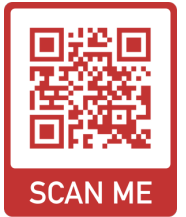




Visiting artist series returns to MCCC

Betzi Lievens hosts workshop, lecture to showcase artwork

Page 4



Annual poetry night draws in large crowd

Mick Valentino
Assistant Editor

Every seat in the Holladay Theater, which holds a capacity of 50, was filled, leaving standing room only for this year's annual Poetry Night on Oct. 23.

Over 50 people attended the event, which was hosted by the Writing Center, and 33 people performed.

Lori Jo Couch, director of the Writing Center, said she was happy with the turnout this year.

"This is probably the first year it had been more than 50 since Covid, since the pandemic," she said. "So, yes, we are very happy with the turnout."

Couch said the numbers have varied, but usually the attendance number is around 50. This year, though, was different.

"I thought this was a large Poetry Night, we had standing room only, so I think this was a very nice sized crowd," she said.

Anna Muth, writing fellow, said the crowd number was one of the main differences she noticed this year compared to last year.

"Attendance. We had a lot more people I feel like than last year, and then obviously no costume contest this year," Muth said. "But I feel like it all worked out because of the lack of costume contest, we had a lot more time for presenters which was really, really nice."

Couch said there was no costume contest this year because it started to feel like the contest was overshadowing the poetry.



Photo by Mick Valentino

The crowd at poetry night waves flashlights to a performance of "Free Bird" by Lynyrd Skynyrd. Poetry Night was held by the Writing Center Oct. 23.

"It became, I thought, over the last couple of years, a little bit more of a costume contest than a Poetry Night," she said. "And so

the poems stopped being the kind of emphasis and it started turning toward being a costume contest."

Couch said that a lot went into planning for

See poetry on page 5

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The importance of involvement at community college

Maggie Sandefur
Agora Editor

When I first started classes at MCCC, I was 15 and extremely shy.

I had taken an online class my first semester, so I didn't have to get out of my comfort zone. As a Middle College student, I was able to simply attend high school classes and stick to my bubble of friends, most of which came from middle school, and worry about college in my free time. I wasn't part of any group, I hadn't talked to very many people I didn't already know, and I was very against the thought of joining any clubs.

However, as I progressed through my years at MCMC and became more involved at MCCC, I learned just how important it is to get involved.

Community college is often a place where people come and go. Since there aren't dorms, a lot of people are able to only come for classes and leave before they'd even get the chance to sit in on some club meeting or attend a school event. While this may be exactly what some people want, I found for myself that it was only detrimental in the long run.

In 11th grade, after doing a karaoke rendition of Taylor Swift's "Love Story" in the cafeteria, I found myself signing up to join Student Government. I had just barely gotten enough courage to join the high school's yearbook, which was a comfort zone of mine since I had yearbook experience in the past, and now I was joining an actual college group. It felt almost unheard of for me.

I then got the courage to run for historian,

which I later became. I spent my 11th grade year tabling Student Government events, making flyers and even making t-shirts. Simply being able to be part of a group was an incredible feeling, especially when it came time to fundraise or do clothing drives, but it also gave me valuable experience. I was able to talk to strangers for the first time in my life.

At the end of my 11th grade year, I was approached about joining the Agora. Journalism had been my dream, so I took yet another leap of faith and decided to join.

To this day, I have not regretted it.

It gave me a new sense of confidence. I was immediately welcomed into a kind, relaxed newsroom that had so much to offer. The work was hard, as it mostly always is, but it was extremely rewarding.

I ultimately stepped away from Student Government. However, I will always remember it as where I learned so much and gained plenty of confidence from.

Had I not gotten involved on campus, I never would've taken the leap of faith I did in joining the paper, let alone interviewing for the editor position when our previous editor, Megan Kane, got accepted to U of M.

Joining the Agora for me was like finding my place. I traveled with my staff and experienced so many things that were absolutely incredible, like the eclipse or journalism conferences. It became very familial very fast, and it provided me with experiences like never before.

