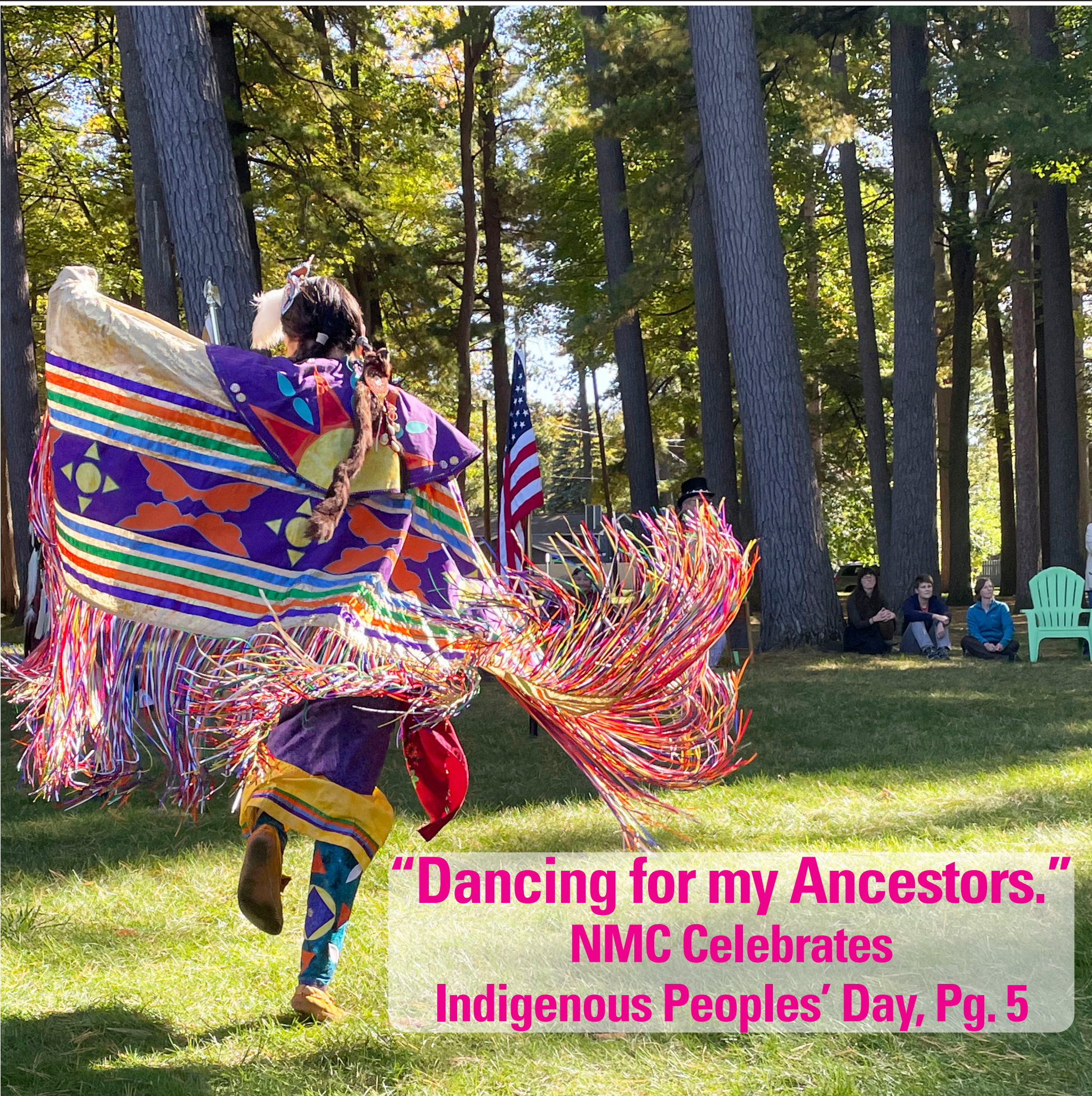


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We hew to the line; let the chips fall where they may.



