**DEAR POSTMAN/WOMAN:** Please deliver to one of the nicest people we know.

Vol. 1 1<sup>st</sup> Edition - Publisher, Rena Maki WEBSITE: www.ottawashopper.com

PHONE: 404-433-7983 E-MAIL: ottawashopper@outlook.com

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From the Heart of Ontonagon Valley







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Jan 9 FREE Diabetes Education Program, 10am-11am, 100 Cane Court, Ontonagon. Call 906-360-9732 to sign up.

Jan 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Feb 3-4 Three Bear Sled Dog Races, All day fun for all ages! Land O'Lakes, WI

**Feb 3-4** *Masters Racing Circuit Hillclimb - Wildlife Refuge Cabins - Pat's Motorsports WINTERNATIONALS Hillclimb*, Whealkate Bluff Course, South Range

**Feb 10** Cabin Fever Craft & Vendor Expo, 9am-2pm CT, Lac Vieux Desert's Northern Waters Casino Resort, Watersmeet. Call 906-358-4226, Ext 7235 for info.

Feb 10 Annual Bruce Crossing & Ewen Firemen's Dinner, Centennial Hall, Ewen (Details inside)

**Feb 11** NFL Super Bowl Sunday

Feb 14 Valentine's Day

**Feb 16-17** Harbor Town Players Present The Little Mermaid of Lake Superior, 7pm, Onto. Theater of Performing Arts.

Tickets \$10 available at the Ontonagon Library and WUPY Radio Station

Feb 17 North Country Snowmobile Club Terra-X Races, Motorsports Park, 89 Old Norwich Trail, Ontonagon
 Mar 9 Hog-A-Thon, Lake Gogebic. Prefish March 8. \$35 Entry Fee, includes buffet dinner at the Root Cellar.

1st Place Perch Prize is \$1,500. Sign up at Bergland Outfitters 906-235-8288

Mar 25-29 Spring Break - E-TC, Watersmeet, and Onto. Schools

Mar 31 Easter Sunday



### THIS IS **YOUR** COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER - ANYONE CAN USE IT FOR SHARING INFORMATION!

The *Ottawa Shopper* is published every 2 weeks. Over 5,400 copies are DIRECT-MAILED to *EVERY home and business* in Ontonagon County, plus the towns of Kenton, Sidnaw, Watton, Covington, Marenisco, and Watersmeet - and all the places in-between. Additional copies are placed at area businesses for out-of-town visitors and seasonal residents. Each edition is also published online (www.ottawashopper.com) and viewed by hundreds of folks in faraway places who want to keep up with what's happening in the area. Out-of-area mailed subscriptions are available for only \$8.00/month (26 editions published each year).

If there's something you'd like to print in the Ottawa Shopper, or if you have a question or a suggestion, please send an email to ottawashopper@outlook.com or call Rena at 404-433-7983 or Carol at 404-660-3893.



for a Happy, Healthy New Year!

From the Staff and Board Members at the Ontonagon County Commission on Aging and the Lake Gogebic Senior Citizens Club, Inc.



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EWEN, MI

### **HIGHLY RECOMMEND!**



If you're looking for someone to help you with repairs or updates at your home or business, call Paul Kovalcik. He's quick to respond and I'm amazed at how fast he gets each job done. Best of all, his rate doesn't break the bank. In just a short month he's repaired a not-sosmall roof leak, installed kitchen cabinets, fixed drywall, replaced door locks, fixed garage doors, diagnosed and fixed a leaky dryer vent problem, and installed a new garbage disposal at my new rental home. Topnotch service!

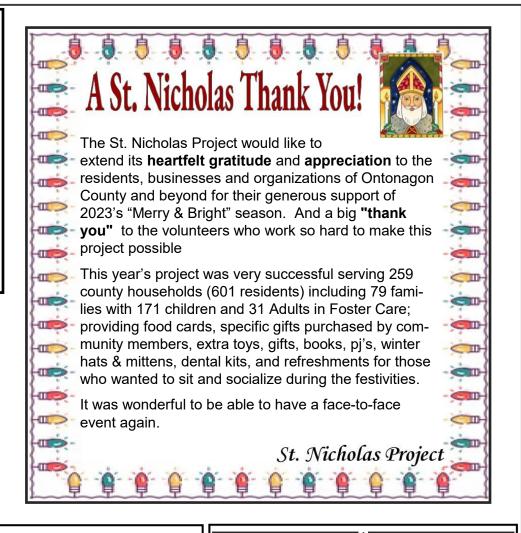
- Rena Maki, Bruce Crossing



HAPPY HOUR!

