Be a Hawk Owl Hero
Is your student group looking for a way to raise money? Group members can volunteer to help the NMC Foundation at select events throughout the semester. In return, the foundation will reimburse your group for the amount of time members volunteer. You will earn $10/hour for your student group. For more information, contact Katherine Zurek, at kzurek@nmc.edu or call 995-1030.

Snowshoes for Rent
Interested in getting outside this winter? NMC has snowshoes available for students and employees to sign out and use. You can stop by the North Hall front desk or call 995-1410 to reserve a pair.

Donate to BARC
Bay Area Recycling for Charities recently experienced a structure fire at their Kaleva facility. Donations will help to continue paying affected employees and deal with business overhead as the organization recovers. If you’d like to donate, you can visit mybarc.org/make-a-payment.

National Blood Donor Month
January is National Blood Donor Month! This month celebrates the dedicated blood and platelet donors who help maintain a sufficient blood supply for patients during this difficult time of year. Visit redcross.org/give-blood and/or miblood.org to learn more.

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Alumni Spotlight: Emily Wagner

Emily Wagner, a 2009 graduate of NMC, is now a young, dynamic social worker. During her time at NMC, she worked in the Student Life office. Eventually transitioning from student worker to full-time, she stayed for five years working as the Student Life office manager. She says her boss, current dean of students Lisa Thomas, was a huge influence on her. “She invested in me and gave me so many opportunities to grow. I still look back on that time and feel grateful. I genuinely felt like so many folks at NMC were rooting for me; it made me feel brave for the first time in my life!” Wagner currently works as an organizer for Planned Parenthood, doing critical political groundwork in Maine.

While a student, Wagner started the group VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood to fight for social justice. “I was furious that healthcare was under political attack, and it was the outlet that I needed. I was able to build a community that didn’t exist at the time. It’s really how I found my people at NMC and how I found my professional path to social work.” Although the name has changed to Students United for Gender Rights (SUGR), the group Wagner started is still active more than 10 years after its creation! Nowadays, SUGR advocates for gender equality and other relevant social issues.

Wagner reflects that getting involved with student groups lead her to her career today. “[Starting the VOX student group] gave me the opportunity to work with [both] supportive mentors from Planned Parenthood and staff at NMC. I didn’t see myself as a leader until I got connected with these mentors. My education at NMC held its own—I always felt prepared and ready for my next educational step.” NMC serves as a pivotal stepping stone for so many influential people across the world.

Wagner said she had a great experience as a student. “I had inspiring professors and coworkers who prepared me to continue my education and invested in my leadership skills…these are the people who helped me find my voice and my path.” She also appreciated how many opportunities there were to get involved on campus. “The staff at NMC is top notch…if you have the desire to gain some experience organizing, there are people who will help you do it!” During her time in the Student Life office, Wagner played a key role in helping organize campus and community events. “We partnered with the Women’s Resource Center and Third Level Crisis Center to organize the Vagina Monologues…we did it three years in a row, always to a sold out audience. It connected me with other brave humans—relationships I still cherish!”

After graduating from NMC, Wagner attended Ferris State at the University Center for social work, followed by University of Michigan for her Master’s degree in social work with a concentration in community organizing and human resource management. She currently works as a public affairs organizer for the Planned Parenthood Maine Action Fund in Portland, Maine. “I work as a community organizer who advocates for healthcare at the state and federal level. My time is split between electoral politics, ballot initiatives, and a ‘deep-canvassing’ social science research project on abortion stigma. While working at Planned Parenthood in Maine, I have been a regional organizer for successful ballot measures that raised the minimum wage to $12 by 2020, and expanded access to Medicaid to 70,000 more people. In 2017, our team played a key role advocating to Senator Susan Collins to save the Affordable Care Act and Planned Parenthood.”

When asked what advice she would give to current or prospective NMC students, Wagner said, “GET INVOLVED! Figure out how you want to positively impact this world and pursue it with everything in you. Make the most of your time in school, and go after opportunities that allow you to grow in the direction of your dream.”

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10 Years of Culture: The State Theatre

William Walton-Case  
Staff Writer

Downtown Traverse City has a unique spirit. The architecture of the buildings feels older and more industrial, yet Front Street is a place of entertainment, not industry. Downtown Traverse is filled with bars, restaurants, and niche shops; it’s a place people go when they’re off the clock, not on it. Over the last ten years, this atmosphere has been shaped by the State Theatre. With an Art Deco style harkening back to the golden age of Hollywood, it’s easy to imagine that it’s the fall of 1942 and the people inside are watching “Casablanca”, hoping to forget about the war for a while.

