

NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE WHITE PINE PRESS

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



Graphic Design by Kenna Marar

Holding Off the Hype

Stores Respect Employees, Close on Thanksgiving

Laureen Horan
Editor in Chief

It seems that as the years pass, Black Friday starts earlier and earlier. In the early 2000's, when Black Friday really became a huge trend, the "early bird" shopping didn't start until 6 or 7 a.m. Progressively, the times have become earlier and earlier, now seeping into Thanksgiving, where many stores plan to be open from 5 or 6 p.m. until midnight or later, then changing out employees a few hours later to keep the flow of Black Friday going. People tend to be divided on the ethics of open stores on Thanksgiving. Some people think it's absurd to do crazy shopping on the day that most of us are giving thanks. However, some people don't celebrate Thanksgiving or their celebration is done in the early evening, leaving

plenty of time and opportunity to shop on Thursday.

Major retail stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, Toys R Us and Macy's have been known in recent years to open earlier and earlier on Thanksgiving, and many customers are outraged at this. A massive social media campaign is happening now called #SaveThanksgiving to encourage these massive chains to stay closed on Thanksgiving and allow their employees to enjoy the time with their families without the pressures of work.

Despite the insane hype that Black Friday generates every year (and dare we say, Gray Thursday), many retail chains have refused to open their doors whatsoever on Thanksgiving. Some will even stay closed for Black Friday as well.

Stores that are staying closed for Thanksgiving include Nordstrom, Sam's Club, Jo-Ann Fabrics, DSW, Costco, TJ Maxx, GameStop, Staples, PetSmart, Pier 1 Imports, Patagonia, Marshalls, Home Depot and REI.

Recreation gear retailer REI is known for its love of the outdoors. This year, the company has announced it will pay employees on Black Friday—not to work with customers, but to get outside and enjoy time with their families. REI stores will be closed on both Thanksgiving and Black Friday, a first for the company. Though they will not be joining in the Black Friday madness, REI will be featuring big sales of 30-60 percent off, along with free shipping from their website.

The stores in Traverse City that will remain closed on Thanksgiving include TJ Maxx, GameStop, PetSmart, Jo-Ann Fabrics, and Home Depot. Naturally, it's delightful to the employees working there. "We are actually the only store in the [Grand Traverse] mall that won't be open on Thanksgiving," says Aaron Pasquino, sales associate at GameStop. Employees are looking forward to having one day during the Black Friday madness to enjoy quality time with family without cutting it short due to work pressures. CEO of Jo-Ann stores, Travis Smith, states, "we ask a lot from our team members during the holidays, and Thanksgiving Day is a valued tradition for many families.

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Surgical Technology Program at NMC

Breanne Russell
Staff Writer

Word is spreading of an ambitious new medical program at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC). No, it is not the nursing, pre-med or emergency medical services program, though these have all been successful in their own right. It is the Surgical Technology associates degree that is quickly capturing local attention.

As reported in the Nov. 6 *The Ticker* article "Win-Win In The Operating Room, Classroom," surgical "technicians, considered essential members of a surgical team, are the focus of a new associates degree NMC will begin offering in January." It will be the first time NMC has been able to extend such a program.

Due to the cost of such a curriculum and the relative low interest in the past, NMC has had difficulties developing a comprehensive program. The laboratory equipment, personnel and surgery setup would have been far too expensive for NMC to take on alone. But thanks to a partnership with Munson Medical Center (MMC), this tremendous opportunity is finally available to the community.

Across the nation, those trained in healthcare are in high demand. Surgical technologists are no exception. In the Nov. 6 article from *The Ticker*, Maxine Hunter, director of surgical services at Munson, says, "There's a constant demand," in and around Traverse City, for surgical technologists. From providing aid to surgeons in the operating room, to arranging the proper equipment and making sure the area is safe and effective, they are an integral part of the surgical process. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of surgical technologists is expected to grow 30 percent through 2022 and pays an average salary of \$42,000 a year.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Lauren Horan

COPY EDITOR Kristine Groth
STAFF WRITERS Dyana Allen
Andrew Lurndahl
Taylor McLain
Ross Michels
Jasmine Miles
James Robinson
Breanne Russell

PRODUCTION MANAGER Breanne Russell
CO MANAGER Kenna Marar

PAGE DESIGNERS KayLeigh Johnson
ILLUSTRATOR Kenna Marar
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Devon Hains
WEB EDITOR London Rauch

FACULTY ADVISER Jacob Wheeler
DESIGN ADVISER Kathy Schwartz

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EMAIL whitepinepress@gmail.com

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Compiled by Lauren Horan

2015 Traverse City Election

Mayoral candidate Jim Carruthers beat out fellow city commissioner Jeanine Easterday on Nov. 3 by more than 400 votes with a total of 1,834 votes. Both candidates collected more votes than the third mayoral candidate, Ian Joseph Winkelmann, who received 151 votes across the city. City voters also selected three new city commissioners: Richard Lewis, Brian Haas, and Amy Shamroe. They received 2,094, 1,984 and 1,852 votes, respectively.

