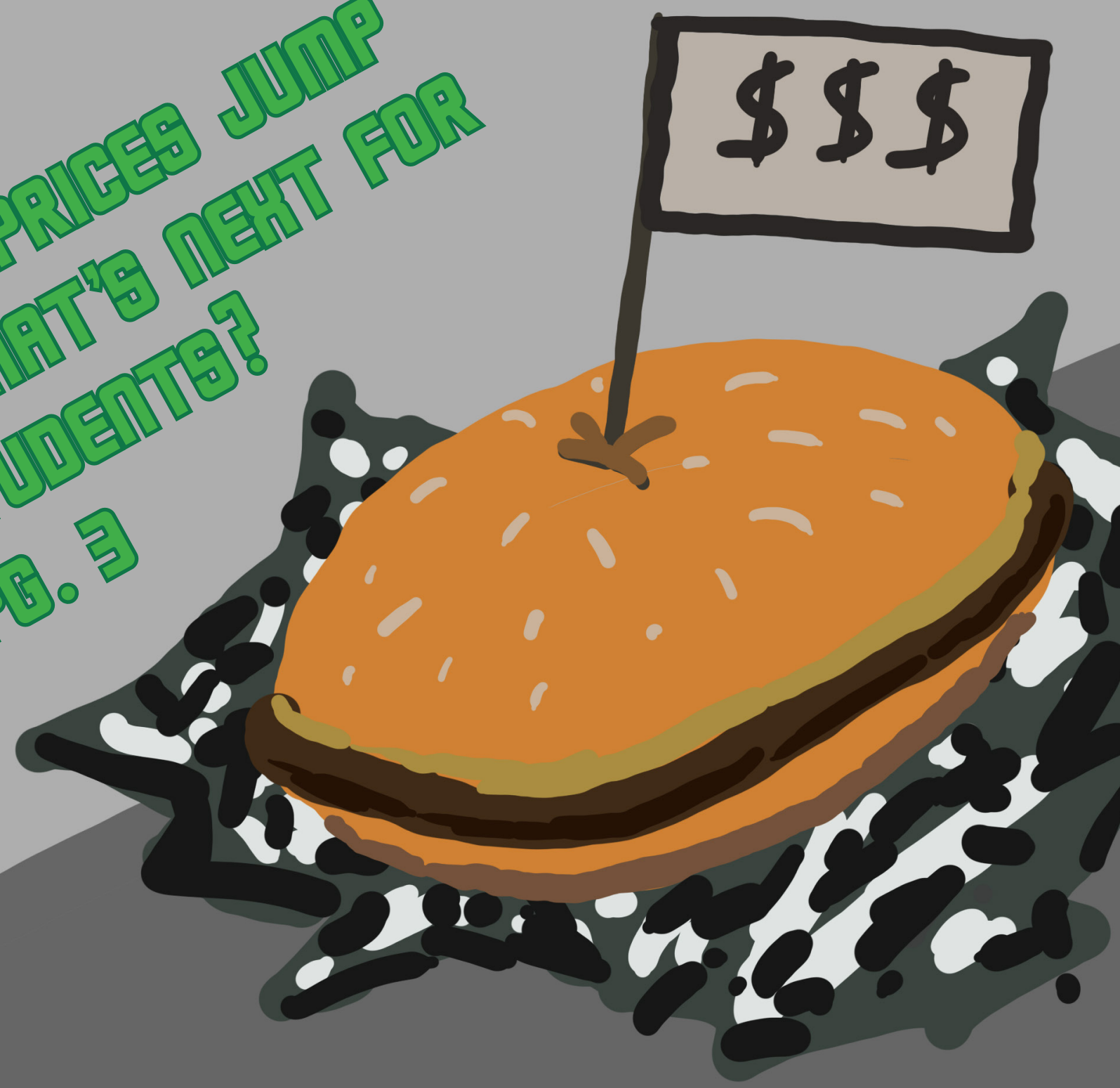


WHITE PINE PRESS

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

**CAFE PRICES JUMP
- WHAT'S NEXT FOR
STUDENTS?
PG. 3**



NMC News In Brief

Boardman Loop Trail Murals

NMC student Kiah Anderson and former student Logan Hudson created two new murals along the Boardman Lake Loop Trail this past summer. The pair helped faculty members Glenn Wolff and Rufus Snoddy complete another mural, Boardman Serenade, last year, and this year were invited to paint their own. Anderson's mural is titled *Serenity's Muse* and Hudson's mural is titled *May You Always Know the Truth and See the Light Surrounding You*.

