

Vol. 37 | Issue 5 | February 17, 2025 | Follow us on our socials

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# Not compact on impact

Phi Theta Kappa president Elvis Veliu is the 2025 campus compact student leadership award reciepient. Veliu is one of six students nationally honored with this award. See news page 2 for the full story.

Photo by Mia Finley



Pageant story: Success and beauty with a sprinkle of mental health awareness

See News Page 4



Albanian Club: A country from across the ocean brought to Schoolcraft campus

See Campus life Page 9



Are your part of the pride? Check out the Dean list

See Page 24

## **NEWS**

## Phi Theta Kappa president receives Campus Compact Leadership Award

JESS MICHAEL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Elvis Veliu wasn't expecting to even be considered for the 2025 Campus Compact Student Leadership Award when Phi Theta Kappa Omicron Iota Advisor and Director of Student Activities, Todd Stowell and Erin Stegich, Manager of the Center for Experiential Learning told him he should apply. He was surprised and humbled that they wanted to nominate him.

Last month, Veliu received the news that he was one of six recipients of this year's honor.

The Campus Compact Impact Award was founded in 1985 by a collection of people with the view that America's democracy seemed to be in trouble. Presidents of Brown, Christina Hull Paxson, Georgetown, John J. DeGioia and Stanford, Donald Kennedy; this also included the President of Education of Commission William Bennett. Collectively they believed that higher education would help a better future. It is a celebration of students who are working towards building better communities and making a long lasting impact on campuses.

Students who receive the award lead change on their campuses and in their communities, inspiring their peers to do the same. Recipients of the Student Leadership Award are selected based on their leadership and community impact, ability to overcome adversity, commitment to learning and deep engagement with communities, and support from campus and community partners.

Veliu's goal has always been working

towards bringing community together, even his personal motives are working towards a greater good.

"I really hate not giving my best when I can," said Veliu.

Veliu's goal of building a better community really shines as he explains. When not in class or in PTK meetings, he can be found on campus attending club meetings and campus events.

However, Veliu did take notice early on that student engagement was difficult. He began to make events on or off campus to help bring students together. Sometimes it can be difficult to get engagement up, trying to get students to go do things. Veliu, detailed oriented and dedicated to his work on participating with students, pulled up a list of the hundreds of events he has attended on an excel sheet.

"I'm really working hard to make an impact," said Veliu He continues to explain that engagement is one of the hurdles to overcome; unsure of where the problem truly starts. Though he does not let that stop him from problem solving.

In his submission to the Campus Compact Impact awards, one question was how do you measure success. Over time, Veliu thought the best way was by hours invested. Hebegan to explain in his essay, what he had done to bring students on or off campus. His idea was to explain how many hours he invested into leading our campus towards change. Veliu put together his ideas such as hiking at local parks and movie nights on campus. This further shows the dedication Veliu shows through action the dedication to solving the mystery



Elvis Veliu will be recognized at the Campus Compact's annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia from March 31 - April 2, 2025

of how to get students to participate more in the Schoolcraft community.

"His quiet confidence and determination as the president of the Omicron Iota chapter had earned him the respect of his peers, instructors, and advisors," said Stowell in his letter nominating Veliu for the award. "Schoolcraft College was fortunate to have a leader of Elvis's caliber and seemingly unending energy to help provide encouragement and direction to Phi Theta Kappa members and the community at large."

Veliu and the other recipients of these awards will be recognized at Compact25, Campus Compact's annual conference, which will be held in Atlanta, Georgia from March 31 - April 2, 2025.

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## TRANSFORMING THROUGH PAGEANTRY AND ADVOCACY

#### From kitchen to crown: Avery Hill's inspiring journey of confidence

TAYLOR CAMPBELL STAFF WRITER

Avery Hill, a first-year student inAvery Hill, a first-year student in Schoolcraft College's award-winning culinary program, is not only shaping her future in the kitchen but also making a mark in the pageant world as the reigning Miss High School America. As she pursues her degree, Hill is using her platform to advocate for causes close to her heart while growing into a more confident and self-assured individual.

Her introduction into the pageant world was anything but conventional. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she struggled with low-self esteem, feelings of depression and a recent diagnosis of Tourette syndrome. Lacking confidence, she found it difficult to put herself out there. However, while scrolling through social media, she stumbled upon an advertisement that read, "You could be the next Miss Michigan Teen USA." Intrigued, yet hesitant, she decided to take a chance and enter the competition.

