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Vol. 4, 9th Edition | August 5, 2025

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OTTAWA SHOPPER

and 906 Rambler

AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD | TOWN NEWS | SCHOOL INFO | LOCAL EVENTS | BUSINESS INFO | PLAYING OUTSIDE | OTHER TIDBITS

Agate, Bergland, Bessemer, Bruce Crossing, Calderwood, Covington, Diaper Town, Ewen, Green, Greenland, Kenton, Lake Mine, Maple Grove, Marenisco, Mass City, Matchwood, Merriweather, Ontonagon, Paulding, Paynesville, Porkies, Ramsay, Redtown, Rockland, Rousseau, Sidnaw, Silver City, Thomaston, Topaz, Trout Creek, Victoria, Wakefield, Watersmeet, Watton, White Pine - and all the beautiful places in-between.

Save
the
Date



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

Insured by NCUA

We are a community charter credit union serving people who live, work, worship or attend school in; and businesses and other legal entities located in Ontonagon and Gogebic Counties. We look forward to sharing our credit union and its services with you.

MAIN OFFICE in BRUCE CROSSING, MI at 14623 M-28

Phone: (906) 827-3240

MON - THU 8:30am - 4:00pm EST

FRI 8:30am - 6:00pm EST SAT 9:00am - 12:00pm EST (Drive Up Only)

BRANCH OFFICE in WATERSMEET, MI

at N5384 US Hwy 45 in Northern Waters Casino

Phone: (906) 358-3066

MON 9:00am - 3:00pm CST WED 9:00am - 3:00pm CST

FRI 9:00am - 4:00 pm CST

WWW.SETTLERSFCU.COM

Thank you Settlers Federal Credit Union for sponsoring this edition's Save the Date.

August

- 7-10 **Gogebic County Fair**, Fairgrounds, Ironwood
- 9 **Gladiator Booster Bonanza**, Ontonagon Rec Center, Tickets \$125 Admission & Dinner for 2. Purchase at Citizens State Bank or WUPY 101.1
- 9 **White Pine Mine Reunion**, 12-4pm, Call J. Cook for info (715) 552-0887, W.P. Amer. Legion Hall
- 10 **Ladies-only Pistol Basics Class**, 9am-3pm, Learn operation/handling \$75, Register (906) 886-2907. Lake Superior Sportsman's Club, 31433 W. State HWY M-64, Ontonagon
- 10 **34th Lake Gogebic Firemen's Annual Picnic**, 12-5pm CT, West Shore Fire Station on Hwy M64, Lake Gogebic
- 10 **Ironwood Rodeo**, 4pm ET, Gogebic County Fairgrounds, Ironwood
- 11-17 **U.P. State Fair**, 240112th Ave. N., Escanaba (906) 786-4011, upstatefair.org
- 15 **Soup & Sandwich Luncheon & Bake Sale**, 10am-1:30pm, Ewen Cloverland Senior Center ([Details on page 3](#))
- 16 **Boppin' Bob Memorial Bag Toss Tournament**, Stannard Township Park, Bruce Crossing ([Details on page 2](#))
- 16 **Greg Hermanson Benefit Fundraiser**, 1-6pm CT, at Gog. Lodge, N9600 M-64, Marenisco
- 16-17 **Michigan's Free Off-Road Vehicle/ATV Weekend**, Ride the trails without a permit.
- 17 **Annual Old Victoria Craft Fair**, Explore old Victoria's restored log cabins, artisan booths, kids activities, refreshments. Near Rockland
- 20 **E-TC Back-to-School Bash**, Ewen-Trout Creek School, Ewen
- 21 **Open House-Back to School**, Onto. School
- 22-23 **19th Annual Porcupine Mountains Music Festival**, Porcupine Mountains Ski Hill ([Details on page 3](#))
- 23 **Greatest Health on Earth—LVDHC Health Fair**, 10am-2pm CT — Free Admission! 40+ vendors, free health screenings, drawings, face painting, more. LVD Health Center, Watersmeet
- 25 **BACK TO SCHOOL: Ontonagon**
- 26 **BACK TO SCHOOL: Wakefield-Marenisco, Watersmeet, Ewen-Trout Creek**
- 28 **Open House—Camp Josh**, 8:30am-2pm Explore the Camp and learn how Camp Josh serves our community. 31794 LP Walsh Rd., Ontonagon
- 28 **Annual Veterans Cookout—Camp Josh**, 3-6pm. Bring a chair and your refreshments. Simple Jerry's is cooking for you! 31794 LP Walsh Rd., Ontonagon ([Details on page 4](#))
- 31 **69th Annual Labor Day Festival Parade**, 2pm on River Street, Ontonagon

September

- 1 **LABOR DAY**
- 5-7 **Ontonagon County Fair and Fall Fest**, A weekend of family fun activities. Children and adults' Fair Exhibits and Judging on 9/5. Music, food, games, poker run, and more. Fairgrounds in Greenland
- 6 **Annual Fall Fiesta & 35th Anniversary Celebration**, Plant sale, live music, lunch, and more! Settlers Depot Gallery, Bruce Crossing ([Details on page 3](#))
- 6 **Second Amendment Talk**, Lake Superior Sportsman's Club, 31433 W. State HWY M-64, Ontonagon
- 7 **3rd Annual Golf Fore a Cure**, benefitting the Ontonagon Co. Cancer Association. Ontonagon Golf Course
- 12-13 **Walleye Fishing Tournament—Lake Gogebic Area's 47th Annual Tournament!**, 1st Place \$2,000 Prize, Bergland ([Details on page 6](#))
- 25 **Annual Senior Citizens Fall Color Ride**, hosted by MI-TRALE. Free ride on area off-road vehicle trails to enjoy the fall colors. Starts in Greenland. Call to reserve: (906) 884-6617. Volunteers also needed.
- 26 **CRAFT FAIR—Ewen Log Jamboree**, Ewen Crafters/vendors reserve a table by Sept. 12. ([Details on page 3](#))
- 26-27 **Ewen Log Jamboree**, Parade, kids games, music, and more! Ewen



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Have something to share?

Call or Text:

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Published in Bruce Crossing, MI

SHARON JOHNS HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS "SPIRIT AWARD" FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

ONTONAGON, Mich.—At a heartwarming gathering on July 31, Sharon Johns of Ontonagon was honored with the "Spirit Award" by the Upper Michigan Chapter of Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly (LBFE) during their annual Forever Friends and Volunteers Summer Picnic.

The Spirit Award is one of the organization's highest honors, presented to volunteers who not only uphold LBFE's mission to alleviate loneliness and isolation among older adults, but who do so with exceptional dedication, warmth, and generosity.

Johns was celebrated for her unwavering commitment to LBFE's community holiday dinners and consistently offering support to those who need it most. In addition to her positive outlook and compassionate presence, she was recognized for going above and beyond in her volunteer efforts.

"Sharon embodies the very best of what it means to be a volunteer," said an LBFE representative. "Her generosity, spirit, and kindness have made a lasting impact on the lives of the people she serves — and on our entire community."

The Upper Michigan Chapter of LBFE is a volunteer-based nonprofit serving residents age 60 and older in Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw, Marquette, and Ontonagon counties. Its mission is to promote community engagement, independence, and friendship for seniors experiencing isolation or seeking to expand their social circles.

All programs and services are offered free of charge, thanks to the efforts of volunteers like Sharon Johns. For more information on how to get involved or receive support, call the LBFE Upper Michigan Chapter in Hancock at (906) 482-6944.



Photo Credit: Jill Rady-Facebook

BOPPIN' BOB MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
BAG TOSS TOURNAMENT
AUGUST 16, 2025
STANNARD TOWNSHIP PARK
BRUCE CROSSING, MI

\$40 PER TEAM **CASH PRIZES FOR TOP TEAMS**

Think you've got the best toss in town? Prove it!

