd Team All-Conference and All-Defensive Team), Makaiya Thomas (HM All-Conference) and Samantha Smith (All-Defensive Team).

Coach Shay Lewis has retooled and reloaded her roster and will rely on returning players' experience as well as growing incoming players to continue the momentum from last season. Returning players are Aliyah Thilavanh, Kyra Lawrence, Aniyah Gamble, Halle Rogers, Demi Rodriguez, Sydney McCaig and Taylor Williams. Incoming players to the squad include Siena Mcnitt, Garyana Overton, Taylor Sullivan, Nevaeh Cable, Sharon Smith, Erin Young and Tailaya Garrison.

#### **Rebuilding the foundation**

The Men's team is rebuilding, after a subpar season in 22-23 with a record of 2-22. The Ocelots have only two returning players on the squad Ashton Henderson and Keon Henderson. New additions for this season include sophomores Ben Canty and Daniel Lee, and freshmen Amare Stevens, Machki Jackson, Te'John McGowan, Makell Johnson-Dobbs, Desmond Slaughter, Semaj Sanders, Noah Rainge, Mackenzie Canty, , Marshall Thorn and Kechan Johnson.

The team played two games earlier this month when they traveled to Vincennes, IN and played against Vincennes University (Nov. 3) and Shawnee CC (Nov. 4). The Ocelots recorded two losses on the trip falling short in both games 86-45 and 63-62.

Finding team chemistry early in the season will be key for Head Coach EJ Haralson and the Ocelots with the bulk of the team being new to the program.

With both teams adding many newcomers to its rosters, Women's Head Coach Shay Lewis and Men's Head Coach EJ Haralson hopefully have enough new talent to take these two teams to national championships in 2024.

For up to date game recaps, rosters and schedules go to www.schoolcraftocelots.com

**GRAPHICS BY ISABELA GRANDE** 



## Should college athletes be paid?

## Tackling the controversial debate of compensation for collegiate athletes

#### ISABELLE RICHMOND INTERN

Campuses across the country are buzzing with energy right now as student athletes take the fields and stadiums to play for their colleges. In recent years, the heated debate of whether colleges should compensate college athletes has been brought to the forefront of discussions.

Although they get to play their sport, which we've seen in previous discussions, players also often describe treating their sport as a job as they dedicate their whole college experience around practices, games and tournaments. This sparks the argument of whether or not college athletes should get paid.

There are many opinions on whether or not to pay athletes. It is a common worry that it could ruin the authenticity of college athletics. This is evident because it's clearly shown that these athletes are pouring their hearts into the game. While there are both advantages and disadvantages of this debate, it's an even split between yes-and-no based on many journalists' opinions.

There have been actions made regarding this topic, including in June of 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that college athletics could enter Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) deals; which could include endorsing products or selling players autographs.

An article from Grand Canyon University (GCU) stated unlike professional athletes, college athletes do not receive salaries for their efforts and one of the goals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) was to preserve the spirit of amateurism in collegiate sports. Downfalls might be that payments could detract from the primary purpose of college, your education. Players could easily forget about their academic obligations. Athletes already receive scholarships which is essentially a form of compensation, and less wealthy schools are at risk of losing out on good recruitments. Additionally, not all amateur athletes go pro, they should take advantage of their studies. Paying athletes likely wouldn't solve any problems since the sports system already deals with plenty of other issues.

On the other hand, it's also considered a helpful thing.

Athletes are in favor of being paid for their hard work. They possibly don't have time for a job outside of practice, games, school, plus a sport is equivalent to a full-time job.

Other positives might include, due to athletes risking their bodies repeatedly, having extra money would help pay for medical emergencies that may arise. Some families also struggle financially so this could ease that financial burden.

In an August 2023 Forbes article contributor and Ohio State University journalism professor Nicole Kraft stated, "Nearly 70% of US adults said college athletes should be able to receive direct compensation from their school when asked in a recent survey." Within the article, Sports Attorney Luke Fedlam, founder of Advance NIL added, "It's about time." This is referring to athletes being paid the money they deserve.