I've noticed it's the same across campus. When I see members of GSA or the Writ-

ing Center together, there's always a certain warmth to their interactions. Getting involved on campus isn't always as scary as it seems, especially when you witness these clubs getting along firsthand.

Community college doesn't have to be a quick thing. It doesn't need to be a 'come

and go' type of experience. Getting involved was the best decision I had ever made, and I wholeheartedly believe plenty of others could probably vouch for that same idea.

I don't think I will ever experience anything like this ever again, and I'm cherishing it as much as I can, while I can.

Editor's picks: Halloween

Maggie Sandefur and Mick Valentino
Agora Editors

With Halloween just around the corner, we wanted to share our picks for our favorite holiday.

Favorite song:

Maggie: One of my all-time favorite Halloween songs is "People are Strange" by The Doors. Even though it's not directly a Halloween song, I think it brings the perfect vibe for spooky season and makes late-night fall drives even creepier than normal. If I had to pick a second favorite, it would be "Season of the Witch" by Donovan. It has just the right amount of Halloween energy.

Mick: I couldn't decide on one favorite so I'll name two. First one is "Dead Man's Party" by Oingo Boingo. Not necessarily a Halloween song, but it fits well. Dancing all night with dead party animals? Sign me up. Second song is "Psycho Killer" by Talking Heads. It's the perfect amount of creepiness for Halloween! Everyone loves that jittery, paranoid feeling the song causes, right?

Favorite movie:

Maggie: If I had to go for a horror movie, I would say the 2017 remake of "It." It was one of the first horror movies I fully watched, and I've loved it ever since. If I had to pick a Halloween-themed movie, I would have to go with "Halloweentown." It was a favorite of mine growing up and a classic.

Mick: My favorite horror movie would have to be "The Shining." Such a classic. And the soundtrack creeps me out in the best way. If we're talking Halloween-themed movies, I think I can confident-

ly say "The Nightmare Before Christmas." I have to watch it every year without fail. Again, the soundtrack hooks me. Thanks, Danny Elfman. Really works you into the Halloween spirit!

Favorite candy:

Maggie: I love most chocolate, so I would have to go with a classic Kit Kat. I don't think you can go wrong with a chocolate-wafer combination, especially on Halloween night. I'm also a very big fan of candy corn. It's a Halloween staple and definitely very yummy.

Mick: I'm sure a lot of people will think I'm gross for this, but I'm a huge fan of candy corn. I've always loved it. It tastes great. It's festive. It's cute. Who could ask for more?

Favorite activity:

Maggie: My favorite activity is watching scary movies with my loved ones. A lot of my Halloweens as a teenager have been me at home, watching horror movies since it's my favorite genre. I absolutely love seeing what kind of scare tactics will be used in movies, as well as what kind of horror it will be. Plus, it doesn't hurt to rewatch some classics!

Mick: My favorite activity surrounding Halloween would have to be working on my costume. I adore dressing up for Halloween and being able to make my own costume just makes me love Halloween that much more. Besides making my own costume, I love going to haunted houses and being terrified the entire time. I'm a jumpy guy, so I always get my money's worth!

The Agora

Editors

Maggie Sandefur
Mick Valentino

Staff

Reese Bowling
Sidney Robison
Dalton Brown
Keegan Schmitt
Dana Willi

Editorial Policy

The Agora is published by the students of Monroe County Community College, 1555 S. Raisinville Rd., Monroe, MI, 48161. The editorial office is located in Room 213 of the Campbell Building.

Submissions: The Agora encourages submissions by anyone in the college community, including freelance articles, opinion columns or letters to the editor. All submissions must include a name, address and phone number for verification purposes. The Agora reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, length and libel.

The Agora is a student-managed newspaper that supports a free student press. It is a member of the Michigan Community College Press Association, the Michigan Press Association, College Media Association, Associated Collegiate Press and the Student Press Law Center.

Story suggestions are welcome. Let us know what you would like to see in the Agora - it's your newspaper. Email submissions to agora@monroeccc.edu.

