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Lake Mine, Marenisco, Mass City, Matchwood,  
Porcupine Mountains, Redtown, Rockland, Rousseau, Sidnaw, Silver City, Topaz, Trout Creek, Victoria, Watersmeet, Watton, White Pine - and everywhere in-between.

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Covington, Ewen, Green, Greenland, Kenton,  
Merriweather, Ontonagon, Paulding, Paynesville,  
and everywhere in-between.

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Date

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## JUNE

- 6 **Last Day of School:** E-TC, Watersmeet, Ontonagon Schools
- 7 **Kids Fishing Tournament**, Ages 14 & under, Paulding General Store, Paulding ([Details inside](#))
- 11 **VetFEST 2025**, 11am-3pm, Military veterans, at Mich. Tech Univ. Student Development Complex, Houghton
- 13-14 **BridgeFest**, Houghton and Hancock ([Details inside](#))
- 14 **All Lake Garage Sales**, Lake Gogebic
- 14 **Kids Fishing Day**, Rockland Pond
- 15 **FATHER'S DAY**
- 21 **JUHANNUS DAY**
- 28 **Cancer Benefit for Cy St. Cyr "Chum"**, Doors open 3pm, Spaghetti Dinner 4pm-6:30pm. Dinner \$10, Live band, 50/50 & basket drawings. Call 906-390-2205 for info. American Legion Post 4623, White Pine

## JULY

- 4 **4th of July Lawnmower Parade**, 10AM, Trout Creek
- 5 **Bruce Crossing Area 4<sup>th</sup> of July**, Bruce Crossing ([Details inside](#))
- 5 **Greenland 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration**, Greenland
- 10-13 **47th Annual Hodag Country Festival**, Rhineland, WI
- 11-13 **Soke Miner's Revenge**, Mtn bike races, all skill levels; race in, around, and over Adventure Mountain, Greenland
- 16 **SeniorFest—Ontonagon Co.**, A fun afternoon for Ontonagon County's Senior Citizens! E-TC School, Ewen
- 19 **E-TC Panthers Athletics Booster Club Steakout**, Centennial Hall, Ewen ([Details inside](#))
- 20 **Community-Wide Picnic**, 12pm-3pm, hosted by Copper Shores 12pm, Greenland ([Details inside](#))
- 25-26 **CopperFest Heritage Festival**, Ontonagon
- 25-26 **NEW DATES! Ontonagon County Fair & Annual FallFest**, Greenland **NEW DATES!** Sept. 6-7



**THIS IS YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
SHARE IT IN THE SHOPPER!**

# THANK YOU

## Friends, Neighbors and Family

Please accept our sincerest gratitude for all your support during the unexpected loss of our Gary. He would have been truly touched by all the friends, business associates, and family who came to celebrate his life and by the outpouring of support.

Thank you for the flowers, home visits, phone calls, food, cards and gifts, and all the kind words.

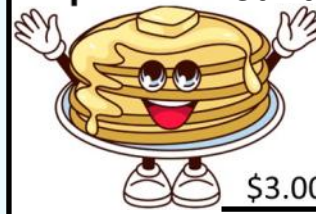
Special thanks to Pastor Bill Jacobson for the lovely service and kind words; to Sandy Maki for her uplifting music; to Gary's nephew Todd for the heartwarming eulogy; to the Trinity Lutheran Community Church members—especially Jane and Mary—for arranging the service and providing the beautiful platters of food; to Twilly and her staff for the wonderful luncheon; to SONCO Ambulance for all their help; and to Jerry Rocco and staff for their professionalism and compassion. Gary loved and supported his local community. In his memory, monetary gifts are being donated to Trinity Lutheran Community Church, the Agate Cemetery, 494 Supporters of Trout Creek, and SONCO Ambulance.

Sincerely,  
The Family of Gary "Gusty" Gustafson

## Trout Creek American Legion Post 494 PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8AM - 11AM

Sunday, June 15, 2025

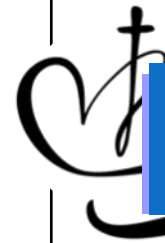


Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage,  
Biscuits & Gravy, Toast,  
Juice, Coffee

\$9.00 - Adults

\$3.00 - Children under 12

## TRINITY LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH



### Sunday Worship

11am JUNE 15, 2025

in Trout Creek, MI

Welcome Pastor Lauri Maki!



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fastest way  
to get a  
collision  
behind you.



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## 'TIS THE SEASON—2025 SUMMERTIME AREA ROAD & BRIDGE REPAIR PROJECTS

### ONTONAGON COUNTY:

- M-64 Bridge over Mineral River: Deep overlay
- US-45 Bridge over E. Business Route of Onto. River: Joint Replacement
- M-26 from US-45 to M-38 W Junction: Road Rehab
- M-26 from Greenland to Twin Lakes Road: Maintenance
- M-28 from M-64 N Junction in Bergland to Airport Rd. West: Road Rehab
- US-45 from M-26 to Greenland Rd: Maintenance
- US-45 from Baltimore River to M-26: Maintenance

### GOGEBIC COUNTY:

- M-28 from Tula East to Onto. Co. Line: Maintenance
- US-2 from Eddy St. to Pierce St. (Wakefield): Reconstruction
- US-2 from Great Lakes Rd. to Gogebic Station: Road Rehab
- US-45 from State Line to US-2: Road Rehab

### HOUGHTON COUNTY:

M-28 from Onto. Co. Line to Kitchie Rd.: Road Rehab

### BARAGA COUNTY:

M-28 from Houghton/Baraga Co. Line to Johnson Rd:

Source: michigan.gov/mdot, 5/28/25







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## KIDS FISHING TOURNAMENT

**SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025**

**Paulding General Store**

Tournament open to kids up to 14 years of age.

Participants must pre register for free at the Paulding General Store until 12:00 Noon EST Saturday, June 7.

All registered kids receive one free container of bait the morning of the tournament. Bait available starting at 6am.

Tournament open to all inland lakes and streams only.

Fish measured and weighed starting at 2pm EST.

Awards for biggest species of fish.

