

# WHITE PINE PRESS

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



## Sit & Relax... Fall in Traverse City



Photo by Adam Crocker

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE

# WHITE PINE PRESS

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## News-in-Brief

### Letter to the Editors

Dear NMC Students:

I would like to invite each of you to take part in the very important process of selecting one of our faculty members to receive the Imogene Wise Faculty Excellence award, and one of our adjunct faculty members to receive the NMC Adjunct Faculty Excellence award.

In recognition of NMC's commitment to celebrating excellence in teaching and learning, two of our faculty members are chosen each year by NMC students to receive these prestigious awards. Each of you can nominate faculty members who demonstrate teaching excellence at NMC – see link below:

[bit.ly/2hxt4U](http://bit.ly/2hxt4U)

Please consider nominating more than one faculty member for these awards. Faculty are truly honored to be nominated and to receive these annual awards. I look forward to commencement in May when the 2017-2018 award recipients will be announced.

Sincerely,

Stephen Siciliano  
Vice President for Educational Services

Nominations are due by Dec. 15.

### Correction

In the Oct. 20 issue of *WPP*, in the article "Columbus Controversy Offers Chance to Educate" on page 12, the name of the NMC instructor currently updating the OER history book is Mindy Morton, not Mindy Moore.

## Non-Discrimination Policy Notice

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# The Flow of Innovation

**Ann Hosler**  
Staff Writer

Northwestern Michigan College announced on June 22 that it had received final funding approval in the state's 2018 Omnibus Budget to begin construction on the West Hall Innovation Center. Groundbreaking on the project isn't anticipated to occur until May 2018, but over the past year the college has worked with Michigan-based architectural firm Stantec on the design schematics. We spoke with Vicki Cook, vice president of finance and administration, Terri Gustafson, director of educational media technologies, and Todd Neibauer, vice president for student services and technologies, about recent progress in the planning phase, and what students can expect when the center is complete.

Stantec presented its schematic design of the Innovation Center during an August board meeting, and Cook explained that the design is currently being finalized. "They have their estimators working on pricing to ensure that it's at least close to being in alignment with a budget. While Cook is "sure [Stantec] will put in a proposal for construction and design", because it's a state project the next stage will have the college seeking bids, statewide, for an architect to draw up construction plans. The search for an architect will start this month, and a construction manager will be brought on around January or February. "The goal is to break ground in May 2018, and construction will take about a year."

An advisory committee, comprised of faculty, staff, key administration, and directors, was formed to represent NMC during the design process. "We had a vision as a group for what the new addition and building would be—especially for the library folks, moving from [Osterlin] over to there," Gustafson said. "As far as faculty, and folks like myself who are going to be supporting the faculty, it was helpful to have that group see the architects." Gustafson described how Stantec had physical pieces that the committee could move around, akin to a puzzle, to see how different configurations would fit with their ideas and West Hall's limitations. This allowed them to optimize the usability of all the different spaces, while working with existing elements, such as the HVAC system.

Cook explained that she'll be busy over the next few months planning how to temporarily move everyone out of West Hall—including herself. "The bookstore will probably remain, but the [first floor] up to about where the cafeteria begins is being demolished. My goal is to have a plan on where people will be moving to by January. Even WNMC will have to move out during construction." Due to the demolition and construction happening right above WNMC, it would be too loud for the radio station to remain in its current location during this phase.

"Right now the [schematic design] plans don't show WNMC. I have them talking with architects [to] try and see how they can fit back into the building, because we've been talking about this being a 24/7 building. Of all our programs, that one is a 24/7 program... so we'd like to see if we could retain them in [the center] after construction. It looks like there's a possibility there will be space for them in the lower level again."

Cook hopes that renovations around the Hawk Owl Cafe will be completed over the summer semester, so that the kitchen is open to students by the fall 2018 semester.

"Another thing that we're looking at is making [West Hall] geothermal," Cook added. Geothermal is an alternative energy option that harnesses groundwater and/or steam to heat and cool, keeping the temperature constant at a much lower cost. "The geothermal borings came back positive; the engineer that looked at those [samples] said that we could possibly use that option. It does add a little bit extra of construction cost, but

in the long-term, it saves on energy costs." Cook explained that after seeing how efficient geothermal was during a renovation, Monroe Community College added 270 wells to use geothermal energy across its entire campus. Geothermal will save Monroe \$200,000 per year in energy costs to start, and can expect savings of \$400,000–\$500,000 per year long-term. "We wouldn't see that kind of savings on one building. The board has been asking us [about alternative energy], and I want alternative energy as an option. I've wanted it for a while, so this seemed like a good project to take a look at."

"The architects have indicated that the roof is constructed in a way that...if it can hold the snow load, it can hold solar



panels." Because the Innovation Center is designed with northern Michigan snowfall in mind, solar panels could be an eventual alternate energy option as well.

"Faculty and staff were involved in trying to figure out the flow of the building," Cook said. "We always envisioned quiet space on the second floor, but it became more apparent during that process. We talked about if we could have the bookstore on the first floor instead of the lower level, but even with moving things around, there wasn't any way to fit that in and allow for those learning spaces on the first floor to be front and center." Cook said that several members involved with this planning process were faculty that have project-based classrooms, such as Kristy McDonald and Brandon Everest. "[They] were on that committee, and know the current constraints within our facilities, so it was good to have people like that who are using that kind of activity in their classroom right now being involved."

"What we were really hoping for was one place on campus that was available all the time for students," Neibauer said. "Part of that is collaborative groups—not just with themselves, but also allowing for connections with local businesses, local non-profits, causes, and things like that, where they could all intermix with one another. We have some spaces we tried to carve out of the current library, where some [collaboration] happens, but the space isn't optimized for that."

