

N O R T H W E S T E R N M I C H I G A N C O L L E G E

# WHITE PINE PRESS

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



Environment



Gun Control

## Your Turn to Vote, Michigan: Where Candidates Stand on the Issues

pg 6

Higher Education



Health Care





Photo courtesy of Ann Swaney / NMC Archives

Northwestern Michigan College has a long history of intermural sports teams. In this 1980 photograph, coach Steve Ballance poses with the women’s basketball team for a yearbook photo.

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

# WHITE PINE PRESS

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## Campus Briefs

**Free Bowling at Lucky Jack’s!** On Sunday, March 15, NMC’s student government will host a night of free bowling for all NMC students, from 9pm until midnight. Grab a group of friends and your student ID and get ready to hit the lanes!

**Legalized Marijuana Forum:** The Health Forum of Northern Michigan will host a panel discussion on legalized marijuana’s implications for health care on Friday, March 20 at the Hagerty Center. Community, health, school, employer, and legal concerns will be addressed by the panel. There will be breakfast at 7:30am, and the panel discussion will run from 8–9:30am. Register at [gvsu.edu/hfnorthernmich](http://gvsu.edu/hfnorthernmich).

**Concert for Community Awareness:** The second annual Concert for Community Awareness will be held on March 20 from 6–10pm in the Milliken Auditorium. Performances include Jimmy Oleson, Mark Lavengood, The Pocket, and the Charlie Millard Band, with production support from NMC’s Audio Tech students. The event seeks to bring more awareness to the importance of healthy mind, body, and environmental relationships. It is free to the public with donations accepted at the door. The first 50 NMC students will receive a \$10 gift card to the school’s bookstore.

**Register Now for the Big Little Hero Race!** The NMC Professional Communications class will host its annual Big Little Hero Race on April 18 to raise money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwestern Michigan. Participants can choose between a one-mile fun run/walk, 5k, or 10k race. Registration fees for the 5k and 10k races are \$20 for students and \$30 for adults. For more information and to register visit [biglittleherorace.com](http://biglittleherorace.com).

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# NMC Programs Focus on Labor Shortages, Veteran Transition

**Kathryn DePauw** At its monthly meeting on Feb. 24, Staff Writer the NMC Board of Trustees heard the Automotive program demonstrate how it is working to solve a labor shortage and an English faculty member present how her course focuses on an awareness of returning veteran transitions.

## Automotive Program Provides Pipeline to Employment

Technical Division director Jason Slade and Automotive Technologies program coordinator Wayne Moody were joined by Bill Marsh, Jr., Rich King, and Dave Kelsey from the Bill Marsh Automotive Group to present a program that pairs Automotive Technology students with local employers.

Traverse City is part of a country-wide scarcity trend that has left 78,000 automotive technician positions vacant, so Marsh approached NMC to seek a relationship with the college to address their labor shortage. First-year students in the Automotive program visits dealerships, and an upcoming program that offers in-service days will give students hands-on experience.

"In the next decade, the number of technicians nearing retirement, exiting our field, is massive," Marsh said. "This is going to be an ongoing challenge for us for the foreseeable future."

## Veteran Student's Legacy Lives on in English Course

In fall of 2016, Marine veteran and NMC student Drew Kostic took his own life. Judy Chu was his English teacher for two semesters and, like many on campus, was forever changed by that event. Chu delved deeper into the experience of returning veterans and helped to form a Learning Community—a group of faculty and staff from across campus—to explore the theme of veterans in transitions. It was then that she discovered Sebastian Junger's book: "Tribe."

The book explores how veterans create tight bonds and return to a society that is isolated and divided. "It's about the

nature of our community and how it's difficult in our society for everyone," explains Chu.

Chu first incorporated "Tribe" into her ENG112 class in 2018. Students spend four weeks reading, discussing, and writing about Junger's book. Recently, she has reached out to the Dennon museum to create an artistic component to the project. Students will explore pieces that reflect book themes and learn more about what can be done to address the needs of returning veterans—and hopefully avoid future tragedies.

## Scholarships, Innovation Center

Rebecca Teahan, director of the NMC Foundation, addressed the issue of unclaimed scholarship money. She explained that the funds can be restricted with specific requirements, limiting applicants and payouts. "There may be some that are unable to be awarded in a given semester, or perhaps the student attends part of the year...so there is money remaining at the end of the year," Teahan explained. She assured the Board that scholarship funds are effectively managed and used, and stressed that there is still a need for funding.

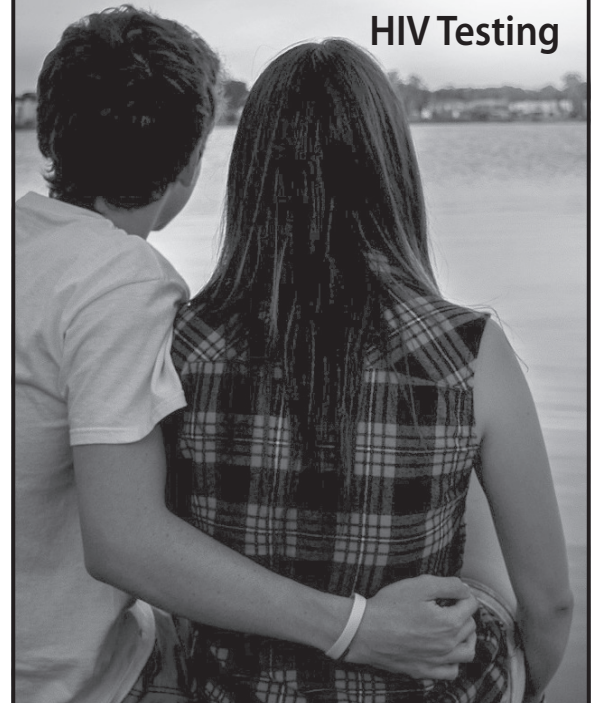
The new Innovation Center is on schedule and will tentatively be open for tours on May 19. The building will be dedicated on Aug. 24, and ready for use by the Fall 2020 semester.