Hot Dog picnic, awards, and door prizes presented at 3pm EST.



Sponsored by Paulding General Store and the Ontonagon Valley Sportsmen's Club



## ONTONAGON VALLEY SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

### 2025 SUMMER YOUTH SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

Beginning Saturday, June 14, 2025

Saturdays | 9am-1pm (EST)

- Beginners start with firearms safety and a basic shooting class
- Participants receive individual shooting instruction on .22cal rifle, archery, and shotgun
- Instruction provided by trained, certified instructors

Youth ages 8-16 | FREE to participate

Pre-registration is encouraged. To pre-register or for more information, call 906-827-3424 or 906-988-2233.

Ontonagon Valley Sportsmen's Club  
**NEW Shooting Range** is located  
at 13000 Himanka Hill Rd (South of Bruce Crossing)

*Includes everything for a day of safe fun!  
Lunch is provided by the OVSC!*

## REA Members

Isn't it time you got serious about....

How YOUR electric utility is being run?

Why are members shut out of board meetings?

**Come and ask...June 21 Annual Meeting**

Ontonagon County REA Annual Meeting  
June 21 at 10AM EST  
at Chassell High School





## KNOWLEDGEABLE

- Over 40 years experience in the field of Arboriculture
- M.S.U. Master Gardener Alumni
- International Society of Arboriculture-Certified Arborist Lic. # WI-0458-A
- The owner works directly with the crew (No loss of communication between what the customer wants and what work is performed)
- Emphasis on Tree and Shrub Care - But still quite adept at Close Quarters Tree Removals



Raymond J. Hoover



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## THANK YOU!

On Saturday, May 17, 2025, Settlers Federal Credit Union and 54 businesses joined together to raise money for the Ontonagon County Cancer Association. This was our 13th Annual Cancer Walk! Each person that registered for the "Knock Out Cancer Walk" made a tax-deductible donation of \$25.00. 100% of their donations went to the Ontonagon County Cancer Association, along with any unused portion of the sponsors' fees. Participants received a T-shirt, lunch, and refreshments. Transportation was provided, enabling participants the opportunity to walk only a portion or the entire 5-mile loop. Of the 73 people that registered, 22 participated in walking, running, and biking. It was a huge success. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors, the participants, and the helpers. We were able to donate \$5,600 to the Ontonagon County Cancer Association!

**THANK YOU AGAIN TO EVERY INDIVIDUAL  
AND BUSINESS THAT HELPED  
MAKE THIS A SUCCESS!**



## BRIDGE FEST

### HOUGHTON & HANCOCK EVENTS LIST

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 13

10AM-9PM	Helicopter Rides, Ramada Inn	5:30PM-7PM	Parade Line-Up
11AM-3PM	Kids Day, Quincy Green Hancock	7PM-9PM	Music - Lupine
3PM-12AM	Food, Beverages, Music at Houghton Waterfront	7PM	Thatcher Markham Memorial Run
3PM-12AM	Vendors at Houghton Waterfront	7:05PM	PARADE
4PM-7PM	Music - Uncle Pete's Red Hot Revue	9PM-12AM	Music - Trophy Boy

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 14

9AM-10:30AM	Paddle Tour, Portage Paddle Sports
9AM-1:30PM	Keweenaw Chain Drive, UP Health System - Portage Parking Lot
9AM-5PM	Pickleball Tournament, Lurn Grove Park Hancock
9AM	Tennis Tournament, Terrace Park Hancock
9:30AM-1:30PM	Touch-A-Truck & Boats, Waterfront Pier
9:30AM-1:30PM	Keweenaw Classic Car & Vintage Motorcycle Show, Quincy St. Hancock
10AM-9PM	Helicopter Rides, Ramada Inn
11AM-4PM	Decks to Docks by Unite
12PM-7PM	Bounce House, Obstacle Course, Kids Games at Houghton Waterfront
12PM-6PM	Cornhole Tournament & Dunk Tank at Houghton Waterfront
12PM-12AM	Food, Beverages, Music at Houghton Waterfront
12PM-4PM	Music - TOM-n-DIRK
12PM-9PM	Respawn Laser Tag at Houghton Waterfront Park
12PM-12AM	Vendors on the Houghton Waterfront
1PM-3PM	Cribbage Tournament at Nutini's Supper Club Hancock
1PM-3PM	Rubber Ducky Races
2PM-2:30PM	Plum Ski-ters Water Ski Show, Houghton Waterfront
3PM-4PM	Vollwerth's Hot Dog Eating Contest
4PM-4:30PM	Plum Ski-ters Water Ski Show, Houghton Waterfront
4PM-6PM	Chicken BINGO, Houghton Waterfront
4PM-8PM	Music - Groove Candy
6PM-10PM	Street Dance - Next Myle at 400 St., Hancock
7PM-11PM	Buoyard Viewing Party by Small Craft and Takkas Saunas
9PM-12AM	Music Headliner - Chad Borgen & The Collective
9:30PM	Lighted Boat Parade
10:35PM	Jon Davis Memorial Fireworks

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Saturdays of the Month  
10AM-12:30PM  
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Please form a line and remain in your vehicle until  
your turn. Be prepared to help with your pet needed.