**“Dancing for my Ancestors.”
NMC Celebrates
Indigenous Peoples’ Day, Pg. 5**



Breaking Ground in 1970 for the new art building. Pictured (left to right) Paul Welch, Capt. Mike Hemmick, Walter Beardslee, Bill Baker Barr, Arlo Moss, Art Moenkhaus, Roy Terdal, Warren Cline, Al Shumsky, Linda Davis, President Jim Davis, Norm Averill, Jack McCrystal, Les Biederman, Jack Ozegovic, and not identified.

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Gabbi Chavarria
COPY EDITOR Kathryn DePauw

STAFF WRITERS Sara Bagley
Devon Bruner
John Osmond
Aidan Pool
Jacob Pszczolkowski
Michael Rowe

FACULTY ADVISER Jacob Wheeler

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News In Brief

Health Care Forum The event, offered by Grand Valley State University and NMC, will focus on adolescent mental health in Northern Michigan. Panelists will speak about the importance of supporting youth and understanding the mental health challenges they face. The forum takes place on Oct. 17 from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. and is free for all to attend. Registration information can be found at www.gvsu.edu/hfnorthernmich.

NMC Jazz Lab Band will perform a concert at the Grand Traverse Circuit on Oct. 23 at 3 p.m. The Jeff Haas Trio and Laurie Sears will perform for an afternoon of swinging jazz. There will be a selection of food from Edson Farms and wines from Chateau Chantal. Donations of \$5 for students and \$20 for others are encouraged.

International Affairs Forum Debates Immigration On Oct. 20, David Aguilar, the former acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection will join Theresa Cardinal Brown, the managing director of the Immigration and Cross-Border Policy at the Bipartisan Policy Center, in leading an immigration debate in the Milliken Auditorium. It can be attended in person for \$15 at the door (free for students, educators, and members of IAF), or via livestream. To register for the event or to purchase tickets, visit www.tciaf.com.

Trunk or Treat fun! Decorate the car, get into costume, and hand out candy in the Cherry Lot across from the Innovation Center on Oct. 26 from 5-7 p.m. Prizes will be given for best decorations! Sign up to dress up your trunk and hand out candy at blogs.nmc.edu/?p=104260.

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NMC Expands Microcredential Programs

Aidan Pool
Staff Writer

NMC is a place of valued opportunity for students with different stories and backgrounds. Each year, NMC continues to expand upon their diverse student population with new programs and scholarships. As part of the strategic plan, NMC Next, the college has expanded its offerings of microcredential programs, or short courses that focus on skill-building and retraining for people seeking a career change. Jason Slade, NMC vice president for Strategic Initiatives, stressed the importance of the microcredentials. "As the region's leading higher education institution, we work to meet the needs of students and employers," Slade said in a Sept. 14 press release.

Beginning in January 2023, the Heavy Highway Construction program will launch in partnership with Networks Northwest and Team Elmer's. The program is designed to give exposure to heavy highway construction, free of charge, to students in the Traverse City region. The course is 12 weeks long, and runs five days a week for seven hours a day. By the end of the program, students will hold a nationally recognized credential in heavy highway construction and their Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) safety certificate. More information about the program can be found on Team Elmer's website.

NMC's Marine Technology department has begun offering similar infrastructure based programs. Created through a partnership with Kongsberg Maritime, the programs focus on the application of SONAR technologies, data collection, and analysis. There are four courses offered, one short course on Marine Inspection Technologies (The date is yet to be determined), and three professional development courses: Acoustic Principles Fundamental to Operating Sonar Systems (Oct. 7-Dec. 2, 2022), Marine Inspection Technologies and Applications (Oct. 17-Nov. 7, 2022), and Underwater Bridge and Infrastructure Inspection (Mar. 20-24, 2023).

NMC and Michigan Technological University have come together to provide a series of courses pertaining to surveying, civil engineering, and infrastructure. One Marine Infrastructure course, Marine Inspection and Technologies Overview, will be offered along with four professional Survey Development courses, and two Geospatial Professional development courses.

NMC's healthcare programs are also expanding with four new accelerated



Photo courtesy of Team Elmer's

courses being offered: the six-week Eldercare Certificate, and 12-week Medical Billing, Medical Assistant, and Pharmacy Technician courses. All courses are offered online.