Gustafson talked about "flexible learning spaces" faculty could use, including a couple of large classrooms. Depending on the subject matter and delivery mode, and what the activities are, those spaces could be adapted to however the faculty member wants to deliver their content." Learning spaces would be configurable, giving a place where tables and chairs can be moved about to accommodate either large or small group work.

Cook described learning spaces as having "lots of technology, lots of rooms with whiteboards—probably from floor to ceiling, places to practice presentations." This would include spaces where groups can Skype with other group members that can't make it into campus that day, or even collaborations with other colleges in state and beyond. "Everyone has different schedules between work and family. Having a place where it's easy for some of you to gather and connect with others... [we'll have] that type of technology

that's consistent and reliable." Gustafson reinforced this point. "There are ways to build technology into those rooms to where it's a little more seamless and you get high quality."

Gustafson said that touring Grand Valley University's Innovation Center gave them some inspiration on how to implement features at NMC, such as wireless projection. "The technology is changing so fast," she explained. "The idea is to provide a space that's forward-thinking in technology... so that moving forward we can say we're ready for the next technology and adapt to it. Building spaces that are flexible enough to use the technology that exists today but also adapt to what comes forward—whatever that may be."

A different form of technology—Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tagging—may be incorporated into NMC's library. Neibauer described Traverse City Area District Library's RFID self-checkout system: you scan your library card, and then a machine scans and checks out your stack of books. "There's an efficiency there, and the bonus here is that, if we're open 24/7 and we can pull that off, it doesn't matter when you're ready to learn—you can come in and stuff is available for you."

"If you look at Osterlin now, Tina [Ulrich] had the security gates taken out of there. People have to funnel past the circulation desk as it is, and it is closed at a certain time, but we really don't have a huge issue with things walking off. As we go to the new space over there, that is one of the things we need to think about," Neibauer said. A security desk would be manned at all times in the Innovation Center, but the implications of 24/7 access to a library needs to be carefully evaluated. "There's always been reference materials that don't get checked out, but they've also added all the textbooks—those are also things that don't circulate, but you can use them at the library. That's another good reason we have to think about the space they'll be housed in, so they don't walk off and that they're truly available for everybody that walks in." Traffic flow, book checkout points, door access, and more will be taken into consideration.

Moving the library will be quite the undertaking. "Right now, the plan is, based off the number of shelves we have—we actually will use the [current] shelves that we have, they'll be moved over—in that process, if we decide to go ahead with the self-checkout we would be tagging all those books so that every single one has a [RFID] tag in it and be checked into the system," Neibauer said. "We're not giving up on the library that we have, in the sense that the collection is coming over, but right now more than 80 percent of our collection is actually electronic documents. Certainly, it cuts down on physical space for storing it, but it also makes it easier to keep more current things in the collection. [The librarians] are very, very good at curating that collection. The resources that are in there and available—we're not changing that. We're changing the access model to it."

Neibauer explained that a new capital outlay plan will be submitted to request funding to renovate the Osterlin building after the library has moved to its new home. This renovation would centralize student services, including advising, admissions, financial aid, student life, and more. "When you walk into the building, all the things that go along with being enrolled in college can be taken care of in one place. We're just trying to streamline the experience."

Renovations to the Osterlin building are still quite distant, while the Innovation Center will be breaking ground in about next six months. "You are students here. We want you to be successful, and we want you to love [your] time here," Gustafson said. "I want students to think of this space as a place to help them be successful and feel part of NMC."

# Update: Dispensaries in TC Raided and Shuttered

State law enforcement cites sales to patrons with no medical documentation

**London Rauch**  
Staff Writer

Last month, the *White Pine Press* reported that, due to a new licensing requirement, all local medical marijuana dispensaries would have to cease sales by Dec. 15. Despite the future deadline, all eight marijuana dispensaries that operated within Grand Traverse County were raided in October by the Traverse Narcotics Team (TNT) and shuttered permanently. State law enforcement claimed these dispensaries were operating illegally, selling to persons not registered as medical marijuana patients.

The raid came as no surprise to patients in the area. One patient, who wished only to be referred to by his first name, Jon, said he didn't believe the dispensaries would stay open until December. "They always asked for my [medical marijuana] card and ID when I came into the shop, but I always kind of knew there would be something the cops would try and get them for," Jon said of the Traverse City Provisioning Center, a dispensary that operated off Garfield Ave. The Provisioning Center has since deleted its website and Facebook page.

It is reported that TNT launched a month-long sting where undercover cops posed as unregistered patients and purchased marijuana from medical dispensaries. In an interview with 9&10 News, one anonymous patient claimed she drove past several dispensaries in town the day of the raid and saw what "you would have thought would have been terrible accident".

Though no arrests were made, no resources were spared while issuing search warrants. The local narcotics team was assisted by the Traverse City Police Department, the sheriff's office, state law enforcement, Homeland Security, and U.S. Border Control. They confiscated marijuana plants, edibles, concentrates, and money from the eight locations targeted. Cease and desist notices were then issued.

"It seems a little unnecessary going to such an extent," Jon said of the recent searches. "The shops knew they had a deadline to shut down. They always told me, 'you better stock up now!', so I doubt any of them were going to operate past that deadline."

Not every Michigan resident shared the same sentiment. "Stop the crybaby comparison and simply ask yourself if the businesses were operating within the scope of the law...they were not," William Baxter of the Detroit area said in response to the 9&10 News story.

As of now, the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act does not explicitly mention the legality of dispensaries; it does not allow or disallow them. New laws and licensing regulations with more inclusive rules will begin in December. Until then, patients must rely on legal caregivers to provide them with medication.

"If someone is legally operating with their caregiver, then that does not stop," lieutenant Josh Lator said in a press

conference after the searches. "These eight dispensaries have received very specific letters from the prosecutor's office what the cease and desist rules are for them."

