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Vol. 5, 1st Edition

~~JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH~~ APRIL 26, 2026

Celebrating 70 years
of spreading the word

Since 1956 - From the Heart of the Ontonagon Valley

OTTAWA SHOPPER

and 906 Rambler



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

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



Next Publishing Date
is Last Week of May
Submission Deadline
is May 18

THIS IS YOUR COMMUNITY PAPER!
Do you have something to share with everyone?

6,000 Copies Direct-Mailed Across the Western U.P.
Call or Text: Rena Maki 404-433-7983 Email: Publisher@ottawashopper.com
Published in Bruce Crossing, MI

Save the Date CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Generously sponsored by Settlers Federal Credit Union



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

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

BRUCE CROSSING
14623 M-28
(906) 827-3240

MON-THU 8:30am-4pm EST
FRI 8:30am-6pm EST
SAT 9am-12pm EST

BRANCH OFFICE

WATERSMEET
N5384 US Hwy 45*
(906) 358-3066

MON 9am-3pm CST
WED 9am-3pm CST
FRI 9am-4pm CST

*in Northern Waters Resort & Casino

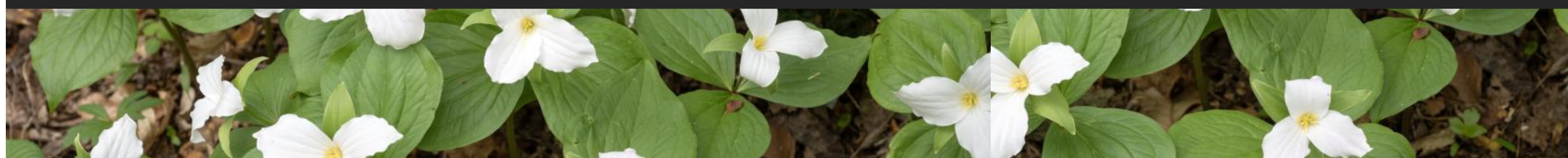
May

- 1 **Wakefield-Marenisco Elementary Spring Concerts**, Grades 4-6 Concert 12:30pm, Grades K-3 Concert at 1:45pm, Wakefield
- 2 **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser**, 3-6pm, Freewill donations meal takeout benefitting Onto. Figure Skating Club, UP North Café, Ontonagon
- 2 **Greenland's Annual 4th of July Poker Run**, \$10/person, Register 10-11am (fuel, trail stickers available) at Pat's Motorsports. Ends 7pm, Greenland
- 2 **3-on-3 Basketball Tournament**, Elem. thru high school. To register call 906-231-0668 or email besonenb@ETC.K12.MI.US Hosted at E-TC School, Ewen
- 3 **All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast**, 8a-3pm, American Legion Post 494, Trout Creek *(Details inside)*
- 3 **Northwoods Singers Spring Concert**, 4pm CT, FREE admission. Refreshments following the concert. Ely Memorial Church, 4302 HWY B, Land O'Lakes, WI
- 3 **Onto. Co. Animal Protection (OCAP) Fundraiser**, Starts 4pm, \$30/person, \$50/couple. Reservations required. Online ocappaws.org or call 906-884-2429. Bruce's Taphouse, Bruce Crossing
- 5 **ELECTION DAY - GET OUT AND VOTE!** Proposals on the ballot: E-TC Consolidated School Bond Renewal *(E-TC info- page 2)* Onto. Area Schools Sinking Fund Renewal
- 7 **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**
- 9 **New Pick-Up Date! Onto. Conservation District Tree & Plant Sales** Orders to be picked up 10am-12pm, Centennial Hall, Ewen

- 10 **MOTHER'S DAY**
- 10 **All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast**, 8-11am, Lake Superior Masons Lodge #67, Ewen *(Details inside)*
- 16 **Lake Gogebic Walleye Opener**, 7am, \$1,000 1st Place Prize, Register at AJ's Lodge & Oven, Bergland *(Details—page 6)*
- 16 **14th Annual Knock Out Cancer Walk—Settlers Federal C.U.**, Registration 10:30am, Walk 11am, Adults \$25, Youth \$15. Bruce Crossing
- 16 **Wakefield City-Wide Rummage Sale**, Call 906-285-2197 to add your address to the sale list.
- 17 **Northwoods Singers Spring Concert**, 4pm CT, FREE admission. Refreshments after the concert. First Congregational United Church of Christ, 105 N. 1st St., Eagle River, WI
- 19-21 **Sweetest Wake on Sunday Lake**, \$20/adult, \$10/kid 12-17, Free 11 and under. Activities, music, races—International Watercross Assoc., (snowmobiles racing on water), Wakefield
- 20 **Ontonagon Elementary Spring Concert**, Grades K-5, 2pm, 701 Parker Ave in gymnasium, Ontonagon
- 22 **AREA HIGH SCHOOLS' GRADUATION**
- 25 **MEMORIAL DAY** Memorial services at area cemeteries. *(Details—page 9)*
- 25 **Annual Memorial Day Bake Sale**, Greenland 4th of July fundraiser, 11am-2pm, at the playground log cabin in Greenland
- 29-31 **21st Annual Ontonagon Lake Trout Classic**, Registration/entry fees due 5/23. Proceeds benefit Onto. County Cancer Assoc.

June

- 8 **Annual Meeting of Shareholders Settlers' Cooperative, Inc.**, 6PM, at Henry A. Holappa VFW Post 9345, Bruce Crossing
Note: If you have a Settlers Co-op VIP discount shopping card, you are a Shareholder.
- 10 **FATHER'S DAY**
- 13 **Kids Fishing Tournament**, Paulding General Store, Paulding
- 13 **All Lake Garage Sale**, Gogebic Fireflies Auxiliary, 8am-2pm CT, Lake Gogebic Area
- 13-14 **Michigan Free Fishing and Free ATV/ORV Weekend**, Everyone can fish all inland and Great Lakes waters without a license. Recreation Passport not required for state park entry during these days. Ride the ATV/ORV trails without an ORV license or trail permit.
- 18-21 **Juhannus Paiva — Midsummer Festival**, Three days of cultural events in Hancock, the 2026 Finno-Ugric Capital of Culture
- 20 **JUHANNUS PAIVA (ST. JOHN'S DAY)**
- 23 **Bird Habitat-Forest Management Learning Event**, 12-3pm ET, FREE admission. Co-hosted by American Bird Conservancy and Onto. Conservation District., Call to Register 906-285-1497, Matchwood
- 27-28 **2026 Field Day—Superior Amateur Radio Association**, 6/27-2pm thru 6/28-5pm, Bergland Twp Park, 107 Pine St., Bergland



VOTE ON MAY 5, 2026

ESTIMATED NO NET TAX RATE INCREASE IN 2026
 COMPARED TO THE 2025 TAX RATE



EWEN-TROUT CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND PROPOSAL

IMPROVING AND UPDATING THE DISTRICT'S LARGEST ASSET

ADDRESSING AGING BUILDING COMPONENTS

IMPROVING TRAFFIC FLOW AND SAFETY

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- Parking lot reconstruction
- Improved traffic circulation for drop-off/pick-up
- Additional parking in front of the building
- Safer pedestrian pathways for elementary students

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Upgrade lighting to energy-efficient LED fixtures
- Improve lighting controls for classrooms
- Elementary gym lighting improvements
- Window replacement to improve building efficiency
- Replacement of exterior doors

REPAIRING & UPDATING THE SCHOOL

- Replacement of worn out flooring throughout building
- Replacement of damaged ceiling tiles
- Kitchen equipment upgrades
- Upgrade science stations to support modern learning

SAFETY & SECURITY

- Security door camera system upgrades
- Building intercom system upgrades



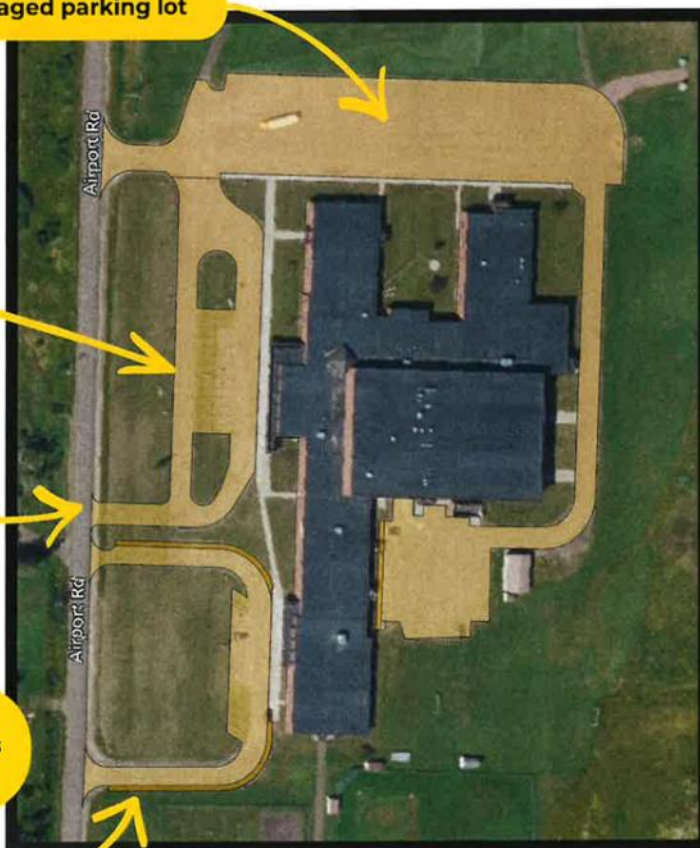
PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS FOR SCHOOL PARKING LOT AND STUDENT DROP-OFF/PICK-UP AREA

Reconstruction of damaged parking lot

Additional visitor parking at front door

Separate entrance for bus drop-off

Elementary pick-up and drop off lane with sidewalks for added student safety



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A COMPLETE PROJECT LIST CONTACT:

Tony Basanese, Superintendent
 EMAIL: tbasanese@etc.k12.mi.us
 PHONE: 906-813-0620

