

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.



SUMMER IS COMING



NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE BRINGS ITS CARPENTRY EXPERTISE TO CHINA

NMC Construction Technologies and Yellow River Conservancy Technical Institute (YRCTI) of Kaifeng, China conducted a training class on platform frame construction in March. This type of building construction method is often used for homes in the United States, but is not common practice in China due to the lack of forest resources. Lumber and wooden sheet goods all must be imported.

Why does China want to learn this type of construction? Structures resist earthquake damage better, it's a faster and more efficient use of resources than traditional Chinese building methods, and Chinese entrepreneurs that have visited the United States are demanding these types of homes.

NMC Construction Technologies instructors Bryan Kelly and Phil McCuien worked with YRCTI instructors and translators to conduct this first-ever joint class, focused on construction techniques. 40 students participated in the building of two structures. This joint training is part of an agreement between NMC and YRCTI.



Photos courtesy of Bryan Kelly and Phil McCuien.

Bottom row, right to left: Translator Xu Yue Xu, Northwestern Michigan College instructors Bryan Kelly and Phil McCuien, Yellow River Conservancy Technical Institute of Kaifeng professor Liu Lei, YRCTI head of teaching and research Li Naihong, and YRCTI dean of the construction department Wang Fuquan, with students.

REGISTER FOR THE FALL CLASS NOW

Intro to Woodworking (CAR102): Mondays 6–10pm

visit nmc.edu/technical or [facebook.com/NMCCConstructionTechnology](https://www.facebook.com/NMCCConstructionTechnology)

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

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News-in-Brief

The DK5K is Back!

Registration for the Drew Kostic Memorial 5K (DK5K) is now open through 11:59pm on Wednesday, August 15. Race day is scheduled for Saturday, August 18. Funds raised will be donated to local veteran organizations, with a portion also going to the Drew Kostic Memorial Scholarship. Visit dk5k.info to learn more.

Discovery Gallery Upgrade

Like many of the exhibits in the Dennon Museum this past year, the Thomas A. Rutkowski Discovery Gallery is currently undergoing renovation. Some of the exhibits will remain the same, while others will be reconfigured. Call the Dennon Museum Center at 995-1055 for more information.

Sign Up for GT Social Sports

Grand Traverse Social Sports was founded in late 2017 to provide quality sports leagues to adults in the Grand Traverse area. This includes co-ed kickball, flag football, and soccer. For more information, and to sign up, visit grandtraversesocialsports.com or the “Grand Traverse Social Sports” page on Facebook.

FLOW Says to “Get off the Bottle!”

Freshwater advocacy group For Love of Water (FLOW) recently launched their latest campaign to protect Michigan’s freshwater resources. The “Get Off the Bottle” campaign is designed to get people thinking about the cost, environmental harm, and plastic waste associated with bottled water. Visit flowforwater.org/get-off-the-bottle to learn more.

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Cover design by Adam Crocker

Non-Discrimination Policy Notice

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Alumni Spotlight: John Lutchko

Deanna Luton Staff Writer John Lutchko has experienced the cyclical nature of NMC's lifetime learning structure. He began as a student at NMC, but now works full-time as a Marine Technology laboratory coordinator.

Lutchko describes his time at NMC as phenomenal. "I received an excellent education and made life-long relationships with students, staff, and faculty along the way. I truly cherish my time as a student at NMC." The tight-knit community structure of our college allows students to form lasting bonds with their peers, as well as mentors, that are crucial in furthering their careers.

The small community college setting contributed to many of the things Lutchko remembers most fondly about NMC, with the staff and faculty a highlight of his educational experience. "I very much enjoyed the field work that was part of many of my classes." Students in many of NMC's programs obtain real world learning experience through various hands-on courses.

"Another huge plus was the smaller class sizes," says Lutchko. "This allowed me to feel as though I wasn't just another face in the crowd." When attending larger institutions, it is easy to feel like you are nothing more than a number. At NMC, this is far from the case. "The interactions with faculty were on a much more personal level, and I felt as though I was always able to get the help I needed without having to stand in line. People knew my name at NMC."

When asked how NMC prepared him for his future career, the answer was easy. "Being a student here directly prepared me for transitioning into my role as a staff member," Lutchko explains. "I was able to create those relationships, show my worth through my hard work, and position myself by paying close attention to the



Photo courtesy of John Lutchko

institutional needs of NMC." Attending NMC as a student allowed him to get to know the right people, prove himself, and take advantage of opportunities. "I am very well-versed in NMC culture, which is a critical part of being a member of this community. I believe in, and truly care about, NMC. This sentiment would not exist at the level it is today without the experiences and opportunities I received as a student."

Lutchko advises future and current students to "take every opportunity that is in front of you and take the time to search for those that aren't. Don't be afraid to go outside your comfort zone. Say yes! Take the time to apply for every scholarship you can. I am fortunate to have received many scholarships while I was a student at NMC." He points out that there are scholarships through the NMC Foundation and other local organizations that do not even receive applicants. Free money is up for grabs and it just takes a little extra initiative to reach out and take it.

"Make sure people know your name and stand out from the crowd," Lutchko adds. "Letters of recommendation are so incredibly critical in many things like scholarships, internship and job opportunities, and graduate school. Embrace your time at NMC and as a college student. It goes by fast!"

Lutchko says, "NMC has instilled in me that learning never truly stops. You have to continue to be willing to learn long after you have completed your higher education. NMC taught me how to learn; not just how to pass a class."

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Attendees mingle at the 30th Annual Environmentalist of the Year Awards Photo courtesy of Ann Rogers

Environmentalist of the Year

Emma Moulton Every year, the Northern Staff Writer Michigan Environmental Action Council (NMEAC) presents awards to individuals and groups taking on important environmental issues across the region. Many guests were greeted by volunteers, local organizations, and members of NMC's Native American Student Organization on Friday, April 13, for the 30th Annual Environmentalist of the Year awards ceremony.

The reception was held at the Denno Museum Center with food catered by local restaurant Taproot Cider House. Nominees, past recipients, volunteers, and active citizens of all ages braved the snow storm to gather together and discuss upcoming projects and current events in northwest Michigan. Music by Brotha James led guests into Milliken Auditorium where keynote speaker Holly Bird—attorney and executive director of the MI Water Protectors Legal Task Force—gave a moving presentation about the Standing Rock protests and spoke of the work she has done as the civil ground coordinator of the Water Protectors Legal Collective, the leading legal

service for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. A total of 64 individuals and local organizations were nominated in categories ranging from Education, to Business, to Journalism and Communications. Guests heard from the 19 recipients of this year's awards describe the projects and issues they are passionate about. In addition to these awards, NMEAC didn't forget to recognize those who are doing our local environment a disservice. Kevin O'Grady, lead developer of 81 on East Bay, received this year's infamous Golden Bulldozer award, an award that mocks those opposed to protecting the environment. This award was followed by hesitant chuckles and eye rolling.

Overall, it was an upbeat night of community, acknowledging those working hard to improve our communities through environmental advocacy in a time desperate for positive news.

For a complete list of award winners, visit NMEAC's website at nmeac.org/environmentalist_of_the_year.

