



Alger County digs out from blizzard



Alisa Joy

Munising Middle/High School's roof was covered with several feet of snow after the blizzard earlier this week.

By Jennifer Champagne
Managing Editor

By Tuesday, Alger County residents were digging out from a powerful winter storm that swept through the Upper Peninsula on Monday, bringing heavy snowfall, whiteout conditions, wind gusts reported between 55 and 65 mph and repeated warnings from local officials to stay off the roads.

Throughout the storm and into the following day, officials from multiple agencies remained in contact with The Munising Beacon, including the Munising Police Department, the Alger County

Sheriff's Office, the Alger County Road Commission and fire chiefs across several townships. This report reflects information shared by those officials who were able to connect as conditions evolved.

By midafternoon Monday, snowfall totals across the county had reached well over a foot in several locations. Reports showed some of the highest accumulations near Munising, including 17.5 inches measured one mile east-northeast of the city by late morning. Additional reports indicated about 15 inches southeast of Forest Lake, 12 inches south of Wetmore and nearly 8 inches northwest of Au Train.

Power outages were also reported throughout Au Train and parts of Munising, Rock River and Chatham as the storm intensified, with Spectrum customers reporting service disruptions.

Law enforcement and emergency responders continued to stress safety as conditions fluctuated. Munising Police Chief Sheila Peters said side roads were not plowed during the height of the storm and urged residents to remain home. Alger County Sheriff Todd Brock echoed that message, citing drifting snow, icy patches

See **BLIZZARD**, Page 2

Munising native leads team researching bald eagles



Courtesy of William Bowerman

The 2024 eagle survey crew gathers with flag 33 of The Explorers Club at Au Sable Light Station. Team members are, from left, Emma Sievenpiper, Eric Folmer, Michael Wierda, William Bowerman and Peggy Shrum.

Chatham Manor is honored by state association

By Melissa Wentarmini
Associate Editor

For Rhonda Seppanen, Chatham Manor has never been just a building. As community manager of the 12-unit senior and disabled housing complex, she describes it as a place built on relationships — a family — where residents are known personally and help is never far away.

If someone needs something, Seppanen said, staff either make sure it happens or help find someone who can.

That philosophy was recently recognized on a statewide level when Chatham Manor received the GLAStar Award for Best Living Experience in Affordable Housing, presented by the Property Management Association of Michigan, PMAM, a statewide affiliate of the National Apartment Association.

While the award honors excellence across Michigan's apartment industry, for the small rural complex in Chatham, the recognition reflected something far more personal.

Seppanen said the news came as a surprise. With so many properties across the state, she never expected what she called "this little place" to stand out. Still, the recognition, she said, "really meant a lot to all of us."

Owned by the Chatham Housing Authority and managed by KMG Prestige, Chatham Manor has served the community since about 1990. The single-level building offers independent living for seniors and residents with disabilities, with shared indoor and outdoor spaces designed to encourage connection rather than isolation.

According to Seppanen, however, the building itself is only

See **MANOR**, Page 3

Long road to recovery

By Joshua Grove
Beacon Correspondent

Empty nests and vacant territories signal an uncertain road to recovery for Michigan's bald eagle population. Four years ago, a highly pathogenic strain of avian flu spread across the country, claiming an estimated 40% of the state's breeding pairs.

Today, researchers are still sifting through the data to determine the long-term fallout of that catastrophic decline.

The strain in question was clade 2.3.4.4b H5N1, an exceptionally virulent form of bird flu that has touched every continent except Australia, and has been in circulation



Michael Wierda

A highly pathogenic strain of avian flu spread across the country in recent years. It devastated Michigan's bald eagle population.

globally in its current form since late 2020.

Dr. William Bowerman, a fifth-generation Munising

native, wildlife pathologist and professor at the University of Maryland, said that variant is very deadly to birds.

"It moved along with waterfowl across the world, and you can see it moving across Northern Europe through Iceland and into the U.S. in the fall of 2021," he said. "In the spring of 2022, the first big die-offs in eagles were found along the southeastern part of the U.S., reported by the University of Georgia. Then we see this die-off."

The strain quickly spread north, and biologists with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources began receiving an influx of wild bird carcasses from across the state.

"It kind of started along the southeast part of our state," said Julie Melotti, a

See **EAGLES**, Page 3

WEATHER (weather.gov)

WEDNESDAY SNOW LIKELY, 19/12

THURSDAY MOSTLY CLOUDY, 15/8

FRIDAY MOSTLY CLOUDY, 17/8

SNOW TOTAL

Through Dec. 30, Munising has received **59.7** inches of snow this season. The normal total through this date is **53.6** inches.

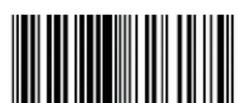


MORE INSIDE

Business: After 80 years, Denman's is finding new ways to serve Munising. Page 2

Trailhead: Enjoying all that winter in Alger County has to offer. Page 7

Leaning into Health: How to find success with your New Year's goals. Page 7



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NEWS BRIEFS

LMAS department highlights cervical cancer prevention

January marks Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, and LMAS District Health Department is urging community members to take advantage of lifesaving screening and prevention services offered through its Breast and Cervical Cancer Navigation Program and Family Planning Program.

Each year, nearly 14,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with cervical cancer — yet the disease is highly preventable with routine screening and the HPV vaccine. Program staff emphasize the importance of these preventive steps, noting that HPV immunization protects against the strains responsible for about 90% of cervical cancers. The vaccine is recommended at ages 11 or 12, though it may be given as early as age 9.

In addition to vaccination, regular Pap tests starting at age 21 remain a cornerstone of early detection. Michigan residents aged 21 to 64 who are at or below 250% of federal poverty guidelines and are uninsured or underinsured may qualify for free screening services. Through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Navigation Program, eligible participants can receive covered screening or diagnostic services and testing at no cost.

Community members are encouraged to contact any LMAS Personal Family Health Office to learn more about the Breast and Cervical Cancer Navigation Program, family planning services or to schedule HPV immunizations.

For more information or to make an appointment, call the appropriate number: Alger County, 906-387-2297; Luce County, 906-293-5107; Mackinac County, 906-643-1100; or Schoolcraft County, 906-341-6951.

County seeks nonprofit to manage animal control

Alger County has opened a request for proposals seeking a nonprofit organization to manage the county's animal control facility. County officials say the move is intended to improve service delivery and operational efficiency through nonprofit oversight. The announcement comes as local governments continue to balance routine administrative work with weather response and recovery efforts.

Michigan enacts laws aimed at reducing red tape

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has signed a package of bills aimed at reducing regulatory and licensing burdens across Michigan, with the stated goal of making it easier for businesses and workers to operate while maintaining public safety standards. The legislation targets outdated or duplicative requirements affecting industries such as auto repair, small-scale food production, agriculture and administrative hearings. Supporters say the changes will modernize state regulations and reduce delays for small businesses. The new laws are scheduled to take effect in 2026.

Residential demolition sites in Detroit facing scrutiny

Detroit is facing renewed scrutiny following reports that numerous residential demolition sites may contain contaminated soil, raising concerns about long-term environmental and public health risks. Investigations suggest that some backfill material may not have been properly tested, potentially exposing residents to hazardous substances such as lead and other toxins. The issue has prompted calls for expanded soil testing, cleanup accountability and stronger oversight of demolition practice.

BUSINESS NEWS

Denman's still evolving after 80 years

By Brad Gischia
Beacon Correspondent

Anyone who has done a home project, whether it's fixing a leaky drain or building a house, knows that you never take just one trip to the hardware store.

Having a store like Denman's Hardware makes those trips not only tolerable, it makes them enjoyable.

Denman's is located at 320 E. Superior St. in Munising and opened in 1945. It may say "Do It Best" on the sign out front, but that's only the warehouse supplier for the locally owned store.

Denman's is a small-town hardware store, the kind of place where you go to buy three bolts that are missing from the lawn furniture set you put away last fall, and it's run by the kind of people who remember you came in last year for the same thing. It's owned and operated by third-generation Denmans, Jason and Amy.

"One of the biggest things that we do here is to make sure that everyone who comes through the doors is heard and understood," Amy Denman said. "They're treated with respect and importance."

It's a thing that is getting lost in the world of mail-order shopping and big box stores.

It's working. Denman's recently added a permanent greenhouse, which was filled with flowers for the summer and then flipped to a "Merry Market" for the winter, selling trees and wreaths for the holidays.



Kayla Maki

Denman's Hardware transformed its greenhouse into a "Merry Market" this winter.

Amy Denman said the feedback has been positive and, because of that, they hope to do bigger and better next year.

Their success also falls on their staff, who know the mantra of the store.

Mimi Cady has been working at the hardware store for just over a year.

"I built my own home in 2016, and felt I had a knack for it," Cady said. "I've known Amy and Jason for a while, and I thought I'd love to work for them."

The growth of the store is not surprising to Cady.

"It's moving and grooving," Cady said. "It's always changing."

Those changes are setting the store up for another three generations. The beauty of a small-town hardware store is that they can stock electrical components and ice fishing equipment. Denman's has found the balance of stock and

service that keep Munising residents happy.

"We keep joking that we're going to add a second story," Amy Denman said. "But at a certain point, you have to stop buying things."

Because the store is privately owned, there are no corporate restrictions on what is on the shelves.

"Box stores are required to carry certain items," Denman said. "Because we're on the bay, we can really focus on Lake Superior fishing, which is its own animal. It has some nuances that inland lakes don't have."

Denman's also carries local fishing goods supplied by people who know the lakes. It helps them to keep their supply of fishing items selectively small, but still exactly what people need.

The importance of the store comes in the form of savings for residents.

"I think that it saves them so much in transportation,

the back-and-forth that comes from a project," Cady said. "There's a lot of time that is lost running for parts. If you only have to run to town, it's much quicker, and we try to help out any way we can. If we don't have the part, we can order it."

Small-town hardware stores could be coming back in a big way. If that's the case, Denman's is three generations ahead of the curve.

"People definitely say that they come here first before they go to a big box store," Cady said. "They want to stay local and can get it more conveniently than driving all the way to Marquette."

Denman's Hardware is on the path to the future with the lessons of the past in their back pocket.

"We really listen to the things that our customers need," Denman said. "We try to get to know everyone."

BLIZZARD

Continued from Page 1

and reduced visibility, particularly on rural and open stretches of roadway.

Fire departments across the county reported difficult travel, downed trees and intermittent power outages, with vehicles pulled from ditches. Officials said conditions gradually improved as winds eased, and no accidents were reported.

"With the drifting, it's really hard to gauge exact snowfall totals, but in many areas we were seeing 14 to 16 inches," said Robert Lindbeck, engineer-manager of the Alger County Road Commission. "The dead-end roads and heavy drifts made this storm especially challenging."

Crews worked hard to keep roads passable, often under worsening conditions.

"The drifting has been relentless, and our city crews have been working around the clock," said Ryan Anderson, crew leader for Munising Public Works. "The trucks can hardly keep up. Our plows have been

running for nearly 48 hours straight and are still going. The night crew came in early, some guys stayed over and everyone stepped up."

Anderson said city crews worked closely with the Alger County Road Commission to keep roads open.

Conditions were particularly difficult in the Grand Marais area, where lake-effect snow and drifting compounded the storm's impact. Shane Bugg, Shop 4 foreman for the ACRC and assistant fire chief for Burt Township, who also tracks weather data for the National Weather Service, recorded about 15 inches of snowfall during the storm.

"When you're right off a body of water, the sand mixes with the snow and it gets heavier and more dense, which makes it much harder to move," Bugg said. "The snow drifts were the toughest part to navigate, and our crews worked overtime to keep roads passable."

Bugg said Grand Marais also lost power for roughly 12 hours, prompting residents to bring elderly community members together at a local church.

Despite the challenges, Lindbeck credited road commission staff for pushing through extended shifts.

"Our crews did a great job. Drivers were working 14- and 17-hour shifts to keep up with the storm," he said.

Lindbeck said the department also made on-the-fly equipment modifications to deal with heavy drifting.

"The mechanics modified the front plow so it could be mounted on our motor grader," he said, "and it really helped us get through the heavy drift areas."

Lindbeck said the modified equipment proved especially effective in areas where snow depth was extreme.

"That was a nice tool, and we're really excited about how it performed," he said. "I just want to recognize our crew. Our guys did a great job."

By Tuesday, officials said conditions across Alger

County had stabilized as winds eased and visibility improved.

Lindbeck said county roadways were "well taken care of" following the long shifts by road commission staff, though he urged motorists to continue using caution as cleanup continues and residual drifting and icy patches remain possible.

As crews continue post-storm cleanup and road conditions normalize across the county, officials said caution remains essential.

Lindbeck noted that Michigan law requires motorists to maintain at least 200 feet of distance from snowplows and county road commission vehicles while they are operating. He said the clearance is critical for the safety of both drivers and crews, particularly during active plowing and drifting conditions.

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SUPERIOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS
SCHOOLS OF CHOICE NOTICE

Superior Central Schools will accept Schools of Choice applications for nonresident students in all grades for the second semester of the 2025-26 school year.

Applications are available in the Superior Central High School and Elementary School offices and online at superiorcentralschools.org/page/enrollment-forms. Updated application forms will be posted Jan. 5.

The application period opens Monday, Jan. 5. The enrollment deadline for students accepted through the Schools of Choice program is Friday, Jan. 16.

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EAGLES

Continued from Page 1

wildlife pathologist with the Michigan DNR. “As birds migrated and moved around during the spring, we started to see it pop up other places.”