# NOW HIRING



## LVDHC

Lac Vieux Desert Health Center  
N5241 US Hwy 45, Watersmeet, MI

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**NOW HIRING!**

### CLINIC CUSTODIAN

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OUTSTANDING BENEFITS!**

PTO

Dental/ Vision/ Health Insurance available immediately

Please visit our website for full job  
descriptions at [www.lvdhc.org](http://www.lvdhc.org)

### Ewen-Trout Creek School Position Vacancy

#### ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Interested persons should submit a letter of application to:  
Anthony Basanese, E-TC Superintendent, 14312 Airport Rd., Ewen, MI 49925  
or by email: [tbasanese@etc.k12.mi.us](mailto:tbasanese@etc.k12.mi.us)  
Please include any experience in managing, scheduling, compliance, and hiring.  
References should include contact information.  
Deadline to apply: Posted until Filled  
*Equal Opportunity Employer*

### Ewen-Trout Creek School Position Vacancy

#### CUSTODIAN

The Ewen-Trout Creek Consolidated School District is seeking  
candidates for a Custodian (2PM-10PM Shift). Please contact the school for  
further information at 906-813-0620. Interested individuals should submit  
application materials to:  
Anthony Basanese, Superintendent/7-12 Principal  
c/o Kristen Hardes  
E-TC Consolidated School District, 14312 Airport Rd., Ewen, MI 49925  
Application materials can be emailed to: [khardes@etc.k12.mi.us](mailto:khardes@etc.k12.mi.us)  
Deadline to apply: Posted until Filled  
*Equal Opportunity Employer*

# SUMMER Market

**AT LVD PLAZA**  
CORNER OF US 2 & HWY 45  
WATERSMEET, MI

**SUNDAYS** | **MAY 25**  
10AM - 2PM | **TO**  
**SEPT 7**

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TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

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### WE ARE HIRING!

#### BUTCHERS & PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES

**Butchers:** Looking for someone to break down quarters of beef,  
pork, and bison. Preferred, but not required, to have a basic  
understanding of meat cutting, and the meat industry.  
Must be able to stand for 8-10 hours and be able to lift 50-100lbs.  
This person will be required to work in a cold environment.  
Willingness to learn and be a team player is a must.

**Production Associates:** Looking for someone to help make products  
such as sausage, jerky, bologna, etc., package and label products,  
and clean up after production. This person will be required to work  
in a cold environment and must be able to stand for at least  
8-10 hours. Willingness to learn and be a team player is a must.

Contact our office for an application:  
906-813-1300 (call only)  
906-261-9139 (call or text)



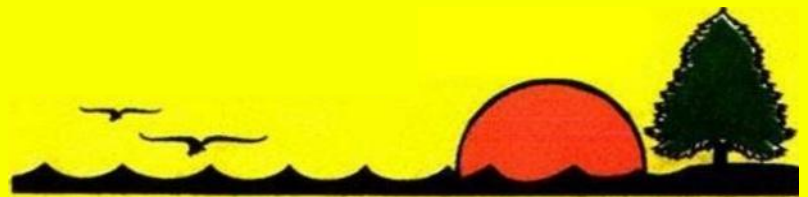
SCHOOL TIDBITS



**ONTONAGON:**  
Athletes from the Gladiators' Varsity Track & Field teams competed in the U.P. Finals on May 31, 2025. There were a number of stand-out performances, including a big win by the girls 4x100m relay team (Gracie Guzek, Alli Bobula, Jenna Tarnowski, Violet Amos). They captured 1st place while setting a new school record of 52.65 seconds.



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**WATERSMEET:**  
Congratulations to Gage, Joscelyn, and Thomas for qualifying for the 2025 Track & Field U.P. Finals. Special congrats to Thomas Caron for 1st place finishes in the 200m and the 400m. Thomas also placed 4th in the 100m. After

graduating as Watersmeet's Class of 2025 Salutatorian, Thomas will continue his academic and athletic career at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. He will be majoring in Pre-Physician Assistant and participating in Track & Field. Way to go, Thomas!!

The fifth and sixth graders have been writing to Ms. Jarvela's fifth grade class in Bessemer. Last Friday they were finally able to meet their pen pals and spend the day with them during the mini Pow Wow!



2nd and 6th graders went on an Amazing trip to the Porcupine Mountains. Events were walking the famous Lake of the Clouds overview, orienteering for a prize, and a nice adventure along Lake Superior!

Watersmeet students have been working hard on their summer garden!





2nd Annual  
Maddie Garcia Memorial  
Volleyball Tournament

Saturday, July 5, 2025

# BRUCE CROSSING INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Stannard Township Park in Bruce Crossing, MI

9am - 2pm  
10am - 12pm  
11am - 11pm  
11am - 2pm  
11am - 7pm  
12pm - 2pm  
12pm - 5pm  
1pm - 2pm  
2pm - 3pm  
3pm - 5pm  
3pm - 5pm  
3pm - 7pm  
4pm - 5pm  
4pm - 6pm  
5pm - 7pm  
5pm - 7pm  
7pm - 11pm  
10pm  
10:45pm

Volleyball Tournament

Bingo

Food Trucks / Party Pavilion

Lions Club Chicken Dinner

Vendors - Registration @ 11am

Chad Borgen and the Collective 🎵

VFW Brat & Hot Dog Sale

Parade Line-Up

PARADE

Championship Volleyball Game

Northern Daze 🎵

Kids Games and Coin Scramble

Petting Zoo / Slide / Bounce House

Frozen T-shirt Contest

Dunk Tank

Greenstone Runners 🎵

Outhouse Races

Double Shot 🎵

50/50 Drawing

FIREWORKS



PARADE FLOAT  
PRIZES

For-Profit:  
1st-3rd  
Trophies

Non-Profit:  
1st: \$250  
2nd: \$150  
3rd: \$100

Facebook.com/BruceCrossingArea4thOfJuly





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## MOUNTAIN LIONS CLUB ANNUAL REPORT YEAR OF 2024-2025

By Dean Juntunen

The Mountain Lions Club had a good winter in 2024/2025. Snowfall was abundant, such that even now patchy snow remains on the Adventure Mountain Ski Hill.

Our skiing and sledding hill and ice rink at Adventure Mountain were plenty busy through the long winter. We were open on Friday nights from 5-9 p.m., Saturdays from noon-5 p.m., and Sundays from 1-5 p.m. Our 700-foot rope tow operated flawlessly throughout the winter, and our hill was nicely groomed. We will be purchasing a brand-new rope for next winter.

We run our winter operations on a strictly volunteer basis, and by the end of the winter season, we logged well over 1,000 volunteer hours and we served about 1200 people, averaging 33 per day. We set a record on Saturday, February 22, 2025 with 73 customers plying the ski hill and ice rink.

In summer, the Mountain Lions sell ice cream cones prior to the Greenland 4th of July Parade, and at the County Fair in late July we sell burgers, brats, and hot dogs.

