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

Ukrainian Student Marooned in Michigan as War Rages at Home

Gabbi Chavarria
Editor-in-Chief

When Anastasia Hrukach applied for the Future Leader Exchange (FLEX) scholarship program through the U.S. Department of State, she hardly expected to win, much less to actually have to leave her hometown of Chernihiv, in northern Ukraine, about 55 miles from the Russian border. “At first I wanted to refuse,” she admitted, but her parents pushed her to accept the opportunity. Hrukach packed her bags for her first trip away from home, and on Sept. 1, 2021, she arrived in Traverse City. She intended to return to Chernihiv on May 17, 2022. “I had a ticket already, and everything was so planned,” she said. “And then everything happened.”

The Russian invasion of Ukraine this winter shattered the then 16-year-old’s homecoming plans. Instead, Hrukach remains living with her host family on the Old Mission Peninsula.

“I woke up that morning, February 24, and didn’t know anything. I usually sleep with my phone off,” Hrukach said. When her hosts, Erin and Dean Bowles, broke the news of the invasion of Chernihiv, she felt disbelief. The Russian-Ukrainian armed conflict was ongoing in the Donbass region of eastern Ukraine, but it didn’t feel possible to Hrukach that the war could spread throughout the country. Chernihiv was one of many cities bombed on Feb. 24, along with Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital.

“All the bridges were bombed. They didn’t have power for the first couple of days. Now, even though it’s [more than seven months] later, Russia is still bombing the city from the border,” Hrukach said. “We were following the [Ukrainian] national news,” said Erin Bowles. “Anastasia would recognize locations or buildings that were near her home.” It was hard for the family to decide how much coverage of the invasion to take in from the news, especially with Hrukach receiving harrowing updates from family members who were taking cover in the surrounding villages. “It was a constant rollercoaster of emotions for all of us,” Bowles remembered. “Anastasia has been amazingly resilient through all of it. But it’s not over yet.”

Her parents and little brother remain in Chernihiv, where life goes on despite the conflict. The Russians withdrew from the city in early April, leaving mass destruction behind them.

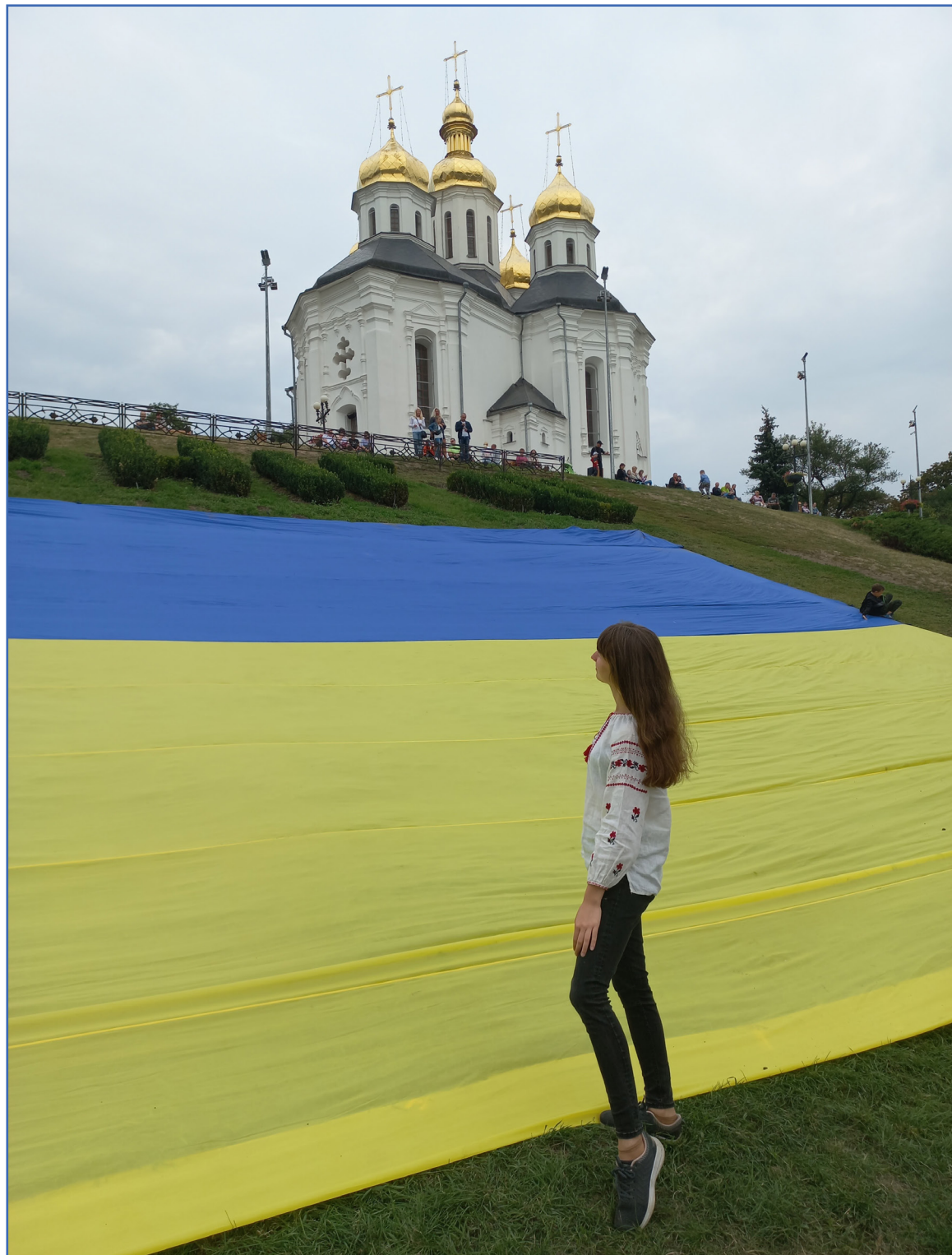
Hrukach stays in strict weekly contact with her family, which usually helps ease her worry, but said that “sometimes it’s not safe to talk, sometimes they don’t have power so then they don’t answer and then I get nervous.”