NMC's successful credential programs have become vital pipelines connecting college students and Traverse County employers. Investment in the major industries of the area such as construction, infrastructure inspection, and nursing are sure to help not only students in their search

for careers, but provide for the community for decades to come.

To learn more or register, visit NMC's Lifelong and Professional Learning website at nmc.augusoft.net.

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American Faith in Government Dwindling as Election Nears

Gabbi Chavarria Democracy is a foundational pillar of American cultural identity. Editor-in-Chief

It defines not only our government, but the fundamental American belief in the right to be heard as an individual. Democratically elected officials represent American citizens in everything from local town hall meetings to the highest office in the country: the presidency. In the last few decades, American democracy has undergone a shift that has left the country politically divided with the major parties, Democratic and Republican, leaning deeper into their respective ideologies. As the 2021 election season looms closer, Americans remain distrustful of their government, but not necessarily of the democratic process. John Zachman, a political science professor at NMC, explained some of the major shifts.

“The Republican party has gone through a massive change over the last several years,” Zachman said. “It’s what we would call a populist movement. Trump’s candidacy for president shifted [political tactics] from more traditional policy approaches to one that caters to more clash.”

Zachman described populist movements as being led by “strong guy” leaders, or charismatic and ultra-determined politicians that claim to have the people’s backs. People who vote for these populist leaders often feel frustrated with high-brow politicians. They want someone they can relate



to, who they see as willing to take on the elite officials that aren’t helping the common citizen. “They’ll elect an executive that has their permission to strengthen [the executive’s] own power and essentially trade off less democracy for more results.”

Zachman was careful to note that for these voters, it likely doesn’t feel like they’re losing out on democracy. “They see previous periods where elite rulers didn’t advocate for the common man,” he said, adding that the voters who elect populist politicians often feel they are defending democracy instead of risking it.

“The Democratic Party,” Zachman said, “has lost its appeal to white, male, working class voters,” leaving a gap in the party that minority numbers can’t fill.

Faith in our democracy is often intertwined with faith in our government systems. According to the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan organization that conducts public opinion polling and other data-driven social science research, only 12% of Democratic or democratically leaning voters trust the government to do the right thing. They wonder if the federal systems in America, like the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Internal Revenue Service, and the criminal justice system, are capable institutions run by non-corrupt politicians and civil servants. Organizations and movements like Black Lives Matter and efforts to defund police nationwide show how left-wing progressives distrust American government systems and are advocating for intense systemic reform. Voters question the ability of elected Democrats to take on and fix the systems that they feel are broken, often opting to not vote Democrat—or not vote at all. “I don’t have time to deal with the political rhetoric that is happening in our world right now,” Domini Bryant, a registered Democrat voter told ABC News. “All that is happening is real people—real working people—are getting dumped on.”

“The economic dynamics of our globalized world create anxiety and stress,” Zachman said. “Especially in middle America, and especially in Michigan.”

This is where the “Big Lie,” or right-wing politician’s adherence to the verifiably false claim that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump, comes into play. There are many Michigan politicians that push this narrative to keep Donald Trump in a “politically viable position,” according to Zachman. “The thing with Trump, is that he can’t be a loser, so his only option is to say [the election] was stolen.”

What do politicians in Michigan have to gain from this narrative? According to Zachman, loyalty to Trump in the Republican party is as good as immunity. Tudor Dixon, the GOP candidate for Governor of Michigan, is a staunch supporter of Trump and has said she believes the election was stolen from him in 2020. Matthew DePerno, Republican candidate for Attorney General, and Kristina Karamo, GOP nominee for Secretary of State, are both politicians in Michigan that have made the “Big Lie” the foundation of their campaigns.

This means two things. First, Michigan is a home base for

said is headed towards populist and autocratic policies. The second, and according to Zachman, much more frightening conclusion drawn from Michigan politicians supporting the “Big Lie,” is that “we’ve segregated ourselves into informational silos where the facts that one person gets are completely different from the facts that another person in a different silo gets.” In other words, not only is the perspective of voters unique to the individual, the facts that voters are using to make their political decisions are also unique to them. “It’s incredibly dangerous for a democracy,” Zachman said.