We are hosting the Copper Shores Foundation Community Picnic on Sunday, July 20, 2025. This picnic features western UP nonprofits. The Mountain Lions donated to the following charities in 2024: Leader Dog for the Blind, Ontonagon County Cancer Association, Bay Cliff Health Camp, Barbara Kettle Gundlach Shelter, St Nicholas Project, American Legion Post 92 of Rockland, Hometown Christmas, Teaching Family Homes – UP, St Paul's Soup Kitchen, Greenland 4th of July, St Vincent de Paul, Greenland Township Christmas, Sonco Ambulance, Operation Graduation, Marine Corps League Toys for Area Youth, Greenland Township Fire Dept, and Lions Club International Disaster Fund.

Our President Mike Laakko passed away last month and there was much mourning. While Mike is irreplaceable, Chris Lakkala has stepped up and agreed to be our new President.

Last, our Chalet at Adventure Mountain is available for rental for private parties such as birthdays or weddings, and in winter our rope tow is available for additional rental fees, provided we can find Lions to operate the rope tow. At least two Lions must be present for all rope tow operations. If you're interested in renting the Chalet, contact Chris Lakkala at 520-971-8892.

### FUN IN THE SUN CRAFT SHOW BERGLAND

July 12

9AM-2PM ET

Bergland Township Hall

Proceeds from vendor  
table rental fees and  
raffle will benefit  
Camp Josh.



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### DID YOU KNOW?

Michigan has more rivers and lakes to go fly fishing in than any other state in the entire United States. Michigan is such a rich and accessible state for fly fishing that *Field & Stream* magazine even voted it the single best state for fly fishing.

### MEETINGS

#### Alcoholics Anonymous:

*Bruce Crossing:* 7PM every Wed., Stannard Township Hall

*Watersmeet:* 7PM every Tues/Thurs/Sat, Spiritual Center

#### Narcotics Anonymous:

*Ontonagon:* 7PM every Tues., Holy Catholic Church (basement), 515 Pine St., Ontonagon—all are welcome.

**Ontonagon County Conservation District** meets the second Thursday of ea. month at 5:00pm at the Rockland Township Hall.

**Caregiver Support Group** meets the second Tuesday of ea. month at 12:00pm at the Lac Vieux Desert Health Center Community Room.

**NEW MEETING DATE—494 SUPPORTERS:** The June Trout Creek American Legion 494 Supporter Meeting will be held at 5pm on June 18, 2025, at the Legion Hall.





# FOR SALE

## FOR SALE BY OWNER AND TRUST:

40+ Acres on Wolfe Road, just off McRae Road in Ewen, MI. Property Number Section 35, T48N, R40W, NE1/4 of NW1/4. Telephone, fiber optic and power at beginning of new driveway. Parcel site is prepared for possible garage. Mix of timber with Pine and Aspen which could be marketed. Several very nice building sites for camp or home. Call Dan (906) 250-3712 (cell), or (906) 988-2493.

**FOR SALE:** New 36" x 19" Hitch Cargo Carrier, \$50. Two 20lb propane tanks, \$20 ea. (906) 236-9271

**RUMMAGE SALE:** 3-Family Rummage Sale, June 27, 28, and 29. 9am-4pm each day. Household items, furniture, chaise lounge recliner. Too many items to mention. Something for everyone! 13729 3-Mile Road, Bruce Crossing.

## MEDICAL ITEMS FOR LOAN OR USE

The Ottawa Lions Club of Bruce Crossing has medical items for loan or use: Hospital beds, wheel-chairs, walkers, canes, shower chairs, commodes, toilet seat risers, bed lift, circulation mattress, incontinence supplies, and masks.

Call Slim: 906-827-3959



## FIREWOOD \$100 Face Cord (2-cord min)

Cut, split, and delivered within 15 mi. radius of Bruce Crossing. Add \$10 per cord for delivery to locations within 15 to 30 mi. radius of Bruce Crossing.

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51 pristine acres with 900 feet of Wolf Lake shoreline, plus creek frontage, bordering endless national forest adventures!

MLS# 50124997 | \$748,000.00  
5800 Wolf Lake Road, Watersmeet, MI 49969



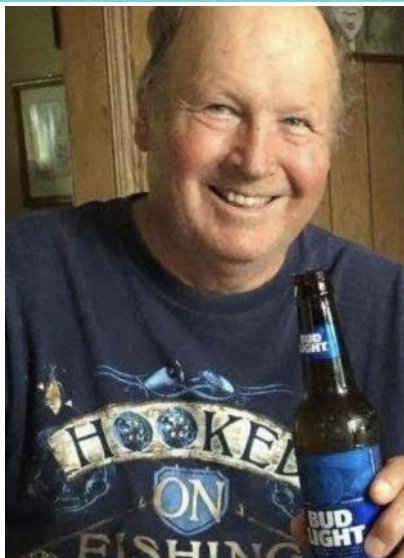
## Escape to Your Own Private Wilderness Paradise:

Historic log cabins on 29+ wooded acres with exclusive access to 1,153 lakes, 32 waterfalls, and endless adventures!

MLS# 50151265 | \$358,000.00  
E17906 US2 Highway, Marenisco, MI 49947







**GERALD (JERRY) MARVIN LEAF**, 76, reeled in his final catch and sailed off into the sunset in Orlando, Florida, on April 28, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of laughter and love. Jerry was born in the bustling heart of Detroit, Michigan, on November 20, 1948. The family later moved to the Upper Peninsula where Jerry spent his life warming hearts with his quick wit and infectious humor.

