

WHITE PINE PRESS

We hew to the line; let the chips fall where they may.

A Tainted Environment: Close to Home

Steven Tucker “I won’t pay for poison!”
Staff Writer said Flint resident Nakiya Wakes at an environmental journalism conference debating if water should be considered a human right. She was referencing her water bill that totals more than \$2,000 that she refuses to pay. The problem began in 2015 during the Flint water crisis, and continues today. Wakes is a mother turned activist after her family, like thousands of others, were victims of poisonous amounts of lead in their drinking water.

In Michigan, our way of life revolves around water. The state uses the slogan “Pure Michigan” to attract tourism, but for many, the water isn’t “pure.” Not only do we drink, wash, and swim in the water, but it also provides Michigan’s economy with billions of dollars annually. Critics say environmental regulations are weakening under the current government, Enbridge’s Line 5 pipeline is threatening the Great Lakes, and dangerous chemicals (known as PFAS) are found in drinking water across the state. Midterm elections are coming in November, and Michigan voters are paying attention to how candidates plan to tackle these issues.

Traverse City residents may be dealing with water problems as well if a slew of potential environmental risks are ignored. The Trump administration and a Republican state government are rolling back environmental regulation, while private companies take advantage of Michigan’s environmental policy.

Enbridge’s aging Line 5 pipeline moves nearly 20 million gallons of oil and natural gas daily, threatening the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, in Mecosta County, Nestle has paid around \$200 per year for the past 17 years to remove 4 billion gallons of water for its Ice Mountain bottled water. In April 2018, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) approved a permit allowing Nestle to draw greater amounts of water. In a MDEQ op-ed that same month, director C. Heidi Grether acknowledged this was done despite majority public opinion being mostly against it. She says her organization is beholden only to the law.



Detroit’s Heidelberg Project combines junk with nature to beautify urban areas through art.

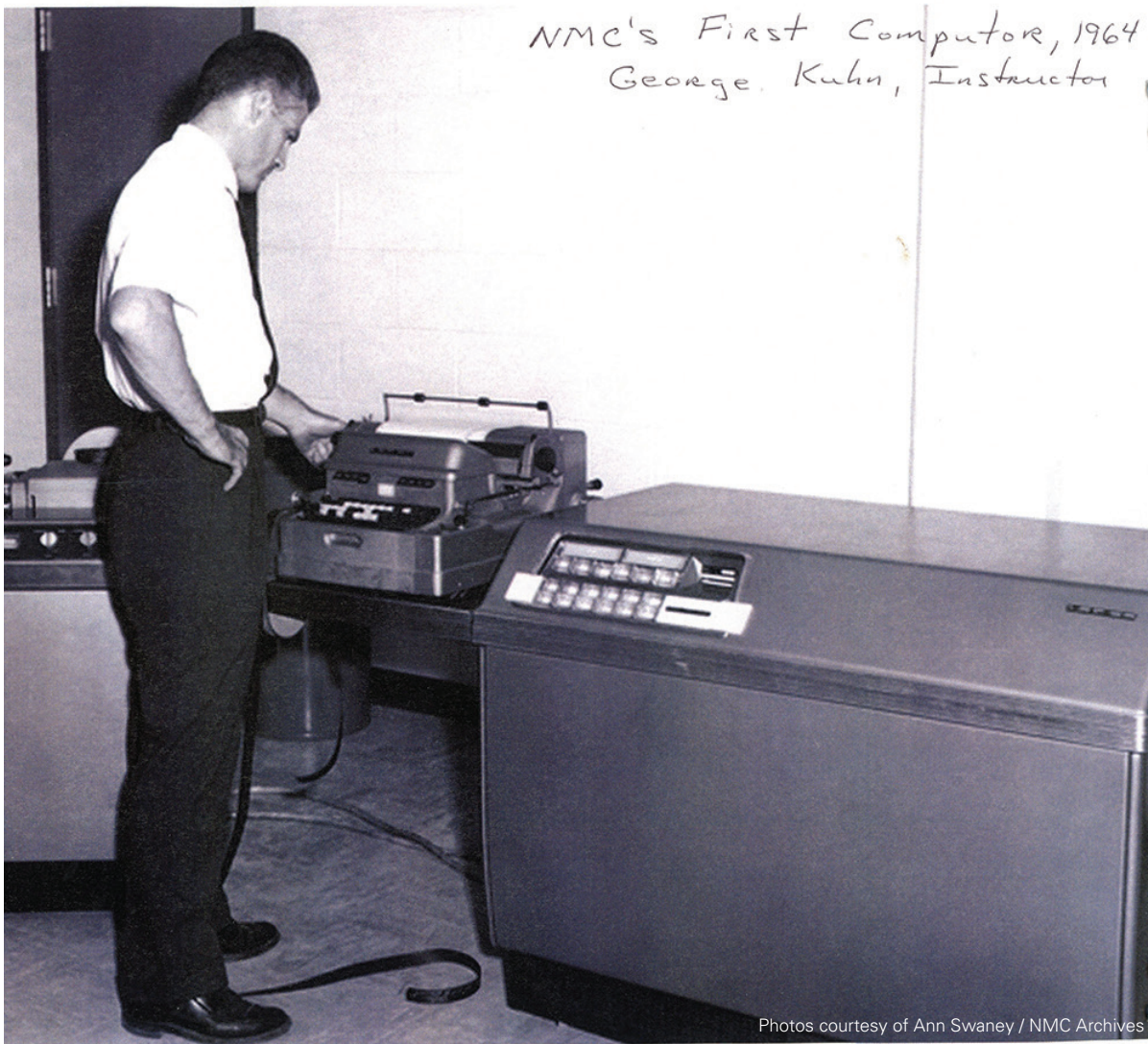
This state of mind is also visible in Detroit, where mass water shutoffs started gaining attention in 2014. At that time, 40,000 residents were threatened with having their water services stopped due to delinquent

payment, drawing the attention of the United Nations. Meanwhile, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) supplies water to nearly half the state. In an interview with the *Detroit Free Press* in March 2017,

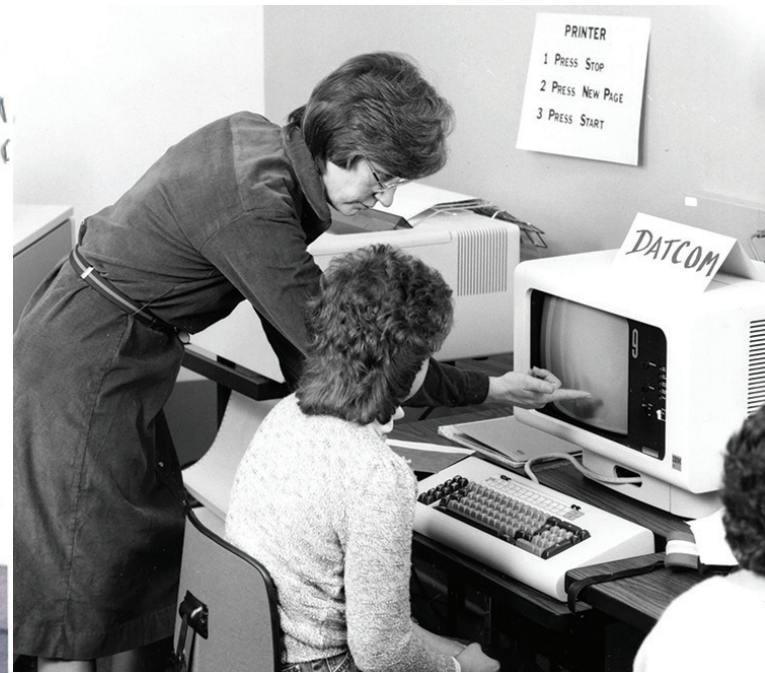
DWSD director Gary Brown stated that the average past-due amount was \$663. Shutoffs have declined since then, with only 17,689 accounts stopped in 2017.