"I learned it from Spongebob"

Brandon Williams, a 13-year-old autistic student living in Staten Island, N.Y., used the Heimlich maneuver to save the life of a classmate who was choking on an apple in the lunchroom. When asked where he had learned how to perform the maneuver successfully, Williams stated, "I learned it from Spongebob."

New Library/SSC Hours

The Osterlin Library and the Student Success Center have announced new hours that started Monday, Nov. 16. Both the library and the SCC will open at 7:30 a.m., however testing at the SCC doesn't start until 8 a.m. The hours are Mondays through Thursdays 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dancing to the Music

In a convocation between the dance department and the music department, the Milliken Auditorium will host a free, public dance. The event starts Friday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. and is open to everyone. The dancers include Lori Lamb, Jordyn Marsh, Emily Tack, Jacob Williams, and Delphos Kollhoff, all under the instruction of Dorothy Eisenstein.

Holding Off the Hype

Continued from pg. 1

We believe it is important for our team members to be able to spend this time with their loved ones."

TJ Maxx spokesperson, Doreen Thompson, explains why the chain has always, and will continue to stay closed on Thanksgiving. "We feel so strongly about our employees celebrating Thanksgiving with their families, and we don't anticipate this changing in the future." Interestingly enough, Staples was open last year on Thanksgiving but changed their mind for the upcoming holiday. President Demos Parneros explains, "We want our customers

and associates to enjoy Thanksgiving in their own way. Customers can shop from home on Thanksgiving day at Staples.com, and continue their shopping in-store starting at 6 a.m. on Black Friday."

At this point, it's not likely that Thanksgiving will ever go without at least one major chain open that day. Whether you choose to shop or not on Thanksgiving or Black Friday is your choice. We can still make the effort to spend time with our family and be thankful for what we've got.

Northern Lights

Devon Hains
Staff Writer

Aurora borealis, Latin for "dawn of the north," is a natural phenomenon that has been adored by mankind throughout history. From the Vikings, who believed the auroras to be a bridge to the land of the gods, to the Inuit, who believed the auroras were the souls of the animals they hunted. Nowadays, a viewing of the northern lights is on the bucket list for most of those who have not seen them in person. Everyone craves the opportunity to witness the display of colors across the night sky as seen in photos or videos of the amazing feat of nature, but how do they work?

The name comes from Galileo who coined the term aurora borealis in 1619 after the Roman Goddess of Dawn, Aurora. Borealis is a Latin term for northern. Galileo incorrectly hypothesized that these lights in our atmosphere were caused by reflecting sunlight. It was not until 1896 when Kristian Birkeland, a Norwegian scientist, discovered that the auroras are caused by the solar winds and the charged particles they contain reacting with the oxygen and nitrogen molecules in our atmosphere, causing them to glow like massive fluorescent lights. Earth's large magnetic field guides the charged particles to the North and South poles, where the magnetic field is weakest; this explains why the auroras are seen only near the Earth's poles. That's right, the South Pole has auroras too; these are called aurora australis or southern lights.

Most of the planets in our solar system showcase aurora activity of various magnitudes and colors. Astronomers have even discovered a brown dwarf, too heavy to be a planet but too light to be a star, outside our solar system that hosts auroras estimated to be a million times brighter than here on Earth. Until this discovery, Jupiter hosted the brightest aurora ever perceived by man. Most of you are probably thinking, "alright enough with the fun facts. How do I witness the auroras for myself?" Well there are many factors to consider when attempting to view the northern lights. The most obvious factor to consider is the local weather; you need

a clear sky not obstructed by clouds. A full moon can also affect how vivid the auroras appear, acting as a source of light pollution that can reduce a sky of 3000 stars down to only 300 that can be seen. Location plays a large role in your ability to see the auroras. There is an area around the poles called the aurora oval where the lights are most likely to occur, containing Canada, Alaska, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. The oval depends on the magnitude of solar winds, sometimes stretching as far south as New Mexico.