Paid for by Ewen-Trout Creek School District, 14312 Airport Road, Ewen, MI 49925

E-TC SPRING SPORTS

VARSITY TRACK & FIELD

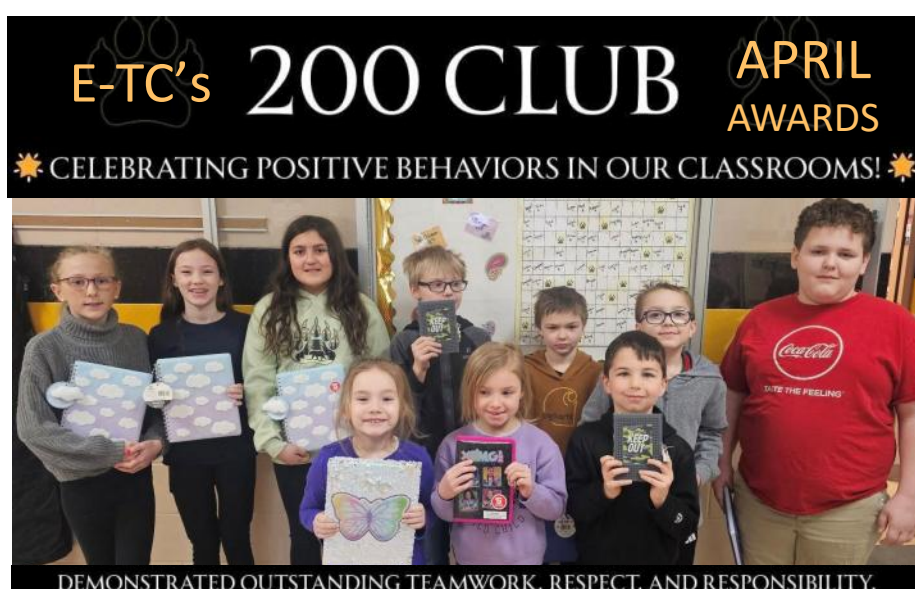
Mon, 5/4 Welker Invitational | Ashland | 5 PM
 Thu, 5/7 Marcy Bracket | Bessemer | 1:30 PM
 Mon, 5/11 CC Invite | Houghton | 4 PM
 Wed, 5/13 Regional Meet | Gwinn | (Time TBD)
 Mon, 5/18 Conference Meet | Wakefield |
 Field: 12 PM; Running: 1 PM
 Tue, 5/26 Dan Junttila Invite | Houghton | 4 PM
 Sat, 5/30 UP Finals | Kingsford | (Time TBD)

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Fri, 5/1 Iron Mtn | AWAY | 4 PM
 Wed, 5/6 Gogebic JV | AWAY | 4 PM
 Fri, 5/8 Baraga | HOME | 4 PM
 Tue, 5/12 Gogebic | HOME | 4 PM
 Fri, 5/15 Lake Linden | AWAY | 4 PM
 Mon, 5/18 Jeffers | AWAY | 4 PM
 Tue, 5/19 Ironwood | AWAY | 4 PM
 Thu, 5/21 L'Anse | AWAY | 4 PM

BOYS BASEBALL

Tue, 5/5 Gogebic AWAY | 4 PM
 Fri, 5/8 Ontonagon | HOME | 4 PM
 Fri, 5/15 L'Anse AWAY | 4 PM
 Tue, 5/19 Lake Linden HOME | 4 PM
 Fri, 5/29 Districts vs N. Dickinson AWAY | 10 AM
 Date TBD
 Hurley (Location TBD) (Time TBD)



Letter from Ewen-Trout Creek School Regarding May 5 Bond Millage Vote

To Our Community,

We are reaching out to share an important perspective as we reflect on the history and future of our school. When this school was built nearly 30 years ago, the decisions made at that time were thoughtful and forward-looking. The materials selected were considered top of the line, representing the best standards and available resources of that era.

Over time, however, even the best materials and construction naturally face wear, evolving standards, and changing needs. What was once state-of-the-art is now being tested by decades of use, new safety expectations, and modern educational demands. Now, as you walk through the building, you'll see the signs: rippling, worn carpets; aging doors and windows letting in outside air; and parking lots that have been patched time and again. Our bus fleet is aging. To keep students safe, we are spending thousands of dollars in repairs. The newest bus is 4 years old and our oldest is 9 years old with over 180,000 miles. The bond would allow us to replace buses and reduce our yearly maintenance costs.

Currently, the millage rate is 4.8 mills. If the bond issue passes, that rate will not increase—it will remain the same. If the bond fails, the rate will drop to 3.3 mills, but needed repairs and improvements will remain unaddressed.

A school is the backbone of a community. We don't have to look far to see what happens when a community loses its school—the impact is lasting.

Thirty years ago, this community came together to build something special. Now it's our turn to continue that investment and ensure this school remains a source of pride for future generations.

Please remember to vote on May 5th. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
 Anthony Basanese
 Principal/Superintendent, Ewen-Trout Creek School District

THE PAULDING GENERAL STORE

~Opening May 9th for the 2026 Season~

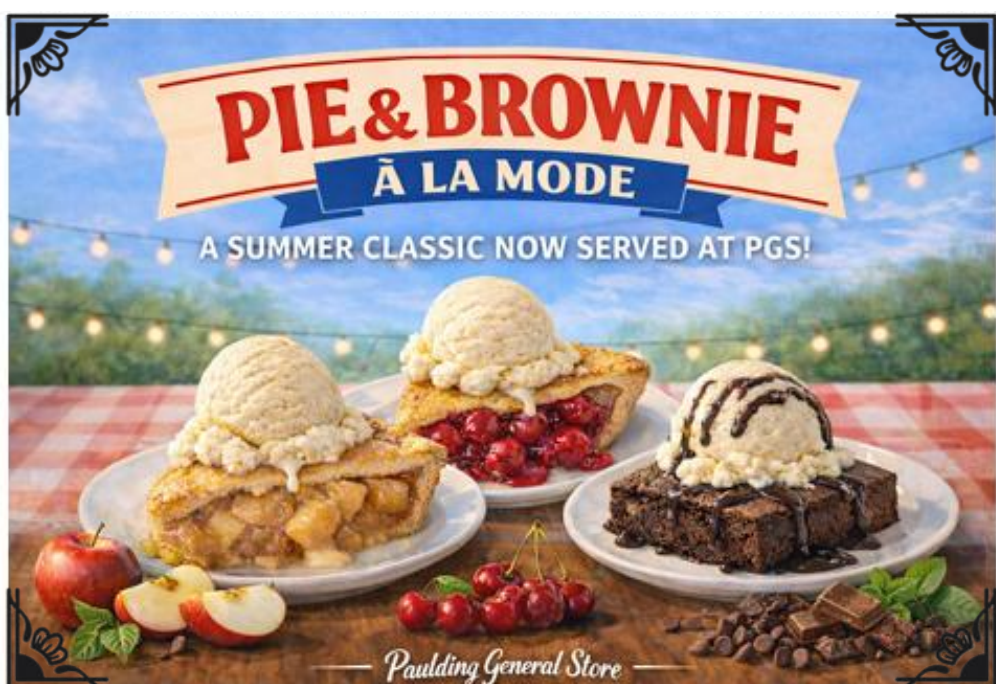


BOND BLENDS




With over 40 varieties of Camper Cocktails available, PGS proudly introduces **BOND BLENDS** - a refreshing alcohol-free alternative to the spirits-based Camper Cocktails. Designed for adults and kids, **BOND BLENDS** are fresh make-it-yourself beverages incorporating fruits, juices, sodas, and coffees - ensuring everyone has a drink to enjoy!

Bond Blends and Camper Cocktails protected under copyright.



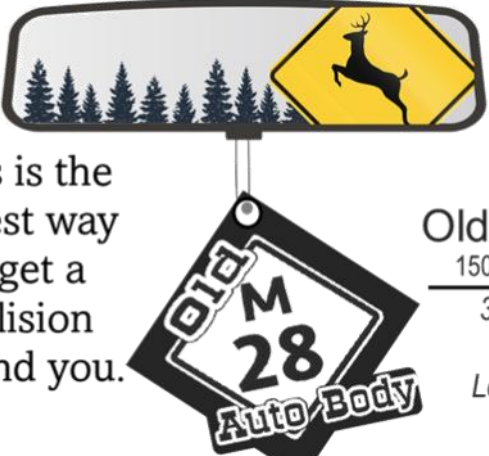
10-1b ICE BLOCKS NOW AVAILABLE!

- ~ Try our new line of PGS private label goods.
- ~ New **SWICY** and **SWAVORY** items!!! 
- ~ Ice cream, camping, fishing, spirits/brews, beverages, sandwiches, souvenirs & apparel.



More Bond Falls apparel and souvenirs available at Bond Falls Outpost
~Bond Falls Outpost opening Memorial Day weekend for the 2026 season~

Paulding General Store, 4730 US HWY 45, Paulding, MI 49912
Bond Falls Outpost, 12371 Bond Falls Road, Paulding, MI 49912



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Bond Falls—Routinely Rated as One of the UP's Top 3 Waterfalls

Located a few miles east of Paulding in Haight Township, Bond Falls is one of Ontonagon County's most accessible and impressive scenic sites. The waterfall, on the Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River, drops about 50 feet and features an accessible boardwalk with multiple viewing areas.

Long before Bond Lake (aka "Bond Falls Flowage") was created, Bond Falls existed as a natural waterfall surrounded by forests, wetlands, and the natural river channel. In 1940, a dam was built above the falls was built to create the **Bond Falls Flowage**, a storage reservoir for hydroelectric operations. The project altered the natural flow of the river and changed some aspects of the falls, but Bond Falls remained spectacular.

While tourism materials group Bond Falls in with the Porkies, the falls are located nearly an hour south. Still, they're an easy and worthwhile stop for anyone exploring the western U.P. Here are the distances to the falls from the closest towns:



- Trout Creek ~ 10 miles (from The White Door General Store, go west on M-28, then go south on Mile Rd. to Calderwood Rd, then west on Bond Falls Road.)
- Bruce Crossing ~ 13 miles (take US 45 south to Paulding, then turn left at Paulding General Store onto Bond Falls Road.)
- Watersmeet ~ 13 miles (take US-45 north to Paulding, then turn right at Paulding General Store onto Bond Falls Road.)

AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD... CALDERWOOD, PAULDING, WATERSMEET

CALDERWOOD: Construction on the bridge at Bond Falls has been postponed and will not happen until next summer.

WATERSMEET: The coffee shop at Northern Waters Casino has a new name—Canoe's Landing. The shop now features Caribou Coffee drinks, food to go, and bakery treats made by Bruce Crossing entrepreneur, Madison Tuttle (Maddie Mae's Baked Goods). The shop is open 7am-2pm daily.