For three years, Avery competed in the USA pageant system, gradually stepping out of her comfort zone, rebuilding confidence and learning to interact with new people. In 2023, her dedication to pageantry paid off, when she won the title of Miss Michigan Teen USA. This victory reinforced the belief in herself and introduced her to a diverse and supportive community within a competitive world. One of her favorite aspects of competing is the preparation and the girly nature of everything. From searching for the perfect gown, curating a wardrobe and meeting people from all walks of life, each step fosters anticipation and excitement. Though each

See 'Transforming through Pageantry and advocacy''' page 5>

*"IF I CAN HELP EVEN ONE PERSON EMBRACE THEIR IDENTITY OR OVERCOME PERSONAL STRUGGLES, I'VE CONTRIBUTED TO A STRONGER SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING."* 

#### **'Transforming through Pageantry and advocacy''** cont'd from page 4>

contestant comes from a different background, they are united by a shared passion for pageantry, creating an uplifting and empowering environment.

Hill's most recent and influential pageant was Miss Michigan Collegiate America. This pageant evaluates contestants on multiple aspects, including personality, advocacy and passion. "It seeks participants that can be mentors and have strong beliefs that can advocate for others," said Hill.

For Hill, that cause is Tourette syndrome awareness. Given her personal connection to the condition, she's committed to raising awareness and educating others about what it means to live with Tourette's.

Balancing school, pageants and an active personal life requires a well-structured schedule. Hill maintains a disciplined routine to ensure success in all areas. She emphasized the importance of self-care, and says, "Giving myself one day to decompress and recenter myself really helps me calm down." This practice helps her manage stress, avoid burnout and stay focused on her goals.

Hill's next major competition will take place this year in Little Rock, Arkansas, from June 28 to July 5. Miss Collegiate America is a prestigious event where 200–300 contestants from across the country come together to compete. The city of Little Rock fully embraces the event, hosting a grand parade and displaying banners throughout the airport and streets. The enthusiasm and support from the community make the experience even more meaningful.

While she continues to compete in pageants, Hill's ultimate dream is to one day win the title of Miss Universe. Representing her country on such a grand stage would be both exhilarating and deeply meaningful. However, beyond titles and crowns, she aspires to make a lasting impact—both at Schoolcraft College and within the broader community.

As someone of mixed race, has an open platform for mental health journey, and is adopted, she strives to be a resource for others who can relate to her experiences. Avery says, "If I can help even one person embrace their identity or overcome personal struggles, I've contributed to a stronger sense of community and belonging."

Winning Miss Michigan Collegiate America was a huge step in Avery's career and re-established her selfesteem. Additionally, she takes great pride in being one of the youngest winners of the Collegiate Michigan pageant. Her journey in pageantry has been about more than just competition—it has



Schoolcraft Culniary Arts student Avery Hill was crowned Miss Michigan Collegiate and will now move on to take part in Miss Collegiate America from June 28 to July 5 in Little Rock, Arkansas. (Photo courtesy of Avery Hill)

been about personal growth, empowerment. Hill is using her platform to advocate for meaningful causes. Through her continued involvement, she hopes to inspire others to step outside their comfort zones, pursue their passions fearlessly and embrace their individuality.

As she advances in both her culinary studies and pageant career, Avery remains committed to her advocacy work and personal development. She looks forward to what the future holds and is eager to continue making a difference, both in the pageant world and beyond.

## **CAMPUS LIFE**

# **Connecting the content**

Earth Science professor ties her career history and climate advocacy into the classroom

#### STEPHANIE POLYS STAFF WRITER

Professor Amy Parsons has been an earth science instructor at Schoolcraft College for five years. In her time, she has combined her passion and profound experience to cultivate a classroom that not only fosters learning but builds appreciation for our natural world. Her dedication is exemplified in the indubitable impact she leaves on her students.

Before landing at Schoolcraft, Professor Parsons encountered a diverse range of experiences that deepened her interest in culture and environment. Parsons is originally from Trabuco Canyon, California. She met her husband at UCLA while studying for her Bachelor of Arts. After both having attended Penn State University for graduate school, they decided to settle in his home state of Michigan.

Growing up in California, Parsons has a remarkable perspective into wildfires and their impact on an ecosystem. Recalling many times where her neighborhood was under serious threat of fire, Parsons holds what she describes as an "anecdotal connection". This distinctive experience opened



Earth Science professor Amy Parsons ,right, works one-on-one with one of her students during her Earth 110 class inside the Forum Building. (Photo by Jess Michael)

an opportunity to study in Brazil.