Hrukach’s family has been greatly impacted by the war. Her father, a mechanical engineer who helps develop sustainable paper products, no longer has an office to work in due to bombings in the city. Her mother, a kindergarten teacher, visits her classroom once a week to make sure students don’t enter. The school where she works was bombed early in the war.

Hrukach’s little brother is eight years old and was born during the Ukrainian struggle for independence, which began in 2013 when a mass uprising forced a Russian-backed president to leave office. She described him as being “born into war.” He still attends school in person, but Hrukach said it’s mostly to get him out of the house. “He’s not able to really study there because at least two hours a day are spent in a bomb shelter,” she said. “Every single day they have sirens go off and have to go into the basement because something explodes, something falls from the sky.”

Despite the constant violence, her family remains strong. “I’m really impressed with all the kids. I see my brother and he’s still smiling. He’s saying, ‘We’ll win!’ and I think the people in the army fight for [the children],” she said. “I know definitely they will be proud citizens when they grow up.”

As much as she misses her parents, Hrukach said she does not want to return to Chernihiv, which she considers unsafe. In the meantime, she remains in the United States on a J1 visa, a visitor visa for educational and cultural exchange programs offered through the U.S. Department of State. Hrukach is able to extend her stay beyond the typical year these visas allow due to the conflict, as long as she continues her studies.



Anastasia Hrukach, a Ukrainian exchange student currently attending NMC, faced her nation’s flag outside her hometown of Chernihiv on Ukrainian Independence Day—August 24, 2021—a week before traveling to Traverse City. The war has marooned her in Michigan, away from her family.

Currently, she is completing her general education requirements and has dreams of becoming a doctor or working in international relations. She is applying to U.S. colleges and hopes to attend the University of Michigan with the aid of a scholarship.

Eventually, she’ll have to return to Ukraine for at least two consecutive years per the J1 regulations, but if she gets accepted into a college here, she plans to attend and stay for as long as she can. “The colleges in Ukraine were



Falechia Barry, who joined the NMC trip to Columbia this past June, took this photo of bubbles floating toward Grand Traverse Bay during a reception at NMC President Nick Nissley's house, which was attended by Columbian students visiting Traverse City.

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Up North Pride Offers Support in a Post-Roe America

Sara Bagley
Staff Writer

After the overturning of Roe v. Wade, are LGBTQ+ rights next on the docket?

It is on the agenda of some Americans, namely U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas who voted in support of overturning Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that protected a pregnant person's right to an abortion. Thomas took aim at two additional Supreme Court rulings that protect same-sex rights in his official opinion brief for the Roe decision. He referenced Obergefell v. Hodges (guaranteeing the right to same-sex marriage) and Lawrence v. Texas (legalizing same-sex sexual activity). Citing the rationale the court used to overturn Roe v. Wade, Justice Thomas argued that the right to abortion was not a form of "liberty" protected under the due process clause of the 14th Amendment. He encouraged bringing Obergefell and Lawrence up for review to the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS).

The possibility of future restrictions on gay rights have thrust the importance of protecting them back into public discussion, but it's not simply a matter of the right to choose. The aftermath of overturning Roe v. Wade could affect the LGBTQ+ community's reproductive freedoms as well. In vitro fertilization, or IVF, is something that many LGBTQ+ people depend on for the opportunity to parent. With decisions about reproductive freedoms redistributed to the states, anti-abortion laws have the potential to impact access to IVF, hurting queer and non-queer families alike.