News outlets like Fox and MSNBC have a reputation for being politically biased. “Media has a different business model than it used to,” Zachman said. “Profit motives drive [media] more and more and provide us with incendiary political information.” He stressed that both Republican and Democrat voters have distrust of the media, and rightfully so. Many people feel the media doesn’t pay attention to the problems that average citizens face in rural America and that there is disproportionate focus on larger cities on the coasts. “They aren’t looking at bigger problems like what do you do if the jobs [in middle America] go away,” Zachman said, which leads to many voters in the center of the country feeling ignored and like their concerns aren’t newsworthy.

This can prompt voters to support more populist candidates that they feel will listen to them and advocate for them. “Americans would be well served if we had an ethos of looking for high-quality news from all outlets—Republican, Independent, and Democrat alike,” Zachman suggested, and encouraged politicians to put forth “good policies that address the set of problems facing [people in middle America], especially good economic policies.”

Despite polling showing Americans distrust the government, faith in democracy as a political system remains strong. Pew Research Center polls show that Americans trust the process of democracy to make responsible decisions. “Trust in government is different,” Zachman said. “Are the people who are running our government corrupt? Capable? Are they doing their jobs?...It’s not as concerning when people are distrustful of government, but [if a] democracy converts into an authoritarian regime, it’s hard to revert back.”

For these abstract problems, Zachman proposed a straightforward solution: “Average everyday individuals have to demand better news and refuse junk news.”

“The public sphere needs to be reinvigorated. Americans need to find some common ground and talk about the things we love and want to see moving forward.” He recommended setting aside the things that divide us for the time being and focusing on “the importance of getting out and talking to each other again,” and becoming reacquainted with “the great diversity that is the United States.”

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NMC Celebrates Indigenous Peoples' Day Under the Pines

Gabbi Chavarria
Editor-in-Chief

Drums and singing were heard coming from the pine grove on NMC's main campus Oct. 10. In a celebratory event thrown by NMC's Student Success team and the NMC Native American Student Organization, members of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) shared their legacy and showcased their dancing talent and customs.

It is an important day for many Native people. "Being indigenous means taking that moment and having that pride and growing within a community that didn't even know we were here," said Theresa Marshall, a member of GTB.

To Marshall, the day, which falls on the second Monday of October in Michigan, is a chance to reconnect with not only her Indigenous community, but the Traverse City area at large. "It really has been a learning process and a teaching process because we have to teach our community how to love us."

Mary Rayfield, a member of GTB, emphasized the cultural importance of dancing to the Anishinaabe, a name referring to the long-standing tribal alliance held between the Ottawa, Chippewa, and Potawatomi tribes. "When we dance, we're dancing to bring our community together," Rayfield said before taking center-circle.

There were many kinds of dances featured including the Jingle Dance, Fancy Dance, and the inter-tribal dances, which gave observers a chance to join in.

Courtney Miller, a member of the Three Fires Nation, described dancing for her community as joyful. A traditional Anishinaabe dancer in her childhood, Miller took a 26-year hiatus before returning to the circle at the age of 40. "Just considering we could have been killed doing this 45 years ago, dancing for all my ancestors that weren't allowed to do so gives me a sense of joy." Miller created her regalia with the help of her mother and aunt over the course of a year. She performs the Fancy Dance, one of the most athletic dances where the shawl of her regalia is the focus.

Todd Brewer, who grew up in South Dakota and currently lives in Traverse City, said that the celebration of the day made him feel whole again. Brewer suffered a traumatic injury two years ago that put his passion for dancing on hold. "For men," Brewer said, "being a traditional dancer in the circle is like life. It's something that calls you back and to be here after all I've gone through makes me feel very grateful."

In between dances, members of GTB spoke about what Indigenous Peoples Day meant to them. For some, it was an opportunity to see old friends and family and celebrate their culture. For others, information and education were the most important aspects of the day. Speakers touched on the racism they faced growing up in a predominantly white community as well as the horrific acts of genocide perpetrated on Indigenous people by the American government.

People who came to the event were encouraged to do their own research about the prejudice Indigenous people have faced, especially at the hands of religious conversion schools, or boarding schools intending to assimilate and 'civilize' native American children into Euro-centric culture. These schools were prevalent well into the 1960s and 1970s. Stories and histories were shared of family members and friends who had suffered at the hands of the racist systems forced on them.