New agriculture program coordinator introduced at MCCC

Sidney Robison

Agora Staff

MCCC has welcomed a new agricultural program coordinator through a partnership with MSU.

Born and raised Monroe County resident Kristen Brown is the new agricultural program coordinator, and she plans to implement her expertise and bring her passion for the agricultural industry to MCCC.

Brown graduated from Bedford High School in 2001 and was in the dual enrollment program at MCCC. She then went on to transfer to Michigan State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Art in communications advertising and a Bachelor of Art in business marketing.

Brown said she grew up in Monroe County and was a part of 4-H raising pigs and steer.

"I've been a part of the ag industry my whole life, my dad is a farmer but he is now retired," Brown said.

Brown is the daughter of a third generation farmer, a member of 4-H, and co-owner of K&B Plants in Temperance, Michigan. The name stands for her parents, Karen and Bill.

Brown said she had been looking to make a personal change in her career.

"I've been in a lot of different business aspects and I was previously running the administration for my church's kids ministry, I had a lot going on at once so I wanted a change of pace," she said.

Brown says she is very much a people person and enjoys being out in the community and will be helping take charge of the farm here at the college.

MCCC has a twelve-acre community farm north of the Welch building.

Ned Birkey, MSU extension educator emeritus, volunteers most of his time at the farm and helps maintain the crops and vegetables, along with harvesting them.

"We have three soybean plots, two corn plots, along with pumpkins, sunflowers and radishes," Birkey said.

The farm is only available for use to people who are in the agricultural program.

Brown will be the new advisor for the agriculture club, which was previously advised by Leon Letter.

"I am also advising students not just for the ag club, but for the entire program, that would be what part of my position is," Brown said.

A handful of the crops and vegetables that are harvested at the farm are sent to Monroe County Opportunity Program, or MCOP.

"The soybeans and the grains are taken to MCOP and the money from that will go into the fund for the ag club," Brown said.



Kristen Brown is MCCC's new agricultural program coordinator. Brown dual enrolled at MCCC before transferring to MSU.

Brown said extra food is donated.

"If we have extra produce from the sales, then that will be donated to MCOP," Brown said.

Brown has many hobbies outside of work which include gardening, reading, home design, volunteering and spending time with family and friends.

"I am huge on volunteerism and very involved with my church, Habitat for Humanity, Let's Build Beds in Toledo and I have always had a passion for giving back," Brown said.

In regards to getting more people involved with agriculture and the program itself, Brown said she wants to garner more interest and spread awareness about it.

"We're really trying to get the word out about the opportunity that the college offers to give kids a chance to transfer to Michigan State," Brown said.

The partnership between MCCC and MSU allows students to earn a certificate from the MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology while working toward an associate degree from MCCC, according to the Michigan State University website.

"I'd love to see the program grow and have more opportunities for students," Brown said.



A John Deere tractor sits in the field available to those who are part of the agricultural program.

Photos by Sidney Robison

MCCC hosts annual visiting artist series

Betzi Lievens, MCCC alum, provides community with workshop, lecture over two-day program

Sidney Robison
Agora Staff

The sounds of voices chattering in the auditorium quickly quieted when the artist came on stage. Betzi Lievens, MCCC alum and local artist, hosted a presentation on Oct. 22 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. to show her work and talk a little bit about her life.

The next day, she hosted a workshop from 3-4:30 p.m. where she led a step-by-step process of replicating one of her watercolor paintings.

There were about 25 people in attendance.

Lievens attended MCCC for two years and then transferred to the College for Creative Studies in Detroit. She has a bachelor's in fine arts and painting.

Lievens said she takes inspiration from artists like Van Gogh and Goya.

"I'm really inspired by everything, from conversations to art history and it just depends on the day as to what inspires me," she said.

Lievens uses many different mediums, like oil pastels, watercolor, charcoal and acrylic paint.

Lievens has several pieces of artwork locat-

ed in local areas.

"I have artwork displayed at Dacapo Coffee in Temperance, some places in downtown Monroe and I have a piece in a gallery near Greektown in Toledo," she said.