Also from Forbes, Sports Business Professor B. David Ridpath from Ohio State University stated, "People are starting to come to the realization that not only is it inevitable, it's really the right thing

#### to do."

There is such a worry about once amateur athletes get paid, the hype of college sports will be destroyed.

Personally there is a different energy in the air at a college athletic event versus a professional athletic event.

It's very clear that this controversial issue might always be a topic of debate. Many researchers suggest the negatives that this would have on the authenticity of college sports. However, it's understood why some may feel that paying their athletes could help them financially or just helps to validate their hard work that is paying off.

There's also a huge debate about the enactment of NIL deals. Athletes can use their name, making a deal with a brand through marketing and promotional endeavors. This is becoming more and more prevalent each season. Athletes partner with a company to better promote their name through autograph signing, product endorsements, social media posts, and much more.

While there's no doubt that the coaches put a lot of time and effort into their team, the ratio of money between coaches and athletes is not even comparable. No matter what sport(s) the athletes play, it's very apparent that there is dedication and hard work in each of their performances.

What might be misinterpreted is that sports might represent a fulltime job for some athletes. This could lead to why people think that money should be handed over to these busy college athletes.

Researching shows numerous angles and opinions in regards to this debate, some that are being highly considered and others that aren't. What's most important to remember if you are a college athlete is that your efforts and long hours spent practicing go above and beyond.

Athletes provide such a vast entertainment source for fans, and we definitely don't want debates and controversy ruining that. Athletes can easily be looked upon because of the spotlight they receive.

It's easy to think to yourself, 'oh they don't need the money." What we should be thinking about is how someone's talent might not be celebrated. Praise is one thing and that's very affirming, however it can also be compared to a place of work.

When you receive a pay raise at your job because of something that you went out of the way to do it's extremely rewarding. Athletes probably think about the vast amounts of money their coaching staff could potentially be getting and it could upset them because there's no doubt that they put a lot of work into their craft.



## **OPINIONS**

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## IN OUR OPINION

## **Our favorite ography**



Art is universally agreed to be subjective and open to interpretation, which may be why it has always been arguably one of the most beautiful things humans have created. With our own evolution, we integrate art into our everyday lives, with some making it their careers. To honor such artists of differing mediums, we selected a few of our favorites.

**Pierre Auguste Cot** As a sucker for renaissance and neoclassicism, French painter Pierre Auguste Cot (1837-1883) embodied the academic period of art. Particularly skillful and known for his portraiture, Cot captured and articulated what the people in his paintings were like in that very moment. When looking at his work, the viewer may feel as though the painting is alive and the essence of the person in the portrait; making time feel still in that very moment. Cot is most known for his "Springtime" (1873) oil on canvas painting of a youthful couple on

a swing representing their youth, renewal and love not only with each other, but with the season of spring, as well.

#### M.C. Escher

A man of illusion and mystery; M.C. Escher (1898-1972) was a dutch graphic artist who specialized in woodcuts, lithographs and mezzotints. At the height of his career, Escher explored concepts of infinity and relativity and was well known for his inspirational obsession with mathematics, famously using mathematical theories to compose impossible illusions. He is known most for his piece called "Relativity" (1953) as it famously depicts a series of

intertwining staircases within which the normal rules of gravity do not apply.

**Nikki Giovanni** Poetry is a written art, becoming visuals as they are read many times

See 'Our favorite ography' page 21>

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#### Connection Editoral Offices

Student Activities Office Lower level of Waterman Campus center

## '**Our favorite ography**' cont'd from page 20

over. The understanding becomes clearer as you analyze the stanzas, evaluate why each line breaks that way. Nikki Giovanni's works have a way of drawing you in, then smacks you in the face with the brick of reality. She usually does this with the last line. "House Cleaning" (2015) starts with why she likes house cleaning; but in the last two lines you realize she is talking about breaking up with someone. Her poems are powerful and impactful and really leave you to think about what she has written.

