



SPORTS

Nordic skier, Adam Martin talks of his successful season and performance at the U.S. Distance Championships.

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FEATURES

A new storefront offering Yooper themed apparel opens on Third Street.

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NMU gets \$6.5 mil for broadband expansion

By Davon Lanier
news editor

To move forward with expanding the Educational Access Network (EAN) across the entire Upper Peninsula, NMU was recently awarded an investment of \$6.5 million from the Michigan Strategic Fund.

The funds were approved last Tuesday to help NMU equip 64 cities and townships across the U.P. with wireless broadband over a two-year period.

The university will invest \$3.2 million of its own, with an expectation of gradually paying back the funds through net proceeds over 15 years, Vice President of Finance and Administration Gavin Leach said. The funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis so as dollars are expended to cover costs, NMU will receive a certain amount back.



Leach

"The money will be used to cover things like control units, antennas, base stations, fiber backhaul some towers, but

not many," Leach said.

NMU earned its educational broadband licensing spectrum from the Federal Communications Commission at the end of September 2016.

The EAN is now available to regional community members looking to enroll in personal or professional development courses as well as educational partners. For educational partners, which include K-12 schools and local colleges or universities, the cost for full NMU LTE access is \$19.95. For lifelong learning community members taking online courses at NMU, the cost for maximum speed with no data cap is \$34.95. Optional speed upgrades are also available for an additional \$5 per month. Access for all requires a one-time purchase of an NMU LTE mobile hotspot, an indoor stationary receiver or a mountable indoor or outdoor receiver.

Leach said NMU doesn't try to compete with local internet service providers like Charter Spectrum or AT&T because there is more of educational focus that comes with the university's broadband.

Many households across the U.P. and other rural areas lack access to broadband or the minimal speeds required to use internet for educational purposes, creating a digital divide between them and the rest of the country. In his testimony

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A Muslim perspective

Local sports broadcaster reflects on life in the U.P.

By AnnMarie Kent
sports editor

Local TV sports personality Sam Ali swapped his studio and his signature bowtie for a podium and a simple white shirt as he spoke about what it's like being a Muslim in the Upper Peninsula.

The event was held on Tuesday, April 4 in the Cadillac/Brule Rooms of the University Center, which was filled with about a half a dozen students, the others in the crowd of nearly 30 people were members of the Marquette County Democratic Party.

"Being Muslim in the U.P. is awesome," Ali said. "I love living here."

Ali was born in Detroit, which he said surprises people when they ask "So, where are you from?" He moved to Dearborn, Michigan in 2000 which Ali jokingly called "Dearbornistan," because of its predominantly Arab population. According to the 2010 census, about 29,000 Muslims live in Dearborn, 30 percent of the city's overall population and the largest of any city in the United States.

After graduating from Wayne State University in 2011 Ali moved his family to the U.P. in 2013 to start a job. Despite family members and friends warning him of the discrimination he would face so far north, he said he learned the U.P. is different from the rest of the world.

Ali's wife wears the traditional abaya and hijab, an outfit that covers her whole body.

Ali said the reaction they get is curiosity not hatred.

"We really just don't get the animosity," he said. "People are curious, I like to satisfy that curiosity."

Junior public relations major Doug Lindblom said he attended Tuesday's event because of importance of the topic but also because of his relationship with Ali through playing local high school sports.

"The thing I found most interesting was that he saw it as an education problem, that people aren't educated on what being a Muslim really means."

The Negaunee native was relieved to hear that most people in the U.P. are more curious than discriminatory.

Part of Ali's talk focused on dispelling the rumors around the Islamic religion, one of the largest being that the religion advocates violence. Ali said there is no such thing as radical Islam, because the Quran teaches only peace.

"Once you commit murder you're no longer a Muslim," Ali said.

While Ali grew up immersed in the Muslim culture, his two children are growing up in an area with no mosques

and in a bubble from the discrimination Muslims face in the United States, he said. Though Ali said he doesn't want to expose his children to that discrimination when it isn't necessary, he also doesn't want them to get to a place where the idea of Islamophobia hits them like a brick wall.

Because his children don't get the immersive education he had, Ali said teaching them at home has become easy with the use of YouTube and other apps.

"I can teach them and maybe learn something myself," he said.

Ali said the job of Muslims is to educate people from different cultures to understand that Islam isn't the scary religion that some media outlets have led the country to believe.

"If there was a time for Muslims to speak up and quell the misinformation, now is the time," Ali said.

Ali encourages anyone seeking information to reach out to a local Muslim student association or go to a service at a local mosque.

"The goal is not to convert but to educate."



Sam Ali speaks at NMU
Christin DeFord/NMU

The food, the drinks, and the scholarship: Narnia meets Northern

By Kara Toay
copy editor

Guests will be taken to the land of Narnia during The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe fundraiser which takes place from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday, April 14.

Held at the NMU Jacobetti Complex and hosted by the NMU Hospitality Management Program, the annual gala will cost \$100 dollars to attend. A reception with hors d'oeuvres and appetizers along with an open

bar will be followed by a five-course meal said junior hospitality major Tamara Hunter, who will serve as banquet manager.

"[The event] teaches us how to set up a banquet and what each department does, and to raise money for the scholarship program," Hunter said.

Each year the fundraiser is held with a different theme. This year's theme is "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" from The Chronicles of Narnia. Double Trouble DJs

will provide live entertainment. Professors from the NMU School of Health and Human Performance will teach guests how to fence, and a fencing tournament and a crown decorating station are also on the agenda. Hunter said Vista Theatre actors will reenact scenes from "The Lion, the Witch, and The Wardrobe."

The money raised will go toward upcoming study abroad programs and a scholarship for a Hospitality and Tourism Management

student which will be awarded through the NMU Foundation Office, said Deborah Pearce, associate professor of technology and occupational sciences.

"We hope to raise several thousand dollars to put toward these scholarships," she said.

The deadline to register for the event is 5 p.m. April 8. Reservations are made at 906-227-2627 through the NMU Foundation. More information can be found on the event's Facebook page.

The tropic threat:

Minnesota prof talks on climate research in tropical forests

By *Kelsii Kyto*

contributing writer

A seminar on the issue of climate adaptation was held at NMU last Friday afternoon on the first floor of Jamrich Hall.

George Weiblen, interim scientific director of the Bell Museum of Natural History and plant and microbial biology professor at the University of Minnesota spoke about his findings related to climate adaptation and its effect on the world. Weiblen has been traveling the world to gather information about tropical forests. He earned his doctorate at Harvard and has published over 60 research articles in his field.

Weiblen began his lecture talking about tropical rainforests and their involvement with the global carbon cycle and climate regulation. These tropical rainforests mitigate floods and droughts and are a source of both timber and non-timber forest products. Additionally these forests hold cultural and aesthetic values and have spiritual significance to many of the people living in or around them.

Weiblen noted the effects that people have on these forested systems.

“We [as humans] are now a force of nature influential enough to affect the very systems that have enabled us to be so

successful,” he said.

Forty to 50 percent of Earth’s surface has been transformed into urban and agricultural systems by humans. Additionally humans currently use 54 percent of the world’s fresh water and this is expected to increase to 70 percent by the year 2050.

We [as humans] are now a force of nature influential enough to affect the very systems that have enabled us to be so successful.

last great tropical wilderness areas that has not been converted for industrial use. The wilderness is five times the size of the state Illinois.

Weiblen visits New Guinea multiple times a year to do research on the current declining growth rates of woody stems in the tropical forests. 98 percent of the land in

with the discovered plants.

Weiblen underlined the issues that came with doing research in such a foreign area. He spoke about tensions he had with different indigenous people. Additionally, Weiblen talked about the muddy soils of New Guinea and how it was impossible to drive there due to landslides along with heavy rainfall that caused trees to uproot and wash away. Weiblen said the uneven ground made it difficult for the team to measure their initial plot of the conservation.

Despite a few setbacks in research, the forest of Wanang was recognized at the Paris Climate Change Talk in 2015, where an indigenous tribal leader was awarded the Equator Prize for educating visiting researchers on indigenous environmental challenges and brought home \$10,000, which he later distributed among the clans of New Guinea that were involved in the research.

“In a landscape that can be pretty negative and discouraging in terms of environment, I’m encouraged that there are examples of good things happening and this is one of them,” Weiblen said in closing at the seminar.

Students walked out of the presentation with the ability to recognize and understand the rigor and difficulty of researching how the anatomy of the Earth is changing.

“Dr. Weiblen’s presentation provided a unique perspective on the challenges of conducting climate change research. From the rigorous methodology to the relationship building, many aspects of his global change research were fascinating,” Thompson said. “The most inspiring part is that he’s been working on this project for more than 25 years and has dedicated his career to understanding forests in a systematic and responsible way. I was inspired by his methodology.”