The Board is watching developments with the Governor's 2020-21 Higher Education Budget, which increases funding for community colleges, but caps annual tuition increases at 4.25%. The concern is loss of local control over decision making. At the federal level, President Trump's proposed budget contains steep cuts to college funding, which could affect the Maritime Academy. This budget is likely to change.

For meeting notes or to watch the board meeting, visit [nmc.edu/about/board-of-trustees](http://nmc.edu/about/board-of-trustees).

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# Women in Welding: Forging a Path into the Future

**Kathryn DePauw** In an industry where only about 5.5% of the workforce is women, the future is looking bright for women in welding.  
Staff Writer

At NMC a small but dedicated group of women are challenging people's assumptions about what a welder looks like. Currently only three female students—out of 42 total—are enrolled in certificate programs and the associate degree. Only one woman, Kristin Maynard, has completed the program in the last three years, but it should be noted that students have been known to leave the program early if they get full-time employment in the industry. Maynard is currently working at National Vacuum Equipment and was the first woman to be hired in its weld shop.

The American Welding Society projects more than 400,000 job openings in the welding industry by 2025. Like many trade industries, much of the workforce is nearing retirement age and new recruits are needed to replace them. Many experts believe that women are ideally a key part of the solution. Just a few years ago, the percentage of welders who are women was only 4%.

Samantha Farrugia, CEO & Founder of Women Who Weld—a nonprofit that teaches women how to weld—believes that this upward trend will continue. “The overall percentage of women in the welding industry is growing, due in part to

Women Who Weld and other female welders normalizing the image and presence of women in this trade nationwide,” Farrugia states.

For many women, the biggest hurdle to a career in welding is social, not technical. Being in a field so dominated by men can be intimidating and isolating. According to Maynard, it can be difficult at first, but it's only temporarily awkward. “I think it's just a matter of them not knowing how they can act around me,” she explained.

Her complaint is that often men “over-help” — for example, by lifting heavier items for her. This assistance isn't really necessary and can come across as an underestimation of her abilities, but Maynard also acknowledges that it generally comes from a desire to be helpful.

When people imagine what a career in welding looks like, it is typically an assembly line in a factory. For Rachel Justin, an energetic first-year student in the associate's program, welding is a way for her to express herself. “Welding is a hands-on kind of deal, where you can let your own creativity flow. You can just do your own projects...it's a really big deal, in my opinion,” Justin said.

She was first exposed to welding in her senior year of high school at the Career Tech Center. She had the unique opportunity to use her new skills to help her school by creating

wall brackets for its band room. Justin has plans to eventually start her own shop and already has requested projects lined up.

Increasing the number of female students in the classroom may be helped by having more female instructors. Maynard is the ParaPro for the Great Lakes Maritime Academy's welding course. She feels that her presence in the classroom offers benefits to both male and female students. “It gives the guys an understanding that they can work with a female and have it not be an awkward thing. And they can learn from a female and not write them off,” said Maynard.

It also helps female students feel less intimidated. At 5'2”, Maynard is self-described as small and quiet. She thinks that this helps students feel more comfortable learning a new skill by helping them think, “If this person can do this, I can do this too.”

Despite welding being a male dominated field, women have a long history in the industry. Rosie the Riveter famously adorned posters during World War II and recruited many women to the field. During that time, women became about 25% of the welding workforce. With more aggressive recruitment policies in place, the future in welding will hopefully look more like the past.



Pictured left: welding student, Tegan Elkins, explains the oxygen delivery systems students use as one of their forms of learning the trade.



Pictured right: tubas hang in the Central High School band room, thanks to brackets created by NMC welding student, Rachel Justin

## Dennos Offers Free Visits to Tibet and Greenland

**Craig Hadley** Never been out of state but yearning to see the world? The Dennos Concert Series brings the world to students for free!  
Dennos Museum Center

### Experience Greenlandic and Inuit culture:

On Friday, March 6 at 8pm, Greenlandic folk pop singer Nive Nielsen will perform at the Dennos Museum Center. A few facts about her: The first concert she ever played was for the queen of Denmark, she acted in the Hollywood movie *The New World*, and she actually is Inuit—well, Inuk—an indigenous Greenlandic.

### Learn more about Tibet and esoteric Buddhism:

On Friday, April 17 at 8pm, the Loseling Tibetan monks—robed in magnificent costumes and playing traditional Tibetan instruments—will perform ancient temple music and dance. The tour is produced by Drepung Loseling Monastery in Atlanta, and is endorsed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Their tours aim to make a contribution to world peace and healing through sacred art, and to generate greater awareness of Tibetan culture and history.