Mon & Tue - 3-4pm Wed - 5-7:30pm Thurs & Fri - 7-8pm

EWEN, MI





Joanne and Joe Cottenham's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary December 21, 2023

### **Until We Meet Again**

I'm writing this from heaven, Where I dwell with God above.

I'm resting here with the angels, Who surround me now with love.

Though I may seem far away, We will never truly part.

For part of me lives on with you, Forever in your heart.

### SEPTIC PUMPING & REPAIR

**NEW CONSTRUCTION** TANK REPLACEMENT ALTERNATIVE SYSTEMS **RISERS & LIDS** 

### **EXCAVATING** & LANDSCAPING

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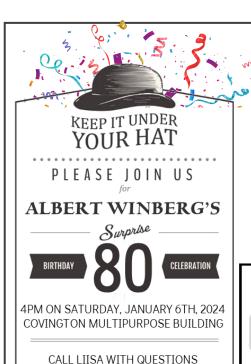
Bruce Crossing, MI www.primroseacres.com 906-827-3899 906-884-4456

### CONGRATULATIONS DARYL JOHNSON!

Congratulations on RETIRING from the Forest Service after 35 dedicated years. Cheers to your second act!



The winner of the Agate Sportsmen's Club muzzle loader drawing is Adam Mackey. Congratulations Adam, and thank you to everyone who entered the drawing.



AT 906-355-2561

The next
MERRIWEATHER
Centennial Celebration
Planning Meeting
will be held
at 2pm on Jan. 14, 2024
at the Bergland Fire Hall.
All who want to help plan
the 2024 celebration are

# STATELINE

encouraged to attend.

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Get Ready for the Fire Departments' Biggest Fundraiser of the Year!

Saturday, February 10, 2024 at the Ewen Centennial Hall

## Fundraising Activities

Start at 4pm

RAFFLE BOARDS\*

BASKET RAFFLES

ARM-SPAN RAFFLES

LIVE AUCTIONS

MYSTERY PURSE AUCTION

Dinner ticket NOT required to attend!



## Prime Rib Dinner

5pm - 7pm \$20 per person

DOOR PRIZES &
GIFT CERTIFICATE DRAWINGS
\$500 Ewen Building Supply
\$300 Big Valley Ford
\$250 Settler's Co-op

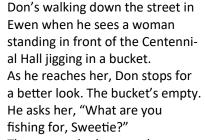
Only 250 Prime Rib Dinner Tickets Available!

Advance tickets now available at:

Gogebic Range Bank in Ewen

Settler's Federal Credit Union in Bruce Crossing

## A Quality Lure



The woman looks up and says with a shrug, "Suckers mainly." Don smiles and asks, "Caught any yet?"

"Yep," she replies. "You're the third."



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## AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD

**ONTONAGON:** From the Ontonagon Area School's Facebook page on 1/3/24: The newly forming PTA (Parent Teacher Association) will meet on Monday, January 8th at 6:15pm in the cafeteria. New members welcome! -Mrs. Leach

WATERSMEET- LAND O'LAKES, WI: Congratulations to Ontonagon native Erin Luoto, the new owner of Luoto's Fitness at Lando Center in Land O'Lakes, Wisconsin. Luoto's Fitness offers a fully equipped gym, personal training, sauna, showers, fitness classes and massage therapy.

### NOW ACCEPTING BIDS

Haight township is accepting bids for SNOW PLOWING of the townhall and propane tank. For more information contact Joe Pietila Township Supervisor at 906-827-3800.

