

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

WHITE PINE PRESS

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





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WHITE PINE PRESS

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Correction

In White Pine Press Volume XXXIII Issue 6, published on Dec. 6, 2016 and error ran in article "Faculty Raise Concerns over BarCharts." In paragraph eight, "80,000" should read "800,000."

NMC News

The NMC Magazine has just announced their theme for Spring 2017: DREAMS.

Every night, our mind runs amok, shaping visions and warping reality. It creates a new past, strange present, or unique future. Ideas grow exponentially and laugh at convention, materializing as the happiest times or the darkest nightmares. Then we wake up, and the illusion fades...

Email your questions or submissions by Feb. 24, 2017 to nmcmag@mail.nmc.edu

The Writing and Reading Center, located on the top floor of Scholar's Hall SH221, has expanded to offer more space for students. Over Christmas break, a storage closet was cleared out, expanding available space by about a third.

The Dennos Museum will host *The Art of: Dying – Changing the way we think and talk about the end of life* on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Golden Intentions will showcase local art, including live storytelling and collaborative art, with the intention of opening dialogue about death. Morsels will provide treats.

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Innovating NMC

21st Century Learning Center

Ann Hosler
Staff Writer

On January 6, NMC President Tim Nelson updated the campus community regarding the planning progress of a new “21st century learning space” called the West Hall Innovation Center. The 58,000 square foot building will include a new library, varied learning environments, and simulation spaces. The *White Pine Press* sat down with Vicki Cook, Vice President of Finance and Administration, and Marguerite Cotto, Vice President for Lifelong and Professional Learning, to delve into the administration’s vision for the Innovation Center.

Flexibility and Collaboration

Flexibility for classrooms and team projects is a major emphasis on the current planning. “Every time we’ve been imagining this facility, we try to look five years down the road,” Marguerite Cotto said. “What might students ask for [in five years] that we don’t have as much of, or don’t have the right configuration of? This idea of a very flexible space—assuming that some of the best work that students do isn’t limited to the classroom itself—it’s where the students gather to do work.”

“Over time, we’ve understood that learning does not end at the walls of a building,” she added. “It’s out in the community, it’s out as you’re engaging.” Cotto described that long-term projects, such as the annual Food for Thought drive by Kristy McDonald’s Professional Communications class, would ideally have dedicated spaces in the Innovation Center for students’ use for the duration of the project. Flexibility would also accommodate smaller-scale environments where a class may be connecting with students in other areas or countries. “We want to give people access to technology that’s not locked in a specific room or building,” Cotto said.

“Many of our student groups need space to conduct meetings and do group work,” Vicki Cook added. “We have groups that plan events and need space on a short-term basis. I do know that the space they are currently in does not accommodate many of the groups.” The administration will be seeking more feedback from individual groups soon to figure out their needs.

The Library

The library addition is separate from the Innovation Center—funded solely by the college—but it made sense to connect both projects. Ideally it will give students extended access to services they need. “When we talked about the renovation of West Hall, we said that if we connected the library here, too, we’d have [many] spaces for students with close proximity to food. We have food in the library now, but it’s limited,” Cook said. “So this would be one space, one building, utilized more on a 24/7 time frame.”

How much of the current Osterlin building would move to the new area is still in talks. What will fill the vacated space hasn’t been determined yet either, but a current idea—subject to change—include a centric locale for student support services. “It’d be more of a one-stop,” Cook explained. “Financial aid, advising... resources you would need to register for classes, get questions answered about your degree, [and] support services like tutoring.” The administration plans to speak with individual departments to determine if their services would be better centralized.

Retention Over Attraction

A lot of the Innovation Center discussion revolved around how current students may benefit, but would it be a place to attract new students to NMC as well? “I don’t think an innovation space is a magnet to attract students for the first time,” Cotto said. “But it might be a game-changer for keeping

students here through their second year.” The administration envisions spaces to fill time between classes, network, and build communities. “Some people may say, ‘Wow, this is a school that’s investing in its infrastructure,’ and that may be a good attractor, but I think more people will find [that] ‘I feel comfortable here, and I can do what I need to do to learn.’”

Emphasis on students coming together in groups appears to be the driving force behind the vision. “I think the goal is to enhance the educational experience. It also contributes to breaking down barriers to learning. By providing more space for students to collaborate—especially if many of our students live off-campus—this helps with their education experience,” added Diana Fairbanks, the Executive Director of Public Relations, Marketing, and Communications.

West Hall Accessibility

In the Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Outlay Project Request document submitted to the state, one project point was that upgrades to 52-year-old West Hall “would allow us to update the building based on emergency management protocol and today’s ADA requirements.” Along with replacing exterior windows, installing heating and cooling upgrades, and adding emergency notification systems to the building, other enhancements would include more accessibility options in the renovated space. “The state does not fund the cafeteria portion of the project, but our money would support a renovation of that space and make areas such as the salad bar handicap accessible,” Cook said. In addition, the document states that more “barrier-free restrooms” would be added to the main level as well.

Location, Proposals, and Funding

NMC has proposed the project to the state for seven years now, and over time its scope has changed. According to Cook, the first time the project was submitted it focused more on the healthcare program, but has since broadened. The state approved a planning grant this year. “Before, we were going to design the library then hope for a planning grant for West Hall. Now we can ... seamlessly incorporate the library into this project, even though they’re separate funding sources,” she

explained.