Although she is not actively teaching classes to the public, Lievens would like to change that soon.

"I'm thinking of offering some individual private lessons in the next coming months," she said.

While there was a lot of advice given to Lievens during her career, one piece of advice

stuck out to her.

"The best advice I've received is to just show up, even if no one comes to your show and just be there because you never know when there could be an opportunity for you," Lievens said.

Lievens said art is tremendously important, especially in a smaller community.

"We need to make art more acceptable because a lot of people take it seriously and it's important to get people exposed to art especially when they are young and to learn the value of it," she said.



Photo by Sidney Robison

Betzi Lievens hosts a workshop to present a walkthrough replication of one of her original paintings. Lievens hosted a workshop and lecture on Oct. 22 and 23 as part of MCCC's visiting artist series.

Poetry Night pulls biggest crowd since Covid

POETRY: from page 1

the event, including scheduling, advertising and funding.

“The first important thing is finding a date that doesn’t conflict with anyone else’s date, so we had to change the date a couple times before we hit on one that worked,” she said.

Couch said even though the date was changed multiple times, there was still a

scheduling conflict due to the college hosting the 60th Anniversary celebration at the same time as Poetry Night.

She said this was the first year the refreshments for Poetry Night were paid for.

“We were able to go to the Student Government and ask for funds for the refreshments and we’ve never been able to do that unless we were buying them out of our own pocket or getting donations or raising money,” she said. “So it was really nice to have the Student Government supply the refreshments.”

The poetry contest for original works are judged by the writing fellows on the promotions committee, and the winner will receive a candy basket. They will also have the chance to be published in the Agora, as well as have their poem used by the Inside Out Dance Ensemble.

Elizabeth Anson, who presented an original work at the event, said she was inspired by her creative writing class to come up with the poetic format she read.

Anson said she was pleased with this year’s

event.

“I was definitely pleased with the turnout and with just the variety of poems that were presented tonight,” she said.

Muth said she had high expectations for this year’s poetry night, and those expectations were met.

“It definitely exceeded my expectations,” she said. “It was very, very cool to see how full the theater was and it was really awesome.”



Above, MCCC celebrated its 60th anniversary on Oct. 23 with an address from President Kojo Quartey, copies of the new history book and cake for attendees. Right, over 75 people attended MCCC’s 60th anniversary celebration.

Photos by Dana Willi



MCCC hosts 60th anniversary celebration

Agora Staff

MCCC celebrated its 60th anniversary with a gathering in the La-Z-Boy Atrium.

The event, held Oct. 23, was attended by over 75 people, according to a news release.

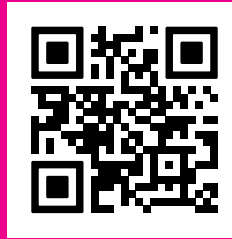
Kojo Quartey, MCCC president, presented an update on recent college successes and unveiled Volume 3 of its history book series. Guests received a copy of the book, titled “Monroe County Community College in the 21st Century – A History.”

Quartey’s speech addressed topics including the Husky Shuttle transportation service, 10 new academic programs, MCCC’s part-

nership with the Monroe Family YMCA for their Local Meal Distribution Program, campus mental health services, Heck’s Market Food Pantry and Heck’s Market Grab ‘n Go service, and state funding for the upcoming H Building renovation, among other campus services or opportunities.

Ron Campbell, the college’s founding president, appeared in a pre-recorded video to join in the celebration.

Anyone interested in a free copy of the new history book can contact Penny Dorcsey, executive assistant to the president and Board of Trustees, at pdorcsey@monroeccc.edu.



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No formal sealed bid process for H Building renovations

Reese Bowling
Agora Staff

Upcoming renovations for the H Building may look similar to previous C Building work.

The college bypassed their formal sealed bid process and hired the same firm who worked on the C Building.

The Collaborative, an architecture, design and planning firm with offices in Ann Arbor, Columbus and Toledo, is the architectural firm approved for H Building's construction. They were the architects for the renovations to the C Building.