White Pine Press 2017-18 Awards

College Media Association David L. Adams Apple Award

Best Newspaper, Two-Year College Vol. XXXIV No. 9 **3rd**

Michigan Community College Press Association

Overall Newspaper Design Division II **1st**

Inside Page Design Division II **1st**

Illustration **Kenna Marar** "The Subconscious World" **1st**

In-Depth Reporting **Breanne Russell** "Hell on Earth: The Realities of Sex Trafficking" **1st**

General Excellence Division II MCCA Individual Awards **2nd**

Editorial **James Robinson** "Finding Truth in the Era of Fake News" **2nd**

Critical Review **Ann Hosler** "Shady Lady Book Reviews: Do Not Read" **3rd**

Column, Serious **Maya James** "Something Wicked This Way Comes" **3rd**

Feature Story **Breanne Russell** "Columbus Controversy Offers Chance to Educate" **3rd**

News Story **Deanna Luton** "North Hall: Open for Business" **3rd**

Sports News **Steven Tucker** "NMC Goes Baja" **3rd**

Comic, Entertainment **Joe Curtis & Ben Bradshaw** "Freshly Baked" **Honorable Mention**

Illustration **Breanne Russell** "Homeless in College" **Honorable Mention**



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Recap: The Long Night Against Procrastination

Deanna Luton
Staff Writer

The Long Night Against Procrastination (LNAP) was well underway this past Thursday, April 19 in NMC's Osterlin Library. This event is hosted by the Osterlin Library, the Writing and Reading Center, Tutoring Center, and the Student Success Center. The library came to life as students flooded in to submerge themselves in preparation for finals.

"Community college students are so busy with jobs, families, and commuting that they don't have time to just hang out and study with their friends and classmates. LNAP is a chance to do that," said Tina Ulrich, NMC's director of library services. "I had a student tell me that even though he could stay up late, eat pizza, and study at home, he gets so much more done when he's at LNAP. There's such great energy here. The librarians have a blast doing this."

The library stays open until 2am during the bi-annual LNAP, providing both academic help and free food for its patrons. Not only did they serve pizza a few times throughout the night, they also offered healthy alternatives and a variety of snacks and drinks for everyone involved. As an experienced late night studier, I can vouch for the fact that regular doses of fuel are necessary to keep steaming forward.

"The atmosphere was friendly and the people were all very helpful to each other," criminal justice major Martha

Falk said. "Everyone knew why they were there, yet there did seem to be a spirit of shared misery over having so much to do and resolution to complete it." Falk enjoyed the food at the event. "It was wonderful, especially the cake which was deliciously moist. I also loved the fact that there were healthy snack options. There was something for everyone in the food area, which I enjoyed." She added that LNAP was very well-coordinated.

"I was able to map out exactly what I needed to do for the next two weeks to make the rest of the semester successful." -NMC student Andy Wilson

Student Success Coach Maureen Voss experienced the night for the first time as a relatively new employee of NMC. She manned a table providing study, organization, and planning tools and resources for students across from the circulation desk. The event seemed to "create a sense of community on campus," Voss said.

"Our student workers are the best!" added Ulrich. "They help so much in making this all happen."

LNAP provides a safe space for students to delve into

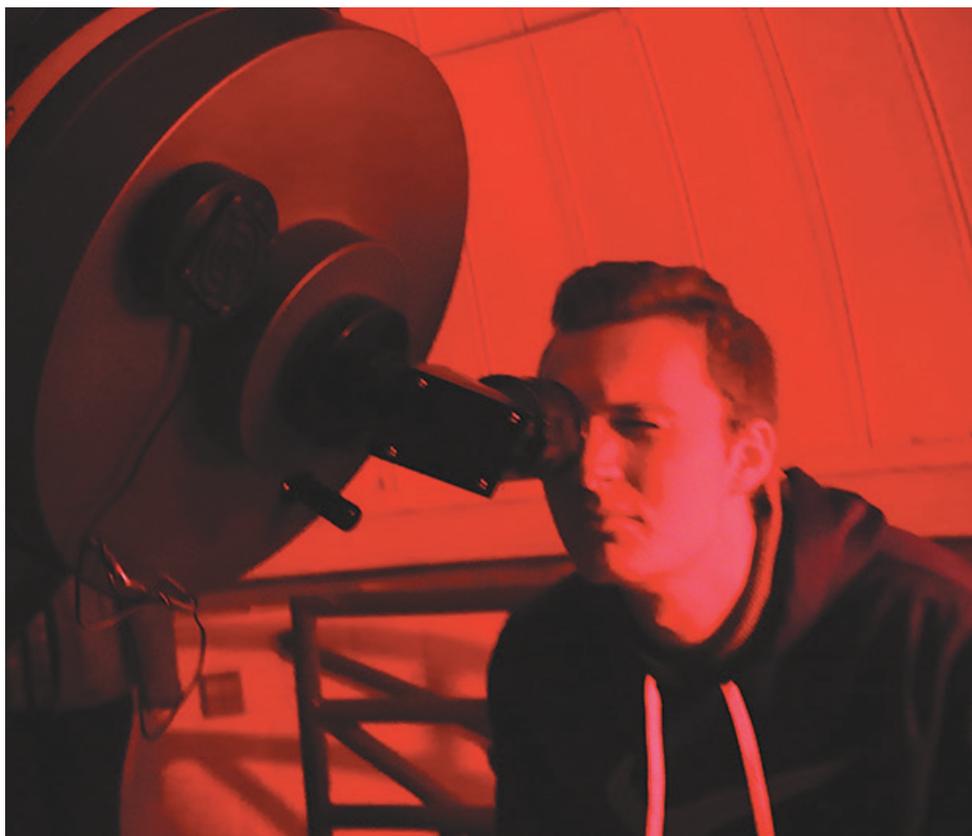
their studies. It also gives them an outlet to socialize, interact, and even vent about the stress of being overwhelmed by impending due dates. The most valuable thing that LNAP offers to NMC's students is the ability to run into so many familiar faces struggling through similar experiences.

This event also gives students both the time and tools to strategize how to conquer finals week. "It was my first time attending and it was an awesome experience! I actually didn't get as much work done as I had originally planned, due to the excitement of seeing some of my friends there and the excessive amounts of food," psychology major Andy Wilson said, adding that there was a sense of community as the many attendees worked hard during the event. "My favorite part of the night was just generally being able to sit down with friends and feel productive while eating food. Although I didn't get as much work done as I thought I would, I was able to map out exactly what I needed to do for the next two weeks to make the rest of the semester successful. Without this event I wouldn't have set aside time to do so."

There is something special about so many peers coming together and bonding over shared experiences. Most students currently feel the weight of finals week, and this is a crucial time for everyone to realize they are not alone.

Students and Stargazers Square Off

Kelsey Pease Every year, the NMC astronomy department hosts a Starpardy Competition, Staff Writer inspired by the TV show Jeopardy. During the event, NMC Astronomy students face-off against members of the Grand Traverse Astronomical Society (GTAS), answering questions about constellations, scientific processes, galaxies, and other elements of the universe. Although the students came out ahead last year, this year they were defeated by the GTAS. Despite the students' loss, astronomy professor Gerald Dobek was pleased with the results. In his opinion, "The most important lesson for students to learn is to always ask, 'How do we know that?'" This event offers an opportunity for them to think critically, learn, and challenge what they are told. Additionally, Dobek appreciates that, "It keeps GTAS members sharp when it comes to things in the sky."



Astronomy student Andrew Bratton views a constellation at the Joseph H. Rogers Observatory



NMC Astronomy instructor Gerald Dobek (top right) reads answers with the GTAS members during the Starpardy competition

Picnic Under the Pines

Community to Celebrate 63rd Annual NMC Barbecue

James Robinson Every year, on the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend, the community gathers under the pines on Northwestern Michigan College's main campus for a special event: the NMC Barbecue! "The [barbecue] was founded by the community more than six decades ago as a way to support the college, and it continues that tradition today," says NMC executive director of public relations Diana Fairbanks. The BBQ fundraiser was started in 1956 by Gerald and Frances Oleson, founders of Oleson's Food Stores in Traverse City. The Oleson family continues to donate the food for the event.