The Roe ruling referenced "unborn human beings," putting IVF and other fertility treatments in jeopardy. During the process of IVF, eggs are collected from a patient's ovaries and then fertilized with sperm in a lab to create embryos. Some of those embryos are transferred to a uterus, some are discarded as unsuitable to be implanted, and others are frozen to use later. Many state abortion bans argue that life begins at fertilization and are attempting to pass legislation that would grant fetuses, embryos, and fertilized eggs personhood and constitutional rights. In an NPR article published July 21, 2022, Judith Daar, a law professor at Kentucky University that specializes in reproductive health, stated "If an early embryo is deemed a person...any action short of transfer to the uterus could be seen as violating its right to life under these laws."

In July 2022, Congress members began the conversation about codifying rulings like Obergefell and Lawrence to protect those rights. "These decisions are the beginning of a long revolution," said Anna Dituri, secretary and advocacy chair of Up North Pride, a local nonprofit that works to bring LGBTQ+ awareness to Traverse City. She pointed out that SCOTUS could write a statement at any time overturning major cases that they've decided in favor of LGBTQ+ rights. "The only way to move forward is to add protection at both federal and state levels."

In times of struggle, community is more necessary than ever and Up North Pride is working to provide a sense of community. Starting on Wednesday, Sept. 28, a series of events hosted by the group to celebrate Pride Awareness Month kicks off with a Pride bicycle ride and sign-making party. The Big Gay Brunch event on Oct. 2 will be the final hurrah, featuring family-friendly fun and booths hosted by community organizations,

like disability groups and local churches. While talking about these events, Dituri emphasized that "community is strong, important, and can motivate us when we need. There is no guarantee that people will see us and support us, so that safe place is important."

Every year, Pride helps build a sense of togetherness for queer people in Northern Michigan. Denny Nguyen and Christine Mac, advisors of NMC Pride, a Northwestern Michigan College student group, provide that for students every week. NMC Pride existed when Nguyen was a student himself. The group returned in 2017 and stayed active through the pandemic. The group aims to "create an environment where people are comfortable learning and okay with change...and creating more opportunities for people to



Photos by Micah Mabey

learn what the LGBT experience is like."

Nguyen and Mac became advisors for the group last year, and they're striving to create student-led activities and outreach opportunities. Currently they're in the process of planning upcoming events, such as hosting a booth at Up North Pride's Big Gay Brunch event on Oct. 2.

Nguyen shared that one of his goals for the group and the students involved is "to see folks engage. Have conversations, see it all come together...share experiences,

share stories." After the success of last summer's Pride Carnival, an NMC event in collaboration with Up North Pride, he hopes to do it again next year.

Pride is important to the LGBTQ+ community for a multitude of reasons, but for Nguyen, it's a matter of recognition. Recognizing queer history, queer experiences, and most of all, recognizing how we treat people. "It helps give people perspective on how we treat friends, neighbors, brothers and sisters."

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Ukrainian Student Marooned in Michigan, continued from page 1

bombed,” Hrukach said. Getting into a good college there is even harder than it was before. “They’re accepting people who lost their homes and their families more now instead of just people with good grades.”

Her time in Michigan has been spent with the Bowles’s, the hosts that Hrukach described as a “second set of parents.” Erin Bowles painted Hrukach as an eager and avid student, always waking up early to study. “She’s always helping in the kitchen,” Bowles said. Even when Hrukach has to move away, either for college in the U.S. or to return to Ukraine, she plans to visit her “second parents” when she can. As she applies to colleges, her time these days is mostly taken up with filling out scholarship applications and attending classes at NMC and at Central High School, where she is dual enrolled.

Hrukach’s childhood was colored with Russian influence. Ukrainian is spoken in her hometown with a Russian accent, her school friends had family that lived in Russia, and she speaks fluent Russian. “The Russian influence was huge,” she said. “In 2014 when Russia occupied the Crimean Peninsula, it was really hard to understand they were actually doing it,” Hrukach remembered. “We always considered Russia a brother country to Ukraine, so it was unexplainable.”

Since the invasion, Ukrainian schools have instilled in their students a strong sense of patriotism. Schools have stopped teaching Russian as a foreign language and all of the television programs eliminated their Russian airings. Hrukach said that patriotism is part of the Ukrainian cultural identity. “Growing up, I was always told Ukrainians fight for freedom...it’s even in the National Anthem that we will fight for freedom.” Of this current conflict, she said it’s “just one more step.”