Continued on Page 9





Photos courtesy of Ann Swaney / NMC Archives



Northwestern Michigan College's first computer was purchased in 1963 by instructor George Kuhn. It was used for internal operations such as student registration and grades. The first computers for students were used for data processing classes, like the one pictured above led by instructor Mary Norris. The 1970-71 course catalog states that "graduates of the [data processing] program would have the skills to serve as data processing technicians, operating and programming unit-record and computer machinery used in business firms and in scientific and industrial organizations." In 2018, NMC has more than 1,900 computers across its campuses.

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

WHITE PINE PRESS

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NEWSROOM 231.995.1173
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Printed by Stafford Media Solutions and distributed free.
 Printed on 100% recycled paper

What's Up on Campus?

Spring/Summer 2019 registration begins Oct. 24. Current first semester students must meet with their advisor before enrolling in classes. Registration start times vary based on earned credit hours. Your registration date and time will be listed in your Academic Transcript, found in the "Student Records" menu in Self-Service.

Flu vaccines are available at Health Services (LB 106). No appointment is necessary. Cost is \$15 for students, \$20 for faculty and staff (no cost for NMC insured employees).

Sign up now for co-ed intramural volleyball: deadline is 5pm on Thursday, Oct. 25 in the PE lobby. Players must be current NMC students. The season begins Monday, Oct. 29 and runs for six weeks. Two matches are played weekly Monday through Thursday. For more information, contact Steve Dixon at 995-1379.

NMC announces Marine Center; programs set to launch in March 2019. The Marine Center combines the study areas of marine, unmanned aerial, and land surveying to provide comprehensive and specialized technical training. For more information and to see the upcoming training certification schedule, visit nmc.edu/marine-center.

Cover photo by Jacob Wheeler
 Cover design by Eli Watts

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Alumni Spotlight: Cindy Warner

Emily Slater Staff Writer
Cindy Warner was a pre-med sophomore at University of California San Diego when she realized there was one crucial roadblock standing in the way of the medical career she was pursuing: she couldn't stand the sight of blood. Discouraged with facing the task of finding a new major, Warner returned home to northern Michigan where she enrolled in NMC's business administration program, minoring in computer information systems. One of the few women in an already small program, Warner's time at NMC catapulted her into the career field she's still in to this day. "[NMC] was very well-rounded, and very helpful in understanding the business side of computer science, not just how to code," Warner says. "That was invaluable. There are computer science programs today that are just about the development side, how to code, and not the business side. I think NMC was really a frontrunner, and that helped me a lot."

Warner has spent more than 30 years specializing in running and consulting company operations, helping them to understand how technology can be an asset to them. She has worked for both IBM and FedEx, started her own cloud-based data security company called 360ofme, and currently serves as vice president and general manager of NetApp, a Fortune 500 hybrid cloud data services company.

One would find it easy to imagine that being in such an analytical line of work, Warner would focus solely on business, business, business. But spend even just a few minutes with her and you can see where her heart is. "Any job you do, unless you're an individual contributor, is going to depend on how you treat your people," she says. A firm believer of

"PSP: People, Service, Profit," a business model she learned while working at FedEx, Warner believes that if you take care of your people first and focus on giving great service to your customers, the profits will follow. "I'm more concerned about what's happening with them [employees] and what's working for them within the business, and secondarily focused on what's going in the business," Warner explains. "It has never, ever let me down." Warner and NetApp encourage employees to take up this "people first, business second" mindset as well. Employees are given 40 hours a year to dedicate to volunteer work, and Warner is often found working alongside them in their endeavors. Last year she joined 65 NetApp employees at a foodbank in Sonoma, Cal., packing up food for those affected by the firestorms that ripped across the northern part of the state.

Warner's sense of community and altruistic spirit isn't a fluke. The daughter of entrepreneurs who started a local mortgage company aimed at helping veterans and lower-income households, Warner grew up learning that the best way to experience your own blessings was to turn around and bless someone else, too. "They instilled in me not only how valuable but how rewarding it was to help somebody. They were always involved in helping the community and [were] very approachable and very helpful when anybody needed a hand." Warner humbly carries on this philanthropic torch, striving to balance work ventures and humanitarian efforts. "My philosophy is that those of us that are blessed—whether it's financially, intellectually, whatever—I think we have an obligation and onus to give back," says Warner.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Warner

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The Heart of Business

Emily Slater Staff Writer
 Kristy McDonald needed a way to both teach and inspire students taking her Professional Communications (BUS231) class. “I had low retention and low grades and no one was motivated,” said McDonald. “So I started thinking, ‘How can I change the way I teach?’” Looking to break her students out of the monotony of paperwork and textbooks that left them with the knowledge but not experience, McDonald completely redesigned her BUS231 course. Students now embark on a semester-long group project, aimed at teaching them the skills they’ll need once they graduate, and giving them the opportunity to immediately put those skills to use in real-life situations. “There’s no textbook, retention is not an issue at all, the class is 100 percent experiential, and they’re learning so much more,” McDonald said.

This semester, BUS231 students have a big goal for their class project: to fill an entire semi-trailer with food donations to distribute to four local pantries. Split into two teams, marketing and logistics, students work together to get more than 40 donation drop-off points set up

around the community. The Food for Thought donation drive runs from Oct. 19 through Nov. 19, with multiple events set up during that time to encourage ample donations. One of these events is another way the class has come up with to give back to the community: on Nov. 10, from 10am–3pm, the class will host a STEM Exploration day at Parson Stulen that’s open to the public. With an entrance fee of food donations, attendees will have the opportunity to experience a virtual reality simulator, drone flying, and even a chance to win an Xbox by attending two forums geared toward high school students curious about a future in the STEM industry. “They’ll have a chance to sit down and listen to a presentation from community members in STEM programs. [The forums] are showing them what STEM is all about and what type of careers you can make out of it,” said group project leader, Fayth Lautner.

Students taking McDonald’s class realize the unique opportunity they’ve been given. “It’s experiential learning,” logistics team member, Chris Brutzman said of the hands-on approach to the class. “If it works, you did it right.” Marketing team member, Jamal Turner, echoed

that sentiment. “I think that it’s awesome that she [McDonald] incorporates helping the community with the learning aspect of class. We’re learning how to public speak, how to write memos and business letters. It’s a good foundation to have as a student going out into the world, but also helps community at the same time.” One thing the students are expected to know is how to write a formal business letter. Each student in the class sends out at least one formal letter to a local business, asking them to place a red donation barrel in their store. “One of the most amazing parts has been how much assistance and help businesses have given already,” says marketing team leader Blake Bandrowski. The generosity has been incredible. “It really brings to the forefront just how generous and caring, and helpful so many businesses are in the community. It’s really amazing.”

Red collection barrels will be set up all over the community starting Oct. 19, including in the Tanis and Osterlin buildings on NMC’s main campus. If you’d like more information on drop-off points, upcoming Food for Thought events, or to see the class’s progress towards its semi-trailer goal, follow them at facebook.com/nmcfoodforthought.



Students fill an order received from the food pantry data base. Pictured above from left to right: Nicky Wang, Christopher Burtzman, Dylan Derrer, and Kyle Sanderson.

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Photos courtesy of Jamal Turner / Food for Thought

McDonald’s class discusses a timeline for the food drive, assigning students to work each event.

Minimum Wage

The fight for fair pay

Maya James Last night I watched a movie that was made this July, “Sorry to Bother You.” The film is a present-day—albeit, alternate reality—in which a young telemarketer by the name of Cassius Green, working at a firm called Regelvew, becomes so successful that he is promoted to the rank of Power Caller—only to discover a deep conspiracy from within the highest ranks of the firm. When Green releases video evidence of Regelvew’s deep secret, it propels the firm higher and gives it more support. In the end, the laborers have to fight back.

“Sorry to Bother You” is a satire that explores media, capitalism, and most importantly asks the United States: what is the true value of human labor? Today, wage activists in Michigan are asking the same question, with the demand for a \$12 minimum wage.