#### **Greta Gerwig**

The talk of the town, Greta Gerwig (1983- ), has been sparking conversations in every household. The director and actress has been involved in different mediums of film and theater for years, working her way up the ladder to be in the position where she was able to direct. Gerwig's films have a way of captivating the audience, whether it be by the on-screen visuals, theme or overall plot. Her biggest achievement is the recent hit film, "Barbie," which has grossed more than \$1 billion. The movie lightheartedly explores the idea that "Barbie can do everything!" while the main character is struggling with her self-identity and gender disparity.

**Vincent Van Gogh** The man, the myth, the legend. Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890) was a Dutch painter whose art influenced history. One of his most famous paintings was "The Starry Night" (1889), which resides in the Museum of Modern Art, depicts an imaginary village off to the side of the main night sky scheme. However, this painting has a hidden eerie back story of where it originated. Not many know that this painting is a view of Gogh's room from the asylum, reflecting the emotions and observations present when he was in this depressive episode of his

life. The goal of his work, however, was to provide consolation and connection to humanity through his art.

#### Maija Isola

Arguably an artform, fashion has continued to be an explored outlet for artists throughout the centuries. The bold and bright Marimekko Clothing and Fabrics Company has supplied thousands of hit patterns since the late 1940s. Finnish designer, Maija Isola (1927 – 2001) founded Marimekko and some of its most iconic prints. Some of her popular prints such as "Poppy," "Albatross" or "Nature" were created to counteract the dull, subdued fashion of the monochrome 1950's. Marimekko still exists to this day as a high-end clothing and textile company meant to compliment all free-spirited women.

GRAPHIC BY SASHA SPEARMAN



## DON'T STAND BY. STEP UP.





Report incidents and concerns on the college's online reporting tool, SC aware.

### When you see someone who needs help, remember the 3 D's of bystander intervention:

- 1. Direct: Step in and say or do something, if you can be safe in doing so.
- 2. Distract: Create a diversion and get the vulnerable person out of the situation.
- 3. Delegate: Find someone with more authority to intervene.

To learn more, complete the Bystander Intervention training that is included in the Not Anymore training program on the Student Relations webpage at <u>https://www.schoolcraft.edu/student-relations/not-anymoreprogram/</u>

## From high school to college

## A look at a student's first college experience

#### CAITLIN CHERRY STAFF WRITER

Hopeful or daunted? Maybe a mix of both? For many, college undoubtedly brings a myriad of new experiences to life. Whether they be stressful, interesting, confusing or lighthearted, the college experience is often a good chance for young people to meet the challenges that can come with growing up.

As an 18-year-old freshman in college, I'm definitely feeling the difference between college and high school. I went to Stevenson High School in Livonia for all of my high school career and just graduated in the spring of this year.

Since my graduation, I've had so many different feelings happening at the same time related to this change. I've been hopeful, worried, happier, lost, more free and even depressed all mixed into one combination of emotion.

To start, I would say I am hopeful because I am finally out of high school and able to choose what I will do next. It is both an exciting privilege and terrifying decision with how many options there are out in the world. I feel lost, too, because I don't know what that decision or said next step will be. I am worried because I wasn't sure if I'd fit in, get to know people and feel comfortable in this new college environment. At least, though, I can say I am also happier because high school was difficult for me and I am glad to move on from it.

With this adjustment, I have been met with challenges, of course, too. I'd say more of



my issues are more social than academic. Throughout high school, I struggled with mental health and it's been easy to become isolated as a quieter, more soft-spoken person. Even as I've entered college these feelings have continued to stick with me. I can have peace of mind knowing though, that I have come a long way from where I used to be. I hope people who read this can be proud of themselves knowing they've come a long way too.