The theatre originally opened as the Lyric Theatre in 1916. The Lyric Theatre was the site of two major fires, first in 1923 and again in 1948. Following the second fire, the current edifice was built, and the State Theatre opened for business on June 30, 1949. In 1996, GKC, which operated the theatre, shut its doors. The building then bounced between various institutions and non-profits before ending up in the care of Traverse City Film Festival. Through hundreds of hours of work from volunteers and the support of filmmaker Michael Moore, the State Theatre was restored and opened its doors once again on Nov. 17, 2007.

The State Theatre experience could not exist without the work of volunteers. From the moment you walk in the door, your experience is made possible by people who believe it is worth donating their time so everyone can experience the magic of cinema. It was the effort of these volunteers that led to the State Theatre being named the best theatre in the world by the Motion Picture Association of America in 2013. Spencer Norrod, who frequents the State Theatre as both a viewer and a volunteer, says that “working in that environment seems to really bring everyone closer together, and I think it’s wonderful that so many people want to help others have a great time.”

Since its reopening, the State Theatre has had an immense effect on the atmosphere of downtown Traverse City, forging a path that has led to the area’s unique spirit today. Being an arthouse theatre, it provides access to indie and smaller studio films that typically aren’t shown at chain theatre multiplexes. Moreover, the theatre’s frequent screenings of classic movies gives people the opportunity to see the films that have shaped our culture.

A cultural scholar and current Film as Literature professor at NMC, Dr. Mark Howell discussed the value of classic movies. “I believe it’s essential that people have access to classic cinema. For us to assume that the only worthwhile films are those made recently is dangerous.” He praised the State Theatre, adding, “The State shows movies that would otherwise be relegated to DVD or YouTube...to present historic and revered movies on a big screen for a small cost makes us lucky to live near such a film-centric outlet as the State.”

The value of the State Theatre is not unappreciated. Throughout the community, people have only positive things to say about the theatre. Some like it for the theatre’s relatively low prices, seeing it as an affordable way to entertain a family. Carrie Dunklow, a local film enthusiast, enjoys the cultural value added by the establishment. “Access to cinema and classic films is essential. Cinema transports a viewer to another world, another time, another place, providing experiences and insights one may not encounter or reach on his or her own.”

She sees the State Theatre as a place to learn things, not just to see pictures on a screen. “Those films which highlight cultural diversity or social issues that are not prevalent in the Traverse City area—[they] serve as critical educational tools, helping to make our community more aware and creating better allies.”

Let it Snow! Winter Activities in TC

Steven Tucker  
Staff Writer

It’s nice to have a lazy day or two once the snow starts to fall. It’s a great change of pace following the hot summer months and busy fall, but it doesn’t take long to get restless. Lucky for us, there is no shortage of remedies for cabin fever around Traverse City. This is the prime time to take advantage of an awesome northern Michigan winter.

The Traverse City Civic Center ice skating rink in Howe Arena hosts a variety of events. Open skating runs throughout the week, except Tuesdays and Thursdays. With a $4 entry fee and $3 rentals, this is an affordable option. Twilight open skate is available most Fridays and Saturdays for an extra dollar. Drop-in hockey is also offered for $10 per person, and stick and puck rentals are available for $5. A detailed schedule is found in the “Public Programs” section at centerice.org.

Fat tire bikes are available for rent at several bike shops in Traverse City. McLain Cycle & Fitness and Einstein Cycles offer the most affordable fat tire rentals. Dress properly and hit the trails for a relaxed, exhilarating ride through the many cross-country trails and nature areas around Traverse City. Don Orr Ski N’ Beach Haus and Brick Wheels offer snowshoe and cross-country ski rentals for those looking to trek through the snow in a more traditional way.

The Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area has ungroomed trails that run through 140 beautiful acres. It’s the perfect place to break out the snowshoes or cross-country skis. There is no cost, and these long, winding trails through forested hills offer breathtaking scenery.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is just as fun covered in snow as it is in sand. It offers both groomed and natural trails for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. There are numerous trails available, but there is no obligation to stick to them. If fishing is your thing, bundle up and pack a sled with your ice fishing gear to hit the ice off shore. With little traffic and no motorized vehicles allowed in winter, one is free to enjoy the Sleeping Bear Dunes in a uniquely natural state.