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 11 AM

call (906 287-1311) for sign up

TROUT CREEK AMERICAN LEGION POST 494
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
8AM – 11AM
AUGUST 17, 2025



TRINITY LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sunday Worship
11am AUGUST 17, 2025
 in Trout Creek, MI

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CORNHOLE—AND WHY YOU SHOULD PLAY

Whether you call it "cornhole" or just "bags," there's no denying that this backyard game is a staple of summer fun across the country—including in the U.P.

With two fun local tournaments coming up this August, now's the perfect time to learn what the game is all about and why it's worth checking out—even if you're just cheering from the sidelines.

The exact origins of cornhole is unknown. Some say it began in 14th-century Germany, while others credit farmers in Kentucky or inventors in Ohio. What is known is that the game took root in the American Midwest—thanks to its easy rules and addictive fun.

The name "cornhole" comes from the game's early equipment: bags filled with dried corn tossed toward a board with a hole in it. In our area, you're just as likely to hear people call it "bags".

How to Play. Players take turns tossing small fabric bags at a wooden board with a hole near the top. The scoring is simple:

- Bag in the hole = 3 points
- Bag on the board = 1 point
- First to 21 wins (but must hit 21 exactly—go over, and you drop back down!)

Games can be played one-on-one or in teams of two, and it's easy to pick up no matter your age or athletic abilities.

Two Great Local Tournaments. If you've never played or watched a game of bags before, now's your chance to get in on the action:

Saturday, August 16 – Bruce Crossing: The Boppin' Bob Memorial Scholarship Bag Toss Tournament will take place at Stannard Township Park. This fun and friendly competition honors the memory of beloved local radio sports announcer Bob Peltola. Proceeds support the Boppin' Bob Memorial Scholarship Fund, making this a great way to have fun while supporting a worthy cause.

Saturday, August 30 – Bergland: A Cornhole Tournament is planned during AJ's Labor Day Weekend Bash on Lake Gogebic in Bergland. It's sure to be a great time with lakeside fun, live music, evening boat parade, and fireworks!

Check out the ads placed next to this article for more details. Whether you're already an avid player or someone who's never tossed a bag in your life, both tournaments are a fun time for players and spectators alike. And, remember to bring your sense of humor.

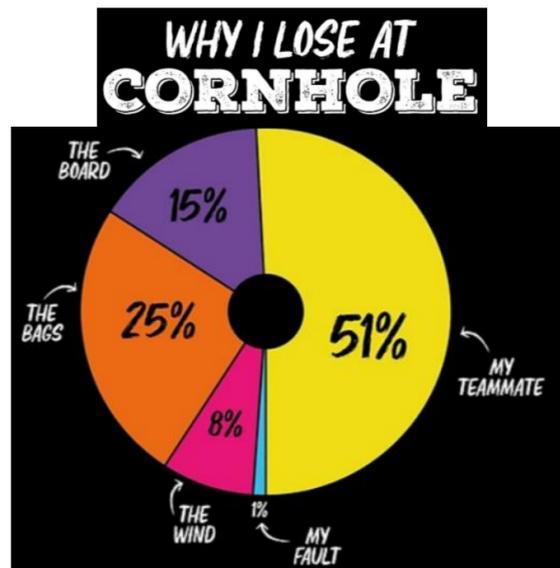
AJ's Labor Day Weekend Bash!!
Sat, August 30th
Pig Roast
2nd Annual Corn Hole Tournament *
\$40 - double elimination
 2PM Sign In, 3PM ET Start

Live Music w/ Eric Mahler at 3
Jenna Jane: 7-10

Venetian Night Boat Parade (with prizes)
Fireworks at Dusk

* REGISTER AT WWW.AJSLODGEANDOVEN.COM
 OR CALL 906-575-3557

Visit: ajslodgeandoven.com for more info



FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 22 & 23, 2025

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park,
Ontonagon County, MI

Presented by the
Friends of the Porkies



19TH PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS MUSIC FESTIVAL

SCYTHIAN BUCKWHEAT ZYDECO, JR.
& THE LEGENDARY ILS SONT PARTIS BAND

- ◆ Damn Tall Buildings ◆ The Slambovian Circus of Dreams ◆ Charlie Parr
- ◆ Miss Tess ◆ Jeffrey Foucault ◆ Erik Koskinen ◆ Ivy Ford
- ◆ Caleb Caudle & The Sweet Critters ◆ Gizzae ◆ The Bootstrap Boys

porkiesfestival.org • 906-390-2666

Visit our website for ticket info! (Recreation Passport is required to enter State Park)



AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD

Paynesville, Bruce Crossing,
Paulding, Ewen, Topaz

EWEN: From fast breaks to real estate contracts, former E-TC basketball standout **George (Kelsey) Jilek**—has just scored again. He's now a licensed realtor with Coldwell Banker downstate in Mt. Pleasant. Best wishes on this new chapter, George!

The **Ewen Civic Association** is busy planning this year's Log Jamboree, to be held September 26-27 in Ewen. The Association's **Log Jamboree Committee** is seeking prize donations for the kids' Silver Dollar Game (see below for more info). And, if you're a crafter or vendor who would like to sell wares at this year's **Log Jamboree CRAFT FAIR** (to be held on September 26), it's time to reserve your table. The deadline is September 12. Take a look at the flyer on the right side of this page for details.

PAYNESVILLE: Sweet Pea Farm is offering naturally raised hardneck white German garlic grown using organic and biodynamic farming practices. \$6.00 per pound for seed or eating. Available for pick up on or near September 1st. To order, message or call/text 906-231-9345. Orders will be filled first-come first-served.

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Soup/Sandwich Luncheon & Bake Sale



Hosted by the Bruce Crossing Apostolic Lutheran Church

Friday, August 15 | 10AM—1:30PM
at the Ewen Cloverland Senior Center

Takeout Containers and Cookie Boxes Available!

Proceeds benefit Youth Outreach & Radio Ministry on WUPY 101.1FM on Sundays at 8am.

E-TC CLASS OF 1975 50TH REUNION

Meet at 10am Saturday, September 27
at the old school in Ewen

Ride on our *Class of 1975* parade float and be a part of the 2025 Log Jamboree Celebration!

After the parade, we'll gather at the Centennial Hall* to enjoy the great community and each other. Our past teachers and school administrators are invited to join us!

Donations will be gladly accepted to help cover float and reunion advertising expenses. Any excess donations will be donated to the E-TC Booster Club. Additional information and updates for classmates is available on our Facebook Group: E-TC Class of 1975.

*A variety of food and beverages will be available for purchase at the Centennial Hall.

2025

LOG JAMBOREE CRAFT FAIR

This is a **ONE DAY EVENT**. Set up begins at 8:00am.
\$10 per 8ft table. First Come, First Serve Basis.

Register at: <https://forms.office.com/r/TYsqSKHuxv>
or contact Samantha Schutz at (906) 235-4222.

SEPT. 26

FRIDAY ONLY

10 AM-2 PM

CENTENNIAL HALL

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 12TH

SILVER DOLLAR

DONATIONS SHOULD BE NEW ITEMS AND CAN INCLUDE THINGS LIKE DOLLS, CARS, MOVIES, BOARD GAMES, SPORTS EQUIPMENT, FUN SNACKS, ETC!

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT GOGEBIC RANGE BANK IN EWEN. THE SILVER DOLLAR GAME IS A HUGE LOG JAMBOREE EVENT AND WE COUNT ON THE COMMUNITIES SUPPORT TO MAKE IT GREAT! LET'S MAKE THIS THE BEST YEAR YET!

SETTLERS DEPOT GALLERY

in BRUCE CROSSING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 ANNUAL FALL FIESTA

PLANT SALE

HOTDOG LUNCH
compliments of Ottawa Lions Club

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WHISKEY PHOENIX

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- ROCK ART
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- PAINTINGS
- BABY GIFTS & MORE!

Plus - BOOK EXCHANGE & VISITOR INFORMATION

The Gallery is a cooperative operated by local artisans. It is located in Bruce Crossing on M-28 across from the Fire Hall.

AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD

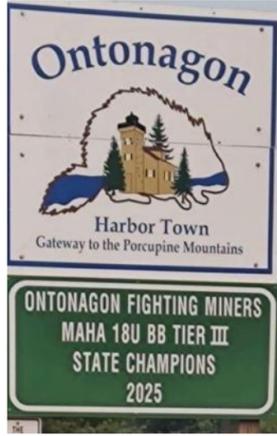
Rockland, Ontonagon, Mass City, Greenland, White Pine, Silver City, Porkies

ROCKLAND: Reminder! Wednesday is Bingo night at the Rockland Hall—hosted by Rockland Legion Post 92, Doors open at 6pm. The first ball is drawn at 6:50pm.

ONTONAGON: The Lake Superior Sportsman's Club is selling GUN RAFFLE tickets for their biggest fundraiser of the year. \$5/ticket. Drawing 5 winners on Sept. 27, 2025. Call or text (906) 399-8320 for purchase info.

Three new road signs—each acknowledging the Ontonagon Fighting Miners as 2025 State Champions—were recently installed as you enter the Village of Ontonagon from M-64, M-38, and US HWY 45. One of the signs is pictured on the right. For those of you unfamiliar with the way hockey programs are organized, here's the meaning behind the sign's acronyms—MAHA (Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, 18U (age group is 18 years old or younger), BB Tier III (recreation/house league level, formerly known as Major Midget).

GREENLAND: Onto. Co. Fair and Fall Fest organizers recently asked local Facebook users to consider volunteering at the fairgrounds the weekend of Sep. 5-7 in Greenland. Help is needed at the front gate, judging fair entries, etc. If you're interested (and use Facebook) send a message via the Onto. Co. Fair's Facebook page.



LAKE SUPERIOR SPORTSMAN'S CLUB PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS SHOOTING COMPLEX

31433 State Highway M-64
10.9 miles west of Ontonagon ~ 1.7 miles east of Silver City



Non-members welcome!

- Six automated indoor lanes
 - Outdoor rifle and pistol ranges
 - Training & educational programs
 - Conference room rentals
 - Indoor range is ADA compliant
 - Trap shooting Thursdays 6:30PM
 - Indoor Range Hours
Thursdays 6 to 8PM
Saturdays Noon to 5PM
- LakeSuperiorSportsmansClub.org

YOU'RE INVITED!

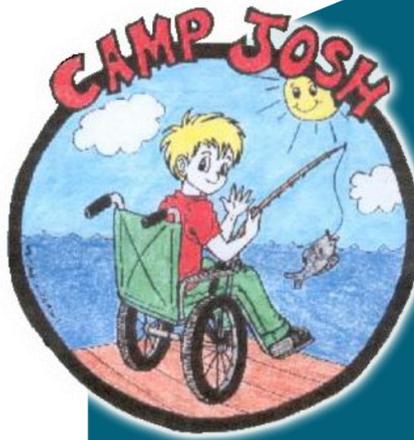
OPEN HOUSE August 28, 8:30am-2pm

The public is warmly invited to attend an Open House at Camp Josh on Wednesday, August 28, from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Come explore our beautiful 40-acre property and see the ongoing improvements and developments firsthand. Learn more about how Camp Josh serves our community and discover the vision behind this unique local resource.

VETERANS' COOKOUT at Camp Josh August 28, 3pm-6pm

All area military veterans are invited to join us for the Annual Veterans Cookout at Camp Josh on Wednesday, August 28, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

Enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Simple Jerry's, bring a chair, your favorite refreshments, and come relax with fellow veterans. It's our honor to celebrate your service!



31794 LP Walsh Road
Ontonagon, MI
www.campjosh.org

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- 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)
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PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS MUSIC FESTIVAL: AUGUST 22-23

Get ready for the 19th Porcupine Mountains Music Festival, presented by the Friends of the Porkies! The Festival will be held August 22 and 23 at the Winter Recreation Area of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in Ontonagon, Michigan. Two-day passes are \$120. Special flat fee admission of \$10 for children ages 7-12 (free admission ages 6 & under). Michigan Recreation Passport is required for State Park entry.

This event is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council. Other major sponsors include Friends of the Porkies, the Porcupine Mountains Ontonagon Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, GreenKat Marketing, WUPY FM in Ontonagon and WOLV FM in Houghton.



FRIENDS OF THE PORKIES

Connecting people to the magic of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park

Artist-in-Resident Program

ARTIST THURSDAYS
4 PM—6 PM
FREE Public Presentations

- **AUGUST 14—ROXANNE EVERETTE**
Join Roxanne as she paints and explains her acrylic painting process. She will be happy to answer any questions you might have as you observe her progress.
- **AUGUST 28—ED BOUNEVICCHIO**
Plein air artist, Ed will demonstrate his outdoor painting process, showcasing his equipment and techniques.
- **OCTOBER 9—DAVID BERG**
Join David for an overview of the block print-making process. You'll be invited to press your own block to take home.

All artist presentations take place at the Folk School Building. The presentations are free, open to the public, and are suitable for all age groups.

PORKIES FOLK SCHOOL CLASSES

Date	Class Name, Led by
Aug 16	Storage Basket, Poppy Hatinger
Aug 17	Willow Ripple Vase, Poppy Hatinger
Sep 3	Watercolor on Aquaboard Clay, Beth Cox
Sep 4	Watercolor on Aquaboard Clay, Beth Cox
Sep 6	Macrame Dreamcatcher, Mollie Larsen
Sep 6	Fused Glass, Beth Cox
Sep 7	Advanced Coil Basket, Cynthia Allen
Sep 14	Advanced Coil Basket, Cynthia Allen
Sep 13	Cobweb Broom, Sandy VanPatten
Sep 26	Black Ash Basketry, April Stone
Sep 27	Black Ash Basketry, April Stone
Oct 5	Double-knitted Alpaca Hat, Cynthia Allen
Oct 12	Double-knitted Alpaca Hat, Cynthia Allen
Oct 11	Kitchen Broom, Sandy VanPatten

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Folk School Building
107 Engineers Memorial Hwy

Call: (906) 884-7663
Email: friendsofporkies@gmail.com
www.porkies.org



PICTURED ABOVE: A bear cub was captured on video as it darted down River Street before it found temporary refuge in a tree in downtown Ontonagon on Friday, August 1. Photo Credit: Still frame image -video by Andrea Pinkowski.

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MINISTRIES

TROUT CREEK, Mich.—Evangelists Bill and Beth Juoni of Fresh Fire Ministries, based in Whitewater, Wisconsin, will be ministering at Calvary Temple Assembly of God in Trout Creek over Labor Day weekend. After 20 years of serving as a senior pastor—eight years in Minnesota and 12 in Wisconsin—Rev. Juoni felt called into evangelistic ministry in 1998. Since then, the Juonis have traveled across the United States and overseas, preaching the gospel and ministering through music. Their ministry has also extended to television, radio, and camp meetings, where lives have been touched and changed by Christ.



Fresh Fire Ministries is a husband and wife evangelistic team committed to ministering to people, believing Jesus is the answer to life and life's needs.

Before entering pastoral ministry, Rev. Juoni earned an associate degree in business administration from Gogebic Community College in Ironwood, a bachelor's degree in marketing from Northern Michigan University in Marquette, and a bachelor's degree in pastoral studies from North Central Bible College in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He also spent three years in management with Woolworth's.

An ordained minister with the Assemblies of God, Rev. Juoni will be preaching at each service, combining the powerful, fresh truths of God's Word with humor, personal experiences, and practical applications. Beth Juoni will minister in music at each service.

The public is warmly invited to attend these life-changing services. Calvary Temple Assembly of God is located at 187 Division Street in Trout Creek. For more information, call (906) 852-3423.