Thompson

The Northern Climate Network partnered with NMU’s Sigma Xi Society chapter to bring Weiblen to campus. They will also host the Marquette’s People Climate March on April 29 at the Marquette Commons, which is a sister march for the Climate March happening in Washington, D.C.

— *George Weiblen*
interim director, Bell Museum of Natural History

“For decades our consumption habits have been making an impact on the planet. Taking responsibility for those choices and making more sustainable decisions is important for both the planet’s future and humanity’s future,” Jessica Thompson, associate professor of communication and performance studies, said.

Weiblen traveled to New Guinea, which has been a focal point for studies on tropical rainforests for 25 years. New Guinea is one of the least developed countries in the world and this makes it one of the

New Guinea is in the hands of the indigenous people and Weiblen along with his research team works with the population to measure, map, tag and identify woody stems that are larger than (or equal to) one centimeter in the Wanang Forest. It took three years for Weiblen and his team to complete their first census.

Weiblen used the language of the indigenous people as a cultural aspect to name certain species of plants that they gave nomenclature. He and his team were able to make pharmaceutical discoveries

Stabenow at the Showcase



Neil Flavin/NW

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich) (left) discusses future plans with constituents Susan Wideman (right) and Connie Lori (middle) at the Marquette-Lake Superior Hospice 2nd Annual Lip Sync Battle in the Masonic Center of Marquette. Stabenow toured small businesses in the Upper Peninsula over the weekend before departing after paying a final visit to the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette.

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WEEKEND WEATHER

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48°F PM Showers

data from www.weather.com

STATE NEWS

An oil spill occurring in the Portage Canal over the weekend was confirmed Wednesday. A docked commercial fishing vessel containing around 200 gallons of diesel sank Saturday afternoon. It is believed that a small portion of the diesel was released in the water. The U.S. Coast Guard assumed responsibility for the incident on Tuesday morning and is currently working with recovery agents to lessen the amount of oil in the area. Departments including the Marine Safety Unit Duluth will be meeting at the location on Friday to discuss a further plan of action.

NATIONAL NEWS

Donald Trump has removed his senior strategist Steve Bannon from the US National Security Council (NSC). Bannon's appointment in January raised fears that the circle of US intelligence chiefs was being politicized. A White House aide said the reshuffle was not a demotion for Bannon, who used to head up Breitbart News. The aide said Bannon was only given a seat on the NSC to keep an eye on National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, who was fired in February.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

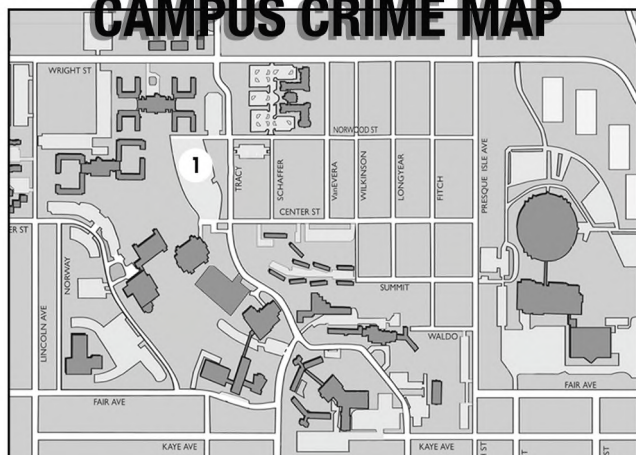
Russia's Supreme Court has begun hearing a government request to outlaw the Jehovah's Witnesses and declare it an extremist organization. The justice ministry has already placed its headquarters near St. Petersburg on a list of extremist groups. There are 175,000 Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia. As the case began in Moscow Wednesday, lawyers representing the movement submitted a counter suit, asking the High Court to declare its members victims of political repression and the justice ministry's action unlawful.

WEIRD NEWS

A 31-year-old artificial intelligence engineer in Hangzhou, China claims to have married a female robot he created from scratch. Zheng Jijia built the "fembot" late last year and named her "Yingying." He married the piece of electronics on Friday in an informal ceremony, according to the South China Morning Post. Jijia said the bot can identify Chinese characters and images and even say a few simple words, but can only communicate with him.

— Compiled from news sources

CAMPUS CRIME MAP



1. An MIP was reported at 11:46 p.m. Saturday, April 1 in lot 11.



Photo courtesy of George Weiblen

Dr. George Weiblen has dedicated 15 years of research to the genetics of the cannabis plant while working at the University of Minnesota. His research focuses on the different levels of THC between hemp and cannabis.

DEA-certified botanist discusses history and politics of cannabis

By Winter Keefer

assistant news editor

Students, faculty and community members filed into Jamrich 1100 last Thursday night to see the NMU chapter of Scientific Research Society Sigma Xi's distinguished lecture "The Cannabis Conundrum."

Though Sigma Xi is most well-known for sponsoring the Science on Tap series at the Ore Dock Brewing Company, once a year the group brings a speaker from outside of the community to talk to students away from the bar setting.

This year, the speaker chosen to present was botanist George Weiblen, Interim Scientific Director and Curator of Plants at the Bell Museum of Natural History located on the campus of the University of Minnesota. Weiblen's presentation, titled "Genetics and Politics of America's Most Controversial Plant," dove into the complexities faced when taking a scientific approach in studying properties of cannabis and hemp that are legally classified as a schedule-one controlled substance at the same level of regulation as LSD and heroin.

"In 1970 the Controlled Substance Act basically took any part of the plant cannabis and outlawed it except for two things," Weiblen said. "Two things that actually had an economy that wasn't a drug economy at the time: bird seed because these seeds are highly attractive to birds and seeds incapable of germination could be imported from other coun-

tries and also fiber."

The talk was broken into four parts. Weiblen first introduced the field of ethnobotany, which he defined as the study of relationships between plants and people.

"You might not know that the seed of the cannabis plant was a staple grain food crop in ancient China, competing with rice as a source of carbohydrates," he said.

Weiblen used history and politics surrounding hemp and cannabis to contextualize where we are today legally and culturally in regard to the plant.

"Some of the founding fathers grew cannabis for fiber on their plantations, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson," Weiblen said. "I even found a place in Thomas Jefferson's garden book where he wrote what plants he was growing a quote where he says: 'We may lay aside tobacco entirely, and the more of it we lay aside the happier I shall be.'

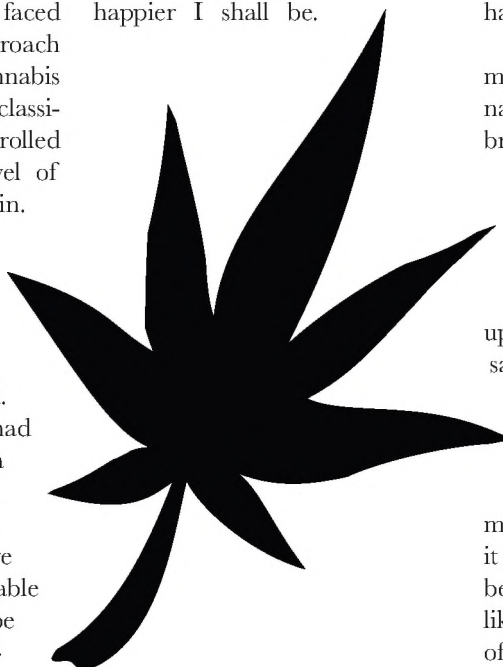
It's vastly desirable to be getting underway with our domestic cultivation of hemp."

In the next part of his presentation, Weiblen spoke about the 15 years of research he has been doing at The University of Minnesota, focusing on the genetics of the cannabis plant that sets it apart from hemp plants. This topic transitioned into his study of ditch weed in Minnesota and the fact that hemp and marijuana are genetically different but defined in the same category.

"What my lab has been focused on is this genetic component and trying to understand genetically why it is that marijuana plants produce predominantly the THC molecule that's got the euphoric effect most associated with it," Weiblen said. "This compared while the hemp-type plants produce predominantly this other cannabinoid that's been getting attention for its therapeutic effects that are not psychoactive but do have health effects."

The last segment focused on the medical uses of hemp and cannabis. Sigma Xi was inspired to bring Weiblen due to the launch of the new medicinal plant chemistry major that is set to be offered for next year.

"There's so much interest in this area it's hard to keep up with at this point," Weiblen said. "What I've been able to do is demonstrate how ridiculous it is for an American researcher to be productive in the current environment. By just playing by the rules it also serves a subversive purpose because it demonstrates to people like you who pay the taxes for all of this nonsense."



Gents to be auctioned in annual UPAWS fundraiser

By Kayla Miller
editor in chief

Carrying on a campus tradition, NMU's most eligible bachelors will showcase their talents and their looks in an attempt to win the hearts of their peers, all while donating money to a local charity.

Clothes will be taken off, that's going to be the skill. That's when the dollars start flying. We hit the music, lights, it will be a good experience. Everyone should be there for that.