### McMillan Township Public Notice Establishment of Early Voting Site

To All Qualified Electors in McMillan Township:

Remember that you may continue to vote as you always have in the past:

- In-person on election day at the McMillan Township Office Building
- OR with an Absentee Ballot requested from the Township Clerk Kay Richter

Beginning with the 2024 elections, there is another option. You may also vote in-person during a 9-day early voting period prior to each federal or statewide election. Notice is hereby given by resolution of the McMillan Township Board of Trustees under authority granted in Public Act 81 of 2023, that the location of the early voting site for all federal and statewide election dates will be:

Ontonagon Township Hall

311 N. Steel Street, Ontonagon, MI 49953

You have the right to vote in-person during the 9-day early voting period (beginning the second Saturday and ending the Sunday) before the election. Early voting will be available 9:00am-5:00pm each of those days at the site above. For the Presidential Primary that is on February 27, 2024, the Early Voting dates are Saturday, February 17, through Sunday, February 25, 2024.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Clerk Kay Richter at 906-988-2240 or McMillanTwp@jamadots.com.

# OTTAWA SHOPPER 2024

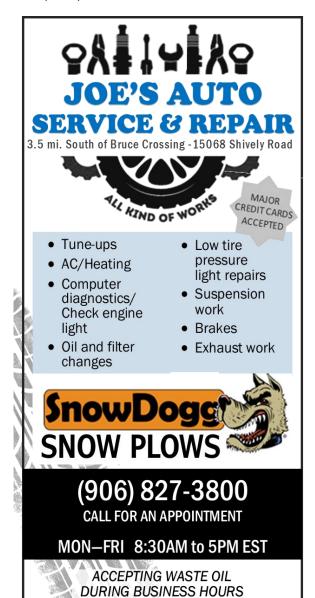
PUBLISHING DATES & CONTENT SUBMISSION DUE DATES

Jan 16 (Due Jan 11) May 20 (Due May 16) Sep 23 (Due Sep 19) Jan 29 (Due Jan 25) Jun 3 (Due May 30) Oct 7 (Due Oct 3) Oct 21 (Due Oct 17) Feb 12 (Due Feb 8) Jun 17 (Due Jun 13) Feb 26 (Due Feb 22) Jul 1 (Due Jun 27) Nov 4 (Due Oct 31) Mar 11 (Due Mar 7) Nov 18 (Due Nov 14) Jul 15 (Due Jul 11) Mar 25 (Due Mar 21) Jul 29 (Due Jul 25) Dec 2 (Due Nov 27) Dec 16 (Due Dec 12) Apr 8 (Due Apr 4) Aug 12 (Due Aug 8) Apr 22 (Due Apr 18) Aug 26 (Due Aug 22) Dec 30 (Due Dec 26) Sep 9 (Due Sep 5) May 6 (Due May 2)

Questions? Call: 404-433-7983 Email: OttawaShopper@outlook.com



HAPPY 2024! These two little guys rang in New Year 2024 at home with their parents, Kalli and Nick Yaklyvich. They're the grandsons of Don Yaklyvich (Clintonville, WI), Leana and David Kaiponen (Ontonagon), and Jim and Tina Ojala (Ewen).







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# What is a New Year's Resolution?

Something that goes in one year and out the other.

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# Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD Receives \$89,600 Out of School Time Grant for Enhanced Educational Programming

Ewen, MI: The Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District (GOISD) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded an Out of School Time Grant in the amount of \$89,600.00. The funds from this grant will be dedicated to supporting comprehensive and innovative before and after-school programs as well as enriching summer programming at the Ironwood Area School District and the Ontonagon Area School District. Both districts were co-applicants with the GOISD for the funding. This significant grant, made possible under the provisions of Public Act 103 of 2023, Section 32n of the State School Aid Fund, is managed through a collaborative effort between The Michigan Dept. of Education (MDE) and the Michigan Dept. of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP). These funds underscore a commitment to fostering educational excellence and providing valuable opportunities for students in the Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD.

"We are grateful to have been awarded this Out of School Time Grant, which will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the educational landscape in our region," said Alan Tulppo, Superintendent of Gogebic -Ontonagon ISD. "These funds will enable our partner districts to improve their before and after-school programs, providing students with valuable learning opportunities beyond traditional classroom hours. The GOISD is dedicated to fostering learning environments where every student can thrive academically and personally."

The GOISD expresses its sincere appreciation to the Mich. Dept. of Education and MiLEAP for their support and commitment to advancing educational opportunities in the state. The collaborative effort between government agencies and educational institutions reflects a shared vision for empowering students and ensuring their success. For information about the GOISD and its educational programs, visit www.goisd.org. Contact: Alan Tulppo Superintendent GOISD atulppo@goisd.org 906-575-3438.