Some patients worry that caregivers will not provide them with the same treatment options that the commercial dispensaries did. Many medical marijuana users rely on non-traditional ways of consuming cannabis for their conditions.

One patient asked, "What about those that don't smoke it, but ingest it or use it as topicals? What about children with Dravet's Syndrome who have 20-30 seizures a day?"

Annie Hill, a patient in Benzie County with chronic pain, wondered why the proposal for new dispensary regulations didn't come sooner. "The state could make a profit if they regulated medical shops," Hill said. "I think they know they could have been making a profit this whole time."

According to medicalmarijuana.com, the Michigan Medical Marijuana Program collected \$7,091,549.98 in application and renewal fees between October 2014 and October 2015.

Until December, the issue of legal dispensaries remains up in smoke.



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## Alumni Spotlight: Therese Renis



Courtesy of Therese Renis

Department of Safeguards, and has continued her work with the IAEA. She received the 2016 Outstanding Alumni Award from NMC, and was a member of the IAEA's Nobel Peace Prize-winning team in 2005.

Her journey to the IAEA started many years before, in her junior year of high school as a Rotary exchange student in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in southern Africa. Renis' global perspective was deeply impacted by this experience. "I learned to look at cultures and the challenges faced by other people in the world in a different light." Traveling abroad at such a formative time in her life taught her how to live globally. "In Rhodesia I had to learn 'British English', which is the language of my current work. I developed an ability to look at life from different points of view, and came to recognize that there were major world issues of great concern to others of which I was unaware."

This trip helped her realize things about her own culture as well. "I learned that the lifestyle and conventional wisdom I had from growing up in Michigan and Traverse City weren't completely applicable in other areas of the world, and that there was so much that I did not know about life and politics outside of the [United States]. It piqued my curiosity to learn more about life in other areas of the world." This curiosity pushed her to continue to challenge herself to understand complex

issues surrounding her future career—nuclear technology.

After returning to America, Renis spent time working in national labs focusing on engineering technology. She explains, "I found it interesting from a career perspective to apply to the International Atomic Energy Agency and work for a few years (while on leave of absence from my lab) to gain international nuclear safeguards experience. I intended to return to the U.S. after three years, but my career progression at the IAEA has led me to a 26-year career here so far." Renis didn't have the goal in mind of a career in international engineering safeguards, but as she explains, "The journey to eventually having an overseas job materialized by undertaking the types of work that I found interesting and embracing new opportunities as they presented themselves."

Today, describing Renis' daily life does not have an easy answer. "I'm living the life of an American expatriate in Austria." Renis goes to the office every day, but her daily activities there vary. She travels to locations all over the world for her work. She lives in Vienna, which has a "very international and cosmopolitan community."

In her free time, she still enjoys traveling the world. "I go to the mountains for at least a week every winter to snowboard. We take short vacations to nearby countries in Europe

and northern Africa. Sometimes we go further afield on safari or to scuba dive or golf. I try to visit the U.S. (Traverse City) at least once a year, but actually made it there more this year. In Europe we typically get more vacation time than in the U.S. – at least six weeks per year, which makes it possible. It is a challenge to keep in touch with friends and family in the U.S., but I Skype with my parents every week and try to talk to my daughters when time zones permit. One daughter is in Grand Rapids, and one is travelling and camping around Australia at the moment."

Reflecting on her own travels, Renis says, "I have met with young people who have worked, saved their money, planned their trip, and have travelled for months. Many Europeans and Australians do this; what they call a 'year abroad'. I often wonder why more Americans don't do this. Perhaps it is because it is so overwhelming to consider and not as commonly done. I also have met young Americans that didn't enjoy the experience of travelling, so it might be worthwhile to start with a shorter trip at first if you are not sure."

Renis suggests looking into airfare and train tickets that are discounted specifically for students, as well as budgeting to set aside money for a trip, if travel is a priority. "You can accomplish anything that you truly want. It is all a matter of where you set your priorities and how you allocate your resources."

### Deanna Luton Staff Writer

Therese Renis studied at NMC in the pre-engineering program from 1977–78. She continued her education with a Bachelor's degree from University of Michigan, and a Master's degree from Stanford University. Renis spent 10 years living in San Francisco before moving to Vienna, Austria for a temporary nuclear laboratory engineer position for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In 2001, she was promoted to director of the division of concepts and planning within the

### James Robinson Editor in Chief

What do hundreds of World War II era sailors stranded in the South Pacific, a small group of Special Forces soldiers deployed to Afghanistan, and a platoon of soldiers engaged in guerrilla warfare in Vietnam have in common? They've all lent their harrowing stories to local author Doug Stanton's vivid storytelling abilities.

Stanton, co-founder and board member of the National Writers Series, has written several books reflecting on significant events in U.S. military history. His 2003 novel "In Harm's Way", detailing the sinking of the USS Indianapolis, and his 2009 novel "Horse Soldiers" were both *The New York Times* bestsellers and received critical acclaim. He recently released his newest book, "The Odyssey of Echo Company", on Sept. 19. While events in the books take place during times of war, Stanton views them less as combat stories and more as stories of survival. "What interests me is how ordinary people have to make these extraordinary decisions at a really difficult moment," he says. "I find that these kinds of stories allow really poignant moments to peer into someone's humanity... They're about people trying to stay human in an inhumane environment."

"Horse Soldiers" focuses on a team of U.S. Special Forces troops who are the first soldiers sent to Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The troops enter into a partnership with soldiers of the Northern Alliance on a mission to defeat the Taliban and their al-Qaida allies operating in Afghanistan. Accustomed to state-of-the-art warfare, these troops adapt to the methods of Afghan tribal warfare and learn to ride into battle on horseback. After a series of intense battles backed by U.S. airstrikes, the troops and their Northern Alliance allies capture the strategically essential city of Mazar-i-Sharif and

force the Taliban out of Afghanistan (for a while, at least).