Solar activity is possibly the most important factor to consider when chasing auroras. The sun has a cycle of solar activity. Every 11 years the solar activity peaks, causing more frequent sunspots, solar flares, and solar storms that send solar winds towards Earth that create auroras. This peak in activity is called solar max and sun recently achieved solar max in 2013. Sadly, we will be seeing less solar activity in the years to come, which is all the more reason to get out to see them while you can! This year has been fantastic for viewing auroras, as we are still feeling some effects of the last solar max.

There are many websites out there that forecast the aurora activity, like softservenews.com. Most people are unaware that here in Northern Michigan, we are far enough north that the northern lights are not only able to reach us, but have done so quite a bit over the course of 2015. The first time I ever witnessed them was in April of this year, and since then I have watched the auroras glow in the sky over Grand Traverse Bay around 10 times since my first viewing. I will admit that it is rare that Michigan gets a show from the auroras that compares to that of Alaska. There was one occurrence this year where we received such a rare show and I was very lucky to get out with my camera to capture it. The photo you see with this article is from the morning of June 23 earlier this year, taken from Old Mission Peninsula. The auroras were so active that night that they were reportedly seen in Ohio. If you wish to view the auroras, do some

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research of your own to understand KP levels and geomagnetic activity, so the next time we are blessed with the wondrous sight of auroras you can be out there to witness it for yourself and check it off your bucket list!



PHOTO BY DAVID L. FOX PHOTOGRAPHY LLC

Students from the NMC dance department will perform Friday, Dec. 4 at 1:00 p.m. in Milliken Auditorium.

Dancers from left to right: Lori Lamb, Jacob Williams, Jordyn Marsh, Delphos Kollhoff, and Emily Tack.

Surgical Technology Program at NMC

Continued from pg. 1

To be considered for the program, prospective students must first fulfill prerequisite courses including Anatomy, English, Math and Medical Terminology. Ten students will be selected each year to complete the program over a four-semester period, including one summer semester, and additionally, students will need to perform 120 surgery cases before graduation. Classes will be held at both NMC and MMC, with all clinical components taking place at Munson.

As with most medical professions, there are a wide range of prospective avenues surgical technologists may pursue. Students can specialize in a specific area of medicine such as neurosurgery, cardiothoracic surgery, orthopedics or many others. But wherever students focus their training, surgical technology is a high energy and fast-paced career.

In the past, MMC has had some difficulty holding on to surgical technologists. Hunter says, "Students from other colleges' programs have done their clinical rotations at Munson and accepted positions there—but eventually left because they didn't have homes in the area." She is excited at the prospective new pool of graduates through the new program with NMC.

Such a program has limitless possibilities. Not only will it bring young professionals who wish to broaden their skills into Traverse

City, it will keep those who successfully graduate here. By providing students the necessary tools, those who enroll will have time to settle into the community and make plans for the future, hopefully negating some of the common reasons employees have left in the past.

MMC is the largest of eight Munson Healthcare system hospitals located in northern Michigan. In Traverse City alone, they employ more than 3,700, and they are the only Level II Trauma Center north of Grand Rapids.

Since the NMC surgical technology program is at its inception, accreditation is in the works. Once achieved, graduates will be eligible to take the Certified Surgical Technologist exam through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting. Currently, in Michigan, a surgical tech does not need certification to be employed. However, accreditation can give you a leg up over another applicant in the same field.

Medical programs at NMC, such as the nursing program, have been in such high demand that students had to be waitlisted to enroll. If the Surgical Technology associates degree is something you are interested in pursuing, don't hesitate to get more information.

To learn about the Surgical Technology associates degree and the program requirements, go to:

www.nmc.edu/programs/academic-programs/surgical-technology/index.html

Or contact the Health Occupations Academic Area in the Biederman Building 103G (231-995-1950) or email them at healthoccupations@nmc.edu

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Letters to the Editor

Response to Gun Control Op-Ed

Both sides of the argument were presented passionately and convincingly in the October 22 op-eds on gun control. But I was disappointed that Stan Baca included a false quote from Thomas Jefferson. False founding fathers' quotes are so common among Second Amendment advocates as to be cliché. It weakens the whole argument and makes you think that Baca and like-minded are gullible and/or intellectually dishonest. I am surprised and disappointed that you allowed it to be printed with such a gross inaccuracy. As to Breanne Russell's piece, she makes some excellent common sense points about how a rational society might curb gun violence without infringing on rights. But I would add liability insurance, just as is required on our cars, as a requisite for gun ownership.