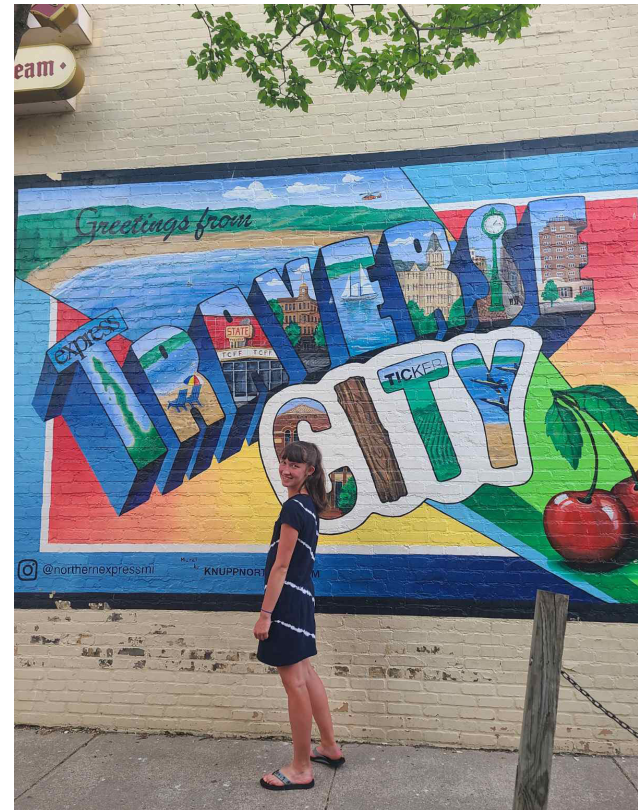
Her national pride extends to her continued support of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who she met once when he visited Chernihiv. An actor before entering politics, Hrukach remembers watching Zelensky on TV with her family on Saturday nights. “I really like the response of President Zelensky. I think he’s very brave,” she noted.

The war may be taking place far from Northern Michigan, but Hrukach has stayed informed since the beginning, watching both Ukrainian and Russian news coverage. “When I watched the Russian news, I felt really angry,” she said. “It wasn’t true.” Now, to combat the spread of misinformation, Hrukach shares what she’s learned whenever she can. “No one really talks about it, but I read the news and it’s still happening. It’s still going on.”

She said the news media plays a large part in how families and friends who still live in Russia view the conflict—and how Russians view Ukrainians overall. “There are [Russian] people who know that this isn’t right, but they can’t make a difference, but then I have friends who have family in Russia that say Ukrainians are lying. They say ‘Russia helps you,’ even though there are pictures of bombings.” Brainwashing is a loaded word, but Hrukach claimed “that’s what [Russian news] is.”

Hrukach understands how global politics surrounding the conflict make sending U.S. troops to Ukraine difficult. “I decided not to be biased and spent a lot of time reading and researching it...I got that it’s not that easy to just send people,” she said.

Hrukach acknowledged that aid from the United States has helped, but she disagreed with many Americans she’s spoken with who’ve suggested that simply ousting Russian President Vladimir Putin would end the war. “There are more people like him, so getting rid of him doesn’t solve the entire problem.”



When Hrukach takes a break from being a full-time student, she tries to spread awareness about the conflict terrorizing her home country. “Now, I try to tell people [about the war] so they get what actually happens and how it is,” she said. “Everyone knows the meaning of the word ‘war.’ Everyone knows what it is, but no one really knows what happens inside of war. They don’t know what it brings or how it feels.”

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New Orleans "Mafia" Takes Over Great Lakes Maritime Academy

Aidan Pool
Staff Writer

The key to a successful takeover is the element of surprise, and over the past decade the deck program at Great Lakes Maritime Academy (GLMA) has been flooded with Louisianians. So much so, that of the 29 deck cadets set to graduate in 2025, 19 are from the boot state. An eye-popping number, but outside of the Maritime Academy, the greater Traverse City area is none the wiser. The cadets call themselves the New Orleans "Mafia."

Louisiana typically has one season; hot. It can be hard for residents of the southern state to develop a love for nature and outdoor hobbies, but second-year cadet Hanna Davisson is taking advantage of having four seasons. "Having so many parks, preserves, and natural areas so close to town has allowed me to spend more time hiking and camping, and trying new activities like paddleboarding and cross-country skiing," Davisson said. "Coming from Louisiana, I've never truly experienced distinct seasons, and it's been great watching the colors change and seeing a whole new side to winter."

Second-year cadet Colin Doyle, has also picked up a new hobby that he wouldn't have found back home. "I picked up skiing over the winter, I wasn't very good at it at first but it was very fun."