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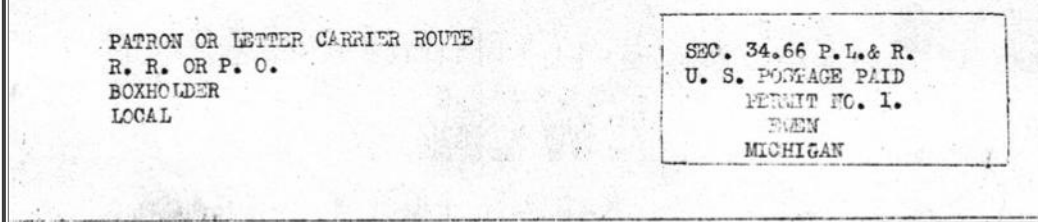
SERVICE
M-F | 8am-6pm
SA | 8am-12pm

SALES
M-F | 8am-6pm
SA | 8am-3pm

PARTS
M-F | 8am-5pm
SA | 8am-12pm

COLLISION
M-F | 8am-4:30pm

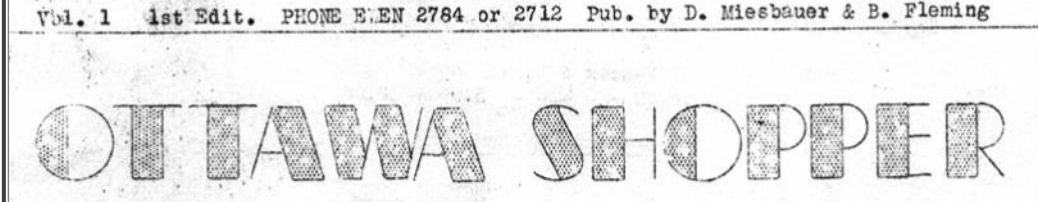
A Legacy in Print: The Ottawa Shopper Turns 70



On the left is the front page of the very first edition of the *Ottawa Shopper*, published in Ewen on September 6, 1956, as a collaboration between the late Dorothy Miesbauer and the late Barb Fleming. But the roots of this paper reach back even further.

Before Ewen became the home base for publication, the concept began in Kenton in the 1940s with Tom and Florence Haarala. The Haarala's ran the Kenton Post Office when they purchased the adjacent grocery store from Heino Anderson. Positioned at the heart of the community (through mail and the market) they saw firsthand the need to share local news, store specials, and everyday happenings.

Pictured below is an ad from that first Ewen edition promoting Haarala's Store in Kenton—a reminder of the family's early role in helping launch what would become a longstanding community newspaper tradition.



KOOKER THEATRES

"ANYTHING GOES" in Technicolor with Bing Crosby-Donald O'Connor-Mitzi Gaynor-Phil Harris
Trout Creek Sat. Sept. 8th
Ewen Sun. Sept. 9th

"DESERT SANDS" in Technicolor with J. Carroll Nash-John Carridine
Trout Creek Sun. Sept. 9th
Ewen Wed. Sept. 12th

"THREE STRIPS IN THE SUN" with Aldo Ray-Phil Carey-Mitsuko Kimura
Trout Creek Sat. Sept. 15th
Ewen Sun. Sept. 16th

"YELLOW MOUNTAIN" in Technicolor with Lex Barker-Mala Powers-Howard Duff
Trout Creek Sun. Sept. 16th
Ewen Wed. Sept. 19th

WALLEN THEATRES

"RICOCHET ROMANCE" starring Marjorie Main, that Ma Kettle gal with a new man, Chill Wills.
Bergland Sat. Sept. 8th
Watersmeet Sun. Sept. 9th

"ANYTHING GOES" in Technicolor with Bing Crosby-Donald O'Connor-Mitzi Gaynor-Phil Harris
Bergland Wed. Sept. 12th
Watersmeet Thurs. Sept. 13th

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"THREE STRIPS IN THE SUN" with Aldo Ray-Phil Carey-Mitsuko Kimura
Bergland Wed. Sept. 19th
Watersmeet Thurs. Sept. 20th

HAARALA'S STORE

20th Century FROZ'N FOOD

KENTON FOOD STORES EWEN

Arm. Star HAM Fully cooked 16-18 Whole or shank # 59c	Swifts Eversweet Thick sliced Bacon 2 # 99c
LARD Arm. Star 2# for 39c	GR. BEEF 2 # for 77c
Meyers asst. Lunch	Meyers Ring Blood Arm. Star Polish

STATE BANK OF EWEN

EWEN MICH

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM & FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP.

This space will be used for announcements of activities of any non-profit organizations such as church bazaars, class plays, etc., by the courtesy of the STATE BANK OF EWEN.

OPEN FRIDAY EVENINGS, & NOON HOURS

OTTAWA SHOPPER EWEN, MICHIGAN PHONE 2764 or 2712 SEPT. 6, 1956

In 1956....

- Dwight D. Eisenhower was the country's 34th president.
- There were more than 400 dairy farms across Ontonagon County—family operations with milk cows, hayfields, and hard work that shaped daily life.
- Gas was about 22 cents a gallon, and a first-class stamp cost 3 cents.
- The average new home cost around \$11,700, and minimum wage was \$1.00/hour.
- Rock 'n' roll was exploding and Elvis Presley dominated the radio waves.
- While approximately half of all American households had a TV, households in our area finally had a reason to buy one. The first (and only) local TV station WLUC-TV Channel 6 (then called WDMJ-TV) out of Marquette signed on and began broadcasting on April 28. A 21-inch, black and white TV and tall antenna cost around \$185-\$300, which is roughly equivalent to \$1,800-\$2,900 in 2026.
- Schoolchildren regularly practiced duck-and-cover drills in preparation for a potential Soviet atomic attack.
- The top vehicle brand was Chevrolet and the Chevrolet Bel Air was at the core of its popularity. Other top sellers—Ford F-Series pickup and the Oldsmobile 88.
- There were many Settlers Cooperative store locations, including: Bruce Crossing (main store "Settlers' Co-op" still operates today), Trout Creek, Paynesville, and Mass City.
- An estimated 25 to 35 schools served rural families across Ontonagon Co.—long before consolidation and school bussing reshaped education in the decades that followed.
- Classic books published included *Pippi Longstocking*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Fall*, *A Night to Remember*, *Peter Rabbit*, *Don't Go Near the Water*.
- Hyperlocal information was shared freely with the public in printed community newsletters—like the *Ottawa Shopper*. Today much of that same hyperlocal information is locked online behind a Facebook login, making it accessible to only those with digital privilege.



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PROVIDING PERSONALIZED SERVICE TO MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

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

TROUT CREEK AMERICAN LEGION POST 494

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**8AM - 11AM
MAY 3, 2026**

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

\$9.00 - Adults
\$3.00 - Children under 12

TROUT CREEK: Downtown main street (Division Street 1.5 miles) is scheduled to be re-paved by the County this summer.

The Trout Creek American Legion 494 Supporters had another successful pasty sale in April—selling over 800 pasties!

KENTON: The Ontonagon Valley Sportsmen's Club held its Annual Predator Roundup over the weekend of 2/19-2/22. Coyote, fox, and bobcat were on the hunt list.

The staff at UP Chucks recently raised \$2,607 and donated the funds to the Duncan Township Fire Department in March.

COVINGTON: The Covington VFW and Auxiliary, along with many other members of the community hosted an Easter Egg Hunt in April at the Multi-Purpose Building in Covington.

TRINITY LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

May 17 at 11am

in Trout Creek, MI



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Thank You!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to friends and family for all the calls, visits, cards and support while I was in rehab at Gogebic Medical Care Facility. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated.
~ Juanita Urbis

ONTO. CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S 2026 TREE AND PLANT SALE PICK-UP DATE HAS CHANGED TO MAY 9th

The 2026 Tree and Plant Sale fundraiser pick-up date is now Sat., May 9, 10am-12pm in Ewen. This change is due to a late spring and excessive snowfall at the nurseries. For more info or questions go to www.ontonagonconservationdistrict.com, or email ontonagon@macd.org, or call 906-231-0382.

PARTY SEASON IN THE U.P. IS HERE

Tips for hosting a great outdoor gathering without losing your food, your guests, or your sanity.

From graduation parties and class reunions to Fourth of July cookouts and backyard birthdays, summer in the U.P. means one thing. We gather, and we usually gather outside. Outdoor parties are some of the best memories you'll make. They're also where you learn very quickly that the weather forecast was wrong, bugs are relentless, and heavy coolers are not your friend. Here's how to host a great outdoor event and still enjoy it yourself.

Start with the space

Before you set out food or chairs, take a walk around. Look for flat ground, shade, and places people will naturally gather. Also look for things that could trip someone or twist an ankle. Set up simple zones for food and drinks, seating and gabbing, and open space for kids or games. For events that go into the evening with drinks flowing steadily, make sure the area behind each chair is free from large rocks or other objects where a head could land in the event a chair or two tips backward thanks to an unsteady occupant. Come to think of it—make sure the area in front of each chair is equally unobstructed.

Do a quick safety check

Five minutes here can save you a lot of trouble later. Nobody wants a surprise from above or a sting from below. Trim low or dead branches. PLEASE check for wasp or hornet nests under boards, tables, porches, suspicious-looking holes in the ground, and under roof eaves. Mow tall grass and weeds where people will sit or walk. Bring a first aid kit (don't forget tweezers)...just in case.

Always assume it will be windy

If you think it might be breezy, assume it will be. Even if TV 6 weather says "no wind," you must still assume there will be wind. If someone says "it's not too windy today," what they mean is it's only moderately windy. Therefore, you must secure tablecloths, use heavier serving dishes, keep napkins weighted or contained, and expect paper plates (whether they're loaded with food or not) and empty containers to attempt flight. Remind guests in advance of the strong likelihood it will be buggy, windy, and cold—and tell them to bring a chook, coat, and gloves...just in case.

Keep food simple and safe

Outdoor food should be easy to serve and easy to eat. You may not be able to control whether Uncle Buck uses his favorite pocketknife to prep the food dish he brings to the party, but you can (and must) ensure cold food stays cold (on ice trays) and hot food stays hot (crock pots with extension cords or in an aluminum pan on a grate over hot coals). Someone will bring something in a Cool Whip container. It will not be Cool Whip. Assume nothing and take a peek inside each covered dish to accurately identify "hot" or "cold." Bring more serving utensils than you think you need. Easy foods are always burgers, brats, chicken, veggie skewers, pasta salad, potato salad, fruit trays. Handheld foods are your best friend (and so is hand sanitizer).

Drinks without the chaos

Coolers work for keeping drinks cold. However, if you're anticipating the need for lots of coolers with lots of ice to keep a lot of drinks cold, consider using a refrigerated mobile tap trailer. They've become popular for good reason. These setups serve beverages on tap and keep everything cold and organized. There's no need for guests to dig through coolers, guests can serve themselves (assuming of-age if alcohol is involved), and the trailers work for non-alcoholic beverages as well. For big gatherings, it's a cost-saving upgrade.

Plan for bugs

They're already here, so plan accordingly. Make sure there's bug dope on-hand, keep food covered, and set out citronella candles or torches if possible. Don't forget the matches.