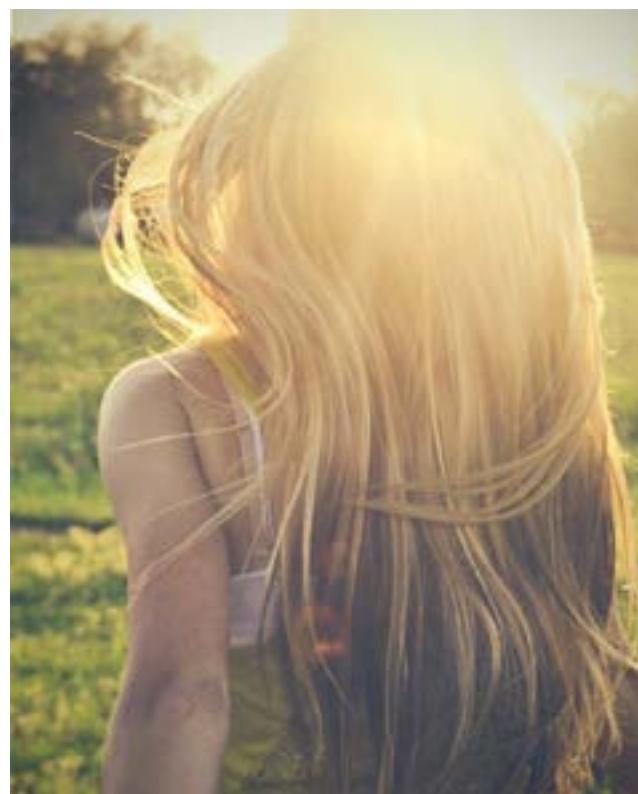
Funding is a joint effort between state and college, with a 50/50 split of the total cost. “Right now this project is—rounded [up] because it’s close—\$14.5 million,” Cook said. The NMC Foundation may reach out to potential interested donors or the college would use capital project reserves for its half.

Due to its central location and proximity to the dorms, West Hall was a logical choice for the Innovation Center. Students residing on campus will have a quiet, convenient place to study, while those who commute have somewhere to hang out between classes. West Hall will transform with both a renovation and an addition. “The new library is a separate project, so really we’re talking about an addition to West Hall, renovation of West Hall, and then another new building for the library [sic],” Cook said. “We don’t have the complete design yet—that’s part of what Stantec’s job is going to be.”

NMC must submit a schematic design to the state to obtain a construction grant, which is where Berkley, MI based architectural firm Stantec comes in. “What we were looking for was that unique approach to how they gather information and draw out from people some innovative ideas. We felt that [Stantec] presented itself as that firm,” Cook explained.

The campus community letter discussed a team structure for receiving input this February that would influence the Innovation Center design. The teams include administration, various faculty that are experienced with similar environments or have constraints with their current learning environments, employees that can identify faculty and other employee needs, employees that work closely with students, and eventually a mix of on- and off-campus student residents.

Nelson’s letter expresses hope that construction will begin later this year or in early 2018, but the construction grant will influence when groundbreaking occurs. The college aims to have the schematic design completed and sent off to the state by the end of April. It could potentially be attached to June’s budget bill, but it’s too early to currently know that for certain. “That [part] is driven by politics,” Cook said. “We will talk with our representatives, [who] were very helpful in getting us this planning grant. We’re thankful for their work.”



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Greatness In Education

The Legacy of John Ort

Maya James
Staff Writer

Think back to Jim Crow. Let me know when you're there.

A man sits alone in a waiting room dressed in a black suit and blue tie, waiting to address the Michigan Education Association. His speech on behalf of black Michiganders would influence their representation for decades to come. The stress seeps in his heavy hands clasped tightly in his lap, running over a speech silently like the constant ticking of a clock. This man awaits acknowledgement. Occasionally someone peers inside the room, looking concerned, as though a siren is going off but they cannot quite point out the source. Silence is deafening and the man is displaced. After all, he is colored.

The door bursts open along with the unraveling of the warmest smile in Livonia, white skin kissing a portion of worry from the man's head. A large man with a booming voice preoccupies him with visions of social justice and equal treatment—rightful advancements for all students and teachers no matter what class, gender, or race. He is John Ort, greeting the mighty Martin Luther King Jr.

Small towns may not always yield big thinking, but do give way to big thinkers. John Ort wasn't a typical product of Bad Axe, Michigan. He inspired students, musicians,

teachers, and civil rights leaders to be better and brighter. He was the president of the Michigan Education Association as well as my grand-uncle, mentor, and friend. I could not be more proud of the legacy he left our family.

In 1971, Uncle John took part in one of the most important decisions in Michigan's education history. A coalition of educational leaders in the state assembled to present Senator Walter Mondale (D-Minn.) the benefits of equal education opportunity. Should black students receive the same type of education as white students in Michigan? Should poor people be given the same resources as wealthy suburban students?

"In the high schools we still have white and black history [separated]," boomed my uncle's address to Mondale, "since it happened at the same time, it might be well to present it together."

John Ort passed away on December 28, 2016. He was an indelible force on our community and will be missed dearly. A born storyteller, and spiritual guide within advocacy, education, and brotherhood, this man would tell a story that made one believe they not only mattered, but had something to offer the world. No matter your dreams or background, John Ort believes in you.

Stephen Siciliano Returns to the Classroom

Deanna Luton
Staff Writer

Stephen Siciliano, NMC's Vice President for Educational Services, is returning to his role as a History instructor. This semester he revived an American Civil War class. "When I noticed that the course had not been taught in a number of years, I thought there would be student interest," Siciliano said. "I was glad that the class needed to be over-enrolled."

Adding diversity to the course catalog, Siciliano brings a passion for history and higher education. He believes history still plays a pivotal role. "I hope students will learn why our nation was pulled apart and how a new nation was formed from the conflict. The American Civil War is still influencing our lives today."