The federal minimum wage for tipped service workers is \$2.13 an hour. Currently, waitresses at North Peak Brewing Company get paid \$3.25 per hour plus tips, something I earned as a waitress there over the summer. That means that on a great day you could earn upwards of \$300, but on a terrible day may make only minimum wage or barely above it. This means paying rent is never assured, and there may be needs for those in the service industry to find ulterior methods of income. Michigan labor activists, much like the protestors in “Sorry to Bother You,” are teaming up with an activist organization known as One Fair Wage to raise the Michigan minimum wage to \$12 an hour.

According to the U.S. 2012–2016 Census, the gross rent in Traverse City is \$825 a month. According to Robert Reich, former secretary of labor, “most low-wage workers are not teenagers,” and have family responsibilities that force them to work part-time at multiple jobs just to work with their hectic schedule. Reich also insists that, “had the minimum wage of 1968 been adjusted for inflation, it would have been well above \$10 an hour,” and also notes that, “the typical workday has become two times more productive.” Reich also suggests that low wage workers will have more money to spend, and more spending means a boost to our economy. Reich’s argument is not unlike that of labor activist group “Fight for 15,” workers dedicated to a \$15 federal minimum wage.

Not everyone agrees on this. In fact, last year Missouri governor Eric Greitens enacted a law to lower the state minimum wage from \$10 to a mere \$7.70, arguably an unlivable wage, stating that a \$10 minimum wage would “kill jobs.” Whether or not that’s true, it’s unsustainable for U.S. workers at this point, especially considering MIT’s 2016 study entitled “New Data: Calculating the Living Wage for U.S. States, Counties, and Metro Areas” stating that America’s living wage is a whopping \$15.12 per hour. That means, according to Fortune, “42% of all U.S. workers” are missing out on a livable wage.

The One Fair Wage initiative will not appear on the November ballot, as Michigan’s Republican legislature approved it, keeping the power to modify the proposals in the legislature’s hands.

Letter to the Editor

Campus Vending Machine Conundrum

To the editor of the *White Pine Press*,

There’s a predicament of nickels on this campus. Over the summer, I was harshly acquainted with an increase in vending machine snack and drink prices, at which I practically screamed (looking back, I *should* have) at the unethical ambitions imposed by Northwestern Michigan College. I felt my wallet clench up in my hands. At the time, I immediately resorted to deciphering their line of argumentation, searching for the causality therein. Perhaps it really *isn’t* the college’s fault. Perhaps Sodexo holds the prices by a leash, and it just got tighter.

Given my contemplations, it should be noted that the inflation of the item prices were by no means exponential, but rather at the most, *banal*. For snacks, a five cent increase. A nickel. For drinks, a similar percentage increase. Previously, the majority of snacks sat at a dollar—balanced, cheap, content. But now, I must cough up an extra nickel to purchase my miniscule lunch. The imbalance here isn’t that of a boulder outweighing a pebble, but rather a constant poke in the ribs.

If the inflation were much more prominent, I wouldn’t be so perturbed. However, it’s my analysis of the ethics utilized here that worries me: what gain is realistically being made in the long run? I understand that students are fast-paced individuals, and will pay anything for energy, but I suspect this increase has turned some away already. Since the cost has already been so low, I can’t imagine the snail’s pace of benefits this would accrue for all involved.

Though my ligament of disbelief refuses to consider any of the basic counter-arguments proposed, I can’t help but concede and embrace this new pain, this nagging in the side. I feel like my grandpa when he told me he remembered a time when a candy bar was just a dime. I dread the thought of saying it to myself now.

Liam Strong,

A concerned staff member of NMC

Dear Liam,

It’s unfortunate to hear about this increase in prices, which by now has likely taken many returning students who frequent the food vending machines by surprise. The price influx of only a mere \$0.05 does feel a bit arbitrary, and one does have to wonder at what such a minor influx in revenue is truly benefiting. Had it risen by \$0.25, we could blame the continued high cost of gasoline, or perhaps a mysterious tariff put upon the materials used in candy packaging. Instead, we are left to speculate that someone, somewhere, is filling a Scrooge McDuck vault with the nickels of college students.

As much as I appreciate random shade being tossed around, I do need to offer a correction: it is not Sodexo that owns our vending machines, but rather a local company called Canteen Service of Northern Michigan.

Regards,

Ann Hosler

WPP Editor-in-Chief

WRITE US A LETTER

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Voters Not Politicians: Michigan Ballot Proposal 2

Bronwyn Jones
Contributing Writer

In these hyper-partisan times, hundreds of thousands of people from all across the political spectrum have found a non-partisan issue to rally around here in Michigan this midterm election season: ballot Proposal 2 to create an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission that would end the practice of partisan gerrymandering as we know it.

How did it all begin? Worried about divisive Thanksgiving table conversation after the 2016 election and searching for an issue all members of her family could get behind, 28-year-old Katey Fahey, who lives just outside Grand Rapids, posted two sentences on Facebook: "I'd like to take on gerrymandering in Michigan. If you're interested in doing this as well, please let me know." The rest, as they say, is history. The response was overwhelming and a statewide grassroots initiative was born under the aegis of a new organization: Voters Not Politicians.

Vast groups of inspired citizen volunteers spread out across Michigan with petitions in hand to acquire the requisite number of signatures to put the proposal on the 2018 midterm ballot. To the astonishment of the pros who said it couldn't be done, volunteers gathered more than 425,000 signatures and what would become Proposal 2 was on its way.

If passed, how will it work? After each 10-year census, the political party in power here in Michigan has the opportunity behind closed doors and in secret to redraw the voting district lines for both the U.S. Congress and the state legislature. As one views the current oddly shaped voting districts in parts of the state, it becomes clear that lines drawn back in 2011 favor the party in power. And both parties have done it. Proposal 2 would end the practice whereby "politicians and special interests carve up legislative districts for their own political gain" (votersnotpoliticians.com).

Instead, an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission comprised of four Republicans, four Democrats, and five politically unaffiliated citizens would use a fair, impartial and transparent process, following strict criteria and guidelines, to draw voting districts in 2021 that could NOT be shown to favor one political party over another. And the public would be able to view proposed districts and provide feedback as part of the process.

Mike Arents, a Leelanau County resident, said he got involved with Voters Not Politicians when he discovered that his elected representative had been switched without his knowledge, consent, or vote. "Instead of us choosing our leaders, our leaders were choosing us!" he exclaimed. "Then I learned that almost half the votes in Michigan go to each party, but the majority party has 27 state senators to the minority's 11. Because of gerrymandering! Legally rigged! What happened to the part of the Declaration of Independence I had memorized that said our elected leaders drew their power 'from the consent of the governed?'"

As part of the Proposal 2 statewide canvassing effort, Arents has knocked on more than 1,500 doors and presented to more than 200 people in groups as a Voters Not Politicians representative. When he canvases, he wears a t-shirt with a picture of his 3-year-old grandson on the front. He tells folks, "Vote YES on Prop 2 and one day his vote will count!"



Photo courtesy of Bronwyn Jones



Photo courtesy of Gary Howe

Matt Morgan for Michigan

Emily Clements
Staff Writer

If the overwhelming success of Democratic candidate Matt Morgan's write-in campaign is any indication, the aspiring politician may be tough competition for incumbent Republican congressman Jack Bergman. In Aug. 2018, voters in Michigan's 1st Congressional District primary election cast more than 29,000 votes for Morgan, nearly 10 times more than he needed to appear on November's ballot.

Morgan and his team were confident that they would secure the write-in votes necessary by running a compelling field campaign and reaching absentee voters through a targeted mail effort. Using grassroots methods was particularly essential to the drive of the campaign. "Voters made their own write-in cards, sent postcards to friends, posted on social media, and showed up at the polls to remind others how to write me in," Morgan says. "It was an amazing turnout, and we are so grateful to everyone who voted."

The Morgan campaign is counting on everyone who wrote in his name at the August primary to come out and vote on Nov. 6, as well as voters who did not participate in the primary election.

Morgan's top priority is to seek a position on the Committee on Education and the Workforce in Congress. He aims to make career technology programs more accessible and available. "In [Michigan's 1st District], for every job created that requires a 4-year degree, we see 10 opportunities that require a tech certification or an associate's degree," Morgan says. "So fully funding public education and creating career pathways that open doors to follow-on training and higher-ed is essential to growing an economy that actually works for working families." Morgan is proposing free public education for students up through the first two years of community college, which would make achieving a higher education more affordable and possible.