Don't skip the basics

If you're at camp or a rustic spot, think about bathrooms and handwashing. Make sure the outhouse is clean and stocked with extra TP ahead of time. Make sure the door latch works. A functioning latch is not optional, it's a community service (enough said on that). Clear out any wasps, hornets, bees, or snakes. For handwashing—set up a small table with a water jug with a spout and soap. And place hand sanitizer in the food serving areas. People may not compliment you on this, but they WILL notice if it's missing.

Be smart about waste

Recycling in this neck of the woods is limited, so try to use reusable food trays, utensils and beverage cups when possible. Set up an obvious "trash" area and keep the trash contained (bring trash bags). Bring a plastic basket (clothes basket or similar bin) to collect dirty food trays, utensils and cups. And one important note—do not burn party trash! Burning plastics and food packaging releases harmful chemicals that linger in the air and then settle into the ground. Even if you cannot "smell" the chemicals, they're definitely there and are toxic to everyone and everything—pets included. Besides that, they create a melty mess. Just don't. Instead, bag it and dispose of it properly. To avoid leftover food going to waste, have to-go containers ready for guests.

Add a little light

If your party goes into the evening, plan ahead. Set up string lights, solar lights, or lanterns. They make everything feel more inviting and keeps people from wandering off into the woods or water, or falling in ditches.

Think like a guest

Make it easy for people to enjoy it all. Keep trash contained. Set up a table with napkins, utensils, and bug dope. Little things make a big difference. Provide CLEAR directions to the party if the event location is tucked away. If your directions included phrases like 'you'll see a big pine tree' or 'go past the old barn,' consider adding a few more details. GPS may get them close, but after that it's a local knowledge test.

Final thoughts

Parties and events of all sizes are not about perfection. They're about people having a nice time and memory-making. If everyone is comfortable, fed, and mostly smiling, you did it right. And if nobody loses a plate to the wind or gets carried off by mosquitoes...it'll be a flawless event.



TAP INTO A BETTER PARTY



- We deliver a refrigerated, mobile tap trailer to you.
- You provide the kegs of beer, craft sodas, cold brew coffee, kombucha - or any other keg beverages.
- Your guests enjoy fresh, ice-cold beverages all event long.
- Everyone has a great time!

WEDDINGS • REUNIONS • GRAD PARTIES • FESTIVALS

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The choice is YOURS. Choose Big Valley Collision.

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In those days, though, the spring always came finally but it was frightening that it had nearly failed.
- Ernest Hemingway

ATTENTION COOPERATIVE SHAREHOLDERS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SHAREHOLDER MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders Settlers' Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the Henry A. Holappa VFW Post 9345, Bruce Crossing, Michigan, at
6:00PM on JUNE 8, 2026

The purpose of the meeting is to elect three (3) board members and present company financials for 2025.

For-Profit Cost

\$33

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Be seen by 14,000+ local readers.

Share your business or service here—so everyone, including those not online, knows where to find you. Your support helps cover printing and postage, keeping this paper free and accessible to all.

Ad space dimensions for the example ads shown above and below are set at 2" X 3.3" (6.6 sq. in.). Quoted cost of \$33 is based on multi-ad rate \$5/sq. in. (6.6 X \$5=\$33).

A GREAT BAR & GRILL

WEEKLY SPECIALS

MON:	Soup & Sandwich \$6
TUE:	Taco Night \$3 ea.
WED:	Pizza Night
THU:	Chicken Dinner \$9
FRI:	Fish Fry Dinner \$12
SAT:	Prime Rib \$15
SUN:	All-You-Can-Eat \$10

Open Daily 8am-11pm



123 Main St.
Town Name

906-555-1212
Web-Facebook.com



WHITE TAIL TIRE COMPANY



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



Closed Sundays

HIGHWAY M-28, EWEN

906-988-2305

HARVEST & HABITAT

2025 BEAR SEASON YIELDED LARGER THAN AVERAGE BEARS

Hunters in Mich. harvested 1,952 black bears in 2025, according to DNR data—lightly above the state's 5 yr ave. of 1,911 bears/ year. Some bears recorded this year included 20 bears over 400lbs and 8 were 500lbs+. Demand for bear licenses is at an all-time high. The DNR uses hunting as a primary way to manage a sustainable black bear population of ~ 12,500 statewide.

In 2025, 83% of the bears harvested in Michigan were in the U.P. That's 1,522 bears during the September-October hunting season.

Source: MI DNR

Michigan's New Coyote Management Season Started March 2

A new coyote hunting and trapping season designed to address interspecies conflict and overabundance of the animals in Michigan will run for more than seven months. The statewide coyote management season, approved earlier this year by the Natural Resources Commission, is open March 2 through Oct. 14. Here's what you need to know about Coyote Hunting & Trapping:

- Hunting is allowed on private and public lands, with some restrictions.
- Trapping is prohibited on public lands and commercial forest lands open to general public hunting during the management season.
- The take of coyotes is prohibited in state parks and recreation areas from April 1 to Sept. 14.
- Current hunting and trapping methods are allowed, except non-lethal cable restraints, which are prohibited.
- Hunting with dogs is prohibited April 16 to July 7.
- All other applicable hunting/trapping season regulations must be followed, including trap-check requirements.

License requirements:

- A base license is required.
- A fur harvester license is required for all trappers and nonresident hunters.
- Resident hunters are only required to possess a base license.

Carcass use and disposal:

- Coyote carcasses may be used or must be properly disposed of.
- Carcasses must be buried completely or wrapped and disposed of in a landfill.
- Private landowners may compost carcasses on their own land, as allowed by local authorities.



BASEL'S
TREE TRIMMING

TOTAL TREE REMOVAL
TRIMMING, STUMP GRINDING

Call or Text Luke Basel
989-255-6236

Fully Insured

EWEN, MI

FIREWOOD
\$110 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.

Call Erik (Guck) Johnson at 906-365-0075

DHHS/SWP approved

LAKE GOGEBIC
— Walleye Opener —

First Place Walleye \$1000

PRIZES:

First Place	Walleye \$1000	Perch \$300	Northern \$200
2nd Place	\$500	\$150	\$100

MAY 16, 2026

\$40 Entry | register online at: www.ajslodgeandoven.com

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 May — October
- Indoor Range Hours
Thursdays 6 to 8PM
Saturdays Noon to 5PM

LakeSuperiorSportsmansClub.org

2025 Michigan DNR Master Angler Report ONTONAGON COUNTY WATERS

The Master Angler program includes more than 45 species for which you can compete for honors. A Master Angler patch is awarded to all entries meeting the established minimum length for each species. Details about the program are on the DNR's website: Michigan.gov/DNR

Species	Length (in)	Date Caught	First & Last Name	Water
Bluegill	10.80	2025-08-09	D. LILLIE	Lake Gogebic
Bluegill	10.60	2025-08-24	G. WARGNIER	Lake Gogebic
Bluegill	10.50	2025-01-10	C. WITTINGEN	Steusser Lake
Crappie	14.00	2025-09-10	O. COLTER	Bond Falls Flowage
Hybrid Sunfish	10.50	2025-08-01	D. LILLIE	Lake Gogebic
Lake Whitefish	23.50	2025-05-26	N/A	Lake Superior
Northern Pike	43.00	2025-09-06	N/A	Lake Gogebic
Pumpkinseed	09.50	2025-06-18	A. KOSTOPOLUS	Lake Gogebic
Smallmouth Bass	21.50	2025-09-16	C. CHARLWOOD	Lake of the Clouds
Walleye	29.50	2025-07-21	J. WELLER	Middle Branch Ontonagon River
White Sucker	22.00	2025-02-01	C. RICHARDSON	Lake Gogebic
Yellow Perch	14.10	2025-03-24	D. FALK	Lake Gogebic

2026 Master Angler Applications

Master Angler applications for fish caught between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2026, are accepted until Jan. 10, 2027.



Sweet Pea Farm
10TH ANNUAL
GARDEN PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, MAY 16
SUNDAY, JUNE 1
(or until sold out)

Carrying a full line of biodynamically raised garden plants from organic non-GMO seeds by Mr. Sweet Pea himself!

12720 South Paynesville Rd., Bruce Crossing
Look for signs just off Highway 28
906-231-9345 for more information

<p>TOMATOES</p> <p>Early Girl • Glacier • Moskvich • Mountain Princess • Cherokee Purple • Sungold Cherry • Sweetie Cherry • Black Cherry • Jet Star • San Marzano • Roma • Yellow Pear • Heirloom Brandywine</p>	<p>VEGETABLES</p> <p>Brussel Sprout • Broccoli • Cauliflower • Red & Green Cabbage • Onions • Chives • Cucumbers • Celery • Yellow Summer Squash • Zucchini • Winter Butternut & Honeynut Squash • Acorn Squash • Pumpkins • Watermelon • Kale • Romaine Lettuce Starts • Basil • Bush Beans • Beet Starts</p>	<p>FLOWERS</p> <p>Zinnias Cosmos</p>	<p>PEPPERS</p> <p>SWEET: King of the North Green Bell Yellow Italian Corno de Toro Red</p> <p>HOT: Ancho Poblano Jalapeño Habañero</p>
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OPEN SEVEN DAYS 10 AM-5 PM

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

There is a rumor running rampant in Ontonagon County - especially on the South End - that Mennonites do not pay property taxes. As a Township Clerk, I feel that it is my job to set the record straight. Mennonites DO pay property taxes, just like Catholics and Lutherans and Methodists and Masons and any other person who happens to be affiliated with a religious organization. In addition to the fact that they pay taxes, they are almost certainly paying a LOT more in taxes than the previous owners of the property. How do I know this without even knowing which properties are in question?

1. The farms that have been purchased have been passed down through families for decades. As you may know, when property of any kind passes down to the next generation, the taxes are capped. When that property is sold to someone outside the family, the tax cap comes off. This "uncapping" can double, triple, or even quadruple the tax burden on that property. So these folks are paying a LOT more from day one.
2. As you also may know, when you make changes to your home - whether that is renovations or additions or building new - the assessment increases, which again raises the tax burden. Several homes on these properties have seen changes, and therefore the taxes have increased even more.
3. And, also as you may know, when you build a new out-building - a barn or a shed or even a sauna - the (value) assessment increases, which raises the tax burden even further. Several new barns, workshops, and other out-buildings have been added to these properties.

So, I am absolutely certain that there is a heavier tax burden on the Mennonites who now own the land than there was on their previous owners.