According to Procedure 6.01, "Purchasing Procedures" posted on the college website, sealed bids are required for purchases exceeding \$20,000. Deviations from sealed bid regulations shall require the approval of the college president and/or the Board of Trustees.

When asked if President Kojo Quartey or the Board of Trustees approved the policy exemption, the Agora was not given a clear answer. Joe Verkennes, director of marketing and communications, referenced the "Purchase Requisitions" section of Procedure 6.01. The section states three quotes are needed if the item cost exceeds \$1,000 or if multiples of the item exceed \$5,000.

The decision to work again with The Collaborative was approved by former Vice President of Administration Suzanne Wetzell in the summer of 2022, when construction on C Building was wrapping up.

The Agora submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to Verkennes for a copy of the bid for the design and renovation of H Building.

"The public record being requested does not exist within the public body under the name given by the requester another name reasonably known to the public body, as the design and renovation project for the Welch Health Education Center did not go through the college's formal sealed bid process outlined in Procedure 6.01, 'Purchasing Procedures,'" Verkennes said in an email. "Therefore, there is no formal winning sealed bid response on file for design and/or construction."

Jack Burns, director of campus planning and facilities, said the total cost for architects, engineers and consultants will be over \$900,000.

"For the building we are estimating the total cost of the project to be between \$22-25 million (that includes construction, equipment costs, and furniture)," Burns said in an email.

Curtis Creagh, vice president of finance and administration, said they don't look at fees when approving firms for projects.



Photo by Dana Willi

A recent groundbreaking ceremony celebrated the approval of the H Building, which is tentatively being renamed the Welch Center for Health and Public Safety, to undergo renovations.

"We do not select firms based on fees, we look at their capabilities," Creagh said.

Creagh said The Collaborative was chosen because of their success with the C Building and their experience with healthcare design.

The Agora could not contact a college spokesman in time to see if sealed bids were issued for C Building renovations.

The project will be broken down into several phases so the college can keep the H Build-

ing up and operating while undergoing renovations. There will be three phases in total.

Creagh said they want the most qualified, not the cheapest.

"We always bid out projects. There are multiple parts to a project mostly being the design portion and then the construction portion," Creagh said. "For the design services I release an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) so we can vet out who truly has the expertise we

seek. Then we look at their project costs. We don't necessarily want the cheapest but rather we want the most qualified. For the construction portion of a project we always release an RFP (Request for Proposals) so we can see who is the most cost effective. Even then we don't necessarily go with the cheapest, as sometimes it is evident they did not bid the project (or their portion) out correctly."

Financial aid process delayed due to tech fee rollback, refund

Dalton Brown
Agora Staff

Students will be receiving a refund on top of their financial aid refunds after the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a rollback Sept. 23 of the college's technology fee.

However, it is not as simple as giving the money back.

"Got to make sure of the calculations before you can sign off on the refund each student gets that relates to this reduction in needs," said Curtis Creagh, vice president of Finance

and Administration.

The college's business office is expected to mail refund checks to students by Oct. 31, according to an Oct. 23 email from Gerald McCarty II, dean of students.

Students received an email Oct. 1 to report the board's decision about the technology fee decrease. The fee went from \$29 per billable contact hours to \$27.25 per billable contact hours, resulting in a \$1.75 difference.

The amount a student is getting refunded is unclear.

"The Financial Aid Office had to manually review and update all student accounts and state of Michigan awards," according to the Oct. 23 email.

Every year, MCCC looks at the operation and technology needs and does background research to look at cost and vendors as part of budgeting.

"Each year the college has to certify that we are within the parameters set by the state," Creagh said.

When MCCC certified this year, there were

two parts. There was an increase in in-state fees and an increase in tech fees.

When MCCC performed their initial calculations, they did not accommodate for the tech fees which have been the same since 2021.

Creagh said a lot of the technology that the faculty utilizes while on campus is funded by the technology fees.

Emergency Funding may be available for those in extreme need. If you need emergency funding, please contact McCarty II at gmc-carty@monroeccc.edu.