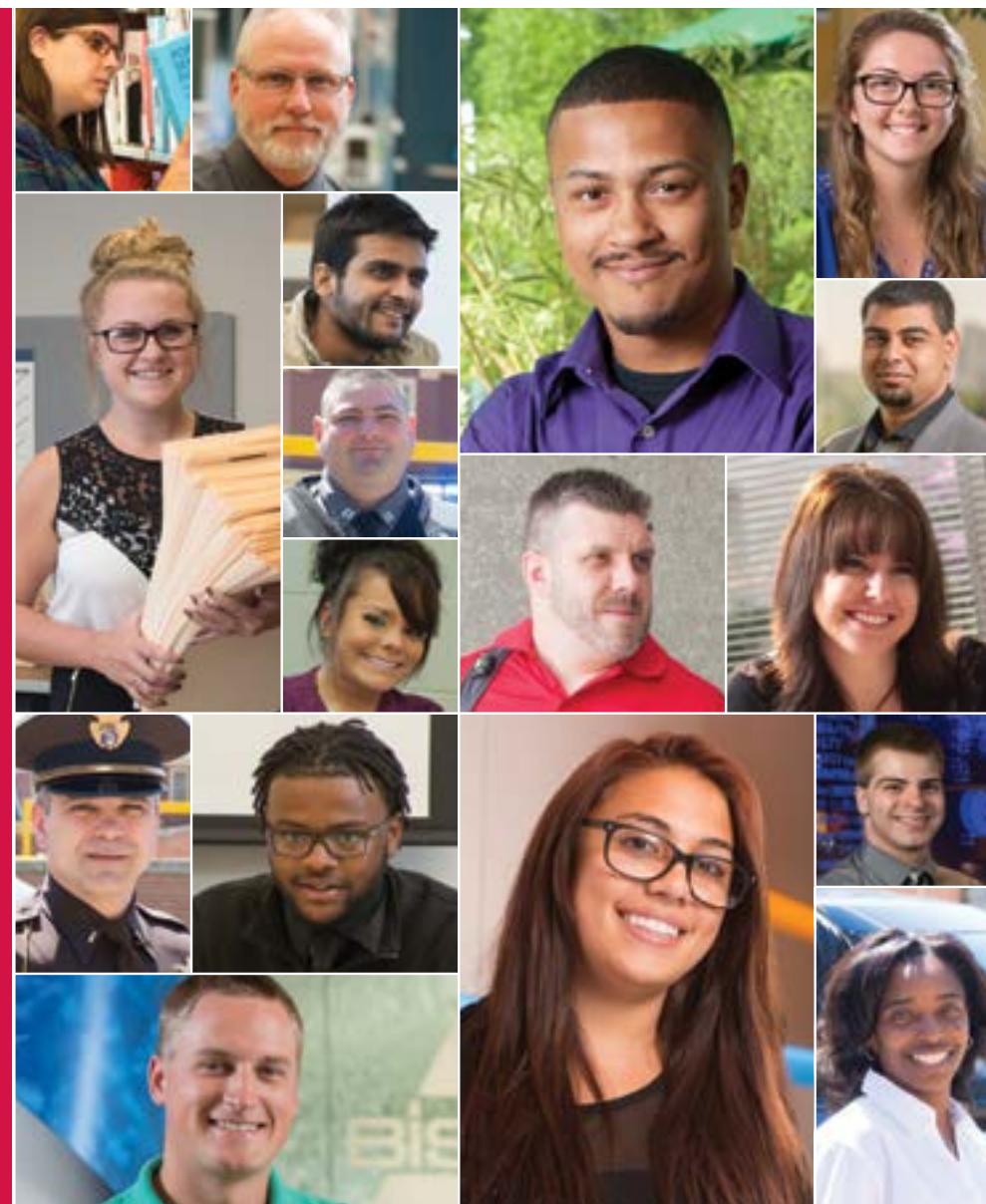
As Vice President of Educational Services, Siciliano "serves as the chief academic officer of the college and [is] responsible for the facilitation of all services to students." It is his responsibility to ensure NMC "meets the strategic directions and institutional effectiveness criteria goals of the college within the framework of the college's values." Siciliano also monitors NMC's educational services outcome achievements and provides leadership for continual improvement. He also serves on various NMC governance councils.

Siciliano is not new to working two positions. He once served as Humanities Division Director while being a Humanities instructor. Over the years, he's been directly involved in cultivating curriculum. "I taught several different classes in History. At NMC, I developed and taught the Native American History, American Women's History, and American Civil War courses, and taught ... existing History curriculum that professors Walter Beardslee and David Terrell had developed."

Siciliano is excited to deviate from his current role, where he primarily interacts with staff and faculty, to once again collaborate with students.

Preparing after such a long hiatus has been a challenging but rewarding experience for Siciliano. He's adapted to many changes and innovations that took place over the past 20 years. Faculty have been helpful with his transition introducing him to the technology laden world of learning.

When asked what advice he would give to NMC's students who may be balancing multiple jobs or responsibilities, Siciliano hesitated to make generalizations. "For me, I have had to carefully manage my time and thoughtfully plan my day to balance my various responsibilities," he said. "If there seems to be one constant it is that tasks take longer than one hopes. The key is to enjoy the work. The community at NMC makes that an easy task!"