Despite the serious tone of the topics being discussed, the event was bursting with color and sound. "The deeper the purple, the more spiritual you are," said Brewer, describing one of the main components of his regalia. A former tribal firefighter, he built his regalia based on everything he's seen in his dreams and visions.

Linda Woods, an NMC alum and certified nurse for 50 years, summed up the importance of the day. "It's our day. We're proud to say 'Yes, we are native American, we are still here, and we're proud to be from this community.' We get to remember as Indigenous people who we are."



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Women's Resource Center Battles Domestic Violence in Northern Michigan

Sara Bagley
Staff Writer

"When someone calls us, we meet them where they are at," explained Juliette Schultz, the executive director of the Women's Resource Center (WRC).

The WRC provides information, resources, and emergency shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence in Benzie, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Kalkaska counties, and has done so since 1975. Schultz said that WRC is the only organization in Northern Michigan that provides 24-hour response to victims. WRC provides emergency shelter, legal and mental health advocates to help victims figure out their next step, warm meals during their stay, and a safe place to sleep.

About 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men will experience domestic violence. Domestic violence isn't limited to physical abuse. It can be emotional, financial, psychological, sexual, or any combination of these. "Anyone can call," Schultz said.

During the pandemic there was an increase in those numbers nationwide, according to the National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice. WRC made sure they were there to help. "Nobody fell between the cracks at our agency," reported Schultz. The organization had a 40% increase in calls over the past two years. Toward the beginning of COVID, the requests were often regarding help with basic needs: grocery assistance, transportation help, gas cards, etc. Soon, the calls became more urgent. Between 2020 and 2021, WRC saw a 40% increase in call volume with roughly 1,000 of the over 5,000 calls coming from victims experiencing abuse while staying home during the pandemic.

Schultz thinks it's important to not misplace the blame for the uptick. "Domestic violence is not caused by a pandemic. It's caused by a person who makes a choice to try and exert power over another person."

COVID-19 joined the long list of factors used to explain spikes in domestic violence rates. Alcoholism, drugs, or high emotions after a bad day have all been used to explain domestic violence. "We're constantly fighting that battle that something else causes domestic violence," Schultz said. "No, it doesn't. It's a person." She believes the stigma tied to domestic

violence is the biggest hurdle facing victims.

Accessibility is a priority for the WRC. Their 24-hour helpline provides a connection to immediate information or help, and their website explains available services. There is a button to call the helpline right on the homepage, and an "emergency exit" button that will take you from their website to Google news for victims whose abusers might be monitoring their internet usage. The services they provide are free of charge, confidential, and include everything from assistance with gas cards and creating safety plans, to helping fill out personal protection orders. More importantly to Schultz is that victims feel empowered. "When people come to us, it's not their best day," said Schultz. The goal is to welcome victims with kindness and understanding.

"Once the stigma is removed from domestic violence, and the community is educated about what it looks like, maybe we'll start seeing a decrease," Shultz said.

According to the National Coalition of Domestic Violence, some telltale signs of a potential abuser are cruelty to animals as well as abuse to other family members or children. Abusers might also exhibit control over the victim's finances, clothing choices, and work or school opportunities. They may even sabotage birth control methods or disrespect agreed-upon methods. This type of unpredictability is one of many behavioral flags. Domestic abuse is often noticed by onlookers when it becomes physically obvious, but when the abuse reaches that level, it's typically a sign that abuse has been going on for a while.

"That's how it works, it escalates," Shultz said. Many compare domestic abuse to a frog in a pot of water on a stove that doesn't sense danger until the water is boiling—and it's too late. Research indicates that people can suffer negative effects from violence in the media, according to "Media Violence: Opposing Viewpoints," a collection of essays edited by William Dudley. Consumers of violent media can learn aggressive attitudes and behaviors and become desensitized to real-world violence. "Societal norms, violent movies, video games, it all plays into the fact," Schultz said.

Outside of direct calls from victims or people in need of assistance, the WRC

receives calls from concerned friends and family members wanting to do something to help a loved one. The routine is simple for the WRC crew: offer information and resources that concerned friends and family can pass along to their loved ones.