By Gary Worden

WRITE US A LETTER

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

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1701 East Front St.
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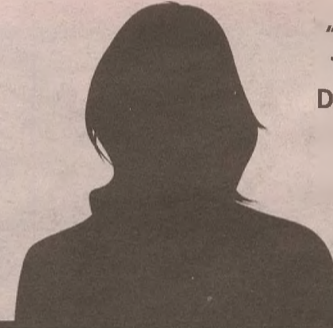


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CAMPUS QUOTES

Compiled by **Laureen Horan**

What Are You Thankful For?



"I am thankful for being able to cook my first Thanksgiving dinner for my family this year. Definitely nervous but excited to see everyone and spend time together!"

CORTNIE THOMPSON
Associate Supervisor of Residence Life

"I'm really thankful for everything I've got. Life isn't always easy, but I know it's not worth complaining about. I have a nice home, good jobs, a college education, a healthy relationship, great friends and a loving family. I have a lot to be thankful for."



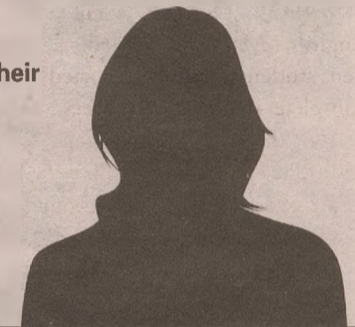
BRADLEY GEIGER
Social Work



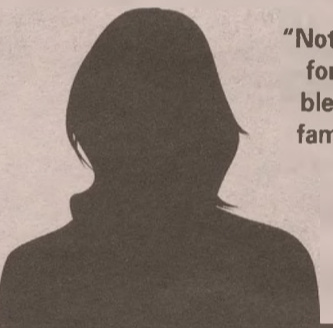
"I'm thankful for my friends and family!"

CHELSEA SAYRE
Culinary

"I'm thankful for my friends, for their constant love and support."



DYANA ALLEN
General Studies



"Not only am I thankful for the opportunity for me to get an education, but I am so blessed to have a community of friends, family, and coworkers that support me."

MIKELA WILSON
Social Work

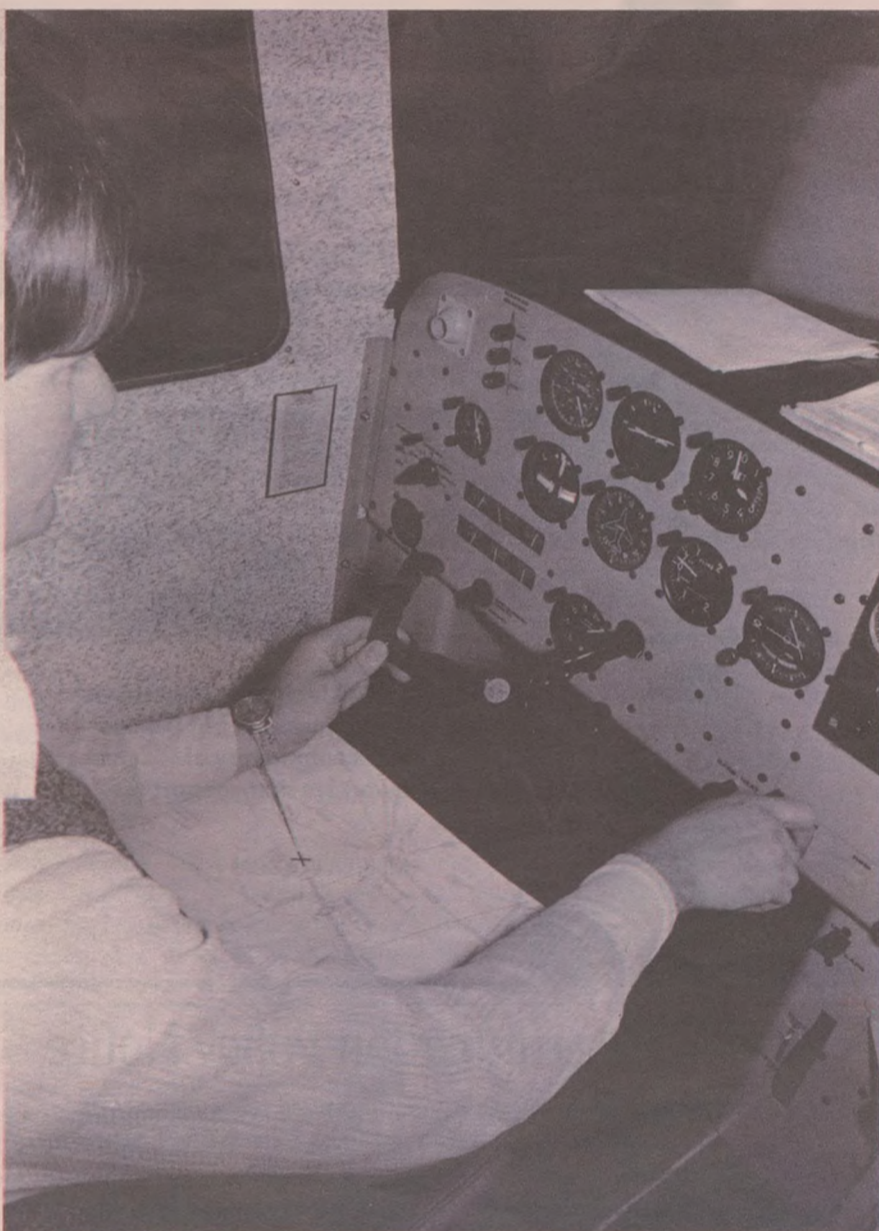
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James Robinson
Staff Writer