Jerry graduated from the Trout Creek school in 1966, where he was a basketball stand-out. He spent two summers driving carriages on Mackinac Island where tourists found his infectious humor entertaining. A proud Wildcat, Jerry graduated from Northern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. He later returned to Northern and graduated with a Master's degree in Computer Science. Jerry was a dedicated teacher and coach who didn't just shape minds, but also perfected the art of dodging spitballs and inspiring young athletes to run faster than his old pickup

truck. When he wasn't grading papers or blowing his whistle, you'd find him out on the water, fishing or boating, likely telling tall tales about "the one that got away" – fish or otherwise. His true joy, though, was spoiling his grandkids, with stories, piggyback rides, and probably too much ice cream. A snowbird with style, Jerry split his time between winters in sunny Florida and summers in the cool lakes of Michigan or Minnesota, always chasing the perfect breeze and the next good laugh. A volunteer firefighter in his younger years, Jerry was always ready to douse flames or spark a good chuckle, often at his own expense. His humor was his superpower, turning even the gloomiest moments into a chance for a belly laugh. He lived by the motto that if you can't laugh at life, you're doing it wrong. Jerry is survived by his beloved wife, Nancy, who somehow managed to put up with his corny jokes and his googly fake glasses for decades; his children, Shawn (Ying), Stacie (Karl Demer), and TJ (Michelle), who inherited his knack for mischief; his grandchildren, Jake, Jade, Addison (Casey), Aria, (Tyler), Kaden (Katia), Shea, Taylon, Sophie, Shelby, Riley, Immanuel, Gabe, and Blake, who kept his heart young; and his great-grandchildren, Amery, Cason, Amelia, Arabella, and Ellora, who'll carry his twinkle forward. He's also missed by his siblings, "Sure Dew" Duane (Mary), Jim, Tom (Marge), and Lois (Eric) Abramson and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin and Gertrude Leaf, who no doubt greeted him with a heavenly eye-roll and a hug.

A memorial service will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Community Church in Trout Creek on July 2 with visitation at 10:00 a.m. and service at 11 a.m. Following the service, a celebration of Jerry's life will be held at Twilly's in Bruce Crossing, where stories, laughs, and maybe a fishing lure or two will be shared. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the E-TC Booster Club because Jerry would rather you support the things he loved than send roses. So, here's to Jerry – may his rod always be bent, his boat never leak, and his punchlines forever land.



**LONA (SEPPAMAKI) JACOBSON**, 80, of Saxon, Wisconsin, passed away on May 12, 2025, in Milwaukee. She was born on April 20, 1945, in Pontiac, Michigan, to Isaac and Edna (Mammo) Seppamaki. Lona was the second of four children. Her family moved to Bruce Crossing when she was in high school, where she met her husband, Robert Jacobson, of Paynesville. They were married on April 3, 1965. They lived in several states, but Lona found her passion as a beautician in Indianapolis. It was her way of giving back and making people feel special and beautiful. Her love for her work was second only to her love for her family. Throughout her life, she was always crafty, creating nostalgic pieces for everyone to enjoy—whether in the kitchen, at work, or in her sewing room. She put her whole heart into everything she did and everyone she loved. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Lona is survived by her husband, Robert; her daughters, Teresa (Brian) Robinett and Lori (Jay) Seppanen; and her four grandchildren, Brian Robinett, Austin Robinett, Karl Seppanen, and Kalle Seppanen. She also lives on through her two remaining siblings, Ronald (Donna) Seppamaki and Mary Jo (Robert) Hardes; as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, and close friends. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Allen Seppamaki.

A funeral service was held May 19, at the United Methodist Church in Wakefield, with the Rev. Ted Trudgeon officiating. Lakeside Memorial Chapel Inc. in Wakefield, assisted with arrangements. To send online condolences, please visit [lakesidememorialchapel.com](http://lakesidememorialchapel.com).

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

You're invited to a heartfelt memorial service honoring the lives of **GERTRUDE LEAF & JERRY LEAF**

Wednesday, July 2, 2025  
Visitation 10AM | Service 11AM  
Trinity Lutheran Community Church  
Trout Creek

The Leaf family warmly welcomes all who knew and loved Gertrude and Jerry to join them in celebrating their memories. Following the service, please gather with us for lunch and fellowship at Twilly's.

**Celebration of Life  
LINDA ROBL**

We invite you to join us for food, refreshments, and maybe a little Yahtzee as we celebrate the life of our wife, mother and grandmother, Linda Robl. The celebration will take place on June 20, from 2 pm-5 pm at the Ewen Centennial Hall. Everyone is welcome!

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\$1,500**

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## E-TC Panthers Booster Club **ANNUAL STEAK OUT**

Saturday, July 19, 5:30PM - 12AM  
Ewen Centennial Hall

*Steak Out 2025*

**\$150.00**

Limited to Only 200 Tickets  
Ticket purchase is tax deductible

Tickets donated by  
Gogebic Range Bank

*Event proceeds support the E-TC Athletics Program*

### For Tickets Call

Shawn Brown 906-287-1334  
Brad Besonen 906-231-0668  
Jim Ojala 906-458-1032  
Erik Worachek 906-281-4782  
Ray Rigoni 906-988-2398

STEAK DINNER  
FOR 2

1 DOOR PRIZE  
CHANCE

MUSIC BY  
LIGHTNING  
RIDGE



### CASH PRIZES

1st Prize \$4,000  
2nd Prize \$2,000  
Plus five \$100 prizes

## SCHOOL TIDBITS



The E-TC Girls Varsity Track & Field 4x800 relay team (B. Besonen, A. DeCremer, Schutz, E. Besonen) kicked off the UP Finals with a 2nd place finish and a new school record!

Elementary students enjoyed a beautiful day with a picnic at Lake Gogebic on June 4.



E-TC Kindergarten  
Graduates







**PICTURED ABOVE:** L to R: Cadyn Besonen, Addisyn Avedisian, Jolie Anderson, Asa Schaad (Salutatorian), and Austin Gordon (Valedictorian). Members of the E-TC High School Graduating Class of 2025. A total of 20 students graduated. Mich. State Representative, Greg Markkanen traveled to Ewen for the special day to deliver the commencement speech.

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*All-You-Can-Eat* **BREAKFAST**

Lake Superior Masons - Lodge #67  
(located west of Big Valley Ford in Ewen)

**8am - 11am**  
**Sunday, June 8, 2025**  
\$8 Adults, \$5 Children under 5

**PANCAKES** (w/ blueberries, strawberries, whipped cream)  
**SCRAMBLED EGGS** (w/ onions, peppers, shrooms, salsa)  
**BISCUITS & GRAVY**  
**SAUSAGE** and **Coffee, OJ, Milk**

All proceeds support local charities. Thank you to all who come to our breakfasts.