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# Settlers' Co-op

Bruce Crossing, MI

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FRESH FAMILY PACK PER LB.

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CHICKEN WINGS ALL NATURAL FAMILY PACK PER LB



PIZZA CORNER 13 INCH PIZZA



BEST YET MAC & CHEESE DINNER 7.25 0Z.

### **Energy Oatmeal Balls**

3 cups quick oats 1 cup creamy peanut butter 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips 1/2 cup honey



Combine all ingredients into a mixing bowl and stir together until well combined. You can either stir by hand or use a hand mixer and beat on LOW speed. The mixture is thick so it will take a few minutes to fully mix it all together.

Roll into balls. TIP: If you are having difficulty getting the mixture to roll into a ball, try pressing the energy ball dough between your fingers (to warm it up) and then roll into a ball.

TIP: If the energy ball dough is too sticky, which it will be naturally as there is honey in it, try refrigerating for about 20 minutes to see if that helps.

Eat right away or you can refrigerate for a couple of hours if you want to serve them cold. Store leftovers in the fridge, in a covered container, for several days.





CURLY'S **PULLED PORK** WITH BBQ SAUCE PIIIIFD CHICKEN OR SAUCELESS PULLED PORK 12-16 OZ.



MRS. GERRY'S DELI FRESH COLESLAW **BANANAS AVOCADOS** 





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We reserve the right to limit quantities. Not all sale items available at all participating stores. Not responsible for graphic or typographical errors. \*No Rainchecks due to limited quantities.



### AREA CHURCH SERVICES

Apostolic Lutheran Church, Watton: 11AM Sun. Worship. Holy Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. 11756 Salli Rd.

Bessemer Christ Community SDA Church: Worship 11AM Sat., 507 E Cinnebar St.

Bethany Lutheran (WELS), Bruce Crossing: 5 PM Sun. Worship. Pr. Johnson (715) 776-0313.

Bethany Lutheran Church (LCMC), Covington: 10:30AM Sun. Worship. Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. Hwy 141.

Bruce Crossing Apostolic Lutheran Church: 12PM Sun. School, 1PM Worship. Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sun., Pr. Hulkonen. 15121 M-28W.

Bruce Crossing Bible Church: 10AM Sun. Worship, Pastor Chris Daily. 15089 Maplewood Rd.

Calvary Baptist Church, Bergland: 11AM Sun. Worship, 201 Pine St.

Calvary Temple Assembly of God, Trout Creek: 9AM Sun. School, 10AM Sun. Worship. 187 Division St.

Christian Science Church Service, Houghton: Sun. Service & Sun. School 10:30AM, 209 W. Montezuma St.

ELY Memorial Church (UCC), Land O'Lakes, WI: 10AM (CT) Sun. Worship, 4302 Co. Rd. B.

First Apostolic Lutheran Church, Paynesville: 10:30AM Worship 1<sup>st</sup> Sun., 2:30PM on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.

First Lutheran Church (ELCA), Ewen: 11AM Communion Worship 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun., 200 N. Cedar St.

Greenland SDA Church: Worship 10AM Sat., 31369 N Firesteel Rd. Greenland United Methodist Church: 11:30AM Worship, 9AM Communion Service 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. of the Month, 1002 Ridge Rd.

Holy Family Catholic Church, Ontonagon: 9AM Sun. Mass 515

Hope Lutheran Church (LCMS), Watersmeet: 9:30AM Sun. Worship. Communion 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sun., Pr. Gary Albert. N1764 Hwv 45.

Houghton Seventh-day Adventist Church: Worship 11:30AM Sat., 102 E Houghton Ave.

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Watersmeet: 4PM (CT) Mass Sat. and 9:30AM (CT) Sun., E23933 D Ave.

NORTHIRON Church, Onto.: 10:45AM Sun. Worship, 104 N. Steel St.

Ontonagon Baptist Church: Sun. Worship 9:45AM, 11AM, and 6PM; Wed. Worship 7PM. Pr. Virgil Ruchti. 615 Greenland Rd.

Ontonagon United Methodist Church: 9AM Worship and Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. ea. month, 109 Greenland Rd.

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church (ELCA)**, Paynesville: 11AM Communion Worship 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sun,, 13980 N. Paynesville Rd.