With that being said, I also want to mention it helps a great deal knowing I feel prepared for my academics. It might not be a common experience, but entering college has actually been less stressful than high school was for me so far.

This time last year, I was balancing a college-level speech class, an advanced global education program, regular dayto-day classes, sleep deprivation, (<five hours of sleep), and an overall negative mood about life. In comparison, I've been getting enough sleep, feeling prepared for my classes and procrastinating less. I think that my high school experience made me feel more prepared for what will happen next. The work I did then makes what I've been experiencing in college seem familiar and manageable.

What has stood out to me most, though, is that I am so much happier and more free than I have felt in years. I love how this environment is very casual, people don't stress about being a minute late or what I choose to wear to class. I have so much freedom with my time and it is much easier to fit things into my schedule and do what matters to me. I feel free with the direction of my education and my life. I'm honestly really grateful to be in this position and I am looking forward to how my life will continue to change.

That isn't to say I'm not afraid. Those feelings of being lost and confused are very present in my life. I'm trying to come to terms with maybe it's okay to feel this way. These feelings don't have to be positive or negative, they can just be there for me to feel. A few main ideas I've been hanging onto are below, I hope that they might help other people too.

For one, take the opportunities that show up in your life, work with what's in front of you and with what you have. Waiting for the right time to present itself may never come. Oftentimes, the right time you've been waiting for is actually when that opportunity shows up. Letting it pass you by because you feel unprepared might be something that you regret.

Try for an open mindset so you don't miss something new around you. It's easy to push away the things that scare you, but go out of your comfort zone to help yourself learn what you want and don't want in your life. Take one baby step to connect with people and the world around you. At least at the end you can have peace of mind knowing you explored all of your options.

I like to think that feeling lost is a natural part of growing into who you will be. The difference is when you allow that lost feeling to consume you.

Choosing to do nothing because you are afraid. Afraid you won't find anything, afraid you'll just be stuck at a desk, afraid you'll fail, be rejected, or won't be content. These feelings I think are all natural parts of the human experience.

How, though, will you know what anything is if you don't try to discover it for yourself? I know this is much easier said than done, but looking up from the ground, making eye contact and smiling at a stranger, talking to a friend or getting involved in your community can make all of the difference. Taking that one step forward to connect, to get yourself even a little bit un-lost is worth all of the trouble. I think that is one lesson I will carry with me in my next years of college and long after that.

GRAPHIC FROM ADOBE STOCK LAYOUT BY HEBA ASHMAWY

## **Beyond pet ownership**

## Redefining our ethical bond with animals

#### HEBA ASHMAWY STAFF WRITER

Humans are genuinely kind. Our actions, whether right or wrong, often come from a deep belief that we are, in some way, contributing to the greater good. This kindness extends to the unique experience of pet ownership, where the act of welcoming

a pet into our lives is rooted in the genuine desire for companionship.

Yet, amid this heartfelt connection with the animal kingdom, it's vital to acknowledge the commercial forces that can distort the purity of our intentions.

Companies, recognizing the emotional value pets bring, may capitalize on this affection, encouraging pet ownership for profit. The pet industry, with its multitude of products and services, can unintentionally foster a culture of impulsive pet adoption without due consideration for the responsibilities involved.

Before succumbing to the allure of a wagging tail or innocent eyes, it's crucial to pause and reflect. Marketing tactics should not sway the decision to bring a pet into your life but rather be a well-considered commitment. The responsibility of pet ownership encompasses financial, emotional and time-related aspects that extend far beyond the initial enchantment.

As someone who loves animals so much, I've chosen a different path; one where my love for animals is revealed through direct and indirect contributions to wildlife. By avoiding pet ownership, I redirect my efforts toward supporting wildlife conservation and the overall wellbeing of animals in their natural environments.

As I navigate the realm of pet ownership, it's deeply disheartening to confront the darker side of practices such as sterilizing pets and declawing cats: though wellknown, carry significant ethical and welfare implications. Personally, the mere thought of these unsettling practices fills me with sadness. Given these distressing realities, it becomes even more critical to approach pet ownership with a profound commitment to ethical and responsible care.