Melotti said they were starting to see not only waterfowl dying, but also birds that would scavenge or eat sick or dead waterfowl.

“So in some hawks, owls, and then we even started to see it in bald eagles, because bald eagles ... are fish-eating birds, but they are also opportunistic,” she said. “They will, if a sick duck is available, take that because it’s easy prey. And so these scavenging species or these higher-level species that were eating these sick waterfowl, were becoming exposed and infected with the virus.”

In the three decades between 1986 and 2017, a total of 1,490 eagle necropsies were recorded in the state. In 2022, over the course of a single year, the Michigan DNR Wildlife Disease Laboratory processed another 222 individuals, with 71 testing positive for avian flu. Historically, infectious diseases accounted for only 6% of mortality.

“If the band recovery rate for eagles is 12.5%, these are the ones that we are seeing again,” Bowerman said. “You take that rate as our estimate, and you take the 222, that would lead you to believe there are 2,300 to 2,500 dead eagles in the state of Michigan.”

Bowerman is the lead researcher for the Michigan Bald Eagle Project, part of a multi-agency effort using statewide census and banding programs that have operated since 1961. His group’s direct observations since that season have confirmed the incredible toll of the virus on areas once flush with eagles.

Recent field work along the southern shore of Lake Superior found few eagles along the coast of Marquette and Alger counties. More troubling was their total disappearance between Pictured Rocks and the mouth of the Tahquamenon River, Bowerman said.

Elsewhere, there were vast areas where there were no adults in the territories, Bowerman said.

“The nest sites were not repaired. ... You can see that the nest is repaired and a lot of times they’ve got a sprig of green pine into the nest — we think that’s for parasites to decrease the parasite load,” he said. “There were no alternate nests either. So these territories are just gone.”

Melotti said the outbreak of 2022 was not an isolated event. Rather, the virus may continue to circulate in the wild indefinitely.

“It kind of went on through 2023, and then cases really slowed down,” she said. “And so we thought, well, maybe that’s it? [Maybe] it came through, affected the birds it’s going to affect and then we’re going to be done. But then it came back in late 2024. We started to see cases again as birds were



Michael Wierda

Michael Wierda of Utah State University is a member of the bald eagle survey crew.

migrating, and it’s really not stopped since. And I think what we’ve determined is that the virus is probably always going to be out there now at some level in wild birds, and it’s going to be out there making birds sick and killing birds.”

The losses aren’t isolated to one species. Other birds such as owls and hawks have seen declines

that can’t be adequately quantified, according to Melotti, because there isn’t the robust census data that there is with eagles. If a similar collapse has occurred, it may have been missed.

Aside from a relatively stable mortality rate due to H5N1, a number of other biological factors are stacked against an eagle’s speedy recovery. They take four to

five years to reach sexual maturity, are monogamous, tend to nest in the same territory where they were born and lay one to three eggs once per year. This is in contrast to some smaller birds that raise two or three broods of chicks a year.

“Some of these birds that were affected with avian influenza,” Melotti said, “they were just found at the bottom of the nest. They

literally fell out of the nest dead. ... Some of these birds, the adult birds, fell out of the nest at the time of year that there were probably chicks on the nest. And so, if they lost their parents, now you’re also talking not only the two adult birds, but the two young birds that we don’t have a number for.”

Recovery could take up to 30 years, according to one estimate, predicated largely on the development of herd immunity.

While the decline is bleak, Michigan’s eagles have bounced back before. In 1961, when monitoring efforts began in earnest, there were only 52 breeding pairs in the state. Their numbers had been drastically reduced by the use of the insecticide DDT.

“In 1972, the U.S. EPA — William Ruckelshaus was the administrator — banned DDT and other organochlorine pesticides, and that started taking those chemicals out of the environment,” Bowerman said. “John Matheson, who is a Michigan graduate, who was the forest wildlife biologist on the Chippewa National Forest, came up with a way to keep people away from the nest sites during the most sensitive periods. And those two individuals are really what drove the recovery.”

“When I started in 1984, we didn’t know if we would see eagles in the year 2000 because there were still these residual impacts. And what we had not understood was that’s when it started recovering, and then there’s an exponential growth curve from there.”

MANOR

Continued from Page 1

part of the story. Because the community is small, she said, the atmosphere feels different — less like an apartment complex and more like home.

That sense of belonging was echoed in letters submitted by residents as part of the GLAStar Award process. One group of tenants described Chatham Manor as “our home,” writing that compassion among neighbors is constant and that living there feels “like we are family.” Another resident called it “a little gem in our small community,” pointing to the everyday ways people look out for one another — through shared meals, seasonal gatherings and simple check-ins that matter deeply, especially during long Upper Peninsula winters.

The care residents describe is reflected not only in relationships, but in tangible improvements

made with their needs in mind. Seppanen said community donations have helped fund safer walk-in showers, higher toilets to support mobility and an in-house postal service. What began as a convenience has since taken on a social role, with residents gathering together to wait for the mail — something Seppanen described simply as becoming “a social thing.”

Programming at Chatham Manor develops organically rather than following a strict calendar. Bingo nights, craft projects, holiday celebrations and summer barbecues happen when they feel right, often shaped by resident interest. Food, Seppanen added with a laugh, tends to be at the center of it all.

“We’re definitely food-based,” she said, noting that nobody ever leaves hungry.

For some residents, Chatham Manor represents stability during moments of major transition. One letter shared how a new

tenant, seeking safety after a difficult situation, was able to move in quickly and begin rebuilding a sense of security.

Those moments underscore the responsibility staff feel toward the people who live there, Seppanen said. Sometimes Chatham Manor is “the last home someone chooses,” and she said that reality shapes how the community approaches care. Making it feel like home matters.

Wilma Hill, president of the Chatham Housing Authority, said the GLAStar Award reflects both the strength of the community and the people who care for it every day.

“It’s quite an honor to have little ol’ Chatham Manor be recognized by a statewide organization,” Hill said, adding that the housing authority is proud of both the apartment community and “the wonderful manager that we have.”

For Seppanen, the recognition affirms what residents already know

— that the heart of Chatham Manor lies in how people are treated once

they walk through the door. The award, she said, is special not because it changed

what they do, but because it recognized what they already believe in.

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SCHOOLS

Administrators address challenging topics

By Beacon Staff

As part of its ongoing coverage of education in Alger County, The Munising Beacon invited administrators from each local school to take part in a superintendent roundup, asking the same set of questions focused on student mental health support, bullying and cyberbullying, and concerns stemming from recent racism-related incidents in the community.

The goal was to help readers better understand how schools across the county, including private schools, approach these issues and where roles differ between public and private systems.

The following summaries reflect the schools that agreed to participate and are intended to provide a clear, factual look at how each school addresses shared challenges within its own structure and resources.

Burt Township School Kathleen Gould, superintendent

As a small K-12 district, Burt Township School is closely watching uncertainty around state-level funding tied to programs such as E3 and CAHC, Superintendent Kathleen Gould said. Any loss of designated funding would require a careful review of student support services, particularly those outside core academic programming, she said.

To prepare for potential changes, the district is actively seeking alternative funding sources while working to maintain its student-centered mission. Gould noted Burt Township's size remains one of its strongest assets.

"The district's small size supports low student-to-staff ratios, allowing staff to closely monitor student well-being and intervene early when concerns arise," Gould said.

While rural limitations can restrict access to in-person mental health services, the district has adapted by partnering with regional providers, including MARESA, and using virtual services when appropriate. Gould said those partnerships help fill gaps while keeping services accessible to students and families.

Burt Township School maintains clear expectations for student behavior and safety, addressing racism, bias-based incidents, bullying and cyberbullying through consistent expectations, education and accountability, Gould said. The district relies on a relational model built on long-term connections between staff, students and families to identify concerns early.

"As schools have increasingly become a central access point for student well-being, Burt Township has adapted by serving as a resource connector," Gould said, noting the district works to help families access needed supports while remaining fiscally and operationally responsible.

Munising Baptist School Ethan M. Van Bruggen, administrator

Munising Baptist School approaches student support services outside the state and federal funding structures used by public districts, relying instead on a faith-based model grounded in Scripture, Administrator Ethan Van Bruggen said.



Courtesy of Burt Township School

Burt Township School students recently visited Anderson's Twin Lakes Tree Farm.

While the school does not receive public funding for mental health programs, Van Bruggen said Munising Baptist is equipped to meet student needs through discipleship and biblical counseling, with additional resources available when necessary.

"We believe that God has provided in Scripture everything we need for life and godliness," Van Bruggen said, adding that medical intervention is not ruled out, but is not considered the first response.

The school uses resources from the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors and, in some cases, works with Christian counselors. Van Bruggen said this approach allows the school to support students while remaining aligned with its Christian mission.

Munising Baptist maintains a zero-tolerance stance toward racism and hateful behavior, addressing such issues through chapel services, Bible classes and social studies

instruction. Van Bruggen said racist or hateful speech or actions, whether based on race, religion, political views or cultural differences, are not permitted.

"There is absolutely no room for racism or hate in the life of the believer," he said.

When incidents occur, students are reprimanded and meet with school leadership, often including the head pastor. Van Bruggen said these moments are used to reinforce Christ-like behavior and the importance of loving one's neighbor.

To address bullying and cyberbullying, the school uses Banzai! digital citizenship training materials, supported through Embers Credit Union, to teach students about online behavior, harassment and financial responsibility. Classroom discussions help students understand the difference between rudeness, meanness and bullying, he said.

Because of its small size and close-knit community,

Munising Baptist can often identify relationship issues quickly. While anonymous reporting is not practical in a small school setting, Van Bruggen said confidentiality remains a priority, and students are encouraged to bring concerns directly to staff.

"As a support for parents, not a replacement, we want to empower the home and give parents the resources they need," Van Bruggen said, noting that both parents and students in Grades 7 through 12 sign an annual acknowledgement agreeing to the school's handbook and expectations.

Van Bruggen said families increasingly look to schools to address behavior and character development, but Munising Baptist intentionally pushes back against that shift, emphasizing partnership with parents rather than assuming full responsibility for child-rearing.

Munising Public Schools Mike Travis, superintendent

Munising Public Schools Superintendent Mike Travis admitted that the loss of two mental health professionals within the district amid concerns about funding for programs like E3 and CAHC has left them short-handed, but said the district is dealing with it as best they can.

"We're understaffed in terms of student mental health needs. There's no bones about it," Travis said, adding that while the district has enough funding to keep the current social worker, Tessa Browning, employed, they do not have the resources to hire the additional staff that the E3 grant has provided for in the past. "We have a

full-time social worker, but the need that we have far surpasses what one social worker can do, because she's split between two buildings here."

While bullying and cyberbullying are difficult to control if they occur outside of the school and on personal devices, Travis said the district does have clear expectations of students when it comes to respect, kindness, tolerance and acceptance, which are posted in every classroom. These also apply to any racism or bias-based incidents, which Travis said they take very seriously and approach on a case-by-case basis according to school policies. He also said that Positive Behavior Intervention Systems are used at all grade levels to encourage positive behavior traits and character development.

There is a "perfect storm" of conditions that has led to an increase in mental health issues in students, Travis said, including everything from an increased exposure to chemicals that can affect development to an increase of virtual relationships over face-to-face interactions. Unfortunately, this has also added to the strain put on schools to assist in every facet of students' lives, he said.

"Public schools are looked upon to do way more than they ever have," Travis said. "I mean, we are mentors, we are parents, we are counselors — you name it, and we're expected to do it, and yet we're still expected to improve attendance and academics. And we don't have adequate funding to pay for all of those things. So we do the best we can with what we have."

4-H, middle school team up for Winter Wonderland Dance

By Nicole Gearhart
Beacon Correspondent

Thanks to a collaboration between 4-H, the American Legion and Munising Public Schools, as well as the generosity of a number of local businesses, organizations and individuals, Munising Middle School students were able to enjoy a Winter Wonderland Formal Dance on Saturday evening.

Tyreen Prunick, the 4-H program coordinator at Michigan State University's Alger County Extension Office, helped coordinate the dance. She said that while working at the school, where she teaches Apple programming, she heard students talking about how they wished they could have a school dance. She let them know that, in her position, she could help them achieve that, and everything evolved from that conversation.

Prunick worked with a team of five eighth graders to bring the dance to fruition.

"My goal in coming alongside them to support this was to amplify their voices and help them see that if they wanted something in the community that they can make it happen, and to teach them the business acumen of bringing an event to life," Prunick said.

All costs for the event, including venue, food,

beverages and decor, were covered by donations from the American Legion, Embers Credit Union, Exhausted Glam by Katrina, Main Street Pizza, Miners Falls Mini Golf, Pat's Foods, Cookies by (Tammy) Cook and Prunick Building Services.

With expenses taken care of, all donations collected for tickets, amounting to \$505.72, will be donated to the American Legion toward the purchase of a new flagpole.

Tammy DeBree, manager of American Legion Post 131, said the organization was happy to help out with hosting the dance, and saw it as a good way to give the students some exposure to service organizations like theirs.

"The middle school, high school and elementary school children, they are our future," DeBree said. "Without them, the American Legion will not be here. So we need to reach out to them while they are young to let them know that there's organizations there for when they get older."

DeBree said the Legion has not had a flagpole for several months, after a mishap earlier this year when the wind caught their pole as it was being lowered. She said the organization has been working on acquiring a new pole, but the cost, at nearly \$6,000, is not insignificant. She said

“My goal in coming alongside them to support this was to ... help them see that if they wanted something in the community that they can make it happen.”