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FEATURE

Alumni Spotlight: Mike O'Keefe

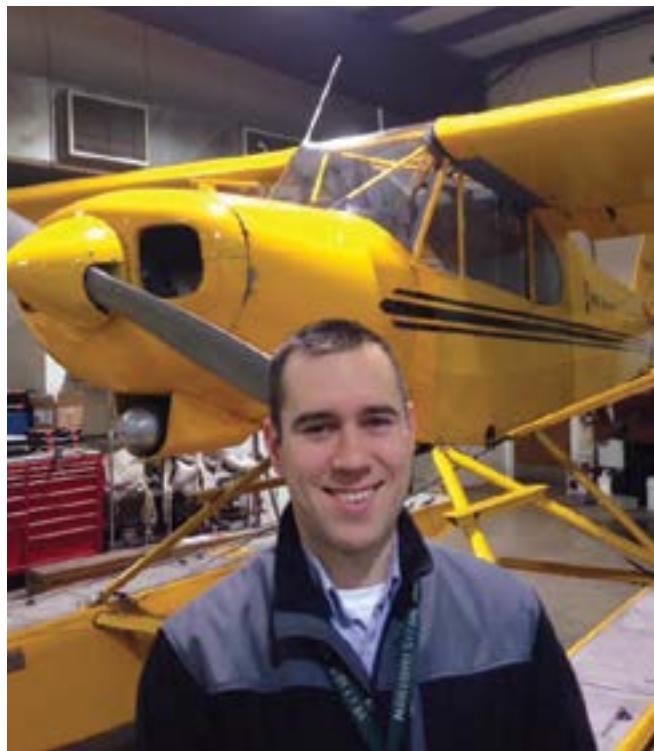


Photo courtesy of Mike O'Keefe

Deanna Luton
Staff Writer

Mike O'Keefe fondly remembers the family-like atmosphere of NMC's flight school from when he was a student. As a child, he was introduced to the city when his family vacationed here. Familiarity with small towns is what attracted him to Traverse City.

As a student, O'Keefe quickly fit in with his fellow classmates and instructors very well. "I felt privileged that I could fly in such a beautiful place and have the highly experienced instructors that I did—a former Navy test pilot, for example." O'Keefe's love for NMC clearly didn't stop when he left the classroom. He is not just a flight school alumni: he is currently the Chief Flight Instructor for our aviation department.

O'Keefe's most loved attribute of NMC is its character. A lover of northern Michigan, the small school nestled in nature was a perfect fit for him. Being surrounded by students who shared his passion for aviation made it all the better. As with most small institutions, O'Keefe received important one-on-one instruction NMC Aviation has to offer and felt valued as an individual instead of just another number.

Now O'Keefe's job as Chief Flight Instructor makes him responsible for managing the adjunct flight instructor staff, reporting to the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration), responsible for the safety of civil aviation, and organizing

flight curriculum. When asked how NMC prepared him for his career, he explained that having the opportunity to earn a two-year Associate degree in flying and a four-year Bachelor's degree in business opened many doors for him. It put him in the position where he could fill any pilot/manager role. "I love flying, but I also enjoy working with people and making decisions that allow a project to succeed," O'Keefe said. "At the foundation of this is NMC's commitment to 'lifelong learning,' which has resonated with me during my time as the Chief Flight Instructor."

O'Keefe gained many important skills and traits while attending NMC. The courses he took gave him "confidence, supported by wisdom and experience." NMC Aviation provided him with exposure to diverse flying experiences that allowed him to utilize classroom knowledge in real world situations, preparing him for his current job.

When asked what advice O'Keefe would have for NMC's student body, he replied: "Make every moment in your training count and don't fear failure. Failure is a means to growth and growth leads to success in any endeavor. Own your experience, good and bad. Be persistent." In the famous words of Babe Ruth, never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.

Food for Fines

How Parking Tickets Can Help Our Homeless

Laureen Horan
Staff Writer

NMC student Kelsea Cole had finished a long study session at Brew in downtown Traverse City when she came out to her car and noticed a ticket. Her time on the meter had just run out, and she was now slapped with a \$10 parking ticket. She panicked.

For most people, \$10 is no big deal. For the working college student, \$10 can make or break you until you get your next check. It's no secret that the local economy is not designed for lower-middle class individuals. Prices of homes and apartments are sky high, utilities and laundry facilities are almost always separate, and gas prices hurt, too. Grand Traverse County has an estimated homeless population of 600, according to Ryan Hannon, Street Outreach Coordinator at Goodwill. With a population of 15,000 for the area, that's a homelessness rate of 4%.

What does this have to do with parking tickets? Well, perhaps the community can support the homeless every time a parking ticket is paid. Kelsea Cole had just that idea.

"I heard about a Food for Fines program in Lexington, KY," recalled Cole. "During the holiday season, 10 cans will waive a \$15 parking ticket. They raised about 6,200 items this past season, but I know Traverse City could do better."

Lexington isn't the only U.S. city to implement this program. The city of Albany, NY introduced a similar program for the holiday season where they were willing to waive ticket late fees, but food donations were strongly encouraged. This program collected enough donations for 5,000 meals, according to the city treasurer. Tampa, FL also launched the program in November 2016 and collected over 2,000 food donations during the holiday season.

After seeing the program's success in these cities, Cole took her proposal to the Traverse City Parking Committee and Mayor Jim Carruthers. The TC Parking Committee replied

to Cole's initial email, basically stating that this idea has been proposed several times and shot down several times for a "list of reasons," but those reasons were not specified.

If a city as big as Albany can adopt this program in the winter months, surely Traverse City is capable, too.

Mayor Carruthers called the idea commendable and forwarded the email to Rob Bacigalupi, TC's Director of Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Bacigalupi replied, stating that their reason for not adopting the program is so they can focus on providing more transportation options for town income employees to get to and from work.

Though the transportation issue does deserve adequate attention and resources, implementing the Food for Fines program just during the holiday months is likely to fill empty food pantries.