Enrollment process altered for qualifying high school seniors

Application waived, automatic acceptance program to take effect starting next year

Maggie Sandefur
Agora Editor

MCCC has partnered with local high schools to eliminate the application process for seniors.

Seniors at Monroe High, Mason Consolidated Schools, Ida Public Schools and Jefferson Schools are now eligible for the Husky Quick Start, which takes away the requirement to apply in the MCCC enrollment process, according to a news release.

Katie Navock, director of enrollment management, said the program assists the transition from high school to college, as well as encouraging early access to scholarships and advising.

This process will begin with the 2025 graduating class and automatically enroll high school seniors with no cost to the students or schools.

Scott Behrens, vice president of enrollment management and student success, said students from qualifying schools are sent acceptance letters without needing to fill out an application. Emails will also be sent to them. After that, the student would need to get in contact with the school.

Behrens said his team is working to change the narrative on how students get into college to make it as easy and supportive as possible.

He said the school isn't focusing on en-

rollment numbers, but rather focusing on ensuring a good education for the county.

"So, what my team is doing is not focusing on enrollment, but rather focusing on increasing the educational attainment levels of the county," Behrens said.

Enrollment numbers are currently flat, with current numbers at 2,464. This is in comparison to the last few years, with enrollment at 2,478 in 2023; 2,471 in 2022; 2,570 in 2021; and 2,312 in 2020.

Behrens said enrollment numbers at MCCC leveled off quicker than numbers of other schools. He said there was an 11% rise between fall of 2020 and 2021, mostly from Michigan Reconnect students.

The Michigan Reconnect program allows Michigan residents who are at least 21 to attend their district's community college tuition-free, according to the State of Michigan website.

Applicants must apply for Michigan Reconnect by Dec. 31, according to the MCCC website.

Behrens said the ultimate goal in enrollment programs, like Reconnect or the Husky Quick Start, is getting students to where they want to go.

"The goal is, OK, can we get them over the finish line?"

"The goal is, OK, can we get them over the finish line?"

Scott Behrens
VP of Enrollment Management and Student Success

College celebrates 60 years



Photo by Dana Willi

President Kojo Quartey, center, addresses a crowd of more than 75 guests during MCCC's 60th anniversary Oct. 23 in the La-Z-Boy Center Atrium. Quartey announced the release of the third volume in the college's history book series during the event.

Over 30 performers present at poetry night



Ashleigh Bentley reads a poem at the Writing Center's Poetry Night on Oct. 23.



Over 50 people were in attendance at Poetry Night, filling every seat in The Holladay Theater.



Connor Kemp performs "Free Bird" by Lynyrd Skynyrd at Poetry Night. Kemp was the first and last performer of the night, starting with an original song and ending with a cover.

Chillingly good reads for this Halloween

Four mystery/thriller books to read this spooky season

Sidney Robison
Agora Staff

As spooky season approaches, I tend to gravitate toward mystery and thriller books. I don't read them often unless I'm in the mood for it. I have picked four books that I thoroughly enjoyed that are also a series.

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson

High school senior Andie Bell was murdered by her boyfriend Sal Singh, who later took his own life. Five years later, the town still talks about what happened and everyone is still rattled with grief. Pip Fitz-Amobi is one person in town who thinks that there was more to what happened that day. She knew Sal when they were kids and he was always kind to everyone. Pip decides to re-examine the case for her final project. Soon, she finds out dark secrets along the way that might prove Sal was actually innocent.

I really enjoyed this book. It was easy to get into and there were so many twists and turns, so many "what-ifs." Pip was amazing, and very detailed in her work of finding out what happened to Andie. I really liked the dynamic of Pip and Sal's little brother, Ravi's friendship/partnership throughout the book. I liked how fast paced the book was and the chapters were on the shorter side.

The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Avery Grambs just wants to survive high school. Billionaire Tobias Hawthorne dies suddenly and leaves his entire fortune to Avery, but she has no idea who he is. To receive her inheritance, Avery must solve different puzzles, riddles and codes. She is caught in a world of wealth and privilege, with danger around every corner.