Celebrating Aviation History at NMC

Then



Look, up in the sky! It's a bird! No, it's a plane! We may never see a caped crusader in red tights soaring through the sky, but nearly everyone will see or hear an airplane traveling from place to place, soaring noisily above their heads. Today, aviation is a major global industry, transporting cargo and people all over the world.

According to the Air Transport Action Group, "Over 58 million people are employed worldwide in aviation and related tourism. Of this, 8.7 million work directly in the aviation industry." Aviation has evolved rapidly over the past 100 years. From the first airplane flight by the Wright brothers in 1903, to the 24-hour solar-powered flight by Bertrand Piccard in 2010, to the recent surge in Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology, aviation has proven to be a hallmark of technological evolution and innovation. The month of November is designated as National Aviation History month, dedicated to exploring and celebrating the great contributions and achievements in the development of aviation. This is a great opportunity for us to celebrate our fantastic aviation program right here at Northwestern Michigan College!

According to Alex Bloye, the Director of

Aviation at Northwestern Michigan College, it is critical to train high quality pilots, since "people trust pilots with their most precious cargo—their family." The aviation program at Northwestern Michigan College began training pilots in 1967. Starting from humble beginnings, leasing space out of two hangars, the aviation branch has developed into a thriving program.

Students in the aviation program receive training from a high-caliber staff of professional pilots with backgrounds in military, airlines, and business aviation. The program includes a variety of experiences, such as aerobatics, tailwheel, helicopter, and seaplane training. Students fly an average of 325 days a year, training in all four seasons. The flight instruction offered in this program provides students with the opportunity to earn flight hours while finishing their degree. Students can start with no flight hours, and within two years they can earn all their flight ratings. When they start looking at careers, they will be "two years younger and a thousand hours ahead" of the competition. The program is also one of the few in the country training UAV/drone operators. This training is ranked 10 out of the 15 top drone programs in the

"Then" photos courtesy of NMC Aviation Department



country (if you're interested, you can learn more at <http://successfulstudent.org/15-best-drone-training-colleges/>).

Along with high-quality training and experience, the NMC program connects with numerous industry partners such as Envoy Airlines in Fort Worth, ExpressJet Airlines in Atlanta, and Merrill Technologies in Saginaw to provide direct hiring opportunities. It also offers partnerships with six international colleges and universities. Alumni from this program are employed with every major United States airline, most United States regional airlines, numerous international airlines, every major business department in Michigan, and even the United States military. This program offers many employment opportunities. With significant retirements anticipated for the aviation industry in the next 10 years, students are in the right place at the right time.

High quality training and experience and strong industry networking have made this program successful, but the most important component motivating this program to succeed is the passion and commitment of the students and faculty. As Bloye says, "We are a student-centric school."