"I'm working on a pitch to bring to the next committee meeting. I'm reaching out to Father Fred and Goodwill Inn to seek their support for my proposal and hopefully they'll share my efforts across their social media pages," said Cole. "I also am going to connect with the parking committee in Lexington, KY and figure out exactly how their system works so we might be able to adopt their program."

Cole created a petition on change.org that has already surpassed her signature goal.

She has also contacted a downtown business owner who is willing to match the first 100 cans donated. This person has several connections with other downtown business owners who might be willing to join in, as it's common for people who work downtown to get parking tickets.

"I think a lot of millennials are in support of this because we are the ones who struggle most in this town and work the minimum wage jobs," said Cole. "I think sharing this on social media is a huge step because it will make people aware of this initiative and show the city that I have a lot of support

and local residents backing me on this."

To support this proposal, join Cole at the Traverse City Commission meeting on February 6 at 7 p.m. in the Governmental Center at 400 Boardman Ave, Traverse City. To sign the petition, visit change.org/p/parking-and-access-committee-food-for-fines-in-tc.





Women's March Traverse City

We Are Watching

Breanne Russell
Editor in Chief

The Women's March will go down as the largest single-day protest in United States history. An estimated three million people marched in cities across the nation on Sat. Jan. 21, the day after president Trump's inauguration—not including those who marched in cities around the globe.

With almost immediate momentum, it was a movement that needed little encouragement. Days after the Nov. election, news of the planned march in Washington D.C. spread through social media like wildfire. Soon after, local organizers began chartering buses, rallying locals, making signs, and knitting pink “pussy hats.”

But those who could not afford to go—whether time-wise or financially—decided to march in support on their own city streets. In Traverse City, Kathy Dawkins and Monica Evans organized the local Women's March. By Friday, Jan. 20, around 700 people were expected to attend.

“We got here and I looked around and people just kept coming and coming,” Dawkins told the *Record-Eagle* about Saturday’s event. The expected 700 had exploded to, by some estimates, 3000. The largest protest in Traverse City to date, it took almost an hour and a half for the entire crowd to walk up and down Front St., at one point overflowing onto Cass Street and blocking traffic. As the event came to an end, local police setup road blocks to allow protestors to safety gather for a post-march rally.

In its infancy, some criticized the Women's March for being exclusive and unsympathetic to women of color. Originally it was titled the Million Women March, which was already a 1997 protest march organized by human rights advocate and Black Nationalist Phile Chionesu, and drew between 300,000 and one million protesting for the self-determination of African-American women. However, after redistributing lead roles in the organization and releasing a detailed mission statement and vision in the weeks leading up to the event, the Women's March seemed to embrace all those who wish to fight for equality.

Traverse City Mayor Jim Carruthers could not be more excited

at the turnout, both locally and nationally. “The love I felt at the peaceful TC Women's March was incredible. Seeing the many photos from all across the country and the tens of thousands, if not millions of people gathering in solidarity for women, human rights, our environment, and immigrants is powerful. I'm proud to be the mayor of a town filled with wonderful people who share values for supporting our citizens locally, nationally, and worldwide.”

Some, however, could not attend. University Center student Mikela Wilson was stuck at work during the protest, but was still affected by the event. “I am just so proud. I think that each of us can feel hopeless from time to time, but when we bring all of our voices and experiences together it reminds us that we aren't alone and hope can be redeemed. This is only the beginning; we have to continue standing up. We may not always make the impact that we want, but we make an impact, nonetheless. And the march has proved that.”

The fight for those involved is not over. On the Women's March website, a new oath reads: “Our march forward does not end here. Now is the time to get our friends, family and community together and MAKE HISTORY.” Their “10 Actions/100 Days” campaign is an activist laundry list of to-do's.

The Indivisible Guide, available for download online, is “practical guide for resisting the Trump agenda.” The 26-page handbook gives detailed actions on how citizens can get “Congress to listen to a small, vocal, dedicated group of constituents.” They've formatted their activism on that of the small, but influential, Tea Party.

MoveOn.org, launched in 1998, is a digitally connected advocacy group who focuses on “rapid response political campaigning.” On their website activists can find petitions to sign, videos to watch, rallies to join, and local movements.

The mantra now is resistance, not only protest. So put down the pink pussy hats and signs, and get to work.





SA 4 ACLU Freedom Ain't Free Benefit Show

Breanne Russell

Editor in Chief

For many, the days following the 2016 presidential election was fraught with disappointment, anger, hopelessness, and contention. Social media became a battleground between those for and against Trump. Comment sections turned into graveyards for exhausted debate casualties.

While some opted to cancel their Facebook, NMC Audio Tech student T.J. Hall took a different approach. "I wanted to do something positive, something that could actually make a difference—or at least have the potential to be positive." So with the help of Studio Anatomy's owner Brian Chamberlain, as well as local musician and NMC instructor James Marinelli, Hall began brainstorming a fundraising event: Chamberlain would supply the venue, Marinelli would help with promotion, and Hall would run the show.

The first step was to choose a non-profit to raise money for—one that everyone could support regardless of political loyalties. Chamberlain believes that as a business owner it is important to be inclusive. "I would never refuse to work with a band, or not let someone attend a show based on their beliefs." Hall got the idea of supporting the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) after speaking with his girlfriend's father. When he asked the others what they thought, they answered with a resounding "yes."

The ACLU is often regarded as a liberal entity. However, they define themselves as a non-partisan organization in place to defend the rights of all citizens guaranteed by the United States Constitution, and have tried cases criticized by both right and left sides of the political spectrum. For instance, they have represented the Ku Klux Klan, North American Man/Boy Love Association, and the Westboro Baptist Church.