Mt. Holiday offers 12 ski runs and a terrain park not far from main campus. It has great rates with $22 lift tickets after it opens at 3pm Tuesday through Friday. Want to learn how to ski or snowboard? Rentals are available for $17, and Tow Rope only tickets are $5. $11 will get you an hour at the tube park. Runs start at the top of each hour from 5pm to close on weekdays. Group rates are available for 10 or more people. More information is found at mt-holiday.com.

Local disc golfers will be familiar with Hickory Hills, and when the snow falls it offers the least expensive slopes in the area. They offer eight beginner, intermediate, and advanced runs, open at 4pm Monday through Friday, and 11am on Saturday and Sunday. $1 from every ticket goes right back into the park, meaning the more Hickory Hills is used, the better it gets in the future.

If you want to hit the slopes for a full day, Schuss Mountain between Bellaire and Mancelona offers a great variety of slopes and an excellent terrain park. Ivan’s Cafe has hot food and cold beer at the bottom of the mountain. An alpine tubing park is also available for $15 an hour, or $25 for two, at Summit Mountain nearby. On Wednesday nights, lift tickets are $10 after 4:30pm. It offers great student deals most weekday mornings, and season pass prices are cut in half for full-time college students. Get more info at shantycreek.com.

Regardless of what activities you choose, you can curb your cabin fever by getting out and enjoying this awesome northern Michigan winter. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!
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Intramural Sports at NMC: Game On!

Kelsey Pease

One week before finals, Dec. 7 appeared to be a Thursday night just like any other. Upon entering the stark hallway of the NMC Gymnasium, one was greeted by the usual echoing sounds of squeaky shoes, shouts of encouragement, and booming hits, as had become routine over the course of the 6-week Intramural Volleyball season.

Inside the gym, though, the scene was entirely different than ever before. The two teams on the court were not separated merely by a flimsy net; their attire, face paint, expressions, and the atmosphere drew an invisible line down center-court. This was not any other game. This was the Championship. The players out on the court were not fazed by the pressure and intensity of this game, as they had plenty of practice at overcoming obstacles this season—the most arduous: recruiting players.

Team captain Jay Albaneh knew this all too well. Albaneh, who graduated from the Maritime Academy this fall and attended NMC for three years noted, “In the past, there were eight to ten teams. This year, it was difficult to find enough players for only the two teams we had.”

While some players felt that scrimmaging the same team all season made it less competitive, others had a different perspective on the situation. Makenna Mattson, a member of the second team (captained by Angelo Jeffries), observed that knowing one another’s strengths and weaknesses resulted in the final game being much more intense. “That [Championship] game was the most fun match I have ever been a part of,” Mattson insisted. “Each set went back and forth, and both teams played aggressively, but at the end of the last game, the sportsmanship was fantastic and we all left as friends.”


In order to win, one team must score 25 points by a two-point margin in three sets. The fifth set, if necessary, is played to 15 points. The teams ultimately played all five sets in order to determine a winner of the Championship. The first was a close battle, eventually won by Albaneh’s team, 25–23. Jeffries’s team made up for it with a comeback, winning the second set 25–12. Team Albaneh’s resolve was not deterred, proven by their 25–18 win in set three. Set four was yet another close one, 25–23, awarded to Team Jeffries. The final set was down to the wire and Team Jeffries pulled off another win, 15–12.

The conclusion of that last match was a bittersweet one for Albaneh. Originally from Dearborn, MI, where he has a loving wife and precious one-year-old daughter, he is happy to be returning home, but sad to be saying goodbye. “Intramural Volleyball gave me the opportunity to meet new people, develop strong friendships, break a sweat, and create long-lasting memories that I’ll always look back on now that my time at NMC is done,” he acknowledged after the final set.

Head referee and supervisor of NMC Intramural Sports, Rick Wierman, agreed. “You create relationships with the people you play with,” he said. “Those t-shirts each team member gets for winning the Championship may not seem like a big deal at the time, but 10, 20 years down the road, when you run into someone you played with way back when, they mean a whole lot.”

Sports create a sense of camaraderie that I can only hope follows these kids after they step off the court.”