"Matt has been campaigning for almost two years now and he has put in the work necessary to make this race competitive," says Connor Priest, the regional field director for the Matt Morgan Campaign. Strategies used to make this campaign as successful as it is include using the grassroots approach by directly contacting voters, primarily through door-to-door canvassing and phone banking, and then gathering the feedback from the community and using it to empower the campaign.

"More than anything else, the people of this district want to see that their representative actually listens and cares about them," Priest says.

Morgan's key values are that the people of northern Michigan should have access to affordable healthcare, quality public education, modernized infrastructure, job security, decent wages, and reliable roads. His website (mattmorganformichigan.com) explains that "too many families are forced to work two jobs to make ends meet. 1 in 5 children in our hometown goes to bed hungry each night. And entire communities miss out on new job opportunities because we lack basic infrastructure like high-speed Internet and reliable roads."

"These are all issues that northern Michiganders, on both sides, care deeply about," Priest says. "Matt has dedicated himself to pursuing those issues above all else. Matt wants to put northern Michiganders first."

Tom Mair Talks Politics



Photo courtesy of Tom Mair

Dylan Jewell
Staff Writer

Tom Mair has a message for voters: focus on the issues, not letters—those letters being D and R. Mair is a member of the Green Party, a third party which has been slowly gaining traction in American politics over the past 17 years. Politics, he says, has been strictly bipartisan for far too long. In 2016, after running in four consecutive unsuccessful campaigns, Mair was elected to the Grand Traverse County Commission in District 2. He is currently the only non-Republican among all commissioners. In 2018, he's running again.

“Last night was unfortunate [because] I couldn't be on the same forum as my Republican opponent,” Mair said about an Oct. 8 county commissioner debate held by the League of Women Voters (LWV). He explains that many Republican nominees failed to show up, citing a perceived left-leaning bias in how the debate would be conducted. “The reality is, they [the LWV] always present things in a non-partisan way.” This is just one example of what Mair argues is a political system which is broken by partisan groupthink.

Mair's Republican opponent is Matthew Schoech, whom he says represents an ultra-conservative viewpoint that most moderate Republicans would not agree with. He notes that Schoech is a member of the John Birch Society, a far-right political interest group. Mair says that although he is typically against negative campaigning, he is “frustrated” that local media has not been properly covering the values of his opponents—values that he says do not reflect those of Traverse City.

Mair says that his Democratic opponent Bryce Hundley is not qualified to take his current position. While he has put forth all his effort in campaigning, he says Democratic candidates for county commission are “running in name only” and not doing nearly enough to bring their positions to the attention of the voting public. “You have to be known for something other than being unqualified.” Hundley told Vote 411 (vote411.org) that he wishes to “reduce the drama at the County Commission.” Mair argues that the drama “would get worse [with] a Democrat on board,” because “they're about putting the ‘D’ [after] their name.” Mair believes that being a Green Party member has led to reduced divisiveness among county commissioners, one that he says stems from the classic party divide. “People are less threatened by Greens,” he continues, “because we don't fight like that.”

“It's irritating to have a Democrat running against me.” Mair says that he has been asked to run as a Democrat by higher county government officials three times in the past, and each time he declined. He explained that this is part of a plan to have a Democrat running in all districts—a plan that isn't working. He accuses the historically Republican county commission of gerrymandering in order to give a greater voice to its Republican constituents. As a result of this, Mair believes there is no chance of a Democrat being elected in Republican stronghold districts. Mair argues that his Democratic opponent, by running against a candidate “who is more progressive than himself, [is] hurting the progressive future of [Traverse City].”

Tom Mair is running for re-election as a Green party candidate in the District 2 Grand Traverse County Commissioner race. Find out more about the candidate and his opponents on vote411.org.

Michigan Proposals 1 & 3

Michigan State Proposal 18-1 Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol

What is it?

A proposed initiated law to authorize and legalize possession, use and cultivation of marijuana products by individuals who are at least 21 years of age and older, and commercial sales of marijuana through state-licensed retailers.

What will it do?

- Allow individuals 21 and older to purchase, possess and use marijuana and marijuana-infused edibles, and grow up to 12 marijuana plants for personal consumption.
- Impose a 10-ounce limit for marijuana kept at residences and require amounts over 2.5 ounces be secured in locked containers.
- Create a state licensing system for marijuana businesses and allow municipalities to ban or restrict them.
- Permit retail sales of marijuana and edibles subject to a 10% tax, dedicated to implementation costs, clinical trials, schools, roads, and municipalities where marijuana businesses are located.
- Change several current violations from crimes to civil infractions.



Michigan State Proposal 18-3 Promote the Vote

What is it?

A proposal to authorize automatic and Election Day voter registration, no-reason absentee voting, and straight ticket voting; and add current legal requirements for military and overseas voting and post-election audits to the Michigan Constitution.

What will it do?

- Allows a U.S. citizen qualified to vote in Michigan to:
- Become automatically registered to vote when applying for, updating or renewing a driver's license or state-issued personal identification card, unless the person declines.
- Simultaneously register to vote with proof of residency and obtain a ballot during the 2-week period prior to an election, up to and including Election Day.
- Obtain an absent voter ballot without providing a reason.
- Cast a straight-ticket vote for all candidates of a particular political party when voting in a partisan general election.

Source: mi.gov/vote

Tunneling Into Controversy

Emma Moulton Staff Writer You may start to see those “Shut Down Line 5” yard signs adorned with big red “NO TUNNEL” stickers soon due to the latest pipeline update from Governor Rick Snyder. On Oct. 3, Enbridge Energy, a Canadian gas distribution company, entered a second agreement with the State of Michigan on the fate of Enbridge’s Line 5 pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac. Line 5, built in 1953, runs from Superior, Wisconsin, directly through the Straits, and down to Sarnia, Ontario. It carries roughly 23 million gallons of oil daily of which nearly 90 percent is supplied to Canada. The Oct. 3 agreement involves a shutdown of the portion of the pipeline that crosses the Straits and the construction of a new, multi-use utility tunnel surrounding the pipeline. According to Enbridge and Governor Rick Snyder, these developments will “lead to major safety enhancements along the entire length of the Line 5.” The agreement states that Enbridge will pay for the entirety of the pipeline upgrades, costing somewhere between \$350 to \$500 million and taking 7 to 10 years to construct.

Snyder and Enbridge seem to be moving forward with the project as if the solution has been found and the plan is a done deal, but environmental organizations disagree. According to FLOW (For Love Of Water), an environmental organization dedicated to the protection of Michigan’s water, Enbridge’s Line 5 has already failed 29 times and spilled at least 1.13 million gallons of oil. They have very little hope for the new and improved plan. FLOW argues that the project actually increases the risk to the Great Lakes due to the fact that Enbridge would continue to pump 23 million gallons a day during almost a decade of construction, increasing the chance of an accident, and that the pipeline continues to challenge Michigan’s public trust which protects the Great Lakes. FLOW also explains that the agreement lacks the necessary oil spill insurance as the cost of a catastrophic spill damage on the area’s environment and economy would be an estimated \$4.4 million more than the current insured amount. While Governor Snyder’s report ensures that the new tunnel demands measures that reduce risk both during construction and in the future, environmental protection groups around the region say this plan of action is just as bad.

It appears to be the consensus that most Michigan residents are against the pipeline, as shown by numerous public input opportunities and the general pushback from both citizens



Archived image by Devon Hains

and businesses across the region. FLOW encourages those who want to fight back against these developments to call or email their state senators and representatives to demand support in opposing the new tunnel and shutting down the pipeline as well as making their voices heard by voting for leadership on Nov. 6 that makes the Great Lakes a priority.



Photo courtesy of Society of Environmental Journalists conference

Environmental Racism

Emma Moulton Staff Writer One of the most prominent topics at this year’s Society of Environmental Journalists conference was environmental racism and its impact on Michigan citizens.