They have also supported Roe v. Wade, same sex marriages, anti-war activists, and the Miranda rights. Most recently, the ACLU has filed a Freedom of Information Act for documents relating to President Trump's conflicts of interest.

For Marinelli, the ACLU was a perfect choice. "I've

always wanted to do something for [or] with the ACLU, simply because they're such a storied organization; after all, they've been going strong since 1920, and have had a hand in defending the civil liberties of an uncountable number of Americans."

A fundraiser, however, is nonexistent without entertainment. Hall, Chamberlain, and Marinelli quickly put together a five band line-up—including their own bands: Parking Lots, Fuzzbuster, and J. Marinelli—that will play from 7pm to midnight on Saturday, Jan. 28. Local bands Goats of Death and Mellow Out will also join them, along with raffle prizes from local businesses including Morsels, TC Guitar Co., Acorn Tattoo, The Camera Shop, 2nd Level Goods, RPM Records, Blue Heart Tattoo, Falling Down Stairs Production, and free cut and color from Hair Code salon. SA 4 ACLU is a show for all ages, and is an alcohol and drug free environment. Though a suggested donation of \$10 is asked for admittance, no one will be turned away.

Marinelli views the show as something of a milestone for Traverse City. "It's a glittering diamond of excitement and energy in a stagnant swamp, teeming with (mostly) white dudes playing three hours of covers. I'm much more excited at the prospect of bands playing original, challenging music for a cause that I can get behind. More importantly—potentially, this gig could be a catalyst for similar ones down the road. I'm excited to see where this leads us, as a community, music scene, or whatever you'd want to call us."

More information can be found at Studio Anatomy's website: studioanatomy.com. For information about the American Civil Liberties Union, visit aclu.org.



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FEATURE

A Hidden Gem: NMC's Dance Program

Sethe Zachman

Staff Writer

Tucked away in the Physical Education building is a small and cozy dance studio—the home of our school's dance program that has been silently but strongly operating for decades. For 22 years, Dorothy Eisenstein has instructed two dance courses a semester, each requiring four hours of dance exploration a week and yielding two Humanities credits. Despite the dance department's longstanding and distinct opportunities, its existence remains widely unknown to NMC students.

Looking into the future, Eisenstein hopes the dance department gets more exposure, and that students are willing to experience the mental and physical benefits of dance. Equipped with a Master's degree in the Fine Arts, Eisenstein specializes in modern dance, moving away from the rigidness of traditional dance and encouraging individual creativity and expression along with proper technique.

Eisenstein has taught not only at NMC, but also downstate at a Detroit area charter school and at Eastern Michigan University. In addition, she also worked as a professional dancer, performing in cities such as Detroit, New York, and Ontario. Her personal experience as a performer and her academic mastery allows her to actively connect with her students while also educating them.

Although students watch videos, read texts, and learn the history of dance, Eisenstein explains that she is more interested in personal development. "I am more concerned about the creative process. Quizzes make up a small component," she says. Unlike many instructors or traditional dance studios, Eisenstein does not lead the class completely. The students are able to create their own moves and give modern dance a personalized twist. This inspires creativity from the students and provides a way for unique self-expression.

One student particularly moved by Eisenstein and the dance courses offered is Jordyn Marsh, currently in her fourth semester of dance at NMC. Previously a law enforcement major, she signed up for "Modern Dance 1" simply to fill up her schedule two years ago with no prior dance experience. However, Marsh was deeply impacted by the course, noting its physical and intellectual benefits, but even more so emphasizing its positive influence on mental health. "Dance is a very good outlet. College is stressful in and of itself. Students look forward to coming in here because it's a time to release tension and stress. It is healing," she says.

Marsh, referring to NMC's dance department as "a hidden gem," comes to campus twice a week specifically for dance class, having finished all other courses here. "As long as Dorothy is here, I'm here... I fell in love with [dance] and am not ready to give it up." Jordyn's major is no longer law enforcement, but dance therapy. Providing an alternative way to learn and receive mandatory school credits, Eisenstein's dance courses present a unique opportunity to step out of one's comfort zone and explore performance art in a welcoming environment.



Dance instructor Dorothy Eisenstein poses with NMC dancers during their Fall 2016 performance. Dancers from top left, clockwise: Laura Lee Porritt, Leanza Curtiss, Jordyn Marsh and Ciera Dean.



Photos courtesy of the NMC Dance Department

The NMC modern dance class will have two performances at Milliken Auditorium this spring: Music and Dance Convocation, April 21 at 1 p.m. and NMC Spring Dance Concert, Apr. 23 at 7 p.m.

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Wed., Feb. 15
6-9 pm

Beginning Bread
Making
Wed., Mar. 1
6-9 pm

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An Orbit for Change

Zack Harrington

Staff Writer

Another year, another celebration,

another splash of reality where we keep forgetting to write the date correctly (it's okay, everyone does it). New things creep or crash into our lives daily, but considering we have one day a year to commemorate how those things changed us while optimistically gazing toward the future, it's important to know why—on this day specifically, when others could hold similar contemplations—we make an official declaration of our goal to improve.

Centuries of debate have shaped society's definition of time, creating calendars to correlate with when certain cosmological events would take place. Lunar cycles, earthly rotations, and solar orbits—none of which fall neatly onto any timepiece—have more than one form of measurement. The most widely used international calendar, the Gregorian, was introduced in 1582, and was responsible for cementing Jan. 1 as New Year's Day. The Julian calendar, predecessor to the Gregorian, had March 25 as the "legal" New Year and shortened the entire year by 10 minutes, 48 seconds.