But churches don't pay taxes, you say? This is true. At the moment, the Mennonite community does not own a church building - at least, not one that I know of. If they were to purchase a church building or build one, that small lot -- an acre or two? -- would be exempt from taxes, just like the Roman Catholic Church building, the Lutheran Church building, or the Methodist Church building where you worship. The farms that belong to the individual families do not belong to the Mennonite Church any more than YOUR property belongs to YOUR church. (In my other job, I'm a pastor and I pay property taxes on the land that *I* own, too!)

Please, squash this rumor whenever you hear it and support the good neighbors who have come into our community and have returned dormant farms to productive status.

Thank you,
Kay Richter, McMillan Township Clerk

AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD... BERGLAND, MERRIWEATHER, LAKE GOGEBIC AREA

BERGLAND: In early February, after traveling on Trail 1 South between White Pine and Bergland, a snowmobiler noticed a heavy gas smell and reported it to SEMCO. The trail passes over a natural gas distribution line. SEMCO was investigating.

Bergland Township has appointed two trustees to serve until the November 2026 election, avoiding the need for a costly special election estimated at around \$15,000. Residents will still have the opportunity to vote for candidates of their choice this fall.

Road improvements in Bergland are expected to begin in early May on Ash, Pine and Center streets, with storm sewer work also planned along Center Street. Township officials noted the projects were discussed at multiple planning meetings, with engineering support from Colman Engineering and involvement from the Ontonagon Co. Road Commission in the decision-making process.

HILL'S HEARING SERVICES

Testing • Sales • Service
Custom Hearing Aids

IRONWOOD
237 E. Cloverland Dr.
906-932-9033

IRON RIVER
230 Washington Ave.
906-265-0711

Richard & Gale Hill Owners Since 1996

Animal Horns
Animal horns were hollowed out and used as rudimentary hearing devices in the 13th century.



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NMLS#201542

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- Spring/Fall Clean-up

- Mulch Installation
- Shrub Pruning
- Snow Removal
- And so much more!

Call: 906-299-0575

Serving Ontonagon County and surrounding areas.



CONSUMER & MONEY WATCH

Find a Penny, Pick It Up... While You Still Can

The U.S. penny is going away—slowly. Here's what that means at the checkout counter.

As of November 12, 2025, the U.S. Treasury has stopped manufacturing new pennies, and the country has begun a long, gradual transition toward a world where pennies still exist, but are used less and less in everyday commerce.

The big reason is basic economics: it costs more to make a penny than a penny is worth. Treasury says the total production cost has risen to 3.69 cents per penny, and ending production is projected to save about \$56 million per year in reduced material costs.

Treasury also points to reality on the ground: more purchases are non-cash, and a single penny has very little buying power today.

Roughly 114 billion pennies are already in circulation. While new pennies are no longer being produced, the billions already in circulation will continue to move through banks and businesses. Pennies are not being recalled—they will simply fade from everyday use over time.

What This Means for Local Businesses

Businesses can continue to accept pennies and give penny change (if they have them). If they do not have penny change available, they may round the final cash total to the nearest nickel. If a customer is paying using a debit card or credit card, those transactions should continue to be processed to the exact cent.

Is Penny Rounding a Ripoff?

If you are paying using cash, and the business does not have penny change available, the Treasury recommends the business uses "symmetrical rounding" to round the final total (including taxes), to the nearest five cents.

Importantly, prices can still be listed to the penny (like \$1.99). Rounding happens at the very end of a cash transaction—not on each item.

Treasury says that because rounding goes up about as often as it goes down, there should be no overall effect on consumer prices across many purchases. So, if a store is rounding each item (instead of the final cash total), that's a red flag for consumers and for regulators.

Cash vs. Credit/Debit: What's Different?

Treasury's guidance is clear: rounding rules should not apply to non-cash payments, including credit cards, debit cards, checks, gift cards, and other electronic payments. Those transactions should continue to be processed to the exact cent. That means if you want to avoid penny rounding entirely, the simplest option is to pay with a card.

CASH ROUNDING GUIDE	
(APPLIES TO FINAL CASH TOTAL ONLY)	
HOW ROUNDING WORKS	EXAMPLES
If Total Ends In:	
1¢ → ROUND DOWN to 0¢	\$8.41 (cash) → \$8.40
2¢ → ROUND DOWN to 0¢	\$8.44 (cash) → \$8.45
3¢ → ROUND UP to 5¢	\$8.38 (cash) → \$8.40
4¢ → ROUND UP to 5¢	\$8.44 (credit/debit) → \$8.44 EXACT
5¢ → STAYS THE SAME	
6¢ → ROUND DOWN to 5¢	
7¢ → ROUND DOWN to 5¢	
8¢ → ROUND UP to 10¢	
9¢ → ROUND UP to 10¢	



Businesses may or may not have "automatic cash total rounding" set up in their cash register/POS (point-of-sale) system. Treasury says updating cash registers/POS for rounding is a business decision, but notes that automatic rounding can improve transparency by showing the rounding line item clearly on receipts. Ideally, the POS is set up so that cash payments trigger automatic symmetrical rounding after tax (the receipt shows something like "Cash rounding: -\$0.02"), while card payments remain exact.

If a business has non-computerized cash registers, the cashier may total the sale normally, then adjust the change given to land on a 5-cent increment (a manual version of the same idea). Treasury's recommendation is still that rounding occurs after tax/fees are calculated.

Businesses should continue accepting pennies and giving penny change while pennies remain in circulation, but if penny change isn't available, they may round the final cash total—recognizing states may approach this differently. The penny remains legal tender.

How to Avoid Being Short-changed

- Pay by card if you want the exact-to-the-cent amount every time, or use exact change when you can.
- Watch for "item-by-item rounding." Rounding should be on the final total of a cash purchase, not on each product.
- Ask the business what method they use and whether they round to the nearest nickel for cash. Their policy should be easy to explain and consistently applied.

Everyone belongs at the Library!

TOWN LIBRARY

Audio Books, eBooks, Clubs, Special Programs, Public Computers

Mon, Wed: 11am-8am
Tues, Fri: 11am-5pm
Sat: 10am-2pm

123 Main St.

Not-for-Profit Cost **\$22**

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Keep Area Residents Informed

Do have a special service or program, or offer some other type of community support? Make sure everyone has an equal opportunity to participate—put it in print here.

Ad space dimensions for the example ads shown above are set at 1.7" X 3.3" (4.95 sq. in.). Quoted cost of \$22 is based on ad rate \$4.50/sq. in. (4.95 X \$4.50=\$22.28).

A Word From a Local Client

When I learned my Medicare coverage through UnitedHealthcare was ending, I knew I needed some help figuring out my next step. Mr. Mlasko at American Senior Benefits explained my options clearly and helped me move into a plan that works well for me. He answered my questions, made the process straightforward, and I never felt rushed. I also appreciated that there was no fee for his help. I'm thankful for his guidance and would recommend him to anyone needing help with Medicare or health insurance decisions.
- J.K.D., 81, Bruce Crossing resident



Paul Mlasko
Independent Insurance Agent

Cell (586)707-2232
mlasko.insurance@charter.net

American
SENIOR BENEFITS

- Medicare Supplements
- Life Insurance
- Prescription Drug Plans
- Final Expense
- Dental/Vision/Hearing Insurance
- Under 65 Health Insurance
- Fixed Annuities
- House Calls Available



Kendra Williams
Independent Insurance Agent

Cell (906)364-1172
kendra.williams321@outlook.com

Licensed in MI, WI, IN, MT, AZ • Free Estimates • No Obligations • No Pressure • Office: (906) 364-7654 • 200 E. Ayer St., Suite #5, Ironwood, MI 49938
We may not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area.

Paid advertisement. Testimonial submitted by client.

Maid to Shine
A clean home is a happy home
Jessica Donley, Owner
906-285-9940
maidtoshine49961@gmail.com

AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD... AGATE, PAYNESVILLE, BRUCE CROSSING, EWEN, MATCHWOOD, TOPAZ



EWEN: Squatchin' Post Gift Shoppe, a new gift, snack and entertainment shop, opened its doors west of Ewen on M-28. Be sure to stop by to check it out and to welcome the Higdon's and their new business! The shop is located in the space formerly occupied by Dr. Schott's eye clinic.

E-TC hosted its annual Elementary Basketball tournament in Ewen in February.

The Ewen and Bruce Crossing volunteer fire departments held their annual fundraiser on Feb. 14 at the Centennial Hall in Ewen. Eric Worachek was recognized as Fireman of the Year during the event. Both departments need more volunteers.

BRUCE CROSSING: Area residents took to Facebook in late Feb. asking why the local Dollar General had been closed. With no signage posted at the store's entrance explaining the closure, community members turned to social media seeking answers. Speculation around the closure ranged from employee illness to possible mechanical issues with the store's automatic front doors. Since then, the store has resumed normal operations.

AGATE: During its April 8 meeting, the Onto. Co. Road Commission Board discussed passing a resolution to officially name the Agate bridge (M-28 over the Onto. River Middle Branch) as the *Walter J. Lannet Memorial Bridge*.

SUDS & BUCKETS
All your detailing and pressure cleaning done right!
PRESSURE WASHING
MOBILE VEHICLE DETAILING
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Steve "Ming" Butler, Owner

LVD PLAZA
Corner of US 2 & HWY 45 • Watersmeet, MI
(906) 358-4717
Car Wash • Full Line Grocery • Fresh Meat & Produce
Beer & Liquor • MI Trail Permits & Licenses • Gas Oil
LVD BAR 906.358.4732
LVD GRILL 906.358.2022
Happy Hour Daily Specials
Fresh Pasties! Friday Fish Fry!



PICTURED ABOVE: Volunteers with the Ewen and Bruce Crossing Volunteer Fire Departments, whose time and service support emergency response across the area. *Back Row (L to R):* Matt Urbis, Dan Staff, Kirk Neville, Wietse Declercq, Greg Kuehnl, Joe Lombard, Andrew Gustafson, Jared Thompson, Jordan Kurtti, Matt Ellsworth, Justin Lannet, Don Cronkright, Jared Kurtti, Sam Brady, George Korich, Matt Linna, Travis Miles, Cory Thompson *Front Row:* DJ Staff, Corey Gagner, Erik Worcheck (w/ son, Grant), Christian Fors, Hazel Strong, Brett Niemi



All-You-Can-Eat BREAKFAST
Lake Superior Masons - Lodge #67
(located west of Big Valley Ford in Ewen)
in EWEN
8am - 11am
Sunday, May 10, 2026
\$8 Adults, \$5 Children under 5

PANCAKES (w/ blueberries, whipped cream)
SCRAMBLED EGGS (w/ onions, peppers, shrooms, salsa)
BISCUITS & GRAVY
SAUSAGE and Coffee, OJ, Milk
All proceeds donated to local charities throughout the year.