Many minority and low-income communities in the state are facing environmental injustice by being deprived of basic ecological rights like clean air and safe drinking water. Industrial waste facilities, refineries, and similarly environmentally harmful sites are often disproportionately located in vulnerable communities, and sacred lands are used for waste disposal and pipelines.

We can see this corruption firsthand in Detroit and Flint, two cities in Michigan where the majority of the population is black. In Flint, the drinking water supply contained enough lead to be classified as “toxic waste” by the EPA, and the city received scarce and insufficient government assistance. Meanwhile Detroit faces a large Hepatitis A outbreak, caused partly by people not washing their hands, closely related to the water shutoffs in many homes and schools.

If these cities were mostly wealthy and white, would they face the same government neglect and mistreatment?

A Tainted Environment: Close to Home

Continued from Page 1 Those who do have access to water in Michigan are at risk of contamination from PFAS. Testing is being done around Michigan to check for the chemical, which is commonly used in non-stick cookware, as well as waterproof clothes and shoes. PFAS was recently found in drinking water at Blair Elementary in Benzie County. On Oct. 11, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health department stated in a press release that it found PFAS in the water at Leland Public Schools. The MDEQ is currently testing 29 sites, mostly in the lower peninsula, where PFAS chemicals have been found. One is in Grawn.

Plans to use a 100-acre injection well in Wexford county owned by American Waste are underway. Injection wells store hazardous waste in underground caverns—in this case, near groundwater sources and Lake Michigan. Other injection wells have contaminated soil and groundwater in the past.

Recently, it was discovered that the Cordia senior residential club at the Grand Traverse Commons spent four years illegally dumping hot, chlorinated water into tributaries of Kids Creek. Additionally, Acme township was fined several years ago when it improperly installed a sewer system to facilitate development, including the new Meijer. This led to large amounts of silt from the construction site running into the bay.

In light of the increasing importance of environmental issues in Michigan, the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) brought its annual nationwide conference to Flint this month, highlighting the lasting importance of the water crisis. The *White Pine Press* attended the conference in early October. For three days, journalists from across the country attended panel discussions and toured both Flint and Detroit to learn firsthand about the effects these issues are having on people and communities.

There are pockets of hope for communities downstate. Residents of Detroit love their city despite its bad reputation—residents like Tyree Guyton, who began the Heidelberg Project. From the road it looks like a colorful episode of *Hoarders*. Upon closer inspection, there are clocks painted everywhere, and amid chaos, the art looks like an organized mess. This is



Photo courtesy of Society of Environmental Journalists conference

Guyton's way of being part of the solution.

"Two plus two equals eight, create your own reality," Guyton said. This is what he calls "Heidelberg-ology." For many living in Detroit, reality has been grim, but Guyton is happy with the reality he has created. This is his way of giving back to Detroit, starting with himself and sharing it with his community. He remembers Saturday, April 6—32 years ago—the day he started the Heidelberg project. "The world is always changing, we have to change with the times," he said, explaining the reason behind the clocks. "I knew that at the right time, change was coming." The Heidelberg project is Guyton's way of making that inevitable change work for the community.

Guyton is not alone. Trees are popping up in vacant lots on the east side of Detroit. Hantz Woodlands is an urban tree farm project aimed at raising the value of land. The properties will be held and later sold in chunks to ensure the remaining residents' property values go up, too. "The dream of our neighborhood is a house on every lot," said Mike Score, president of Hantz Woodlands.

Hantz Woodlands and the Heidelberg Project are making positive changes to their communities, but private companies are profiting from Michigan's natural resources, taking advantage of a government that seems to not feel beholden to public opinion. Michigan is full of unique, driven, and creative people who genuinely care for their homeland. Even in the places that are perceived to be the worst, there are folks who dedicate their lives to the benefit of the community like Guyton, Score, and Wakes, who tells her story to everyone willing to listen. These folks are positively impacting their communities, and they should inspire people all over the state and nation to guide change in a positive direction.



Photo courtesy of Society of Environmental Journalists conference



Photo by Emma Moulton

From Parking Lot to Park

Kyle Jasper Traverse City Staff Writer is revered for its natural beauty, amazing food, and engaging community events that attract folks from all around the country. While the lakeside Open Space usually hosts outdoor celebrations in downtown Traverse City, the cherry capital may be getting a new place for fun in the form of a civic square, thanks in large part to the Rotary Club of Traverse City.

On the corner of State and Cass in downtown Traverse City sits a couple of private parking lots, which combined make up one option for the Rotary Club's 100th year commemoration project. If selected, this area would go through a significant aesthetic change. However, when asked about what the square would look like if chosen, Beth Karczewski, past president and current Rotarian of the Rotary Club urges residents to think "of how the space will be used." "it'll be a place for people to meet up," Karczewski says. "We could have concerts there, we could have the Christmas tree there, instead of in the middle of

the street like we do now. We could have community events, potentially a location for a farmer's market... the possibilities are endless." The Traverse City's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will decide how the plan moves forward, as they were the recipients of the \$1 million grant. Karczewski says the DDA is keeping Rotarians involved in the planning process.

Having a new hangout on State Street could bring more foot traffic to the area, local business owner Jerilyn Deboer, points out. "This [the civic square] could take State Street, and make it more vibrant. Everything seems to be on Front Street... they're trying to take and develop that area, to bring people to other areas of Traverse City," Deboer says.

The elation experienced when finding a good parking spot downtown, is, similar to the feeling of winning the lottery, especially in the summer. If this location is chosen for the civic square it would cover an area that is currently designated for parking. Although no plans have been finalized, Karczewski says underground parking is not

out of the question, depending on expense and proximity to the water table.

As far as parking for customers and employees of downtown businesses goes, Deboer says "parking is always a problem. There's nothing wrong with walking... you've just got to be creative and figure it out." Deboer also mentions that the struggle to find parking is not just a phenomenon that happens in our city—other downtowns are in similar situations. The DDA is looking into creating more parking on Front Street as well, according to their website (downtowntc.com).

Since this project commemorates 100 years of the Traverse City Rotary, the goal is to have it underway as close to the anniversary as possible. There are still steps in the process that need to be completed, like securing the other two-thirds of funding, but the Rotary Club is hopeful to have a "lite" version of the Rotary Square by May 2020.



Photo by Kyle Jasper

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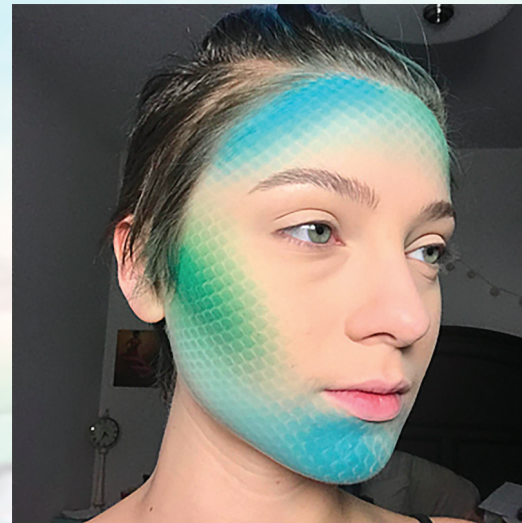
How To: Become a Majestic Mermaid for Halloween

Rachel Lynn Moore
Staff Writer

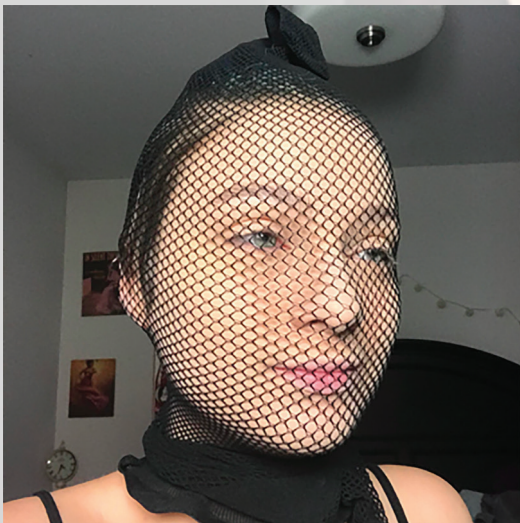
Do you love costumes, but refuse to invest more than \$10 into one? Same here. I'm a lazy Halloween lover. That's why I fall back on simple, fun makeup in place of a real costume. Someone more ambitious than I could always use this makeup tutorial in addition to a costume, but I certainly won't be. All you need for this look is a pair of cheap fishnets, a couple of colorful eyeshadow shades, a fluffy blending brush, and a few other makeup basics.