The Physical Education Gym is open for recreational activities daily. The schedule for spring semester is as follows: Sunday: 10am to 12pm Monday: 12pm (Noon) to 2pm Tuesday: 8pm to 10pm Wednesday: 12pm (Noon) to 2pm Thursday 8pm to 10pm Friday: 12pm (Noon) to 6pm Saturday: 12pm (Noon) to 4pm
in the Rajkovich building. You’ll have the chance to learn a number of different styles of dance including Swing, Tango, Cha–cha, Salsa, Mambo, Blues, and Waltz, among others. For more information, contact faculty advisor and instructor Mykl Werth at 231-499-9793, or follow their Facebook page at “iDance TC Official.”

TC Swing Club meets every Saturday from 7–10pm. It is open to all ages, students, and community members alike. During the winter, it’s held in the Rajkovich building. During the warmer months, Clinch Park hosts the club. Informal dance instructor Connor Cothran says the style he teaches is “an offshoot of Swing, a more modern Hustle.” He tries to include two lessons each night: a warm up for veterans that serves to teach the basics to beginners, and then a more advanced move or different style dance later in the night around 9pm. “During the summer, we were able to reach out and teach tourists from all over the world who came to TC for Cherry Fest, including some from Korea, Britain, China, Japan, and a bachelorette party from Arizona,” says Cothran. “We also were visited by a local police officer and she, too, learned it very quickly!” They are working with Pine River Jazz band this summer to provide live music during lessons. Join their Facebook group at “TC Swing Club” to learn more.

In partnership with the college, Traverse Area Community Rowing (TACR) is offering indoor training on rowing machines Mondays and Tuesdays from 6:15–7:15pm in the Rajkovich building. This provides a great winter workout regardless of your fitness level. Their spring semester objective is to attract more NMC students to try not just indoor rowing, but rowing on Boardman Lake in the summer. For more information about the local rowing community, visit their website at tacrowing.org. For a complete training schedule, visit “Traverse Area Community Rowing” on Facebook.

Besides these student groups, there are many ways to stay active off campus as well. Simple exercises at home like jumping jacks, sit ups, and pushups are an easy way to curb those couch potato tendencies. There are also instructive DVDs, television programs, and YouTube videos where complete home workouts can be found. Simply walking, alone or with a friend, for a half an hour can boost your metabolism and raise your spirits. Whatever you choose, make an effort to stay active during the sluggish winter season.
I do not, because I see a lot of people around me failing at them so I just decided not to start.

NATHAN BROWN, PSYCHOLOGY

I’m going to spend more time with my family this year by trying to not be so busy with everything else. I’d also like to make new friends, so I’m just going to have to walk up to random people and get to know them.

MORGAN CORWIN, PSYCHOLOGY

I’ve always felt that setting resolutions on New Year’s is a bit lame, since a date shouldn’t define when you better your lifestyle. Even so, I do plan on being more disciplined this year in prioritizing my responsibilities as 1) a disciple of God, 2) a student, and 3) a friend. In order to do so, I’ve got an an accountability partner...and I’m organizing my plans two days at a time, so as to make sure they reflect my priorities.

CONNOR COTHRAH, AVIATION

I don’t, because I don’t see the sense in making a promise I may or may not keep. I’m paraphrasing, of course, but the Bible instructs us to let our ‘yes be yes’ and ‘no be no’ and not to make promises, because human nature makes staying true to them nearly impossible.

ALEX CREIGHTON, AVIATION

No, because I know that if I make one I won’t stick to it. Statistically, with how they’ve gone in the past, I won’t follow through.

STEPHANIE JONES, MUSIC

I’m working on becoming more fit and healthy by doing an ab workout every night and meal preps to plan what I’m eating. I’d also like to focus on school and my grades more, so I’ve been using my free time at work to do homework.

LUCIA JELSONENO, CULINARY

I’d like to be more active this year. I used to play hockey, so I plan on going to a few drop-ins at the Civic Center and centre ice.

JAKE DOLL, UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

Do you have any specific New Year’s resolutions this year? If so, how will you accomplish them?

Campus Quotes

Kelsey Pease
Staff Writer

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NATHAN BROWN, PSYCHOLOGY

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ALEX CREIGHTON, AVIATION
Emergency Preparedness for Winter Storms

Leilani DeFoe  
We all know the winter season is upon us and storms are a frequent occurrence; what everyone may not know is what to do before, during, and after a winter storm. Not everyone knows what a disaster supply kit includes, or that Northwestern Michigan College has an emergency alert system. Within this article, you can become more prepared for a winter storm.

The American Red Cross (ARC) advises people to pay attention to weather advisories on the “Winter Storm Safety” portion of its website. These advisories alert people of upcoming severe weather, and that knowledge gives allowances to take certain precautions. ARC offers emergency and disaster mobile apps for iOS and Android at redcross.org/apps.