If the challenges of pet ownership prove overwhelming, it's perfectly acceptable not to have a pet. While it may seem like everyone around you has a pet, not having a pet is a valid and responsible choice.

Embracing a pet-free lifestyle can positively affect the environment, yourself and the animals themselves. By educating yourself and making an informed decision, you respect your needs and the rights of the animals we share this planet with.

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## Stretching the first amendment

## Twitter's increase in hate speech

#### MICHELLE TORRES STAFF WRITER

In April of last year, Tesla CEO Elon Musk made headlines when he announced his plans to buy the well-known social media platform, Twitter. After creating mayhem on the platform, Musk finally acquired Twitter for about \$44 billion.

Since then, Musk brought drastic changes to the former bird app. Once Musk took over the company, top executives were fired and a wave of layoffs was created.

The app, now titled X, has a subscription service which allows users to obtain a blue checkmark, readers can add community notes to other tweets, and more recently, Twitter Circles have been disabled.

Musk has also been very open about other features he plans to add or erase. Most controversially, he has expressed his dislike for the block button. "Block is going to be deleted as a 'feature,' except for DMs," he wrote in a tweet. "It makes no sense," he continued. While Apple and Google both require social media platforms to give users the ability to block other users in order for the app to be available on their stores, Musk's tweets still caused massive outrage and backlash from Twitter users across the board.

There could be a plethora of reasons behind Musk's opinions about the block button, such as advertisement revenue, but it seems as though his dislike of the feature arises out of a concern for the lack of visibility of his account and the content he engages with.

For a while now, Musk has portrayed himself as a defender of free speech in the United States. Since then, Musk has been praised by right-wing accounts and groups for reinstating the accounts of into one of the safest havens for free speech on the internet," the account wrote in one tweet. "Wokeness in an ideology built on the censorship of opposing views. Once the floodgates of free speech are opened, wokeness dies," they said in another. It's clear Musk has become popular within right-wing spaces, and he has repeatedly engaged and interacted with the End Wokeness account, one whose content consists of transphobic and borderline racist tweets.

Musk and his followers may see themselves through a heroic lens as protectors of freedom of speech, but it seems as though their idea of free speech is simply the ability to be openly bigoted without facing serious repercussions for it.

Accounts like End Wokeness and LibsofTikTok, both of which are subscribed to X's premium service, often target videos about people who belong to marginalized communities, twist their words and ridicule them

> before their millions of followers. These accounts create spaces overflowing with hatred for historically

oppressed groups of people with no regard for the very real-life consequences. LibsofTikTok alone has become notorious for being the root cause of bomb threats towards hospitals and schools that show a nickel of support for the LGBTQ+ community or attempt to create an inclusive environment. Simultaneously, the X account complains about people getting fired or receiving criticism for hateful and bigoted comments.

The numbers are not on Musk's side either. According to a study released by the Center for Countering Digital Hate in late 2022 shortly after Musk took over Twitter, the number of posts with an anti-Black slur tweeted per day had more than tripled to nearly 3,900, tweets using homophobic slurs had increased by 58 percent, those with transphobic slurs had increased by 62 percent, and a 33 percent increase in tweets using derogatory terms towards women.

A few months after the study was published, X filed a lawsuit against the non-profit. It's clear none of these people are interested in the protection of free speech. Instead, they seem to be far more interested in preserving their ability to incite hatred and bigotry without facing proper consequences or accountability.