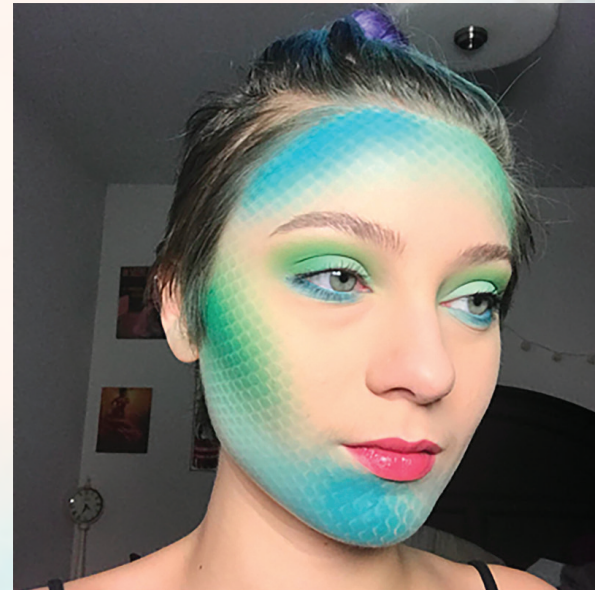
Step One: Apply foundation and concealer, then set with a setting powder. The powder is essential for the next step.



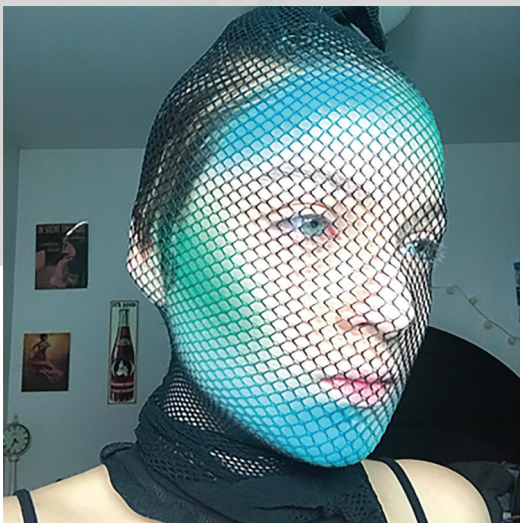
Step Four: Carefully remove the fishnets to see your mermaid scales.



Step Two: Put a pair of fishnet tights over your head. Yes, you actually have to do this. On the bright side, you don't have to publish a photograph of yourself wearing fishnet tights over your head in your college newspaper. Take comfort in that, and in the fact that the powder you applied over your base in the previous step will prevent the fishnet material from leaving harsh lines in your foundation.



Step Four: Finish it up by using the same colors for an eye look, throw on some mascara and if you'd like, some lipstick, and you're done!



Step Three: Use your fluffy blending brush to apply eyeshadow to your face while wearing the fishnets. I chose blues and greens for their oceanic vibe and used the darker shades as one would use contour powders in everyday makeup.



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Halloween Events Calendar

October 25 – October 29

Rachel Lynn Moore
Staff Writer

Thursday, Oct. 25

6:30–8:30pm: The Elks Lodge hosts the Arts for All—Halloween Dance Party, including a costume contest, seasonably spooky songs, and a photo booth. Admission is \$5. Purchase tickets at eventbrite.com/e/Halloween-dance-tickets-50177355822.

Friday, Oct. 26

3pm–Midnight: The Truck or Treat Festival at the Grand Traverse Commons is a free and family friendly event featuring food trucks, costume prizes, live music, and trick-or-treating until 8pm, then becomes a 21+ Halloween dance party until midnight. Tickets for the 21+ portion of the event are \$18 in advance and \$25 at the door. See mynorthtickets.com/events for more details.

4–7pm: Venture into the Haunted Forest at Greenspire School! Explore the deep woods of the Grand Traverse Commons and encounter six scenes of neo-classical horror performed by Greenspire students. Young children's hour (ages 6 and below) is between 4–5pm. Admission is \$4 for students, \$6 for adults; a haunted grill and snack bar will be on site. Reserve tickets at greenspireschool.org/hauntedforesttickets.

Saturday, Oct. 27

9am: The 10th Annual TC Zombie 5k Run to benefit the TART Trails begins and ends at Right Brain Brewery. The registration fee for adults is \$30, and \$20 for those 17 and under. See tczombierun.com for more information.

10–11:30am: Enjoy a little early trick-or-treating with the whole family at the Downtown Halloween Walk in Traverse City.

7pm–1am: The Little Fleet hosts a Futuristic Sci-Fi Halloween Bash with a live DJ.

8pm: Mt. Holiday's annual Halloween Party features a DJ and costume contest. Tickets for the 21+ event are \$18 in advance and \$25 at the door.

Sunday, Oct. 28

5–6:30pm: The Traverse Area Historical Society presents a Halloween-themed Cemetery Guided Walking tour, beginning at the main entrance of the Oakwood Cemetery on Eighth St. \$10 donation recommended. See traversehistory.wordpress.com for more information.

Monday, Oct. 29

5–8pm: 123 Speakeasy in downtown Traverse City hosts a Murder Mystery at the Speakeasy party, set during prohibition. Tickets are \$90 for entry, and \$110 to be a main character in the murder mystery. Both options include a character assignment, dinner, dessert, unlimited drinks, and gratuity. See mynorthtickets.com/events for purchase and more information.

Recurring Events

7–11pm: On Fridays and Saturdays in October, the Ghost Farm of Kingsley presents a Haunted Trail walking tour. Tickets are \$15 and profits benefit the 4H and other local organizations. See hauntedtraverse.com for tickets and more information.

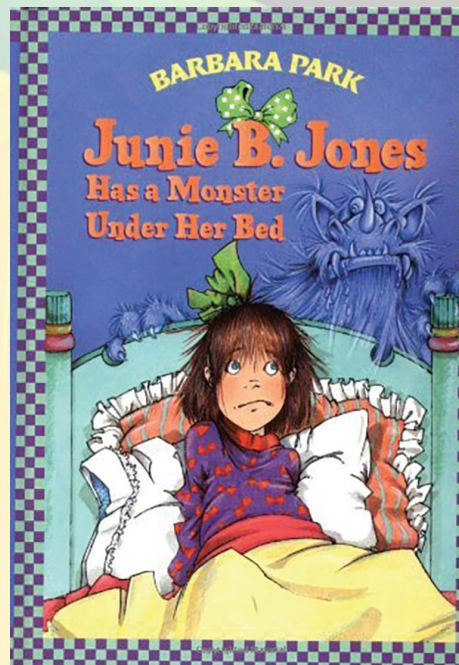
7–11pm: On Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (ending at 10pm) in October the Northwestern Michigan Fairgrounds is home to Screams in the Dark, featuring a wagon ride, a haunted trail walk, and many other frightening attractions. Tickets range from \$5–15. See evernighthaunt.com for more details.

Junie B's Halloween

Tamara Wiget
Staff Writer

Burnt out on jump scares, gore, and serial killers this Halloween season? Here are two tales of childhood scares that will make you laugh out loud instead.

“Junie B. Jones Has a Monster Under Her Bed”



Oh no. Oh no oh no. Could it be that kindergartner Junie B. Jones has a real actual alive monster under her bed??? It would explain the drool that sometimes shows up on her pillow—apparently from the monster checking to see if her head will fit in its mouth! That's what Paulie Allen Puffer told her, anyway. He has a brother in seventh grade, so he knows things. Also, Junie B.'s best friend Grace told her that she can't see the monster because monsters can turn invisible when you look at them.