Tyreen Prunick

it was the students' idea to donate profits from the dance to their cause.

Prunick said the event was widely successful, with 74 sixth- through eighth-grade dancers, four youth volunteers and seven adult volunteers attending.

"When our community shows up, supports one another and celebrates young people, it creates something truly special. The evening was filled with creativity, energy and the incredible spirit of youth," Prunick said. "The laughter, pure joy and smiles shared throughout the night showed exactly what happens when young people are given the space to express themselves, lead and shape their own experiences. It was a beautiful celebration of positive youth development, youth voice and the strong community that stands beside them."

HOLIDAY HUSTLE PENNY WAR

Mather students raise funds

By Nicole Gearhart
Beacon Correspondent

The halls at Munising's Mather Elementary School were a little merrier recently as students participated in the annual Holiday Hustle Penny War, contributing \$2,716.79 to the school's MPacks program.

A penny war is a competitive, team-based fundraising game where classes collect points by placing pennies in their own jars while "sabotaging" others by adding silver coins or bills to rival containers. Pennies are counted as positive points, while silver coins and bills are negative points, with the highest total points winning.

Principal Shannon DeFrancesco said from Dec. 8 through 12, a Christmas song was played on the intercom each morning after the announcements were read. Students had the duration of the song to deposit their money into jars placed in the hallway outside each classroom.

"It's a great, fun competition, and the kids get so excited to do it," DeFrancesco said.

This was the fourth year the school held the event, and the overall winner this year was Mrs. Martin's fourth-grade class. DeFrancesco said the winning classroom received hot cocoa, pizza and an

extra recess as a reward. "But really everybody benefits from it, because it's so fun and it's such a good opportunity to give back," DeFrancesco said.

As an example of how invested the students get in the Holiday Hustle, DeFrancesco shared an encounter with a kindergarten student, Matthew V.

"He came in, and was all excited because he had forgotten his money the previous day," she said. "And he said, 'I looked all over the house, and I found change so I can help feed kids!'"

DeFrancesco said an anonymous donation to the Alger Regional Community Foundation will match the amount raised by students.

"So that's well over \$5,400 that will go directly towards the MPacks program," DeFrancesco said.

MPacks, a collaboration between Munising Public Schools and the ARCF's Alger Wellness Coalition, allows food to be sent home with students for the weekend and on breaks to help meet the needs of students outside of school.

"We believe as educators that students learn best when their basic needs are met," DeFrancesco said. "That aligns with our commitment to caring for the whole child and ensuring that children have access to food outside of the school day."

Michele McDonald, who runs the MPacks program as the Alger County Communities That Care coordinator, said food insecurity and the idea of hungry children is a tough subject for her.

"The schools are doing a great thing with the breakfast and lunch programs. But if they go home and there's nothing or not enough for them that they need, it makes it hard to focus on anything else, especially when you're little," McDonald said. "I feel if children are not getting their basic needs met by food, then they're not developing right."

McDonald said she hopes to speak to students about the MPacks program and what their contributions mean for their fellow students.

DeFrancesco said the competition also lends itself to learning about financial literacy within the classrooms, with students helping to organize the money placed in their classroom's jar each day.

"I know even our first graders are counting up pennies and nickels and dimes and separating them out — it's kind of a fun thing to watch," DeFrancesco said. "Those are the hands-on opportunities that they have, where it takes that learning and kind of cements it into real-world stuff."

FOR THE RECORD

GUEST COLUMN

Life expectancy increasing in U.S., but we can do better

I was recently asked why, with all of the technology present today, is life expectancy going down instead of up. Well, the good news is that life expectancy is not decreasing, but is actually increasing.



Michael G. Beaulieu

Guest Columnist

Life expectancy in the United States has been increasing for decades. In 1900, life expectancy was 49 years. In 2023, it was 78.4 years. Most of this increase is attributed to advances in public health and medicine, including vaccines, antibiotics and public sanitation programs. But this increase in life expectancy has slowed during the last

10 to 15 years, and, in fact, decreased to 77.5 years in 2020 and 2021.

The drop was largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the opioid abuse epidemic. Fortunately, these trends have reversed. We are seeing less deaths from COVID-19, and opioid overdoses have dropped significantly. As a result, lifespan is once again increasing.

It is concerning that in other developed countries similar to the United States in technologic and economic advantages, such as France, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom,

lifespan is five years longer than ours. These countries average about 83.4 years. What explains this large difference? Could it be that there is more to long life than technology and wealth? Let us take a deeper look.

In the United States, the current top causes of death are heart disease, cancer, unintentional injury (accidents), strokes, lung disease and Alzheimer's disease. Why are we, in the United States, seeing so many more premature deaths from these causes than other developed countries? It appears that it is our behaviors and choices that drive this rather than a lack of technology.

The top external causes of heart disease are

smoking, high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol. These, in turn, are driven by poor eating habits and lack of proper exercise. It is our lifestyle and behavior, the things we choose to do or not to do, that are a major cause of early heart disease.

In our country, we have much higher rates of death by "external" causes, such as substance abuse, accidents, suicide and violence. The United States leads the world in homicide rates, largely due to firearms. While technology such as safer vehicles and roads can prevent some accidental deaths. The key to reducing many of the others will be public health policy: substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment,

access to car seats and promotion of safer firearm ownership.

Technology has been a huge contributor to a continuing decrease in cancer deaths. This technology includes screening and early detection, and improvements in available treatments. However, good lifestyle choices also are important. Lung cancer causes more deaths than any cancer; tobacco use is the top cause of lung cancer.

The major chronic diseases are diabetes, liver, heart, kidney and lung diseases. These can often be prevented by a healthy diet, proper exercise, vaccination against infection and avoiding harmful substances. Death rates from

pneumonia decreased by more than 50% since 1999 due to increases in immunization and decreases in smoking.

While lifespan in the United States has improved with advances in technology, we can see from other developed countries that we could do better. Technology is providing high-quality health data. That data is telling us that Americans need to make healthier lifestyle choices, support public health policies and activities and continue to improve access to preventative medicine.

Michael G. Beaulieu, M.D., is medical director of the LMAS District Health Department.

IN MEMORY

Eleanor Therese Bonner-Goss

Eleanor Therese Bonner-Goss, age 90, of Munising died Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025, at Harbour View Assisted Living in Munising.

Her funeral was on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, at the Bowerman Funeral Home. Interment will be at Maple Grove Cemetery in the spring. Her obituary may be viewed at bowermanfuneralhome.net.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Senior housing launched new era

50 years ago
December 1975

The Munising News

As 1975 came to a close, Alger County was navigating a period of transition that touched housing, industry and local government. Along Munising Bay, older residents began moving into the newly completed senior citizens apartment complex, a milestone for local housing and services for aging residents.

The community also marked the passing of James Knox, a longtime Alger County public servant who died on New Year's Day. Knox served for 30 years on the Alger County Board of Commissioners and held several township roles, earning a reputation as a steady presence in county government.

Economic concerns were present as well. The Munising Mill announced it would reduce its production schedule beginning in mid-January due to a slowdown affecting Kimberly-Clark operations, signaling broader uncertainty for local employment.

Municipal leadership was in flux. At a special meeting, the Munising City Commission voted to immediately discharge City Manager Royce Downey. The resignation of Assistant City Manager Frank Inman was also accepted, leaving day-to-day city operations under the direction of the five-member commission while officials worked toward longer-term decisions.

Meanwhile, the city's mayoral race took shape. Incumbent Henry St. Amour and former mayor Leo Gariepy were the only candidates to file petitions before the deadline, setting up a closely watched local election.

Community traditions continued alongside the political and economic

shifts. Cindy Sadler of Alger Heights was crowned Alger County Winter Carnival Queen, and the annual Winter Carnival brought residents together for seasonal events, including snowmobile races and outdoor activities that marked the heart of winter in Alger County.

25 years ago
December 2000

The Munising News

In December 2000, Alger County balanced holiday traditions with active civic life. The Alger County Sno-Riders announced plans for their annual trail luncheon along Highway 13 and Trail 8, offering free food, door prizes and safety information for snowmobilers. Local businesses donated food and prizes, continuing a long-standing tradition of community support for winter recreation.

Charitable efforts were visible across the county. The Family Independent Agency distributed between 135 and 150 holiday food packages with the help of community donations. John Sherman-Jones assisted with deliveries, noting the wide range of individuals and organizations that contributed to the effort.

County government issues also drew attention. During zoning ordinance review discussions, officials identified potential conflicts involving Cromell's Construction, Nicholai's Automotive and Riley Construction within the Pictured Rocks Lakeshore buffer zone. Business owner Bill Nicholai appeared before the planning commission with permits and documentation showing prior county approvals, prompting further review of how the ordinance would be applied.

ALL ABOUT TOWN WITH MARY JAYNE



Mary Jayne Hallifax / Courtesy of Superior View

For decades, the work of Munising photographer Mary Jayne Hallifax graced the pages of The Munising News in a regular feature titled All About Town with Mary Jayne, including images such as this shot of 1957 Michigan license plates. Now, thanks to Jack Deo of Superior View and Hallifax's daughters, her historical photos will be featured in The Munising Beacon. Deo has offered to make 5-by-7 prints of Hallifax's photos for \$5 each. Visit viewsofthepast.com for details.



Munising Public Schools announces Schools of Choice openings for nonresident students in all grades for the second semester of the 2025-26 school year.

Application forms are available at the Munising Middle/High School Office, 810 State Highway M-28 West, and the W.G. Mather Elementary School Office, 411 Elm Ave., or online at munisingchools.com.

Completed application forms must be submitted during the application period, which is currently open through Friday, Jan. 23, 2025. The enrollment deadline for students accepted through the Schools of Choice program is Friday, Jan. 23, 2025.

Munising Public Schools accepts students residing within the Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency and contiguous intermediate school districts.



FREE RIDES TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

Through the Alger Conservation District and ALTRAN, ALTRAN is offering free transportation to any of the following food pantries:

Alger Community Pantry
Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 3:30 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul
Monday and Wednesday, noon to 3 p.m.

Nifty Thrifty
Wednesday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

GM Helping Hands, Grand Marais
Tuesday and Thursday, 3 to 5 p.m.

Trenary Tavern Pantry
Monday and Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.
Wednesday - Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Call ALTRAN at 906-387-4845 to schedule a ride.

Free rides are provided through a partnership with the Alger Conservation District.

IN MEMORY

Denise A. LaCombe

Denise A. LaCombe, age 78, of Munising died peacefully in her sleep at her home on Friday, Dec. 26, 2025. She was born on Feb. 14, 1947, in Marquette, Michigan, to the late James and Patricia (Moore) LaCombe. Denise grew up in Munising and graduated from William G. Mather High School in 1965. She married Gerald "Jerry" Micolichuk in 1967, and together they had two children.

Denise raised her family in Green Bay before moving to Door County. She was a great cook and never needed a recipe. She worked as a bartender and server at the Little Brown Jug in Little Sturgeon, where she was known to many as "Stella." Denise moved back to her hometown of Munising in 1997 and continued to work as a bartender and waitress at Sydney's Shark Bay Bar. Whether you knew her as



Denise, Neeser or Stella, it didn't matter because you knew her as the light

of the party. She could make a room shine with kindness, caring and that infectious laugh.

Since she moved to the Lake Shore Manor, she gave a piece of her heart to many of her neighbors, along with love, support and friendship to anyone who needed her. Denise loved all kinds of music; whether she was singing folk songs about Lake Superior with the Grand Island Shanty

Club or rocking out to a metal band at a festival in her 70s, the music moved her.

Denise is survived by her children, Pete (Deb) Micolichuk of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and Amy (John) Munn of Walnut Cove, North Carolina; grandchildren Alex, Craig and Dallas Micolichuk; great-grandson Deklin; siblings Peter (Irma) LaCombe, Greg LaCombe, Shelly (Joe) Benson and Noel

LaCombe; sisters-in-law Patsy LaCombe and Barb LaCombe; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Patricia, and siblings Mark LaCombe and Andrea Jensen.

A celebration of Denise's life will be held at a later date.

Her obituary and online guestbook may be viewed and signed at bowerman-funeralhome.net.

ROAM FOR GOOD AWARD

Moore honored for her service to community

Editor's note: Each month, The Munising Beacon and the Roam Community Foundation recognize a local individual whose actions help build a stronger, more connected community. For December, we're proud to honor Stephanie Moore as the Roam for Good Award recipient for her holiday giving and kindness initiatives — quiet, consistent acts of generosity that have brought meals, gifts and dignity to families across Alger County when they needed it most.

By Brad Gischia
Beacon Correspondent

December's Roam for Good Award winner knows how to help. She also knows how to keep it on the down-low.

Roam for Good is the award given to Alger County residents for leadership and dedication to making the community stronger. Stephanie Moore has made giving a way of life.

Moore was the originator of a program called Christmas for Kiddos during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was not her first foray into the field of giving.

"Four or five years before I started the Christmas program, I started a free Thanksgiving dinner," she said. "I was at

a Kiwanis meeting when they decided that they couldn't offer their meal any longer. I went home that day, and I thought about all of the people who needed that meal, and decided that I would take it on myself."

With a mere three weeks before the holiday that year, Moore marshaled the troops, calling on local businesses to make donations and created the meals in the basement of the Presbyterian Church.

When she stopped doing that dinner, the group that she had organized was making and delivering 400 dinners out of the high school cafeteria.

And a beautiful thing happened. People found out that giving is fun.