Food culture is a big part of the Louisiana lifestyle. There are approximately 223 Chick-Fil-A's in the state of Louisiana, so when the Chick-Fil-A on US-31 opened, cadets at GLMA had something that helped them adjust to how different life Up North could be. Sometimes the best way to fill the emptiness of being homesick is through food. "I went to the Chick-Fil-A about four times a week," said second-year cadet, Brandon Nelson.

Ask any Louisiana cadet and they will tell you, Tony Chachere's Seasoning is absolutely essential to recreating the flavors of Louisiana. "I use Tony's almost every time I cook, the only time I don't is when it's something sweet," stated Bryan Brown, second-year cadet.

Admissions specialist Judy Druskovich, traced the Louisiana enrollment boom back to an event in 2015. "The academy decided to attend the annual Workboat show in New Orleans in an effort to reach more individuals from that area," she said.

Word of the program spread like wildfire with mariners talking to many of their friends and family about the program. One thing that makes GLMA more appealing to cadets than other state maritime academies is the First Class Pilotage endorsement, which allows the holder to pilot ships in the area specified in the license. GLMA graduates come out of school with a Pilot's license that allows them to pilot vessels on the Great Lakes and provides additional privileges that make acquiring the license to pilot a vessel in another area easier for graduates. GLMA is the only maritime academy that currently offers such a program. The endorsement can cut down the number of river trips required for licensing. For example, if applying for pilotage on the Mississippi River endorsement holders can make 12-20 trips instead of the usual 30, making the endorsement seem like a golden ticket to a successful career on the water for many Louisiana students.

This is something that the admiral of the academy, Jerry Achenbach, has picked up on. "I believe the cadets from Louisiana have chosen GLMA due to our emphasis on pilotage," Achenbach said. "To me this shows that nationwide there is an awareness that

the skills acquired at GLMA will translate into success as an officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine, and not just on vessels in Great Lakes service."

With an increasing number of Louisiana cadets each year, the takeover of the New Orleans "Mafia" has been swift and silent, and is something that could bring some cultural change to the area as more students from Louisiana enter the program. Traverse City residents be advised ... get your Tony's seasoning while you can.



Cadet Bryan Brown shows off his Tony's Chachere's Seasoning.



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International Affairs Forum Highlights Global Shift Towards Autocracy

John Osmond
Staff Writer

The International Affairs Forum held the first of its monthly discussions at the Denmos Museum on Sept. 15. The event, titled “Democracy vs. Autocracy,” featured speaker Dr. Erica Frantz Ph.D., an associate professor of Political Science at Michigan State University. John Zachman, a professor of political science at Northwestern Michigan College, moderated the discussion, which focused on the increase of autocratic influence within established democratic systems.

“Levels of democracy, or levels of freedom, depending on how it’s measured, [have] declined over the last 15 consecutive years,” said Frantz. “We are seeing democracies backslide in some surprising places...in countries that we are not used to seeing as ‘at risk.’” Many of the countries that are drifting towards autocracies (Frantz named Brazil, Turkey, Hungary, and El Salvador specifically) are places that have well established democratic government systems. Factors like poverty, fragile domestic politics, and the history of democracy in a region can impact a country’s chances of becoming an autocracy, leaving some countries more vulnerable than others.

“We have democratically elected [populist] leaders taking control, and then we have this slow effort that they pursue to consolidate power,” explained Frantz. “[A populist politician will] do these subtle things to make sure that [the] checks and balances we see in a healthy democracy deteriorate.” This effort to consolidate power works in tandem with what Frantz called a “rise in personalistic rulers” who use their charismatic personality to win elections and turn pre-established democratic governments against themselves. According to Frantz, modern transitions toward autocratic systems do not happen radically or violently. Dismantling a democracy in recent history has shown to be a slow and methodical process making the Cold War era’s bloody coups a thing of the past.

El Salvador’s current president Nayib Bukele’s ascent to power is a good example of a democracy transitioning to autocracy, according to Frantz. Bukele ran for office in 2017. During the election, he was kicked out of the left-leaning party Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) for physically attacking another party member.

In response, Bukele created his own Nuevas Ideas party. Frantz explains that Bukele ran his campaign “exclusively on social media. [He did not] need to rely on an established party institution to get the word out about his candidacy...the party logo, ‘N’ doesn’t stand for Nuevas, it stands for Nayib...this is party personalism at its finest.” A *New Yorker* article published Sept. 15 reported Bukele took a selfie before delivering his speech at the United Nations General Assembly in 2019, posting it to Twitter afterwards, reminding world



Photo credit Alex Tank, IAF

leaders in attendance that a “couple of images on Instagram can have a greater impact than any speech in this assembly.”

Frantz explained that social media can enable these politicians due to its expansive reach, and create a personality cult. “Policy choices become a reflection of the whims of the individual leader.”