Many cultures host their New Year's Day on entirely different dates. The popular Chinese New Year falls between Jan. 20 and Feb. 20, depending on the first day of the lunar calendar, and is adjusted annually. A few cultures in Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and India reset their calendars near April 14, also correlating with the lunar calendar or for various religious holidays. The Persian New Year is especially fine-tuned, as the first day of spring marks the first day of the Iranian calendar, usually March 21, but doesn't begin until the moment the sun crosses the celestial equator and balances day and night.

Apart from when the New Year is celebrated, how it is celebrated is also unique to every culture. Many Americans spend New Year's Eve listening to Auld Lang Syne by Guy Lombardo and The Royal Canadians, watching the six ton ball drop in New York City's Times Square, and shouting "Happy New Year" while kissing and spraying champagne as the clocks strike midnight. Some devoutly enjoy attending church in honor of their religious customs.

In Spain, Portugal, and other Hispanic countries, the tradition of eating 12 grapes or raisins within the first 12 seconds of the New Year grants the partaker up to 12 wishes, one for each month. In many countries that



had at one time comprised the Soviet Union, the holiday includes New Year's trees, whose decorations are basically identical to Christmas trees. This started during the Soviet Era in order to create enjoyable customs reminiscent of Christmas while distancing religious roots. In Ecuador, men dress purposefully and satirically as an ugly woman, stop nearby cars to do a "sexy" dance, then demand a toll, all to express how the "widow" of the old year has passed.

Many customs transcend cultures. Champagne is drunk and sprayed, a tradition rooted in sampling wine of the past year's vintage, anthems or clock tower bells are played physically or over the radio for the public to enjoy, and fireworks are often ignited in a grand finale.

Perhaps the least common tradition are New Year's resolutions. Almost entirely an American custom, resolutions are personal goals set to be achieved before the next year. While common and sometimes cheap, they are a noble concept of self-improvement worth celebrating. Did you ring in the New Year? How and when will you ring in the next?

In 2017, I resolve...

"To do my homework before it's due."

— Eric Ochoa

"To be a better listener." — Alexis Steik

"To lead a more organized lifestyle."

— Tom Clarke

"To never make another resolution."

— David Hosler

"To improve my habits and health during this year, and every year after! I'm also determined to finish my Bachelor's degree."

— Laureen Horan

"To make more of an effort to network with various people and organizations related to my major." — Jamie Robinson

"To be an all around better person, grow stronger in my faith, and try to be successful in my career—mainly by getting my book published." — Lyric Pawloski

"To develop some sturdier discipline in my writing career, in my health, and in my spirituality. And watch all of Alfred Hitchcock's movies." — Liam Strong

"To stop longing for what could, and to embrace what is." — Breanne Russell

Cuddles for Hire

Sam Gorcyca

Staff Writer

In this day and age most things can be ordered online, from pizza to escort services. What is apparent is that our culture is not only fixated on money, but also on immediate gratification for both everyday and unusual services. Not many people are familiar with these strange services, so here are eight of the oddest sites I could find.

Rentafriend.com

"Friends from around the world available to hire." What a catchy tagline! Rentafriend.com, a service that offers to send a "friend" to teach you a new skill, show you are around a city, or laugh at your lame jokes, has been featured on CNN, ABC, and other major news outlets. Starting at \$10 an hour (after the \$24.95 sign-up fee) you can rent your very own friend. While this may seem pretty affordable, it turns out the "friend" gets to set their own price.

Professional Cuddlers

Vaguely similar to an escort-style service, professional cuddlers' prices vary depending on the type of "cuddler" you want—and whether you inner or outer spoon. The consumer is literally purchasing someone to come over and cuddle with them. For how long is up to your wallet. Cuddling, or therapeutic touch, can offer health benefits and reduce depression, anxiety, or stress. Sites such as thesnugglebuddies.com advertise that "Many people do not get the amount of human touch they want or need on a daily basis, and a professional snuggling service is the solution. Our experienced cuddlers will soothe your mind, body, and soul to blissful relaxation."

Breakupshop.com

Too shy or scared to dump someone? Breakupshop.com is ready with break-up services ranging from \$10, for a simple text to \$80 for a full break-up package delivered to their door. Sound pretty great? Guess it depends on what the dumpie deserves. Being in a relationship with someone is about trust and building honesty, so it is kind of impersonal to hire a service to do your dirty work.

FamousForADay.com

Ever wondered what it would feel like to have the paparazzi tailing you all day? Well say no more. Sites like famousforaday.com will provide you with just that. Packages vary but this service hires people to stalk you, take pictures, supply you with your own bodyguard, even send a limousine!

Poopsenders.com

For roughly \$24, this service will mail one quart of cow dung to the doorstep of someone who deserves it—all anonymously. Kick it up a notch and for \$55 they will mail a GALLON of cow dung, gorilla poop, and elephant feces.

ShipYourEnemyGlitter.com

Glitter bombs are a thing, and an Australian company will ship them, along with a variety of other pranks, to your enemies. Though prices are expensive with shipping, the anonymous service will supply a spectacular prank! Bag of dick gummies available for ages 18 and up!

Ann Hosler
Staff Writer

Slow Cooker Ranch Pork Chops

There are many days that I'm away at the college for hours but still need a dinner plan, and that's where my beloved crockpot shines. This slow cooker recipe is great to toss in before heading off to class or a short work shift. Heat up some veggies, potatoes, or biscuits and you got yourself an easy, cheap, and tasty meal. If you're not cooking for a family, count on enjoying leftovers the following day.