"It became a very social thing," Moore said. "People would come in and do the work, but found out it was a pretty fun time as well."

Moore has two sons and no extended family in the area.

"For the longest time, I felt bad because my kids didn't really know what it was like to have a big family dinner," she said. "But they would come and help. My oldest was in football, and we had the whole football team there helping. It was an adventure."

Moore's drive to make her community a better



Courtesy of Stephanie Moore

Stephanie Moore is the December recipient of the Roam for Good Award for her dedication to making the community stronger.

place comes from knowing firsthand the trouble people might be in.

"When my youngest son was born disabled [he has Waardenburg Syndrome], there were a lot of appointments and running down to the University of Michigan," she said. "I was broke, and it was hard to work. It just turned my world upside down."

She recalled one Christmas in particular, as she was starting over following a divorce.

"We were in this little apartment that barely had heat, and I went to the Salvation Army and to DHS, and I felt so dehumanized," she said. "They were asking for so much information — pay statements and child support orders. It was

a lot. That Christmas there was nothing under the tree, and we shared two cans of ravioli for dinner."

Moore made a vow that she would never let anyone feel like that if she could help it. She would give out groceries around Christmas. No questions other than, "Do you need some groceries?"

"Everyone needs help," she said. "It doesn't matter if you're the CEO of a company, or just had a run of bad luck. Everyone needs something sometimes."

It became a way of life for her family, and she's spread it into the community as well.

"There seems like there's been a downslide in volunteers," Moore said. "You don't have to volunteer with a program — you can go out and start your own."

So after handing off the Thanksgiving program, Moore decided to focus on Christmas and began with the community that had built up her dinner program. She got donations from local businesses, and those donations went to giving presents and food to families in need.

"During COVID, the DHS offices in Alger County were all shut down," Moore said. "Anybody who was in need of help had to go through

Marquette County or through the Salvation Army. It seemed really unfair that all the kids in the area didn't have access to any of the services they needed."

Moore saw the need, and instead of throwing her lot in with an existing charity, began her own.

"I think Christmas for Kiddos had 50 families the first year," she said. "Last year, we had 80."

The need is there, and the Munising community has risen to the challenge. This year was bittersweet for Moore, who has moved to Marquette for work and no longer runs either program.

"I will always have a spot in my heart for Munising," she said. "I lived there for 18 years. They helped me raise my children. I couldn't have asked for a better place for them. The businesses, the community members — they are a truly amazing community."

It's a theme that comes up again and again in the Munising area.

"There are so many good people out there that do things all the time for others," Moore said. "We don't celebrate them enough."

Moore said she didn't want any recognition, but hopes that her story might inspire others to give back.

"It costs absolutely nothing to be a good person," she said.

Think spring? Midway General Store hosts seed swap

By Nicole Gearhart
Beacon Correspondent

Visitors to the Midway General Store in Wetmore have a chance to grab some little packets of spring seeds for myself to use, so I figured this would be a good idea and a good way to help the community, too, if anybody has or wants a garden."

Schaefer said she has been working on spreading the word about the seed swap via the "Munising Informed" Facebook page, and the Midway General Store has shared information about the swap on its own Facebook page.

"I have a greenhouse at my house and a nice big garden as well, and that's my passion," Schaefer said. "I just thought it would be a nice idea to share some of the stuff that I've grown and cultivated and see what everybody else has — sharing the gardening love."

Schaefer said all seeds she placed at the store are heirloom and non-GMO, and have been packaged and labeled. She said vegetables, herbs and flowers are all available, and flowers have been marked as either annual or perennial.

"My favorite part of gardening is actually collecting the seeds, and so I collect them, I dry them, clean them and put them in little envelopes," Schaefer said. "And I have way too many

people have been coming in and switching them out with other seeds, or taking them if they need it."

Schaefer said the San Antonios were receptive when she suggested the seed swap. She said this is the kind of thing the Midway and its owners are all about.

"They've really turned it into a great thing, and they love the community," Schaefer said. "That's their whole thing — it's all about community."

San Antonio agreed they like to support the community and facilitate activities like the seed swap whenever possible.

"There are a lot of things that come about throughout the seasons, like people will do gardening and vegetables and will bring in whatever they have to help other people out," San Antonio said.

Schaefer said she anticipates that things will pick up with the swap as the weather warms up, but she's happy to see some interest now.

"People were asking, interested in seeds and stuff," San Antonio said. "So she brought it in, and

"I'm sure in the spring there will be more interest, because it's time for planting. But September,

October is when I collect the seeds and dry them, and so I figured I'd put it out now for anybody who is like me

over plants — a weirdo," Schaefer said with a laugh.

The store is located at N251 H-13 in Wetmore.

THE TRAILHEAD

Enjoying all that an Alger winter has to offer

Winter may not be everyone's favorite season, but if you choose to embrace what it has to offer, it just might climb higher on your list. It is easy to fall into familiar refrains like "it's too cold" or "there's too much snow," but those are often just excuses that can be overcome with the right mindset and preparation. Hopefully, this column encourages you to see winter from a different perspective.



Rhonda Lassila

Beacon Columnist

Many of us make pro-and-con lists for big decisions, so why not do the same for winter sports? I have already touched on some of the cons, so let's focus on the pros. There are no bugs. The air is crisp and clean. A snow-covered

forest is breathtaking in its quiet beauty. And perhaps most important of all, combining physical activity with time outdoors is one of the best things we can do for our overall health and well-being.

Maybe you received a new pair of skis, snowshoes or a snow bike for Christmas. Or perhaps a gift certificate for a season pass to Valley Spur Recreation Area in the Hiawatha National Forest.

Let's talk about how and where you can put those new winter toys to use.

Classic skiing is available at several local locations. The Munising Ski Trails are located on H-58, about two miles from the City of Munising. The McKeever



Rhonda Lassila

A couple of nonskiers enjoy the Wyman Pines Loop.

Hills Ski Trails are located 12 miles south on H-13 from the M-28 intersection. Both trail systems also offer options for snowshoers. Please remember not to snowshoe on groomed ski tracks.

For multiple winter sports in one place, Valley Spur offers 27 miles of groomed trails for both

classic and skate skiing, along with several dedicated snowshoe loops. You can even try winter biking on a fat tire bike on the Wyman Pines Loop, which is groomed from the upper parking lot one mile west on M-94 from the main trailhead and lodge.

If downhill skiing is more your speed, the Chatham Ski Hill is a great place to start. The biggest challenge may be getting to the top using the tow rope, but there is always someone around who is happy to offer tips and help you get up safely so you can enjoy the ride back down. For current hours of operation, check out the Friends of Chatham Ski Hill's Facebook page.

Upcoming activities

Valley Spur ski lessons, organized through Alger

4-H, will begin on Sunday, Jan. 11. Youth ages 8 to 19 will be out on the trails on various days of the week depending on their group. If your child is signed up for lessons, be sure to stop by South Bay Outfitters to get them fitted for gear before lessons begin, unless they already have their own equipment.

The Valley Spur Classic will take place on Saturday, Feb. 7. This small, intimate race is a great fundraiser that directly supports grooming of the ski trails and is always a fun and welcoming event.

Michigan Ice Fest (Feb. 11-15) is another fantastic way to experience winter in a unique way. Classes range from beginner, even if you have never ice climbed before, to advanced, with professional climbers and athletes in Munising for a

full week on our stunning ice formations. There is still time to sign up for the 2026 event. Visit michiganicefest.com to register. You can also stop by Down Wind Sports in Munising to pick up a copy of the 2026 Michigan Ice Fest guidebook. It includes details on the festival and highlights some of the more easily accessible climbs if you are interested in spectating.

We encourage everyone to finish the season strong with an outdoor adventure. If you feel intimidated about trying any of these activities on your own, reach out to one of the local groups mentioned here. Many of us love introducing newcomers to winter sports and would be happy to join you for an outdoor adventure.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year. Cheers to 2026.

LEANING INTO HEALTH

How to find success with your New Year's goals

And here we are yet again — at the precipice of a brand-new year. We are being given a fresh chance to succeed at our goals. Once that clock strikes midnight, you're going to be ready and able to make the life-altering changes you've been dreaming of for years!



Jessica Brewer

Beacon Columnist

You may be thinking, "This time will be different; I will stick to my goals." You may have plans to be super strict with your diet or workout routine, or to completely change your whole lifestyle overnight.

The elephant in the room is that New Year's resolutions have very low success rates — less than 10%, to be exact. You read that right. More than 90% of New Year's resolutions are destined for failure. In fact, 1 in 4 people quit their resolutions by the end of the first week, and nearly half quit by the end of January. Fast-forward to mid-February, and nearly all New Year's resolutions have been forfeited.

Studies show time and again that we, as humans, do not do well with goals like this. Goals that are abrupt, strict or unrealistic will set you up for failure faster than you can say, "Welcome to the U.P., eh."

The most common reasons people give for abandoning their resolutions are being too busy, losing motivation or having a change in their point of focus. In addition to these reasons, people intentionally give up on their resolutions, often fail at their resolutions because the goal was too large and lacked smaller, more immediate goals to boost confidence and morale; the goal itself was unrealistic (regarding difficulty and/or time frame); or there was no plan in place to accomplish the desired goal.

To cheer you up a bit, let me tell you this: Having goals for the new year is not a bad thing at all. Goals are great for personal development and for improving your life. You might just need to make a

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You might need to make a few changes to how you set goals, as well as modifications to your strategies for achieving those goals.
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few changes to how you set goals, as well as modifications to your strategies for achieving those goals.

For starters, while it is great to be ambitious, it is crucial to set goals that are realistic. For instance, starting a workout routine of five days a week in the gym may be a bit too ambitious, whereas starting with two to three days a week would be more realistic — and therefore more achievable. It is also necessary to give yourself grace for when you have "human moments." This means that when you "slip up" on your new goals for a day or two, you don't decide to quit altogether — you just regroup and keep going.

Additionally, don't change too much too fast. Starting with one change

at a time has a better success rate than attempting to make multiple changes at once. For example, rather than changing your diet and starting a new exercise routine at the same time, pick one. Go at that one change for a few weeks until you feel confident about it, and then consider adding something else to the mix.

Give yourself plenty of time; any change worth making usually takes time. And during that time, you will likely have moments of higher and lower motivation.

If you rely solely on motivation, you will likely end up not achieving your goals. Knowing that you can persevere even in times of low motivation is a major key to success. If it's taking longer than you expect to reach a goal, don't give up on it. Instead, reevaluate your strategy and keep moving forward.

Lastly, be sure to focus on your mental health, too. Your mental health is arguably more important than your physical health; if your mental health is in

a bad place, life will be a whole lot harder overall. Prioritize rest, self-care, meditation, journaling and anything else that keeps your figurative cup full.

We are all capable of making positive changes in our life, but knowing the best ways to set and achieve our goals is essential. By incorporating the tips provided here, giving yourself time and grace and believing you are capable of making a change, you can set yourself up to have the most successful year yet.

FROM THE PULPIT

Look for joy in everyday things

Atheist: "Do you honestly believe that Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish?"

Preacher: "I don't know, sir, but when I get to heaven, I'll ask him."

Atheist: "But suppose he isn't in heaven?"

Preacher: "Then you ask him."

For our pastor's 50th birthday, the congregation decided to give him a new suit. He was so touched by the gift that the following Sunday, he stood before everyone and, with tears in his eyes, announced, "Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit."

Father O'Malley answers the phone.

"Hello, is this Father O'Malley?"

"It is."

"This is the IRS. Can you help us?"

"I can."

"Do you know a Ted Houlihan?"

"I do."

"Is he a member of your congregation?"

"He is."

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?"

"He will."

James 1:2-4 says, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

I thought we could use more than one joke today.

The current climate can be trying on us. Sometimes in our efforts to not be short tempered, we can become impertonal, a defense since we often don't see much humor in life and try to avoid adding additional harm.

But not appreciating what we encounter, not seeing the humor and joy in the everyday things still before us, we rob ourselves of life and love as it is presented. We must look forward with joy ... nothing has changed in our salvation. We are living a life that would be envied by many.

Find joy in what you have, in those you still may encounter, in those you are "out of sorts" with. Faith is tested in many ways ... not just resisting the urge to steal a candy bar or not exploding on the person who had the misfortune to be the "last straw."

Attend a church this Sunday. If you can't, go to a Facebook live service from one of our local churches. Many are doing services there. You can tune in and be completely anonymous if you like ... you can even make snarky comments out loud without fear of a deacon shushing you. Give it a try! Presbyterian service is at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

Advertise Here at Home

Reach the readers who live, work and shop in Alger County

A big print-run from a local shopper doesn't guarantee real reach
Statistics tell us this: Community newspapers average about two to four readers per copy. That pass-along power gives your ad reach you don't have to pay extra for.

Research consistently shows:

- Loose circulars and shoppers often go unread.
- Newspaper ads and inserts have significantly higher engagement and recall.
- Readers treat newspaper content with more trust and attention.
- Ads placed in local news drive more action than generic mass-distribution mailers.

The Munising Beacon is the publication our community seeks out every week — for school and sports updates, township, county and city news, business stories, human-interest features and a full calendar of events for all of Alger County. Behind every issue is real local journalism: Our writers are out in the community covering the stories that matter, from veteran profiles and centenarian features to reporting on tribal programs, medical providers, libraries and our schools. We've increased our outreach by more than 60% in our first four months under new ownership, and we're still growing.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Examining the treaties that shaped Michigan

By Phyllis Pokela
Alger County
Historical Society

Modern media provides one with instant access to newsworthy events and happenings and, all too often, the many territorial and cultural battles taking place globally. Such news is certainly troubling. Yet, a look back at our own country and its formation reminds one of our own lengthy list of differences; many played out with violence and always at a loss of some kind.