At Penn State, her advisor's focus was on fire ecology specific to the Brazilian Amazon, a region not naturally adept to constant burning. Parson's advisor encouraged her to take her firsthand understanding of wildfires in California and out west, and compare it with recent issues in the Brazilian Amazon. A significant concern of her research is how species are forced to respond and evolve to the fires. Parsons warns; "We talk about survival of the fittest and if they can't survive or adapt, then they're going to be lost."

As wildfire devastation is not something the rainforest species have dealt with on a regular basis, it becomes increasingly difficult to protect the environment's homeostasis.

Deforestation is a current issue that demands attention and action. When asked how to convey this urgency, Parsons contends, "It's probably one of the biggest challenges of climate change science and advocacy, because it's so easy to just think

See 'Connecting the content'' page 7>

#### 'Connecting the content" cont'd from page 6>

you're disconnected from the problem, and you could go every single day and not really think about how climate change affects you personally."

Connecting to her experience in Brazil, Parsons relays the significance of simplifying complex discoveries, increasing their accessibility to the public and spreading awareness of issues that demand immediate attention.

Despite Parson's deep passion for research and vast experience in the field, teaching is what called to her.

"It wasn't until I really studied a lot more and met other instructors in college that I was like, 'Wait, I want to do what they do, because

it blends not only teaching and helping people, but also teaching the subject that you're really interested in,' " explains Parsons.

Day to day in the classroom, Parsons continues to uphold the importance of each topic utilizing the same methods for climate advocacy she learned in the Amazon. By making connections with a student's own experience, Parsons has learned how to facilitate the critical thinking needed to understand something that is happening thousands of miles away.

To ensure the material's impact, Parsons has learned to approach her teaching through a multitude of ways.

"To me, I have 15 weeks with

my students, and I want to make every moment count. I want to make sure that literally from day one you are making connections with the content and not just being lectured at. [You have] an opportunity to engage with the idea," said Parsons. "I think a big part of it is that I want my students to be more informed citizens about their world and about the environment that they live in."

Parsons' outlook toward teaching includes prioritizing personal connections. She has come to view students as "whole human beings". Beyond her guidance as an earth science instructor. Parsons wants to be seen as a resource as to what might be affecting student's outside of the classroom;

positive or negative. She wants to hear about her student's successes and support them in the challenges that they may face, being a connection to tools available on campus, whether it be personal, academic, or professional.

Parsons emphasizes how her role as a professor at Schoolcraft goes beyond lectures and assignments. She continues to hold the growth of each individual student as a priority and looks forward to what the future holds for her at Schoolcraft.

Currently, Parsons can be found teaching Earth Systems (EARTH 110), Environmental Science (EARTH 120) and Weather and Climate (EARTH 200).





Alexia is the Service Desk lead. She takes care of the flow of people and keeps the office organized. She is the first and last face you see at the Learning Center.



Cayden is the STEM tutor lead. He primarily tutors math, accounting and Spanish.



Emily is the lead writing tutor. She covers writing classes, covering mostly all of the classes at Schoolcraft.

Learning Center Bradner Library L119 734-462-4436 lc@schoolcraft.edu Hours of Operation: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. ; Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. ; Saturdays: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Matthew Blagdurn is the Learning with his information that we have Support Services Lead Academic Success Coach for

Mathematics. If you are struggling with a math class and would like to get one-on-one assistance with someone that has been trained in mathematics, Matt is the person to go to. Not

only will he help you with your class but during the meeting he will give you some strategies for note taking while giving you encouragement. If you would like to schedule an appointment with Matt. feel free to call or email him

provided: Mblagdur@schoolcraft.edu 734/462-7266



Do you have questions related to the Learning Center or looking for tips from our leads? Complete the QR and they will be answered in the future edition.



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### O B A L O L U W A A K I N Y E M I

Congratulations Oba, on being February's pick!



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## Welcome to Albania! Student club looks to cultivate a community of culture

<image>

Members of the Albanian Club gather for a group photo at Albanian Culture Night in 2024.

#### JESS MICHAEL EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After attending the Multicultural fair on campus in 2024, student Elmedina Zekaj felt there was a need to share her Albanian culture on campus. Zekaj is a proud Albanian and this is shared amongst her peers as well. She noticed that many people liked learning about their culture and that's when Zekaj started the Albanian Eagles club.

"No one really knew about our culture,"said Zekaj who currently is the president of the club.. She continued that at their first event, many people came and those who were not Albanian still enjoyed themselves and loved learning about their culture.