WRC utilizes an empowerment-based philosophy for victims. This means waiting for individuals to come to them when they are ready and being ready to accept them and help when that time comes. WRC empowers abuse victims to change their own lives, break cycles and create healthy relationships, with their supportive resources. "Part of the WRC's mission is to educate and spread awareness in the community about domestic violence, what domestic violence is, and the resources WRC offers. "Domestic violence is about power and control," Schultz said. Whatever form the abuse takes, financial, emotional, sexual, psychological, or physical, the WRC is there to help.

As a part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, WRC is working with local businesses to raise funds. Some events include Plaidurday at Iron Fish Distilling on Oct. 7 from 7-9 p.m., and donation opportunities at The Filling Station on Oct. 13, and Taproot Cider House on Oct. 15. Find more events at www.womensresourcecenter.org/get-involved/events/.



Kathryn DePauw Copy Editor It's spooky season! The time when weather pushes us indoors and the Halloween holiday turns our thoughts to the supernatural. While most of us have our movie traditions firmly established, we all enjoy something new. Here are some suggestions that have a broad appeal while still being lesser known.

For the family: If you've seen Hocus Pocus and Hotel Transylvania a million times, maybe you'd appreciate a break (even if it's just for one night). "Something Wicked This Way Comes" (PG) might be a perfect way to change it up. Based on Ray Bradbury's novel of the same name, this 1983 Disney classic is due for a comeback. The movie is about a traveling carnival whose owner, Mr. Dark, played by the incredible Jonathan Price, grants wishes to local visitors. The movie is darker than a modern Disney picture, so keep that in mind if sharing with younger viewers.

For fun: While anime lovers have likely already seen the "Castlevania" anime series on Netflix, released in 2017, this show is for everyone. Well, maybe just adults, it is rated TV-MA. Based on the popular video game series, the show follows Trevor Belmont, the last of his renowned vampire-hunting family. He and his friends battle Dracula and his minions to save mankind in this four-season series. The story and animation are not to be missed. If you haven't seen it, put it on your watch list...and if you have, watch it again.

For the scaredy cats: Not everyone wants to discover what goes bump in the night or can tolerate the sight of gore. But luckily, Halloween isn't just about frights—it's about magic. "Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell" is the perfect mini-series for those looking to immerse themselves in a mystical world. The show, released in 2015, is based on the novel by Susanna Clarke, takes place in England during the Napoleonic Wars along an alternate timeline. In this version of history, magic is real but practicing magic is rare. The story focuses on two magicians, a studious practitioner and a naturally-gifted novice, who try to outdo one another to become the greatest magician in England.

For new movies: Whether you're new to the franchise or not, Hulu's "Hellraiser" (R) is worth a consideration. It's already topping lists and many consider it to be among the best new horror movies out this season. Another good choice is the new release "Fresh" (R). It's a survival horror film about a young woman sick of the digital dating scene who

falls for a man with extremely exotic tastes. If you're looking for something suspenseful, with a side of social commentary, this will suit you well.



SPONSORED CONTENT

Collaboration allows Ankerson to earn degree, job and stay in northern Michigan

Michele Coffill
Grand Valley State University

Through a collaboration between two community colleges, McKenzie Ankerson was able to stay in northern Michigan and earn a degree for the job she wanted.

Ankerson earned an associate degree in respiratory therapy from Muskegon Community College, which partnered with Northwestern Michigan College and Munson Medical Center to offer the program in Traverse City. Ankerson completed her general classes at NMC and the clinical courses at Munson.

"Doing the clinicals gave me an idea of what I wanted to do. We did job shadowing and rotated among all the hospital departments to learn how a respiratory therapist works in each area," she said.

Ankerson finished her associate degree in December 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic when the term "ventilator" became common vernacular. She was hired to work at Munson on the general hospital floors and this past January moved to the neonatal intensive care unit.

It's the same neonatal unit Ankerson and her twin brother spent time in when they were born 10 weeks early and stayed in the unit for six weeks before going home. "One of the nurses remembered our family," she said.