Agate Falls Trail, Trestle Closed for Repairs But, What About Clearing the Disappointing Overlook View - and Fixing the Rogue Falls Trail Below?

The trestle bridge above Agate Falls will undergo repairs this summer.

Because the work area is located above the falls' outlook platform, both the trail to the platform and the trestle bridge will be closed during construction. Repairs are expected to continue until Nov. 1. The Mich. DNR has contracted with Ruotsala Construction of Ironwood to complete the \$1.6 million project, which is funded through a Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trails Program grant. While the closure will limit access, it will also spare thousands of visitors a different kind of disappointment. The official easy-walking trail (below the trestle) to the falls overlook offers little to no view of the falls and now the view is even worse thanks to brush and tree overgrowth. Dozens of online reviews from visitors—many of whom made a special trip to view the beautiful south Ontonagon Co. falls—frequently describe the experience as “disappointing,” noting the “view of the falls was totally blocked by trees” or that they “turned around before there was much of a view.”

Those determined to see the falls up close often discover what locals have long known: the only clear, head-on view of the falls requires leaving the safe trail and descending a steep, unmaintained riverbank for half of a mile—a fisherman's path of sorts. The route is very slippery and steep, with sections that approach a near straight drop, requiring careful footing over mossy rocks, exposed roots and loose gravel. The climb back up is equally demanding. By most hiking standards, the descent to the base of the falls is somewhere between advanced and hazardous. While the \$1.6 million trestle repairs will benefit ORV, snowmobile and other overhead trail users, the situation raises a broader concern. With locals and visitors venturing down the dangerous path to get to the real view of the falls, one has to wonder how long it will be before a serious injury prompts a call to local volunteer emergency services. In a remote area where response resources are limited, the question becomes not if, but when the risks associated with the current conditions will demand attention—and whether improvements might be considered before that point.

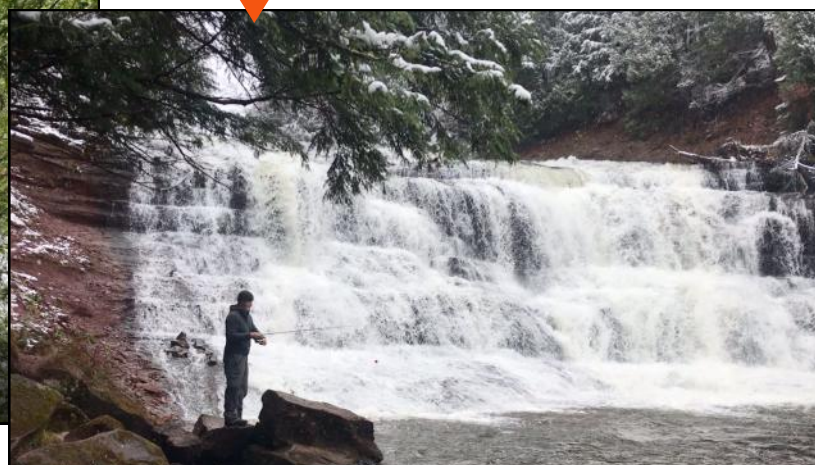
Park signs guide visitors (expecting to see Agate Falls) along an accessible trail that ends at this overlook platform.



Here's the disappointing view of the top of Agate Falls visible from the overlook platform.



Here's the Agate Falls view visitors want to see.



Pam B
Northbrook, Illinois • 12 contributions

Don't bother This is a rest stop. Period. Can barely see any falls from the overlooks. If you need to stop and use a toilet, this is a lovely find. Otherwise if you want a pretty hike with real waterfalls, go to bond falls.
Jul 2024

JOE'S AUTO SERVICE & REPAIR
6.5 mi. South of Bruce Crossing - 7668 US 45
ALL KIND OF WORKS
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

- Tune-ups
- AC/Heating
- Computer diagnostics/Check engine light
- Oil and filter changes
- Low tire pressure light repairs
- Suspension work
- Brakes
- Exhaust work

SNOW PLOWS
(906) 827-3800
CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
MON-FRI 8:30AM to 5PM EST
ACCEPTING WASTE OIL DURING BUSINESS HOURS

**Stand Together.
Honor the Fallen.**

All veterans and active-duty service members are invited to take part in Memorial Day services. You do **not** need to be a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or American Legion to participate. Simply report to the designated post as noted in the schedule to the right, and join fellow service members in traveling together to each cemetery for the ceremonies.

Your presence matters—come be part of these meaningful tributes.



AREA MEMORIAL SERVICES—MONDAY, MAY 25

BERGLAND AMERICAN LEGION		EWEN AMERICAN LEGION	
10AM	Service at Lakeview Cemetery (corner M-28)	8AM	Veterans-only report to McMillan Township Hall
TROUT CREEK AMERICAN LEGION		9AM	Service at Paynesville Cemetery
9AM	Veterans-only report to Post	9:30AM	Service at Maple Grove Cemetery
10AM	Service at Agate Cemetery	10AM	Service at Bruce Crossing Cemetery
10:45AM	Service at Trout Creek Cemetery	10:30AM	Service at Ewen Cemetery
11:30AM	Service at Kenton Cemetery		

Lunch to follow at the TC Legion Hall.

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E6526 Sandene Rd • Bessemer, MI 49911
www.jskennel.com | deb2731@gmail.com

**AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD...
MARENISCO, WAKEFIELD**



WAKEFIELD: German Language class students from the Ontonagon and Wakefield high schools traveled to Germany last month, and by all accounts, the trip was a fantastic experience. The journey home, however, hit a snag with extended delays at O'Hare in Chicago—prompting some last-minute adjustments, including parents making the drive down to bring their kids home.

Wakefield VFW Post 9084 hosted a Breakfast Buffet Fundraiser for the Wakefield-Marenisco Little League on April 19. The VFW also held a St. Patty's & St. Urho's Day Fundraiser on March 14, with food, bingo and live music.

On January 6, Wakefield Township kicked off the new year with routine business and early budget planning. Sewer work through the Section 32 project was reported as 70% complete, with potential leftover funds possibly going toward lagoon improvements. Township officials also noted delays in finalizing the Master Plan to allow for further review, while solid waste contracts and staffing updates remain in motion. At the Township's January 27, Special Board Meeting, leaders rolled up their sleeves for a detailed, line-by-line budget workshop, producing a draft 2026–27 budget. Key priorities discussed include continued road improvements in partnership with the Gogebic Co. Road Commission, maintaining strong emergency reserves, and investing in township facilities, IT upgrades, and ADA compliance for the website. On February 3, during a Regular Board Meeting, the solid waste operations reported a new hauling contract and equipment purchases, while water system decisions—including rate studies and meter replacements—remained on hold pending further review.

During its March 3, Budget Hearing and Regular Board Meeting, Wakefield Township officially approved its 2026–2027 budget, keeping the millage at 4.63 and committing significant funds toward roads and economic development. Board members also adopted updated policies, approved salaries, and supported a countywide early voting agreement for upcoming elections. In addition, they approved a Poverty Exemption Resolution, which sets income guidelines for residents who may qualify for property tax relief. Looking ahead, road projects, zoning activity, and economic development efforts remain key priorities, with grant funding opportunities and infrastructure planning continuing to move forward.

MARENISCO: Marenisco Township is heading into the new fiscal year with a projected budget surplus, with officials noting spending came in well under budget and expectations remain steady for 2026–2027. At recent meetings, residents raised concerns about House Resolution 151 and future use of the former Ojibway Prison as an ICE detention center, though township leadership indicated the proposal is no longer moving forward. The township also approved 2026 contracts for building, zoning and blight enforcement services, while officials are encouraging residents to step up for Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training due to a shortage of local volunteers. Seasonal cleanup efforts will ramp up with blight enforcement and property evaluations, as officials prepare for spring conditions, including potential flooding.

The town is planning an all-town reunion for July 5.

**Shana Ruotsala Honored
for Making a Difference**

HANCOCK, Mich.— On April 22, 2026, the Copper Country Intermediate School District's Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) hosted its 22nd annual awards ceremony in Hancock, honoring outstanding contributions to special education across Houghton, Baraga, and Keweenaw counties.

The parent-led PAC Awards recognize individuals who go above and beyond to create supportive, successful learning environments for students with disabilities and their families.

Among those recognized was Shana (DeCremer) Ruotsala, a former Trout Creek resident, who was nominated by the 7th grade special education team at Houghton Middle School. One line from her nomination reads: "Mrs. Ruotsala shows up every day for our students. They are incredibly lucky to have her—and so are we!"



PICTURED ABOVE: Shana (DeCremer) Ruotsala (center) is pictured with members of the Houghton Middle School special education team and staff following the PAC awards ceremony.

**Did You Hear the Story About...
The Stagecoach Robber
at Lake Gogebic?**

Reimund Holzhey robbed stagecoach and train passengers in northern Michigan and Wisconsin during the late 1880s. His downfall began on August 26, 1889, when he stopped a stagecoach between Gogebic Station and Lake Gogebic. In the process of robbing it, he shot Adolph G. Fleischbein, an Illinois banker traveling on summer vacation. Fleischbein was taken to Bessemer where he died the next day. A massive manhunt ensued, but Holzhey proved hard to find. Three months later, a local sheriff, a justice of the peace and a hotel proprietor captured him in Republic, Michigan.

A jury convicted Holzhey of murder in the fall of 1889. He received a life sentence and was sent to Marquette prison. As an inmate, he caused endless problems. His transgressions included attempting to escape, taking hostages, and going on a hunger strike. Holzhey also suffered from blackouts, dizziness and seizures, prompting the Warden to transfer him to Ionia Prison and Hospital on November 20, 1893. The events at Ionia are debated, but several newspaper articles reported that Holzhey underwent surgery related to a childhood brain injury. What is not debated is Holzhey's transformation when he returned to Marquette Prison on July 24, 1894. Marquette prison officials described Holzhey as a model prisoner. He developed a passion for reading and photography and became the prison photographer. He also worked as the prison librarian and editor of the prison newspaper.

On advice from James Russell, the warden of Marquette, Michigan Governor Fred W. Warner commuted

Peticures by Ginger
40+ Years of Experience and Counting!
1st & 3rd Saturdays of the Month
10AM-12:30PM
Nail Clipping \$15
Additional services available.
21972 Old Norwich Tr., Ontonagon
Please form a line and remain in your vehicle until your turn. Be prepared to help with your pet.