Native tribes surely had precedence to this land, having been here first, but European explorers saw its value and wanted to establish their own colonies on this continent they found to be invaluable to their own purposes. Slave labor was practiced as a means of accessing and economizing the resources available until that was put to the test on the battlefield. Today, we debate the issue of immigration and the industry positions immigrants help to fill.

July 4, 2026, marks the U.S. Bisesquicentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Our minds generally stop there when thinking of the history of our country, associating images of the scarlet-red uniforms, white woolen breeches, tricorne felt hats and the 10-pound flintlock muzzleloaders or perhaps, it's the familiar painting found in every school textbook of Washington crossing the Delaware.

States were added to the original 13 colonies up until 1959, when Alaska and Hawaii brought the number to 50. There is a lifetime of serious reading and research to know how each of these states was acquired, but to summarize, it can be said that agreements brought forth by negotiations, sometimes preceded by warfare, and treaties had to be enacted before Congress could approve statehood.

Long before European colonists reached the lands of North America, Indigenous societies dwelt here; most scholars agreeing that the movement began 30,000 years ago during the Ice Age when Alaska was reached via an ice bridge in the Bering Sea. Migrations of the Eurasians, now referred to as Paleo-Indians, continued into the south and by 10,000 B.C. had evolved into hundreds of distinct groups spread throughout the continent.

The ancient copper mines found on the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale provide firm evidence of habitation in our area of Michigan. It has been estimated that more than half a billion pounds of copper was extracted from these sites between 2450 B.C. and 1200 B.C. when it abruptly ended.

Colonization by whites claiming settlement lands into Indian territory was almost always at the decimation of Indigenous societies through wars and epidemics. Between the years 1778 and 1871, the Congress of the United States negotiated about 368 treaties with Native tribes across North America. The key element of these treaties was that each tribal group was recognized as an independent nation, owning rights to self-determination and self-rule. But as the saying goes: That's where the fights began!

Reading through dozens of articles and timelines for this article, it was hard not to ignore the disconcerting vocabulary that described the historical events that took place in the assembling of our nation's lands. Such words as killing, threatened, conquered, contempt, siege, angered, authority, abduction, disenchanted and torture were frequently found.

Promises were hard to keep through the changing of administrations, legislators and state governments. Perhaps the best known of broken promises is the "Trail of Tears," when 7,000 federal troops were sent to remove Native Americans from tribal lands in the Southeast and move them to Oklahoma Territory. Besides pioneers demanding more land for settlement, gold had been discovered and Georgia held lotteries to give away Cherokee lands and gold rights to whites.

The Indian Removal Act of 1830 saw the forced evacuation of Native tribes despite a Supreme Court decision ruling that treaty rights held it unlawful. President Andrew Jackson defied court orders, resulting in stockade internment camps being constructed as the staging grounds for the roundup of the Natives from which they began their overland trek of 1000 miles — an inhumane exploit forcing them to contend with the separation of their families, disease, starvation, treacherous weather, inadequate clothing and lack of footwear as well as the brutal treatment by the troops and state militias along the way. The wretched conditions and ruthless oppression on the trail led to the loss of nearly one-fifth of the Cherokee Nation at that time.

Michigan had European settlers and established sites here long before the Revolutionary War, a long-fought battle that had resulted from British government opposition to self-governance greatly desired by the American colonists, an ideal tragically ignored later by an independent America dealing, in turn, with Indigenous populations.

Sault Ste. Marie, on the eastern end of the Upper Peninsula, was being explored by French missionaries and fur traders as early as the 1660s. History tells us that it, as well as much of Michigan Territory, was long fought over by the French and British, both nations commandeering for control of the coveted fur trade with Native Americans. Officially gaining its name in 1668, it is the oldest city in Michigan as well as among the oldest in the United States, distinguishing it to have marked the beginnings of the United States long before the time of powdered wigs, tricorne hats and the Treaty of Paris in 1783 when the British acknowledged the independence of the Thirteen Colonies.

In 1820, the Treaty of the Sault was signed by the Chippeway (as spelled in the original document) ceding 16 square acres of land along the St. Marys River, exchanging it for "a quantity of goods and the perpetual right of fishing at the falls and a place of encampment convenient to fishing ground." The treaty stirred up feelings of contention within the tribe upon learning about it from Michigan Territorial Governor Lewis



Courtesy of Library of Congress

Construction of Fort Brady at Sault Ste. Marie began in 1822. The barracks are pictured here between 1900 and 1910.

Cass. A tribal member defiantly proceeded to plant a British flag at a prominent site, only to be removed and thrown to the ground by Cass himself, followed by his ominous threat to destroy the Native village.

By 1822, American troops arrived at the Sault and began construction of Fort Brady as a means of protecting Michigan Territory from being invaded by British troops from Canada. The fort, named after its commander, Colonel Hugh Brady, quickly became the center of life in the city. Residents lined the streets on holidays to watch the soldiers demonstrate their marching skills and eagerly looked forward to the games and races sponsored by the troops every spring. By the time the fort was decommissioned in 1944, it had been moved and rebuilt twice. Again, fearing foreign invasion, 20,000 federal troops were stationed at the fort during World War II to guard the canal and locks which had been built to accommodate the passing of large ships on the St. Marys River between Lakes Superior and Huron through the unnavigable rapids of the river, so treacherous that it had made even the portaging of canoes necessary.

The nearby Straits of Mackinac was the setting of a fort built even earlier. Fort Michilimackinac was erected in 1715 on the site of an earlier Jesuit mission, in what is now Mackinaw City, to serve as a supply depot for traders as the largest hub on the Great Lakes by the French-Canadian Trading Post System. The convenient location on two of the Great Lakes between New France and the western land, it was a busy and profitable launching site for the shipment of products down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico or along the St. Lawrence River to Montreal and Quebec.

Following the defeat of the French by the British

in the French and Indian War (1754-1763), Fort Michilimackinac was relinquished to the Brits in 1761 who continued its use as a major trading post as well as a military outpost. The French had maintained good relations with the Natives and considered them to be allies. They had issued a yearly allotment of clothing, knives, weapons and ammunition to the local chieftains to pass out to their tribes, but when the British took control, they stopped the practice, considering it to be a form of bribes. The tribes soon became upset with British policies, most especially the discontinuation of the annual gift distribution.

On June 2, 1763, the Natives, encouraged to do so by the French, took over the fort and killed the 22 British inhabitants, leaving the French populace to live there freely. When the British regained their jurisdiction a year later, relations were mended with the reinstatement of the annual gifts, which was said to have been increased and to be of higher quality. Alliances continued to improve to the point that by the time of the American Revolution, Native forces from Mackinac participated in the war on the side of the British. During the time of the Revolution, the fort also took on more military significance, and the wooden structures and palisade were deemed too vulnerable for that purpose.

In 1780, a new site was selected on Mackinac Island for a limestone-fortified fort on a southern bluff 150 feet above the Straits. It served as a fort for 115 years, surrendered to the Americans a whole 13 years after the Revolution, despite the terms of its relinquishment by the British outlined in the Treaty of Paris in 1783. It was not until the Jay Treaty was ratified by Congress in 1796, signed by President George Washington, that the issues

of trade restrictions, border disputes and the continued British control of forts in the Great Lakes Region that Fort Mackinac came into American jurisdiction. The treaty was highly criticized to be most beneficial to the British, but tactfully helped the United States avoid another war at a vulnerable time when both the resources for war and the heart for more bloodshed were sorely depleted. The fort was decommissioned in 1895.

However, by the year 1812, the United States again declared war against Britain, sometimes referred to as the Second War of Independence to address differences in territorial expansion in North America. Included in the dispute was the area of the Northwest Territories of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The war ended two years later with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in 1814. Treaty terms called for the return of all British occupied territory, the restoration of the prewar boundary between Canada and the U.S., the awarding of fishing rights to the St. Lawrence Gulf and British insistence that the Indians be restored of all the possessions, rights and privileges they had been entitled to in 1811.

In 1835, the territorial governor of Michigan, Stevens Masons announced to the U.S. Congress that Michigan was ready for statehood, having achieved the population requirement, but Congress responded with demands for a state constitution to be written, and a dispute over a small strip of land around Toledo in Ohio settled. On Jan. 26, 1837, Congress admitted Michigan to the union as the 26th state having fulfilled its prerequisites of electing a governor and state Constitution (by a suffrage act that granted only all-white males over the age of 21 voting rights) and a formal

concession that saw to the trading of the disputed land in Ohio for the western half of the Upper Peninsula.

The theft of tribal lands, genocide, public hostility, discrimination and outright oppression which broke the terms of the Ghent Treaty after the War of 1812, together with the ominous Indian Removal Act of 1830, generated fear of displacement or removal of Michigan's people to Oklahoma and Kansas. The pressure to conform to American ways, mandatory boarding schools for Indian children and facing the loss of tribal lands along with cultural traditions and practices made it inevitable that drastic measures were needed.

Two delegate meetings in Washington culminated in the terms and subsequent ratification of the 1836 Treaty. Signed by the leaders of the Odawa and Ojibway tribes, the pact saw nearly 16 million acres of land in Upper and Lower Michigan ceded to the Union. This accorded the entire area between the Escanaba River in Marquette and Delta counties and the eastern border of the Upper Peninsula as a concession. It was a tremendous loss to the tribes, but with the power of the United States government and military to become fully vested in the state in another year and the added pressure of white settlements pushing northward, the odds were heavily against them.

Reservations were carved out of the ceded lands, hunting and fishing rights granted, money, support for education and materials and services provided for the permanent settlements on tribal lands were provisions of the treaty included in its six articles, with many of them written up to expire after five years.

Yet, 160 years later, the Treaty of 1836 is, itself, still valid and tribal sovereignty holds. Separated into five units over seven counties with headquarters maintained in Sault Ste. Marie, members of the Sault Ste. Marie Band of Chippewa Indians benefit from maintained housing, health care, social services and education services and the entire area from the economic impact of the tribe's five resort and casino operations. The State of Michigan maintains historic parks at both Fort Michilimackinac and Mackinac Island offering summer visitors a glimpse of colonial life with demonstrations of daily living and military installations provided by costumed interpreters. Archeological digs continue each year, and the sites are maintained as award-winning open-air museums.

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The Beacon welcomes letters to the editor with your opinion on local issues and stories. Share your thoughts with your neighbors.

Submit to:

editor@munisingbeaconmedia.com



NFL PICKS

Denver, New England, Chicago pleasant surprises

Every NFL season produces its share of surprises in the standings, with a handful of teams outperforming expectations and an equal number falling short of projections.



Michael Murray

NFL Outsider

On the positive side, the top two teams in the AFC, Denver and New England, were projected in preseason over-under markets to finish with between eight and 10 victories. They both could (should?) now finish 14-3. And Jacksonville has also been a revelation.

In the NFC, Chicago and Seattle stand out, having won three or four more games than predicted.

On the negative side, Kansas City, Detroit, Cincinnati and Washington all fell short of expected win totals, for a variety of reasons. In the cases of the

Bengals and Commanders, especially, their seasons went down the drain when their Pro Bowl-caliber quarterbacks suffered injuries that sidelined them for weeks at a time.

It'll be interesting to see what the Lions do in the draft, free agency and on the coaching staff to rectify some weak spots. They certainly seem talented enough to get back into playoff contention in 2026, but that's what we thought this year.

This week's picks:

**Saturday, Jan. 3
4:30 p.m.**

Carolina at Tampa Bay: One of these teams will claim the NFC's final playoff berth. At times, they have both looked worthy. At other times, they've failed to get off the bus. Who shows up this week? The pick: Panthers by 1.

8 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco: The winner grabs the NFC West title, along with the No. 1 seed in the conference. This might just be recency bias, but the 49ers offense looked unstoppable Sunday night against Chicago. The pick: Niners by 3.

**Sunday, Jan. 4
1 p.m.**

Green Bay at Minnesota: Minnesota is favored by 6.5, which makes some sense. The Packers are slotted into the seventh seed in the NFC, and their quarterback's health is up in the air. The pick: Vikings by 4.

Indianapolis at Houston: A healthy C.J. Stroud gives the Texans some punch on offense to complement one of the league's top defenses. The pick: Texans by 8.

Dallas at N.Y. Giants: Dallas was projected to win seven or eight games,

which is right where it will end up. With a respectable defense, this team would have been in the playoffs. The pick: Cowboys by 7.

Cleveland at Cincinnati: Cincinnati is another team that can't get the defense right, but that's hard to do when you spend so much money on the quarterback and two top-shelf receivers. The pick: Bengals by 8.

New Orleans at Atlanta: On paper, the Falcons appear to be the more talented team — and they've already beaten the Saints this season. The pick: Falcons by 3.

Tennessee at Jacksonville: I had my doubts after the press conference introducing Liam Coen as the Jags' head coach, but he has Trevor Lawrence playing like a legitimate first-round quarterback. The pick: Jaguars by 13.

4:25 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago: I'd love to see the Lions put it together and end the season on a positive note, but the Bears are still battling for playoff positioning. The pick: Bears by 3.

Arizona at L.A. Rams: Two teams heading in opposite directions. The pick: Rams by 11.