Students connect on a one-on-one, first name basis with their professors. Bloye was a student in the program in 2001 and says he wants the students to have the same great experience he received. This program allows students to decide their own career paths and prepares them to "write their own story." According to Bloye, the overall mission of the aviation program is "to not grow the program and lose that one-on-one connection. Rather to attract a high caliber student with state-of-the-art facilities and fleet, world-class staff and faculty, and most importantly, by guiding each individual to their goal through unique flying experiences that break the community college stigma."

Does the aviation program sound interesting to you? If you're interested in learning more, you can navigate to the "Academics" tab on the NMC webpage. Click on "Academic Programs" and search for the "Aviation-flight" program. In the spirit of National Aviation History Month, let's celebrate the great achievements at NMC and around the country that have helped us take flight and explore the world from a different point of view. At Northwestern Michigan College, the sky is the limit.

Now



"Now" photos shot by Devon Hains



Hit Me With Your Best Shot

TC's Favorite Coffee Shops

Breanne Russell
Staff Writer

It's cold outside. And there's no better way to keep your hands warm and your insides toasty than a nice, hot, steamy beverage. With a plethora of cafes in Traverse City, it is pretty easy to fulfill your every beverage need. The *White Pine Press* brings you our favorite cold-busting beverages for your enjoyment.

Morsels

Not only does Morsels handle your sweet-tooth appetite with their bite-sized treats, they also offer some delicious seasonal drinks. The Chai-der features Intelligencia's Kilogram Chai tea blended and steamed with Michigan Apple Cider. Another must-have is the Maple Bourbon Latte. Don't worry, it is all-ages appropriate! The TC Whiskey Co. bourbon is reduced and mixed with steamed milk and Intelligencia espresso shots. And though many coffee shops may offer the ever-popular Spiced Pumpkin Latte, the staff at Morsels prepares everything from scratch. That means a lotta love goes into that cup—and a lot of hand-mashed pumpkin. Need a bite to pair with your drink? Try the Let's Get Pumped morsel, a pumpkin pie delight topped with homemade cream cheese frosting. Morsels is located in Downtown TC between Boardman and Park Street and has a great view overlooking the Boardman River.

Good Harbor

With over 20 years in business, Good Harbor Coffee & Bakery knows their brews. They are featuring a few great libations this season. The Homemade Gingerbread Latte packs a flavorful punch and is topped with in-house gingerbread biscotti, featuring espresso from Chicago-based Metropolis Coffee Co. Also, give their Cinnamon Tea Latte a try. Spicy cinnamon tea, steamed milk and a hint of local honey will hit the spot. Becky Tranchell, a barista at Good Harbor, says their seasonal baked goods are always popular. Pumpkin muffins filled with cream cheese, apple streusel and spiced cookies make a great addition. Plus, give them a day's notice on all baked-good orders and they'll extend 10 percent off! Good Harbor is nestled in Downtown TC on Front Street, right past State Street.

Higher Grounds

Out at The Village at Grand Traverse Commons, Higher Grounds has some truly unique drinks this season. The Campfire Tea is a combination of Light of Day's Lapsang Souchong tea, topped with Oryana marshmallows. According to Emma Smith, Barista at Higher Grounds for seven years, the Campfire Tea smells like a campfire and is the perfect smoky-sweet treat. Also featured for a limited time is the Hibiscus con Panna, a latte made with hibiscus-infused syrup, Higher Grounds espresso and topped with homemade

whipped cream. The hibiscus used is grown by their partners at La Fem in Nicaragua, an all-female cooperative that promotes the rights of women.

Cuppa Joe

There's a whole line-up of seasonal drinks available at Cuppa Joe, both at their Building 50 location or the Drive Thru right by NMC. Right now you can tip back a Hot Caramel Cider, made with Friske Orchards apple cider. In a week or two the Gingerbread Latte or Candy Cane Mochas will be ready to kick the holiday season into gear. And after Thanksgiving, Shelter's Egg Nog will be highlighted in their Egg Nog Latte to tide you over until Christmas. Sandi Postma Daley, owner, says she's loved every moment of her 16 years in business and her favorite part is "sharing something I truly enjoy with others. I love cooking and preparing beverages (especially coffee)... and being able to have people meet me in my space to enjoy them."