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DEWALT
Bobcat of Greenland
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T66 Skid steer
MT100 Mini track loader
E38 Mini excavator
E55 Mini excavator
E165 Large excavator
Multiple skid steer attachments available

Holzhey's life sentence in 1910. After his discharge in 1913, Holzhey worked in northern resorts as a guide and photographer for a few years. In 1917, he went to Yellowstone National Park, where he took photos to sell to tourists. By 1932, he was living on Captiva Island off the coast of Florida. On September 26, 1952, he committed suicide after a long illness.

Source: michiganology.org. Author—Jill Arnold
This article originally appeared in the Summer/Fall 2018 issue of Trace, the Archives of Michigan magazine

PICTURED ON RIGHT: Reimund Holzhey's mug shot upon entering Marquette Branch Prison in November 1889 [Archives of Michigan]



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& Cremation
Specialists**

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\$1,500**

Includes basic services
and crematory fee

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and northern Wisconsin*

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CHURCH SERVICES

Northiron Church—AOG

104 Steel St, Ontonagon 906-485-5561

Sunday Services & Kids Church at 10:45am

Livestream available at northiron.churchcenter.com

Celebrate Recovery Tuesdays at 6:30

Royal Rangers and Mpack Girls Wednesday 6:30-8pm

Small Groups Wednesday 6:30-8pm

Northiron Youth Night in L'Anse

Thursday 5-9 open to ALL youth 6th-12th.

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. 3:30 PM Worship,
4:30PM Fellowship—All are welcome!
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): 11AM (10AM starting in
May) 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 Savior Lutheran Church (ELCA): 11AM (10AM
starting in May) Communion Worship 3rd & 5th Sun.,
13980 N. Paynesville Rd.

MASS CITY

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (ELCA):
10:30AM Sun. Worship w/ Holy Communion,
Wed. 4-5PM Bible Adventures & Faith Formation
for 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 on WUPY-101FM, Mon 11AM Bible Study,
Wed. 3:15-4:30PM Siloa Seekers Church School.
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.

In Loving Memory



FRANK PENTTI, 82, of Kenton, passed away on January 15, 2026, at the D.J. Jacobetti Michigan Veterans Home in Marquette, Michigan. He was born to William and Senia Pentti and was raised on the original Pentti Family homestead, first settled by his Finnish immigrant family in the early 1900s.

Frank graduated from Ewen High School and went on to attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor—an accomplishment he spoke of with great pride throughout his life. Following his education, he served honorably in the United States Army.

Frank later built a long and distinguished career in Washington, D.C., where he served in a leadership role with the U.S. Department of Transportation. As a representative of the Office of Intermodalism, he contributed to national transportation policy involving freight, passenger, and logistics systems. After retiring, Frank returned home to Kenton and settled once again on the historic Pentti Family homestead. He remained deeply connected to his community, serving for many years as Duncan Township Supervisor and as an active member of the Kenton-Sidnaw Historical Society.

Frank will be fondly remembered for the simple joys he shared with others—especially his homemade blueberry muffins, a staple at family reunions; his love of gardening; and the many vibrant flower gardens he created around the farm each season. Music was another lifelong passion. Frank delighted in dancing to disco at Pentti Reunion barn dances, where his energy and enthusiasm became a cherished tradition. He also found deep enjoyment and comfort in opera, appreciating its beauty and emotional richness.

Frank was a dedicated public servant, a proud family member, and a man of many interests and quiet joys. He will be deeply missed by his relatives, friends, and all who knew him.

AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD... ROCKLAND, MASS CITY, GREENLAND



MASS CITY: A paving project scheduled for 2026 Paving M-26 junction to Depot Road—Rousseau Road—ends at Mud Creek intersection ~ 3.3 miles (Bakko \$1,095,790.10 Bid received and a bid from \$1,178,743.00 bid from Payne and Dolan). The bid packet was prepared and issued by Coleman Engineering. Original budget was approximately 1.2 million.

ROCKLAND: The Rockland VFW Post 92 and the Post 92 Auxiliary collected donated items for the Ontonagon High School and the E-TC High School. Donations included a truckload of paper, pencils, glue, Kleenex, wipes, and other items. The VFW's Toys for Area Youth committee also purchased cold weather hats, pants, shirts and gloves for each school's Care Closet.

GREENLAND: The Superior Snowmobile Club held a groomer appreciation dinner at the Pit Stop on April 2.

Adventure Mine opens on Memorial Day and will remain open until around mid-October



To Schedule a Ride:
906-884-4320

Oscar G Johnson VA Medical Center
**VETERANS
TRANSPORTATION
NETWORK (VTN)**

14th Annual KNOCK OUT CANCER WALK

ALL proceeds stay in
Ontonagon County!



Saturday, May 16th
Settlers Federal Credit Union
Registration at 10:30
Walk at 11:00

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HORIZON HOME CARE, INC.

NURSING SERVICES

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& TEACHING OF:

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PHYSICAL THERAPY

SERVICES FOR:

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HOME HEALTH AIDE

SERVICES FOR:

- Personal care assistance



We can ease the transition from hospital to home, and from illness to recovery through increased communication and coordination among your health care providers.

CALL US TO DISCUSS
YOUR HOME CARE NEEDS

(906) 884-6092



Settlers Federal Credit Union team members, Liz and Brianna, volunteering at E-TC School's Family Fun Day in March.

AS HEARD FROM A LITTLE BIRD... WHITE PINE, GREEN, PORKIES, ONTONAGON



SILVER CITY: The Michigan Department of Transportation plans to resurface a 17.5-mile stretch of M-64 between Bergland and Silver City in 2027.

ONTONAGON: At its Feb. 11 meeting, the Ontonagon Co. Road Commission reviewed township roads designated as “seasonal,” meaning they are not plowed from November through April. Manager Ryan DeHut said the review follows a lawsuit filed against the county after a fatal snowmobile crash on a section of Old U.S. Highway 45 near Military Hill, which has long been designated as a seasonal road. That stretch is commonly used as a snowmobile trail and is maintained by a local club. DeHut is attending township meetings to review seasonal road lists, and the county plans to install updated signage to improve public awareness. Snowmobiles are permitted to use unplowed county road rights-of-way.

Ontonagon Area High School inducted four students into the National Honor Society in March. The new inductees are Niko Amos, Logan Beck, Charli Burke, and Samar Sahel.

The Ontonagon Hockey Club announced Matt Evans as the 2026 winner of its annual Ontonagon River Ice-Out fundraiser. For \$2 per guess, participants submit their predictions for the exact date and time the ice will officially break up on the Ontonagon River. Evans’ guess—3:59 a.m. on April 1—came closest to the official time of 4:15 a.m. on April 1, as determined by the Ontonagon County Road Commission.

Gitche Gumee Landing’s “tip” jar is making a big impact. The business donated \$4,550 in 2024 and \$6,800 in 2025 to local sports teams, the Volunteer Fire Department, and the Ontonagon County Cancer Association.

GREEN: Carp Lake Township plans to replace the cemetery sign in Green to reflect its historic name, Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery.

WHITE PINE: Camp Josh held its annual Gun Banquet in White Pine on April 18.

CARP LAKE TOWNSHIP —HOOKED ON DRAMA

WHITE PINE, Mich. — At the February 24, 2026 Carp Lake Township Board meeting, routine business such as approving prior minutes and reviewing treasury reports was completed before discussions quickly turned to far more contentious matters.

Department updates included reports on the sewer lagoon, fire department, and library operations. A major focal point of the meeting was the public resignation of the deputy clerk, who read a lengthy letter outlining serious concerns. She alleged that she and her family had endured over a year of harassment, including threats, false accusations, and attacks on their personal business. The deputy clerk also criticized long-standing administrative practices, pointing to issues such as neglected cemetery maintenance, disorganized records, and uncollected sewer payments. She further accused township leadership of previously overlooking conflicts of interest, particularly involving snow removal contracts. Additional claims included accusations against the treasurer related to dishonesty, mishandling of private information, and intimidating behavior toward staff.

Other grievances included what was described as a “coordinated assault” by an “old guard,” alleging bullying, rumor-spreading, interference in township progress, and undermining her family’s development of a proposed campground project. She additionally called out the potential loss of approximately \$64,000 in COVID relief funds due to missed reporting deadlines.

Following the resignation, the board immediately discussed two candidates to fill the clerk position, ultimately appointing Adonis Turner after debate over the other candidate’s eligibility.

Discussion then shifted to a proposed ORV trail connector between White Pine and LP Walsh Rd., with supporters highlighting economic benefits and safety improvements, while others raised concerns about misinformation.

Additional debate centered on allowing side-by-sides along M-64 to support local businesses, which ultimately passed in a roll-call vote. Financial challenges were evident, as the board struggled to review the budget amid claims that necessary financial data was inaccessible. Tensions escalated further with discussions about petitions against the supervisor, potential slander concerns, and the absence of legal counsel at meetings.

Zoning and compliance issues were also raised regarding a local gravel quarry allegedly operating without proper permits or tax payments. Residents and officials clashed over whether the supervisor should directly confront such matters or defer to legal channels. Financial instability surfaced again with reports of unpaid bills, missing funds, and failure to file required state financial reports, resulting in withheld revenue sharing. Concerns were also raised about delayed FOIA responses possibly leading to significant fines.

The board reaffirmed a \$30,000 cemetery restoration contract despite public pushback suggesting volunteer alternatives. Discussions also included township oversight responsibilities, particularly regarding property maintenance and liability concerns. Infrastructure issues were highlighted, including damage risks from logging trucks and other heavy trucks on residential streets and the need for enforcement measures. The board also explored options for improving Verizon cell service through potential tower expansion.

Public comment periods became increasingly heated, with personal disputes and accusations disrupting proceedings and requiring intervention to restore order. Despite ongoing tensions, the board approved banking authorization changes and worked to stabilize operations through new personnel onboarding. The meeting ultimately adjourned after a series of contentious exchanges, leaving many issues unresolved and signaling continued challenges ahead for township leadership.

Everyone belongs at the Library!

TOWN LIBRARY

Audio Books, eBooks, Clubs, Special Programs, Public Computers

Mon, Wed: 11am-8am
Tues, Fri: 11am-5pm
Sat: 10am-2pm

123 Main St.

Not-for-Profit Cost **\$22**

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE

Keep Area Residents Informed

Do have a special service or program, or offer some other type of community support? Make sure everyone has an equal opportunity to participate—put it in print here.

Ad space dimensions for the example ads shown above are set at 1.7" X 3.3" (4.95 sq. in.). Quoted cost of \$22 is based on ad rate \$4.50/sq. in. (4.95 X \$4.50=\$22.28).

Conservation Corner: DNR Activity Across the Western U.P.

Reports from MI DNR conservation officers.