## MICHIGAN DNR FISHING REPORT—May 28, 2025

**Ontonagon River:** Angling efforts on the river were strong. Reports suggest that walleye were caught in good numbers. Trolling was the preferred method of fishing for most anglers with an occasional incidental reported catch of lake sturgeon.

**Ontonagon/Silver City/Union Bay:** Over the past week, these locations saw a good amount of angling effort. Reported catches consisted of coho salmon, chinook salmon, lake trout, and brown trout. These fish were caught in fair numbers by those trolling shallow waters.

**Black River Harbor:** Angling efforts from the harbor were fair over the past week. Boats trolling shallow waters reported mixed catches consisting of coho salmon, chinook salmon, brown trout, and lake trout in low numbers. Shore and dock anglers also reported catches of northern pike within the harbor.

**Little Bay de Noc:** Yellow perch fishing was reported as good. Anglers saw schools of perch in shallows, as well as on the deep side of the drop off. Anglers fishing in the shallows used bobbers with live bait, while those in deeper water used jigs. Walleye anglers reported catches with varying degrees of success, with the most success near dusk and dawn. Fish were also caught drifting and trolling, using crawler harnesses and crank baits. Popular spots were near the head of the bay, the mouth of the Escanaba River, and south of the Ford River. Small-mouth bass fishing was also good; anglers used drop shots, tubes, jerk baits, and other minnow-like soft plastics. Anglers reported that most of the large lake bass have moved out of the rivers but are still reporting good numbers in the rivers. Anglers bass fishing in the lake targeted reeds and shallow rock structures with good success. Anglers also reported catching a few large pike.

**Big Bay de Noc:** Anglers reported good smallmouth bass fishing. Anglers caught fish in bays and near islands with good fishing near reeds and rock structures. Anglers targeting walleye reported fair fishing, although a low number of catches per angler.

**Keweenaw Bay/ Huron Bay:** Anglers reported catching coho salmon and occasionally chinook salmon while trolling crankbaits, spoons, and flies in the upper portion of the water column. Anglers jigging for lake trout and whitefish saw limited success.

**Traverse Bay/Portage Entry:** Anglers reported adequate catches of lake trout and whitefish while jigging in deeper than 100 feet of water. Anglers trolling crank baits and flasher/flyes caught both coho salmon and chinook salmon, although in small numbers.

**From Facebook 5/30/2025:**  
The Bruce Crossing Farmers' Market has once again started for the summer season, Saturdays from 9am-ish to 1pm-ish. Look for the signs at Stannard Township Park. Anyone is welcome to sell at the market—no fees—but no special services either.

GAS, ICE, SPORTING GOODS

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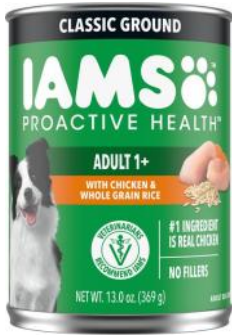
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# AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD

**ONTONAGON:** Good luck to the young ladies from our area that are competing in the upcoming Great Lakes Rodeo Princess Contest. The rodeo is June 13-14 and will be held at 150 W. Johnson Lake Road in Gwinn. The first Rodeo Performance starts at 6pm on Friday, June 13, followed by a day filled with events on Saturday, June 14 (Parade 10am, Youth Rodeo 12pm, Rodeo Performance 6pm).

OCAP is in need of wet dog food. The shelter has been at full capacity and is working hard to find forever homes for all of its dogs and cats. The shipping address for the shelter is 19504 M-38 Ontonagon, MI 49953. Here are the details: Iams ProActive Health Classic Ground w/ Chicken & Whole Grain Rice Canned Adult Wet Dog Food, 13-oz cans.



**WATERSMEET:** LVDHC Dental is now offering same-day appointments every Friday. Call (906) 358-4931.

At the May Watersmeet Township Board Meeting, the board approved a proposal from Coleman Engineering for \$5,000 to research, develop and write a 5-year plan for local roads.

Watersmeet Township was recently awarded a \$2,000 grant from the Gogebic Range Health Foundation. The grant funds will be used for the purchase of a new freezer, refrigerator, and transport bins. These items will be used to distribute meals to Senior Citizens. The appliances will be housed at the Watersmeet St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and the Food Pantry will distribute the meals.

Watersmeet will soon be receiving 160 frozen meals per month from the Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency. The meals will be distributed to Senior Citizens on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The township hopes to begin the program in June. Watersmeet residents over age 60 qualify as Senior Citizens. The meals will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians is working on adding a full-time ambulance service providing service to the entire township. The Tribe's plans for constructing a new apartment building with 44 units is also underway. Funding for the \$15 million development comes from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). Construction is targeted for completion by October 2026.

## Kids' Vacation Bible School in Mass City

You're invited to VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) in July!!

Worship Service with the Fortune Lake team on  
Sunday, July 13, 2025 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
in Mass City at 10:30 a.m. with a picnic lunch to follow

VBS on Mon-Tue-Wed (July 14-15-16) | 9am- 3pm

VBS on Thursday (July 17) | 9am - 11am

Meals and snacks provided at no cost.

For grades: Kindergarten through 6th grade

Please invite neighbors, friends, and visiting family!

SEE YOU THERE !



**Minwewe Vallerie** graduated with her law degree from University of Wisconsin Law School last month. She is the first female Lac Vieux Desert tribal member to graduate with a law degree. Congratulations Minwewe!



### Prime Choice Meat Market

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### ORIGINS OF THE "CLOVERLAND" NAME USED BY BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR AREA

Declines in the U.P.'s mining and lumber industries led *Menominee Herald Leader* editor Roger Andrews to call for the formation of a regional promotion and development organization. Established in 1911 by business representatives across the UP, the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau (UPDB) sought economic and land-use diversification and began promoting the UP as "Cloverland" to attract farmers, settlers, and vacationing urban dwellers.