REVIVAL & RENEWAL



*"Not by Might,
Nor by Power,
But by My Spirit"*

Saith the Lord of Hosts

Fri., Aug. 29 – 7 PM

Sat., Aug. 30 – 7 PM

Sun., Aug. 31 – 10 AM

Calvary Temple Assembly of God

187 Division St., Trout Creek, MI

Rekindling & Fueling The Fire

Include Your Church Here — \$5/ month
Send details and payment to:
Ottawa Shopper, 15853 St. Collins Rd.,
Bruce Crossing, MI 49912

CHURCH SERVICES

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. Caleb Raasch

Bruce Crossing Apostolic Lutheran Church: 11:30AM Sun. School, 1PM Worship. Communion 1st Sun.; 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 1st & 3rd Sun., 25379 US Hwy 141.

Trinity Lutheran: 9AM Sun. Worship. Communion 1st & 3rd Sun., 12677 M-28.

EWEN

First Lutheran (ELCA): 10AM Communion Worship 1st, 2nd, and 4th 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 1st Sun., 2:30PM 3rd Sun.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church: (ELCA): 10AM Communion Worship 3rd & 5th 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 Church: 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 - 3rd Sun. Worship

WATTON

Apostolic Lutheran Church: Worship 11AM Sun. Worship, Communion 1st Sun, 11756 Salli Rd.

OBITUARIES



PETER K. THOMPSON, 88, a lifelong resident of Trout Creek, passed away peacefully on the evening of July 28, 2025, at Country Terrace Assisted Living in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, just days after celebrating his 88th birthday surrounded by family. Born on July 22, 1937, to Elmer and Alice Thompson, Peter's life was one of steadfast devotion to his family, his community, and a work ethic that inspired everyone who knew him. Peter married the love of his life,

Maxine Davis, and together they built a beautiful life filled with laughter, resilience, and deep affection. The couple recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in June, a testament to their enduring bond. They were blessed with three children: Carrie, Kenneth, and Bobbie, who inherited their father's integrity, humor, and grit. From a young age, Peter was no stranger to hard work. He delivered The Grit newspaper as a boy and held various jobs throughout school. After graduating from high school, he attended business school in Green Bay, Wisconsin, but soon discovered the confines of an office weren't for him. He returned home to Trout Creek to work alongside his father Elmer and brother Sonny at the family's Thompson Standard Service Station. He would eventually take over the station, continuing the legacy with pride. Peter also spent time as a logger, a role that not only supported his family but became another opportunity to teach his children the value of honest work. Later, he partnered with Donald Olson to operate a transportation company, safely ferrying

miners to and from the White Pine Copper Mine for a decade. In time, Peter began what would become a beloved 25-year career with the Ewen-Trout Creek Consolidated School District as head mechanic and lead school bus driver. His commitment to the children of the district was unmatched. Generations of students recall the kindness, humor, and encouragement he offered each day, especially during long rides to school events and sports competitions. Win or lose, his booming "Good job!" was always waiting as they stepped back onto the bus. Peter also gave generously of his time and heart to his community. He served more than 60 years with the Trout Creek Volunteer Fire Department, including time as fire chief. As a devoted member and Elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Trout Creek, his rich baritone voice could often be heard singing hymns during Sunday service. At the request of his father, Peter joined the Lake Superior Lodge #67 in Ewen, also known as the Blue Lodge on August 15, 1959, at just 22 years of age. His commitment to the Masonic brotherhood spanned more than six decades. In 1991, he became a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and entered the Shrine the following year, in 1992. Over the years, Peter held the role of Worshipful Master on numerous occasions, guiding his fellow brethren with integrity, humility, and good cheer. On February 1, 2000, he was honored as a lifetime member, an acknowledgment of his deep dedication to the fraternity and its enduring principle. Beyond his many roles and responsibilities, Peter cherished life's simplest joys: snowmobiling or dirt biking with his children, father-in-law Bill, brother-in-law Cliff, and son-in-law Gregg; lending a helping hand to his neighbors and community; and, above all, spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His eyes would light up in their presence, and the warmth of his love was unmistakable.

Peter also loved to talk - *really* talk. Whether it was an old friend or a stranger he'd just met, he could strike up a conversation with anyone and turn it into an hour-long chat filled with stories, laughter, and good-natured advice. For many years, he shared coffee each morning at the Trout Creek Fire Hall with his fellow firemen - a treasured daily ritual full of camaraderie, jokes, and local tales. Those mornings were more than routine; they were a gathering of hearts, and Peter was always at the center of it, a mug in hand and a smile on his face. Even after retirement, Peter simply couldn't sit still. Summers found him mowing lawns and looking after camps; winters saw him snowplowing driveways and checking in on neighbors, especially those who had headed south for the season. In fact, Peter had so many house keys entrusted to him that his daughters had to buy him a large key holder just to keep them all straight. It became something of a family joke that Peter probably had a key to every house in Trout Creek. Peter was a pillar of the Trout Creek community; respected, deeply loved, and fondly remembered by all who knew him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Elmer and Alice Thompson; his brother, Elmer "Sonny" Thompson; sister-in-law, Barbara Thompson; nephew, Leslie Nordine; niece, Audrey Nordine; and nephew, Cory Thompson. He is survived by his beloved wife, Maxine (Davis) Thompson; a sister, Mary Nordine; children: Carrie (Gregg) Lindner, Kenneth Thompson, and Bobbie (Jason) Richart; grandchildren: Ashton (Matt) Still, Cameron (Ariel) Lindner, Tanner Richart, and Kendall Richart; and great-grandchildren: Nora Still, Jack Still, Clara Still, and Calvin Richart.

A graveside memorial service was held on August 5, 2025, at the Trout Creek Cemetery. A reception followed at the Trout Creek American Legion Hall. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor Peter's memory by making a donation to one of the following: Trout Creek Fire Department. ATTN: Tim LaBonty, Trout Creek, MI 49967; Lake Superior Masonic Lodge #67, P.O. Box 35, Ewen, MI 49925; American Legion Post #494, Trout Creek, MI 49967. Online condolences may be shared on lakesidememorialchapel.com.



PATRICIA A. DANIELS, "Grandma Patsy," age 89, of Bruce Crossing, was called home to the eternal kitchen on Sunday, July 27, 2025, at Gogebic Medical Care Facility in Wakefield. Patsy was born on July 2, 1936, in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. She attended the Ewen Public Schools and graduated in 1953. Patsy married Leon Daniels in 1955 after which time they lived in Texas and Kansas, before moving back to the Western Upper Peninsula to raise their family. Patsy was employed by the Ewen-Trout Creek Consolidated School District as a teacher's aide and as a beloved hot lunch cook. After her retirement from the school district, Patsy worked at the Cloverland Senior Center in Ewen. Many people will remember her for her homemade rag rugs, delicious pasties and wonderful selection of baked goods.

Patsy is survived by her three daughters, Sheryl Daniels (Glen Jacobs), Diane Kuehnl (Bryan) and Penny Schmidt (Joe); four grandchildren, Heidi Lynch (Bryan), Gregory Kuehnl (Brittany), Dan Schmidt (Melinda) and Jeni Gilpin (Blake); and seven great-grandchildren with another on the way, Zoey, Lily, Bryce, Karis, Kai, Everly, Simon and Bennett (due in August).

Patsy was predeceased by her husband, Leon; her parents, Hubert and Martha (Korhonen) Anderson; and a sister, Beverly Swanson. Patsy's funeral was held on August 4, at First Lutheran Church in Ewen, with the

Rev. Kay Richter officiating. Interment at the Evergreen Cemetery in Ewen was followed by a celebratory luncheon at Twilly's in Bruce Crossing.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff at the Gogebic Medical Care Facility for the excellent care provided to Patsy and to her family. Lakeside Memorial Chapel Inc., in Wakefield, assisted the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be shared on lakesidememorialchapel.com.

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LAKE GOGEBIC: Members from the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association volunteered their time on a hazy Saturday, August 2 to place **new fish cribs** in the lake, including two new cribs in front of The Root Cellar. Fish cribs offer safe spaces for fish to live, hide, and reproduce, ultimately helping to grow and sustain the lake's fish population.