BLK MRKT

A relatively new cafe, owned by veteran barista Charles Korson, BLK MRKT sets the mood and serves up the flavor. Currently, they only have one seasonal drink, but with this name it's a sure-fire winner. The Fuck Yeah Pumpkin is a spiced, local squash latte. Come Thanksgiving, more seasonal drinks are available, but the menu-constant and delicious Bicerin, a hazelnut mocha made with Pressmeister hazelnut oil, will always satisfy. Of course, Korson reminds us not to forget the ever-gratifying cup of black coffee. And through Thanksgiving they are serving up pie! Organic Pumpkin, Heirloom Apple and Bourbon Maple Pecan pies can be enjoyed by the slice or pre-ordered for the holiday. BLK MRKT is located in the Warehouse District off of Hall Street.

Joe Muggs

Go for gold with Joe Muggs holiday drink trifecta—Peppermint Mocha, Eggnog Latte and Gingerbread Mocha. If piping-hot milk, silky espresso, mountains of whipped cream and drizzled chocolate makes your mouth water, than Joe Muggs can fill the bill. Lauren Horan, Joe Muggs barista, suggests you try the Mint Chocolate Affogato Frappe. She says all the drinks are "Delicious, can be prepared hot or cold and taste awesome with the treats we got right now." For a limited time, every five seasonal beverages you purchase earns you one free! Joe Muggs is located inside Books-A-Million (BAM!).

So take these suggestions and run with them. There's plenty of cold weather ahead to discover your favorite beverage in town. And nothing says winter like huddling over a hot drink, thawing out your eyelashes.

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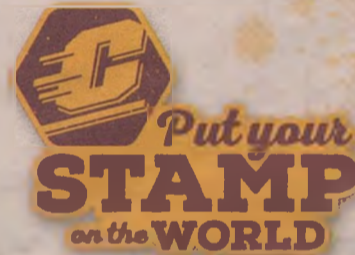
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Thanksgiving Word Search

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 P E X F L S C R F R T U V A T
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- AMERICANS
- CRANBERRY
- ENGLAND
- FAMILY
- HOLIDAY
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Entertaining the Cold

Dyana Allen
Staff Writer

As December presses in, it brings the cold with it. The shortened days and cold temperatures can often make staying inside the more appealing option. Winter has always marked the time of year to fill with books and holiday movies for me, a comfort against the weather outside. It's also marked the time of year for spending copious amounts of time indoors; these things were necessary for my sanity, the chicken soup to cabin fever.

A series I appreciated last snow season was *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* trilogy by Stieg Larsson. Based in Sweden during the winter, the theme aligned with what was outside my front door, while also rich with dark undertones. It had constant action, and the character development and story progression was nothing short of delicious. The book focuses on the life of computer-savvy Lisbeth Salander when she is hired by Henrik Vanger to investigate the disappearance of his niece and teams up with journalist Mikael Blomkvist. The case unfolds as they search for a suspected killer on the island owned by Vanger, Hedeby Island. There's always more information being revealed about the characters and the case that continuously pulls you in. It's has a lot of dark elements to it, and a sexual assault trigger warning, heads up.

A treasure of a love story is *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain. It focuses on the life of Ernest Hemingway from the perspective of Hadley Richardson, his first wife. If you're ready to read about the passionate romance of a writer and a young woman from St. Louis, hop on this roller coaster. One of my favorite parts is when she's describing a night when they went to the dunes drinking rum, then proceeding to roll down them. (Heck yeah Michigan references!) There's so much beauty in the beginning of their relationship. Then she describes being in love with a writer and the aspects of that. McLain's writing is so honest and true to how Richardson felt throughout it all and how graceful she was even in the downfall. The book evokes so much emotion and is written beautifully! It's one of those books where you feel like you're traveling the world.

Light Boxes by Shane Jones is about a town that is stuck in February, which makes it a perfect winter read! NMC student, Jeremie Addiss, recommended it. He says, "*Light Boxes* by Shane Jones takes place in a town that is trapped inside a frozen, bleak, never-ending February. Flight has been banned and the town's children are slowly disappearing." It captures those oppressive late winter, post-holiday feelings of melancholy and despondency in its surreal poetic prose with passages like, "Tell me everything won't end in death. That everything doesn't end with February. Dead wildflowers wrapped around a crying baby's throat. I've slowed my heartbeat to three beats a minute. I've redrawn the clouds into birds, a fox chasing them into the mountains. I'm going to move my hand today. I vomit ice cubes." Magical Realism as a genre allows storytellers to vividly and artfully express emotions, where the feeling of having the weight of a mountain resting on your shoulders could quite literally be a rocky, burdensome summit crowning your spine. The strange style of storytelling, bleak subject matter, and argotic layout of the text can mean this book isn't necessarily everyone's cup of mint tea, but for those looking for something a little different, or especially for someone who suffers from Seasonal Affective Disorder, a sense of understanding and fellowship can be found in its tragic beauty.