— Jordan Borges
junior, public relations major

The annual bachelor's auction will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12 in the Halverson Lobby. NMU's chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) is hosting the event for the first

time this year. The event was previously held by Payne Hall's Ice House. Payne Hall was the first residence hall demolished as part of the university's new housing project last year.

The event will feature about 25 male bachelors. Proceeds, like in previous years, will go to the Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter (UPAWS).

will perform a Magic Mike-esque group dance. Their top song choice now is Lil Dicky's "Lemme Freak," he said.

"Clothes will be taken off, that's going to be the skill. That's when the dollars start flying," Borges said. "We hit the music, lights, it will be a good experience. Everyone should be there for that."

The bachelor auction was a tradition on campus that PRSSA wanted to continue, junior public relations major, PRSSA member and campaign chair for the event Kristen Schroeder said in an email.

"[The students] were incredibly sad to see Payne Hall torn down and this opportunity to host the bachelor auction helps keep a little piece of it alive."

After the event, the highest bidders will join their dates in the Halverson basement for a spaghetti dinner hosted by PRSSA, Schroeder said.

Bachelors from eight underclassmen dorm halls are included, she said, and members of the Marquette community members and students are invited to attend.

After realizing the proceeds go to charity, junior, public relations major and U.S. Olympic Training Site weightlifter Jordan Borges said it was a no-brainer to participate. Borges and his fellow athletes

NETWORK

Continued from Page 1

to the Michigan Strategic Fund in Lansing last Tuesday, Leach shared a story of a U.P. woman who he claimed expressed gratitude to Northern, saying EAN "changed her life." The woman had to routinely drive her daughter to a fast food restaurant in town that offered free WiFi and linger there for hours in order to complete homework, he said. With access to EAN, the woman and her daughter are now able to enjoy the

convenience of high-speed Internet from their home.

Derek Hall, assistant vice president of identity, branding and university marketing said right now there is no other college attempting to provide educational access to broadband like NMU.

"The [benefit] I think is the most exciting for me is the connections that we have with school districts across the U.P.," Hall said. "We're going into these small towns. We're talking to the superintendents and saying, 'We can provide pretty good LTE coverage for your students. Is that a value to you?' And so far everyone has said, 'Yes. We need something like that.'"

"In that relationship, we can provide the school with upgrades to their wireless system," Hall continued. "We can work with the cities. In high school classes, we can have dual enrollment where a student is taking our classes at their school."

Hall explained that through this educational relationship, there remains potential long-term enrollment benefits for NMU. By taking college courses in high school, students are creating a sense of familiarity with the university and have a higher chance of

making NMU their postsecondary school of choice.

"So there's kind of that flow," he said. "It's part of our mission as a regional and state institution to provide educational opportunities and EAN is a way to really do that. So really we're looking at about 60 to 70 installations across the U.P."

While NMU cannot cover every square inch of the U.P., Hall

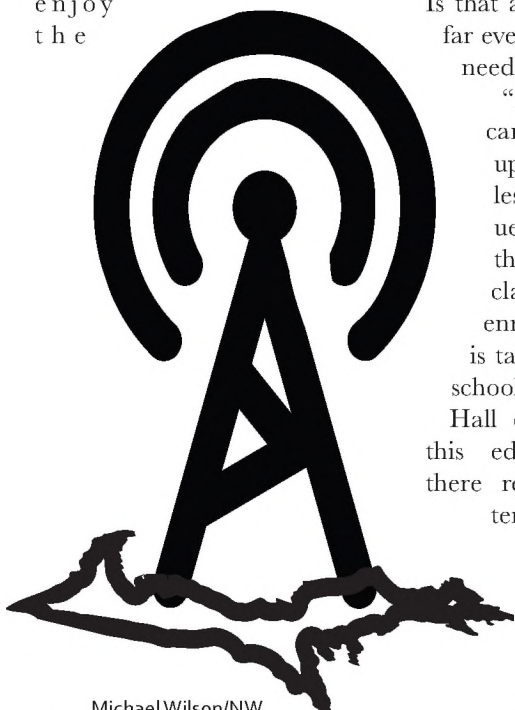


Hall

said the plan is to expand based on population and infrastructure.

Escanaba, Houghton and Bad River, Wisconsin are among the places that currently have EAN service. Hall said NMU is currently developing EAN in places like Watersmeet and Chatham.

The Michigan Strategic Fund is administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. For more information about the Educational Access initiative, visit www.nmu.edu/ean.



Michael Wilson/NW

THE ROYAL BALLET
ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

MARY SHELLEY'S GOTHIC TALE OF MORALITY AND OUR CRAVING FOR LOVE, COMPANIONSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING

FRANKENSTEIN

IN CINEMA APRIL 9

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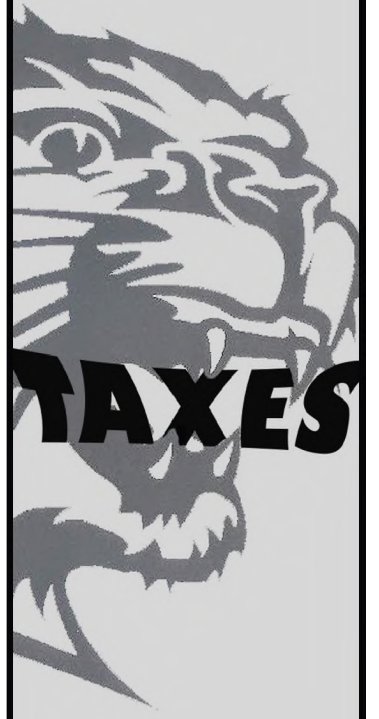
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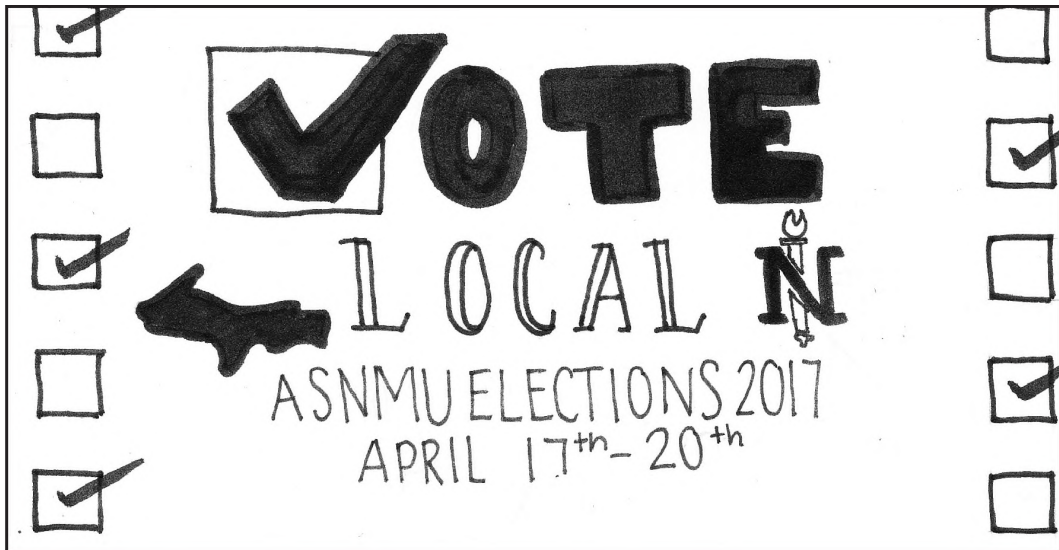
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EDITORIAL



Emmalene Oysti/ NW

Student government in the shadow of voter apathy

Right now there is a resounding boom of people recognizing the power of their vote and their voice across the United States. Whether it's with participation in elections, protests or rallies, people are being inspired to fight for their beliefs and their right to have those beliefs. This year has already seen the biggest one-day protest in U.S. history with the Women's March across the nation.

One would expect that trend to follow at the college level, but that's not always the case.

Despite often being the first time that young people have the power to cast a vote, students often do not recognize that being involved at a campus level is just as important as the national level. Too often students do not see the point in voting in student government, or even the power of actually running for a position.

This is incredibly detrimental when it comes to decision making on campus. Without a strong and supported student government, Wildcats no longer have a cohesive voice to speak for them. Best interests of the students get lost when students no longer care to vote.

There are a lot of changes happening

at NMU right now and it is imperative for us to be involved in these decisions, and ASNMU is one of the most effective ways to do this. But students absolutely need to be involved to utilize this resource and make it effective.

Students need to run and compete for positions. Students need to be able to vote for people that they believe will be the best candidate. The process needs to be more than one person filling out an application and receiving a position.

Our votes that often blur into large totals during national elections have more weight at a smaller scale, and one vote can truly make a difference. But for the past handful of years, student turnout for ASNMU elections has been going down. In 2016 there was a mere 208 votes across all of NMU, which is not enough to even fill Jamrich 1100 halfway.