However, you don't have to be Albanian to enjoy this club. Anyone is welcome, there are many different cultures that attend events.

Students can expect to be welcomed with open arms.

"Hospitality is taken seriously, it's embedded into our culture,"said Zekaj, continuing that during war time many cultures would come to Albania and they would welcome them into their homes.

They want visitors to feel welcomed and comfortable.

They share more than just beliefs and want new visitors to be engaged in learning about their culture.

"It's more like a social club," Zekaj continues. They don't just sit around talking in Albanian. Zekaj wants to engage new visitors to learn and feel a part of the club.

For other activities sometimes they will introduce a traditional dance from Albania called Valle, dancers hold each other's hands and dance in a circle. They will serve delicious treats as well such as, byrek a traditional pie that can have spinach or meat and baklava.

If there is interest in learning



more about traditional Albanian food, Atko in Livonia Michigan is a traditional market.

Zekaj is proud of how far this club has come.

"I am incredibly proud to be Albanian and deeply honored to be part of Schoolcraft College,"said Zekaj. She continues that they are looking for someone to take her place as president once she graduates. Zekaj hopes that someone can take over the torch and proudly continue to run the club after she graduates.

You can find the Albanian Club and many other countries at this year's Multicultural Fair taking place Thursday, March 27, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the DiPonio Room inside the Vistatech Center. Anyoneinterested in learning more about different cultures, should attend this event.

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Valentine's Day Party February 17 4.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m. Lower Level, Vistatech Center Join the Albanian Club, International Student Organization and the Student Activities Board for their Valentine's Day Party. Join us for Valentine's treats, create your own Valentine's Cards, Valentine's Candy and take photos with our Valentine backdrop and props. Everyone is welcome!

#### 3rd Annual Black Excellence in the Arts Award Ceremony

February 20 12 to 2 p.m. Vistatech Center • Sutherland Room 210

You are invited to celebrate the achievements of our esteemed campus community members. This event will showcase the winning Arts Awards Contest event nominees and their work, alongside this year's Trail Blazer and Pathfinder Award winners in celebration of Black History Month's 2025 Theme: Let the Light Rise In the Darkness. Enjoy a complimentary strolling buffet

#### **Rec Night** February 20 9-11 p.m.

Physical Education Building • Fitness Center • Trinity Health Sport Center Join the Schoolcraft College Recreation Services for a night of fun after hours! Play pickleball, volleyball, basketball, racquetball and workout at the Fitness Center. Open to all. Bring your friends.

#### Republican Club Social February 25 1-3:30 p.m. Lower Level, Vistatech Center

**Conference Room E** Come meet your fellow Republicans. Join us for snacks, drinks and good conversations. Find out how to have

conversations. Find out how to have more impact on causes or issues that are important to you.

Wednesday Noon Jazz and Classical Concerts: Featuring Hannah Hammel Maser, flute February 26 12 p.m. Kehrl Auditorium, VT 550 Join the Music Department for its Wednesday Noon Jazz and Classical Concert. This event is free and open to the public.

#### Wednesday Noon Jazz and Classical Concerts:

Featuring Lunar Octet March 12 12 p.m. Kehrl Auditorium, VT 550 Join the Music Department for its Wednesday Noon Jazz and Classical Concert. This event is free and open to

#### Mocktail Party March 13

the public.

#### 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lower Level, Vistatech Center Join Student Relations, Save Our Youth Coalition and the Student Activities Board for its annual Mocktail Party. This event features The Moving Forward Mini Expo (Prevention, Treatment and Recovery). Join us for free mocktails (non-alcoholic cocktails), Root Beer Pong, Walk the Line with Beer Goggles, Blood Alcohol Content Test, Free samples from local sponsors and visit with Community Health Services

#### Organizations.

#### **Snack and Study**

Drop-In : March 13 11 to 1 p.m. Bradner Library 110

Join Learning Support Services and the Bradner Library for some free snacks while you study!

Drop in, do your homework, meet friends for a study group, or chat with one of our Academic Success Coaches. Food available while supplies last; first come first served.

For more information contact: learningsupport@schoolcraft.edu or call 734-462-7330.

#### Mocktail Party

March 13

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#### Karaoke

#### March 13

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lower Level, Vistatech Center

Feeling the music? It's time for some karaoke fun! Whether you're a pro or just love belting out your favorite hits, let's make this an afternoon to remember!

#### Walking Tacos March 13

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lower Level, Vistatech Center Who's ready for a deliciously fun afternoon? We're serving up walking tacos taco toppings in a bag, ready to take anywhere! Perfect for eating while hanging out and making memories.