Thanks-For-Giving Fundraiser Kicks Off

Professional Communications students are helping local families this Thanksgiving with the tenth annual Food for Thought Thanks-for-Giving experiential learning project. Donations are being collected where donors have the chance to win prizes like a weekend stay at the Delamar Hotel, an Elev8 family climbing package, a wine tasting for six at Chateau Chantal and other prizes.

A safe place to be yourself.

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If you would like to learn more, contact faculty adviser Jacob Wheeler at jwheeler@nmc.edu or editor-in-chief Jacob Pszczolkowski at pszczoj@mail.nmc.edu

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NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE WHITE PINE PRESS

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The *White Pine Press* welcomes comments, suggestions, ideas for news stories and calendar items.

NEWSROOM 231.995.1173
DISTRIBUTION
ADVERTISING
EMAIL whitepinepress@gmail.com

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NMC Students and Staff Dish on the Cafeteria

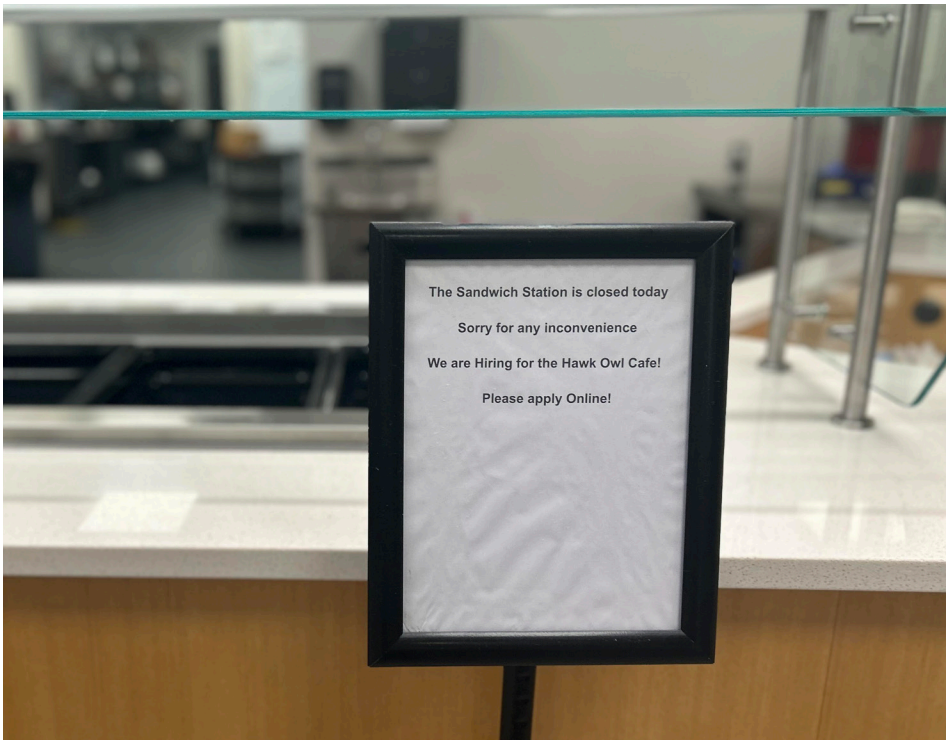
Nathan Neste
Staff Writer

With global production costs struggling to recover from a post-pandemic high, the NMC community has noticed changes in costs at West Hall's Hawk Owl Café (HOC) this fall. As they work through trying economic waves, café

staff emphasize their commitment to service, but everyone talks about the sandwich station.

Kat Wagner, a second semester East Hall Resident, expressed students' desire for nutritious, filling and affordable options at the HOC. Wagner emphasized that she and other students tend to avoid the grill these days, instead opting for grab-and-go items. She said that returning students miss the sandwich station that is indefinitely closed due to staffing shortages:

"I loved [the sandwich station] so much last semester because it reminded me of Subway. It was a healthier option rather than just getting a chicken sandwich or a burger."



Wagner offered two main proposals to help students budget and compromise on lunch and dinner prices. She would like the cafeteria to consider creating "combo" type meals besides the special, where a student could get an entree and a side for a discounted price. Additionally, Wagner said a full meal could quickly cost her as much as \$20, especially if she purchases an extra side like rice with her special.