This year, the barbecue will take place from 11am–5pm on May 20. Tickets are \$6 (plus a \$1.25 per ticket service fee for online sales) or \$8 on the day of the barbecue. They are available for purchase online at nmc.edu/bbq and mynorthtickets.com, or in person at Oleson's Food Stores, as well as on NMC's main campus at Founder's Hall and in the public relations office inside the Biederman Building.

After an opening ceremony, community members gather in lines to be served from a menu complete with buffalo steakette or hot dog, baked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, a beverage, and last—but not least—ice cream! Along with good food, several activities will be available throughout the day, including classroom and academic program displays, live musical performances, a classic car show, and childrens games. "NMC is this community's college, and that bond is very strong," explains Fairbanks. "The BBQ is a wonderful way to invite the community to our campus, support our students, show off our programs and celebrate the success we've worked together to create!"

Serving so many people could potentially generate large amounts of waste, so the college strives to make this a zero-waste event. The NMC Barbecue Board made this commitment in 2010, and has managed to keep the majority (90–99 percent) of the trash and food waste generated by the picnic out of a landfill. This is accomplished through extensive recycling, use of compostable plates, cups and forks, and composting of food waste. Volunteers help patrons properly dispose of used items.

The strong volunteer support system is what really makes this event so successful. "Volunteers are critical to the success of the NMC BBQ. It's their passion and hard work that make the [barbecue] a success year after year," says Fairbanks. "From the Oleson family donating the

food, to the more than 500 volunteers who do everything from flipping burgers, to sorting all of the recycling. Seeing the community's love for this college through the NMC BBQ is inspiring."

Students, staff, faculty, and community members can sign up to volunteer for a variety of different jobs. Some of these include assisting with the setup and teardown of tables, chairs and other equipment, helping run and supervise kids games, and helping direct patrons through the serving lines.

To volunteer, visit nmc.edu/barbecue and click on "Volunteer at the BBQ" tab. This sends you to a SignUp.com page with a listing of the various volunteer jobs and shifts. The shifts are typically two to three hours long.

"The first time I volunteered for the dishwashing station, I felt I was supporting a task few others would want to do," recalls NMC vice president for lifelong learning Marguerite Cotto. "I keep coming back to see old friends and meet new ones. I volunteer as a 'thank you' to our volunteers, and because I believe it is part of my role as a 'citizen' of the NMC community." Volunteering is a chance to get your hands dirty (or not) and work toward a good cause. "It's fun working with others, even if the task is washing filthy dishes," says science and math instructor John Pflughoeft, who has volunteered in the dishwashing station alongside Cotto. "There are [several] other volunteering opportunities [too], some more pleasant than others. Try volunteering, it leaves you with a good feeling."

Whether you attend as a visitor or volunteer, let's all do the barbecue!

2018 BBQ-Funded College Projects

The NMC Barbecue Board approved projects totaling more than \$13,000:

- NMC Scholarship Open — \$5,000
- Media Center for the Smith Wing of Inuit Art — \$3,000
- Hawk owl mascot costume — \$2,000
- Neutr-Owl (carbon neutral education booth for NMC BBQ) — \$1,000
- NMC food pantry freezer and food for fall semester — \$2,400



Photos courtesy of Northwestern Michigan College

A Summer Afternoon in Downtown Traverse City

William Walton-Case
Staff Writer

Summer is the time of year when people get out of the house and explore their communities. Of all the communities in northern Michigan, Traverse City is one of the most interesting. With its many shops, restaurants, and other local oddities, it can be hard to know what to see first. To that end, we've gone ahead and found locations in downtown Traverse City for a sunny afternoon.

A perfect afternoon starts with a perfect lunch, and Georgina's provides. Georgina's is an Asian/Latin fusion restaurant located directly across from the State Theatre. You walk in and are immediately greeted by the tantalizing scents of spices and a warm, comfortable atmosphere. A favorite of contributor Liam Strong, he finds Georgina's has something for everyone. "It's just wholesome. The food is amazing and I have

a hard time imagining that someone wouldn't find something they love there."

After lunch, it's time for some light shopping. West of Georgina's are a few niche shops perfect for finding that one thing that you never even knew you needed. Trains and Things is a hobby shop located just down the block. While not the most exciting place downtown, nothing comes close in terms of a calming atmosphere. There is an air of nostalgia surrounding the store, as if it comes alive to take you back to childhood, if only for a brief time.

Continuing west across Cass you will come across Brilliant Books. An independent bookstore, its shelves are stocked with everything you expect, and books that you would never discover otherwise. Like any good bookstore or library, you can feel a weight in the air—a weight that says this is a place where knowledge is found. Staffed

by people who love the written word, a thoughtful, engaging recommendation is never far away.

Crossing the street to the north you will often find street musicians playing in the concrete walkway between Pangea's Pizza and Kilwins. It's the perfect place to enjoy a slice of pizza or fudge, and sit to enjoy the season. When you're done, the walkway will give you a quick path to Clinch Park.

If you need to cool off, head back down Front Street to Milk and Honey. Milk and Honey is an ice cream parlor that always has something new to try. With rotating flavors, it's hard to get bored. Carrie Beduhn, a Maritime student originally from Ohio, finds herself constantly going back for more. For her, it's a trip back in time. "There were a lot of places like Milk and Honey where I grew up. It reminds me of home."

As the afternoon gives way to the evening

it's time for a movie. Luckily, downtown Traverse City is home to one of the best screens in the world. The State Theatre is a treasure, showing new releases along with classics at an affordable price. The theatre itself has ties to NMC—its starry sky ceiling was designed by astronomy professor Jerry Dobek. "He designed the ceiling so that one night a year, it would exactly match the night sky," said Stacy Arnold, a current student of Dobek. "The seats are really comfy, and it's cool to see movies in a place that people from your school had a hand in designing." The State Theatre has a wide variety of affordable programming, and new, interesting pictures are sure to screen this summer as the Traverse City Film Festival opens on July 31.

After the show, the night gets fully underway. There's much to see and plenty to do, so you'll always find something downtown to make the best of your summer.

Here Comes the Sun

A Summertime of Music in Northern Michigan

Steven Tucker
Staff Writer

As the long winter finally comes to a close and the days warm up, music will begin to fill the air in Traverse City. Summer comes and goes in the blink of an eye, so it's important to make sure you get the most fun out of every single night.

The Interlochen Center for the Arts has an exciting lineup with many big names such as Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Yes, The Beach Boys, and Earth, Wind and Fire. There are also performances scheduled by popular violinist Lindsey Stirling, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, and modern folk group The Avett Brothers. Interlochen has many other amazing shows lined up. A full list can be found on their website, interlochen.org under the Concerts+Events tab.

The National Cherry Festival has a good lineup this year, too, for those willing to brave the traffic. June 30 through July 7 will bring shows from stars such as Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo with Loverboy. Three Days Grace will play on July 4, and Sheryl Crow performs the following day. Additionally, registration is open for the Cherry Idol Auditions, taking place on July 6. There are categories for adults 18+, young adults 15–17, teens 12–14, and youth 8–11. The cost is \$15, and auditions require participants to sing a song of their choice—acappella—for 60 seconds. More information can be found at cherryfestival.org.

The 38th annual **Blissfest Folk and Roots Festival** takes place in Harbor Springs from July 13–15. Wristbands for full weekend access are available at Tier 3 prices online—there are no gate ticket sales (kids 12 and under get in free, but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian). This popular annual music festival is pure northern Michigan-style fun. Bands performing this summer include the Blue Moon Marquee, the Corn Fed Girls, the Galactic Sherpas, and many more. Additional information and a complete list of performances can be found at blissfest.org.