Ingredients

- 4–6 thawed, boneless pork chops (1/2" thick)
- 2 cans cream of broccoli soup (10 oz ea)
- 1 packet ranch seasoning dry mix
- dried or fresh parsley (optional)

Directions

1. Place pork chops in the bottom of crockpot
2. Pour the soups over chops; coat with ranch seasoning packet
3. Cook on low for 4–6 hours or on high for 3–5 hours
(varies slightly by crockpot)
4. Carefully flip chops halfway through cook time
5. Add a light dusting of parsley (optional)
6. Serve each pork chop with extra sauce from the crockpot



Notes

- * Don't eat undercooked pork! The chops should reach an internal temperature of 145°F - 160°F.
- * Don't like the broccoli soup? Substitute with either cream of chicken or cream of mushroom.
- * Don't have a slow cooker? Pork chops can be baked inside an oven-safe baking dish for 60 minutes at 350°F (turn halfway through).

TROPICAL SUNRISE COMIX PRESENTS...

"AND THAT'S HOW WIZARDS ARE BORN"

• STORY BY JOE CURTIS
• ART BY BEN BRADSHAW



B.B.
-267-

T.C. to Implement 100% Renewable Energy by 2020

James Robinson

Staff Writer

We use energy for many different things: charging our household appliances and electronic devices, heating and lighting our homes and businesses, fueling our means of transportation, and powering our industrial processes. While many sources are used to generate this energy, the most widely used are fossil fuels: coal, oil, and natural gas. According to the National Academy of Sciences, fossil fuels provided about 81% of the energy used in the United States in 2015. Because fossil fuels are a nonrenewable resource, our dependence on them must decline as supplies diminish and their effects on our planet grow more severe.

Traverse City recently made national headlines for taking a major step in transitioning from fossil fuels to cleaner, renewable forms of energy. On Dec. 21, the Traverse City Commission pledged to power all city operations with 100% renewable energy by 2020. In the next three years, the electrical needs of the city—which accounts for 3–4% of the total electricity use in the Traverse City area—are expected to be met using energy sources such as wind, solar, geothermal, and landfill gas. “Renewable energy is the right direction for our city,” said Mayor Jim Carruthers in the statement issued by the Traverse City Commission. “Traverse City is nationally known for being a great place to live and visit because of our thriving downtown and our amazing natural resources. Setting forward-looking renewable energy goals matches with our reputation as a leading green city in Michigan and in the nation.”

The initial idea for a 100% renewable energy goal was brought to the city’s attention by a group of community members and organizations, including Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities, Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council, Citizens Climate Lobby, and Michigan Environmental Council. Now that the resolution has passed, a “Green Team” of city officials and other community representatives will identify ways to meet this goal. According to Groundworks Clean Energy Policy Specialist Dan Worth, “Much of the work will be in energy efficiency, where dollars invested have better returns and pay back more quickly. The city will likely start with efficiency to see how much of their electricity use they can reduce, then look at how much renewables they need to meet the rest.”

The city faces challenges with accomplishing this goal, such as the initial costs of implementing renewable energy and the detailed planning needed to incorporate renewables into the city’s energy infrastructure. There are many potential benefits, including “increased visibility as an environmental leader, attracting innovative forward-thinking businesses, retaining young folks who want jobs in the new energy industry, and reducing exposure to the volatility of energy costs.”

Northwestern Michigan College is no stranger to renewable energy. According to Program Coordinator Dan Goodchild, “The Aero Park Laboratories, Parsons-Stulen Building, and University Center all have some form of renewable energy system integrated into the building. Aero Park Laboratories uses a 3.6KW solar array, Parsons-Stulen has an 8KW solar array and uses a solar thermal system mounted to the south side of the building for hot water, and the University Center has a small wind generator, about 600W.”

The college also offers professional certificates and two

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-Mayor Jim Carruthers

Associate of Applied Science degrees in Renewable Energy Technology: Electrical and HVAC. Electrical focuses on how to harness wind and solar-generated electricity and its use by residential consumers and utilities. Meanwhile, HVAC emphasizes the use of solar and geothermal energy production in heating and cooling in residential applications. Goodchild says the motive for creating these programs “was to be on the leading edge of bringing renewable energy training to the area and beating the lag for knowledgeable workers for an anticipated workload demand.” Growth has been cautious, which has led to relatively small course enrollment. Goodchild sees these degree programs being downgraded to certificate programs only. “The plan is to offer a renewable energy certificate to an interested student in an Electrical or HVAC AAS degree program to supplement their skills and provide them with a slight edge in the job interview process.”

Are you interested in learning more about renewable energy? Are you considering installing some in your home or business? The Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association (2glrea.org), Michigan Saves (michigansaves.org), and National Academy of Sciences (needtoknow.nas.edu/energy) offer plentiful resources. The Groundwork Center offers a solar energy program called Groundwork Shines, which helps homeowners invest in rooftop solar systems. The Groundwork Center is also currently planning a two-day event (June 23–24, 2017) in conjunction with the GLREA’s Annual Michigan Energy Fair. Interested parties can also contact their local installers and the utilities, such as Traverse City Light and Power, Cherryland Electric Cooperative, and Consumers Energy. The future looks bright for renewable energy in Traverse City.

U.S. CITIES TARGETING 100% RENEWABLE STATUS			
City	State	Population	Projected Year
Greensburg	KS	735	2013 ✓
Burlington	VT	42,000	2014 ✓
Aspen	CO	6,600	2015 ✓
Georgetown	TX	54,000	2017
Traverse City	MI	15,000	2020
East Hampton	NY	21,500	2020
Grand Rapids	MI	192,000	2020
San Jose	CA	960,000	2022
San Francisco	CA	864,000	2030
Rochester	MN	100,000	2031
San Diego	CA	1,370,000	2035



NMC windmill outside of the University Center.