"I'll get a receipt one day and I'm like, 'Oh my gosh, my meal plan is dwindling,'" Wagner said. So while she thinks that all parties involved are more lax about spending for students with meal plans, she would appreciate reminders from staff about her transaction totals.

Meal plans are prepaid balances attached to NMC ID cards. By using a meal plan, individuals are excused from paying state taxes on food purchased from the HOC. Anyone with an NMC ID has the option to deposit any amount of money to it, but East Hall residents are required to accept an amount of either \$1,300, \$1,500, or \$1,800, determined by how often they visit the cafeteria and leave campus. These amounts have been each raised by \$100 since last school year.

Chad Schenkelberger, director of food services and Dean Haselton, purchasing coordinator for the HOC, want students to be informed about the changes at the cafeteria. Schenkelberger insisted that since the cafeteria switched management in 2021, "the directive I've had is to bring fair prices. The first thing we did was cut prices and increase value in response to student feedback, administration, and Student Government Association."

They want students to know that changing prices are not something they take lightly, and that there have been no price changes that were not deemed fair by both distributors and the college, with meal plans in mind. They attribute the major changes to a 10-12% yearly increase in food costs as well as increased labor costs, but insist that they always aim for competitive pricing.

"We have been using competitors for reference and suggested retail prices

used across the industry for our retail items. With [the grab-and-go items], our retail prices have been significantly under what has been suggested," said Schenkelberger.

Haselton, a chef himself, noted staff empathy for students:

"At the culinary school, we did everything we could [to not raise tuition] to make sure that cost didn't go onto the students. This college is very aware of that landscape and is very much an advocate for students."

He added that the cafeteria does not operate on a profitable level, and relies on subsidies from the college to make business ends meet. The two see the cafeteria as a service to the students, and insist that they don't want to turn the HOC into a profit center and put that burden on students.

"Coming from the industry, you don't see this type of support given to an operation like this," Haselton added. "It's not a money-making thing, it's a reduce-cost-and-break-even scenario at best."

They further explained that the café is hesitant to re-open the sandwich station until the staffing shortage has been addressed so that they can be reliable for students on-the-go and prevent waste.

Morgan Slater, Back of House Lead for the HOC, says, "We miss having the sandwich station open as much as you guys do. It's a great opportunity for staff and students to bond."

All concluded with heavy hearts on the on-going global food crisis.

"All of a sudden, you think that it's not only affecting you, but it's past you," Haselton said, "You look at your checks, the gas, the groceries, and you think that you've got to be out of your mind for it to be true."

"I think that people rely a lot on their jobs for food," Wagner explained. "It's scary, really. It's sad. You go to the grocery store and think you're gonna spend 50 bucks and it's double."

"First it affected the commercial side, and now it's affecting regular people," Schenkelberger concluded, "My response to anyone is that if you have concerns, I'm always here. If there's anything I can do, please come see me."

Schenkelberger can be reached via email at cschenkelberger@nmc.edu



CAPTION left to right: Dean Haselton and Chad Schenkelberger.

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 7 - ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?

JULIA BELDEN

Staff Writer

This election season may seem quiet (there are no federal or state elections occurring), but that doesn't mean that the ballot is empty! Local-level elections involving city/county leadership and ballot proposals are incredibly important—They often have direct impacts on our lives.

MAYORAL AND CITY COMMISSION ELECTION



On November 7th, residents of Traverse City will choose a new mayor to replace Richard Lewis, who will not be seeking re-election. Current City Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem Amy Shamroe faces former Grand Traverse County Commissioner Tom Mair for the seat, which has a 2-year term.

Residents will also select several new city commissioners. Three seats are up for grabs, all with four-year terms (the City Commission includes six commissioners plus the mayor). The candidates are Jackie Anderson, Kenneth M. Funk, Caroline Kennedy, Mary Mills, Chris Minkin, Shea M. O'Brien, Merek Roman, Heather Shaw, and Mitchell Treadwell. Treadwell is a current commissioner running for re-election.

Mayoral and city commissioner elections are nonpartisan, so you won't be seeing "Democrat" or "Republican" listed next to candidates' names.

PROPOSALS ON THE BALLOT



Three city proposals will also appear on the ballot. Proposals 1 and 2 both concern Brown Bridge Quiet Area. A “yes” for Proposal 1 would remove a \$250,000 cap on projects for the park, while a “yes” for Proposal 2 will approve the city’s use of approximately \$750,000 to purchase an additional 528 acres of green space. If successful, city residents will have additional parkland to enjoy.