One precaution every motor vehicle driver should take before the winter season comes is getting your car checked by a mechanic. ARC stresses the importance of getting your vehicle checked; its checklist includes the car’s battery, antifreeze, wipers and windshield washer fluid, ignition system, thermostat, lights, flashing hazard lights, exhaust system, heater, brakes, defroster, and oil. If you’re caught driving in white-out conditions, the best thing to do is to pull to the side of the road and put your hazards on. Once you’re able to see, you can drive again. Be cautious of the road conditions because the roads may be icy.

One of the things you should keep in your car is a disaster supply kit. Described by Weather Underground, a disaster supply kit includes, among other items, water, food, a portable radio, a flashlight, a first aid kit, matches and firestarters, and an extra set of winter clothes. Disaster supply kits should be kept in your workplace, your car, and in your home. ARC also suggests to keep extra clothes, blankets, a bag of sand to create traction for the wheels, a windshield scraper, matches, and a red cloth to tie to the antenna inside your vehicle.

If you’re at home during hazardous conditions, remain inside and wear warm clothes. Stay in contact with family members who are out on the roads to ensure they reach their destination. To pass time and stay updated on the weather conditions outside, watch the Weather Channel or listen to a radio station for new updates on the storm. One way to preserve heat in your home is to put a towel at the bottom of the door to cover the crack. Close off rooms that aren’t being used to keep the heat in, and cover windows as best as you can.

Before a winter storm hits, ARC advises that animals be brought inside if possible. Horses and livestock should be placed in a place where they are safe. Be sure to provide the animals water during a storm, as it is likely that they could become dehydrated.

A way for NMC students to stay safe and notified is to sign up for the emergency alert system, provided by the college for its faculty, staff, and students. A student who signs up for the emergency alert system will be notified of closings due to weather and emergency situations on campus, delivered via SMS text messaging. To enroll, go to Self-Service on your student account, navigate to the “Personal Information” tab, then the “text message opt-in.” After that, you will be given further instructions to enroll.

While this specific article focuses on winter storms, it’s an excellent idea to know how you’ll prepare for other emergency scenarios. Whatever the scenario, make sure you’re ready to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

Generic Disaster Supply Kit

- Water (one gallon per person per day)
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- Flashlight (one per person) with extra batteries
- Basic first-aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Personal hygiene items (including feminine supplies)
- A sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Copies of important family documents (insurance, IDs, etc.)
- Waterproof, portable container for all your supplies

Baby Safe Haven Law

Ariel Haddix  
It has been hammered into our heads from the time we come of age, and the message always seems to be the same: babies happen. Yet somehow, some of us still find ourselves in this predicament. Seeing those two little lines on a pregnancy test rocks the entire world. How did this happen? Maybe “what happened” was a boy you have been dating since high school. Maybe “what happened” is a cute boy you met at the bar and knew for two hours. Perhaps a sexual assault, or simply a friend has come to you, not knowing what to do.

As a nursing student and emergency medical technician (EMT-B), I am not here to roll my eyes, judge you, or hold up a sign saying you are a terrible person. I am here to help you. Google “unexpected pregnancy” and you will see three options: parenting, adoption, and abortion. But what if none of those feel right? What if you can’t tell anyone? What if you cannot parent at this time, but you don’t believe in abortion and you can’t face everything that comes with adoption? You have a fourth option. It is called the Baby Safe Haven Law. This law is in place to protect you and the baby by enabling you to relinquish your rights to the child at any hospital, fire, police, or EMS station with an on-duty emergency service provider (EMT, firefighter, police officer, nurse) that is inside the building, no questions asked. You may also surrender the baby by calling 9-1-1 and they will come to you.

Early in the morning or in the cover of the darkness of night, it does not matter. It is completely anonymous, and no paperwork is involved. The baby must be under three days old and unharmed. If taking the baby yourself is too difficult, you may also place the baby with a friend, priest, family member, or any responsible adult who can take the child to a drop-off location. For information about the Baby Safe Haven Law, you can call the confidential, toll-free line at 1-866-733-7733. You are supported. You have options. You are loved. Your baby is loved. Over 200 babies in Michigan have found new loving families through this law, and no baby needs to be abandoned in Michigan ever again.
**Book Reviews**

*Doctor Who*

**Ann Hosler**  
In BBC's December 2017 Christmas television special, the 12th Doctor (Peter Capaldi) regenrated into the first-ever female iteration of the Doctor (Jodie Whittaker). The showrunners had been preparing audiences for this moment for a few seasons; the Doctor's long-time friend and enemy, the Master (most recently, John Simm), had regenrated into a female, Missy (Michelle Gomez), at the start of Capaldi's tenure. Regardless, some fans were outraged (a woman???) and some were delighted (a woman!!!). In the end, it will depend on Whittaker's acting and the scripts she's given to win the audience over—same as any previous Doctor.