Wildcats across campus need to be involved in their student government for the betterment of current and future students. It is unwise to wear blinders to politics of any kind and ignore what's going on around us, especially when we can easily get involved at a student level and make a difference.

Graduation is a bittersweet time



Staff Column

Liz Trueblood

I'm sitting in the living room of the first apartment I've ever lived in, in my favorite chair, surrounded by a home that I've started to dismantle. Even as a single, mostly-broke college student, I've amassed a lot in this home. Furniture, artwork, knickknacks, kitchen utensils—to this day I question the wisdom in purchasing a donut maker (basically a glorified waffle iron) but it's found a home in my cupboard these two years all the same. The water pressure sucks and the heat doesn't work well, but in the end I'm going to miss this apartment.

NMU's class of 2017 graduation ceremony is about a month away. I've picked up my cap and gown, my honors cord and my commemorative NMU alumni license plate. I am basically ready to move on to the next stage of my life, along with countless other NMU near-graduates. I wonder if we're all feeling the same mix of terror and excitement.

If I can say one thing about myself it's that I have always been fairly single-minded; since I was in seventh grade I've known that I wanted to major in English, and though my career goals have evolved somewhat, I've never strayed too far from my original path. I'm graduating with a BA in English and minors in theatre and writing, and though I've given up on the idea of being a high school teacher, I'm interested in the possibility of teaching at the collegiate level or working in the private sector. Yet I'm still faced with that burning question: "What do I do now?"

I've reached a fork in the road. I know that I'll be attending graduate school next fall, but I've yet to decide where I'm going to attend. I've been accepted into two programs, and there are pros and cons to both; the biggest conflict I find myself having with the choice is based on the locations of the two schools. One is in Minne-

sota and the other is in New Hampshire. It's a weird situation to be in, with one university being even closer to home than NMU is and one so far-flung that I would be isolated from everything I know. Both possibilities are exciting and terrifying and there are moments when I feel so scared of the future that I don't know what to do. The Midwest is a comfortable place for me; I know what to expect from the weather, the people and life in general. However, I've got a wandering soul—there's so much outside of my comfort zone that I want to experience and I fear that if I don't leave now, I never will. There's something almost exotic about the East Coast; everything out there seems like it would be so different from what I know, and that prospect is definitely exciting. The fear of homesickness, though, holds me back.

On top of that fork-in-the-road choice, I've built a life in Marquette—I've forged relationships that I wouldn't trade for anything, and sometimes I'm scared that leaving will make me lose the people I've grown to love so much during my time here. How can I let go of a place that has been so instrumental in making me who I am?

Intermingled with these worries is a strong sense of excitement. I'll get to live in a new place. Being closer to my family would make me happy and living across the country in a place that's entirely new would be exhilarating. That mix of fear and excitement has brought with it a sense of balance—when beginning a new chapter in life, it's normal to feel anxious and excited. Change is scary but it's also necessary and, in many ways, a very good thing.

I try hard not to be naïve. There's no way for me to account for every detail of my future and in it there might be things to be afraid of. However, there's bound to be a lot to be excited for too.

To my fellow NMU almost-grads: congratulations. We did it. We're scared, we're excited, and whatever comes next, we can handle it. Change is good, after all.

THE NORTH WIND 

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WRITERS WANTED

The North Wind is hiring opinion writers who can intelligently argue one side of political and social campus issues. To apply, stop in The North Wind office at 2310 University Center, 1401 Presque Isle Ave., Marquette, MI 49855

Earning your education



Guest Column

Cali Hunter

Many candidates gained support from millennials this past election season when they made “free college” one of their campaign platforms. Sure, “free college” is an attractive notion but it is a complicated proposal that would cost a lot of money and time to make it a reality. At this point it’s just not feasible for our country’s economic state.

So, with “free college” not happening any time in the near future although it is a distant possibility how can one ease the financial burdens of student loans and tuition fees?

I, like many students here at NMU and around the country, struggle every day with the cost of attending a four-year university. There were times when I’d have holds put onto my student account because of an unpaid bill, resulting in the filling-up of classes I had needed to take that semester. My father even took a job hundreds of miles away from my mother on the oil fields in North Dakota to help pay for mine and my brother’s schooling. It temporarily eased the relentless payments, which sometimes were in excess of \$1,000 for one month of school. However, the job didn’t last long, thanks to the ever-fluctuating oil market.

I needed more than just a part-time retail job to help my parents

out with my school payments. I was taking upwards of 18 credits during my first two years of school so a second job was out of the question. I looked into numerous scholarships, but there were hardly any for journalism majors; most of them were geared towards science and laboratory research or they were specifically for graduate students.

I lived in Hunt Hall my sophomore year and drove past the armory on Lincoln Street nearly every day. One day in October a large white banner with bold, blocky red letters caught my eye. It read, “WANT FREE COLLEGE? FIND OUT HOW!” and listed in smaller black letters promises of “student loan repayment” and “\$10,000 signing bonuses.” Intrigued, I set up a meeting with a recruiter. Two hours into the meeting, I knew I wanted to join the Army National Guard.

After stacks of paperwork and grueling physical and written tests at MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station), I took the oath to serve my country. I set out for basic training and my military occupation specialty training on May 23, 2016 en route to hot and humid Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

It was brutal; four months of early days and late nights, drill sergeants screaming in my face nearly every day and no access to the outside world besides handwritten letters I received from family and friends. Making people in my life proud and becoming a real U.S. soldier was what pushed me the most but the idea of “free college” helped motivate me, too.

It feels as though a weight has been lifted; student loans and tuition payments are now obsolete. Knowing that I earned these benefits, through 16 weeks of sweat, blood, tears (and numerous sunburns thanks Missouri) is a good feeling. I wanted to go through school debt-free, so I was proactive and made it happen.

Not everyone is physically or mentally able to just get up and join the military. That’s why there are other ways to serve your country, like the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps. The Peace Corps offers deferment and cancellation of student loans. AmeriCorps offers an education award, which is used to pay loans or tuition bills. Both are great ways to serve people and the country, and there’s no military obligation. They offer other benefits like healthcare and help with living expenses, too. If you do decide to earn free college through the military, joining the National Guard or the Army Reserve allows you to go to school and serve simultaneously. It simply requires one weekend of service per month and two weeks out of the summer for annual training.

Free college is possible, though it’s not easy. If you’re someone who was awarded scholarships, or you have enough money to pay for outright, that’s awesome. If you’re not one of those people, asking for handouts just won’t cut it. In addition, serving your country is a great honor and I bet it will make you a better person. So, what are you waiting for? Turn off the laptop, put down the smartphone, get out there and earn it.

SOUND OFF

What would you like to see ASNMU address next semester?



Hugo Wiman, freshman economics

“They could improve the parking lots. Like, having more parking spots closer to campus.”



Kristen Bergstrom, junior elementary education

“Some things I’m interested in around campus are the cost of tuition going up and things like that and just like quality of life for students on and off campus.”



Justin Borowski, junior biology

“My concern as a student is the spending on athletics versus educational things. Being a biology major I’ve had a couple of labs where we did not have proper equipment to use or enough equipment or enough supplies. As a student, if I’m paying tuition, I think that should come primarily before any type of spending on athletics.”



Abby Blanchard, fisheries and wildlife management junior

“I would like to see more transparency within the administration of Northern, giving us a heads up as to what projects they’re planning and letting the student body know what is going on so that they don’t just spring things on us and are like ‘you’re paying for it.’”

compiled by Lindsey Eaton

Food insecurity in the Marquette community



Guest Column

Melissa Orzechowski

Currently 9,660 people in Marquette County that’s 14.3 percent of the population face food insecurity. And in our county, 18.6 percent of children face food insecurity. This is something we need to talk about. This is something we need to do something about. I know, fellow students, what it is like to be a broke college student. It’s easy to dismiss thinking about hunger because after all, it seems like we can barely feed ourselves at times.

I’m not asking you to give part of your meager income or search your likely non-existent pantry for canned goods. I’m asking for your attention, your energy and your passion. Children facing hunger in our com-

munity is particularly a problem because when kids don’t have enough to eat, it can have detrimental effects in development. When children are hungry they can’t focus in school and oftentimes have more behavior issues. Beyond that they are more likely to get sick, more likely to be obese and more likely to have continued health problems into their future.

No child in our area should have to struggle with the effects of hunger.

When you enrolled at NMU, you became a member of the Marquette Community. We students are a significant portion of the population and therefore need to have significant impacts on tackling issues in the community we are living in.

Fortunately some dedicated students are already addressing hunger: Cat Packs provides 70 elementary or high school students with meals for the weekend throughout the school year. The program is staffed by NMU’s

volunteer center and they are always looking for volunteers to pack food or for help with fundraising. Marquette Ending Hunger is a student organization on campus that actively works to address hunger issues through their annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser and can-a-thon. Additionally they raise awareness of hunger annually through the NMU Fight Famine event.