Proposal 3 involves Traverse City Emergency Medical Services (EMS). If approved by voters, the Traverse City Fire Department will use tax funds to expand EMS transport capacity, thereby reducing reliance on contracted EMS services.

REGISTERING TO VOTE

Not registered? No worries! The State of Michigan permits voter registration until 8pm on Election Day. Visit the City Clerk’s Office to register (make sure to bring your ID and proof of residency!)

For further information on how to register to vote, see traversecitymi.gov

UPCOMING 2024 ELECTIONS

February 27th, 2024 (Presidential preference primary, date may change)

August 6th, 2024 (General Primary)

November 5th, 2024 (General election)

Alumni Spotlight: Max Anderson

Deanna Luton
Staff Writer

Max Anderson chose NMC because it was close to home and allowed him to complete General Education requirements for less money than a university. After his studies continued at Western Michigan University, Anderson realized NMC's facilities and staff were top notch for a community college.

NMC helped Anderson, "By further teaching me discipline and how things would work at a larger university. I feel that it prepared me very well for the next step of my educational journey." He continued, "I transferred down to Western Michigan University (WMU). I was going for my bachelors, so my classes at NMC were designed to all transfer to WMU and support that end."

Later, though, through degree audits, Anderson was notified that he did complete his degree. Anderson reflected, "My favorite class was Strength of Materials and in general, the engineering curriculum. Jim Coughlin was an amazing instructor who made the classes fun but challenging." As an engineering major, he found the staff members at NMC made his studies a wonderful experience. Professors Stephen Drake and Mary Jo Elliot were also among his favorites.

As advice to future NMC students, Anderson encourages: "Use NMC as the invaluable resource that it is. Use it to not only learn, but to prepare you for the next step of your journey."

Anderson affirmed, "NMC has world class instructors and staff and shouldn't be viewed as less than anything you would receive at a larger institution. The only difference between NMC and the big universities is their donor base (money) and the research they do. But even NMC is on the cutting edge of a few types of research. There is an amazing breadth of options for classes and chances are, if you want to learn it, NMC offers it!"

As a commuter student, Anderson found campus as an open, welcoming and warm place. "Staff and faculty are friendly and helpful. There were all kinds of options to engage in different activities on campus, even for those of us who didn't live on campus."

After his time at NMC, Anderson has continued to build up a successful career from his educational foundation at the community college. "I went on to earn my bachelor's degree from WMU and have continued to learn more through training and education through my career as a commercial lender with Honor Bank."

Anderson works for Honor Bank as Assistant Vice President of Commercial Lending. "I love it! The career allows me to build relationships in our region with business owners and be on the front lines of helping our area move forward!"

Since his time at NMC, Anderson's world of work has changed significantly. "When I was attending NMC, I didn't yet have a career, just a job." He reflects, "After NMC, in part due to some of the relationships I was able to build during my time there, I was more easily able to find employment and eventually get into banking and to where I am now. I am incredibly grateful for my time at NMC."

"I would highly recommend that anyone who wants to save money and still get an incredible education, do the same!"

He found his career pathway through sales experience. Working for Schwann's Home Service, he had a regular stop at a Chase Bank branch. There, the banker and manager insisted he had skills that would make him an ideal candidate for banking.

"They eventually wore me down and the rest is history. If there is anything I've learned during my life and career, it's that relationships are everything." Anderson expanded, "Whether it's your professor at NMC, or your customer in your sales job, be inquisitive and kind with everyone because they may have the opportunity to help you someday. And just as importantly, you may have the opportunity to help them someday too!"



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The Duality of the Barbie Movie

Emma Marion
Staff Writer

Traverse City is not known for its crowded movie showings. However, two weeks after the Barbie movie premiered on July 21, Traverse City's local AMC theater was still packed with people. Barbie had done the unthinkable: drawn in people from all ages, genders, backgrounds, and locations, to have a blunt surface level discussion of patriarchy.

Following the release of Barbie, Mattel's stock soared to its highest in a year. The movie itself broke expectations at the box office making around \$1.4 billion. It became the highest grossing film of the year, and the highest grossing film by a solo female director. The film was also generally praised for its discussion of patriarchy. Let that sink in. A female-empowering patriarchy-busting movie directed solely by a woman was the record breaking release of 2023. Did feminism just have a hallmark breakthrough, or is something else going on here?