While non-profit organizations, journalists, activists, leaders and students fight against the hatred these accounts sponsor, risking their futures, careers and safety for the mere betterment of society, the people behind these accounts get away with barely a slap on the wrist. Perhaps it is time for these accounts to consider that the status quo does not censor nor will it ever persecute the people who serve it, but the people who oppose it.

conservative journalists as well as former President Trump's account after its suspension in 2021 following the Jan. 6 insurrection. Within this year, one account with over a million followers called End Wokeness, also praised Musk's apparent dedication to protecting X users' freedom of speech. "In a matter of months, [Elon Musk] turned [X]

#### schoolcraftconnection.com

## **Ocelot Opinions**

## Ocelots share opinions on personal job experiences

INTERVIEWS BY SARA MALLORY CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR College may be a stepping stone into the working world but some Ocelots get the jump on it early. May it be to pay for life, college or just cause everyone works for a reason and everyone quits for a reason. Today, we are talking to local ocelots about their greatest worst job experiences.



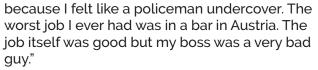
For a further breakdown on Ocelot Opinions, check out our YouTube Channel at The Schoolcraft Connection



www.youtube.com/@SCCONNECTION

#### Sonia Kushch Major: Marine Biology

"I'm from Ukraine so the best job I ever had was in Ukraine. I revised hotels and shops so I was kinda a spy there: it's called customer service check. It was the best job I ever had



### Bruce Ashley

Major: Undecided "My worst job had to be community service. It's like you are doing something good but it's tiring and it feels like you are putting your body on the line to do it. At the time it felt good,



but too much time was spent doing the job and work involved. [To be specific] I was on the highways picking up trash."

### Jailyn Evans

Major: Business "The worst I have ever had was working at Meijers. I had to do the receiving[; which is] receiving the truck in the back. I didn't really like it. You had to pick up a lot of stuff and it paid only



\$12. Basically not enough money for too much physical labor."

#### Jonna Buckley Major: Culinary

"The worst job would probably be at a bakery. I was working a lot of shifts like 12 hour shifts and only getting paid \$14 an hour. I was a cake decorator doing really expensive



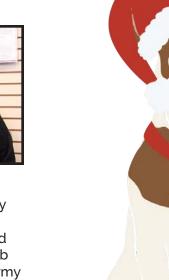
wedding cakes and getting paid much less than what I was worth: so that was like the worst. It was super fun until you'd go through the papers and see that the cake you made was like \$3000 and you made \$14 an hour. That was definitely my best worst job because I learned a lot but at the same time it was not enough money for me."

### James Kelly Major: Secondary Education

"I have only had one real, actual paying job although I have worked in community service before that. But, the job I worked was as a cashier at the



Salvation Army and there were many things about that job that were enjoyable and many things about that were not so enjoyable as [I'm] working with customers directly. I would say some of the more difficult parts of the job [boiled down to] the fact it's the Salvation Army and they don't exactly hire for positions like janitors and cleaning staff which are things you would normally have a position for. It was sorta difficult because when you sign up to be a cashier, you dont think youll be cleaning the floors around the register."