Looking for a more affordable way to spend a summer weekend or two? **Michigan Legacy Art Park** has many acts lined up every Friday in July and Saturday in August. Tickets for each show are only \$10, and kids get free entry! This is a great place to have a picnic and enjoy some music this summer with friends and family. Proceeds from ticket sales go right back into the park, so these shows are also a great way to support the community.

The Grand Traverse Pavilions will hold its annual concerts on the Lawn series every Thursday at 7pm, starting on June 7 and running through the end of August. This year's lineup includes the Gordon Lightfoot Tribute, the Grand Traverse Pipes and Drums, the Petoskey Steel Drum Band, and many more. Ice-cream and beverages are available, and picnics are welcome. Visit gtpavilions.org under the News/Events tab for more information.

The City Opera House is hosting uniquely talented musicians from around the world. June 10 is the Brandenburg Festival, featuring 24 musicians from across the nation performing all

six of Bach's Brandenburg Concerti, directed by David Holland of the Interlochen Center for the Arts, along with Crispin Campbell. Tickets are \$30, or \$15 for students. If you can't make it that day, the same performance is being held June 9 in Manistee at the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts. More information can be found at cityoperahouse.org.

Finally, don't forget to check out the **Dennos concert series** periodically to see upcoming events. Visit dennosmuseum.org/milliken/concert-season to stay up-to-date on scheduled performances as they come.

Make sure you don't miss a single beat of the music this summer!

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Cool Reads for a Hot Summer Day

NMC's librarians review books with Michigan roots

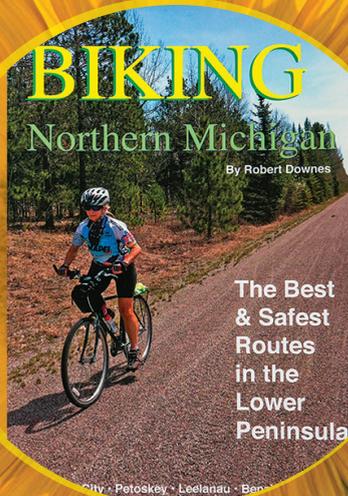
Ann Hosler Staff Writer It's a strange feeling to chat with our Osterlin librarians about books you can enjoy over the summer while there's still snow on the ground and hitting a high of 60° is dubious at best. Hopefully a month from now, April will be something we can laugh about while lounging on a beach towel, watching the waves over the pages of one of these awesome reads.

"Biking Northern Michigan"

written by Robert Downes
reviewed by Ann Geht, Librarian
Robert Downes, who co-founded our region's popular alternative newsweekly, *Northern Express*, in 1991, is an adventurer and former Ironman triathlete who wants bike riders of all ages and ability levels to have a safe, joyful time on northern Michigan's roads and trails. His recent

guidebook rates local bike routes by difficulty level, traffic congestion, and distance. It also makes helpful recommendations about essential gear, safety precautions, and the best bike types for each route. A summer spent exploring northern Michigan by bicycle—with a copy of "Biking Northern Michigan: The Best & Safest Routes in the Lower Peninsula" tucked into your saddle pack—would be a summer well spent!

Find it in Osterlin:
GV1045.5 .M5 D69 2015



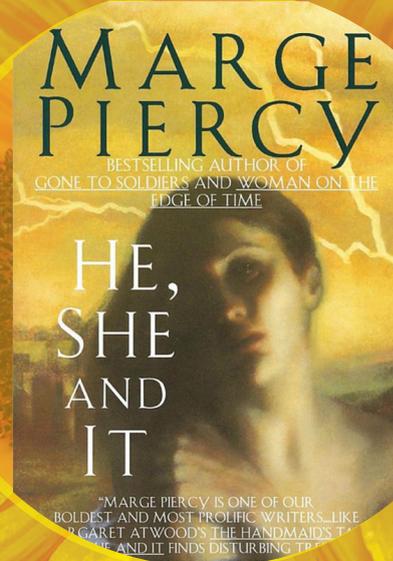
"He, She and It"

written by Marge Piercy
reviewed by Mary Beeker, Librarian
This novel by Detroit-native author Marge Piercy is hard to classify. It's part dystopian/speculative fiction, part ecological thriller, and part Jewish myth. Piercy imagines a wetter, more polluted future, in which corporations have taken the place of governments, and people use biological enhancements to survive.

The story focuses on Shira, a mother and scientist, who recently lost custody of her son in a divorce. She returns home to live with both her grandmother and a cyborg

her mother helped create. Piercy creates vibrant characters and scenes, with intelligent, strong women. Her focus on characters' relationships leaves readers questioning our assumptions about families and communities.

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"Folksongs of Another America"

written by James P. Leary
reviewed by Joelle Hannert, Library Technical Services Coordinator

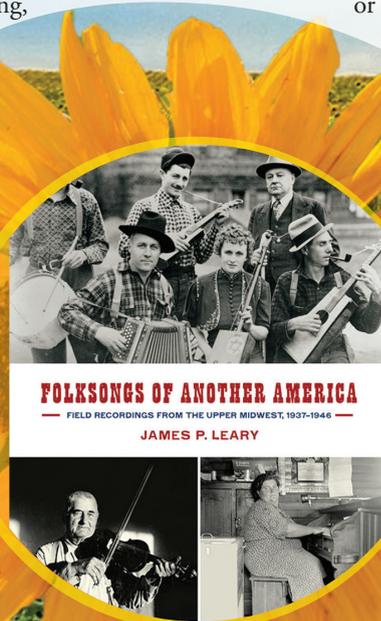
Eighty years ago, Alan Lomax traveled through Michigan (including a stop in Traverse City!) to collect the songs of this region. The recordings he made are folk music in the truest sense: the music of everyday people, performed in their natural environment without production, editing,

second takes.

While the recordings are often rough, I find their raw honesty refreshing.

"Folksongs of Another America: Field Recordings from the Upper Midwest, 1937-1946" includes six discs of these field recordings, presenting Lomax's work, along with collections from folklorists working in Wisconsin. If this all sounds a bit heavy for summer reading, it's not! For all you music nerds, the book reads like the most thorough liner notes you could ever wish for. With its mix of history, music, and place, this collection would be a great companion on your summertime ramblings—it might even inspire a road trip!

Find it in Osterlin:
ML3551 .L35 2015



“Ursula, Under”

written by Ingrid Hill
reviewed by Ann Swaney, Archivist & Librarian

This Great Lakes Book Award winner is based on a not-uncommon situation in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan—someone has fallen down an abandoned mine shaft. In this case it is a little girl, Ursula, who, while sneaking up on a deer, has fallen into one “like a penny into the slot of a bank.”

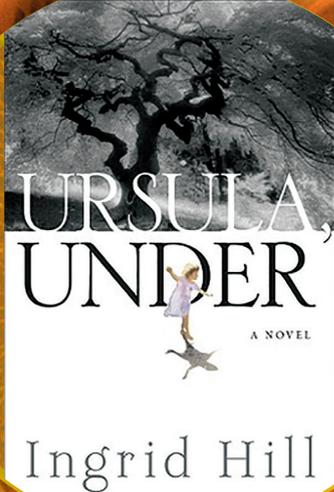
During the long wait while local rescuers try to find a way to get her out, and a TV station “up from Marquette” broadcasts live news briefs, a story begins to unfold explaining Ursula’s ancestry—going all the way back to third century BC. The rationale for the biographies going back generations is to counteract a

comment sent by one of the TV viewers who wondered: “why all this time and money is being wasted on that half-breed trailer-trash kid.” Ursula’s ancestors are representative of many characters from world history, and the writer is so good that we absorb history without even trying.

There is a lot to think about as you read this book at its rather lengthy 475 pages. However, each chapter can be read as a self-contained novella, so it’s possible to skip a chapter and not miss the progression of the main plot.