ASNMU is currently developing an on-campus food pantry for NMU students facing food insecurity. Marquette Rotaract Club, also a student organization at NMU, is bringing 15,000 pounds of food, or food for 400 families, in a mobile food pantry on Tuesday, April 18.

These efforts exist because a student like yourself realized they could be a part of the solution to end hunger in Marquette County. These efforts continue because of persistent work. None of these groups are huge. They are small groups of very dedicated students making

I’m not asking you to give part of your meager income or search your likely non-existent pantry for canned goods. I’m asking for your attention, your energy, and your passion.

an impact.

Ending hunger is not an easy task; that’s why we need the combined passion, energy and work of NMU students. You don’t have to join one of the groups coordinating the work to be part of the solution if you don’t have the time. Instead, you could get the organization you’re already in to do a benefit event with proceeds benefiting Cat Packs as they need about \$300 a week to continue to send healthy food home. You could attend Marquette Ending Hunger’s Empty Bowls event on Friday, April 21.

The more involved you get, the larger the impact you have.

There are students already fighting hunger in Marquette, so be one of these students to share the workload and to keep the energy alive to continue the efforts. I’m not asking you to start a new organization or a new annual event; I’m asking you to support the students already actively addressing hunger in Marquette. Volunteer with these students, help them raise funds, attend their events. Be a part of this community by helping this community.

906 apparel comes to Marquette

By *Jamie Glenn*
staff writer

A popular Ishpeming storefront is getting a second location here in Marquette. The Northern Michigan native and creator of “Yooper Shirts” Jeremy Symons looks to tentatively open his second store in early May, where local store Casualties once stood.

Symons turned an idea into a reality when he opened “Yooper Shirts” in 2009. He merged his love of graphic design and clothing together to create something unique that stamps the 906 area code. He wanted to give both natives and visitors clothing they’re proud to show off.

“I really wanted to do something with those two aspects [graphic design and clothing] so I moved away numerous times after high school, but I ended up coming back to the Upper Peninsula. I was just inspired by the area,” Symons said. “I thought I wanted to create some cool clothing, something I felt that I would wear.”

Symons took the simple route when claiming the name of his business. “Yooper Shirts” was born after a quick domain search of a name that represents what they do and where they’re from, he said.

“I like to represent the U.P. in a positive light. I think the simplistic and modern artwork that I create is clean and classy,” Symons said.



Neil Flavin/NW

Yooper Shirts clothing company began their business solely online before opening a storefront in West Ishpeming in 2013. The business is opening their second storefront in early May in Marquette on North Third Street, where popular skate shop Casualties used to reside.

“I feel Yoopers have always been perceived as something else. I always wanted to create a brand that represented

Yoopers the way I see them.”

The company first launched in 2009 strictly as an online platform. They expanded into their first retail shop in West Ishpeming in 2013.

“We kept growing the brand and releasing new designs and in 2011 we started printing all the gear in-house, ourselves. We printed a bunch of gear for local schools and events, organizations and different businesses,” Symons said. “When I got my equipment we just kept growing faster because we could produce stuff more often.”

Screen printing is also a large component of “Yooper Shirts” that Symons is always learning new things about. Every day he is trying to expand his business and customers and create new designs.

“I did a lot of research, what works, what doesn’t work. We got the equipment, we just had to start from the ground. I never had any experience in screen printing before. I got the equipment, set up and just went for it,” Symons said. “We’ve been printing since 2011, for six years now, every day and we’re still learning.”

The production of the Yooper apparel will continue in the Ishpeming storefront space.

The new Marquette location will be used to display popular design products as well as

centrally located with the Marquette community would be a good fit for us.”

I feel Yoopers have always been perceived as something else. I always wanted to create a brand that represented Yoopers the way I see them.

— *Jeremy Symons*
owner and designer of Yooper Shirts

new products.

The new storefront came about after Symons was contacted by the owner of Casualties in September of 2016.

“They [Casualties] thought it would be a good fit. They wanted to sell it to somebody who’d sell similar products that they sold,” Symons said. “They really cared about who bought that location. We decided to close on it in February. I thought being

Symons would like to see what returning students have to offer the store when they come back. The goal is to be open by early May to get the name out to the community and catch the summer drift of people, he said.

“We kind of want to be easy and accessible to people, be in Marquette where there’s a lot more traffic. I’m excited to keep growing the business and meet new people,” he said.



Neil Flavin/NW

Yooper Shirts offers shirts, sweatshirts, hats and other apparel screen printed with various 906 logos and designs.

MARQUETTE

WINTER

MARKETPLACE

IN

DOWNTOWN MARQUETTE

by Trinity Carey/features editor

Each Saturday between Jan. 14 and May 13 local vendors gather in the downstairs of the Masonic Square Shops to share their crafts and home-made goods with the community as a part of the Winter Marketplace.

Buying locally and starting small businesses is on the rise in the 906. Local entrepreneurs are looking for different ways to get their products on the market and to the community. The Winter Marketplace offers a location for home-based businesses to vend their products during the colder months.

On Saturday, April 1 three local vendors set up booths to share their homemade goods with shoppers and those passing by in the Masonic Square. The Winter Marketplace allows small businesses to start and expand themselves, said Davin Makela, owner of Davin's Chocolates and vendor at the Winter Marketplace.

"It's a good test bed. It kind of incubates business, allows people to feel how the market will react to certain products and ideas," Makela said. "Instead of investing a ton of money you can just do small booths, see how people like your product, if they'll buy it."

Makela creates unique lines of chocolate bars, such as a bar using local maple syrup as a sweetener, an espresso bar equal to five cups of coffee and a PB & J bar, he said. He attends the Winter Market and Farmer's Market because it's a good opportunity for him to promote his over 150 varieties of chocolate bars and have the community sample his new flavors.

"It's also just a good way to meet people. I've met so many people just working these markets and it allows for good networking possibilities and also good idea generators," he said.

Marquette is a great area for vendors, because it's the largest city in the U.P. with a lot more diversity than the surrounding areas. The community also offers many resources and growth opportunities for small businesses, Makela said.

"Just the whole mentality with Marquette, it's kind of open-mindedness. People are willing to try new things, you also get a lot of tourism throughout the summer so that also helps," he said. "I think the overall attitude in

Marquette is just something that you don't see everywhere. It's kind of on that borderline of a bigger city, but it has that small-town vibe and the atmosphere. It's a good entrepreneurial-type environment to start a business in."

Summer visitors bring business to the area and opportunities like the Winter Marketplace offer a unique venue for local artisans to display their goods, said Dan Choszczyk, a bladesmith and owner of Black River Blades.

"It's a venue that I wouldn't have ordinarily. I'm a small independent bladesmith and

I really, honestly don't have a lot of places that I can put my work out," Choszczyk said. "I have tried putting my work in other shops and so forth, it's displayed poorly and it's not represented very well."

Choszczyk, who uses locally-sourced and repurposed materials such as hockey skates for his handcrafted knives, said by displaying his own work he gets to see who's interested in his product and interact with those people.

"This kind of industry is

"I think the overall attitude in Marquette is just something that you don't see everywhere... It's a good entrepreneurial-type environment to start a business in."

important to individuals. It's a way of connecting more one-on-one. I'm not a mass producer because people can come and see what I've put time and energy and heart, whatever you want to say into it," Choszczyk said. "Now I've got repeat customers, people who keep coming back to me and also recommending me, so it's just a great area."

PLACE MASONIC SQUARE



Davin Makela of Davin's Chocolates mans his display of chocolates in the Masonic Square Shops. His line consists of over 150 flavors of chocolate including espresso and PB & J.



Paula Wharton of Paula's Cottage is a local purveyor of specialty leggings, tunics and handmade goods. She has crafted pillows and scarves for over seven years.



Dan Choszczyk is bladesmith and owner of Black River Blades. He crafts his knives from repurposed materials that he sources locally.

Pompano rapper paints pictures in prison

By Andy Ridolphi

contributing writer

"I don't rap, I illustrate, I don't paint pictures, I picture paint." The Pompano, Florida rapper's wheezy young voice begins his debut album and is followed by news reporters discussing multiple arrests of the rapper Dieuson Octave, better known as Kodak Black.

The 19-year-old has been in and out of juvenile detention centers and jail and is currently behind bars after a probation violation stemming from charges of false imprisonment, strong-arm robbery and fleeing law enforcement.

Stories of hustling and dodging the law describe the life of Kodak, who also goes by "Project Baby." He spills his explicit outlook on the good, bad and the ugly of the world around him.

Most street music has a loud beat and brash delivery, but Kodak has softer beats that still bang and sound great, leaving room for his vocals. He lets his voice and storytelling bear the weight of the album rather than relying on hard instrumentals. His croaky voice and southern accent is reminiscent of a young Lil Wayne.