Democracies still outnumber autocracies in the world and autocracies are not built to last. Volatile policies inhibit the functioning of autocratic governments, which can lead to discontent among the population, Frantz claimed, citing research showing that authoritarian personalistic rulers are harmful to the countries they represent. “They are more likely to be corrupt...least likely to democratize...most likely to engage in risky foreign policy behavior...most likely to escalate foreign conflicts, [and] less likely to back down in disputes.”

Frantz ended the talk by referencing the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, citing Russia’s poor performance as a show of how a personalistic ruler can mismanage their own endeavors. “There is an optimistic note,” Frantz concluded. “Democracies outnumber dictatorships, and a number of places that have struggled have democratized in recent years.”

The International Affairs Forum will be hosting more events throughout the semester. On Oct. 20, there will be a debate on immigration. David Aguilar, Former Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, will debate Theresa Cardinal Brown, Managing Director of Immigration and Cross-Border Policy. In November there will be a discussion on the repercussions of the Ukrainian war, with speaker John Kornblum, former United States Ambassador to Germany.

SPONSORED CONTENT

GVSU master’s program provides opportunity for longtime educator to move into administration

Michele Coffill
Grand Valley State University

Rachel Anderson is the new principal at Lake Ann Elementary in Interlochen, part of the Benzie County Central Schools district.

While it’s a new position, Anderson is a veteran educator and said the master’s degree program at Grand Valley State University’s Traverse City Regional Center has prepared her well for administrative duties.

In fact, Anderson said, it was a Grand Valley faculty member who suggested the educational leadership program, seeing the potential in her that she might have missed.

“I was thinking about a master’s degree in early childhood education, but Rick Vandermolen saw a leader in me even more than I saw in myself at that time, and he helped steer me toward the leadership program,” Anderson said.

Anderson earned a bachelor’s degree in education from GVSU after getting a foundational start at Northwestern Michigan College. “I knew I wanted to be a teacher and I liked that a combination of NMC and GVSU could get me there,” she said.

After earning a degree in 2013, Anderson started teaching at a Forest Area Community Schools elementary building. She said she’s always had a heart for the youngest learners.

“I come from a big, blended family of eight kids. I was one of the older ones and always immersed in caring for my brothers and sisters,” she said. “Even as a teen, I wanted to be there for their milestones. I used to go have lunch with them at their elementary schools.”



Rachel Anderson is the new principal at Lake Ann Elementary in Interlochen

Moving to administration gives Anderson an opportunity to make an impactful difference, she said.

“Much like people did for me, I can help prepare other people for leadership roles and help them see qualities in themselves,” Anderson said.

Grand Valley’s educational leadership courses were rigorous and Anderson said there was a great sense of community among students.

“The faculty are so dedicated to your success. They work with you to make sure your success is sustained throughout the program and after the program,” she said.

Educational Leadership Program

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Swoop Selects

On a Sunbeam

Ian Deyoung
Contributor

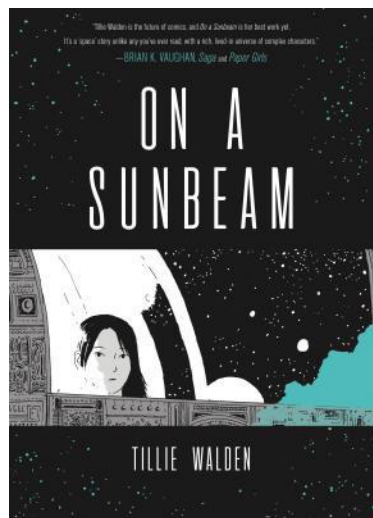
In this graphic sci-fi adventure, a young woman finds her home in an infinite universe.

Tillie Walden, known for her award-winning graphic novel “Spinning,” in which she tells her own coming-of-age story as a competitive ice skater, has released a new graphic novel. In “On a Sunbeam,” she reimagines the cosmos and offers a stunning and intricate look into the many worlds beyond our own. If Studio Ghibli fell in love with “Dune” and had a baby, it would look exactly like “On a Sunbeam.”

Walden illustrates the experience of a young girl coming into her own in a vast and infinite universe. After graduating from the all-girls boarding school where she’s spent most of her life, Mia joins a dysfunctional repair crew aboard the Sunbeam and travels through space repairing ancient buildings filled with endless history and secrets lost to time. Mia carries with her the weight of her past and memories of her childhood love, Grace, who disappeared when they were just girls. As she spends more time with the crew of the Sunbeam, she learns that each of her crewmates are carrying troubled pasts of their own. Despite their differences, the crew of the Sunbeam begin a dangerous journey into the farthest reaches of space—searching for Grace after learning she may still be out there...somewhere.