L.A. Chargers at Denver: Both of these division rivals are in the playoffs, but Denver has more to play for this week. The pick: Broncos by 6.

Kansas City at Las Vegas: If the Raiders lose, as expected, they'll secure the first pick in the draft next spring. They couldn't possibly screw this up and actually win, could they? The pick: Chiefs by 7.

Miami at New England: The Patriots are champs of the AFC East. Back in

September, who saw this coming? The pick: Patriots by 13.

Washington at Philadelphia: The Commies overperformed in 2024 and underperformed in 2025. With a healthy Jayden Daniels next year, they should be in the mix for a playoff berth. The pick: Eagles by 7.

N.Y. Jets at Buffalo: Life could be worse. You could be a Jets fan. The pick: Bills by 11.

8:20 p.m.

Baltimore at Pittsburgh: The AFC North title, and the final AFC playoff slot, comes down to the last game of the regular season. A healthy Derrick Henry gives Baltimore the edge. The pick: Ravens by 3.

My record last week (straight up): 9-7.

My record through 17 weeks (straight up): 167-88-1 (65.4%).

SPORTS CALENDAR

Local high school teams return to action after break

Sports teams from Alger County's high schools are getting back into action. Here are the upcoming varsity athletic contests.

Grand Marais

- Thursday, Jan. 8, 5 p.m.: boys and girls basketball host Ojibwe

Munising

- Friday, Jan. 2, 7:15 p.m.: girls basketball at Brimley

- Saturday, Jan. 3, 10 a.m.: wrestling at Escanaba Elks Invitational
- Monday, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m.: girls basketball at Bark River-Harris
- Monday, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m.: boys basketball at Manistique
- Wednesday, Jan. 7, 6 p.m.: wrestling hosts quad meet at Mather Gymnasium
- Wednesday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.: boys basketball hosts Norway
- Wednesday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.: girls basketball at Newberry

- Friday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.: girls basketball hosts Carney-Nadeau
- Friday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.: boys basketball at Newberry
- Saturday, Jan. 10, 9 a.m.: wrestling at Kingsford
- Saturday, Jan. 10, noon: cheer at Escanaba

Munising Baptist

- Monday, Jan. 5, 6 p.m.: basketball at Superior Central JV

- Thursday, Jan. 8, 6 p.m.: basketball hosts Paradise
- Friday, Jan. 9, 6 p.m.: basketball at DC Knights

Superior Central

- Friday, Jan. 2, 7:30 p.m.: girls basketball hosts Rapid River
- Tuesday, Jan. 6, time TBA: girls basketball at Big Bay de Noc
- Tuesday, Jan. 6, time TBA: boys basketball at Big Bay de Noc

- Thursday, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.: boys basketball at North Dickinson
- Friday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.: girls basketball hosts North Central

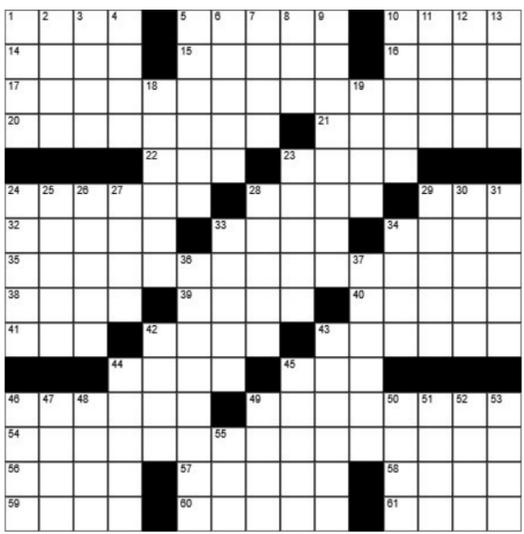
Manistique hockey co-op

- Tuesday, Jan. 6, 6 p.m.: at Cheboygan
- Friday, Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m.: at Petoskey
- Saturday, Jan. 10, 3 p.m.: at Gladwin

BRAINTEASERS

CROSSWORD

Across
 1- Moderately cold
 5- Winter drink
 10- Influence
 14- ___ expert, but ...
 15- Not appropriate
 16- Sea eagle
 17- In spite of
 20- Bedspread
 21- Motley
 22- Comparative suffix
 23- Guinea pig
 24- Affirm to be true
 28- Hot
 29- No longer working (abbr.)
 32- Willow provision
 33- Prefix for small
 34- First name in spydom
 35- At the same time
 38- First name in gymnastics
 39- Circle segments
 40- Evade
 41- Crumpets partner
 42- Dagger of yore
 43- Stableman
 44- Tolkien tree creatures
 45- Place
 46- Objects from everyday life
 49- Inseparable friend
 54- Typical instance
 56- Uncover
 57- Out-and-out
 58- Great Lake
 59- Love personified
 60- Like rocks in a stream
 61- Chamber workers: Abbr.

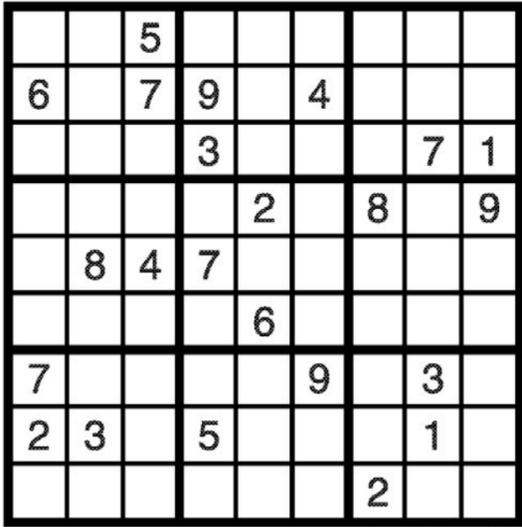


piece
 19- Fleet
 23- Small change
 24- Horse race venue in England
 25- Fulcrum for an oar
 26- Coniferous evergreen forest
 27- Author Ferber
 28- From that time
 29- Fauvist painter Dufy
 30- Musical study piece
 31- Stun gun
 33- Female horses
 34- Dissolve
 36- Rare metallic element
 37- Lipton competitor
 42- Scissors sound
 43- Clamor
 44- Bugs bugs him
 45- Layers
 46- First name in country
 47- Test
 48- Prefix with -drome
 49- P.M. times
 50- Hwy's.
 51- The Emerald Isle
 52- Enter
 53- Some bills
 55- How was ___ know?

Down
 1- Pres., militarily
 2- Melville tale
 3- Airing
 4- Actor Rob
 5- Slice of meat
 6- ___ Majesty's Secret Service
 7- What you do to a shadow
 8- Decide
 9- Tranquillity
 10- Like a marsh
 11- Sealed document
 12- Tolstoy's Karenina
 13- Safecracker
 18- Van Gogh master-



SUDOKU



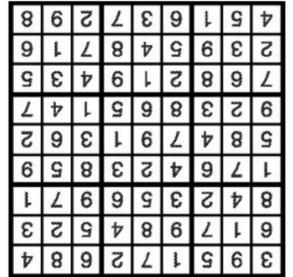
Level: intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

Fun By the Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.



CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to bath safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = G)

- A. 8 15 24 10**
Clue: Slide
- B. 3 9 11 2**
Clue: Hold on
- C. 15 24 3 4 5 24 25 3**
Clue: Illumination
- D. 23 11 5 14 9**
Clue: H2O

Answers: A. slip B. grab C. lighting D. water

**NOTICE OF SHOW CAUSE HEARING AND JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE HEARING
NON-PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES**

On March 1, 2025 real estate with unpaid 2023 and/or prior years property taxes was forfeited to the Alger County Treasurer pursuant to the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended.

The Alger County Treasurer is acting as the Foreclosing Governmental Unit in proceedings to foreclose on this property for unpaid property taxes.

There are two hearings scheduled to finalize the foreclosure process. This publication is intended to provide additional notice to parties of interest in these parcels as to the nature, time, and location of these hearings. Please contact the Alger County Treasurer's office at (906) 387-4535 prior to the hearing dates for any updated procedures and instructions.

A SHOW CAUSE HEARING is scheduled for 8:00 am- 4:00 pm, Monday, January 19th, 2026, at Treasurers Office, 101 Court St, Munising, MI 49862.

Any person with an interest in the property forfeited to the County Treasurer may appear at the show cause hearing and show cause why absolute title to that property should not vest in the Foreclosing Governmental Unit.

A JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE HEARING is scheduled for 1:00 pm, Tuesday, February 24th, 2026, at 11th Circuit Court Courtroom, Second Floor, 101 Court St, Munising, MI 49862.

At this hearing the Foreclosing Governmental Unit shall ask that the court enter a judgment foreclosing the property as requested in the petition for foreclosure. A person claiming an interest in a parcel of property set forth in the petition for foreclosure, who desires to contest that petition, must file written objections with the clerk of the circuit court and serve those objections on the Alger County Treasurer, the Foreclosing Governmental Unit. The docket number of the petition is 25-8496-CZ.

If you are a person with an interest in property being foreclosed:

You have the right to redeem this parcel from the foreclosure process by payment of all forfeited unpaid taxes, interest, penalties, and fees prior to the expiration of the redemption period. You should contact the Alger County Treasurer for the amount required to redeem.

You may lose your interest in the property as a result of the foreclosure proceeding.

The legal title to the property shall vest absolutely in the Foreclosing Governmental Unit unless all forfeited unpaid delinquent taxes, interest, penalties, and fees are paid by March 31, 2026.

All existing interests in oil or gas in this property shall be extinguished except the following:

i. The interests of a lessee or an assignee of an interest of a lessee under an oil or gas lease in effect as to that property or any part of that property if the lease was recorded in the office of the register of deeds in the county in which the property is located before the date of filing the petition for judicial foreclosure.

ii. Interests preserved as provided in section 1(3) of 1963 PA 42, MCL 554.291.

iii. The right of a former interest-holder to recover remaining proceeds following sale or transfer of the property pursuant to MCL 211.78t.

If the property is foreclosed, you will have an opportunity to seek recovery of any equity that you may possess in the property in the form of remaining proceeds which may be realized through subsequent sale. Any party who holds an interest in the property at the time of foreclosure has the right to make a claim for remaining proceeds, which first requires completing and sending the Notice of Intention required by MCL 211.78t(2) to the Alger County Treasurer no later than July 1, immediately following foreclosure. You may lose any equity associated with your interest in the property following foreclosure unless you pursue a claim under MCL 211.78t. Those who wish to consult with an attorney about this notice and pending tax foreclosure may go to the State Bar of Michigan's legal resource and referral web page at <https://lrs.michbar.org> or may call (800) 968-0738 for assistance in finding private legal counsel.

PLEASE NOTE:

The following list represents parties that appear to have title, lien, or other apparent rights to the parcels being foreclosed by the Foreclosing Governmental Unit.

This notice is required to be given by law, even if the party no longer claims or desires an interest if it appears they hold any undischarged, apparent, or potential title or lien right to the property.

Listing of a party does NOT necessarily indicate they are the owner of a parcel, or they are liable for the property taxes.

This list is NOT an offering of property for sale. These parcels are NOT being sold, auctioned, or otherwise made available by virtue of this notice.

There is no procedure for purchasing these parcels from the Foreclosing Governmental Unit at this point in the foreclosure proceedings. Those parcels that are foreclosed and not redeemed may become available at public auction on or after July of 2026. These parcels remain the property of their current owner until redemption rights have expired. No party should make any attempt to inspect or enter upon these parcels assuming them to be for sale until the final list of foreclosed parcels is determined and offered at auction in summer, 2026. Most of these parcels will be redeemed from foreclosure. Entering upon them or contacting current property owners may constitute trespassing or undesired solicitation and may subject the offender to criminal prosecution. The street address of the parcels listed is based on local records and is not guaranteed to be the actual location of the property.

The amount due listed indicates the balance which was due as of forfeiture on March 1, 2025. The current amount required to redeem must be obtained from the Alger County Treasurer, as additional penalties, fees, and interest have accrued since forfeiture.