“Ursula, Under: a Novel” is a fantastic book, and although not a summer beach read, I hope you give it a chance as it is one of my favorites.

Find it in Osterlin:
PS3558 .I3886 U77 2004



“The Mighty Miss Malone”

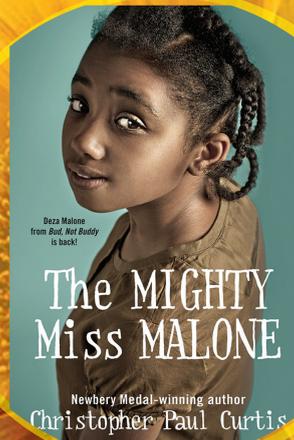
written by Christopher Paul Curtis
reviewed by Rochelle Hammontree, Librarian

“The Mighty Miss Malone” takes place in Gary, Ind. in the 1930s during the Great Depression.

It’s a story of a young, strong-willed, 12-year-old girl, Deza Malone (aka The Mighty Miss Malone) and her family’s struggles during this time. Deza is the smartest in her class, and loves to write and learn new words. They sit around dinner every night talking about their day, and what happened to each of them. Their family motto: “We are a family on a journey to a place called Wonderful.”

Her older brother, Jimmie, is 15 years old and has stopped growing, but has a beautiful singing voice. Their father has a hard time finding work and leaves to go find work in Flint. There are some twists when Deza, her mother, and her brother follow him after they haven’t heard a word from him in quite some time. This story can be read from age 10+, or together as a family.

Find it in Osterlin: PZ7 .C94137 MI 2012



BONNIE JO CAMPBELL
AUTHOR OF THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST
AMERICAN SALVAGE

ONCE UPON A RIVER



“Once Upon a River”

written by Bonnie Jo Campbell
reviewed by Tina Ulrich, Director of Library Services

“Once Upon a River: a Novel,” by Bonnie Jo Campbell, is Huck Finn for rural Michigan girls. Margo is a survivor—of rape, of poverty and divorce, of the instability they bring. She adapts by learning to take care of herself and to shoot a rifle like her heroine, Annie Oakley. Following the death of her father, Margo makes her way down the (fictional) Stark River in a stolen rowboat in search of her mother. She faces dangers from both the

natural world and from the sketchy characters she meets on the river.

What makes Margo so appealing is her lack of self-pity and her determination to deal with the world on her own terms. Of the many opportunities to preach about the social ills plaguing teenage girls in today’s Michigan, Campbell takes none of them. This is Margo’s story. Watch and learn.

Find it in Osterlin:
PS3553 .A43956 O63 2011

Jumpstarting Education

A challenging, yet rewarding, opportunity awaits Early College students.

Jaime Boerema As the semester ends and I prepare to leave NMC, Staff Writer I look back on my experience and feel grateful for many things, especially the opportunity I have had as a Traverse Bay Area Early College student. Through the TBAISD Career Tech Center (CTC), I received a quality education without any financial burden. This opportunity has been truly amazing. Even though balancing everything was sometimes a challenge, I have grown as a person through these last three years.

Early College provides students with the opportunity to receive a free education at NMC during their junior and senior years of high school, as well as their freshman year of college, which is referred to as the “13th year.” Students who put in the extra time and work of college during high school find the program both rewarding and a wonderful experience.

The program, supported by the state of Michigan, is possible through the partnership of CTC and area schools, and has helped hundreds of students jumpstart their education for free. When you join the program through CTC, you choose a CTC course that correlates with the program, as well as related college classes from NMC. Depending on the educational focus, some students even have online classes through Ferris State University.

My personal experience with the Early College program has been positive. I attended the Allied Health program at CTC, where we learned important aspects of the medical field. Even though I knew I wasn't pursuing a job in nursing (or probably anything else health related), I was drawn to the program because I am passionate about helping and serving others. Allied Health's curriculum was truly beneficial and interesting—even for a girl who isn't entering the medical field.

As a homeschooled student, it was encouraging to see that the education I received at home prepared me for a college education far better than I could have ever imagined. This instilled a new confidence in me, and helped me see that I was ready to step out into the next part of my journey.

Anders Roe, a junior enrolled in the Manufacturing Technology Academy at CTC, shared what he wants to attain from the Early College experience. “I'm hoping to gain more certainty as far as the career I want to pursue.” He explained that the experience has been really valuable, “So far, I feel like it's been a really nice introduction to the college workload.”

Maddy KlingleSmith is a 2015 Early College graduate, recent NMC Nursing program graduate, and a licensed RN. She says of the program, “It pushed me to go further, to reach for things I didn't think I could achieve.” KlingleSmith had some advice for incoming students: “It's going to be hard in a lot of areas, but it's a good hard.” Marissa Smith, a 13th year student who completed CTC's Allied Health program, added, “Stick with it—it's definitely worth your time.”

My advice to students interested in the program is that accomplishing goals does not come without sacrifice. It can be challenging to be an Early College student, but it is a worthwhile investment for people who are dedicated to hard work and furthering their education at a young age. Persistence, positivity, support, and long-term vision are important for success.

As I prepare to transfer in the fall, I am so thankful to have been a part of this journey. It has been a catalyst for many other opportunities. Reflecting on the past has prepared me for the future. I will always be grateful for the experiences, challenges, and triumphs I've had through these last few years in the Early College program.

Letter from the Editor

It's summertime in the city! Well, not quite yet, but we're getting there. The snow is melting, the mercury is rising, and the infamous Winter 3.0 is slowly fading into memory. As the view outside the living room window becomes more spring and summer-esque, it is likely many more people will venture outside.

Whether you're a year-round resident or a seasonal visitor, this latest issue of the *White Pine Press* has many great options for enjoying summer in the Grand Traverse region. Find a spot to settle down with a good book, take a hike along one of the many great local hiking trails, listen to some great live music or records, or grab a bite to eat with friends while taking an afternoon stroll around downtown Traverse City. However you decide to spend your summer, just remember to get out and enjoy the season!

When you pick up the next edition in the fall semester, you're likely to notice some changes to the staff list. I will graduate this spring and will pass the role of editor-in-chief to managing editor, Ann Hosler.

I think of my work at the *White Pine Press* as an “unofficial second degree.” While I'm neither a journalism or English major, I have learned so much from working on this paper, and have improved my writing and interview skills immensely. I have no doubt that Ann will keep the paper, running as smoothly as ever.

Several other staff members will also move on to “bigger and better” things next semester. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors. And good luck to returning staff members as well. I know you will continue working hard to bring quality, varied content to our readers.

As always, we appreciate receiving feedback from our readers. What stories have you enjoyed reading this semester? Have the cover and inside pages been visually appealing? Have the feature and news photos effectively conveyed the story? Are there things you'd like to see improved? Write us a letter! Letters and story ideas should be sent to whitepinepress@gmail.com.

Have a great summer!

James Robinson, *WPP* Editor-in-Chief

WRITE US A LETTER

OUR POLICY: *White Pine Press* accepts letters to the editor from members of the college and community. Letters should be less than 400 words, typewritten, and signed with your name, address and phone number. Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, spelling and length. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of The *White Pine Press* staff or any college employee.

BY MAIL:

Mail submissions to:
White Pine Press
Letters to the Editor
1701 East Front St.
Traverse City, MI 49686

BY EMAIL: whitepinepress@gmail.com

Campus Quotes

“What are you looking forward to doing this summer?”