Walden’s ability to use deep blues and passionate bursts of pink and yellow hues to embody the emotion and beauty of the expressive line work is taken to a higher level with her mastery of dialogue and keen understanding of body language. Her perfect coupling of theme and style makes this book a must-read.

Explore with the crew of the Sunbeam the highs and lows of young love, found family, and finding your place in the infinite universe we call home.



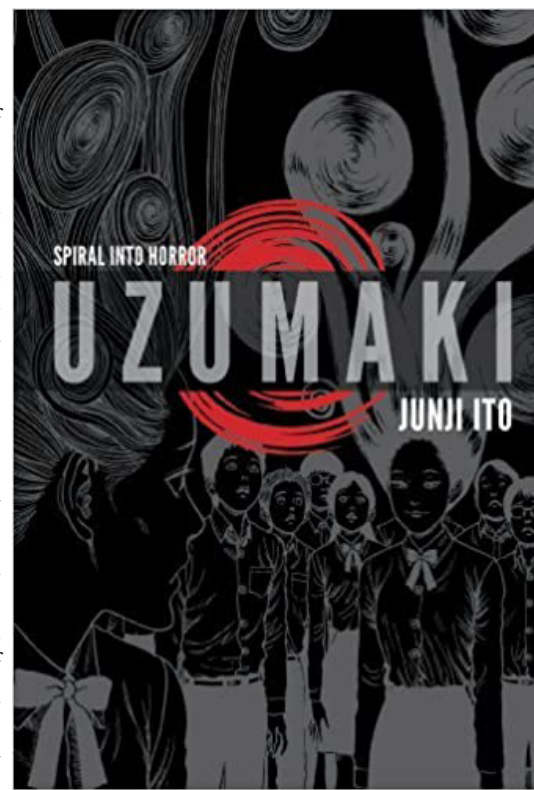
Uzumaki

A perfect symbiosis of the beautiful and horrific, experience the story of one town’s spiral into chaos in Junji Ito’s collection of tales, “Uzumaki.”

Ito is an experienced manga artist and the creator of popular works such as the “Tomie” series, about an immortal girl so beautiful that any man who falls in love with her goes insane and “Gyo,” the two-volume story of a parasite known as the “death stench” that infects fish, turning them into giant monsters with metal legs. Ito delves into many unexplored facets of horror with his latest series, “Uzumaki,” and tells a tale that will keep you up at night.

The story centers around Kirie and her boyfriend, Shuichi, in the town of Kurouzu-cho, a place afflicted with a mysterious curse. As more and more of the townspeople are affected by the curse, Kirie and Suichi must find a way to stop it before they become trapped forever.

Ito’s detailed and uncanny art style, paired with his mind-twisting writing, creates a perfect experience of dread and page-turning suspense. The beautifully grotesque imagery of the spirals are impossible to look away from.



Traverse City Expands with New Restaurants, Coffee Shops

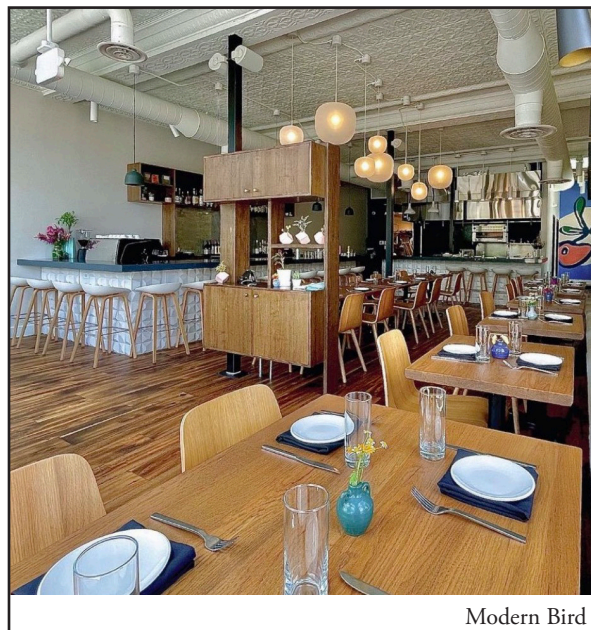
Gabbi Chavarria
Editor-in-Chief

This summer, Traverse City added two new restaurants and a host of coffee shops to its burgeoning food scene. Modern Bird located at 541 W. Front St, The Burrow at 12930 S. Bay Shore Dr, Rough Pony at 144 Hall St, and two new locations for local favorite coffee shop Mundos Roasting & Co., one at 305 W. Front St, and another at 720 W. Front St, have all opened in recent months.