November—December 2025

Gogebic Co.: Officers responded to a report of an intoxicated individual found passed out on a homeowner’s enclosed porch. The individual was safely returned home; no charges were requested. Officers assisted Michigan State Police with a snowmobile fatality investigation in Bessemer Township after a rider missed a turn and struck a post.

Ontonagon Co.: During nighttime patrols, 20+ snowmobiles were stopped; citations were issued for careless operation.

Houghton Co.: A 14-point buck taken illegally after muzzleloader season with a crossbow was seized; charges pending.

Iron Co.: A driver was cited for transporting an uncased muzzleloader while road hunting. Officers cited anglers for too many lines, fishing during closed trout season, possession of under-sized pike, and fishing without licenses. Fish were seized in multiple cases. Additional violations included unattended, improperly labeled tip-ups.

January 2026

Western U.P.: A driver was cited for traveling 92 mph in a 55-mph zone on icy roads. An officer assisted a stranded motorist who slid into a ditch on icy roads.

Another officer assisted an elderly homeowner during a pellet stove smoke incident, helping secure pets while firefighters responded.

Houghton Co. (power line area): Officers conducted a snowmobile search-and-rescue, locating and assisting an injured rider for EMS transport. In a separate stop, a snowmobiler was cited for expired registration.

Iron Co. (Trail 15): A snowmobiler was injured after failing to stop at an intersection and was struck by a truck; a citation was issued.

Officers assisted EMS with an injured 14-yr-old who lost consciousness after a tow rope collision.



1947. A bit of history from DSS&A’s Railroad Records. A transient lumberjack died and another was critically injured while riding in a gondola filled with lumber on the DSS&A freight at Trout Creek. **Deputy Sheriff Law McDonald of Trout Creek, and Coroner Guy Hawkins of Bruce Crossing** investigated. The men were seen climbing into the car by a railroad brakeman and discovered later after the load in the car had shifted. The injured man was taken to Ontonagon hospital in critical condition.

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906-231-6731

Willy and Lena are at the airport in Phoenix, waiting to board their flight. They’re wearing heavy boots, parkas, scarves, and mittens, ready to fly home to a Yooper winter.

An older couple from Arizona are standing nearby in shorts. The wife is intrigued by how they are dressed.

She says to her husband, “Look at that couple. I wonder where they’re from?”

He replies, “How would I know?”

She counters, “You could go and ask them.”

He says, “I don’t really care. If you want to know, you go ask them.”

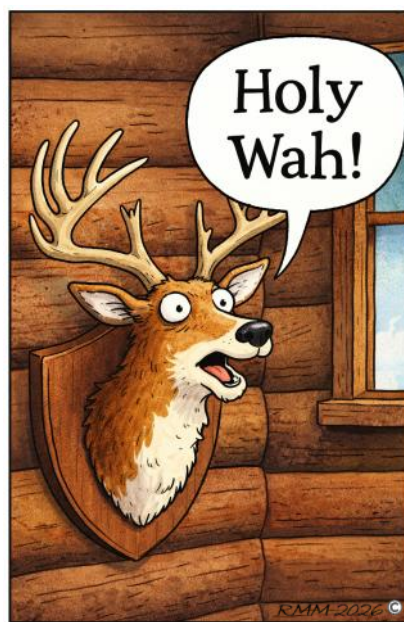
She decides to do just that. She walks over to the couple and says, “Excuse me, I noticed the way you’re dressed. Where are you from?”

Willy answers, “OnNagon inda YooPee.”

The woman returns to her husband who asks, “So, where are they from?”

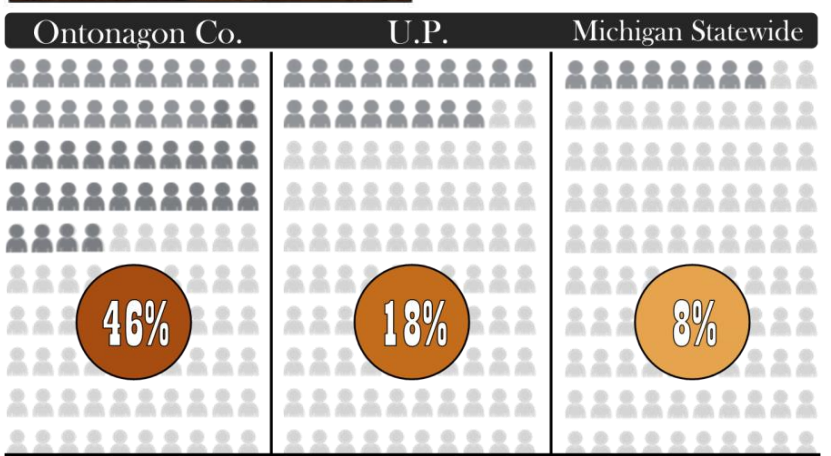
She replies, “I don’t know. They don’t speak English.”

Source: Facebook—Yooper Pasty



Nearly 18% of U.P. Residents Hunt Deer —that’s 2.25x higher than the State Average.

Nearly 46% of Onto. Co. Residents Hunt Deer —that’s 6x higher than the State Average!



Sources: Michigan DNR deer license sales data (2025); U.S. Census Bureau population estimates; Western UP Food Systems-Collaborative Community Food Survey (2022). Adult population estimated at 77% of total population. Percentages calculated by Ottawa Shopper & 906 Rambler.



HIRING



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OUTSTANDING BENEFITS!**

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Dental/ Vision/ Health Insurance available immediately

Please visit our website for full job descriptions at www.lvdhc.org



EWEN-TROUT CREEK SCHOOL Bus Drivers Needed!

The Ewen-Trout Creek School District is looking to add bus drivers to our district.

Don't have your CDL?

We will provide free training for individuals looking to jumpstart their career and obtain their Class B CDL. Please contact Anthony Basanese at 906-813-0620 ext. 224 for more information.

BIG HEARTS WANTED

In-home Caregivers needed in the Bergland, Ewen, Bruce Crossing, Trout Creek and Watersmeet areas. Call Amber at 906-390-2758 or email amber@sunsetharborhomes.org.



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Settlers Federal Credit Union is seeking a **Member Service Representative**

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CLASSIFIEDS

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20 cents each additional word.

FOR SALE

DODGE PICKUP 2017: 4x4, Hemi V-8, Auto. Transmission, 262,000 mi., former Sheriff patrol vehicle. No major issues. \$3,000, Ontonagon, (906) 884-2508

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 or (906) 988-2493.

FOR SALE: Logix Insulated Concrete Forms (ICF) 2-3/4" Insulation on both sides. 25 pcs 8" Straight x 4Feet, 2 pcs 8" 90 Degree Left, 2 pcs 8" 90 Degree Right, Selling for \$500.00. Call (906) 390-2024.

IN SEARCH OF

RENTAL HOME: Mature bachelor seeking a propane-heated/natural gas-heated rental home in the Kenton-Trout Creek area. Minimum 1 bedroom/ 1bathroom. Call Bruce: (906) 393-0139.

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**UNITS
AVAILABLE
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**MTU Student Development Complex
HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN**

ALL Veterans, Families, and Caregivers are Welcome

Before You Turn Grandma's House Into a Vacation Rental... Tink about this

Across Ontonagon County and surrounding communities, vacation rentals have become a more visible part of the local housing landscape. Online platforms like Airbnb and VRBO now offer dozens of short-term lodging options throughout the region—filling a gap for visitors, while also raising questions about long-term housing availability.

A Welcome Option for Visitors

One clear benefit of vacation rentals is the added flexibility they provide for families and visitors. With relatively few hotels, motels, or traditional cabin resorts in the area, short-term rentals offer a practical alternative. For local residents, this can be a major advantage. When family or friends come to visit, vacation rentals provide nearby, comfortable lodging that might otherwise be hard to find. Larger homes that accommodate extended families are especially valuable during reunions, holidays, and peak tourism months.

What the Local Vacation Rental Property Market Looks Like

A review of current VRBO and Airbnb listings shows a wide range of options across the region. The approximate property count is:

- **Ontonagon Village:** 10 properties (\$152–\$252/night, sleeps 4–12)
- **Porkies/Lake Superior Waterfront (Union Bay to Ontonagon):** 8 properties (\$300–\$481/night, 6–13 people), 7 properties (\$132–\$247/night, 2–6 people)
- **Rockland:** 2 properties (\$158–\$163/night, 6–8 people)
- **White Pine:** 16 properties (\$150–\$315/night, 4–10 people)
- **Mass–Greenland:** 3 properties (\$157–\$319/night, 2–10 people)
- **Bruce Crossing–Paynesville:** 8 properties (\$104–\$182/night, 4–10 people)
- **Ewen:** 2 properties (\$154–\$212/night, 6–10 people)
- **Trout Creek–Kenton:** 6 properties (\$101–\$171/night, 4–12 people)
- **Lake Gogebic area:** 18 properties (\$218–\$489/night, 6–17 people), 11 properties (\$110–\$214/night, 3–10 people)

In nearby Houghton Co., recent tourism data suggests the average vacation rental brings in around \$30,000 to \$35,000 a year—before expenses—helping explain why more property owners are choosing to enter the short-term rental market.

A Strain on Local Housing

At the same time, the growth of vacation rentals has raised concerns among residents. Housing inventory in our most desirable communities is already limited, with relatively few homes available for sale at any given time. Some community members worry that more properties are being purchased or converted specifically for short-term rental use. This can reduce the number of homes available for year-round residents—making it harder for families to relocate to the area or for current residents to move into a larger or smaller home as their needs change. This trend is sometimes referred to as a “housing gap,” where homes that might otherwise serve local residents are instead used primarily for tourism.

Finding a Balance

Like many rural and tourist-driven regions, Ontonagon County is navigating a balance between supporting tourism and maintaining a stable, accessible housing market. Vacation rentals clearly provide value—bringing visitors, supporting the local economy, and offering needed lodging options. At the same time, their growth raises important questions about long-term housing availability and community sustainability. As the number of short-term rentals continues to grow, hopefully local leaders and residents look for ways to strike that balance—ensuring the area remains both a welcoming destination and a livable place to call home.

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Vacation rental apartments' availability, pricing, and accommodation details on www.airbnb.com.

One of the most loved properties on Airbnb, according to guests.

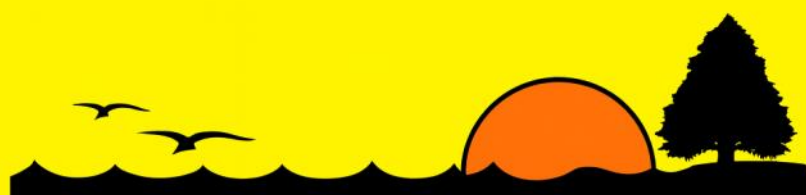
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