I also get so pumped up talking about holiday movies; I'm thrilled about this season. There's so much variety in them too, ranging from the classics: *Rudolph*, *The Grinch*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, to more modern films like *Elf*, *Frozen*, *Gremlins*, and so on. If you're one who celebrates holidays, watching movies about them can be inspiring and also get you in a festive mood. With December being only 31 days long, we have to try and cram as many books and movies into them as we can.

This winter, re-watch your favorites and hopefully get into some new material. Swapping books out with friends or having your own little book club is a good way to explore your options while getting your friends in on it.



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The search is on for Miss Nelson, who seems to have vanished. Hopefully the students of Room 207 will find her before it is too late – for them!

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Thanksgiving Alternatives

Andrew Lurndahl
Staff Writer

This time of year usually brings back fond memories for Americans. Many of us can recall memories of with loved ones, enjoying festive foods and time together. We celebrate Halloween at the end of October, and then fall really begins to unfold in all its beautiful colors as we move into November. It is this time every year when we approach the annual holiday of Thanksgiving. It's a holiday that, for many of us, will be spent around a table full of food. We spend time with family, perhaps watch some football or watch the annual Macy's Day Parade, and take a moment to reflect on all that we are thankful for.

Thanksgiving is typically thought of as a holiday unique to the United States. While Americans celebrate and look forward to this annual tradition, it is also a holiday that is observed and celebrated all around the world. Other countries take part in giving thanks for all that they have received.

Thanksgiving as we know it today does have its roots in the early history of the United States. The Puritans fleeing religious persecution in England set sail on a ship called the Mayflower seeking refuge in the new world. The Puritans would eventually arrive in the town Plymouth, Mass. The new settlers' first winter was a harsh one. They all struggled to survive and many of them did not make it. Native Americans living in the region extended a helping hand and helped guide the Puritans, showing them how to live and survive in the new world. The Puritans began to thrive thanks to the techniques learned and decided to throw a celebratory feast. The Native Americans were invited, and in a celebration that lasted three days, two very different cultures shared in a moment of food and peace.

Though many of us know Thanksgiving as an American holiday, the reality is that Thanksgiving is celebrated in many places around the world. While the food and the customs may be slightly different, and in some cases *very* different, the sentiment is still the same.

Canada

Our neighbors to the north celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October. Canadians give thanks for

a successful harvest. This is a tradition that dates back to European festivities honoring the bounty of the harvest and the hopeful pleasant winter to come. Both America and Canada share many of the same things where the menu is concerned. The traditional Thanksgiving foods turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie are consumed, although Canadians usually have slightly different variations on these holiday favorites.

Puerto Rico

This American commonwealth embraces the Thanksgiving on the same day as America on the fourth Thursday of November. The biggest difference for Puerto Ricans and how they celebrate the holiday is what is prepared on the menu. Some of the menu items will include: fried plantains, slow-roasted

pavochan, morcilla, and roast pork with beans and rice. For dessert, Puerto Ricans indulge in something other than pumpkin pie, and instead feast on a cinnamon-coated coconut custard.

Liberia

This nation gained its Thanksgiving tradition from America because Liberia is the only country that was founded by freed American slaves. Liberia celebrates Thanksgiving on the first Thursday of November. Like Puerto Rico, Liberia celebrates with foods that are different from American tradition. Turkey and pumpkin are very scarce in this part of the world, so instead Liberia cooks roast chicken and mashed cassavas: two options that are served spicy. Liberians also celebrate not only with great food, but also by going to church and enjoying music, song, and dance.

India

Thanksgiving is celebrated in quite a few parts of India, but it is mainly celebrated in the state of Goa and is observed mainly by Christians on August 15. Thanksgiving in India is known by a different name as well: Ladin or Ladainha.

Christians begin preparing for Thanksgiving celebrations by purchasing wheat, gram, candles, and wine. The festivities will include both hymns and prayers. Another celebration that will take place during the festivities is the religious feast of the conception of Mother Mary. During this time farmers will cut the first harvest of corn and offer it to their God.

While the customs and the festivities surrounding Thanksgiving may differ around the world, the sentiment is certainly shared. It is a time to celebrate with traditional foods, spend time with loved ones, take time to relax and to give thanks for all that has been bestowed upon us.