Kelsey Pease
Staff Writer



“Going out on my motorcycle and exploring Leelanau County. I’ll probably be spending a lot of time at Pyramid Point and the Sleeping Bear Dunes.”
Charlie Jankowski,
Maritime



“Going to the beach at North Bar Lake in Empire. It’s got the best sand and clearest waters. My friends and I usually do bonfires out there, and there’s a gas station nearby so you could easily spend all day there.”
Hunter Jandreski,
Mechanical Engineering

“Honestly: making money. I work out at Oleson’s on Three Mile Road.”
Hannah Bigelow,
Nursing



“Taking our family to Beaver Island. We always go during Museum Week for the kids, and shortly after that is the Beaver Island Music Festival.”
Sarah Montgomery-Richards,
Humanities Instructor



“Jumping off of the pier in Frankfort.”
Gabe Huffman,
Biomedical Engineering



“Taking my 18-foot Checkmate boat out to Power Island. I’ve been wanting to camp there for quite a while now.”
Collin Jandreski,
Electrical Engineering



“Small-mouth fishing on East Grand Traverse Bay and also off of the Elk Rapids pier. I’ve also caught a lot of big king salmon around here in the fall.”
Grant Maurer,
Mechanical Engineering

Surviving Summer Classes

Ariel Haddix Staff Writer Hello, fellow summer school students! For me, spending the previous six months in firefighter school made it too hectic to fit in an extra class during the spring semester. I'm thankful for the summer class option, and for professors giving up their summer as well, so I can finish my final class before entering the nursing program this fall. While I'm a little sad about not having copious amounts of free time, I think I will stick to these few tips to help me survive the summer semester:

Study with a view. You don't have to be stuck inside just because you are taking a summer class. Take a swimsuit and towel down to the bay, and either read a chapter or study flashcards. Take a dip or grab a smoothie from Clinch Park's cafe when you need a study break.

Take advantage of outdoor cafes. Higher Grounds at the Grand Traverse Commons has a lovely little outdoor spot to drink your coffee while working on a project.

Go fishing. Really. You can sit on a dock or in a kayak with a pack of flashcards. You can take a pack of flashcards hiking. You can visit a winery and sit on one of their porches for an afternoon with your textbook propped in front of you. The point is: get creative!

Take advantage of the quiet library. When fall semester gets into full swing, I bet we will be wishing for quieter library days. Take advantage of the summer lull and soak up that peaceful study time. Also, you just might meet other people studying their summers away as well, and won't feel so alone.

Start a summer study group. Make flyers and start posting them around popular downtown studying locations. Other summer students might be interested in meeting up and finding cool places to focus on school.

Plan a trip. It doesn't have to be anything crazy. I am kicking off my summer with a trip to Mexico for one week before I really buckle down, but trips closer to home work just

fine. Plan a camping trip. Head to Mackinaw City or Mackinac Island for a day. Plan an afternoon road trip up M-22. Take a little time to relax before the next semester begins.

Reward yourself. Study hard. Play harder. Ok, maybe not in our case. We should still play, though. Summers in northern Michigan are some of the best in the world. We only get them for a few short months, and unfortunately, we have class during that time. Don't let it stop you from doing some great things with your summer. You don't have to be a hermit to get a great grade. You can take three hours to study and still catch a lakeside bonfire at night. Go to class in the morning, catch up with friends at the lake all afternoon, and head home to study at night.

Remember your "why?". Don't ever forget why you are doing it. Sacrifice now so you can have a GREAT life later. You will do fine!

Take a Hike

Favorite Scenic Trails in Northern Michigan

Emma Moulton Staff Writer Northern Michigan has some of the best hiking spots with the most spectacular views around. From sand dunes and beaches to meadows and forests, there are endless opportunities for outdoor summer fun. Here are a few of the best spots in the Traverse City area.

TART Trail

10.5 miles of paved trails stretching from Acme Township to Carter Road with plenty of parks, beaches, restaurants, and shopping along the way. Because of the Traverse Area Recreational Trail's (TART) many access points around town, it's a favorite of cyclists, skaters, walkers, and runners. When the summer roads get busy, this is the best way to get around town.

Empire Bluff

This trail is a bit of a drive from Traverse City, but well worth it. Situated in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, the Empire Bluff Trail offers the most breathtaking view of Lake Michigan during the 1.5-mile round-trip trek through beech-maple forest, hilly terrain, open fields, and dunes. This moderately difficult hike has stairs built into the trail on the steep hills. On a clear day, you might even be able to catch a glimpse of South Manitou Island from the scenic lookout. This is a fairly popular trail, so expect to see many fellow hikers—or shoot for an early morning or sunset hike!

Sands Lake

My personal favorite hiking trail lies just outside of busy Traverse City. The Sand Lakes Quiet Area hosts five small lakes tucked in 2,800 acres of beautiful oak and pine. The park sits in Pere Marquette State Forest and offers a well-marked, maintained six-mile trail loop. Because of its ban on motorized activity, the park offers an ideal place for a peaceful and quiet getaway. Its soil consists of clay and lime, giving the lakes a distinct greenish color and making this the coolest summer hangout. This area is the perfect place for a shady afternoon hike or a weekend camping trip, and is both dog and bike friendly.

DeYoung Natural Area

Less than two miles from M-22, the DeYoung Natural Area is still a work in progress, but hikers currently have more than two miles of beautiful trail to enjoy. This ongoing project is being conducted by the Leelanau Conservancy to assist in the preservation of historic structures on the property. It invites local farmers to continue farming and raising livestock using small-scale, sustainable farming practices, such as edible forest gardening. Visitors can enjoy the Cedar Forest trail, a long loop less than one mile in length that includes a fishing pier and viewing deck on Cedar Lake, as well as a 1.2-mile loop trail that passes the historic structures before skirting small farm fields, upland meadows, and stands of hardwoods.

Boardman Lake Trail

A heavily wooded 3-mile paved trail wraps around Boardman Lake. The Boardman Lake Trail (operated by TART) offers stunning views of Boardman Lake and excellent wildlife viewing as well as easy access to the library, Oryana Community Co-op, the Filling Station Microbrewery, and Hull and Medalie parks. Its many benches and pavilions makes it a favorite spot for local birders. With an extended trail loop in the works, the Boardman Lake Trail will soon provide a connection to NMC's University Center.

Miller Creek Nature Preserve

This 88-acre reserve sits next to South Airport Rd. across from the Grand Traverse Mall. The Miller Creek Nature Preserve is a great hiking and nature-watching spot. Trails meander through a beech forest, across boardwalks over a cedar swamp, and twist around Miller Creek, a tributary of the Boardman River. With plenty of places to sit and observe, Miller Creek is known for its wildlife viewing and relaxing atmosphere. A hidden treasure in the middle of a busy shopping area.

Grand Traverse Commons Trails

A network of nine scenic trails connect in the 480-acres of preserved parkland at the Grand Traverse Commons. These trails feature an array of terrain: rolling hills, hardwood forests, wetlands, meadows, plenty of wildlife, and great views of the city. The park has several trailheads with varied difficulties, perfect for a customizing your ideal hike. There's something for everyone.

Whichever trails you choose to explore, please remember to always practice proper trail etiquette and follow the Leave No Trace principles. Always dispose of waste properly, leave what you find, respect wildlife, and be considerate of other visitors. The well-being of these parks rely on people adopting these rules and maintaining the trails' beauty for ourselves and future visitors. Happy hiking!

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Summer Eye Makeup Mini-Tutorial

Rachel Lynn Moore
Staff Writer

This eye look is a soft orange and gold half-cut crease, light enough to wear during the day or to work with a nude lip. With a darker lip or some winged eyeliner added, it becomes a beautiful look for a dinner or a night out with friends. Every shade I used in this look comes from the Soft Glam eye shadow palette sold by Anastasia Beverly Hills, but similar shades exist in plenty of other palettes, as well as single shadow collections. I'll quickly describe the shade of each color used as I take you step-by-step through the process of creating this versatile eye shadow look.