# WHITE TAIL TIRE COMPANY

Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm  
Sat: 8:30am-12pm  
Closed Sundays



HIGHWAY M-28, EWEN  
906-988-2305

## AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD

**SIDNAW:** At its May 2025 board meeting, Duncan Township announced the purchase of the former Sidnaw United Methodist Church. The township plans to repurpose the building as the Sidnaw Community Center, which will also serve as the new home for the Kenton-Sidnaw Historical Society Museum. This initiative aims to preserve a historic local landmark while creating a space for community events and historical exhibits.

**TROUT CREEK—KENTON—SIDNAW:** Drivers passing through the stretch of M-28 from Trout Creek to Sidnaw will notice a wave of patriotic pride—new American flags now adorn the utility poles throughout the route. The display brings a vibrant touch of red, white, and blue to the community.

**BERGLAND:** The Bergland United Methodist Church is looking for a substitute person to play the organ/piano starting this fall.

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## ANNUAL COMMUNITY-WIDE PICNIC

The fourth annual Community-Wide Picnic is free and open to the public. Each summer, Copper Shores celebrates the amazing accomplishments of community partners and showcases one of the many incredible communities in the Copper Country.

Sunday, July 20, 12-3 p.m., at the Ontonagon County Fairgrounds, 1 Depot Street in Greenland, MI.



### UP Made Artist Market

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US Hwy 141 / 13299 School Road  
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Community Women's Group  
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906-355-2727

upmadeartistmarket@hotmail.com

## Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency JUNE COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION

For qualifying individuals 60 yrs+. Proof of income not needed, but must meet the income guidelines to receive food assistance. Food package contains cheese, milk, canned vegetables, fruit, meat and cereals. Please return boxes. Program registration info, call: 906-884-2106.

### Wednesday, June 18

Marenisco Town Hall	9 to 9:15 a.m.
Watersmeet Food Pantry	10 to 10:15 a.m.
Bruce Crossing Stannard Township Park	12:30 to 1 p.m.

### Thursday, June 19

Bergland Lake Gogebic Sr. Ctr.	9:25 to 9:40 a.m.
White Pine Township Hall	10 to 10:15 a.m.
Ontonagon Holy Family Catholic Church	11 to 11:30 a.m.
Mass City Resource Center	1 to 1:30 p.m.

Times are listed in local time zones. Times are subject to change. *This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

## ONTO COUNTY—MOBILE FOOD PANTRY DATES

The Feeding America Mobile Food Pantry Schedule for the remainder of 2025 is as follows:

Distribution begins at 11 a.m. and runs as long as supplies last.	Wednesday, Aug 6
Ontonagon Village Fire Hall	Wednesday, Oct 1
315 River Street in Ontonagon	Wednesday, Dec 3



# SETTLERS DEPOT GALLERY

in Bruce Crossing

## ANNUAL SPRING PERENNIAL PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER JUNE 7, 2025, BEGINS AT 11AM

Columbine, Gloriosa Daisy, Iris, Bee Balm, Phlox, Sedum,  
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# AREA CHURCH SERVICES

Include your church service information here for \$5/month  
Payment can be mailed to 15853 St. Collins Rd., Bruce Crossing, MI 49912

## BERGLAND

**Bergland United Methodist:** 11AM Sun. Worship, Pr. Dix. 108 Birch St.  
**Calvary Baptist:** 11AM Sun. Worship, 201 Pine St.

## BRUCE CROSSING

**Bethany Lutheran (WELS):** Sun. 5 PM Worship, Rev. Mark Gass  
**Bruce Crossing Apostolic Lutheran Church:** 11:30AM Sun. School, 1PM Worship. Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sun; Lenten Services Wed. 7PM; Pr. Hulkonen. 15121 M-28W.  
**Bruce Crossing Bible Church:** 10AM Sun. School, 11AM Worship. Pr. Pederson. 15089 Maplewood Rd.

## COVINGTON

**Bethany Lutheran Church:** 10:30AM Sun. Worship. Communion 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. 25379 US Hwy 141  
**Trinity Lutheran:** 9AM Sun. Worship Communion 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. 12677 M-28

## EWEN

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

## GREENLAND

**Greenland SDA Church:** Worship 10AM Sat., 31369 N Firesteel Rd.

## PAYNESVILLE

**First Apostolic Lutheran Church:** 10:30AM Worship 1<sup>st</sup> Sun., 2:30PM 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.  
**Our Saviour Lutheran Church (ELCA):** 11AM Communion Worship 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sun., 13980 N. Paynesville Rd.

## MASS CITY

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

## ONTONAGON

**Ontonagon Baptist** Sun. Worship 9:45AM, 11AM, and 6PM; Wed. Worship 7PM. Pr. Virgil Ruchti. 615 Greenland Rd.  
**St. Paul's Lutheran (Missouri Synod):** 9AM Sun. Worship, Wed. 10AM Bible Study, Wed 3:30-5PM Church School. 107 E River St.  
**Siloa Lutheran Church:** 9AM Sun. Worship, Broadcast live WUPY-101 FM, Wed. 4PM Siloa Seekers Children's Hour, Bible Study, Monday 11AM, Corner of 4th and East River St.

## TROUT CREEK

**Calvary Temple AG:** 9AM Sun. School, 10AM Sun. Worship. 187 Division St.  
**Trout Creek Lutheran Community Church:** 11AM - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. Worship.

## WATTON

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

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## Kids' Vacation Bible School July in Mass City

You're invited to  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

Worship Service with the Fortune Lake team on Sunday, July 13, 2025 at  
**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
in Mass City at 10:30 a.m.  
with a picnic lunch to follow

VBS on Mon-Tue-Wed  
(July 14-15-16) | 9am- 3pm

VBS on Thursday  
(July 17) | 9am - 11am

Meals and snacks provided at no cost.  
For grades Kindergarten thru 6th

Please invite neighbors,  
friends, and visiting family!