Poster Sale March 17 to 21 Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lower Level, Vistatech Center Join us for the Poster Sale! Posters will be priced as marked. Posters from movies, anime/cartoons, music, famous landmarks, art prints, famous people, animals, landscapes and more!

#### Steam 2.5: Bridging Disciplines, Building Futures

Student Led Summit March 21

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

#### **McDowell Student Center**

Schoolcraft's Center for Experiential Learning, Learning Support Services and Liberal Arts and Sciences are excited to share STEAM@Schoolcraft for its 6th year. Come and listen to this Student led conference.



## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT IN MY RESTLESS DREAMS, THERE IS SILENT HILL

A psychological nightmare that you can't escape

SHUENED HELEZ

Initial release date: October 8, 2024 Platforms: Windows & PlayStation 5 Mode: Singleplayer, Third Person & Survival

Genres: Psychological Horror, Story Rich, Third Person & Survival Horror

Rating: 9.9 out of 10



"The following review contains violent content which may be too intense for some readers. Viewers discretion is advised." NOAH MOORE STAFF WRITER

Given the impressive Silent Hill franchises. The "Silent Hill 2" remake has drawn great optimism from developers Konami, the faithful and enhanced revival of this iconic psychological horror game.

The game itself is a landmark of psychological horror, masterfully weaving a tale that transcends traditional gaming narratives. Released on October 8, 2024, this chilling installment allows players to dive deep into the human psyche, which involves the themes of grief, guilt, and existential dread.

Players step into the shoes of James Sunderland, the main character of the game, voiced by Luke Robert, who has been drawn back to the eerie town of Silent Hill after receiving a letter from his deceased wife, Mary Sunderland played by Salóme Gunnarsdóttir. As the player, you will navigate Sunderland through the fog-laden streets, and encounter grotesque monsters that symbolize his inner turmoil. The game has crafted an atmosphere of relentless tension and unease. With its haunting visuals, immersive sound design, and a memorable story in the gameplay. "Silent Hill 2" has redefined horror and set a new bar for narrative depth and emotional engagement.

As the game starts, we see Sunderland looking at himself in a mirror, wearing a brown jacket and dark jeans that give off a somewhat rugged appearance. This appearance tells how the death of Sunderland's wife has put him into a downward spiral mentally and physically.

Within this cutscene we see Sunderland calling out his wife's name "Mary," as the scene begins to fade out, cutting to Sunderland looking off into the distance, recalling how his wife always said "that the town of Silent Hill was their special place."

The storytelling is emotional given how complicated and multifaceted the characters that the player will be meaning while playing, but also how they all link up to create their unforgivable relationships that the player will experience time and time

> See 'Silent Hill 2' Page 13

**'Silent Hill 2"** cont'd from page 12>

#### again.

One unique thing about the game is the environment. The Silent Hill franchise is well known for its dense fog and limited visibility, which gives an eerie feel when walking through dark places or being in the fog and not knowing what will be waiting on the other side, creating that sense of isolation and confusion that most games do not have.

Akira Yamoka, the original composer and sound designer of the original game, has returned for the remake. Yamoka's involvement with the remake ensures that the haunting and ethereal quality of the food

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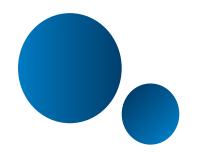












The 43rd annual Plymouth Ice Festival took place from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2. A wide selection of beautifully carved ice sculptures were scattered throughout downtown. A popular event is the ice carving contest, where talented artists carve enormous blocks of ice into sculptures. The festival offers a variety of family-friendly activities and food, ranging from food trucks to local restaurants. The festival also features the Winter Market, where local artists and businesses showcase their handmade goods.





Devyn Morgan, a festival organizer with JAG Entertainment, said there are many worldclass ice carvers who created this year's sculptures. While speaking with Morgan,the team was working on sculpting the "Fire and Ice Tower," as the organization calls it. On the last day of the festival, they light a fire inside the thick blocks of ice in the middle of the park.

"I don't know who came up with the idea," said Morgan. "But people are always really excited for the event and love to see us light the fire.



Visitors of Plymouth Ice Festival say that their favorite parts of the festival are "the food and ice sculptures." There are several ice sculptures scattered inside Kellogg Park as well as on the streets. James Cain said "The best part of the festival is the food, I can always find something good to eat here."





The tubing run features over a 100 feet slide down an inflatable tube. The children were lined up all day long to ride down this slide.