The beauty of “Doctor Who” is the many potential adventures each Doctor presumably has. This understanding that the Doctor experiences far more than the audience is privy to opens the door for other forms of media. Graphic novels, radio broadcasts, short stories, and much more take fans on a journey beyond the realm of television.

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**“12 Doctors, 12 Stories”**  
by Various Authors  
Twelve bestselling authors, including Neil Gaiman, Holly Black, and Michael Scott, each contribute a short story to this collection. Each of the first 12 Doctors goes on an original adventure, with mystery and danger lurking around every corner. Companions accompany the Doctor on journeys to new lands, facing both old and new (the Daleks!) threats. Some journeys have no companions.

“Were you always like this?”  
“A madman. With a time machine.”  
“Oh, no. It took ages until I got the time machine.”  
—“Doctor Who: Nothing O’Clock” (Book #11)

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**“Doctor Who” Comics**  
by Various Authors  
I've fallen behind on my collection, but have thoroughly enjoyed the Titan Comics series for the 10th (David Tennant) and 11th (Matt Smith) Doctors. Similar to the short stories, the comics introduce you to new perilous adventures of the Doctor, and some include companions not introduced in the television series. The illustrations are crisp and engaging, and many of the covers are stunning. If you're unsure you want to dive into a new comic book series, every year on Free Comic Book Day (the first Saturday in May) you can snag a multi-Doctor adventure story at participating shops.

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**“An Elocuence of Time and Space”**  
by Various Authors  
by James Wylder  
This nearly-500-page book of poetry, funded by a 2013 Kickstarter campaign, was released to celebrate the “Doctor Who” 50th anniversary. It includes illustrations by Olivia Wilde, sprinkled throughout the book, to accompany Wylder's vast array of poems. Each televised episode of “Doctor Who” (through Dec. 25, 2013) has its own poem, making this a refreshing companion for viewing. Additional poetry honoring the Doctor's companions and arch-enemies, essays, and even recipes fresh out the book's content. Kindle Unlimited subscribers: you can get it for free!

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**“Essential Guide to 50 Years of Doctor Who”**  
By Justin Richards  
This comprehensive guide to all things-Doctor was another 50th anniversary celebration release. Each Doctor (through #11) has a chapter detailing the actor, their episodes and signature adventures, quirks, companions, major villains, and how their regeneration occurred. A huge amount of photos accompany the Doctors’ tales, splashing each page with stills from the series. This book is no longer in print, but used copies of the hardcover edition can be found on Amazon and eBay.

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**Movie Review: “Star Wars: The Last Jedi”**

**Emily Clements**  
Staff Writer  
A spectacular comeback in 2015, “Star Wars” fans worldwide have been eagerly awaiting the next installment in the franchise. “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” released on Dec. 15 and has since earned over $1.2 billion in the worldwide box office, becoming one of the most popular movies of 2017.

I saw the movie in IMAX the opening weekend and, to say the least, I was mind-blown! If you are a fellow “Star Wars” fan, I highly recommend going to see “The Last Jedi”. You will not be disappointed. There is nothing better than watching the “Star Wars” universe come to life on the big screen. With all of the thrill, action, suspense, and humor, it will have you on the edge of your seat through the entire movie.

My favorite scene is when Rey is “summoned” (more like tricked) into boarding The Supremacy—also known as the Mega Star Destroyer—Supreme Leader Snoke’s personal ship. Upon her arrival, Kylo Ren immediately escorts her to Snoke. The tension of having two Jedi (Rey, who walks in the light, and Kylo, who struggles with the darkness) in the same room as Snoke was extremely suspenseful, because there was no telling what was going to happen next.

Then suddenly, Kylo Ren takes the audience by surprise and kills Snoke by impaling him with Rey's lightsaber! Kylo and Rey briefly join forces in an epic battle with Snoke’s guards, defeating them one by one. Just when you think Kylo is switching sides to fight for the Resistance, it becomes apparent that he has a different, darker vision in mind.