NAME	PARCEL ID	AMOUNT	NAME	PARCEL ID	AMOUNT
ALGER MARQUETTE COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD					
	00663008000	\$1178.81	KANTOLA, SHEILA A	00520000800	\$636.97
	00118200210	\$1003.17	KANTOLA, SHEILA A	00540100800	\$2422.91
ALLEN, JOSH	00118200210	\$1003.17	KORT, GARY K	00510401200	\$4193.79
ALLEN, MELANIE	00118200210	\$1003.17	KORT, LINDA J	00510401200	\$4193.79
ARNOLD, TRACEY N	00600603010	\$3998.78	KUCINSKAS, PATRICIA A	00256002000	\$1339.49
BAKER, MICHAEL	00411001200	\$2830.52	LANG, JESSICA M	05135401500	\$2931.68
BAKER, MICHAEL	00411001500	\$1135.55	LINS, STEPHANIE	00501700200	\$2154.71
BANN, EVA	00168001100	\$1549.74	LUSTICK, JAMES	00510600100	\$671.70
BANN, JOHN T	00168001100	\$1549.74	LUSTICK, ROBERT	00510600100	\$671.70
BEGOVAC (TRUST), JOSEPH W	00512200200	\$1145.38	LYNCH, BRANDON E	05135401500	\$2931.68
BEGOVAC (TRUST), JOSEPH W JR	00541600700	\$1576.82	MANSUY, JEREMIAH	00410401210	\$1060.99
BOSCH, TERESA	00720601800	\$4123.27	MARSHALL, MICHAEL	00402802400	\$447.85
BOSCH, TERESA	00720601900	\$7761.74	MATUSZEWSKI, TRAVIS	00411000400	\$1262.55
BRAUNSHAUSEN, AMANDA N	05135400700	\$424.05	MCALPINE, TABITHA RHO	00813502500	\$463.43
BROOKS, ROBERT	00103000110	\$774.75	MCCOLLUM, ROBERT J	00600603010	\$3998.78
BROWN, JAMIE L SR	00800901600	\$717.23	MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	00641100400	\$4105.04
BROWN RIGG, CAROLYN S	00510401300	\$2133.06	MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	05145304300	\$2813.39
BURROUGHS, CHRISTINA J	00603004100	\$1188.60	MILLER, AMBER	00410401210	\$1060.99
BURROUGHS, MRS STEVEN R	00603004100	\$1188.60	MOORMAN, THOMAS J	00153800500	\$905.95
BURROUGHS, STEVEN R	00603004100	\$1188.60	MOORMAN, TIMOTHY	00153800500	\$905.95
CALDWELL, CALVIN E	00603004200	\$536.96	MORGAN, JOAN RENE	00511701300	\$1489.02
CALDWELL, THERESA L	00603004100	\$1188.60	MUNISING COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION	05136103000	\$1512.91
CASSEL, FRANK D	00402703400	\$1074.77	MURDOCK, COLIN STEWART	00103300700	\$1663.44
CASSEL, FRANKLIN D JR	00402703110	\$350.63	NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LLC	00600701410	\$1504.83
CASSEL, KIM M	00402703110	\$350.63	OSGA, JEFFRY P	00103300700	\$1663.44
CASSEL, MRS FRANKLIN D JR	00402703110	\$350.63	OSGA, SARAH A	00103300700	\$1663.44
CRAWFORD, BENNET L	00122600610	\$908.15	PEOPLES STATE BANK MUNISING	00602903000	\$4848.92
DALTON, JEFF L	00232700300	\$963.13	PEOPLES STATE BANK OF MUNISING	00254005000	\$1995.95
DALTON, JEFF L	00232700320	\$838.23	PEOPLES STATE BANK OF MUNISING	00602903400	\$418.60
DALTON, MARY ANN	00232700300	\$963.13	PEOPLES STATE BANK OF MUNISING	05125702350	\$3283.17
DALTON, MARY ANN	00232700320	\$838.23	PEOPLES STATE BANK OF MUNISING	05125702400	\$992.15
DOEPKE, PHILIP D	00411001200	\$2830.52	PEOPLES STATE BANK OF MUNISING	05135400700	\$424.05
DOEPKE, PHILIP D	00411001500	\$1135.55	PEOPLES STATE BANK OF MUNISING	05136501500	\$1322.61
ELLIOTT, DENA	00100800300	\$367.10	PERRY, COLLIN	00422600710	\$1895.12
ELLIOTT, PATRICK	00100800300	\$367.10	PHH MORTGAGE CORPORATION	00600701410	\$1504.83
FIRST BANK UPPER MICHIGAN	00512200200	\$1145.38	PLATT, WILLIAM AUGUST	00663008000	\$1178.81
FIRST BANK UPPER MICHIGAN	00541600700	\$1576.82	ROWLEY, PENNY	00603100800	\$871.08
GARROW, ROBERT R	00720702700	\$563.67	RUDLAFF, ROBIN J	00122600610	\$908.15
GARROW, THERESA	00720702700	\$563.67	SCHOLZ (ESTATE), PAUL	00233300430	\$825.52
GARTNER, ROBERT	05125702300	\$4150.10	SCHWEMIN, MARK	00121402600	\$384.38
GARTNER, ROBERT	05125702350	\$3283.17	SCHWEMIN, MARK	00121403900	\$1984.19
GARTNER, ROBERT	05125702400	\$992.15	SEGERSTROM, TRACY	00721501200	\$465.01
GOODMAN, MRS ROBERT JAMES	00511701300	\$1489.02	SEMASKY, DALE L	00600701410	\$1504.83
GORLEWSKI, ALAN	00232700300	\$963.13	SEMASKY, JOSHUA K	00600701410	\$1504.83
GORLEWSKI, ALAN	00232700320	\$838.23	SOAM LLC	00602903000	\$4848.92
GRAVELL, PAUL DAVID	05136103000	\$1512.91	SOAM LLC	00602903400	\$418.60
GREEN, LYNN A	00720701400	\$574.02	STATE OF MICHIGAN UNEMPLOYMENT AGENCY		
GREEN, LYNN A	00720701500	\$574.02		00602903000	\$4848.92
GREEN, MAURICE O	00720701500	\$574.02	TAKALO, DENNIS	00410401210	\$1060.99
GREEN, MAURICE O JR	00720701400	\$574.02	TAKALO, DERRICK	00410401210	\$1060.99
GREEN, MAURICE O SR	00720701500	\$574.02	TAKALO, DOREEN	00410401210	\$1060.99
HANSEN, CARL	00641100400	\$4105.04	TAKALO, TIMOTHY	00410401210	\$1060.99
HANSEN, CARL	05145304300	\$2813.39	TENDER LOVING CARE LLC	00402802400	\$447.85
HINER, JEFF	00423000730	\$435.51	TNT CHRISTMAS MALL	00153800500	\$905.95
HOULE, ALBERT J	00511501800	\$1286.95	TROUT, GENEVIEVE	00633601500	\$878.51
HUBBARD, ALETA M	00254005000	\$1995.95	TYNER, TOBI	00510401300	\$2133.06
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE	00602903400	\$418.60	WEATHERBY, WILL	00721001500	\$5891.58
JOHNSON, CHARLES J	00118201100	\$1201.82	WIRTH, JACK JR	00423203100	\$1361.42
JOHNSON, CHARLES JOHN	05136501500	\$1322.61	WIRTH, JACK JR	00423203500	\$342.08
KANTOLA, JOHN S	00520000800	\$636.97	WIRTH, PAMELA	00423203100	\$1361.42
KANTOLA, JOHN S	00540100800	\$2422.91	WIRTH, PAMELA	00423203500	\$342.08

No party should make any attempt to inspect or enter upon these parcels assuming them to be for sale. This may constitute trespassing and subject the offender to criminal prosecution. The street address of the parcels listed is based on local records and is not guaranteed to be the actual location of the property.

00103300700 E-8246 CO RD 440	00168001100 N 3313 16 MILE LAKE RD
00118200210 7642 CANDY CANE LANE	00232700300 HURRICANE RIVER TRUCK TR
00118201100 N7671 PERCH LAKE RD	00254005000 E 21755 WILSON ST
00121403900 3791 HAYWARD RD, MUNISING	00256002000 E 16983 NEVINS LAKE RD
00153800500 8007 MISTLETOE LANE	00402703110 E 3918 STORM RD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

00402703400 E 3918 STORM RD, LIMESTONE
 00402802400 N-3097 ST HWY M-67
 00410401210 N 2098 US HWY 41
 00411000400 N 1814 DEGARMO RD
 00411001200 N 7501 DEGARMO RD
 00422600710 2994 HEETI RD
 00423203100 N 2696 US HWY 41, TRENARY
 00423203500 N 2696 US HWY 41, TRENARY
 00510401200 E-3520 MATEKEL RD
 00511501800 E-4047 PAULSON ROAD, CHATHAM
 00511701300 E-3216 GILLILAND RD
 00512200200 E-3942 TRUDELL RD
 00541600700 N-1169 TRENARY AVE
 00600603010 N-7027 CO RD H-15
 00600701410 E-12321 OLSON RD, SHINGLETON
 00602903000 E-12504 ST HWY M-28, SHINGLETON
 00603004100 N-5345 CO RD H15

00603100800 N-5253 ST HWY M-94
 00633601500 N 158 FF HWY 13, WETMORE
 00641100400 E-9051 ST HWY M28
 00663008000 N-5361 MAPLE ST, SHINGLETON
 00720601800 ST HWY M-28
 00720601900 4012 ST HWY M-28
 00721001500 8969 DEERTON ROAD
 00800901600 4178 BLACK CREEK ROAD
 00813502500 4314 ST HWY M-94
 05125702300 208 W SUPERIOR ST, MUNISING
 05125702350 206 W SUPERIOR ST, MUNISING
 05125702400 206 W SUPERIOR ST, MUNISING
 05135400700 308 FIR ST, MUNISING
 05135401500 322 FIR ST, MUNISING
 05136103000 126 W JEWELL ST, MUNISING
 05136501500 212 W VARNUM ST, MUNISING
 05145304300 712 W MUNISING AVE, MUNISING

AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE: 100 YEARS ... 100 MOVIES

Groundbreaking 'Toy Story' stands test of time

I'm not ashamed to admit that I saw "Toy Story" in the theater 30 years ago. I loved it — I'd never seen anything like it.

For the mere technological aspect, computer animation was next-level. This was the flagship project of newly minted Pixar, an animation company that would go on to make beloved movies for decades and be gobbled up by the Disney machine a mere 11 years later for \$7.6 billion.

It began with this little film and a paltry \$30 million budget.

While we're talking about numbers, the "Toy Story" franchise has, according to Forbes, grossed \$3.3 billion. But what a film it was, and still is, for that matter.

For those who don't know, "Toy Story" follows the lives of Andy's toys who come to life when he isn't in the room playing with them. Woody, a cowboy doll voiced by Tom Hanks, is Andy's favorite, and leader of the toys. Woody has to deal with the incoming new favorite, Buzz Lightyear, voiced by Tim Allen.

The chemistry between Hanks and Allen is unmistakable and spawned several sequels, including the newest film in the franchise, "Toy Story 5," due out in 2026.

The themes of friendship and loyalty are the usual for animated films, but the way they are portrayed in "Toy Story" makes us all remember our favorite toys from childhood.

The soundtrack by Randy Newman is perfect, giving the act of play a lyrical mood to make us all long for summer days with our favorite doll or action figure. (I refuse to believe they are the same thing. Forgive me, I grew up in the '80s.)

This is a film of firsts — the first Pixar film and the first completely computer-animated feature. It was the first film John Lasseter directed; now he's directed more than 30 films under the Pixar (and Disney) banner. You know them all.

The screenwriters on this team read like a who's who

of the last 30 years of film. Joss Whedon ("The Avengers"), Joel Cohen ("Fargo"), Alec Sokolow ("Garfield"), Andrew Stanton and Pete Docter ("Up," "Inside Out") and Joe Ranft ("The Brave Little Toaster") all put their creative and comedic spin on the script.

Newman's music gives a playful feel to the action and heart to the low parts. His lyrics mimic the action in scenes, and they are timed to perfection.

The jokes. Dangit, the jokes are still funny 30 years later. Another mark of solid writing that doesn't always play after a length of time.

The jokes are allowed to breathe, even after you see a pile of them in a row, and the Pixar animators were in on the gags as well, adding little sight-gags that don't necessarily have an audible punchline.

Hanks was at the beginning of his film popularity wave, having released "Forrest Gump" in 1994 and "Apollo 11" earlier in 1995.

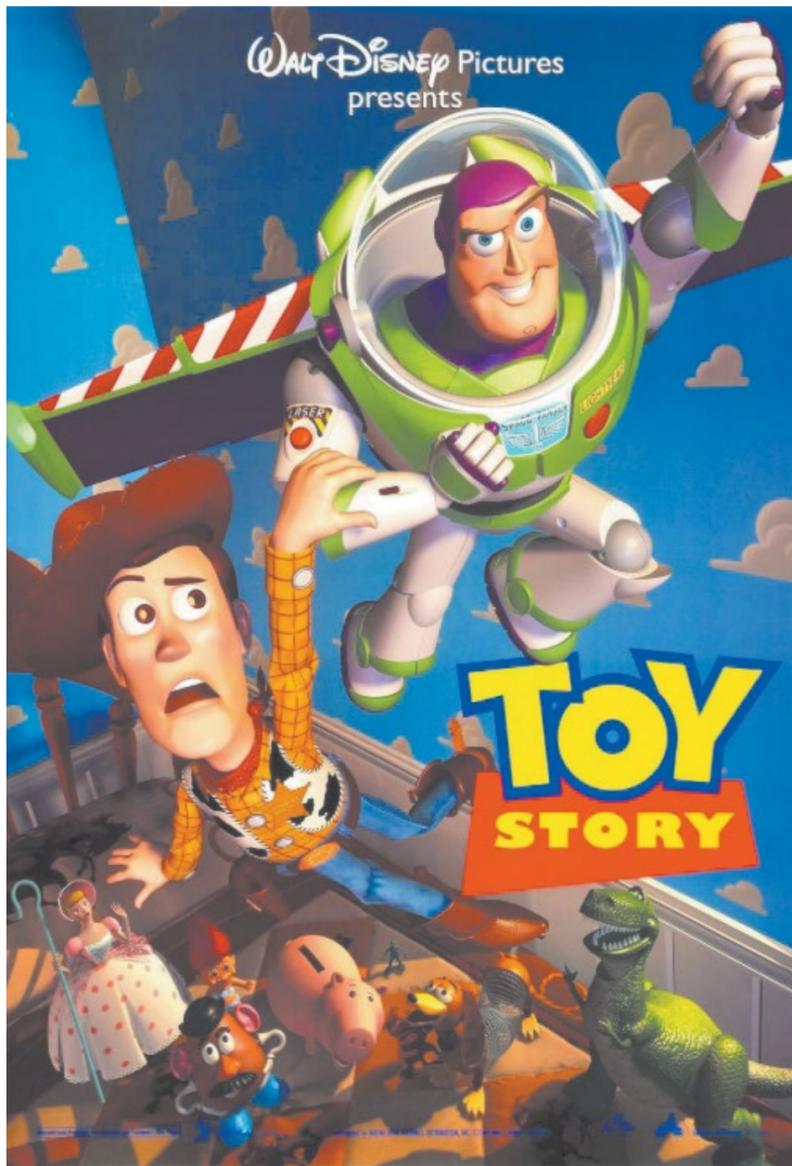
Tim Allen was standing on top of the TV charts during his fourth year of "Home Improvement" and had just released "The Santa Clause" around Christmas 1994. Could there be two bigger stars to helm a franchise?