Redeemer Free Lutheran Church (AFLC), Ontonagon: 9AM Sun. Worship, 10:45AM Sun. School; Wed - 8AM Men's Bible Study & Breakfast, 12PM Silent worship & prayer, 7PM Bible Study; Thurs, -10:30AM Women's Bible Study. Pr. Antel, 315 S. Steel St.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ewen: 4PM Sat. Worship, 201 S. Birch St.

Siloa Lutheran Church (ELCA), Ontonagon: 9AM Sun. Worship & Holy Communion, 10AM Bible Study at Siloa House, 4PM Wed. Children Siloa Seekers

St. Ann's Catholic Church, Bergland: 11AM Sun. Worship, 480 Forest Ave.

St. Jude's Catholic Church, White Pine: 6PM 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sat. Mass, 8 Cedar St.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Rockland: 6PM 1st, 3rd Sat. Mass,

St. Paul Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Ontonagon: 9AM Sun. Worship, 10AM Wed. Bible Study, 3:30-5PM Wed. Church School. Phone: 906-884-4788 follow prompts. 107 E. River St.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church (ELCA), Mass City: 10:30AM Sun. Worship w/ Holy Communion, Wed. 4-5PM Bible Adventures & Faith Formation for children 4 yrs +

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Rockland: 10:15AM Worship; 9AM Communion Service 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. ea. month, 50 National Ave.

**Trinity Lutheran Church** (LCMS), Covington: 9AM Sun. Worship, Pr. Corey Harman. M-

**Trinity Lutheran Church** (LCMS), Bergland: 9AM Sun. Worship w/ Communion, 6PM Tues. Bible Study. Pr. Timothy Steckling. 404 Birch St.

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Trout Creek Lutheran Community Church: 11AM on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. Worship.

United Methodist Church, Bergland: 11AM Sun. Worship. Pr. Dix. 108 Birch St. United Methodist Church, Ewen: 9AM Worship 1st Sun. Open Communion.

United Methodist Church, Sidnaw: 3PM 1st Sun. ea. Month - Worship & Commun-

ion, Pr. Prewitt Watersmeet Bible Church: Sun. Bible Study 9-10AM, Worship 10:30AM Com-

munion 1st Sun. Dinner & Bible Study Wed. 5:30PM-7:30PM. Pr. Yerks. Tues. -9AM-3PM Northwoods Quilters. E23640 Hwy 2.

White Pine Community United Methodist Church: 11AM Sun. Worship, Pr. Pete LeMoine, 9 Tamarack St.



### **GENEROUS VENISON** DONATIONS!

Donna Loutzenhiser, director of the Ontonagon Food Pantry is shown here with over 100 pounds of venison donated by area hunters. The meat was processed by Northland Meat Processing. Camp Josh, Ontonagon Valley Sportsmans club and Ontonagon Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited covered the cost of the processing. Donna is very grateful for meat stating, "This will help many families get the healthy protein they need."

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Sun: Closed

## Trinity Lutheran Community Church - 2024 Worship Service Schedule

Sat: 8:30am-12pm

TROUT CREEK, MI

Services are at 11AM unless noted otherwise.

January 21 April 21 July 21 November 17

February 14 May 19 August 18 December 15

Ash Wednesday Service

at 6pm May 26 September 15 December 24

Memorial Day Weekend Christmas Eve Service

March 17 Sunday Service October 20 at 4pm

March 31 June 16

Easter Service

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# Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry Upcoming Dates:

- ⇒ Wednesday, January 10, 2024: 1pm CT, Iron County Drive Thru, Grace Covenant Church, 316 Jasper Street, Iron River, MI
- ⇒ Thursday, January 11, 2024: 10AM ET, Marquette County Drive Thru, Silver Creek Thrift Store, 219 Silver Creek Road, Marquette, MI

Mobile Food Pantry information and Veteran Food & Gas Cards information is sponsored by the Ottawa Shopper.