According to EGLE (Mich. Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy), the **Onto. Co. Park beach on Lake Gogebic was closed for 24 hours** on July 31-Aug 1 due to high bacteria levels from an unspecified source. While all of the beaches on Lake Gogebic are routinely tested, the Ontonagon County Park beach was the only one issued an advisory. Lake water quality is monitored daily from June through September each year. The last time this beach (and nearly every other beach in the Western U.P. was closed due to high bacteria levels was in July 2018. The public has access to see the test results from every area beach and from beaches throughout the state through EGLE's Beachguard MiEnviro Portal. It includes water sampling results and daily updates on which beaches are under advisories or have been closed. The data covers 1,244 public beaches and 574 private ones. Here's the site address: www.mienviro.michigan.gov



PICTURED ABOVE: Lake Gogebic Improvement Association members place new fish cribs in Lake Gogebic. *Photo Credit: Root Cellar Resort*

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ONTONAGON CO. ROADS & BRIDGES—SUMMER PROJECTS

Mich. Dept. of Transportation Road & Bridge Projects in Ontonagon County— 2025

- 5.52 miles Hot mix asphalt cold milling and resurfacing, culverts, drainage, guardrail, and pavement markings on M-26 from US-45 to M-38 west junction. May 12 - Oct. 3, 2025
- Overband crack seal followed by single course chip seal w/fog seal on M-64 from Silver City to Ontonagon. June 2 - August 20, 2025
- Overband crack seal followed by single course chip seal w/fog seal on M-38 from US-45 to Firesteel Road. June 2 —August 20, 2025

Ontonagon County Road Commission Road & Bridge Projects – 2025

- 2.3 miles of milling and two course asphalt resurfacing, parking lane upgrades, and pavement markings on Depot Ridge Road in Greenland Township from M-38 to M-26. July 14 - August 29, 2025
- Pavement marking on Shortcut, Misery Bay, and Calumet Roads, and snowmobile crossing restoration on LP Walsh, East Shore, and S. Boundary Roads. June - Aug 2025
- New 50' bridge on Choate Road over Bluff Creek with stream mitigation. (Copperwood Resources Inc. wetlands mitigation project for Gogebic Co.'s Copperwood Mine.) May - August 2025

Current Bridge/Culvert Projects to open Current Roads Closures

34-foot aluminum box culvert and road repair on Old M-28 over Wier Creek between Hokens Road and Malner Road in Matchwood Township – project cleanup and asphalt surfacing work remains. May - June 2025

Source: www.ontoroads.org/current-road-and-bridge-projects-1/, August 2, 2025

Why the Smoke: Lingering Wildfire Haze Over the U.P.

ONTONAGON COUNTY, Mich. — For many of us in the Western U.P., stepping outside the past few weeks has come with stinging eyes, a scratchy throat, and a telltale orange haze draped across the horizon. Once again, smoke from wildfires raging in Canada has settled over the Great Lakes region—and it's not moving anytime soon.

While wildfires are nothing new, the way their smoke behaves over the Great Lakes—particularly Lake Superior—is unique. The phenomenon is largely due to a combination of weather patterns, air chemistry, and the lake's geography.

High-level winds, known as the jet stream, often carry wildfire smoke thousands of miles from its source. When the winds dip south, they funnel smoke from fires in Ontario and Quebec directly over the U.P.

Once here, our big lake plays an unexpected role in keeping the smoke around. Large bodies of water like Lake Superior cool the air above them, especially in the summer. When this cool lake air sits beneath warmer air layers, a temperature inversion occurs. This traps smoke and pollutants close to the surface instead of letting them rise and dissipate. The effect is like placing a lid over the region—no fresh air gets in, and the smoky air can't escape. Additionally, lake breezes—local wind systems caused by temperature differences between land and water—can push smoke from offshore back toward shore, reinforcing the cycle.

Why So Many Fires in Canada?

Canada's 2023 and 2024 wildfire seasons have been among the worst on record. Over 45 million acres burned in 2023 alone—more than double the previous high. This summer, the fires continue, fueled by a mix of climate and policy factors.

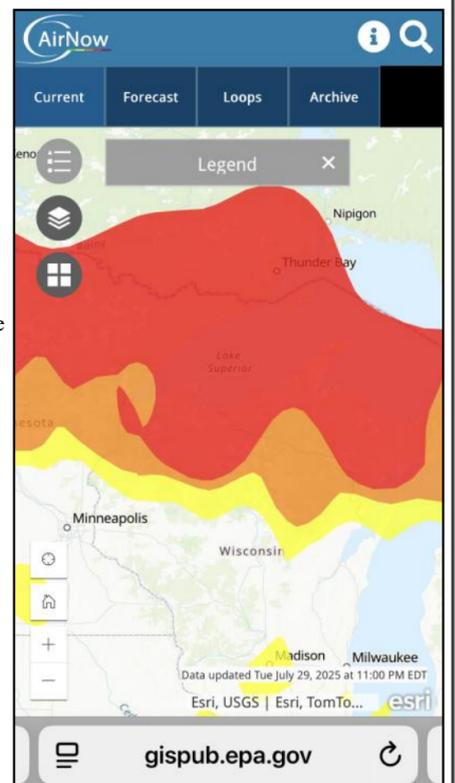
Climate Change: Warmer temperatures and prolonged droughts have dried out forests, creating more fuel for wildfires.

Lightning Strikes: In remote boreal forests, lightning is responsible for more than 60% of fires, and often those fires burn for weeks or months without human intervention.

Forest Management Policies: Canada's forest service generally prioritizes protection of life and property, meaning fires in remote areas are often left to burn naturally. While this approach mimics natural ecological cycles, it can result in massive, uncontrolled burns that send smoke far beyond Canadian borders. Some critics argue that underinvestment in prescribed burns, thinning, and other preventative forest management strategies has made forests more flammable. Others point to staffing shortages in firefighting services as a reason some fires burn longer than they should.

Health Impacts

The smoke contains fine particulate matter (PM2.5) that can lodge deep in the lungs, aggravating asthma, heart conditions, and other respiratory illnesses. Air quality levels over the past weeks have frequently reached "Unhealthy" on the Air Quality Index (AQI), prompting public health warnings. Children, older adults, and those with heart or lung conditions are most at risk. Even healthy individuals are advised to limit outdoor activity and consider wearing N95 masks during heavy smoke periods.



O Canada

Sing to the tune of Canadian national anthem "O Canada"

O Canada, you've smoked us to the core,
Your forests blaze, our lungs cry out "No more!"

From Nipigon to Quebec, the fires roar,
While we choke on haze from your backdoor.

We love your moose, your maple, curling hair,
But *could* you share a little cleaner air?

We miss our stars, our skies once crisp and blue—
They've now gone gray—like your flag, if it caught fire too.

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As Heard from a Little Bird WATERSMEET, WAKEFIELD, BESSEMER, RAMSAY

WAKEFIELD: Gogebic Medical Care Facility is seeking volunteers to help with resident events (music, arts and crafts, social visits and more). Contact Sara Holzscheiter (906) 224-9811, ext. 103 for info.

A total of 137 teams participated in the **Gus Macker basketball** tournament the last weekend of July.

Snowriver (formerly Indianhead Ski Resort) hosted the Total Archery Challenge, August 1-3. Approximately 1,500 archers aimed for 200 targets over 15 miles of terrain. The event was for all skill levels and all ages.

Wakefield Township residents took to Facebook last week asking if anyone knows what the future plans are for the **old mobile home court on Lake Road.** Some conjectured that the property may have been purchased by an area construction company, or that houses may be being built there.

According to EGLE (Mich. Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy), **Sunday Lake Beach was closed for 24 hours on July 16-17** due to high bacteria levels from an unspecified source. The lake water quality is monitored daily from June through September each year. The last time this beach was placed on notice was with a "Contamination Advisory" in August 2022 due to confirmed harmful algal bloom. The public has access to see the test results from every area beach and from beaches throughout the state through EGLE's Beachguard MiEnviro Portal. It includes water sampling results and daily updates on which beaches are under advisories or have been closed. The data covers 1,244 public beaches and 574 private ones. Here's the site address: www.mienviro.michigan.gov



PICTURED LEFT: Ruth Antone of Watersmeet, celebrated her 92nd birthday on July 26. Here she is pictured holding her great-great-granddaughter, Navy. Standing behind her are her great-granddaughter, Marissa Burke; her granddaughter, Shelly Hazen; and her great-granddaughter Michaela Burke.