**SEE YOU THERE !**

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

9AM-11:30AM

Tuesday, June 10

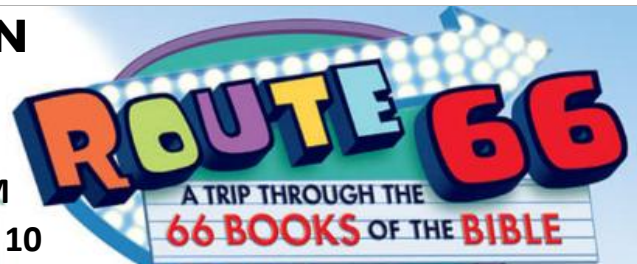
Wednesday, June 11

Thursday, June 12

1PM—Sunday, June 15, VBS Song Program

*Mexican food potluck following the program.*

**Bruce Crossing Apostolic Lutheran Church**  
15121 M-28W



Bible Lessons  
Arts & Crafts  
Fun Songs  
Snacks

## HISTORY OF U.P. MOOSE

On June 26, 2025, Michigan DNR Wildlife Biologist Erin Largent will discuss the ecological history of moose in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, current challenges, numbers, and current research aiming to learn more about the largest member of the deer family. The one hour discussion starts at 6PM CT and will be held at the Ottawa National Forest Visitor Center in Watersmeet. Call 906-358-4724 for more information.



## 2025 Home Sales Trends in Ontonagon County Show Market Momentum

Ontonagon County's real estate market in 2025 is experiencing a notable upswing, marked by rising sale prices, faster transactions, and shifting dynamics between list and sale prices.

As of mid-year, the **median home sale price stands at \$143,000**, a significant **17.2% increase** compared to the same time last year. This upward trend suggests a growing demand for homes in the region, underscoring the area's appeal to both local buyers and out-of-town investors seeking rural value. According to real estate data from Redfin and Zillow, the **average home value across the county is approximately \$123,965**, with modest appreciation noted over the past year. Meanwhile, the **median listing price has climbed to \$219,500**, representing a **46.3% year-over-year rise**. This gap between asking and closing prices may indicate that while sellers are optimistic, buyers are negotiating with increasing savvy. Interestingly, the **Village of Ontonagon** itself maintains a lower **median sale price of \$85,000**, reflecting the town's continued affordability relative to the broader county. This could present opportunities for first-time buyers or those looking to invest in up-and-coming areas.

In addition to rising prices, **homes are selling faster**—spending an average of **163 days on the market**, down from 328 days a year ago. This acceleration points to increased buyer activity and a more competitive marketplace.

Overall, Ontonagon County's housing market in 2025 appears to be gaining momentum. While prices are on the rise, the county still offers relatively affordable housing compared to national averages. Buyers and sellers alike should remain mindful of pricing strategies as the market continues to evolve.

## Are You Thinking About Selling Your Home? 5 REASONS TO WORK WITH A PROFESSIONAL REALTOR

**1. Accurate Pricing Expertise:** Rural markets often lack the high volume of recent comparable sales found in urban areas. A professional Realtor has access to local data, market trends, and valuation tools to price your home competitively, reducing time on the market and maximizing sale price.

**2. Wider Marketing Reach:** In areas with less foot traffic and fewer drive-by buyers, effective marketing is essential. Realtors provide professional photography, online exposure on MLS and national sites, and local outreach that greatly extends your home's visibility beyond the immediate community.

**3. Navigating Rural-Specific Challenges:** Homes in rural counties often involve unique features like well and septic systems, private roads, easements, or seasonal access. A Realtor is equipped to handle these complexities and communicate them clearly to prospective buyers and their agents.

**4. Negotiation and Contract Expertise:** Experienced Realtors are skilled in managing offers, counteroffers, and contingency negotiations. In a rural market—where buyers may be out-of-area or unfamiliar with the region—this expertise ensures your interests are protected through the entire transaction.

**5. Time-Saving and Stress Reduction:** Selling a home in a remote area can be time-consuming. From scheduling showings to vetting buyers and managing paperwork, a Realtor handles the logistics, allowing you to focus on your next steps without unnecessary stress.

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Bergland, MI

*Pssst.... The next time you're in Bergland, bring your swim clothes and a towel. The township beach was recently filled with new beach sand! A floating swim platform is also on order and will arrive soon.*

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## HAVE WE REALLY BEEN REDUCED TO A PARTY DIP CUP?

It's happened again, folks—and this time, the evidence comes straight from the Meijer store in Grand Rapids. Proudly labeled as a "Michigan Serving Tray," this snack platter features the Lower Peninsula in full, curvy glory, complete with tidy compartments for veggies, chips, and whatever else Trolls like to graze on. And the Upper Peninsula? It's not part of the tray at all. Instead, it's been miniaturized into a tiny removable sauce cup—with our mighty U.P. stamped onto the lid like a condiment afterthought. We've officially been reduced to a ranch dressing accessory.

Sadly, this isn't unusual. From news maps to school handouts, Michigan's Upper Peninsula is often left out, squished in, or misplaced entirely—frequently floating near Canada or slapped onto Wisconsin like a shipping label. Maybe mapmakers are just directionally confused. Or maybe they've never been north of the bridge and assume everything up here is just bear tracks and mystery. In fairness, this writer hasn't yet checked the Marquette Meijer to see if, perhaps in a beautiful act of balance, they're selling a reverse version—where the U.P. reigns as the full tray and the Lower Peninsula gets stuffed into a tiny cup of French onion dip. But until then, we Yoopers will keep fighting for fair tray representation—one misplaced peninsula at a time.

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## New Faces, Familiar Values: Mennonite Families Arrive

Several Mennonite families from Wisconsin have recently moved to our community. As you travel through the Ewen, Bruce Crossing, and Paynesville areas, please use extra caution when driving along US-45 and M-28, as you may see horse-drawn buggies and bicycles with child carriers on the road. Mennonites are a Christian group known for their values of simplicity, faith, community, and nonviolence. They place a strong emphasis on family, hard work, and helping others. Let's extend a warm Upper Peninsula welcome and show our new neighbors the kindness and respect our community is known for.

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