Keep in mind that animation generally has a much longer timeline than a regular film. Hanks and Allen were approached years before to voice these characters. Allen was still mostly known only as a stand-up comedian. Hanks, on the other hand, had already been in a pile of films, including "The Money Pit," "The Burbs" and "Splash," but had not yet had the success that would make him TOM HANKS in Hollywood.

It's the power of their comedic timing, both solo and as a pair, that makes the characters of Buzz and Woody so eminently charming and fun to watch.

The list of backup voices would begin a wave of famous actors getting into animated voice-over work.

John Ratzenberger ("Cheers") and Wallace Shawn ("The Princess



AFI
 No. 99
 'Toy Story'
 1995
 Rated G
 Pixar

Bride") lead the extras cast of toys with silly and sometimes cutting jokes. Annie Potts ("Ghostbusters") plays Bo Peep, and Jim Varney ("Ernest Scared Stupid") is Slinky Dog, while Don Rickles voices Mr. Potato Head.

I owned the clamshell of "Toy Story." Does anyone even remember clamshells? They were these over-sized plastic videotape cases that Disney put out. It made them stand out on the shelf at the video store, and also wreaked havoc on your home VHS library shelf, as nothing but other

clamshells would fit next to them. I was in high school at the time and fancied myself an appreciator of film. My mom bought "Toy Story" as a family present for Christmas in 1996, and I watched it. Often. The jokes were good. The animation was amazing. It was a good movie.

Turning it on to watch it again, I was worried that I would bump into the animation. The craft of computer art has become such that we can no longer distinguish between it and reality, so I was sure that the animation

from the '90s would look janky and rough.

I am more than a little bit of an animation snob. I love Max Fleischer cartoons. Chuck Jones is my go-to when it comes to "Looney Tunes" and "Pink Panther." I turn my nose up if the frame rate of a cartoon is less than 24 frames per second. (Not really. But I do recognize the difference, and would rather the time and money was taken for more.)

But the animation was not how I expected it to look.

At 24 frames per second, the motion is as smooth and fluid as ever. I suppose my main worry was not the frame rate, which at slower speeds causes a film to look, well, kind of cheap, with a lot of re-used poses and stills. I was also worried about the style of the animation. This was 30 years ago, when computer animation was in its infancy as far as making a full-length feature film. I thought it would be obvious the way watching early CGI effects are obvious in "real" films.

There are only three "real" people in the film. Andy and Sid and Andy's baby sister, and while the animation on them is not at all "realistic," it instead comes off as feeling like a style choice rather than a lack of skill.

The skill is there for certain. Technology has advanced. You can look at a newly minted film and see reflections in reflections and shadows five layers deep. But here we have toys, animated by people with computers. They took the time to do it right, even though compared to today, the creative timetable has been drastically decreased.

The animation holds up. It's fantastic. Sure, in later films they refined the movements even more, but everything looks amazing 30 years later.

So as a film of firsts, yes, "Toy Story" fits the bill as being important and ground-breaking, but it is also timeless. And look what it spawned — so many animated features that one can't keep up with them and a wave of computer animation that has reached its digital tentacles throughout cinema. It's a film that truly has pervaded pop culture.

The animation, score and actors all mesh perfectly, and the end result is an AFI Top 100 film.

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 Saturday: By appointment

*After-hours labs are available by appointment.
 *Please bring your physician's order for all laboratory services.

1500 Sand Point Rd., Munising, MI 49862 • (906) 387-4110 • munisingmemorial.org

EVENTS CALENDAR

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY MUNISING VISITORS BUREAU

If your event isn't listed, chances are we haven't heard about it yet. Send us the details, and we'll get it out there.

For calendar submissions: calendar@munisingbeaconmedia.com.

For subscriptions and delivery questions: circulation@munisingbeaconmedia.com.

For advertising: ads@munisingbeaconmedia.com. Or call us at 906-387-3282 — we're here for you.

Wednesday, Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

Grand Marais

New Year's Eve party: 5 to 9 p.m.; Grand Marais Tavern; salad and pizza buffet available.

No BS Band: 9 p.m. to midnight; Grand Marais Tavern.
Dance party: 10:30 p.m.; Dunes Saloon.

Munising

Deep Blue Fitness Workout Class: 9 a.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department.

St. Vincent pantry: noon; Get Away Drop-In Center.

Grief Support Group: 12:30 p.m.; Get Away Drop-In Center.

The Falling Rock Jammers, live music: 2 to 4 p.m.; Falling Rock Cafe & Bookstore.

Free open skate: 3 to 5 p.m.; Munising Hockey Association; \$2 skate rentals; donations accepted.

New Year's Eve party: Upper Peninsula Inspired; 4 to 10 p.m.; 321 E. Superior St.; first ball drop at 5 p.m.

Yoop Dog Yoga, Gentle Yoga: 6:30 p.m.; Down Wind Sports; donation-based.

New Year's at Barge Inn with Stranded and Drednot: 7:30 p.m.; Barge Inn.

Van Meer

DJ Heather Leigh and Acoustics: 8 p.m. to midnight; Bear Trap Inn.

Thursday, Jan. 1 New Year's Day

Munising

Alger Community Pantry: noon to 3:30 p.m.; 414 E. Munising Ave.; call 906-450-2390.

Acoustic Jam: 6 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge.

Deep Blue Fitness Workout Class: 5:30 p.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department.

Grand Marais

Food pantry: 3 to 5 p.m.; First Lutheran Church, E21681 Braziel St.

Notice

Casual/Party Bridge Group will not meet Jan. 1; for information, contact Lynn DeRoche at 906-202-2997.

Friday, Jan. 2 Munising

Deep Blue Fitness Workout Class: 5 a.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department.

Free open skate: 3 to 7 p.m.; Munising Hockey Association; \$2 skate rentals; donations accepted.

American Legion fish fry: 5 to 8 p.m.; American Legion.

Moose Lodge fish fry: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge.

Saturday, Jan. 3 Munising

Deep Blue Fitness Stretch and Mobility: 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department.

Yoga with Eryn and Bailey: 10 a.m.; First Presbyterian Church, Munising.

Sunday, Jan. 4 Munising

Silent Book Club: 2 to 4 p.m.; Falling Rock Cafe & Bookstore.

Grand Marais

AA meeting: 1 p.m.; basement meeting room, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 14058 H-58.

Monday, Jan. 5 Munising

Deep Blue Fitness Weightlifting Class: 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department.

SORVA trail report

Posted Dec. 29 at 10:13 p.m.

Score card from the Snowmobile and ORV Association of Alger County: good overall conditions; heavy snowfall; one general warning; zero trail warnings.

A significant snowfall across the system has set up some excellent riding conditions, with normal grooming operations resuming following storm cleanup. Crews were able to groom all of Trail 419 on Monday, along with the M-28 Spur (Trail 420).

All three groomers were scheduled to head out early Tuesday morning. Riders are reminded to ride as if a groomer is just around the next corner and to stay alert throughout the day as grooming operations continue. By daytime hours, all trails should see

coverage. Trail 417 out to Marquette will be groomed Tuesday evening, with a groomer stationed at Brownstone Junction.

Overall, riders should find some great riding across the system. The primary general warning at this time is for downed trees, which may still be present in areas following the storm.

Trail conditions

Trail 7 North — Christmas: Very good; groomed.

Trail 7 South — CR 440: Good; being groomed early morning.

Trail 8 North — Shingleton: Good; being groomed early morning; watch for downed trees.

Trail 8 East — Shingleton: Good; being groomed early morning.

Trail 8 West — Chatham: Good;

being groomed early morning.

Trail 417 — Brownstone Junction: Good; scheduled to be groomed Tuesday; 417 to Marquette groomed in the evening.

Trail 418 — Au Train: Good; scheduled to be groomed Tuesday.

Trail 419 East — Wetmore: Very good; groomed.

Trail 419 West — Munising: Very good; groomed.

Trail 422 — Miners Castle: Good; being groomed in the morning.

Wetmore Spur — Fair to good; groomed.

Riders are reminded to ride within their limits, watch for changing conditions and stay alert, especially in wooded and low-lying areas. Grooming will continue as weather and conditions allow.

Free open skate: 3 to 5 p.m.; Munising Hockey Association; \$2 skate rentals; donations accepted.

Alger County Road Commission meeting: 4 p.m.; E9264 M-28, Munising.

Moose bingo: doors open at 5 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge.

Gallery yoga: 5:30 p.m.; Gallery Coffee Company.

Pickleball open play: 6:30 p.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation; no cost to play; gym membership required for building access; mixed skill levels welcome.

Munising Township

Munising Township Board regular meeting: 7 p.m.; Munising Township Hall.

Tuesday, Jan. 6 Munising

Deep Blue Fitness Workout Class: 5 a.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department.

Pinochle: 1 to 5:30 p.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department; RSVP to Eileen Cummings at 906-892-8132.

Alger County Right to Life meeting: 2 p.m.; Munising Baptist Ministry Center.

Alger Community Pantry: noon to 3:30 p.m.; 414 E. Munising Ave.; call 906-450-2390.

Moose Lodge member meeting: 6 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge.

Grand Marais

Food pantry: 3 to 5 p.m.; First Lutheran Church, E21681 Braziel St.

Trenary

Trenary Lions Club: 7 p.m.; Community Building.

Chatham

Alger Eats Community Meal: 5 to 6:30 p.m.; Chatham Township Hall, next to the firehouse.

Wednesday, Jan. 7 Munising

Deep Blue Fitness Workout Class: 9 a.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department.

St. Vincent Pantry: noon; Get Away Drop-In Center.

Feeding America: noon to 2 p.m.; Wesleyan Church.

Kiwanis Club of Alger County member meeting: noon to 1 p.m.; Westminster Hall, First Presbyterian Church.

Grief Support Group: 12:30 p.m.; Get Away Drop-In Center.

Jammers!: live music; 2 to 4 p.m.; Falling Rock Cafe & Bookstore.

Lasagna pickup: 3 to 7 p.m.; American Legion Post 131, 610 W. Munising Ave.

Free open skate: 3 to 5 p.m.; Munising Hockey Association; \$2 skate rentals; donations accepted.

Yoop Dog Yoga, Gentle Yoga: 6:30 p.m.; Down Wind Sports; donation-based.

Munising City Commission meeting: 6 p.m.; City Hall.

Grand Island Shanty Club: 7 p.m.; East Channel Brewery.

Grand Marais

Sportsman's Club meeting: 7 p.m.; Community Center, E21738 Braziel St.

Thursday, Jan. 8 Munising

Casual/Party Bridge: noon to 4 p.m.; United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.; new players welcome; low-pressure group to learn or rebuild skills; call 906-387-3498 for information.

Alger Community Pantry: noon to 3:30 p.m.; 414 E. Munising Ave.; call 906-450-2390.

Deep Blue Fitness Workout Class: 5:30 p.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department.

Munising Bay Quilt Guild board meeting: 5 p.m.; Munising Township Hall, Wetmore.

Munising Bay Quilt Guild general membership meeting: 6 p.m.; Munising Township Hall, Wetmore.

Acoustic Jam: 6 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge.

Mathias Township

Mathias Township Board meeting: 7 p.m.; Mathias Township Community Building, E2997 State Hwy. M-67.

Grand Marais

Food pantry: 3 to 5 p.m.; First Lutheran Church, E21681 Braziel St.

Women's Club meeting: 7 p.m.; Community Center, E21738 Braziel St.

Friday, Jan. 9 Munising

Deep Blue Fitness Workout Class: 5 a.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department.

Free open skate: 3 to 7 p.m.; Munising Hockey Association; \$2 skate rentals; donations accepted.

Moose Lodge fish fry: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

American Legion fish fry: 5 to 8 p.m.; Legion Post 131.

Saturday, Jan. 10 Munising

Deep Blue Fitness Stretch and Mobility: 8:30 a.m. and 9 a.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department.

Yoga with Eryn and Bailey: 10 a.m.; First Presbyterian Church, Munising.

Onota

Onota Township Fire Department pancake breakfast: 10 a.m. to noon; Onota Township Hall.

Grand Marais

Villain Era Fundraiser: 6 p.m.; Community Center.

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December 31, 2025
Pick 3 for \$39.99

New Year's Eve Special
December 31, 2025

Pick 3
Includes complimentary appetizer & lobster dip for the table

SOUP OR SALAD
39.99

ENTREES

French onion soup, braised chicken & veal
dennis & paul's whitefish chowder
PIL caesar chicken hearts, maple walnuts
shrimp scampi (cherry butter sauce, sautéed
sauf & herb +22 hot food, lobster tail, garlic bread
new world chicken schaltel
classic tiramisu

DESSERT

fusion old
apple jack
bisco & brownies
cubic fever old
brown butter
southern hospitality
flat tire

WINE

maglio cabernet sauvignon
franco coppola chardonnay