"I'd written a book about World War II called "In Harm's Way", about the sinking of the USS Indianapolis, and I thought that I would see if I could write a similar story about a modern soldier," Stanton explains. "When I read accounts of what [the horse soldiers] had done in magazines, I began to investigate." As part of this investigation, he traveled to Afghanistan to visit the different battle sites, and to interview U.S. and Afghan soldiers who fought in the 2001 war. "It was key to go back there. I walked around. I took video, photographs, and notes. That's how I created a lot of the description in the book... It was a privilege to be standing on places that had global, historical significance... It was fascinating and very satisfying."

"Horse Soldiers" spent three months on *The New York Times* bestseller list, reaching number two. Bruce Barcott, a reviewer for *The Times Sunday Book Review*, says the book is "for those who like their military history told through the eyes of heroic grunts, sergeants, and captains... The valor exhibited by [those] fighting to free Afghanistan from a horribly cruel regime, will inspire even the most jaded reader."

Stanton is now preparing for the book's cinematic debut. On Jan. 19, the story of the horse soldiers is slated for release as a major motion picture titled "12 Strong: The Declassified True Story of the Horse Soldiers." The official movie trailer was released on Oct. 19 and has roughly 3,400,484 views and 22,000 likes on YouTube (watch it at [youtu.be/-Denciiie5oA](http://youtu.be/-Denciiie5oA)). The film was produced by Jerry Bruckheimer (known for "Black Hawk Down", "Pirates of the Caribbean", and "Top Gun"), written by Ted Tally and Peter Craig, and directed by Nikolai Fuglsig. The all-star cast includes, among others: Chris Hemsworth (known for his Marvel franchise role as Thor), Michael Shannon, Michael Peña, Trevante Rhodes, and Elsa

Pataky. Hemsworth stars as Captain Mitch Nelson, the special forces captain who takes on the role of leader of the Horse Soldiers. Hemsworth's real-life wife, Elsa Pataky, plays the role of his on-screen spouse.

Stanton had the opportunity to visit the filming site in New Mexico and observe some of the battle scenes. "The movie stays very true to the spirit of the mission," he says. "It's a surreal, thrilling experience to see my work on screen." While he hopes it's entertaining to read the book and watch movies, Stanton wants his readers and moviegoers to take something more meaningful away from his work. "It's my hope that lots of people will read the book and see the movie and become aware of the sacrifice that these families have made and the heroic effort this really small group of soldiers made to go into Afghanistan... I hope that by reading the book and seeing the movie that people get a really up close and personal glimpse at what really happened after 9/11."



## "Horse Soldiers" Gallops Into Theaters

### A Local Author's Journey to the Silver Screen

# Campus Quotes

**Kelsey Pease**  
Staff Writer

**How do you feel about Uber and Lyft coming to Traverse City?  
Would you use either of these ride-sharing services?**



"No, because my roommate had a really bad experience with an [Uber driver]. The driver was leaving a minute ahead of schedule and my friend was running to catch it with a ton of bags in her hands. The door was closed by the time she caught up to it but the driver did bother to roll down the window just to tell her that she couldn't get [in]. I'm not interested in giving them business because of crappy customer service."

**Stephanie Jones, Music**



"I think it'll be great, especially for students on the college campus. With [Uber] available, many students wouldn't have to ask for rides so often and it would be much easier to get around. The only downside would be that there would probably be more traffic."

**Madison Candice, Biology**

"I think it'll be a good experience as long as they [allow] service dogs in the car. I've never ridden in one, though, so I don't really have any opinions of them."

**Gabe Huffman, Biomedical Engineering**



"Yeah, absolutely. It's a better way to prevent drunk driving with how limited cab service is in the area."

**David Myers, Computer Engineering**



"I used it a lot when I lived in Los Angeles and I think it definitely should be here."

**Ben Johnson, Liberal Arts and Sciences**

"Personally, I wouldn't use them, but I can definitely see the benefits—as long as the people who are offering rides have to go through proper background checks."

**Alyssa Wycoff, Early Childhood Education**



"Absolutely. I used to live in Chicago and used it a lot. It's a lot cheaper than a taxi and there isn't anything like it up here. I live in Buckley so it wouldn't be realistic to take it all the way [to TC], but it would be convenient to use throughout downtown TC."

**Katie Lamkie, Enrollment Services Staff**



"I certainly would. I've used them in other cities, and they're great and so convenient. I think it's about high time that we get [Uber] in Traverse City."

**Lincoln Todd, NMC Cafeteria Staff**

# A Look at Trump's Tax Reform

**Dylan Jewell**  
Staff Writer

After a whirlwind of scattershot social policies which may—or may not—have been an attempt to distract the public, we're now seeing President Donald Trump present the true purpose of his tumultuous political career: more money. This is the nature of his and his cronies' proposed reform of federal taxes: the "Unified Framework for Fixing Our Broken Tax Code." The reform provides little relief to the lower class and, as one could surmise, a huge benefit to the wealthiest one percent.

The alteration of the tax brackets—which would bring the seven brackets down to three and slightly reduce the rate of taxation, in addition to the doubling of standard deduction—is largely trivial. And that's to be expected. The average American sees they'll pay less in personal income taxes, and is supportive of the reforms. Per usual, the devil is in the details. The boon for the one percent is primarily in three proposed policies: the reduction of corporate tax from 35 percent to 20 percent, the elimination of the Alternative Minimum Tax, and the elimination of estate and gift taxes.