What gets rid of monsters?!? Not staying awake all night so the monster can't eat her. Not the protection of all her favorite stuffed animals. Not even vacuuming them up and running over the vacuum bag with a car is enough. Fortunately for Junie B. there is one thing that can save her, and that's... school picture day?

“Boo... and I Mean It!”



Now in first grade, Paulie Allen Puffer has Junie B.'s pulse racing and her imagination running wild for a second time in “Junie B., First Grader: BOO... and I MEAN IT!” He shares with Junie B. five scary secrets:

1. “Real monsters and witches go trick or treating on Halloween. Only they don't even wear costumes. On account of everybody thinks they're already dressed up. BUT THEY'RE NOT! THEY ARE WEARING THEIR REAL ACTUAL FACE AND CLOTHES!”
2. Do not carve pointy, sharp teeth in your pumpkin. Or else it will roll into your room while you are sleeping and eat your feet.
3. Bats like to land on your head and live in your hair.
4. Black witch cats can claw you into shredde.
5. Candy corn isn't really corn.”

Still reeling from these revelations (especially the one about candy corn), Junie B. must find a way to protect herself on Halloween. Could a costume scarier than witches and monsters be the answer?

Day of the Dead: A Celebration of Life

Valerie Reeves Staff Writer The passing of a loved one is always hard, and a time filled with sadness. That's why during Day of the Dead, known in Spanish as *Día de los Muertos*, Latino families throughout the United States put aside their grief and celebrate the happy times they had with their loved ones who have passed.

Altars, called *ofrendas*, are set up to honor the deceased with offerings of their favorite foods and objects representing their favorite pastimes. These altars, it is said, attract the spirits of the dead, who eat the food and visit the family.

"At Day of the Dead, we do our best to put grief aside and remember our loved ones when they were happy," said Sandra Mendez, co-owner of T.C. Latino Grocery on South Airport Road in Traverse City. "My favorite part is remembering those who passed, and celebrating my time with them."

Two foods typically served on this holiday are Day of the Dead sweet bread and, of course, sugar skulls. T.C. Latino Grocery will get their supply of both sugar skulls and Day of the Dead bread in soon for the season. Both are traditionally left on the altar as well as eaten by families at Day of the Dead celebrations, although not all sugar skulls are edible. Some are made only for decorations, while others are made of pure sugar in a mould to be eaten.

"The edible sugar skulls are kind of like those sugar flowers people put on cakes. They're very crumbly!" Mendez explained.

As for the Day of the Dead bread? "We shape it into figures of bodies, which can be kind of freaky!" Mendez laughed. The bread is then either put on the altar or eaten by the family as a traditional Day of the Dead food.

Despite being thousands of miles away from Mexico, the



Image by Valerie Reeves

spirit of Day of the Dead can still be found in Traverse City. Every year, the Spanish classes from Traverse City schools are given a special assignment for Day of the Dead. Some must visit T.C. Latino Grocery to try some authentic food and talk to the workers about Day of the Dead.

"It's nice to see the families come with the kids," Mendez smiled. "I really like when the whole family comes to learn

about the holiday."

Whether living or deceased, we never stop caring about our loved ones. By celebrating Day of the Dead, Latino families can ensure that those who passed are never left behind or forgotten, and that the memories of their loved ones will be preserved for generations to come.

Fear of Clowns

Mike Sims Staff Writer Clowns! The white demonic makeup that invokes an image of both laughter and tragedy. But what are clowns? What does their history truly offer us? Clowns have long served as a source of entertainment since the dawn of the renaissance. According to Benjamin Radford's book "Bad Clowns," night terrors form as a result of the fear of clowns, lurking beneath our deepest, most palpable frameworks of our brain, reminding some of us that the fear is real. This cultural reflection is linked to pop culture's most notorious characters like Pennywise, The Joker, Bozo the Clown, and Ronald McDonald. The Verge cited about 100 clown sightings during the "Great Clown Panic of 2016," some of which were spotted around northern Michigan areas such as Petoskey, Cadillac, and Muskegon.

Infamous 1970s serial killer John Wayne Gacy, aka "Pogo the Clown," was the turning point for clowns being featured as killers in popular culture, according to Global News. Gacy's spree lasted for six years, during which he sexually assaulted, tortured, and murdered at least 33 teenagers and young adults, all males. He was sentenced to death in 1980, and later executed by lethal injection in 1994.

The fear of clowns will always persist in our everyday society, forever unchanging, yet always stalking our minds as if the fear itself wishes to be with us until our eventual deaths.



Local stores embraced the 2016 clown panic.

Photo by Ann Hosler

Music that is Sometimes Good but also Sometimes Not Good

Liam Strong
Staff Writer

Aphex Twin - Collapse EP

A fish washes up on a beach, lying on its side as if sleeping on a bed of crust. Its scales perforate geometric, like pages of graph paper unfolding into architecture. When a fish dies, its body of ether ascends even further, beyond the acid of its own floating. I consider tossing it back, but the lake will play catch with any corpse.

Aphex Twin's newest electronic drum 'n' bass EP, Collapse, orphans the idea of form, while also attempting to hammer in nails for solidarity. A body, when alive, is perhaps the most chaotic infringement of matter beyond our control; perhaps, to this end, a dead body is inherently peaceful. Humanity's strive for pacifism is admirable, but also biologically improbable to maintain perfectly. Contention is something we can only assume when alive, but what it takes to break down any structure can be both immaterial and tangible.

I've watched bridges burn with tongues, and I've seen bridges smolder under orange peels of flame. I might cry from the tone of a piano, or from the pain of breaking my leg. Our frailty is irrevocable, and the ways in which we collapse are just as ironic as the ways in which we try to keep ourselves together.

Shady Lady Book Review: Sugar by Monique X

Ann Hosler
Editor in Chief

There's nothing quite like reading an entire book, and still wondering when the story will start by the time you reach the end. It may be titled "Sugar," but not an iota of sweetness has been left in my memories.

The book's first chapter walks readers through Monique's ritual to prepare for her sugar dates—which are dates she has with older men, keeping them company (sexually or not) in exchange for money. But as we're told about 300 times throughout the story, it's not like being an escort. The narrator breaks the fourth wall a couple times here, but that can be excused, if it is an isolated incident (spoiler: it's not).

After the second chapter delved into her terrible childhood and former marriage, I figured the book would jump back to the present. So I read chapter three... then four... and eventually got to chapter 30, aka the final chapter. As I flipped the final page, disappointment assailed me. The scene that had us in the moment in chapter one never returned.

Instead, the book rambled about one man after another that she dated in her Sugar Life. That was the purpose of the plot, but it was told in the most boring way possible as the author employed the long-lost art of "tell, don't show." I found my eyes glazing and skimming over mass chunks of flat dialogue and boring travel scenes. The many male characters all morphed into a single Generic Horny Middle-Aged Rich Man.

When I grabbed an advanced reading copy of this book from Netgalley, it was mostly because of the awesome looking cover (which I give 1 star to by itself) and blurb, but also because I figured the categories on the site (it was listed as Erotica, Romance) don't lie. This "erotica" book had sex scenes that would have made my vanilla teenage imagination proud. They were sometimes weird, but mostly as boring and flat as the dialogue.

After I finished the book, I flipped back to the cover, and then jumped to the "front matter" section, which appears before the table of contents, and is automatically skipped when you load an eBook. That's how I discovered that "Sugar" was a memoir, unlike what the book blurb would like you to believe.

Well, then. It's cliché to pity people in romance books, so I won't do that here, either.

Rating: 1 1/2 stars

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EVENTS CALENDAR

October 19 – November 3

Rachel Lynn Moore

Staff Writer

Friday, Oct. 19

9am: Crystal Mountain's Peaktoberfest kicks off. The 3-day event includes scenic chairlift rides, the annual Peak2Peak bike race, German food and beer, and more. For more information, see crystalmountain.com/events.

12:30pm: The 10th Annual Frankfort Film Festival begins at the Garden Theater in downtown Frankfort. The 3-day festival features award-winning films as well as short films by Interlochen Arts Academy students. For more information, see frankfortgarden theater.com/film-festival.