Happy Birthday Ruth!

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES OPPOSE WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP'S \$50 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE REQUEST

By Rena Maki (Publisher, Ottawa Shopper & 906 Rambler)

Wakefield Township has formally requested a \$50 million state grant to upgrade infrastructure along County Road 519. Township Supervisor Mandy Lake testified before the Michigan House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Economic Opportunity on July 30, emphasizing that the investment would help reverse population decline and spur long-term economic growth across the Western Upper Peninsula.

According to Lake's testimony, the proposed infrastructure upgrade would:

- Convert approximately 15 miles of North County Road 519 to all-season standards, beginning with one mile within Wakefield city limits and continuing through the township.
- Improve road access and telecommunications infrastructure for Wakefield's Business and Technology Park, which currently faces unreliable internet and substandard road conditions that hinder business attraction and development.

Lake stated that the township is willing to serve as grant administrator and that the upgrades would support not only local industries like forestry, but also the proposed Highland Copper-Copperwood Mine and other potential technology enterprises.

Representative Dave Prestin (108th District) also testified at the July 30 hearing, speaking in support of the funding. He emphasized the potential for "generational change" in the region and cited a study from the Upjohn Institute which affirmed that mining remains a key economic driver in the Upper Peninsula.

Public opposition to the request was also voiced during the hearing, including Jane Fitkin, a recent N.M.U. graduate (originally from lower Michigan) and Director of *Citizens for a Safe and Clean Lake Superior*. She noted the similarities between this proposal and a previous \$50 million grant request by Highland Copper. Fitkin raised concerns about using taxpayer dollars to support the foreign-owned company's mine, and stated that copper is not currently listed on the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) *Critical Minerals List*—suggesting that there is no urgent national need to mine it. Over the past several years Fitkin's advocacy group and another environmental advocacy group, *Protect the Porkies*, organized in June 2023 by Tom Grotewohl, a Kansas native who now resides in Wakefield Township, have rallied regional and national opposition to the mine. They argue that the project's proximity to Lake Superior and the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park poses environmental risks—particularly due to proposed tailings storage facilities and the potential for runoff. These groups have organized petition drives which, by August 2025, have gathered over 460,000 online signatures opposing the mine. Notably, of those 460,000 signatures, reportedly fewer than 300 signatures are from residents in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties. Given that the combined population of the two counties is approximately 20,000, this equates to about 1.25% of local residents signed the petition, strongly suggesting the petition does not represent broad local opposition to Copperwood Mine. **Editor's Note:** This article is based on public testimony, official government records, and reporting from WLUC-TV, Radio Results Network, Keweenaw Report, and other verified news sources. All statements have been attributed to identified individuals or organizations, and all factual claims were cross-referenced with government and industry sources as of August 1, 2025.

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Understanding the Copper Controversy: Why the U.S. Geological Survey and Department of Energy Disagree – and What It Means for Local Mining Projects

By Rena Maki (Publisher, Ottawa Shopper & 906 Rambler)

When it comes to classifying which materials are "critical" to America's future, two federal agencies have very different approaches—especially when it comes to copper. In 2023, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) added copper to its *Critical Materials List*, citing its essential role in clean energy technologies like electric vehicles, solar panels, and power grid modernization. According to the DOE, copper faces growing global demand and rising supply chain pressure—making it crucial for achieving national energy goals. However, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)—a scientific agency under the Department of the Interior—declined to include copper on its official list of "critical minerals." Whether or not you support mining in the U.P., the reasons why the USGS does not include copper on its list are important to understand.

What's the Difference?

USGS—Critical Minerals List

The *Critical Minerals List* maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) identifies minerals that are strategically important, lack viable substitutes, and face a high risk of supply disruption (i.e., reliance on the U.S. importing the minerals from other countries). Its list influences national security planning, permitting streamlining, and federal funding priorities.

Copper IS NOT on this list, primarily because the U.S. has strong domestic production capabilities and a low import reliance. In other words, copper IS NOT excluded from this list because the USGS is against copper mining.

What it Means for Copperwood and White Pine North Mine Projects:

These mine projects do not benefit from critical mineral permitting fast-tracks or federal mining incentives tied to this list.

VS.

DOE—Critical Materials List

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) evaluates materials and determines whether or not to include them on its *Critical Materials List*.

Evaluation criteria is focused on each material's importance to the energy sector, particularly the transition to clean power.

Copper IS on this list due to its essential role in electrification.

What it Means for Copperwood and White Pine North Mine Projects:

Copper's inclusion on this list does not affect permitting, mine approvals, or regulatory status. It may increase federal interest in domestic copper for energy purposes, but it does not override local or environmental review processes.

The Bottom Line

Although copper is essential to electrification, the USGS did not list it as a critical mineral because the U.S. already produces a significant share domestically. This includes future production from projects like Copperwood and White Pine North, which contribute to a stable national supply. As a result, copper is not considered at high risk of supply disruption by USGS standards.

However, the Department of Energy's designation of copper as a critical material highlights its strategic importance to the clean energy transition. Locally, that means while these mines won't benefit from federal fast-track permitting, they still play a key role in meeting national energy priorities—adding long-term value and visibility to their development.

DISPOSABLE VAPES RELEASE TOXIC METALS, LAB STUDY REPORT

July 11, 2025: People using cheap disposable vape devices are likely inhaling high levels of toxic metals with every puff, a recent study says.

After a few hundred puffs, some disposable vapes start releasing levels of toxic metals higher than found in either last-generation refillable e-cigarettes or traditional tobacco smokes, researchers reported in the journal *ACS Central Science*.

These metals can increase a person's risk of cancer, lung disease and nerve damage, researchers said. "Our study highlights the hidden risk of these new and popular disposable electronic cigarettes — with hazardous levels of neurotoxic lead and carcinogenic nickel and antimony — which stresses the need for urgency in enforcement," senior researcher Brett Poulin, an assistant professor of environmental toxicology at the University of California-Davis, said in a news release.

Earlier studies found that the heating elements of refillable vapes could release metals like chromium and nickel into the vapor people breathe. For this study, researchers analyzed seven disposable devices from three well-known vape brands. Before they were even used, some of the devices had surprisingly high

levels of lead and antimony, researchers reported. The lead appears to have come from leaded copper alloys used in the devices, which leach into the e-liquid.

The team then activated the disposable vapes, creating between 500 and 1,500 puffs for each device, to see whether their heating elements would release more metals. Analysis of the vapor revealed that:

- Levels of metals like chromium, nickel and antimony increased as the number of puffs increased, while concentrations of zinc, copper and lead were elevated at the start.
- Most of the tested disposables released higher amounts of metals than older refillable vapes.
- One disposable released more lead during a day's use than one would get from nearly 20 packs of tobacco cigarettes.
- Nickel in three devices and antimony in two devices exceeded cancer risk limits.
- Four devices had nickel and lead emissions that surpassed health risk thresholds for diseases other than cancer.

These results reflect only three of the nearly 100 disposable vape brands now available on store shelves, researchers noted.

"Coupling the high element exposures and health risks associated with these devices and their prevalent use among the underage population, there is an urgent need for regulators to investigate this issue further and exercise regulatory enforcement accordingly," researchers wrote.

Sources: *American Chemical Society, news release, June 20, 2025; ACS Central Science, June 25, 2025*



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Travel + Leisure Readers' 10 Favorite Islands in the Continental U.S. of 2025

#3 IS MACKINAC ISLAND

Travel + Leisure readers recently shared the U.S. islands in the continental U.S. that they return to again and again in the publication's annual "World's Best Awards" survey.