After the first few tracks with a slower style, Kodak Black turns the energy up on "Up in Here," a track with references to Nelly's song of a similar title. The rapper flows about toting different guns

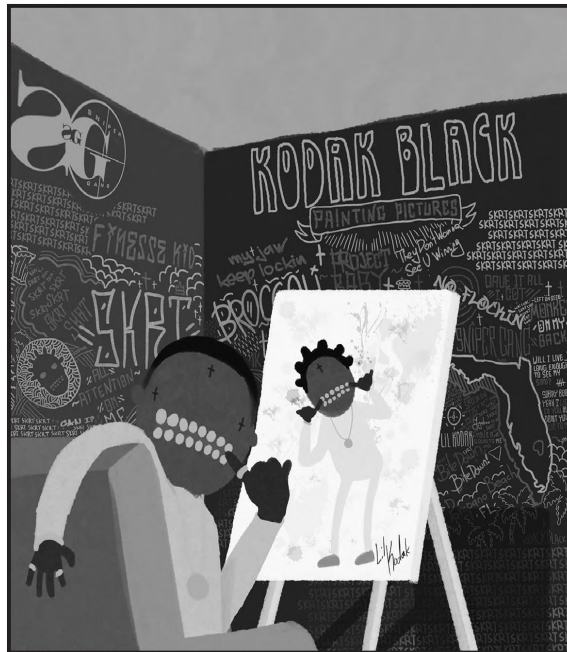
and some sexual innuendos on top of the on-point beat that gives this track a steady bounce.

Kodak flaunts his money, jewels and other riches throughout the whole album, along with his edgy personality of doing anything to survive. "U Ain't Never" and "Why They Call You Kodak" are menacing tracks as Kodak flaunts his ruthless ways of dealing with his problems.

The lyrics play on his blurred lines of morality and his conviction of robbing and stealing in order to eat and stay alive. Currently facing what could be many years incarcerated, he writes about bouncing back and forth between the addiction of the criminal lifestyle and the legal troubles that come along with it.

"Twenty 8" is a love ballad about the two old loves of Kodak's life and his newest love interest. The fascinating part of this song is how he manages to combine his love of getting drug money, with his love of his 28-year-old girlfriend. Dedicating the first verse of the song to cooking drugs he plays with the fact that 28 grams is an ounce and is also the age of his new girlfriend who has become the love of his life. Kodak shows a tender and caring side that combats his sinister style. This song has such unique ties between narcotics and his baby girl and their relationship.

Kodak being only 19 is still a



Album: Painting Pictures

Artist: Kodak Black

Record Label: Atlantic Records

Release Date: March 31, 2017

Album Length: 64 minutes, 34 seconds

Rating:



kid. Some of his youthfulness creeps into his lyrics between the crime and street lingo. The chorus on "Patty Cake" combines a child's song with threats of murder without a flicker of hesitation.

"Save You" tells of Kodak's want to be with someone forever, have children and ride together with only one girl. He's never afraid of saying what's on his mind even if it means being vulnerable at times. Combine the fast-paced lifestyle of a young flourishing rapper, legal troubles and hustling with the feelings of teenage puppy love and you get an album with many different highs and lows of

emotion.

"Tunnel Vision" was released after months of anticipation after a snippet leaked onto the internet. The track is a beautiful string and flute melody that did not disappoint. A catchy hook about how society is trying to keep him in the penitentiary and how he needs to keep focus and keep his eyes on positivity and work instead of negativity.

The features on the album include, Future, Young Thug, Bun B and A Boogie wit da Hoodie. All of these features fit well and add to the album, but Young Thug's hook on "Top off the Benz" is the

one part of the album that is just dreadful. Thug's usual melodic tone is high pitched and off beat.

Kodak Black paints a portrait of a hungry coming-of-age young adult who has been through dangerous and crazy situations that someone would only view in a television drama. The album tells the tale of an artist grappling with newfound fame as he has one foot in the street life and one in the music industry. And it's all laid out in an unfiltered 18 track long album "Painting Pictures." If Kodak can overcome the legal trouble that has plagued his short career he could grow into a huge star.

Getting twisted while teeing off for good cause

By Trevor Drew

opinion editor

Food, drinks, putt-putt golf and adventuring through downtown will all take place in one twisted event. The Marquette Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is kicking off the spring season with the fourth annual Downtown Spring Open-Twisted Tea Off Saturday, April 22. The Twisted Tea Off is an indoor miniature golf tournament with each hole located at a different Marquette business.

From noon to 4 p.m., teams of four will travel to their assigned eight holes and wrap up the evening with a mandatory last hole at the Ramada Inn where teams will remain for an award ceremony which is from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Teams (\$25/per person) can

register online at downtownmarquette.org or at the Ramada from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the day of the event. Proceeds will benefit the Janzen House, a transitional home for men in Downtown Marquette.

"It's really an opportunity just to get people into some of the restaurants and pubs that they normally may have never gone to," Executive Director of the DDA Mona Lang said. "It's a way to open those up so people can go in, they can look at the menus and potentially have a drink there. April tends to be a little bit slow so it's a way to boost business and also to showcase our independent restaurants downtown."

Participants are encouraged to bring their own clubs and to dress up for the occasion. Not only will the first, second and third place teams receive prizes but awards will

also be given for categories such as: most spirited attire, most creative team name and worst team score.

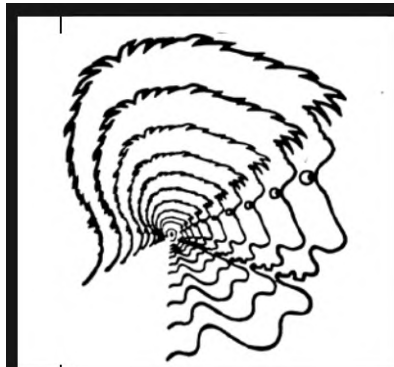
Last year, the event raised about \$2,500 which was donated to the Janzen House. Along with donations from other groups in the community, money from the Twisted Tea Off has helped pay for general programming in the past such as upgrading the facility and also allows the non-profit group to maintain a relatively low rent for their tenants, Janzen House executive director Brent Clark said.

"To me, it's proof that the Marquette community, in a lot of ways, really takes care of it's citizens that are in need. This is actually a very generous community all over the map," Clark said. "We hear that when people come into town and we find out that this doesn't really exist in most other places."



Photo courtesy of Amy Marinelli

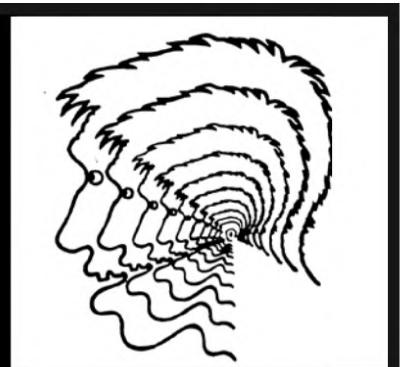
Previous participants of the Twisted Tea Off in costume.



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Ore Dock gets beary angry with ales

By Noah Hausmann
staff writer

The fourth annual Festival of the Angry Bear will wake from hibernation with a roar Saturday, April 8 from 3 p.m. to 1 a.m. and take over Spring Street in downtown Marquette. The celebration put on by the Ore Dock Brewing Co. will showcase barrel-aged beer, live music, delicious food and community involvement.

“The day is crazy but in the best way,” said Lizzie Corser, Ore Dock tap room and events manager. “Not only do we get to bring out something new for our regulars to get excited about, but we also get to celebrate Marquette’s craft beer community with people traveling from all around the Midwest.”