Step One: Begin with a primed eye. I used Colourpop's No Filter Concealer with a very light layer of skin tone setting powder over the top as my base, but you can use either an eye primer or any other matte concealer. I don't recommend using concealers with a dewy or natural finish as an eye base because they tend to bunch up in the crease of the eyelid.



Step Five: Using a short, sharp brush, take the concealer or eye primer that you used in step one and draw a curved line from the inner corner to the center of the eyelid. Try to keep this line above the natural crease, as this creates an eye-opening effect and will prevent shadow transfer later. When you've finished the line, use a little bit more concealer on the same brush to apply a light layer of concealer across the inner half of your eyelid. It should reach from the original line of concealer to the center of your lid.



Step Two: Take the shade "Orange Soda" (a pale, orange sherbet color) and apply it just above your eye's natural crease, all the way from the outer corner to the inner corner. This is our transition shade, and I like to take my time blending it out so it looks very soft and diffused.



Step Six: Apply the shade "Glistening" (a shimmering warm gold color) everywhere that you put concealer in step five. For better color payoff and more shimmer, spritz the brush with setting spray or water before dipping into the eye shadow. Next use the same brush you used to blend out either "Orange Soda" or "Burnt Orange" to blend the outer edge of "Glistening" with the matte shades applied earlier. Do not blend the upper or inner edges of the cut crease.



Step Three: Now we'll take the shade "Burnt Orange" (a medium orange-brown color) and apply it in our crease just below where we placed "Orange Soda", blending it upward to create a gradient between the two shades. As well as placing "Burnt Orange" in the crease, add a little bit more on the outer corner of your eyelid, blending it into the crease and toward the center of the lid.



Step Seven: With a smaller brush, run "Orange Soda" along your lower lid, under the lash line. Then put "Burnt Orange" on the outer half of the lower lid, as close to the bottom of the lash line as you can. Blend it out with the brush you just used to apply "Orange Soda".



Step Four: The next shade to use is "Sienna" (a medium red-brown color). Apply it in the outer corner of the eyelid, right on top of "Burnt Orange". Lightly blend "Sienna" into the outer edge of the crease and toward the center of the lid.



Step Eight: Throw on your favorite mascara and you're done! This look pairs well with a light warm nude for daytime wear, or with deeper rosy and warm brown shades for a night out. Plus, it's super easy to switch out the colors used in this tutorial to create a red, purple, or even green half-cut crease look!

Photos by Rachel Lynn Moore

New Records for a New Summer

Liam Strong
Contributing Writer

A full disclaimer: I'm not a summer guy. And before the vast majority of the world tells me I'm wrong, I'd like to offer that in spite of this, I'm trying to understand the necessity for categorizing music in terms of seasons. The metaphorical reasoning behind doing so is fascinating, actually. Regardless, I'm the kind of weirdo who listens to black metal (arguably a very autumn or winter genre) in summer. I listen to whatever, whenever. However, summer is a time for change, and in turn, new music. Here are a few new releases I plan on jamming come summer, while I'm dying of heat stroke on my living room floor.

Tigers Jaw - "spin" (2017)

There's a reason why Tigers Jaw is so immediate and exclusive as a summer band to me. Granted, you could argue they fit well with all seasons, but when you first hear either "June" or "Window," the summer is encapsulated from one end of the record to the other. The trees bellow with green and the sunsets aren't terrified of the persistent Michigan frost when I hear these sweet emo/indie rock tunes. Although "spin" is from last year, it's the quintessential sound to my summers.

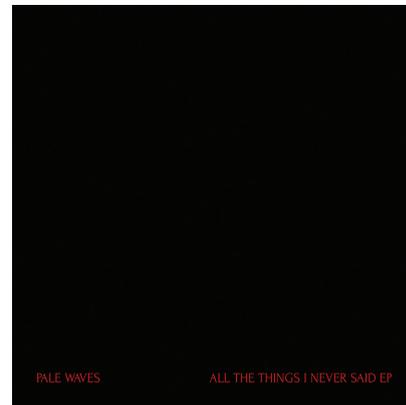


Greyhaven - "Empty Black" (2018)

Greyhaven is weird. A necessary weird. Something about southern metal infused with dynamic math-core really brings forth the anger and vitriol needed for the annoying humidity of summer. For its 40-minute duration, "Empty Black" makes me forget the river of heat on my skin yet brings my blood to a boil, in the best way possible. The guitar tone of this record alone is packed with chaos and quirky riffs that screams summer. Show your mom this record. Have her make a casserole from its tracklist. It will be spicy.

Pale Waves - "All the Things I Never Said" (2018)

Sometimes, I listen to pop music. More often than not, I'm finicky about atmospheres and the absolute cringe of radio pop clichés. Despite Pale Waves' moniker as the love child and discipleship of The 1975, it blends indietronica and new wave influences in a way that actually makes me care about what I'm hearing. I'm never bored listening to this EP, and every song worms its way deeper into the car seat where I'll probably be humming along.



The Fever 333 - "Made An America" (2018)

If you like tangled knots of genres mixed into a weirdly cohesive pattern, "Made An America" offers an aggressive debut on what could be the neatest pop project I've heard in a long time. It's all the belligerence I need for a politically disheartening summer. There's an abundant trifecta of hardcore punk, hip-hop, and pop nuances that make its 18-minute span so worthwhile. I want things said in my music, and calling out the corrupt and toxic tedium of America is perfection.

Hot Mulligan - "Pilot" (2018)

When I first saw Hot Mulligan live, they were a local Michigan emo band playing in a gymnasium amid air stifled by human humidity. The venue floors were sweaty. They only had a handful of EPs, and after last year's signing to No Sleep Records and recording a phenomenal EP, "Opportunities", I became excessively excited for this debut LP. "Pilot" takes the small-scale, intimate anxiety of their EP and prolongs it by allowing more room for its claustrophobic tendencies. It's everything I want from a band that wails about nostalgia from a shitty summer gone by.



Pizzadillas

Ann Hosler
Managing Editor

This recipe stemmed from my family having too much spinach one summer, while not having the ingredients to make quesadillas. It's a quick meal to make and works great for packing ahead in lunches. The directions below are for a single pizzadilla, so just double for each one you're making.

Ingredients:

- 2 large fajita-style tortillas
- tomato sauce (seasoned to taste)
- fresh, chopped spinach
- 14–18 pepperoni slices
- Mexican or taco blend shredded cheese
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil



Directions:

1. Pre-heat skillet with medium heat (5–10 minutes, varies by skillet).
2. While the skillet is pre-heating:
 - a. Spoon tomato sauce onto one tortilla.
 - b. Place pepperoni in single layer on tortilla.
 - c. Top with chopped spinach.
 - d. Add generous amount of cheese.
 - e. Place other tortilla on top.
3. Add one tablespoon of oil to heated skillet; swirl until coated.
4. Place prepared pizzadilla in skillet.
5. Cook each side for three minutes at medium heat.
 - a. Use your widest spatula for flipping! (size DOES matter)
 - b. Be careful to avoid splashing oil while flipping.
 - c. To help keep it together, place a couple fingers on top tortilla until about halfway through the flipping process.
6. Remove from skillet to layered paper towels.
 - a. If eating immediately, allow to cool about two minutes, slice, and enjoy!
 - b. If preparing ahead, allow to cool completely (10–15 minutes) before slicing and packing into container or baggie. Refrigerate until ready to eat. Can be reheated in microwave for about 15–30 seconds.
7. Leftover tomato sauce can be stored in the refrigerator inside an airtight container for 3–4 days. (Go wild: make some pasta!)