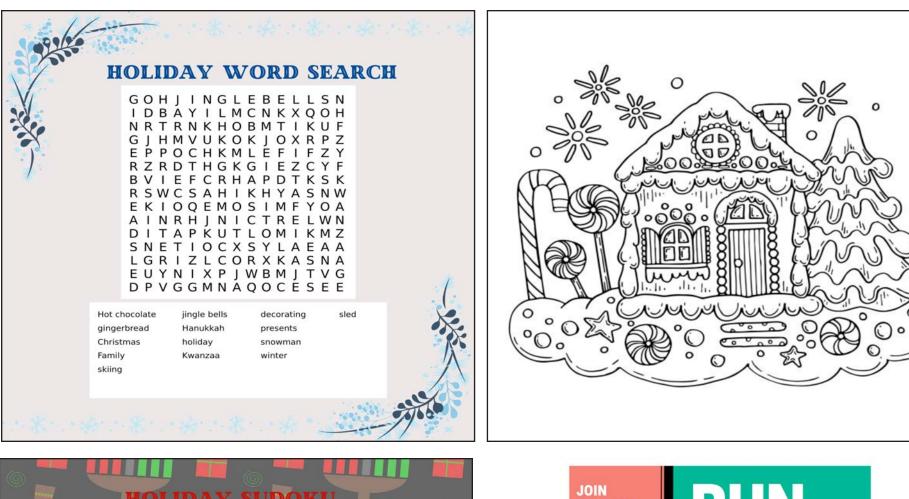


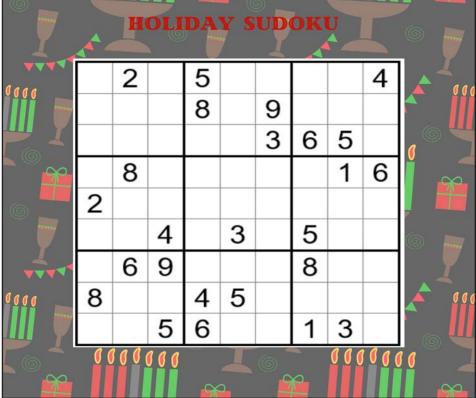
#### Page 26 | November 27, 2023

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## ERSIONS

## Find Answers on Page 26!







FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFCE AT (734)462-4422

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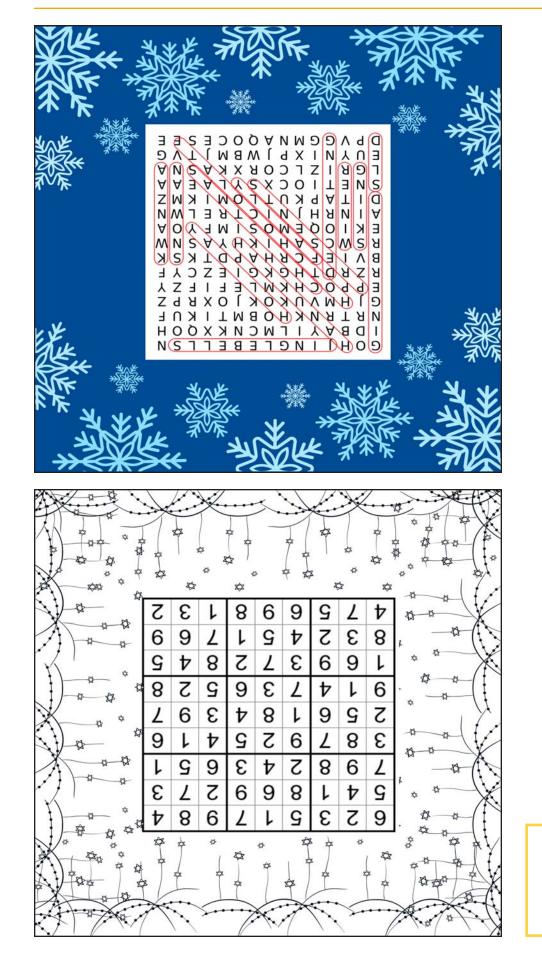
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## **Diversions and Layout by Sasha Spearman**



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## Eldorado General Store

Photo Story by Izabella Allie



Eldorado General Store features a ton of eye-catching disco elements! Izabella Allie visited EGS on November 11, 2023, in Detroit, Michigan.



Warm up this winter with one of Eldorado General Store's vintage leather coats. Prices vary on style and era. Stop by their store at 1700 Michigan Ave in Detroit, Michigan to try one on today!