Taxes on the inheritance of estate and the giving of large monetary "gifts", something run-of-the-mill for the one percent, contribute some \$24 billion to federal revenue annually. The Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) is a provisional additional tax supplementing the loss in federal revenue from individuals and corporations receiving exorbitant amounts of tax breaks. The AMT is not much, accounting for only \$38 billion in additional federal revenue in 2017. The real hit is from the reduction of the corporate tax rate, which would result in a staggering loss of \$260 billion on average in tax revenue annually. Currently, corporations almost invariably utilize legal defense to minimize taxes on their revenues and end up paying around 15 percent on average. This number would be made even smaller by the proposed cuts, the purpose of which is vague, if not malicious.

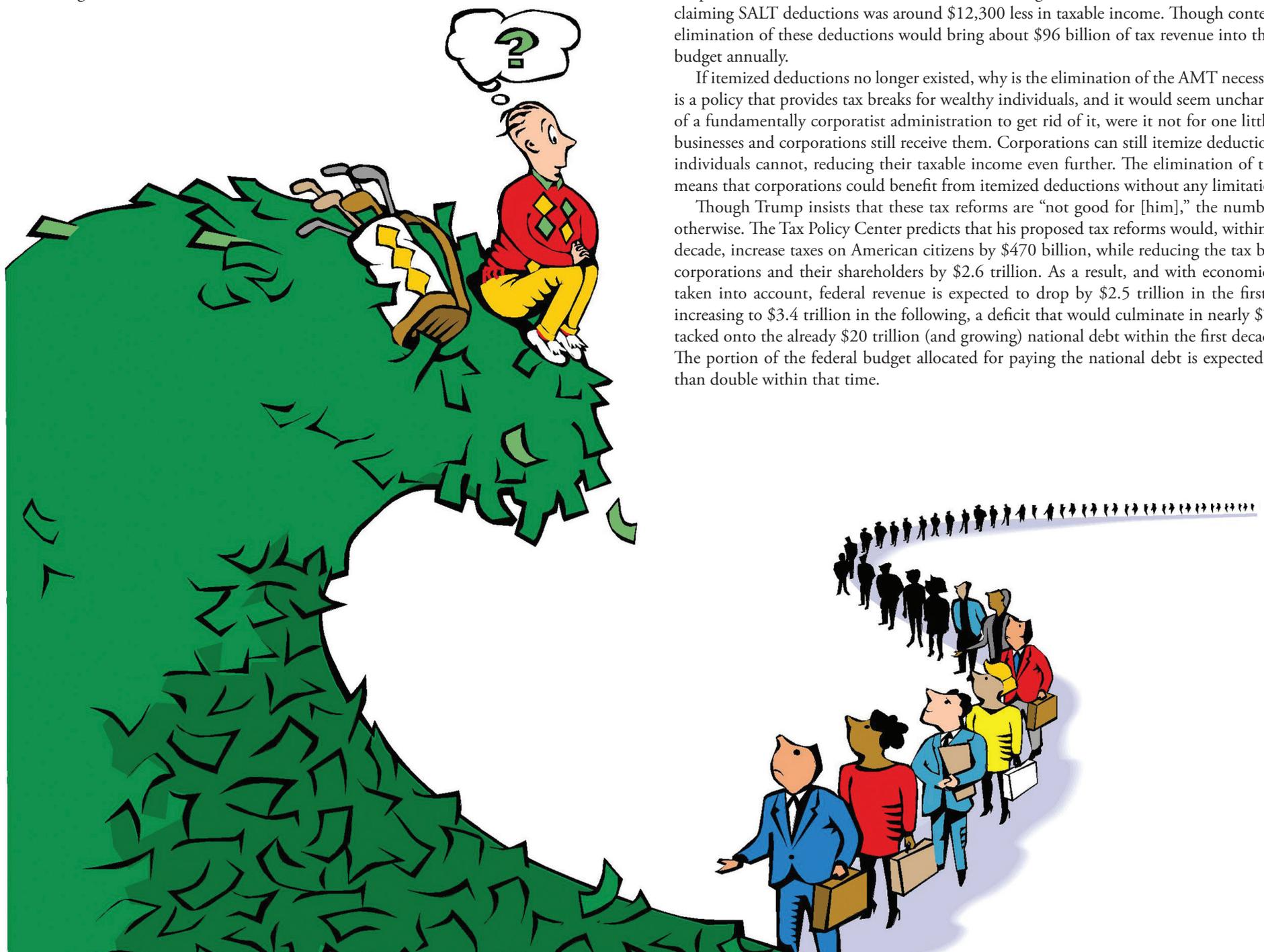
Though Trump and his administration insist that reducing the corporate tax rate would increase the income of the American middle-class, they operate under the false assumption that laborers shoulder the burden of increased corporate taxes. Former investment banker and current Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, a key player in shaping tax policies, went so far as to claim that 70 percent of corporate taxes are paid for by employees. This is in direct opposition to findings from the Joint Committee on Taxation, the Congressional Budget Office, and even the Treasury Department itself, which all concluded that approximately 75 percent of the burden of corporate taxes on a company are allocated to the shareholders of that company. In short, if there's less corporate taxes, there's more money for the one percent.

The main sell for corporate tax cuts is that giving tax breaks to businesses helps them create more jobs. The reality is that this only works when the federal budget is supplemented by high taxes on the highest earning individuals in the country. With the top income tax rates so low and purportedly going even lower, this simply will never work. Unlike past iterations of this method, Trump isn't willing to raise income tax on the nation's highest earners, regardless of the benefit, because that would mean less money for investments, and less money for the uber-wealthy overall.

The one policy of the proposed tax reform seeing the most scrutiny is one likely introduced to supplement the tax revenue lost from the other policies: the elimination of state and local tax deductions (SALT). This is a decrease in taxable income from itemized deductions in place of standard deductions. Who benefits from these tax breaks? According to the Tax Policy Center, 75 percent of the total dollar amount of deductions as a result of SALT went to tax filers making over \$100,000 annually, accounting for only about 16 percent of all tax filers, of which 81 percent benefit from this deduction. The average break for each member of this group claiming SALT deductions was around \$12,300 less in taxable income. Though contested, the elimination of these deductions would bring about \$96 billion of tax revenue into the federal budget annually.