EVENTS CALENDAR

April 27 - May 11

Kelsey Pease
Staff Writer

Friday, April 27

- 5:30 to 6:30pm: Voices student group meeting in Health & Science 100.
- 6 to 10pm: Volleyball sponsored by Ratio Christi in Physical Education 100.
- 7:30 to 9pm: Old Town Playhouse presents "The Father".
- 5 to 7pm: TC Trail Running Festival at Timber Ridge RV Resort.

Saturday, April 28

- 6am to 3pm: TC Trail Running Festival at Timber Ridge RV Resort.
- 9 to 11am: Springing into Summer Stroll for Epilepsy starts at Clinch Park.
- 10am to 2pm: Last day of indoor farmers market inside the Mercato at GT Commons.
- 7 to 10pm: TC Swing Club meeting in Physical Education 100.
- 7:30 to 9pm: Old Town Playhouse presents "The Father".

Tuesday, May 1

- 9am: "Craft and New Tech" exhibit at Crooked Tree Arts Center.
- 6:30pm: Free Intro to Belly Dance class at Bodies in Motion Studio.

Wednesday, May 2

- 4pm: TBA Career-Tech Expo featuring a car show, petting zoo, live entertainment & more.
- 5:30 to 6:30pm: His House small group meeting in Osterlin 204.
- 5:30 to 6:30pm: Live Poets Society group meeting in the West Hall Conference Room.
- 7pm: "Served Like a Girl" Free Indie Film Pop-Up Screening at the Dennon Museum
- 8 to 11pm: Open Recreation/Student Volleyball in Physical Education 100 Gym.
- 9:30pm to Midnight: NMC iDance club meeting in Physical Education 120.

Thursday, May 3

- 6pm: Spring Bling Cycle across Traverse City. Event begins at Hull Park.
- 6 to 9pm: Arts for All of Northern MI's 21st Annual Spring Celebration at Dennon Museum Center, featuring auctions, beer, wine, appetizers, live music, and more.
- 6:30 to 8pm: Studio Dance student group meeting in Physical Education 120.

Friday, May 4

- 3 to 6pm: Cherry Bomb Long Drive Championship at LochenHeath Golf Club.
- 5 to 8pm: Art Blossoms at St. Francis Church, featuring an art show, sale, crafts, live music, and a light dinner.
- 5 to 9pm: Downtown Traverse City Art Walk, featuring art, refreshments, food, and music on a self-guided tour through downtown TC.
- 5:30 to 6:30pm: Voices student group meeting in Health & Science 100.
- 6 to 10pm: Volleyball sponsored by Ratio Christi in Physical Education 100.

Saturday, May 5

- 9am: Mud, Sweat, & Beers, Fat Tire Fest at Mt. Holiday.
- 10am to 6pm: Cinco de Vino at Peninsula Cellars, featuring \$5 sangrias.
- 11am to 6pm: Spring Sip & Savor along the Leelanau Peninsula Wine Trail.
- 2pm: NMC Commencement ceremony in TC Central High School gymnasium.
- 3 to 6pm: Cherry Bomb Long Drive Championship at LochenHeath Golf Club.
- 6 to 11pm: Celebration of Trails Cinco de Mayo Fiesta at 127 Ames St., Elk Rapids.
- 7 to 10pm: TC Swing Club meeting in Physical Education 100.

Sunday, May 6

- 11am to 6pm: Spring Sip & Savor along the Leelanau Peninsula Wine Trail.
- 11am: "Straws" documentary film free screening at the State Theatre.

Friday, May 11

- 6 to 9:30pm: An evening with comedian, blogger, and bestselling author Samantha Irby at the City Opera House.
- 6:30 to 9:30pm: An evening at Reflect Bistro & Bel Lago Winery with owner Charles Edson for a 5-course wine dinner.
- 8am to 11pm: Kick-off of 59th Annual Mesick Mushroom Festival.

Swinging into Something New

TC Swing Club to add an extra weekly session this summer

Kelsey Pease
Staff Writer

Connor Cothran is extroverted, energetic, compassionate, and adventurous. He's that one person that either seems to know everyone or that everyone seems to know. This wasn't always the case, though.

A third-year aviation student, Cothran is the founder and leader of the NMC Swing Club—better known as the TC Swing Club, as it is enjoyed by far more than NMC's student body. The club has drastically evolved over its short three-year existence; however, it's arguable that Cothran has changed more in this time than the club itself.

Only two years ago, if you would have been strolling around Clinch Park on a Saturday night, it's likely that you would have seen Cothran sitting alone in the grass with some speakers, looking anxiously around as if waiting for a friend to show up. Conversely, should you stroll around Clinch Park this summer, Cothran and his speakers will still be there, but this time surrounded by about 100 swing dancing community members, ranging from age seven to 70.

Connor's connection to comes from his little sister, who convinced him to attend Monday Night Swing events near their hometown in Brighton about eight years ago. If you asked him who taught him all his moves, though, he wouldn't be able to tell you. "The environment and culture of swing tends to be so healthy and friendly that everyone is always teaching and helping one another," he explained. People show up for the first time with absolutely no experience, and by the end of the night, they're teaching others.



TC Swing Club founder Connor Cothran teaches basic steps to newcomers.

"As you dance, you might not notice that you are spending hours and hours practicing because it is so much fun," Cothran described. "Little by little you grow in skill, knowledge, and execution to where you feel comfortable being yourself on the dance floor and tearing it up."

Swing isn't just about learning to dance, though. Cothran is proud that TC Swing events offer a safe environment, free of drugs, sex, and alcohol, where people can relax with their friends or meet new people, and even practice social skills. "Swing teaches you that awkwardness is just another feeling that can disappear with a little practice and pureness of intent." He is the first to admit that swing is the reason he has become the confident and gregarious person that he is today.

Cothran's hard work and dedication has also resulted in various opportunities to bring swing to different environments and communities. In the past he held a lesson at the TEACH (Total Education Abiding in Christian Homes) Summer Banquet and attended Petoskey's Swingin' in the Snow fundraiser event with his "Swing Family." He is currently in the process of starting clubs in Charlevoix and Cadillac, and is also planning an event at a library in Beulah for their summer reading program. Additionally, TC Swing will be a part of the National Cherry Festival for the first time this year, appearing in the Cherry Royale Parade on July 7.

All of this community involvement—including TC Swing's weekly meetings—is put on through volunteer efforts. From the beginning, Cothran was adamant about not requiring people to pay in order to attend, even if it was a cost as small as a dollar. "It would become just one more reason for someone to say 'nah' and then miss out on an epic opportunity to meet great people and learn a life-long skill to share with the people around you anywhere you go," Cothran said.

Starting this summer, two days of dancing at Clinch Park will be offered each week, adding an additional day compared to previous years. Requests from older participants for separate

dance sessions prompted the change. Fridays from 8–10pm will be designated for people leaving high school and going into college, while Sundays will be for all ages.

Although Cothran has dedicated much of his time and energy to the club, he explained that his main goal is to ensure that he isn't the "life force" of the group. Eventually, he wants to be able to step away from it and watch it continue to grow and evolve. "I am very excited to see what God has planned for the club in the years to come," he remarked.

With eight years of swing dancing already behind him, Cothran no longer has any singular favorite memories from swing—there are far too many to narrow it down. Nowadays, simply seeing someone enjoy a dance or hearing, "Thank you," or "I look forward to this every week," is more than enough for him.

The TC Swing Club's first outdoor session will be held May 12 at Clinch Park. For more information about the club and for periodic updates, you can visit the "TC Swing Club" page on Facebook.



Drake Matthew and Christina Dingman practice a dance move.



High school students enjoy a dance together.

Photos by Kelsey Pease