# Peticures by Ginger **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

### NEXT CLINIC DATE:

January 13, 10AM - 12:30PM

Nail Clipping \$15 - Additional Services Available 21972 Old Norwich Tr., Ontonagon

Please form a <mark>line with your vehicle and remain in your vehicle until it is your turn. Be prepared to help with your pet if needed.</mark>

40 Years of Experience & Counting!



Veteran Food & Gas Cards Available While Supplies Last



\$50 Grocery Cards and \$25 Gas Cards

Must call and apply by March 31, 2024 deadline

This programming is prioritizing first time applicants and those most in need.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Upper Peninsula of Michigan residents who are Veterans/National Guard/Reserves/un-remarried surviving spouses. Caregivers and service providers may assist an eligible person with applying. Must provide a valid mailing address or a contact who can receive mail on your behalf.

#### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Contact UPCAP's Upper Peninsula Veterans Program Manager at 906-282-0041 to verify eligibility and complete an application. Military service must be verified before assistance can be distributed (ex. VA ID Card, DD-214, or other military/Veteran documentation).

Referrals to 2-1-1 for additional Veteran resources/services will be provided based on selfreported needs during the application process. Qualifying applicants who have not received cards by April 30, 2024 should call 906-282-0041. Cards can not be replaced if lost or stolen, and cannot be redeemed for alcohol, tobacco, lottery, or cash back.

## Addressing the Declining U.P. Deer Harvest

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** The article below is a summary of highlights and key points from a Michigan DNR bulletin that may be of special interest to Ontonagon Co. residents. The full bulletin, "Taking stock of Michigan's latest deer harvest", was written by John Pepin, Michigan DNR's Deputy Public Information Officer and was shared with media outlets on Dec. 21, 2023. The complete bulletin can be viewed online at https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MIDNR/bulletins/381071b

**HAVEST REPORTING & TOTALS:** Compared to last year, the entire state's reported deer harvest is down by a total of 11% ( $\sim 30,000$ ) deer. As of Dec. 5, 2023 (all deer seasons) harvest decreased compared to the autumn of 2022 by 26% in the U.P. (16% in the N. Lower Peninsula, 7% in the S. Lower Peninsula). This is the second year of a required harvest report. The rate of hunters not reporting their harvest is currently unknown and could add a significant margin of error to the harvest decline.

All 15 U.P. counties recorded harvest totals (all deer seasons) below 2022. Those declines range from 10.9% in Mackinac Co. to more than 40% in Gogebic (40.6%), Marquette (40.1%) and Ontonagon (42.2%) counties. Six counties in the U.P. reported declines greater than 35%. The state's overall reported firearm deer season harvest decreased by 11.9%. Wisconsin (-17.6%) and Minn. (-7.4%) also recorded declines during their gun deer seasons.

**ANGRY U.P. HUNTERS:** U.P. hunters have expressed a great deal of anger, frustration and concern with the low reported deer harvest this year. The Mich. DNR hears, appreciates and empathizes with those reactions. In October, the DNR issued a U.P. season preview that stated:

Deer numbers remain low in many locations, especially along the Lake Superior shoreline and in the western counties and even some locations in the eastern U.P., which will again temper expectations of overall harvest in the U.P.

### **FOR SALE**

**FOR SALE:** Generator Dunlite by Onon - 7,000 watts, like new, w/ Honda Engine - less than 40 hrs. Call (no text) 906-236-9271

**FOR SALE:** Live edge buildings and saunas.

Call: (no text) 906-236-9271

**FOR SALE:** Boss Pro Plow used for 2 winters. Includes wiring harness and frame - came off a 3/4 ton Dodge. Call: 906-988-2305

**FOR SALE:** Logix Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF)\$900.00 value. Selling for \$725.00 2-3/4" Insulation both sides, 25 pcs 8" Straight x 4Feet, 2 pcs 8" 90 Degree Left, 2 pcs 8" 90 Degree Right. Call 906-884-2336 lv. message

**FOR SALE:** 2002 Polaris SKS 700 snowmobile with a 136" track. 1 owner machine, 5,700 miles. Very good condition. Great all around sled. \$1,700.00 OBO Call or text 906-360-1463.

**FOR SALE:** 1998 Artic Cat ZL 500 snowmobile with 121" track. Approx. 3,000 miles, very good condition. \$800.00 OBO. Call or text 906-360-1463.



In 2015, the buck harvest in the U.P. dropped to an estimated 17,000. Two years later in 2017, buck harvest in the U.P. eclipsed 30,000. The DNR has maintained many conservative deer management recommendations since 2015 and believes the herd will once again bounce back in a few years, barring unforeseen severe winter weather.