Tickets are normally \$30 per person, but your NMC student ID will earn you two free tickets when you visit the museum front desk and reserve yours today.



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# Presidential Primary Features Differing Policy Proposals

Shrinking number of candidates hold a variety of stances on hot topic issues

**Steven Tucker**  
Staff Writer

In November, the most divisive U.S. president in recent history will vie for re-election against a nominee from the thinning field of Democratic candidates. The candidates hold many similar views but with key differences between them.

As of press time, the once-massive field of potential Democratic challengers is now down to four. Vermont senator Bernie Sanders and Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren are commonly viewed as the most progressive candidates, alongside Hawaii congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (who hasn't qualified for the past several debates). Former vice president Joe Biden's record places him at the center or as a more moderate liberal. Michigan votes in the primary on Tuesday, March 10.

## Health Care

Republicans and Democrats both agree that something needs to change with regards to the U.S. health care system. A "public option" has been proposed. This would create a government-controlled health insurance company that sets prices lower than private insurance, enforcing the prices to stay competitive, while allowing those who already have private insurance to keep it if they choose.

Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders have set their sights on Medicare-for-all plans. Both candidates are proponents of this single-payer-system style of health care, though Warren has proposed beginning with a public option before moving to Medicare for All in three years.

Joe Biden favors keeping and expanding upon the Obama-era Affordable Care Act (ACA). This system works on the idea that if everyone pays a little, nobody has to pay a lot for health care. It's still a privatized health care system, but Biden has considered adding a public option.

With the exception of Warren, every candidate running this year, including President Donald Trump, has voiced support for patent breaking to reduce prescription drug costs. This idea would allow insurance companies to purchase drugs outside the United States, forcing pharmaceutical companies to compete on an international scale and reduce prices. Biden has also proposed a tax penalty on drug companies that hike prices. Warren has proposed government drug manufacturing that would compensate for drug shortages and reduce price hikes.

## The Environment

In the last four years, the Trump administration has rolled back many Obama-era environmental protection measures. A more environmentally-friendly America is unanimously supported by Democratic candidates. Trump currently has the United States set to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on Nov. 4. All Democratic candidates support renewing the country's commitment to that international climate partnership.

Besides Biden, all Democrats have said they support the economic and environmentally focused Green New Deal, and all democratic candidates have shown support for directing America toward clean energy.

Warren says she wants America to have 100% clean energy in 10 years. Biden has set a goal of zero-emissions by 2050. Sanders also supports a zero emissions America.

Sanders and Warren have stated that they will initiate a ban on fracking.

All candidates have voiced support for incentivizing cleaner farming practices. Biden and Warren have voiced support for nuclear power, while Bernie Sanders, is in favor of closing existing nuclear power stations.

## Gun Control

There is unanimous agreement throughout the party that gun control needs to be addressed. On this issue, Democratic candidates share similar views on universal background checks and a voluntary assault weapon buyback program. They all agree on a federal ban on the sale, manufacturing, and importation of assault-style weapons in the United States.

Biden has said he will use executive action to ban the importation of assault style weapons.

"I have, today, a D-minus voting record from the NRA," Sanders stated proudly during the Feb. 25 Democratic debate in South Carolina.

Warren and Biden have shown support for a National Firearm Registry.

## Line 5

Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline, which moves crude oil and natural gas through the Straits of Mackinac, has been addressed by Sanders and Warren. "Michigan's Line 5 pipeline is a threat to millions who rely on the Great Lakes for clean water and a healthy economy," Warren tweeted on Feb. 26. Sanders was the first of the candidates to denounce the pipeline in July 2019, stating it is a "clear and present threat" to the environment.

## College Tuition/Student Loan Debt

Tuition and student loans have been a major policy issue. Every Democrat in the primary has voiced support for two years of free college. Sanders and Warren are pushing for four years. Sanders also wants to make all college free, making states pay for one-third of the cost while the federal government picks up the remainder.

All Democratic candidates have voiced support for increasing Pell grants.

Student debt has been a high priority in education reform. Warren, on day one of her presidency, wants to eliminate student loan debt for those making under \$50,000 annually, and lower debt for those under \$100,000 annually.

Biden supports eliminating debt for public servants such as police. Sanders has proposed canceling all student debt.

For many attending NMC, this primary election is their first chance to decide what direction our country will head for another four years. Set a reminder to vote on March 10.

# Trump and DeVos Look to Reconfigure Students Loans for Budget Deficit

**Nick Moug** President Donald Trump and his Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos have made significant budget proposals for 2020 concerning student loans. While some proposals could provide relief, others are seen as harsh reconfigurations of loan forgiveness that many borrowers have relied on for over a decade. Proposals like these are designed to change, but this is not the first time Trump and DeVos have looked at reconfiguring student loan programs as a means to reduce the budget deficit.