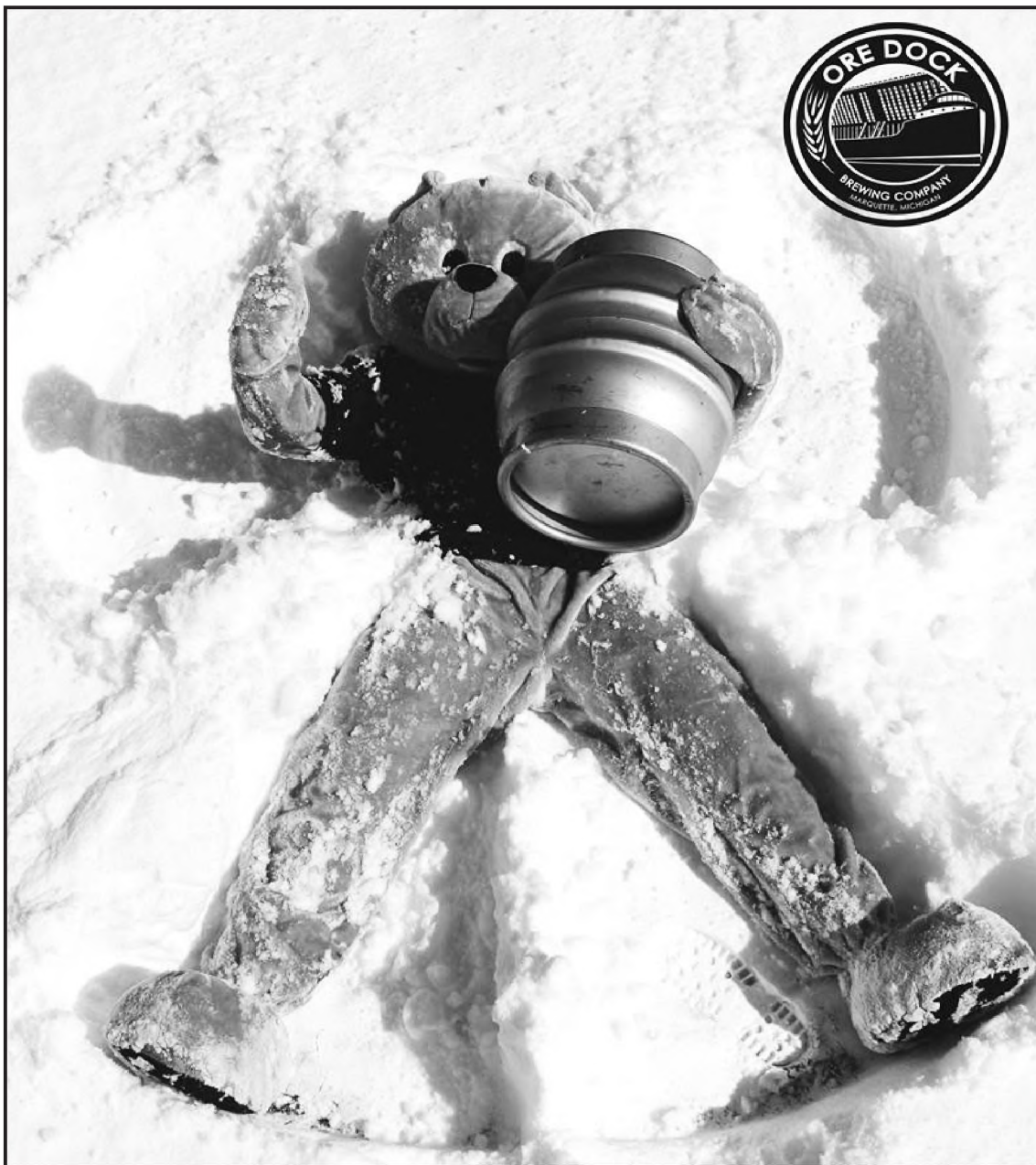
Admission is free and open to the public. Anyone under the age of 21 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian from 3 to 7 p.m., and after 7 p.m. the festival is for 21 and older only.

The festival’s signature sour ales Angry Bear and Plumber’s Crack will return alongside three new barrel-aged offerings, for a total of 16 specialty beer options poured from 34 taps on-site.

Because this year’s festival aims to be more sustainable and cut down on plastic waste, to enjoy some brews patrons need to purchase a reusable festival cup. Standard cups are \$6, available at all festival bars and include the first fill off the tap list, or snag one of the limited-edition stainless steel tankards at the merchandise table for \$25.

The festival tent will feature a steady lineup of musical performances from local and regional bands, emceed by Breakwall Comedy. Plus, enjoy food supplied by vendors like Steinhaus, Dia de los Tacos, Copper Crust Pizza Co. and Wild Blue BBQ until midnight.

Other events during the festival include a special Angry Bear edition of Science on Tap at 3 p.m. entitled “Lessons from the Hive: Sustainability, Alchemy and Community” with speaker Algomah Meadery, owner and honeybee advocate Melissa Hronkin. Also, the Marquette County Conservation District will host a Native Plants Station



The fourth annual Festival of the Angry Bear will take place this weekend to showcase the Ore Dock Brewing Company’s signature sour ales and include live music, delicious food and other events.

from 3 to 7 p.m. The Tapping of the Angry Bear Parade will take place in the tent at approximately 5 p.m. with appearances by WhoDatBrass and the Upper Peninsula Shakespeare Festival. There will be a Laser Light Show at 9:15 p.m. sponsored by Travel Marquette.

Attendees can dress as their

favorite critters for the Woodland Creature Costume Contest and be chosen to win some of the over \$100 in prizes from downtown businesses. Top contenders will be handed a golden ticket by festival staff between 3 and 8 p.m. and asked to head to the stage for the final call at 8 p.m.

“The festival keeps getting bigger and bigger, and we’re always looking for ways to make it more exciting, sustainable and provide an experience reminiscent of some of the great festivals in Europe.”

More information on the festival can be found at ore-dock.com.

This year’s Angry Bear Festival band lineup includes:

- 3 p.m. -**
LUMI
- 4 p.m. -**
Michael Waite with Harry South
- 5:15 p.m. -**
Barbarossa Brothers
- 6:15 p.m. -**
Strung Together
- 7:00 p.m. -**
Steve Leaf & the Ex Pats with Pat Booth
- 8:15 p.m. -**
Not Quite Canada
- 9:00 p.m. -**
The Organgrinders with WhoDatBrass
- 10:30 p.m. -**
Frank & Da Beanz



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Martin excels at Distance Championships

A look at the college career of senior skier Adam Martin for his final season at NMU

By Trevor Drew

opinion editor

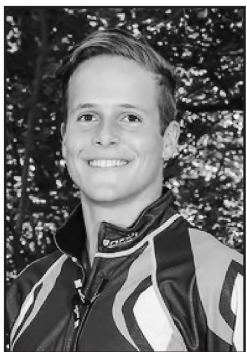
While students and community members were embracing the warm weather over the past week, Senior Adam Martin and the rest of the Nordic Ski Team enjoyed winter weather and near perfect conditions in Fairbanks, Alaska where they competed in the U.S. Distance Championships.

In an elite field of over fifty which included both professional and collegiate skiers, Martin placed fifth in both the Skiathlon and the 50K freestyle, the first collegiate athlete to cross the line in both events.

He's a good leader by example, diligent trainer, very conscientious and has always been there to guide and lead his teammates along.

— Sten Fjeldheim
head coach of the Nordic Ski Team

"I really enjoyed the week. I think I skied a little bit better than I have in some of the races this season so it's a great way to end the season," Martin said. "It gives you some motivation for next year and gives you some optimism going into the training season."



MARTIN

Along with finishing in the top-10 in all of his events at the Distance Championships, Martin also took two All-American honors at this year's NCAA Championships and also earned the Elite 90 award which is presented to the student athlete with the highest cumulative

GPA competing at the finals site for each NCAA Championship.

"He's a good leader by example, diligent trainer, very conscientious and has always been there to guide and lead his teammates along," head coach Sten Fjeldheim said. "He raised the bar for sure as far as athleticism goes and his performance goes. He's super hard-working and probably one of the most honest and fair guys you'll ever coach."

Fjeldheim said that he has enjoyed watching Martin's growth from a freshman to a senior. Martin wasn't the strongest skier when he first joined the team but has improved tremendously

because of tough, diligent training during the summer off-season, Fjeldheim said.

Martin started to ski once a week regularly in fourth grade and continued from there. Martin said that in middle school he started training more seriously and would try to go out and ski every day of winter and train throughout the summer. He also lettered four times at Wausau East High School in his hometown of Wausau, Wisconsin.

While he is still unsure about the details, Martin plans to pursue Nordic skiing after he graduates from NMU and hopes to race professionally.

Along with crediting the support from the coaching staff and his fellow teammates for his success, Martin said he is grateful to his professors.

"For skiing, we miss a tremendous amount of school. This year, I missed like three and a half weeks and that was, I'd say, a pretty light winter," Martin said. "[My professors] are super flexible and make it work. They allow me to think about actually



Photo courtesy of Sten Fjeldheim

Senior Nordic Skier Adam Martin races during the U.S. Distance Championships.

learning the material and are less concerned with making sure that stuff is done exactly by the deadline when I'm gone."

While losing Martin is unfortunate, the remaining racers will still be on the team and they remember Martin's accomplishments and will work towards the level he achieved,

Fjeldheim said.

"The team will be fine. We've got a really good, hard-working men's team, same thing as the women's," Fjeldheim said. "[Martin] showed that it can be done."

Although Martin is leaving, he said he will continue to support the Nordic Ski Team and is

excited for their future.

"I'll for sure stay connected. There's a possibility I'd stay here and keep training," Martin said.

"I'm sure they'll do great. Ian Torchia had mono this year but I'm confident he'll come back and be extremely strong next season."

SPORTS BRIEFS

WOMEN'S GOLF

The Northern Michigan Women's Golf team finished fourth at the NC4K College Classic, held Sunday and Monday at the Jefferson Country Club.

Karissa Guthrie paced the Wildcats, tying for second by shooting a two-round 146 (74-72).