If itemized deductions no longer existed, why is the elimination of the AMT necessary? This is a policy that provides tax breaks for wealthy individuals, and it would seem uncharacteristic of a fundamentally corporatist administration to get rid of it, were it not for one little caveat: businesses and corporations still receive them. Corporations can still itemize deductions while individuals cannot, reducing their taxable income even further. The elimination of the AMT means that corporations could benefit from itemized deductions without any limitations.

Though Trump insists that these tax reforms are "not good for [him]," the numbers show otherwise. The Tax Policy Center predicts that his proposed tax reforms would, within the first decade, increase taxes on American citizens by \$470 billion, while reducing the tax burden of corporations and their shareholders by \$2.6 trillion. As a result, and with economic growth taken into account, federal revenue is expected to drop by \$2.5 trillion in the first decade, increasing to \$3.4 trillion in the following, a deficit that would culminate in nearly \$7 trillion tacked onto the already \$20 trillion (and growing) national debt within the first decade alone. The portion of the federal budget allocated for paying the national debt is expected to more than double within that time.



# The Sustainable Cup of Coffee

**Lindsay Schmandt**  
Staff Writer

We're all becoming aware of the countless effects our increasing production of non-recyclable waste is causing—socially, environmentally, and economically. Reducing waste can be extremely difficult, especially as a college student living in compact apartments with limited resources. But there's hope, starting with the morning lifeline for most students these days: coffee.

Did you know that most paper coffee cups are not recyclable? Disposable coffee cups are engineered with a layer of wax or plastic coating on the inside—they last just long enough for you to enjoy your coffee without it leaking through a plain paper cup, but the combination of materials only allows it to end up in our landfills. Next time you're sitting in your 8am class, take a look around. How many students bring a reusable cup? I'll let you do the math.

I'm here to give you some simple advice on how to make a little-to-no-waste cup of thing, even taking just one of these tips into consideration could drastically reduce your household and offer incentives you probably don't know about yet.

First Thing's First: This should absolutely do. Invest if this is a 25-cent mug. Every time you use that cup, a lid, and a sleeve—and Harbor Coffee, Starbucks, discount on your coffee for bringing your own mug.

Second: Scope out your coffee options. Traverse City has plenty of places, such as Oryana, Lucky's Market, and Higher Grounds, where you can buy the equivalent of a bag of coffee beans without the bag. Taking a jar to the store and filling up on coffee in bulk is not only saving waste, but it's often a better deal. You can even grind it straight into your jar. A glass jar with a tight-fitting lid is a more ideal environment for keeping your coffee fresh than a bag!

Third: Additives. Many people prefer a bit of sweet and creamy in their glorious bean beverage. Sweeteners like sugar, honey, agave, and vanilla are often found the aisle over from where you just filled up your jar with coffee, and there's no stopping you from bringing a jar for that too! You're on a roll. Milk gets tricky, though. Our local Oryana co-op offers milk straight from the farm in glass jars, with a deposit on the jar. Luckily, most milk comes in recyclable plastic containers—or reuse them for crafty projects.

Nifty Tips: To cut down on energy consumption, try a pour-over coffee method. There are pour-overs available for no more than \$3 that even use biodegradable filters! If you prefer a latte, shaking milk in a jar for 30 seconds and then microwaving without the lid gives you foam like you wouldn't believe. Time to practice your latte art!



Illustration by Kayleigh Johnson

## Hell No to GMOs: Part One

**Macy Schwert**  
Staff Writer

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are one of the most widely debated health, environmental, and food topics in the world today. Yet the science surrounding GMOs is confusing—not to mention the debates over them. In recent years, the percentage of food products in the U.S. that contain GMOs has risen to about 70 percent. It is an issue that is central to a very integral part of our lives—what we eat.

The science behind GMOs is intricate, but one can get a sense of what they are by examining the words: genetically, modified, and organism. 'Genetically' refers to genes. Genes are made up of deoxyribonucleic acids (DNA), which is a set of instructions for how cells grow and develop. 'Modified' implies that some change or tweak has been made. Lastly, we have the word 'Organism.' When it comes to GMOs, many people only think of crops. Yet an 'organism' isn't just a plant: it refers to all living things, including bacteria and fungi. For example, bacteria have been genetically modified to produce many pharmaceuticals (i.e. insulin) and vaccines.

The process to create a GMO starts at a genetic level. Scientists insert a specific gene into the DNA of an organism in the nucleus of a single cell. This one cell will start to divide (which is the natural growth process for any organism), and the resulting cells begin to take on specialized functions, until they become a whole plant. Because this new plant was ultimately derived from a single cell with the inserted gene, all of the cells in the regenerated plant contain that new gene. GMOs may involve splicing genes from other organisms (such as bacteria) to give plants desired traits, like resistance to pests. Selective breeding, a process developed tens of thousands of years ago, is slower; whereby farmers breed plants or animals selectively to develop particular phenotypic traits (characteristics). Many feel that genetic engineering is simply a faster way to achieve selective breeding. The end goal is ultimately the same. Selective breeding, or artificial breeding, is similar to the evolutionary process of natural selection, but is often referred to as unnatural selection. Genetic engineering is just the latest form of biotechnology—the most precise method yet.

When it comes to insects, there are genetically modified plants that can repel only the very particular type of insect that feeds on it. With some crops, this has significantly lowered the need to apply pesticides. Other GMO plants have been developed to be resistant to certain herbicides, making weed control more manageable and less expensive for agriculture companies. By using GMO seeds, even the smallest subsistence farmers can produce bigger, more reliable crops. Nutrition-enhanced GMO crops now in development can directly address the effects of malnutrition in developing countries. Proponents of GMOs say that this technology is the only way to feed the exponentially increasing population.