Aaron Whitten and Ben Goebel duel it out at the dueling chainsaws competition. Both carvers had 20 minutes to carve a design chosen by the crowd. Whitten was tasked with carving a chipmunk while Goebel carved a butterfly. In the end, Goebel won the competition with his butterfly piece.



"Crazy Craig" joined Plymouth Ice Festival from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. showcasing his spectacular juggling skills and professional stilt walking.



Photos by Mia Finley

A large throne with lions was carved as a centerpiece for pictures in Kellogg Park. Attendees took turns taking selfies and posing for photos all day commemorating this year's event. **SPORTS** 

Women's Basketball

# February fury Ocelots remain undefeated, winning streak extends to four

COMPILED BY TALA WEHBE MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

#### Feb 1, 2025 Schcoolaft 68 St. Clair CC 60

The Ocelots earned a hard-fought 68-60 victory against St. Clair County Community College on Feb. 1. The team demonstrated resilience and effective teamwork to secure the win.

Schoolcraft was led by Raegan Byrd, who contributed 13 points, and Siena McNitt, who added 13 points as well.

While their shooting was inconsistent (36.9% overall), they found success with a strong third quarter, scoring 22 points. Their free throw shooting was also key, finishing at 56.5%, with Byrd leading the way at 7-8 from the line.

#### Feb 5, 2025 Schcoolaft 63 Macomb 48

In a competitive matchup Schoolcraft triumphed over Macomb, 63-48.

Ravyn Guy who scored 20

points on 8-of-14 shooting and guard Sienna McNitt who scored 14 points were particularly tenacious, contributing significantly to the team's performance.

A strong second-half push particularly in the fourth quarter, where they scored 20 points and defensive intensity helped the Ocelots pull away and secure a win.

#### Feb 8, 2025 Schoolcraft 84 Mott 32

It was a one-sided victory for the Ocelots as they dominated against Mott Community College, 84-32

The team displayed strong offensive and defensive efforts forcing multiple turnovers and capitalizing on fast-break away opportunities.

Schoolcraft was led by Sharon Smith, who contributed 18 points and 10 rebounds, while Garyana Overton added 11 points and 11 rebounds in a strong all-around performance. The team shot an impressive



Freshman Ravyn Guy looks to pass the ball while being guarded by a Macomb CC defender on Feb. 5, 2025. Guy scored 20 points against in the game. on 8-14 shooting. (Photo by Cameron Weller)

48.5% from the field. The Ocelots also dominated inside, outscoring Mott 38-8 in the paint and adding 22 secondchance points.

#### Feb 12, 2025 Schoolcraft 78 Mott 52

The Ocelots secured a dominant 78-52 win over Wayne County Community College. Their efficient shooting and aggressive rebounding gave them control early, while their defense forced 25 turnovers.

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The game was highlighted by Siena McNitt, who scored 27 points, including 3 threepointers, and grabbed 7 rebounds. Garyana Overton also contributed a double-double with 11 points and 12 rebounds. The team shot 52.4% from the field and dominated inside, outscoring Wayne County 44-28 in the paint and 23-4 on second-chance points.

#### Men's Ice Hockey



ABOVE: The Ocelots won in epic fashion for game 1 against the Spartans on Jan. 31, 2025 .With just 0.4 left in regulation, Logan Tripp scored the game winner, sealing the victory for Schoolcraft, 5-4. (Photo by Victoria Kerr)

# **Growing pains** Ocelots split games with MSU and Adrian College

The Ocelots Men's Hockey team split their series match ups against (D2) MSU on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 and Adrian College on Feb. 7 and 9. The team is now 20-5 overall in its first offiical season in the ACHA. For more photos and game caps go to www.schoolcraftconnection.com.



ABOVE: Freshman Joe Sines takes a shot on net against MSU on Jan. 31, 2025. (Photo by Cameron Weller)



Ocelots freshman goaltender Leo Tykoski is laser focused on the puck drop in the third period against Adrian College on Feburary 7, 2025. (Photo by Victoria Kerr)



Things got a little scrappy between the Ocelots and the Bulldogs of Adrian College in the third period on February 7, 2025. (Photo by Victoria Kerr)

## **EDITORIAL**

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## THE COLLECTIVE PEN



#### AMELIA CURTIS STAFF WRITER

Students at Schoolcraft come from all walks of life-public school, international, home schooling and out-of-state. Transitioning from old to new environments can be stressful, exhausting and worrisome for students. Seeking help is not always the first thing that comes to mind. However, when help comes from people experiencing the same situationespecially fellow students— it is often received in a better way. Reaching out to students for advice or help, can grow connections.