Overall Northern Michigan posted a 624 (317-307). The Wildcats finished ahead of 14 teams, including nine from the GLIAC.

"It was a great tournament for the ladies," said interim head coach Bob Bastian. "What we did well at this event was finish. This should help us solidify a top-10 regional ranking, helping us achieve our goal of making the super regionals. We're also very proud of Karissa on her second place finish in a very good field."

FOOTBALL

The football spring game caps a four-week practice schedule and is free to the public. It will give fans their first opportunity to watch the 2017 Wildcats and new head coach Kyle Nystrom. Before the game Northern Michigan will hold a free youth clinic for players ages three to 13 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"We're going to have to evaluate our personnel and maybe at some point adjust people to strengths that they have and weaknesses that we have," head coach Kyle Nystrom said. "We'll know more when we get into it. For now, we plan on doing a scrimmage, but if we're not where we need to be health-wise we'll do a controlled scrimmage, offense versus defense."

CHEERLEADING

The Northern Michigan cheerleading team will give children in kindergarten through fifth grade the chance to experience the sidelines at the football spring game on April 8.

Participants will join the team for cheers and stunting through the first half. They are then welcome to stay and watch the second half with a parent or guardian.

The cost is \$10, and all payments will be collected at the door (cash or check only). All proceeds benefit the team.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Northern Michigan is slotted 36th in the 2016-17 Division II Learfield Directors' Cup standings at the conclusion of the winter sports season.

The Wildcats, who were ranked 86th at the end of the fall with 61.50 points, compiled 169.50 during the winter to move into the top 40 in a field of more than 300 Division II institutions.

Northern Michigan was bolstered by the performance of its Nordic skiing, swimming & diving and indoor track & field teams at the NCAA Championships. The Nordic skiing team finished eighth, the women's swimming & diving team 19th and the men's swimming & diving team 21st.



Photo courtesy of NMU Athletics

Junior distance runner Kameron Burmeister runs during the Northern Challenge at the Superior Dome.

Track & Field grabs season's first win

By Ryan Spitz

contributing writer

The Northern Michigan Track & Field team scored its first victory of the season at the Viking Olympics on the campus of Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois last weekend.

In a meet with eight Division 3 schools out of 11 teams competing, the Wildcats prevailed dominant finishing with an overall team score of 169 points. Division 3 Wheaton College finished in the runner-up position with 155 points overall. Wisconsin-Whitewater completed the team podium finish with 100 points.

The Wildcats had a number of first place finishes, most notably the 4x800 meter relay. The team of junior Kieren Becker, sophomores Shayla Huebner and Hannah Lonergan and junior Kelly Pietrzak paced the field with a time of 9:39.93. Wisconsin-Whitewater was the next team across the line clocking in at 10:17.60.

Despite the first place finish in the relay along with another first place finish in the 400-meter run, Huebner is always looking to be better.

"I don't think my race strategy was the greatest," Huebner said. "I'm just going to learn from it and hopefully improve for the meets coming up. I think we're off to a good start and I'm excited to see how we progress."

Senior Samantha Johnson

was one of two Wildcats to take home two individual first place finishes winning the discus throw with a throw of 154 feet, 11 inches and the hammer throw with a throw of 165 feet, 10 inches. Senior teammate Jasmine Williams ended up taking second place in both events while sophomore Dana Shove came home fourth in the discus.

Johnson was satisfied with her performance but admitted to being disappointed that she didn't set a personal record in



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the discus, however she sees that as motivation going forward.

"It will definitely give me a boost of confidence going forward in the season," Johnson said. "I have a better idea going into this week of training and competition of what I need to work on."

Other Wildcat first place finishes included senior Avadon James who took both the 100 and 200-meter runs, Becker in the 1,500-meter run, sophomore Michelle Juergen in the

high jump and freshman Katelyn Smith in the 5,000-meter run. Overall the Wildcats had nine first place finishes and 18 top five finishes all together.

Head coach Jenny Ryan said this was the first outdoor meet of the season where the entire team made the trip and she was happy with her team's results.

"For being early in the season, all the athletes had some great performances," Ryan said. "Every race they're in they learn something and take that forward to see what they can do at the next meet."

Ryan added that by participating in a smaller meet they weren't going in and trying to get the points to win.

"We went in with the idea that everybody was getting a chance to compete to see where they were at and what they could do," Ryan said. "It's always great to get a win because it gives them the confidence going into bigger competition."

Up next for the Wildcats is the Bulldog Invitational at Top Taggart Field on the campus of Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan April 8.

Johnson said the early season success gives the team confidence that they can compete at a high level.

"I'm really proud of the direction our team is going," Johnson said. "We might be a small team, but at the end of the day we can compete very well and we're very talented."

Lacrosse team continues road trip

By Nate Bellville
contributing writer

The month-long road schedule for the Northern Michigan University Women's Lacrosse Team continued as they visited University of Concordia-St. Paul and McKendree University in Illinois.

Looking to salvage momentum from their last win at Notre Dame University, the team fell to the Concordia-St. Paul Golden Bears, 21-6 and the McKendree University Bearcats 20-1.

On Friday's game in St. Paul, the Wildcats gave up 9 early goals to the Golden Bears in the first half. They trailed 14-3 entering halftime. Freshman Graison Ringlever notched two goals for the Wildcats to close the half out.

In the second half the program's leading goal-scorer, sophomore Shelby Klotz, tallied up two goals to bring the Wildcats to 15-5. However the Golden Bears would pull away with scoring six more to make the final score of 21-6.

Ringlever scored a hat trick and an assist to lead the Wildcats in scoring while junior goaltender Brianna Bangle had 21 saves.

At Sunday's game, NMU took on the Bearcats for the Wildcats' first-ever conference

game. McKendree poured on 16 straight goals in 20 minutes as the Wildcats were blitzed from the beginning.

As the game continued on Klotz scored NMU's lone goal with 10:17 left, with an assist from senior Blair Osgood. Bangle stopped 12 shots for the Wildcats.

The Bearcats' Paige Salthouse led all players with five goals with Victoria Lelo following with four.

Freshman Jordan Hanner said that the weekend was tough but they got some experience from it.

"We took Friday's game as a learning experience and we stepped up on Sunday's game, even though we lost with their [good] competition," Hanner said.

Head coach Emilia Ward said that in both games there were some positive moments to come away from.

"We actually did some great offensively, getting set and competing well," Ward said.

Ward also said that the team is shrugging off the bad losses and moving on.

"We're not focusing on the scores or goals at all," Ward said. "We'll just continue learning and get us through our first year."

Junior Abby Flaminio says the weekend gave the team a lesson



Photo courtesy of Concordia-St. Paul Athletics

Sophomore midfielder Shelby Klotz carries the ball and attempts to outrun the Concordia-St. Paul defense.

on teamwork.

"I think what [we] need to improve on is communication, on and off the field. Just working on the little things," Flaminio said.

"For next weekend, I think we need to be improving as a team, just keep getting to know each other as a team."

As the conference season continues, Ward said the conference games will help understand what

they are as a team.

"We're getting through our process and adjusting to conference play," Ward said. "We had some ladies that had experience with conference play, so it benefits us well."

Hanner said that the conference games are where the team can develop more overall.

"What I'm looking forward to is for us to get into more of a

rhythm," Hanner said.

Flaminio said the conference season for them is focusing on their game ahead.

"I think overall, we just like to have a positive experience for us as a team," Flaminio said.

The Wildcats head back on the road as they take on Tiffin University on Friday and Findlay University on Sunday; both games are in Ohio.

WILDCAT SCHEDULE

THURS. APRIL 6	FRI. APRIL 7	SAT. APRIL 8	SUN. APRIL 9	MON. APRIL 10	TUES. APRIL 11	WED. APRIL 12
No Events Scheduled	Lacrosse at Tiffin University 7 p.m.	Track & Field at Bulldog Invite Football spring game 1:30	Men's Golf at Great Lakes Midwest Regional IV	Men's Golf at Great Lakes Midwest Regional IV	No Events Scheduled	No Events Scheduled

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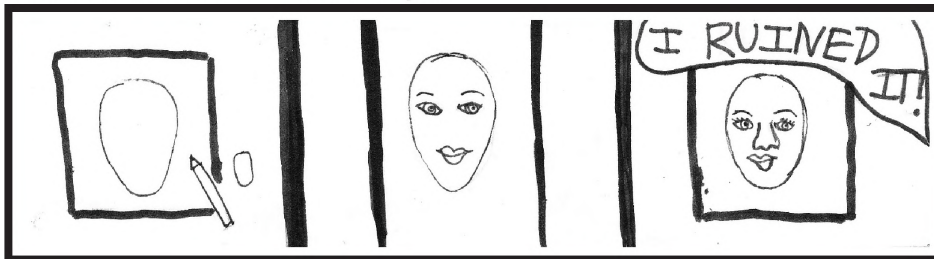
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WEST SCIENCE 2902**

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