The graduate of Traverse City West High School said she excelled in math and science classes during

high school and entered NMC knowing she wanted to do something in the medical field. It was a family connection that led Ankerson to respiratory therapy.

"My grandpa used to need oxygen and I remember people coming to his house with new tanks and the care they showed him," she said.

As demonstrated at the height of the pandemic, there is a critical need for respiratory therapists. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a 23 percent increase in the occupation from 2020-2030.



McKenzie Ankerson at Munson Medical Center

As a busy health care professional working the third-shift, Grand Valley State University's Allied Health Science Professional Degree completion program (HDC) was a great fit for Ankerson. The program provided the necessary flexibility for her to continue working in the hospital, and use most of her Respiratory Therapy courses towards her bachelor's degree. This unique program allowed Ankerson to transfer up to 80 credits while completing 40 at GVSU to earn her degree. She expects to graduate in April.

"I wanted to get a bachelor's degree in case I want to change careers at some point," she said.

The hybrid class schedule allows for great flexibility, Ankerson said. "The faculty are great to work with," she said.

Health Professional Degree (AHS-HPD)

The Health Professional Degree (AHS-HPD) completion program is designed to provide a path for health care professionals who have an associate degree and want to earn a bachelor's degree. The AHS-HPD major is designed to complement health professionals' careers for advancement or preparation for entry into graduate health programs.

Social Dancing Groups Bring Life to Traverse City

Sara Bagley
Staff Writer

Traverse City is known for a lot of things, from cherries and high-quality wine to beautiful nature areas and beaches. Clinch Park, one of the most popular downtown beaches, welcomes local families and tourists alike, but every Sunday night Traverse City Swing Club calls it home.

Traverse City Swing Club, commonly known as TC Swing, is one of the area's main social dancing groups. Originally an NMC student group, it was founded in 2016 by Connor Cothran, a former aviation student. He began swing dancing in eighth grade. His mom encouraged him to join his sister's swing dancing group in their hometown in southern Michigan. It took two long years, but he soon became confident on the dance floor. Now, it's something he finds great joy in.

Much like Cothran, Gabe Bouwmeester, one of the current co-leaders of TC Swing, also felt a little nervous going in. "I thought it was one of the hardest things I'd done in my life," Bouwmeester confessed. "There was this mind-bending fear of 'how do I move my feet like this?' but once you get the hang of it, it's addicting."

There are many variations of swing dancing, but the closest style to TC Swing's groove is the Pensacola swing. It is a fast-paced and high-energy dance, revolving around a basic four-count step pattern. Dancers have the opportunity to learn and incorporate all kinds of tricks, from lifts to spins to dips. While it is a dance-centric group, TC Swing doesn't just exist for people to dance, it's a great place to find new friends. "It's the easiest way to connect in the world," said Bouwmeester. "The way you do it is holding hands and doing a dance. You can create friendships, learn a new skill, and be in an open, in-person environment."

Alongside TC Swing, there is another major social dancing group in the area. Some locals know it as iDance or Co-Creative, but the group is identified by the style of dance, the Mikyl Werth Method (MWM). Mikyl Werth, a former dance instructor at NMC, created a style of social partner dancing without an established leader or follower. Jon Vanhooose, a co-host of the Friday night groups at Bodies in Motion, has been involved with MWM for the last six years, ever since he was pulled into it by his now co-host and co-teacher Ashley Urbanus.

Vanhooose shared that he was "always one of those two-left-feet, no rhythm, no dancing" kind of people. Now, dance has become a passion for him. "[MWM] doesn't have the regiment of steps or certain moves. It's freestyle, free form."

Beyond dancing, the experience becomes an emotional affair. "Once you get into dancing, this style is so heavily focused on connection with your partner that it becomes a therapy," Vanhooose said. "You can appreciate people in a special way unique to them when you dance with them."

From connection and expression to the simple joy that dancing can bring, TC Swing Club and the Mikyl Werth Method group bring a new color to Traverse City. Dance groups create friendships and give members the opportunity to get out of their shells and find enjoyment and emotional fulfillment in movement. "It really is art," Cothran said. "It's an expression of yourself. You have people painting on canvases and you have people painting on concrete."



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