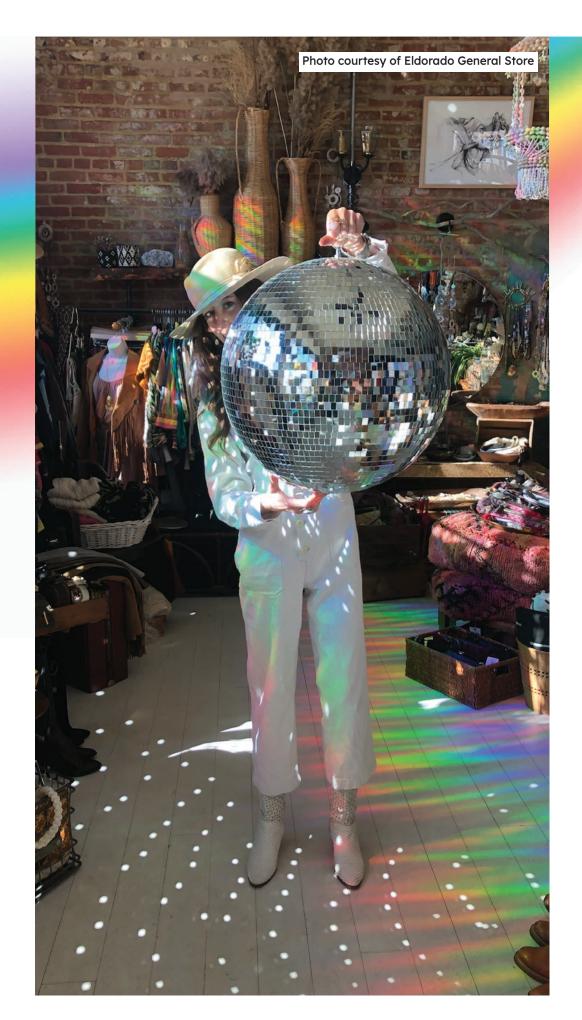
EGS is your one-stop shop for all things self-care-related. Pictured are products from "Anima Mundi" which can be purchased online and in-store.



Reusable kitchen utensils make for a perfect holiday gift. Shop Eldorado's selection of scissors, straws, mugs, and more online and in-store.

"As a nomad on this highway, it's about riding into the unknown, believing in the adventure, and reveling in the journey. Each step offers a new memory or friend. Eldorado is the Lost City of Gold. The Dream. The Holy Grail you spend a lifetime seeking. Coated in gold dust, Eldorado represents the relentless search for true love, freedom, heaven, and happiness." (Courtesy of Eldorado General Store)

Eldorado General Store is located at 1700 Michigan Ave in Detroit, Michigan. This hippie-style brick-and-mortar is the perfect holiday shopping stop. If you're looking to escape the cold Detroit weather, this place is for you! Once you arrive, you'll immediately feel transported to a warm, mystical place whilst never leaving the Detroit area. Eldorado General Store highlights locally and globally sourced vintage clothing, handmade jewelry, rugs, scarves, and even small trinkets. The owner, Erin Gavle, and the staff are both friendly and knowledgeable about their space!



Presented by Schoolcraft College Otaku Anime Club and RIW Hobbies



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The meaning of Otaku to the Otaku Anime Club Leadership/Consulting Team and their members is a passionate fan of anime, manga, comics, cartoons, video games, or K-Pop/J-Pop. U is taken from the word "university" because the convention is being held on a college campus. Otaku U is an event for people of all ages to be able to share their passions with other like minded individuals for a day!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! If you are interested in purchasing Otaku U tickets, go to https://otakuu.org. For additional questions, contact the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422 or email sc.sao@apps.schoolcraft.edu



## December 2, 2023 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Schoolcraft College • Vistatech Center 18600 Haggerty Rd. Livonia, MI 48152

### **Tickets prices:**

Registration Wristband at the Door is \$10 Presales Online is \$7 and \$5 for anyone 10 & Under (Presales will end at 11:59 p.m. on December 1, 2023)

## **ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE:**

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- Anime AMV Viewing Inside Our Vendor Hall
- Cosplay Contest Inside Vendor Hall
- Cosplay Hangouts/Photo Ops
- Video Gaming Play Lounge & Gaming Tournaments in the Student Activities Lounge
- Name That Anime Team Trivia Game!
- Evening Karaoke
- Special Voice Actor Guests: Tyson Rinehart & Aaron Campbell
- Musical Guest: Playing With Power
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