Michigan's own Mackinac Island landed as #3!

1. Mount Desert Island, Maine
2. Amelia Island, Florida
3. Mackinac Island, Michigan
4. Golden Isles, Georgia
5. San Juan Islands, Washington
6. Marco Island, Florida
7. Kiawah Island, South Carolina
8. Florida Keys, Florida
9. Hilton Head Island, South Carolina
10. Nantucket, Massachusetts

Here's how *Travel + Leisure* writer, Evie Carrick, described the top-voted island, Mount Desert Island, in an article she wrote about the survey's results:

Mountain Desert Island, the largest island off the coast of Maine, earned the top spot on the list this year. The island's dramatic granite peaks and rugged coastlines embody the untamed beauty of coastal Maine. Most of the island is dominated by Acadia National Park, often called the "crown jewel of the North Atlantic Coast," but the town of Bar Harbor, known for its lobster shacks and waterfront inns, is also worth a visit, too, and sits along the island's picturesque eastern coastline.

"A hidden gem in New England...with great spots to eat," one reader wrote. Another said they found the landscape so beautiful that they recommended visitors "spend at least five days here."

SOURCE: www.travelandleisure.com, July 8, 2025



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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 produce, package, and label meat products (e.g., sausage, jerky, bologna), and perform post-production clean up activities. This person will be required to work in a cold environment and must be able to stand for 8-10 hours.

Willingness to learn and be a team player is a must.

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Karhu and Smarty



A Finnish friend of mine was visiting Norway and the hotel had a sauna. I asked him how it was. He gave it an 8/10 for a Norwegian sauna, but said that's like a 4/10 using a Finnish scale. It didn't have a ladle so they had to improvise. He said, "In Finland, such an oversight would've been grounds for calling the front desk to complain."

If you know how Finnish people consider it impolite to complain about service, then you know the significance of that last sentence.



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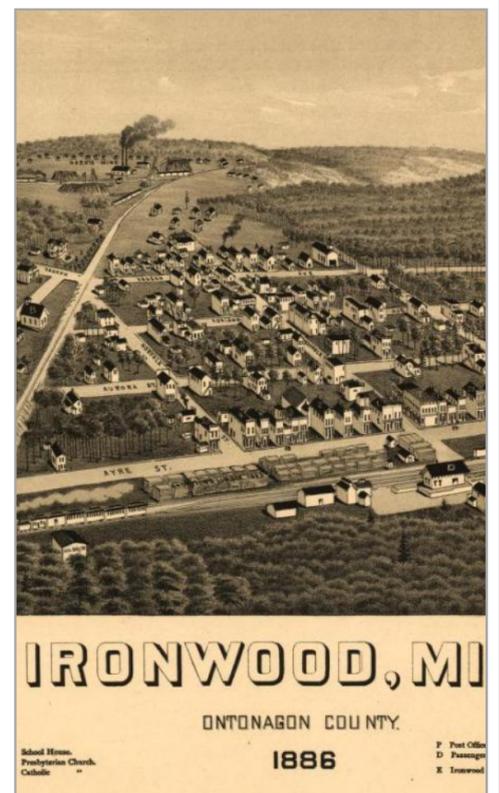
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PART-TIME LUNCHROOM AIDE

The Wakefield-Marenisco School District is accepting applications for a part-time **Lunchroom Aide**. Duties include serving lunch, cleaning the lunchroom, and assisting with playground supervision—daily from 11:15 am to 12:45 pm.

Send letter of interest to: Jason Gustafson, Superintendent
W-M School District, 715 Putnam St., Wakefield, MI 49968

OR email: gustafsonj@wmschools.org
The Wakefield-Marenisco School District
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IRONWOOD, MI

ONTONAGON COUNTY.

1886

Did You Know? Ontonagon County once extended to the western U.P.'s Michigan/Wisconsin border? Gogebic County was carved out of Ontonagon County in 1887.

Credits: Shared on Facebook—Gogebic Iron Range History by all-star contributor, Raymond Gustafson. Original image of birds-eye view of Ironwood was produced by Milwaukee-based lithographer Henry Wellge (1850-1917).



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AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD TROUT CREEK, KENTON, SIDNAW, WATTON, COVINGTON

TROUT CREEK: Belated Happy 75th Birthday to **Don McLaughlin** (July 29)!
Last week, **Austin Gordon** (E-TC Class of 2025) started his first week of practice as an official member of the NMU Wildcats Football team. Best of luck to Austin!



UP MADE ARTIST MARKET

OPEN: THUR-FRI-SAT 11AM-4PM

US HWY 141 / 13299 School Rd, Covington, MI

COVINGTON: Two moose were spotted crossing the highway near Covington around 6am on Sunday, July 27. The still frame above shows only the second moose—as the first one had already made its way to the other side of the road. *PHOTO*

CREDIT: Still frame image from video by Andrea Pinkowski. SOURCE: Post re-shared from mlive.com.

KENTON: Duncan Township Fire Department scrap metal collection efforts in May really paid off! A total of just under 13 tons of scrap metal donations were taken to 906 Truck & Equipment in L'anse and to A & L Iron & Metal in Ishpeming. The event raised \$2600 which will be used towards much-needed building maintenance. The Fire Department thanks everyone who donated!



There was plenty of participation from teams of all ages representing **Watersmeet** and **E-TC** at the **Gus Macker 3-on-3** basketball tournament last month in Wakefield.

Pictured upper-right is Goon Squad (Boys 10 & Under): Cash Nance (E-TC), Jaxon Miles (E-TC), Mason Bain (Watersmeet), Sam Chiochios (Watersmeet). The Goon Squad placed 2nd in the tournament!

Pictured below are the Basket Bananas (Girls 10 & Under): Hunter Bonin, Bayleigh Dowd, Loucille Phillips, and Izzy Miles. All are from the E-TC school district. Both teams were sponsored by Hoppy's Bar & Grill, JD's East Branch Outfitters, and BAM Tools.



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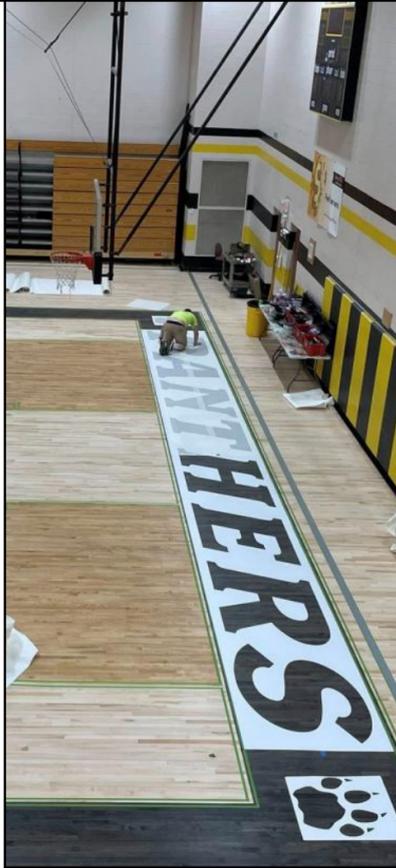
COLLISION

M-F | 8am-4:30pm

AREA SCHOOLS



EWEN: The annual Back-to-School Bash is Aug. 20, 4pm-6pm. All students and their caregivers and parents are encouraged to attend—meet the teachers and administration, receive class schedules, and enjoy some snacks and refreshments. It's a great way for students to start the year off feeling prepared! The first day of school is Aug. 26, with a 2-hour delayed start. The school's gym floor was refinished over the summer and looks spectacular! Funding for the floor project was sponsored by the E-TC Sports Booster Club.



WATERSMEET

WATERSMEET: The back-to-school Open House will be in the gym on Aug. 21, 3:30-5pm. The Back-to-School Picnic is Aug. 26, 11am-12:15pm at the park pavilion. The first day of school is also on August 26, and starts at 12:15pm. Jr. High Girls Basketball, Girls High School Volleyball, and Cross Country Track seasons are about to begin. The first Cross Country Track Meet is scheduled for Aug. 27 in Atlantic Mine.