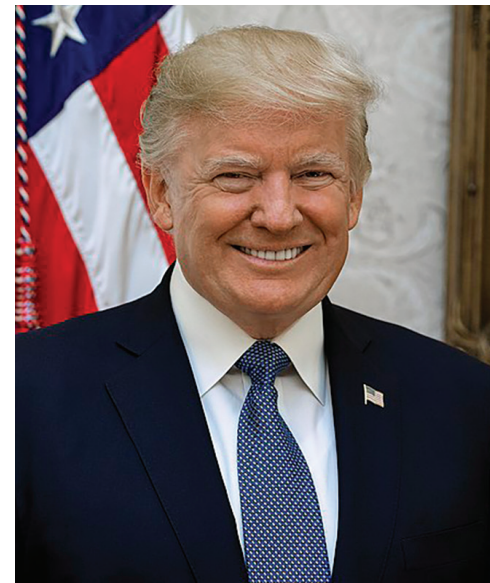
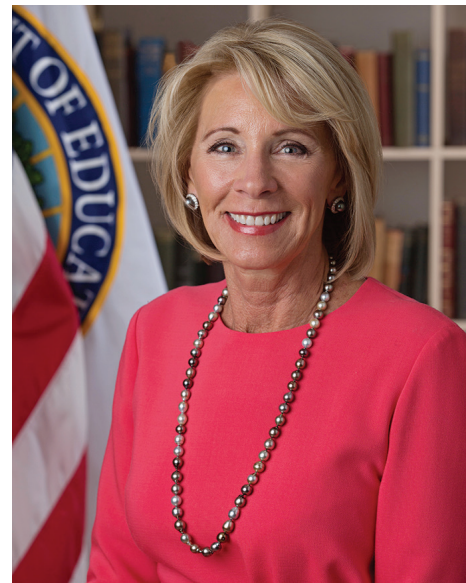
The most notable proposal is the elimination of Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)—a program implemented by the George W. Bush administration in 2007. PSLF provides professionals with student debt total loan forgiveness if that professional worked full-time in public service for 10 years. Direct Loan borrowers would have their loans expunged after making 120 monthly payments on time while working for a qualified employer. Cancelling PSLF was considered for the 2018 budget as well.

Other student financial aid-based cuts proposed for the 2020 budget are the elimination of subsidized student loans—the type of federal loan program used by Northwestern Michigan College—and most repayment plans in favor of a single income-driven repayment plan. This would put a finite limit on a borrower's monthly payment at 12.5% of their income. It theoretically provides student loan forgiveness at 15 years for undergraduate borrowers and 30 years for graduate borrowers.

Another controversial proposal is allowing student loans to be discharged in bankruptcy. While the process of declaring bankruptcy because a borrower's debts have become unpayable is alluring, altering the rules for bankruptcy and student loan debt could make it more difficult and more expensive for potential borrowers to apply for loans in the future.

With the 2020 election looming, higher education and how to pay for it has become a key issue for the Democratic nominees. While Trump's proposals on higher education have been established, candidate Joe Biden has proposed creating new grants encouraging student

retention and providing two years of community or technical college for “hard-working” students. What “hard-working individual” means hasn't fully been articulated. Candidates Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren have both proposed more aggressive agendas for higher education. Sanders has proposed guaranteed tuition and debt-free public colleges, as well as cancellation of all student debt. Warren endorses a similar but more pragmatic agenda with plans to cancel substantial amounts of student debt and a plan for universal free college.



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Justin Sheehan  
Allied Health Sciences major



# Campus Quotes

What issues are important to you in the upcoming March 10 presidential primary election?

compiled by Hannah Krohn



Claire Ackerman, Math and English

“Efficiency, public welfare, and moving towards a more progressive state with the inclusion of minorities. I feel like a lot of things are said and not done, and I feel, at least with Bernie, I know that he says things and he does them and he’s had certain opinions that haven’t changed. I enjoy people who are efficient and have certain opinions that I know they’ll follow through with.”



Paul Young, General Studies

“My faith is pretty important to me, so whoever lines up with that [is] best for me. As long as I’m able to study my faith, grow in it, and share it with others in a polite way—not forcing anyone to believe what I do—I like candidates who allow and encourage that. The most important political issues for me would be things that relate to abortion and also fiscal stuff.”



Emily Fleming, Nursing

“Health care. The environment. International relations. For health care, I’d love to for a politician who is moving towards free healthcare or reduced cost of healthcare instead of privatized. The environment, personally PFAS is a big thing that I feel strongly about because I grew up in a lake that’s now horrifically contaminated with PFAS. As far as international relations, I don’t love some of the stuff that’s been done. I’d love a politician that’s more open to refugees.”



Victoria Alfonseca, Business Administration

“Higher education and primary education... I believe that teachers should be compensated more for the time they’re putting in and obviously the more we put into our education for our children it continues on to higher education and we continue to progress as a country.”



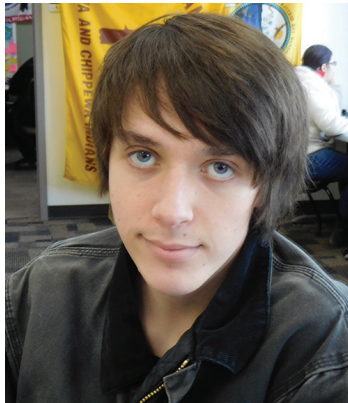
Maria Winkler, Special Education

“Definitely climate change and abortion. I believe climate change is a really important issue right now, probably the most important issue. And I’m pro-life and I believe that every human being deserves to have a chance at life.”



Robert Hudson, Psychology

“Equality. I’m pretty broadly egalitarian, as far as my beliefs go. Environmental concerns. Just a person who leads with ambition, who has a good heart, who’s genuinely looking out for the best interests of the people in the community.”