**FACTORS INFLUENCING DEER ABUNDANCE AND HARVEST:** Many factors can influence deer abundance. Predators (including wolves), winter weather, habitat quality, changes to deer harvest regulations, declining hunter numbers and changes in timber harvest all play a combined role in changes to the U.P. deer population. Numerous factors can also affect deer harvest. For example, given that 50% of the deer harvests in rifle season typically occur within the first three to four days of the season, unusual weather at the beginning of the season can decrease harvest, like the warm, windy days we had this season. Even the day of the week the opener falls on can change harvest.

**WOLVES & OTHER PREDATORS:** Wolves are most often blamed for a lack of deer in the U.P. However, the bulletin notes that from 2009 - 2022, the buck harvest throughout all hunting seasons fluctuated up and down in association with severe winter occurrences. Meanwhile, wolf population estimates remained relatively stable, indicating something besides wolves is affecting the deer numbers. That *something* is severe winters, deer wintering habitat and even summer food availability. When deer numbers decline, it is not because wolf numbers have increased, and when deer numbers increase, it is not because wolf numbers have declined. Some hunters and others question the results of DNR surveys, which calculate minimum population estimates for wolves in the U.P. (643 average since 2010), with some suggesting the true population is more likely in the range 2,000-3,000 animals. The DNR acknowledges the number is an estimated minimum calculated during winter surveys when wolf numbers are at their lowest, prior to the birth of pups, which have a relatively high mortality rate.

The DNR has expanded its approach to surveying wolves by installing hundreds of new trail cameras across the region to help assess wolf numbers. The cameras are expected to work in concert with existing aerial wolf surveys conducted every other winter. Given the amount of U.P. land that is suitable habitat for wolves (roughly 10,600 sq. miles), an average pack size of 4.8 wolves and a median wolf territory size of 82 sq. miles, the number of resulting wolves given these limiting factors is similar to minimum estimates the DNR is finding in its surveys. The DNR believes wolves are not the main predator on fawns, and fawn survival is what drives the deer population changes in most years. Other fawn predators include coyotes, bears and bobcats. In studies elsewhere in the U.S., including some with no wolves present and one with no predators at all, fawn survival rate was measured at 45%. During the nine-year U.P. Predator-Prey study, (2009-2019) within three varying snow depth zones, U.P. fawn survival rate was 47%. While wolves do prey on adult deer, adult deer survival is quite high. Predation from wolves is simply one portion of what impacts our deer herd in the U.P.

WINTER CONDITIONS: Since 1996, the U.P. experienced more than three times as many severe winters than between 1980 and 1996, along with three instances of back-to-back and two instances of three consecutive severe winters (90+ days with snow deeper than a 12"). Buck harvest was at an all-time high from the late 1980s to the mid-1990s, and winters were noticeably milder during this time. The consecutive severe winters beginning in 1996 and 1997 have resulted in periodic declines in buck harvest since then. Since 2013, eight of the 11 winters (73%) have been severe, impacting buck harvest, further restricting the growth of the U.P.'s deer herd.

**DNR'S STANCE ON WOLVES:** The Michigan DNR supports removing wolves from the federal endangered species list, citing among its reasons the recovery of wolves in the state after meeting, exceeding and maintaining population levels far beyond original recovery goals. A 2019 letter from the DNR to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service clearly states the department's position supporting delisting. Even if wolves were delisted, the DNR does not have the authority to authorize a harvest season. This authority lies with the Natural Resources Commission or through legislative action.

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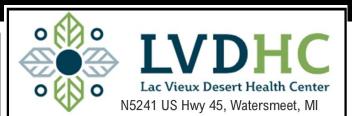
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### **NEW YEAR, NEW ME!**

Forbes Health surveyed 1,000 adults which showed that some resolutions tended to be more popular than others. The first one has to do with improving fitness, with around 48% of people having the resolution to improve their fitness into the new year.

Other resolutions from the survey include:

- 38% said they would like to improve their finances
- 36% said they want to improve their mental health
- 34% said they would like to lose weight
- 32% said they would like to improve their diet

Other resolutions included things such as making more time for loved ones, quitting smoking, making more time for hobbies, improving work-life balance, and meditating regularly.

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