Around campus, signs remind students Schoolcraft strives to "put the community in college." Students on the Schoolcraft Connection staff have experienced nothing less. Schoolcraft has been a welcoming community with students aspiring to help one another through ups and downs.

There is a unique comfort in seeking guidance from a peer someone who understands your struggles on a personal level. The most powerful support comes from students helping each other. Approaching others may feel uncomfortable or unsettling, but a little kindness can change everything. A simple "hello" or asking if a student needs help understanding a project or assignment can change someone's entire day.

Helping others around campus and being kind can have a personal impact on someone and make the Schoolcraft community a more welcoming and comforting place. The next time you see someone who needs help. Remember, it could have a lasting impact.

#### EDITORIAL POLICY:

Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board. Signed columns solely reflect the opinion of the writer. The Schoolcraft Connection abstains from criticism of, or discrimination against any person on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, age, marital status, handicap, national origin, or sexual orientation.

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## **OPINIONS**

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

OCELOT OPINIONS

#### Who was your tv crush growing up?

#### INTERVIEW BY JESS MICHEAL LAYOUT BY CAITLIN CHERRY

This week we're tuning in to ask students and staff who their tv and movie crushes were. Let's find out!



"Bubbles from Powerpuff Girls, she was so sweet."



ANNA WHITAKER CASHIER AT HENRY'S CAFE

"The Partridge family, David Cassidy. Oh my gosh, you should look him up!"

ANTHONY BARNETT BUSINESS MAJOR



"Halls of Justice, the Wonder Twins"



TALA WEHBE 3D AND VIDEO GRAPHICS MAJOR

"Mr. Muscle, he always comes to the rescue"

JEFF GROTH MANAGER AT THE CRAFT GRILLE



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LIST

#### Congratulations Schoolcraft students!

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For the fall and winter semester, hard working students are recognized for their high achieving academic success.

The Dean's list is a way to publicly acknowledge that these students are seen for the goal they are reaching for. Students can get on the Dean's list by maintaining a 3.5 GPA.

Abdelhamed Nermeen Abo Jamra Rose Sarah Abo Jamra Abo Jamra Joseph Rita Abou Jamra Hadia Aboudaye Neenu Abraham August Abraham Hanna Abraham Abrash Deanna Ahmed Aburas Abusalah Sena Faris Adam Adam Tareq Paige Adamisin Abigail Adams Nathalie Agalo-Os Chase Agemak Aguilar Makavla Alexis Aguwa Lilijel Ahkao Muhammad Ahmad Tabina Ahmar Abdulrahman Ahmed Rafl Ahmed Akel Fatme Maysem Alabadi Ali Alamiri Modhi Albalawi Farah Albanna Alber Megan

Zahraa Raneem Moaml Louis Levi John Cleary Justin Tyler Aubree Mariam Sumaya Fatima Faisal Ahmed Saif Zainab Ehab Rakan Aayat Rawan Rania Sameer Maria Reem Asra Zahraa Oluwatoni Oluwalayomi Amoda Rawan Kelly Celeste Kara Matthew Pevton Emilio Julia Solis Kasandra Mohammed Armaan Robert Zachery

Al-Fasih Alhajali Alhemuzi Alimara Alkarad Alkhabi Allain Allan Allen Allen Allen Allen-Toole Allie Al-Maliki Almaweri Almaweri Alnakhala Alnakhalah Algaderi Alrikabi Alrofo Alsabbagh Alshaikh Alshaikh Alshaikh Alshamiri Alvarez Alwahah Alyaaqubi Alvakobi Amoda Anani Anderson Anderson Andes Andres Andrus Ansara Antonelli Antonio Anzalone Arnold Arnold

Mariana Arriaga Atkinson Charlotte Emann Atriss Atwi Redda Kayla Avala Diego Ayala Millan Sariva Avoub Bahar Nabia Rylee Baker Kelly Balin-Cuesta Hatem Bamieh Christine Banaszak Barakat Ziad Barbour Madelyn Barklev Morgan Desmond Barnette Sebastian Barnhart Margarita Barry Barter Emma Luke **Barthlow** Noah **Bashore** Ella Battle Emily Bauman Julian Bautista Sargun Bawa Addison **Beatty** Justin Beaudrie Katherine Beauvais Bebba Louay Bebba Tayma Emma Bebeau Sebastia Bedoya Camargo Madison Bee Jessica Begu Angela Begu Behnke **Bridgette** Dmitrv Bell Bellocco Isabella Rodrigo Beltran Tyler **Bennett** David Bennie Rvanne Berringer Anton Berry Chelsea Berry Savannah Berry Jack **Betteley** 