Dylan Sutter, Aviation

“Probably tax spending. Appropriation of funds. At the moment, I think those are the most pressing issues we need to look at.”



Reese Papenfuss, History

“Medicare-for-all or climate change. I would want someone who would advocate for those pretty heavily, especially climate change. Sure, I want medical for all but right now the Earth is kind of on fire.”



Parker Latka, Liberal Arts and Sciences

“Probably one of the most important issues right now is college education and the cost of college. LGBTQ+ issues, as well.”



Lauren Fager, Mechanical Engineering

“Well, usually it changes per season but most of the time it’s issues that are pertaining to people that I know. Oftentimes healthcare.”

# Taking Over the Fleet

**Micah Mabey** Staff Writer If you're a Traverse City local, you may have been to The Little Fleet.

In the summers it's full of life through the indoor/outdoor bars and food trucks scattered around the perimeter of the fenced-in patio—as well as the restaurant, Milkweed, located inside.

Winters at The Little Fleet are different. There's still the main bar inside, but occasionally Milkweed lends its kitchen to another sort of energy.

Kitchen Takeovers.

Between extraordinary brunch pop-ups like Modern Bird, beautiful lunches like Glendale Avenue and Rad.ish, on top of wonderful dinner opens like Alliance, and most recently Happy's Tacos on Feb. 24, the little kitchen has seen all sorts of different styles of food come through its open door.

Brunch and mimosas, lunch and beers, dinner and shots. And everyone has been lovin' it.

If you haven't made it to one of these pop-up takeovers yet, it's not too late. So far, there's still six restaurants on the docket for kitchen take-overs. One of them is returning more than one time to satiate our ever-picky taste buds.

Sister Cindy's Tamales has pop-ups on March 10 and April 14. Glendale Avenue returns for a night on March 16 and Fuel Your Tomorrow serves Irish food on March 17. The Good Bowl brings its Vietnamese dishes on March 23. Aiko Street Food takes over on March 31 followed by Forrest, a Food Studio on April 7.

Instagram stories about the kitchen takeovers have shown the community's appreciation of the events, and the kitchens themselves have spread the word.

Don't miss out—there might be a long line to order, but it's worth it.



Photo by Micah Mabey

# Recipe: Mini Meatloaf Muffins

**Mikayla Brady** Staff Writer These mini meatloaf muffins are a great option for families or college students on the go. They're easy to make and kids can even help. The muffins can be frozen after they're cooked for simple reheated meals—just pop them into the oven on a baking sheet until warmed. Make a side of sautéed brussel sprouts and mashed potatoes, and dinner is served. For the nights that you want a no-fuss dinner these mini meatloafs will be a lifesaver!

Total time: 40 mins

Yields: 12 muffins

## Ingredients:

- 1 ½ lbs lean ground beef or turkey
- ⅔ cup of Panko breadcrumbs
- ½ cup onion, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp barbecue sauce
- 1 tbsp mustard
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- 1 ½ tsp chili powder
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp ground black pepper
- 1 egg, lightly beaten

## Meatloaf Sauce:

- ⅓ cup light brown sugar
- ½ cup ketchup
- 2 tsp dijon mustard
- ¼ tsp ground nutmeg

## Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine ground meat, breadcrumbs, onion, barbecue sauce, mustard, chili powder, garlic powder, salt, black pepper, and the egg.
3. Divide the mixture among the 12 cups in a standard muffin tin, filling the cups to half.
4. Bake for 15 minutes.
5. While baking, in a small bowl mix together all the ingredients for the meatloaf sauce.
6. Remove the meatloaf muffins from the oven and use a paper towel to soak up any grease on the meatloaf.
7. Generously spoon sauce over each mini meatloaf. Return to the oven for an additional 10-15 minutes, or until the meat is cooked all the way through.

# NMC Choir Concert Review: Musical Bliss

**Stephanie Jones** Staff Writer Feb. 23 was a beautifully clear Sunday afternoon. Community members gathered inside Lars Hockstad Auditorium for a choir concert collaborated by Northwestern Michigan College's music department. Seven choirs—ranging from young children to the retired—shared their love of singing with the audience.

"I thoroughly enjoyed it – it was cool to see the progression and growth going from one choir to the next," said NMC Automotive Technology student Todd Jestis. "Each choir was older than the previous one."

This performance had an unspoken message that was reflected in both the performers themselves and the music they shared: diversity and unity. There was music from Japan, Newfoundland in Canada, Germany, and right here in Traverse City, composed by NMC director of music programs, Jeffery Cobb.

One of the children's choirs, Lyric, performed an arrangement of the Caribbean folk song, "I Let Her Go Go." This catchy tune had the audience tapping its feet and bobbing its heads to the rhythm of the bongos. The counter-melody of the glockenspiel rung through the auditorium.

Later in the performance, the oldest children's choir, Cantus, captured the audience with an emotionally swelling piece titled "Glow," created by composer Eric Whitacre. The gentle, yet

deep piece describes the softness of winter as its music weaved seamlessly between unison and intricate harmonies that tugged at the listener's emotions.

The Chamber Singers, comprised of college students and community members, kicked off their time on stage with "Warum" by German Romantic composer Johannes Brahms, a powerful piece that contrasted the choir's second number, "Stars," by composer Eriks Esenvalds. The auditorium filled with the ringing of wine glasses and rich, quiet singing as the atmosphere in the room shifted. Chamber Singers captivated the audience with their harmonic poetry.