Overall, I give the movie a 4-star rating. I felt like there were some parts of the movie that were really rushed. If the directors had taken more time to expand some scenes and delve into more detail, it would have built stronger emotions and firmer foundations.

What does the future hold for Rey and Kylo Ren? Will they ever join forces for good, or will it come to a final showdown between the two Jedi to prove who is the strongest? Will Rey ever discover who her true parents are, or does she perhaps already have an idea? With so many questions left unanswered, hopefully the next installment of the trilogy ties everything together. Until then, “Star Wars” fans everywhere are waiting in agonizing anticipation. May the Force be with you.
Winter is in full force, meaning the struggle to stay warm and healthy is real. Besides bundling up under an infinite number of layers, a good way to stay warm might be a homemade pot of soup—one that rivals your mother’s famous recipe, but is simple enough to conquer on your own. Homemade soup is arguably the most versatile food in existence. From four ingredients to 40, history has shown you’ll end up with an old classic or a new favorite to tell your friends about!

Step 1: The Base
Starting with a vegetable base is always a great way to bring flavor and substance to a soup. Many recipes contain a mirepoix, which is a classic ratio of celery, carrot, and onion that creates a base flavor for soups like chicken noodle, vegetable, beef stew, or cheddar broccoli. This base can be modified to include any other hard vegetable that holds its shape well. Cut each vegetable roughly the same size and cook over medium heat with a tablespoon of oil in a large pot until the veggies are slightly tender.

Step 2: The Broth
With broth, the versatility is endless. Chicken broth for chicken soup, vegetable broth for vegetable soup, or just a mix of water and spices like garlic, chili, and salt could suffice. If you’re really out of ideas, the instant ramen in the back of your cupboard has a packet that can easily replace a can of stock in a pinch. Add in any of these broths or stocks after your base vegetables have either become translucent or have cooked down in the oil for a few minutes.

Step 3: The Fillers
Fillers include starches (like pasta or potatoes) to beans, soft vegetables (spinach and kale), meats, or primary vegetables (for example: broccoli for a broccoli cheddar soup). This is where the greatest creativity comes into play! After adding these fillers, let your soup cook anywhere from 30 minutes to all day (crockpots work best for this), making sure your vegetables are done the way you prefer them.

Step 4: The Finish
Finishing your soup includes adding ingredients you don’t want to let cook for an extended period of time. Since dairy or cream bases can curdle after being cooked for a while, it’s best to add these near the end. These can add a wonderful texture and flavor to soup. Fresh herbs are also a refreshing addition before serving. For example, fresh cilantro pairs well with chili and green onion in ramen dishes.

Base Soup Ideas
Simplest: Black Bean Soup with a base of onion and garlic, chicken broth, or water as the liquid, and a can of mashed black beans as the filler. The soup finishes well with a little fresh parsley and sour cream!

Simple: Vegetable Soup with any hard vegetables for the base, such as onion, pepper, carrot, or parsnip, vegetable broth, and soft vegetables for the fillers. Adding in pasta and herbs, like parsley and thyme, can turn this into a classic minestrone soup.

Medium: Classic Chicken Noodle Soup with a base of carrot, celery, onion, and garlic, chicken broth as the liquid, and precooked chicken and noodles as the fillers. Parsley, bay leaf, and thyme make great additional flavors to this soup.

Satisfying: Classic Beef Stew with a base of carrot, onion, celery, and garlic, beef broth as the liquid, and seasoned beef roast and red skin potatoes for the fillers. Bay leaves, fresh thyme and parsley are necessary for the best flavor. Leave this in a crockpot for at least four hours—you won’t be disappointed.

Time Consuming (but worth it): Homemade Beef Stew with a base of carrot, onion, celery, and garlic, beef broth as the liquid, and seasoned beef roast and red skin potatoes for the fillers. Bay leaves, fresh thyme and parsley are necessary for the best flavor. Leave this in a crockpot for at least four hours—you won’t be disappointed.

Mix n’ Match Soup Recipes

Lindsay Schmandt
Staff Writer

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Events Calendar
January 26 - February 9

Kelsey Pease
Staff Writer

Friday, Jan. 26
5:30 to 6:30pm: Voices student group meeting in Health & Science 100.
6 to 10pm: Volleyball sponsored by Ratio Christi in Physical Education 100.
7:30 to 10pm: Arsenic and Old Lace performs at the Old Town Playhouse.