I liked how the mystery of the inheritance was the main plot and then there was also some romance as a subplot. As each of the riddles came into play, it was fun to see all the characters try and figure them out. This book kept me on the edge of my seat throughout

most of it and it was a really fun reading experience.

The Midnight Game by Cynthia Murphy

When a group of six strangers who have only ever spoken on a creepy Reddit thread decide to meet in real life, they have one plan in mind: they are going to play The Midnight Game and summon the Midnight Man. Some of the rules of the game are simple: Do not turn on any lights. Do not go to sleep. Do not leave the building, and once you start the game, you must finish it.

This story was intriguing and it pulled me in from the start. As I met each of the characters, I started to get suspicious of some of the people, since at the end, one of them is actually the killer. There was a little bit of romance as a subplot which was fun to read. The chapters were short and had maps and graphics to help further the story. Overall, I really recommend this book.

The Naturals by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Seventeen-year-old Cassie is a natural at reading people, but it's not a skill that she's ever taken seriously. That is, until the FBI comes to her door. They've begun a classified program that uses exceptional teenagers to crack infamous cold cases, and they need Cassie. She's sent to live with a group of teens whose gifts are as unusual as her own. Soon, it becomes clear that no one in the Naturals program is what they seem. And when a new killer strikes, danger looms closer than Cassie could ever have imagined. The Naturals are going to have to use all of their gifts just to survive.

I thought that the plot of the book was very cool. I liked how the FBI recruited high school teenagers with special skills. I am a big fan of cold cases and researching crime, so I enjoyed this book. There was a love triangle going on but it's not the main point of the story. Overall, I enjoyed this book a lot.



Photo by Sidney Robison

Incident near campus leads to home invasion, minor injuries

Mick Valentino
Assistant Editor

A home invasion near campus left a woman transported to the hospital with minor injuries and the offender in police custody on Friday, Oct. 25.

The incident started at the Monroe County Intermediate School District, which is adjacent to MCCC on South Raisinville Road, where Sgt. Jason Miller was assigned. The offender, whose name is being withheld pending formal charges, is a male employee of the ISD, according to a news release from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. He was outside of the building acting erratically.

Miller located the offender, who was thought to have been armed by the way he moved and gestured, according to a sheriff's report.

Miller alerted Monroe County Central Dispatch and multiple units were sent out.

In an email to employees, MCCC President Kojo Quartey said that Safety Services secured the north entrance of the college.

The offender eventually walked off school grounds and into an unlocked residence on South Raisinville Road that was occupied by a man and two women, according to a sheriff's report.

Once the offender was inside, he barricaded himself in a bedroom with one of the women.

The residence was surrounded by deputies who then made entry into the home. Negotiations were made with the offender, but ultimately the deputies forced entry into the bedroom, according to a sheriff's report.

Deputies took the offender into custody without further incident, freeing the woman.

The woman was brought to Promedica Monroe Regional.

Quartey said campus is secure.

"Our Safety Services secured our north entrance and local law enforcement responded and took the individual into custody," he said. "There is no danger to our campus."

The case is under an ongoing investigation by the Monroe County Detective Bureau.