All seven choirs sang together for one last patriotic number: "Tis of Thee/America the Beautiful," arranged by Cobb. The piece started out with only the young children singing and built up to everyone singing the last verse and chorus of "America the Beautiful" for a grand finale.

The final number left a lasting impression—unity. People from all ages and backgrounds came together to sing, a reminder that music is a universal language.

Tickets for future performances by NMC's music department are available through [mynorthtickets.com](http://mynorthtickets.com). NMC students have free access to all performances with their student ID.

# Music that is Sometimes Good but also Sometimes Not Good

“Father of all...” (2020)

**Liam Strong** Contributing Writer I shouldn't be writing this review. I have a process where I internally skirmish with records that I feel deserve a review, that I reacted emotionally toward, that I have something to say about.

I've never had much to say about Green Day. Maybe I've just never wanted to have anything to say about them. They are, in some light, classic pop-punk music. Even in high school, I only really listened to “Kerplunk” and “Dookie” with sedated attention; I didn't go beyond appreciating them beyond their own high school level of musical maturity.

Green Day's newest outing, “Father of All...” witnesses the band at their most synthetic. In regard to authenticity, it's hardly possible to hear Green Day and not think they're trying to be The Hives or The Black Keys. We can only call this record punk in the most clinical of terminology, because it's for all intents and purposes meant to sound like nothing and everything at the same time. I had *deja vu* on my initial listen of “Father of all...,” because I had just shopped at Target for deodorant and Kit-Kats a week prior. The *deja vu* extended to my childhood, where the cheap, glossy, overproduced test-tube creations of rock music in Target commercials returned to haunt me.

If the self-aggrandizing album cover (in reference to “American Idiot”) hadn't made me gag, the censored version of it sent me to the hospital to get my stomach pumped. Perhaps it's intentional—perhaps there's not a more underhanded “fuck you” to Green Day's record label than with a sloppily drawn crazed unicorn spewing rainbow colored vomit and shitting flames. If this were the case, we might then consider “Father of All...” as a statement Green Day is making as what their estranged fanbase and conflated record executives want from them. That nothing they've written since the '90s (I'm exaggerating, “American Idiot” is probably their last decent album) has actually been genuine. That the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame has ruined them. That the most punk rock declaration they can make is to make an absolute mockery of themselves.

This is too much to consider. Too much, especially from a band that wrote better lyrics in high school. Now approaching their 50s, the band writes with the propensity of high schoolers: juvenile, unarresting, and just plain cringeworthy. It's been a long time since I've taken Green Day seriously, but then again, my self-restraint against enjoying them too much has kept my appreciation at a standstill. I can't argue Green Day's influence in the world of modern rock and punk, but I can argue that their relevance has been all but propelled by an inability to challenge themselves. I can't do anything more than tolerate music that clearly wants to be forgotten, not just by me, but by Green Day themselves, too.



# Shady Lady Video Game Review

“Your Royal Gayness”

**Ann Hosler**  
Copy Editor

I enjoy a good visual novel game. When “Your Royal Gayness” by Lizard Hazard Games popped up on my Steam recommended list, I was excited to try something out that embraces the LGBTQ+ community. It's a quick game—about two hours for a full run through of the story—and that pacing, combined with strange game mechanics, does a disservice to what could have otherwise been an open-minded experience.

You play the game as Prince Amir, who rules the kingdom for 60 days while his parents are away. Part of the gameplay is the management of resources, maintenance of foreign relations, and declarations of new laws. Three advisors—Court Wizard Barry (who is definitely *not* a lizard), Drakemaster Magda, and Spymaster Seraph—are there to facilitate your decisions, present troubles both domestic and foreign, and be sounding boards for moments when the crown weighs heavy.

Random events occur as you play, and though some of the decisions may seem superficial, it can have quite the impact. In one game, an influx of cats overran the streets. At first I decided to leave them be, and the cat population increased more, causing work to slack because people were too busy petting cats. So I changed my mind and had the Drakemaster's guards round the felines up to take care of the problem—and the public's happiness plummeted in response.

The limitation of 60 days means that within 60 turns, your game is over, attributing to the fast gameplay. There is a lot I wanted to accomplish in my two full playthroughs, but I found myself sacrificing ideals and morality along the way. My first game I focused on decriminalization and was able to marry the man I loved in the epilogue—but my people were uneducated and being conscripted into the army to make up for weak laws in other areas. My second playthrough I enabled equal marriage (the lowest tier of three in equality, with the top being decriminalization) and focused on the other three areas of laws, and while my people were better off overall, I felt that it didn't accomplish what should be the goal of the game: completely legalizing homosexuality.

Gameplay is sacrificed in other ways. You can only have each advisor do a single two-to-three day task at a time. As a result, you'll end up destroying foreign relations, not accumulating enough resources, and/or not exploring potential suitors due to time constraints. If you're lucky enough to find a gay male suitor, you get only one chance for a successful “date” with him—and that's difficult while controlling a socially awkward character who must decide between vague dialogue prompts. Prince Amir is frequently confronted by female suitors and must come up with terrible excuses (such as bad diarrhea because of Taco Tuesday) to not marry them. If they're intrigued by your excuse, it backfires in the form of a suspicion meter.