Saturday, Jan. 27
10am to 2pm: Indoor Farmers Market in the Village at Grand Traverse Commons.
8pm: Toronzo Cannon performs a blues concert at the Dennos Museum Center.
7 to 10pm: Swing Dancing Club in Physical Education 100.

Tuesday, Jan. 30
10am: Special Olympics Winter Games hosted by Shanty Creek on the Slopes at Schuss Village.
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7:15 to 9pm: His House student group meeting in Osterlin Library 205.
9:30pm to Midnight: NMC iDance club meeting in Physical Education 120.

Thursday, Feb. 1
10am: Special Olympics Winter Games

Friday, Feb. 2
10am: Special Olympics Winter Games
5:30 to 6:30pm: Voices student group meeting in Health & Science 100.
6 to 10pm: Volleyball sponsored by Ratio Christi in Physical Education 100.

Saturday, Feb. 3
8am to 5pm: White Pine Stampede Cross Country Ski Race starting at the Mancelona High School, 9300 W. Limits Rd., Mancelona.
9:30am to 1pm: Traverse City Polar Plunge into a pool located in front of North Peak Brewery’s patio, on the Front Street side. Awards and After Splash Bash will follow at Kilkenny’s Irish Pub.
10am to 3pm: Festival of Foods, featuring area chefs and specialty food businesses, at the Hagerty Center.
2pm: Indoor Farmers Market in the Village at Grand Traverse Commons.
7 to 10pm: Swing Dancing Club in Physical Education 100.

Sunday, Feb. 4
8am to 5pm: King of the Hill Uphill/Downhill Ski Race at Schuss Mountain

Wednesday, Feb. 7
5 to 9:30pm: Magician Performance sponsored by Student Life in Scholars Hall 217.
7:15 to 9pm: His House student group meeting in Osterlin Library 205.
9:30pm to Midnight: NMC iDance club meeting in Physical Education 120.

Thursday, Feb. 8
7pm: The Art of: Rising - An Indie Lens Pop-Up Screening of “Tell Them We Are Rising” at the Dennos Museum Center.
10am to 3pm: Festival of Foods, featuring area chefs and specialty food businesses, at the Hagerty Center.
2pm: Indoor Farmers Market in the Village at Grand Traverse Commons.
7 to 10pm: Swing Dancing Club in Physical Education 100.

Friday, Feb. 9
5:30 to 6:30pm: Voices student group meeting in Health & Science 100.
6 to 10pm: Volleyball sponsored by Ratio Christi in Physical Education 100.
7:30 to 9pm: Romance Guaranteed performs at the Old Town Playhouse.
The Dennos Museum Center has received a much-needed facelift. After about a year of renovations and high anticipation, the area's "premier cultural facility" is opening its doors to two brand new gallery wings. These new installations will feature permanent art collections and an extensive Inuit art exhibit, along with added classroom spaces for students and faculty.

The expansion is nothing short of grand. An estimated 15,000 sq. ft. was added to the building, including a multipurpose room for the auditorium and additional storage areas for work not currently exhibited. The renovations improved upon errors made during the initial designing of the museum, including a more efficient loading dock and additional retail spaces.

The galleries double the already vast assortment of Inuit artwork, containing over 1,500 pieces centered around the native peoples of the Canadian Arctic. The Dennos proudly displays the largest single museum collection of Inuit art pieces in the country, and receives ongoing donations to build their extravagant selection of work. Many pieces unveiled with the expansion have never been displayed before.

"These two wing expansions for the museum's permanent art and Inuit collection comprise about 10,000 sq. ft. of new exhibition space," said Gene Jenneman, executive director of the Dennos, in a press release. "Yet even with this much new space, we have only scratched the surface in terms of revealing the richness of the art collection here at the Dennos."

Students can look forward to the designated classroom areas the Dennos is offering as well. An estimated 30 classes from NMC take field trips to the museum, ranging from a variety of different backgrounds and programs. The permanent collection gallery allows students to view pieces of work potentially not displayed in the past, and gives faculty the opportunity to show artwork that corresponds with their curriculum.

NMC students enjoy free admission to the Dennos Museum, just show your student ID card at the front desk. Current exhibitions include Lines of Light: Craig Tandy - Monofiliment Sculpture and Tutankhamun: "Wonderful Things" from the Pharaoh's Tomb. The museum is open daily 10am–5pm (1pm–5pm on Sundays).