Edward Jones

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WAKEFIELD: Middle School Girls Basketball practice starts Aug. 18 at 3pm. All girls grades 6-8 are welcome to join! Must have completed a sports physical prior to participating. Email Coach Carlson with questions at ccarlson@wmschools.org.



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ONTONAGON: From now through Aug. 17, Ontonagon School PTO is collecting school supply donations. Supplies will be distributed to students at the Back-to-School Open House on Aug. 21. Drop off locations: UP North Café, Veterans Service Office (@County Courthouse), and Onto. Township Library. Suggested Supplies: Backpacks, crayons, pencils, colored pencils, markers, highlighters, pens, scissors, notebooks, pocket folders, glue bottles/sticks, pencil sharpeners, pencil boxes/pouches, hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes, Kleenex, Ziploc bags.

PICTURED RIGHT: In January 2025, W-M Cardinals' then Senior student-athlete, Alyssa Shirkey signed her commitment to run Cross Country (XC) track for the Bay College Norse in Escanaba. The seasons starts this August. Good luck to Alyssa!



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BESSEMER: Bessemer Area Schools announced on its Facebook page that a sports meeting for all athletes (grades 7-12 for 2025-2026 school year) would be held July 30. Parents responded to the post inquiring on a makeup date for those who were unable to attend the sports meeting. Parents also inquired as to when the student classroom supplies lists would be made available.

In June, the Wakefield Bessemer Rotary Club completed one of its annual projects, the Mich. Dept. of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program, with help from Wakefield-Marenisco and Bessemer High School students. Pictured below is the ambitious clean-up crew: From left, first row, are Ava Lopac, Emily DelFavero, Kenly Anderson, Avery Keast, Kaelyn Perron, Blaike Paquette, Mara Jacobson, Jason Gustafson (Rotarian), Cjay Wainio, Chase Lane, Eli Hewitt, Jace Symons, Matt Switzer, Jeanne Graham (Rotarian), Kevin Everson (Rotarian), Julie Tibaldo (Rotarian); and second row, Richard Matrella (Rotarian), Kate Stanislawski, Emma Grayson, Sydney Boetto, Kara Prisbe, Carrine Cole, Noelle Grace, Cohen Kanto, Isaiah Fish, James Frayer, Nick Babich, Leland Hollenbeck, Jason Weber, Noah Bush, and Hunter Secord. Rotarians Tim Lynott and John Siira are not pictured.





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MEDICAID CHANGES COMING SOON: HOW THE NEW RULES DO AND DO NOT AFFECT COVERAGE

By Rena Maki (Publisher, Ottawa Shopper & 906 Rambler)

In July 2025, Congress passed the **One Big Beautiful Bill Act**, a federal law that introduces new rules for people enrolled in Medicaid across the country. While this law does not eliminate Medicaid coverage or change who is eligible, experts predict that **millions of people nationwide could lose coverage** because they may not comply with new documentation or work-related requirements.

In the **Upper Peninsula of Michigan**, most Medicaid recipients are enrolled in the **Upper Peninsula Health Plan (UPHP)** under a rule known as the **Rural Exception**. Here's a brief summary of how the changes may—or may not—impact local residents.

What Is UPHP, and Who Uses It?

In rural counties like **Ontonagon, Gogebic, Houghton, Baraga, and Iron**, all Medicaid participants are automatically assigned to a single managed care plan called the **Upper Peninsula Health Plan (UPHP)**. This is due to Michigan's designation of these counties under the **Rural Exception** allowed by federal regulations. UPHP manages two categories of Medicaid benefits that cover **two different groups** of residents:

Medicaid Category	Who It Covers	What Changes	
Traditional Medicaid	Seniors, children, pregnant women, people with disabilities	No major changes	People enrolled in Traditional Medicaid are not affected by these new rules. They will continue with annual eligibility reviews and are not subject to work or cost-sharing requirements.
Healthy Michigan Plan	Low-income adults ages 19–64 without disabilities	New requirements begin late 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollees must complete 80 hours per month of work, job training, school, or volunteering. • They must re-certify their eligibility every 6 months, instead of annually. • They may be charged cost-sharing fees (e.g., up to \$35 per doctor visit) depending on income. • Medicaid will cover 1 month of past medical bills prior to enrollment (no longer 3 months).

Who Is Being Cut from Medicaid? No One.

The new law **does not eliminate or “kick people off” Medicaid**. Eligibility standards have not changed. However, studies from previous pilot programs in Arkansas and Georgia found that **many people lost coverage** after similar rules were introduced—not because they were ineligible, but because they **did not complete or document** their required hours on time.

The Bottom Line

- If you're enrolled in **Traditional Medicaid**: Your coverage is **not changing**.
- If you're enrolled in the **Healthy Michigan Plan**: You'll be required to complete new steps starting in **late 2026**, including documenting work or qualifying activities.
- All Medicaid participants in the five rural U.P. counties mentioned above will continue receiving services through **UPHP**—this is **not changing**.
- UPHP will apply **different rules** depending on which program you are enrolled in.

Stay Connected—For More Information

Not sure of which category you're in? You can check the MI Bridges website or contact UPHP Member Services at (800) 835-2556 to confirm which program you are in and what new requirements may apply.

SOURCES:

Mich. Dept. of Health and Human Services: michigan.gov
Upper Peninsula Health Plan (UPHP): uphp.com
Congressional Budget Office Medicaid changes report, 2025
Univ. of Mich. Institute Healthcare Policy and Innovation: ihpi.umich.edu
Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF): www.kff.org
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS),
Rural Exception Provision: 42 CFR 438.52(b)

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PICTURED BELOW:
2022 Gogebic County Fair entrants Oivo and Toivo waiting to be judged.



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reddit FROM THE INFORMATION SUPER HIGHWAY

Reddit user *kenistod* recently posted this picture in *r/funny* (the sub-reddit titled "funny").

u/kenistod • 19 days ago

The art and the artist.

120K 854

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July 30, 2025	August 5, 2025	Direct-Mailed and at Newsstands
August 6, 2025	August 13, 2025	Direct-Mailed and at Newsstands
August 13, 2025	August 20, 2025	Newsstands Only
August 20, 2025	August 27, 2025	Direct-Mailed and at Newsstands
August 27, 2025	September 3, 2025	Newsstands Only
September 3, 2025	September 10, 2025	Direct-Mailed and at Newsstands
September 10, 2025	September 17, 2025	Newsstands Only
September 17, 2025	September 24, 2025	Direct-Mailed and at Newsstands
September 24, 2025	October 1, 2025	Newsstands Only
October 1, 2025	October 8, 2025	Direct-Mailed and at Newsstands
October 8, 2025	October 15, 2025	Newsstands Only
October 15, 2025	October 22, 2025	Direct-Mailed and at Newsstands
October 22, 2025	October 29, 2025	Newsstands Only
October 29, 2025	November 5, 2025	Direct-Mailed and at Newsstands
November 5, 2025	November 12, 2025	Newsstands Only
November 12, 2025	November 19, 2025	Direct-Mailed and at Newsstands
November 19, 2025	November 26, 2025	Newsstands Only
November 26, 2025	December 3, 2025	Direct-Mailed and at Newsstands
December 3, 2025	December 10, 2025	Newsstands Only
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GANDORF57 • 19d ago
Cat: I call it, 'Blind Terror', it's one of my Chaos Period pieces.
4.7K Reply

posts_while_naked • 19d ago
Ah, 'la Terreur Aveugle'. Inspired by the struggle and longing for higher positions in life, and the dissonance of birdwatching. Very expressive and neorealist in its simple but fast spur-of-the-moment execution. "You have to destroy to create," as the artist's statement goes. Valued at \$14 to \$21 million, it will be put up at Sotheby's in the fall.
1.4K Reply

DrawThink2526 • 19d ago
Purrrrrrrfect 🐾

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