The suspicion meter is my least favorite part of the game. Prince Amir is expected to present himself as a straight man to the public—even if you pass all three equality laws. As the public's suspicions of your homosexuality grow, you can be put on trial to prove that you're straight to a cultist court. While I could grudgingly accept the meter for a kingdom without equality laws, it's over-the-top for one that has decriminalized homosexuality. Overall, I feel like the suspicion meter goes a bit too far in its treatment of homosexuality.

“Your Royal Gayness” excels at its amusing side characters and random events. However, the game flops in its message of acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community due to absurd game mechanics. If you're willing to set aside that unsavory aspect, the gameplay focused on kingdom management is what actually makes this game worth your time.



# Poetry Isn't Dead and It Never Will Be

**Micah Mabey**  
Staff Writer

Even as it's closing and becoming barren, people are finding life in Horizon Books. Some of that life came in the form of a two and a half hour reading of Walt Whitman's “Song of Myself.”

Next to all the empty shelves where books used to litter, a group had gathered. Twenty people partaking in the reading itself, not to mention the 10 or so that were there just as listeners.

Readers included local acclaimed writers Stephanie Mills,

Erica Berry, and Teresa Scollon, whose voices contributed beautifully to Whitman's poem.

It started out with a joke. Jeff Wescott, a professor of English at Interlochen Center of the Arts for more than 20 years and also an adjunct professor at Northwestern Michigan College introduced himself before reading the first stanza, saying that he hoped “to be Whitman reincarnated.” The group laughed and the comment set the mood for the rest of the night.

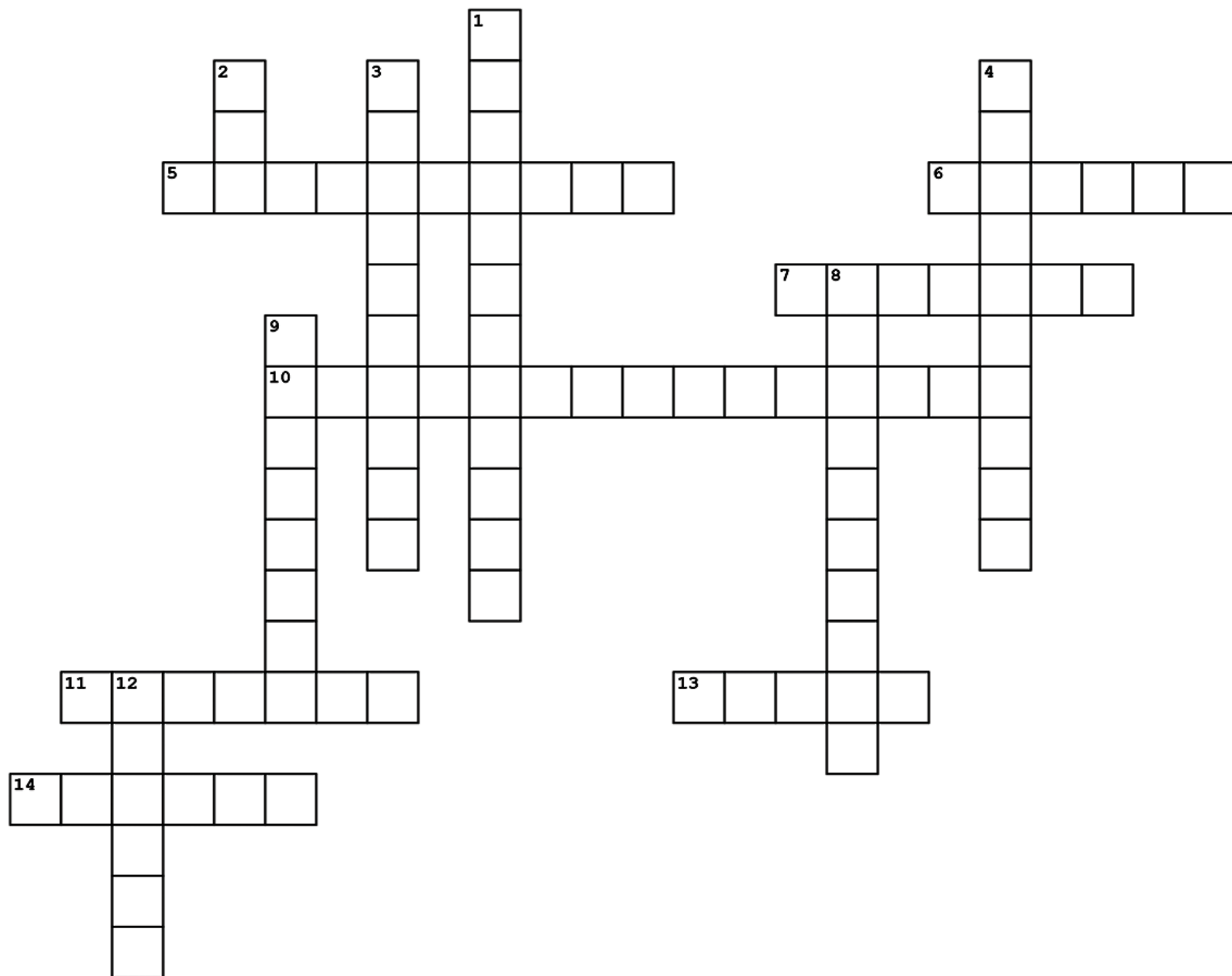
We were all just there for one reason: we appreciate the hell

out of Walt Whitman and wanted to be around others who did too. The two and a half hour time-stamp breezed by, the ending of the poem was met with tears by both listeners and the final reader.