In the long term, GMO crops may be the only way to ensure that worldwide food production keeps pace with the growing population—which may grow to 12 billion by the year 2050. To feed the ever growing population, methods such as high-yielding hybrid seeds, intensive use of fertilizers, irrigation, and chemical pesticides are needed, but those technologies cannot produce the necessary food production growth in the coming decades without doing severe environmental damage.

If we think about it objectively, discovering out how to alter the genes of crops to withstand rougher conditions, not require the use of pesticides, and have higher nutritional value is quite a feat. But what are the effects of GMO's on our bodies, our DNA? There hasn't been any epidemiological studies (observational studies used by researchers to test the relationship between factors and determine the existence of correlations) in human populations to support the claim that GMOs have any adverse side effects on our health. However, because GMO foods, and other products containing GMOs, are not being monitored or labeled in North America, it is scientifically impossible to trace, let alone study patterns of consumption, as well as their benefits or disadvantages.

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# Book <sup>Shady</sup> <sub>Lady</sub> Reviews

## Visual Novels

**Ann Hosler**  
Staff Writer

Visual novels take the joy of reading and apply it, typically in a “Choose Your Own Adventure” or similar type of format, to a video game world. Players must employ strategy, morals (honorable or not), cunning, and reason to their choices while navigating to one of many possible outcomes. All the games mentioned below are available on Steam (store.steampowered.com), and are frequently discounted during Steam sales.



**“Long Live the Queen”** by Hanako Games

*“My, what large breasts you have! Putting them on display for any particular reason?”*

Elodie, the 14-year-old princess of Nova, recently inherited the throne due to her mother’s unfortunate death. Now local and foreign powers, commoners, family, and more stand between her and coronation day. The goal: survive 40 weeks. It’s much harder than you think.

“Long Live the Queen” is a challenging mash-up of visual novel and strategy-simulator. Every week you decide what skills Elodie will improve while dealing with ruling the kingdom. Your decisions in both weekly events and skill investments will open or close opportunities, as well as complicate future matters. As time progresses, the dangers pile up and Elodie faces death from all sides.

This is a game where you’ll want to save often—in multiple slots. Good luck securing that crown.

Price: \$9.99

Narrative: ★★★★★

(If you want more life simulation, replayability, and less death, check out “Princess Maker Refine 2” by Korean developer CFK. Originally released by Gainax on Windows 3.1 in 1993 and remastered in 2016, influences of this classic can be seen throughout “Long Live the Queen.”)



**“Cinders”** by MoaCube

*“Maybe that’s the answer. Getting lost in the wilderness, befriend an uncivilized but noble tribe of rather short miners, becoming their princess...”*

Cinders is what Cinderella never could be—a strong protagonist who is willing to make decisions that will better

the course of her life. Like the fairy tale, her stepmother is trash, her stepsisters spoiled, and Cinders is over-worked at home. Through your choices she’ll become independent while discovering the layers enfolding the facade of her family.

Your choices will shape Cinder’s personality and result in one of four endings—and each of those have alternate variations influenced by earlier decisions. Finding your prince is not (necessarily) the goal here; become a traveler, befriend your step-sisters, throw your terrible glass slippers over a wall, run away with the town guard, and much more.

Each playthrough is pretty short—about 1.5 hours—but the many variants in “Cinders” will keep you hooked. The worst ending to get is actually the most difficult to trigger; be prepared to shed some morals if you want to earn that Grim Skull achievement.

Price: \$19.99

Narrative: ★★★★★



**“Aviary Attorney”** by Sketchy Logic

*“If anything goes wrong in the trial, we always could just... wing it.”*

“Aviary Attorney” leaves no mystery to its content: you’ll be jumping into the talons of Jayjay Falcon, a mediocre defense lawyer with dubious morals in 19th century Paris, to take on cases, seek out evidence, and present your findings to the court. The road is littered with debris, mice, fishing lures, green pens, terrible bird puns, and the stench of revolution.

The story—and yes, even the terrible puns—is quite intriguing, and there are three alternate endings to the game. It falls short in giving the player more control over dialogue and decisions, especially in the first two (of four) chapters. Figuring out how and where you went wrong (or right?) to see the other endings in a puzzle itself, and lends to some replayability. Whether you replay the game or not, hours of shoddy detective work in narrative form awaits you!

Price: \$14.99

Narrative: ★★★★★



**“Magical Diary”** by Hanako Games

*“Did it ever occur to you, within the muddled workings of your toy plastic brain, that this event is called the Dark Dance for a reason?”*

It wasn’t until I was looking up game developers for this article that I realized both this title and “Long Live the Queen” were created by the same company. While both are enjoyable games, “Magical Diary” is far superior simply due to more extensive content, storyline, and replayability.

“Magical Diary” is heavily influenced by Hogwarts in “Harry Potter”, but in a good way. You’re a first-year student, born to a non-magical family, traversing through the wonders and trials of magic school. It features a plethora of decisions that sway the story, triggering not only special events throughout the school year, but also one of several alternate endings. Even the way you raise your five magic skills (blue, black, white, red, and green) can influence the challenges that exam puzzles present. So get to class, learn spells, join the student government, be forced to marry your professor (or was that just me?), take exams, make some new friends (or not), find your next crush (or not)—and watch out for demons and more lurking nearby.

Price: \$14.99

Narrative: ★★★★★

## The Haiku Music Review

### Billboard Top 5 Songs

**TJ Hall**

Contributing Writer



**Pink**  
**“Beautiful Trauma”**

Bing Bong Ding a ling.  
Dooba booba dum a lum.  
Berbie dooma luu.



**Beck**  
**“Colors”**

Crack rock rumble schmup.  
Drip drop cock-a-doodle-do.  
Splish splash trickle ugh.