Barbie has always been an important part of American culture, and the movie recognizes it. The movie sees Barbie and Ken traveling between Barbie land (a matriarchy) and the real world (a patriarchy). Through this back and forth exploration they are able to compare the two societies, and the attitudes of the people in them. For example, the Kens in Barbie land generally feel alienated by the matriarchy, and women in the real world feel the same about the patriarchy.

In Barbie's first trip to the real world, she encounters a group of edgy teenagers. They inform her that Barbie dolls in the real world have created unrealistic body and career expectations for women. In a way, these teens represent the general attitude that Americans have about Barbie. In response, Barbie explains that the dolls were meant to show women that they can be anything. Barbie in this situation is a stand in for Mattel, trying to convince the general public that their intentions have always been pure.

While the conversation literally takes place between Barbie and teens, the larger social dialogue is happening between the audience and Mattel. Mattel is reassuring the audience that Barbie has always been about true feminism. The company is trying to save face and build trust with the audience.

The movie also sees Barbie visiting the Mattel HQ in the real world, where she is surprised to find that the whole company has male leadership. Mattel depicts themselves as a comically outdated male-dominated company making female empowerment dolls. They even joke about how "We had a woman CEO in the '90s and then another one...at some point." Although this depiction is not entirely accurate, as four out of the 11 executives at Mattel are women, it still holds true as the majority of positions are held by men, including CEO.

Mattel is trying to gain trust with the audience by making fun of themselves and calling attention to the patriarchy's effects on their company. The movie would not feel complete or trustworthy without at least mentioning this issue. However, it creates a new problem in the process. To achieve record breaking success, Mattel did not have to change the inner-workings of their company. Rather, poking fun at themselves was enough to profit.

Charlotte Noller is a Traverse City local who saw the Barbie movie in the Bijou on its release day of July 21. Although she's not an avid movie re-watcher, she decided to see the movie two more times in the following weeks. For her, the movie felt like a breath of fresh air. "I remember the feeling I had after watching the movie, and I don't know how else to describe it other than com-



CAPTION Charlotte Noller at her second viewing of Barbie.

forted" she said.

This is the duality of the Barbie movie. On one hand, the movie was a tool to re-brand and popularize Mattel; To save Barbie's image. On the other hand, the movie has made such a profound impact on so many people, even at a local level. The movie earnestly sympathizes with the struggles of being a mom and acknowledges the pains of growing up in a patriarchal society.

Rather than being a breakthrough moment for feminism, the Barbie movie merely highlights the change in attitudes towards gender equality. The Barbie movie's existence is a reflection of how far society has come, while Mattel's unchanging male dominated executive structure shows how much farther it has to go.

24

22

20

18

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Jan 2023

May 2023

Sep 2023

Barbie Movie is Released

Halloween Week

Friday October 27

Halloween Lantern Lit Walk
Self-guided walk hosted by UpNorthKids
at the Boardman River Nature Center
5:00-7:00 PM

Sunday October 29

Trunk or Treat
Hosted by UpNorthKids at Rennie Orchards, 11221 Monroe Rd. Williamsburg, MI
2 - 4 PM

Saturday October 28

15th Annual Zombie Run
Right Brain Brewery, 225 E 16th St. Traverse City, MI
9 AM -12 PM

Downtown TC Halloween Walk/ Trick or Treating
10 -11:30 AM

Halloween for All
Sensory friendly Halloween activities
at the Dennon Museum Center
10 AM -1 PM

Thriller Night
Jacobs Farm and Corn Maze, 7100 E Traverse Hwy,
Traverse City, MI, 49684
7 - 9 PM

Halloween Party: Wes Anderson Theme
The Little Fleet
7 -11 PM

Pilar Judd
Staff Writer

Tuesday October 31

NMC Halloween Rave
Alluvion
7 - 9 PM

Rocky Horror Picture Show Screening
State Theatre, 233 E Front St. Traverse City, MI
8 PM

All Week Events

Jacobs Farm and Corn Maze
7100 E Traverse Hwy, Traverse City, MI, 49684

Historic Tours at the Village at Grand Traverse Commons
1200 W 11th St. Traverse City, MI, 49684
Book at <https://www.thevillageetc.com/tour/>

Historical Ghost Lantern Tours
Downtown Traverse City, Front St. Traverse City, MI, 49684
Book at <https://www.hauntedtraverse.com/historicalghostlanterntour>

C'MON EVERYBODY!

NMC Magazine
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Fall 2023

HUMOR

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