Berry called me “the bard of stanza 33.” Given the chance, I'd do it all over again, and I'd do it with a smile.

Thank you Teresa, for orchestrating this reading and inviting me to partake in it. Here's to many more years of reading Whitman.

## Between the Pines



### Across

5. NMC offers intramural \_\_\_\_\_ and basketball.  
 6. Outside the Health & Science building is Nexus, a sculpture by NMC alumna Sally \_\_\_\_\_.  
 7. The tiny parking lot closest to the Rajkovich building.  
 10. The name of GLMA's 224-foot ship.  
 11. The \_\_\_\_\_ Center offers tutoring in HS111A.  
 13. NMC's Fitness Center is located in \_\_\_\_\_ Hall.  
 14. An impressive collection of Inuit art is found in the \_\_\_\_\_ Museum.

### Down

1. International flags are located in the atrium between the Tanis and \_\_\_\_\_ buildings.  
 2. Fine Arts was originally \_\_\_\_\_ buildings.  
 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ campus is home to the Maritime Academy and Culinary Institute.  
 4. NMC's year-round \_\_\_\_\_ helps students and combats food insecurity.  
 8. Some higher education degrees can be completed through the \_\_\_\_\_ Center.  
 9. The \_\_\_\_\_ Library is found on main campus.  
 12. Hawk owls are primarily found in this country.

Find answers online at [www.whitepinepresstc.com](http://www.whitepinepresstc.com)



Megan Kellogg, of Darling Botanical, checks out Asher's wool coat.

Photos by Micah Mabey

## slip. the label: a Chance of Vintage

**Micah Mabey**  
Staff Writer

A Boy Scouts of America wool coat from 1967, a St. Ignace baseball tee underneath a layered flannel, and the Army og (olive green) 107 pants, issued in the '60s from the Vietnam war.

That was Katie Asher's (also known as her online alias @slip.thelabel) outfit the day that we met up for coffee and a chat.

"As much as some people don't wanna admit it, clothes are very important," Asher said. "As much as people say they don't care, they're showing people via their clothes that they don't care. Which means they care about not caring. There's still that expression, that choice."

Asher remembers the first piece that she ever picked up—the one that inspired her to do this work: a vintage Christian Dior blazer. That day, ten years ago, was when she realized that she could get vintage stuff at thrift stores.

When Asher started slip.the label, she was doing pottery. "There's a thing called slip. It's clay mixed with water, that's kind of like the glue that puts the two pieces together." Along with the 'slip' from pottery, there's also a 'slip' in fashion. "No one wears those anymore," she laughed.

What's now mostly an online, Instagram, vintage clothing shop, started out as an idea. "I also secretly wanted to be good at pottery, too, so I could sell my pieces along with clothing," Asher explained. "I still enjoy it, but I know that I'll never make money with it."

Asher chose the second half of her company name because of the label on clothing. "It seemed to fit. I wanted to originally make my own clothes, too. But that's not the way it went. I realized that I don't think it's necessary to bring anything more into this world," Asher said.

As a fashion design student at the Art Institute of Chicago, Asher sees her fashion as her artistic expression. "Of course, I went through my Abercrombie phase, but it wasn't for me. I've cycled out all of my modern

clothing." Asher now exclusively wears vintage clothing that she's found at second-hand shops, thrift stores, and grandmothers' closets.

"Fashion is so cyclical and it'll always come back,



Katie Asher, owner of slip. the label, finds artistic expression through her eclectic, vintage style.

but vintage clothes are so big now," she adds. "Modern companies are now making things [that are supposed to look] 'vintage.' It's weird to wear a modern piece that looks vintage when 'slip. the label' runs on not doing that."

Asher has run her company since August 2018, while she was still working at the Cooks House restaurant in Traverse City. "There were clothes that I would find that didn't fit me but I didn't want to leave at the thrift store. They were so cool, and old, and unique. I'd buy shoes that wouldn't fit me, dresses that would never fit my body. I started the Instagram account and selling on the side."

It wasn't until September 2019 that she felt ready to take the leap to full-time vintage finding.

"I've literally sold the clothes off of my back," Asher laughed. "My one favorite thing is finding clothes for specific people. It's a special thing."

Asher describes her style with love, and she's spent a long time curating it. It's a combination of two totally different things. For nights out, and events it's super girly floral dresses, while her day-to-day is a lot more masculine. She doesn't ascribe to traditional gender norms for clothing, choosing instead to stock her wardrobe with both feminine and masculine pieces.

"To be able to do what you enjoy doing is massive and it takes so much courage to do those things," Asher said. "I took a pay cut for this. But at the end of the day, I wasn't happy."

Asher is aware of the ever-changing state of the internet and acknowledges that it could all disappear one day. But for now, she's content with the time that she's getting. "You never know if you'll stay relevant."

You can follow Asher @slip.thelabel on Instagram or check out her Etsy storefront at [etsy.com/shop/slipthelabel](https://etsy.com/shop/slipthelabel). Take a peek through her story sales—maybe you'll find something that will fit your style.