**St. Vincent**  
**“Masseduction”**

Sniff snort spit splatter.  
Vroom vroom whack a walloping.  
Ucky tinkle ugh.



**Robert Plant**  
**“Carry Fire”**

Twang-a-dang-a-dee.  
Whoosh-a-boosh-a-douchey-uh.  
Tweedle deedle dee.



**Gucci Mane**  
**“Mr Davis”**

Wop huh woo wizzop.  
‘Sgucc wop huh bling wat strap pong.  
S’back gong oh scer yuh.

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# French Onion Chicken

**Lindsay Schmandt**  
Staff Writer

Soup season is upon us. It seems that every cold night is the perfect night to snuggle up with a movie and a bowl of soup for dinner. Although there are soup recipes galore, a versatile recipe could be the key to a variety of new dinners that can still satisfy the comfort of a bowl of soup. This recipe provides a hearty meal, reminiscent of a perfect French onion soup.

## You will need:

2-4 chicken thighs or breasts  
2 white onions  
3 cloves of garlic, minced  
1 14 oz. can of beef broth  
1 stick of butter  
2 sprigs of thyme  
2 tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped  
1 baguette or any sliced bread  
Provolone & Parmesan cheese to your preference

## Directions:

1. Begin by heating a pot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Salt and pepper the chicken, and sear each side in the heated pot until the outside is golden brown.
2. While the chicken is browning, thinly slice the onions and mince the garlic.
3. Remove the chicken.
4. Melt the stick of butter in the same pan. Add the onions and garlic in the pot and stir every few minutes for about 15 minutes. The onions will caramelize on the bottom of the pan and will turn a nice golden brown—this makes the onions sweet and will flavor the chicken!
5. When the onions and garlic are browned, add the beef broth and stir.
6. Add the chicken back into the onion and broth mixture, then add the thyme and parsley. Salt and pepper to taste.
7. Cover and let cook for as little as one hour—or low and slow for 2-3 hours.
8. 20 minutes before serving, preheat your oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit and slice your baguette. Cover each slice with provolone and/or Parmesan, and bake until the cheese is melted.
9. Serve your chicken with a slice of bread and enjoy!

**Kelsey Pease**  
Staff Writer

## EVENTS CALENDAR

November 3 – November 18

### Friday, Nov. 3

4 to 5pm: Voices student group meeting in the Osterlin Building (Room O-204).  
6 to 10pm: Volleyball sponsored by Ratio Christi at the Physical Education 100 Gym.  
8pm: 80s Prom at Streeters - benefit for hurricane victims in Houston & Puerto Rico.

### Saturday, Nov. 4

8am to 1:30pm: Moving Ahead - A Journey into Adulthood (free event) at the TBAISD Career Tech Center, Traverse City.

### Wednesday, Nov. 8

3:30 to 4:30pm: Students United for Gender Rights in Health & Science 100.  
5:45 to 6:45pm: Women in STEM meeting in Parsons Stulen 218.  
9pm to Midnight: NMC iDance club meeting in Physical Education 120.

### Thursday, Nov. 9

7 to 8pm: Robin Hood performed by the OTP Young Company at the Old Town Playhouse, 148 E. Eighth St., Traverse City.  
8 to 9:30pm: An Evening with Jeff Daniels at the City Opera House, 106 E. Front St., Traverse City.

### Friday, Nov. 10

Noon: 42nd Annual Mariners Memorial Service in the harborside courtyard of the Great Lakes Campus, 715 E. Front St, Traverse City.  
Noon to Midnight: MyNorth Beer Week Tour sponsored by select breweries, restaurants, and bars in the TC area under the yellow awning at 125 Park St, Suite 155. Event continues daily through Friday, Nov. 17.  
6 to 10pm: Volleyball sponsored by Ratio Christi at the Physical Education 100 Gym.  
7 to 8pm: Robin Hood performed by the OTP Young Company at the Old Town Playhouse, 148 E. Eighth St, Traverse City.

### Saturday, Nov. 11

10am: The Great Beard Run (5K) at Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, 100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd, Acme.

1 to 7pm: Flapjack & Flannel Festival at The Little Feet, 448 E. Front St., Traverse City.  
7 to 8pm: Robin Hood performed by the OTP Young Company at the Old Town Playhouse, 148 E. Eighth St., Traverse City.

### Monday, Nov. 13

8:30am to 2:30pm: Bake sale hosted by the iDance student group in the Health and Science Lobby - Area A.

### Tuesday, Nov. 14

8:30am to 2:30pm: Bake sale hosted by the iDance student group in the Health and Science Lobby - Area A.

### Wednesday, Nov. 15

3:30 to 4:30pm: Students United for Gender Rights meeting in Health & Science 100.  
5:45 to 6:45pm: Women in STEM meeting in Parsons Stulen 218.  
9pm to Midnight: NMC iDance student group meeting in Physical Education 120.

### Thursday, Nov. 16

5 to 6:30pm: Western Michigan University - Freshwater Science Transfer Info Session at the Great Lakes Campus (Room 101).  
7:30 to 9pm: Local musician and former The Voice contestant Joshua Davis performs at the City Opera House, 106 E. Front St., Traverse City.

### Friday, Nov. 17

9:45am to 2:30pm: NMC Lifelong Learning Campus Day at the University Center, 2200 Dendrin Dr, Traverse City. Check-in begins at 9:20am.  
6 to 10pm: Volleyball sponsored by Ratio Christi at the Physical Education 100 Gym.

### Saturday Nov. 18

10am to 4pm: Merry Makers Marketplace - a holiday art fair held indoors at Crooked Tree Arts Center, 322 6th St, Traverse City. Browse and buy special, one-of-a-kind gifts created by Michigan artists and craftspeople.

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