Agora

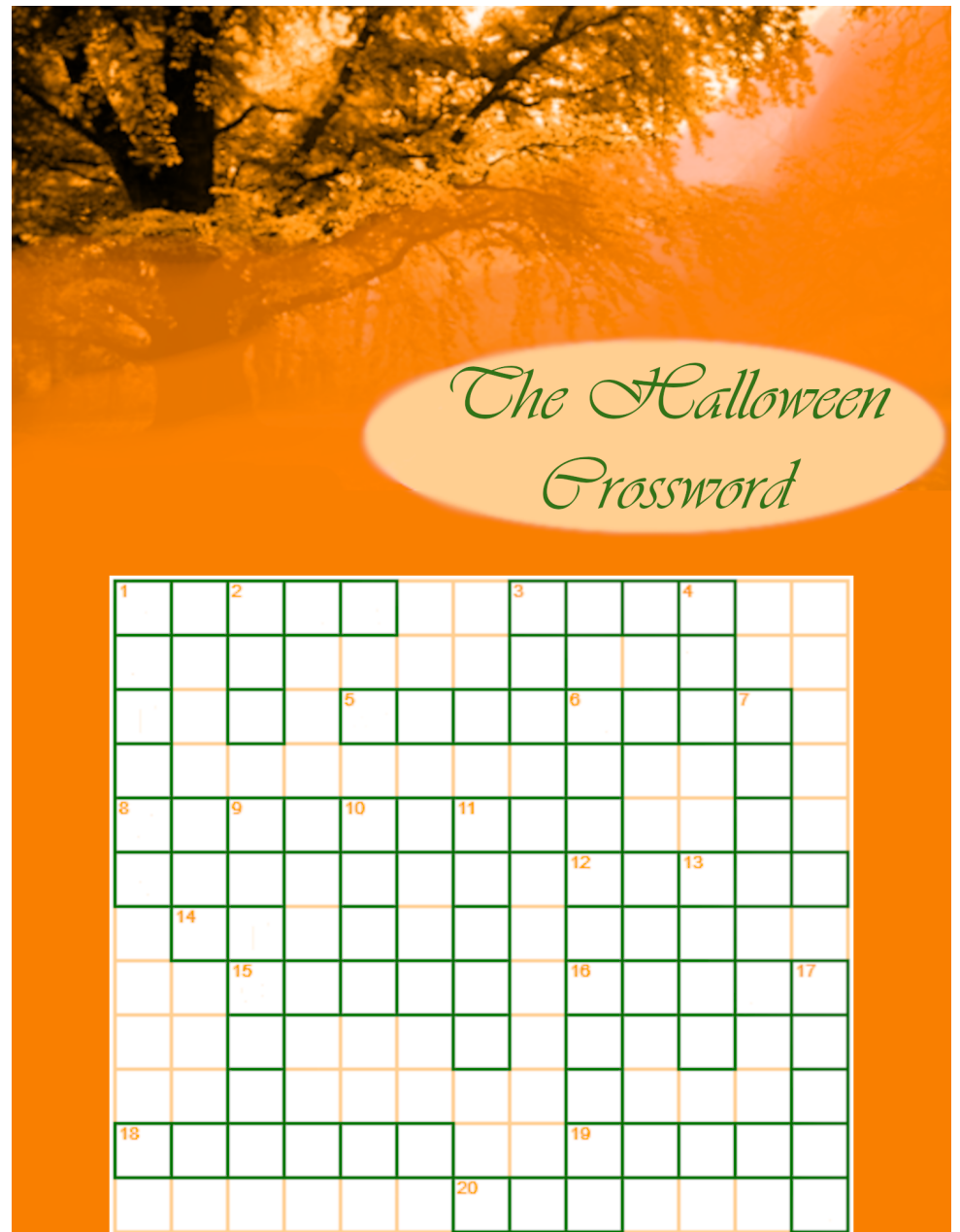
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Answers to the Halloween crossword puzzle can be found online. Crossword made by Keegan Schmitt.



The Halloween Crossword

Clues

Across

- 1 - Bad ____ Die.
3 - Reflections of sound.
5 - Creatures that come out in (8 Across).
8 - Nighttime sunshine.
12 - A drink made with (1 Across) in (1 Down).
14 - A famous (18 Across) movie.
15 - Signs, Good ____
16 - Corrids, (15 Across) of (13 Down).
18 - Halloween's genre.
19 - Something which ends (10 Down).
20 - A black one is bad (15 Across).

Down

- 1 - (9 Down)'s time of year.
2 - Psychic powers.
3 - All Hallow's ____
4 - An avian symbol of wisdom.
6 - Magic, banned in Salem.
7 - Destiny.
9 - The time of Halloween.
10 - ____ is short, ____ is sweet.
11 - A spirit, a ghoul.
13 - To condemn to a terrible (7 Down).
17 - A bone, used as (15 Across) of (13 Down).