6:30pm: The second show of this year's SwingShift and the Stars benefit event will be at the City Opera House. For tickets see cityoperahouse.org/events.

Saturday, Oct. 20

10am–12pm: Take a color hike at the Proposed Torch River Nature Preserve, hosted by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

11am–1pm: Autumn Fest at the Grass River Natural Area in Bellaire includes fall crafts and games for kids. Event entry is \$5 per child. Get more info at grassriver.org.

12pm–2pm: Warm up with homemade chili at the 2nd annual Traverse Area District Library Chili Cook-Off and help Traverse City firefighters choose the contest winner. This event is free of charge.

1–5pm: The Leelanau Outdoor Center Fall Festival includes a cake walk, pumpkin carving, frisbee golf, a fun house, zipline, and much more. Children ages 5 and below get in free; tickets for all others are \$10 and can be purchased at mynorthtickets.com/events.

1–10pm: Get ready for the big game at the U of M vs. MSU Tailgate hosted by Little Fleet. Entry is free; food and drink are available for purchase.

7pm: The National Writers Series begins its Amazing Women Weekend with Pulitzer Prize winning author Amy Goldstein. Student tickets are \$5; others range from \$15–25. To purchase, see cityoperahouse.org/events.

8pm: Chicago blues legend John Primer performs at the Dennos Museum. Tickets are \$27 in advance and \$30 at the door. More information at dennosmuseum.org.

Sunday, Oct. 21

12pm–2pm: Dunes Review Volume 22.2 reading and launch party will be held at Brilliant Books in downtown TC. Entry is free; refreshments will be served, and contributors will be present to share and discuss their writing.

7pm: The Amazing Women Weekend continues with Tayari Jones, author of the bestselling novel "An American Marriage." Student tickets are \$5; others range from \$15–25. To purchase, see cityoperahouse.org/events.

8pm–10pm: The "Find Your Park" After Dark: Final 2018 Star Party will be on the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Dune Climb in Empire. There is no event entry fee, but a park pass is required.

Monday, Oct. 22

7pm: The National Writers Series hosts Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of "The Color Purple," to close out the Amazing Women Weekend. Student tickets are \$5; others range from \$30–40. To purchase, see cityoperahouse.org/events.

Thursday, Oct. 25

7:30pm: The Interlochen Brass Ensemble performs in the Corson Auditorium at the Interlochen Arts Center. See tickets.interlochen.org/events for tickets and more information.

Friday, Oct. 26

6:30–Midnight: Join NMC IDance at the City Opera House for a salsa workshop, followed by open dance at 8:15pm. Tickets range from \$8–19; see cityoperahouse.org/events for tickets and more information.

7:30–9:30pm: The NMC Concert Band performs at the Milliken Auditorium in the Dennos Museum Center. Tickets are \$12 for adults, and \$7 for students and seniors. See mynorthtickets.com/events.

Saturday, Oct. 27

7:30–Noon: Last day of the Sara Hardy Downtown Farmers Market.

1–5pm: The third and last day of the Leelanau Outdoor Center Fall Festival. See mynorthtickets.com/events for tickets and more information.

Sunday, Oct. 28

1pm: The GT Dyslexia Association presents a free movie, "The Big Picture: Rethinking Dyslexia," and a panel discussion at the Traverse Area District Library.

6:30–8:30pm: The Art of: Perspective at the Dennos Museum. Author and activist Larry Plamondon offers an in-depth look at the stories behind the paintings featured in the Visions of American Life exhibit. Entry to the event is free.

Monday, Oct. 29

6pm: A screening of the Fred Rogers documentary "Won't You be My Neighbor," followed by a panel discussion on relationships and community, will be held at The Bay Theater in Suttons Bay. Parenting Communities of Leelanau County is co-sponsoring the event. A donation of diapers or \$5 is suggested.

Thursday, Nov. 1

7pm–9pm: Interlochen Arts Academy's director of jazz studies Bill Sears performs in Kirkbride Hall at The Village at Grand Traverse Commons. Tickets are \$11 for youths and \$25 for adults. More info at tickets.interlochen.org.

Saturday, Nov. 3

10am–2pm: First day of the indoor farmers market inside The Mercato.

Dennos Museum—Current Exhibitions

Admission: NMC Students/Faculty (with ID): \$5; Children (5-12): \$5; Adults: \$10

Hours: Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Thurs 10am-8pm; Sun 1pm-5pm

Dates: Oct. 21, 2018 through Jan. 20, 2019

- Visions of American Life: Paintings from the Manoogian Collection, 1850–1940
- Homage: A Collection of Neck-Pieces Inspired by Outstanding Canadian Women
- Pagnirtung Weavings from the Dennos Museum Center Collection



Homeless Students at NMC

Randi Upton Staff Writer When you think of homeless, what comes to mind? Many people may think of this stereotype: a disheveled bearded man with rags for clothing. However that homeless person may be a lot closer than we all think: a fellow student in one of our classes.

It is no secret how expensive it is to live in Traverse City. Stagnant wages and rising costs of living hits close to home for many people, including the college student. Homelessness is actually described in categories: transitional, and chronic. The transitional homeless make up about two-thirds of the homeless population in Traverse City according to Peter Starkel, a board member for Safe Harbor. Transitional homeless simply refers to someone who is temporarily homeless due to circumstance and only needs assistance for a short period of time. This group includes people who are “couch surfing,” staying in their car and at times, on the street for a short period, typically a couple weeks to a couple months. Chronic homelessness is defined as people who are homeless for 18 months or more and are usually on the streets. Chronic homeless account for about one-third of the homeless population in Traverse City.

Students at Northwestern Michigan College who find themselves without a stable living situation typically fall into the transitional homeless category. They may find themselves without a place to stay for many reasons, and through no fault of their

own. Being homeless is highly stressful and even dangerous at times. Add the stress of homework, classes, finals, projects, essays, and whatever else onto worrying about staying warm at night, how they are going to shower, how they will study, and how they will eat that day. Because students tend to be transitional homeless, the numbers for how many are at any given time are difficult to recognize.

For anyone out there who is struggling with keeping a roof over their head, know there is help. On NMC campus, there is a discreet food pantry. The application is online, a simple list of questions about dietary needs and such and is typically available for pickup within 24 hours. Student Life is also a resource. They have social workers and counselors to help with financial hardship. The Student Life on campus deals with this quite a bit, as lack of stable housing continues to be an ongoing issue.

As for resources outside of college, if anyone finds themselves facing being kicked out of their current living situation or needing any kind of help, there is Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency. Their phone number is 231-947-3780. They do intake interviews and go over all of the needs that need to be met and are a truly caring and actively helpful resource for help. There is no shame in asking for help. Everybody needs it every once in a while.

To Ban or Not to Ban

Annie Hindle Staff Writer Whether it be a Juul, Suorin, or any other e-cigarette also known as “vape,” a large majority of teens and young adults are using these devices because they are trending and are supposedly a safe alternative to tobacco. NMC’s Board of Trustee Policy Committee decided to update its policy in May to ban the use of vapes and e-cigs on school property, as many other schools have done.

Only some students are aware of the policy so far, as it isn’t posted on campus signs about drug/tobacco use. Three first-year students at NMC offered their opinions regarding vaping on campus. “I knew they were already banned, however we have the right to vape on campus because we are of age and it’s my right. It’s vape not tobacco, there’s a difference. And I believe it’s not as environmentally damaging as a cigarette would be,” says Mia. “It’s a bad habit, bad for your health, waste of money, it’s still nicotine addiction,” stated Ethan. “It’s a lot better than cigarettes but that doesn’t mean it’s good. In fact, there’s nothing good about them.” Parker added, “I think people should be allowed to do anything if it doesn’t affect anybody else. Last time I checked, vapes don’t affect anyone but the user.”

Despite growing awareness of the policy, it doesn’t seem to stop students from “chucking” their cotton candy clouds as they stroll around campus. The general consensus on whether vaping should be allowed on campus is divided, with some believing it should be banned, and others preferring to let vapers do as they please so long as they’re not bothering anyone.

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