Daniel Beverley Gabriel Bidinger Christopher Bills Binkowski Elise Layla Bintul-Mustafa Alicia Black Blair Chanel Blanks Jazmin Jenna Blomshield Isaac Boal **Bobic** Joshua Luke Bodenham **Chase Boedigheimer** Sir Luke Boggs Olivia Bogosov Alex Bohinsky Boka Lucas Mya Bolin Alexis Bommarito Nicole Bondy Bonnici Isabella Raina Bonus Paul Boran Borsos Carter Bosilkovski Nicholas Melanie Boudreau Nicholas Bourcier Bowler Lillian Laniece Bowman Alexander Bowser Kelly Boynton Boynton Ava Joshua Boze Estella Bradford Bradlev Andrew **Brandes** Kaija Gabrielle Brandon Alesandra Bravu Breadon Tyler Angela Bregu Savannah Brinkmeier Claire Brish Tamia Brooks Aleah Brooks **Kehless** Brouk Jermiah Brown

Keith Brown Alexis Brown Brandon Brushaber Antoneta Bucaj Bucher Connor Aiden **Buchholz** Budd Noah Brooke Bull Landen Burdt Evan Burford Trevor Burja Justin Burns Sarah Bush Oana **Butincu** Shaminder Buttar Melanie Buzo Brandon **B**vers Christopher Byl Raegan Byrd Melaina Byson Abigail **B**zovi Tiffany Cabrera Armas Cierra Caggins Aliceia Callaway Jack Callaway Kimberly Camp Tavlor Campbell Kendall Campo Areli Campos Candela Lia Luid Cani Beniamin Cannon Eric Cao Ava Caouette Kelsev Capeling Andrew Cardenas Vanessa Carlos Christina Carlson Shane Carnes Carlie Carpenter Chelsi Carpenter Vian Carremm Rubi Carreon Sarah Carroll Annisha Carter Shelby Casey

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Dominick

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Cassaundra Young Jessica Zawodna Xiaomei Zhang Zylinski Cassandra



## DIVERSIONS

## Find Answers on Page 34!

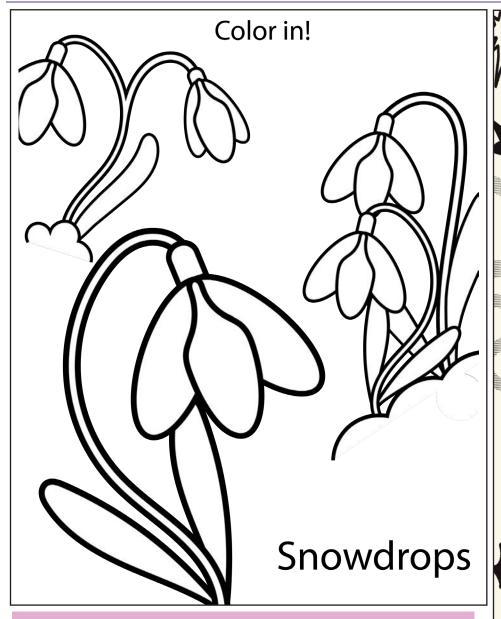
Valentine's day word search

"Have fun finding Valentine's Day words like heart, Love, and cupid in this festive word search!"



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#### **Illustration Hunt**

Your mission is to find all three of these illustrations that have been scattered throughout the newspaper. Once you've found them all, circle them and head over to the Student Activities office. The first 20 students to bring down their evidence will win a \$10 gift card! To get your prize, ask for the Connection Editor-in-Chief Jess or Student Activities Associate Elizabeth Machniak upon your arrival. Aries (March 21 - April 19): Trust your instincts in love.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): Be open to vulnerability—this could bring you closer to someone special.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): Be honest about your desires, and things could shift for the better.

> **Cancer (June 21 - July 22):** Take your time before rushing in.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): Take time for fun and lighthearted moments.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Allow yourself to open up with emotional vulnerability.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): Make sure things are balanced before diving in.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): It's a good time to reconnect and reignite the passion.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Be playful and enjoy the energy.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): Focus on building a strong, lasting foundation in your relationships.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): Keep an open mind, a new spark could be coming.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): Allow the flow of emotional revelations in your love







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#### LIVONIA

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