Modern Bird, which got its start in the Sara Hardy Farmers Market in 2018 selling baked goods, has opened a brick-and-mortar location on the west side of town that serves dinner Tuesday-Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. The menu features classic comfort food like fried chicken, key lime pie, and pork schnitzel—all elevated to fine-dining standards. Dishes are changed frequently and make use of Northern Michigan’s slew of local produce. Andy Elliot and Emily Stewart, the owners and chefs, hail from the Chicago restaurant scene and have years of experience to bring to Traverse City’s proverbial dinner table. They stress the importance of creating a place for guests to come and enjoy everything from a quick bite and a beer to a three-course dinner with wine pairings. Seating is limited but there are many options including: a dining room that is cozy and intimate, a chef’s counter where guests can watch the dedicated line cooks whip up beautiful plates, the bar where talented bartenders shake and stir cocktails all night, and a window counter that faces Front St and allows patrons to watch the world go by.

The Burrow, the newest addition to Traverse City restaurant group Honest Hospitality (Mama Lu’s, The Flying Noodle), serves lunch and dinner Tuesday-Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Influenced by the West Coast food scene, The Burrow focuses on fresh food that keeps people comfortable and coming back for more. The lunch menu has classic fares like burgers, soups, and salads that will please even the pickiest of eaters. There are also mussels, tuna crudo, and beef tartare for more adventurous guests. Dinner follows suit with lunch, as many items can be found on both menus, but there are special items such as ribeye steaks, salmon, and fresh pasta from The Flying Noodle to satisfy all levels of hunger. The restaurant describes their food and space as “California-inspired American,” and CEO and co-founder of Honest Hospitality, Adrienne Brunette, places emphasis on offering fresh takes on familiar dishes. The space is airy and marina-adjacent with a patio for diners (weather permitting).

Rough Pony is the latest venture from Rose & Fern owner, and Great Lakes Culinary Institute alumni, Becky Tranchell. Open Monday-Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rough Pony serves up coffee from local roaster Stockist Coffee Company, bagels (everyday but Tuesday) from Bubbies Bagels, tea from Bare Earth Herbals, and uses fresh fruit and vegetables in their juices from local farms like Lakeview Hill Farm and Michigan Farm to Freezer. Dairy comes from Guernsey Farms and chocolate from Grocer’s Daughter. Local alternative bookstore Wild Pages stocks the shelves in Rough Pony with a rotating selection of local zines and radical literature.



Modern Bird

Tranchell’s dedication to using hyper-local ingredients make Rough Pony a must-stop. The coffee is always fresh and hot, the juices and smoothies are made to order, and the service is always friendly and personable. The shop is decked out in vibrant blues, greens, and pinks, and, true to Tranchell’s style, is a safe space for people in marginalized communities. There is a billboard with flyers from local service providers such as the Women’s Resource Center, housing advocacy groups, Up North Pride, and many more. Also advertised are local events like comedy shows and concerts. Facing out onto

Hill Street is a giant open-air window and small patio perfect for setting up a laptop and studying, meeting up with friends, or just spending some time reading the literature offered from Wild Pages.

Mundos Roasting & Co., a Traverse City and Suttons Bay staple since 2016, opened two new locations this past spring/summer, both on Front Street. Mundos West at 702 W. Front St in the historic Slabtown neighborhood is open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and offers grab and go sandwiches and quick service of their exceptional house-roasted coffees. The shop is nestled into a tree-lined cove and offers minimal indoor seating, but extensive patio space on Kids Creek for guests to sit and enjoy their brew. Mundos 305 is closer to the downtown area at 305 W. Front St. Open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., the space is community oriented with large tables and an expansive food and beverage menu. The space caters to students and remote workers with plenty of seating and tables to meet with groups or work on projects. There are large windows that let in plenty of natural light and allow guests to gaze out onto the busy downtown streets. All Mundos locations are open Monday-Saturday and serve coffee roasted at their headquarters on Boon St. in Traverse City.

Music, Movement, and Memories: *PorchFest Returns to Traverse City*

Kathryn DePauw Despite an overcast sky promising rain, Traverse City's historic Copy Editor Central Neighborhood held its fourth annual PorchFest on Sept. 11. The event is a free walkable music concert hosted by the Central Neighborhood Association. Marilyn Vlach originally brought the idea of a porch concert event to life in 2019 after visiting a similar event in Ann Arbor.

Twenty-seven local homeowners volunteered their porches to three dozen performers this year. Everywhere you looked (and heard) there was music playing, people smiling, and dances breaking out. Even Mother Nature cooperated with the festivities—the rain held off until 15 minutes after the event was over.



Photos by Kathryn DePauw

Hot Dad Beat Machine (pictured above and below) were among three dozen performers who played PorchFest in Traverse City's Central Neighborhood on Sept. 11.

