



## SCHOOLS

# K-9 Nia helps deputy build relationships with students

By Jennifer Champagne  
Managing Editor

Deputy David Dyer has become a familiar face in school hallways across Alger County — though students are often quicker to ask about his K-9 partner than the deputy himself.

“If I show up for school without Nia, I pretty much get yelled at,” Dyer said with a laugh. “Where is the dog? Where is Nia?”

For the past three years, Dyer has served as a school resource officer for Superior Central, Burt Township School and Au Train-Onota Public School through a state-funded grant program coordinated with the Alger County Sheriff’s Office. Alongside him is Nia, a 2-year-old German shepherd trained to detect marijuana and vaping devices.

Together, the pair have become more than a security presence in

local schools. Administrators say Dyer’s role has evolved into one built around relationships, trust and visibility — particularly in an era when perceptions of law enforcement are often shaped by national headlines instead of local interactions.

“The biggest thing is when people think of cops, a lot of times it’s the negative part of it,” Dyer

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Courtesy of David Dyer  
Nia, a 2-year-old German shepherd, helps Deputy David Dyer build relationships in his role as a school resource officer.

Webster Marble left a legacy across the outdoors industry

# Innovator and icon

By Jennifer Champagne  
Managing Editor

Webster Marble, a pioneering inventor and outdoorsman, left an indelible mark on Michigan’s Upper Peninsula through his innovations and dedication to quality craftsmanship.

Born in 1854 in Milwaukee, Marble later moved with his family to Vassar and then to Frankfort, a small town on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Marble’s journey from those humble beginnings to becoming a prolific patent holder and influential figure in the outdoor industry reflected both ingenuity and entrepreneurial spirit.

Marble’s early life was shaped by his father, Lansing Marble, who was also an inventor. He instilled in Webster a love for the outdoors and a keen sense of curiosity. That influence would guide Marble throughout his life and career.

After spending his formative years exploring the wilderness and learning survival skills, Marble ventured into various trades, honing his abilities as a machinist and blacksmith. Those early experiences laid the groundwork for his future as an inventor.

Marble’s entrepreneurial journey began in 1898 with the founding of Gladstone Manufacturing Co. in the U.P. community that would become the heart of his business empire. The company primarily produced gun sights.

His breakthrough came with the Marble Safety Axe Co., where his Safety Pocket Axe — featuring a retractable blade shield — became a blockbuster product. Success at the New York Sportsmen’s Show confirmed the product’s popularity, prompting a name change that closely associated the company with the Safety Axe and Marble himself.

With an expanding range of successful outdoor products, including the Ideal Knife,



The illustration above depicts the Marble Safety Axe Co. factory in Gladstone as it appeared in 1907. Webster Marble, below, was a prolific inventor who held more than 60 patents.

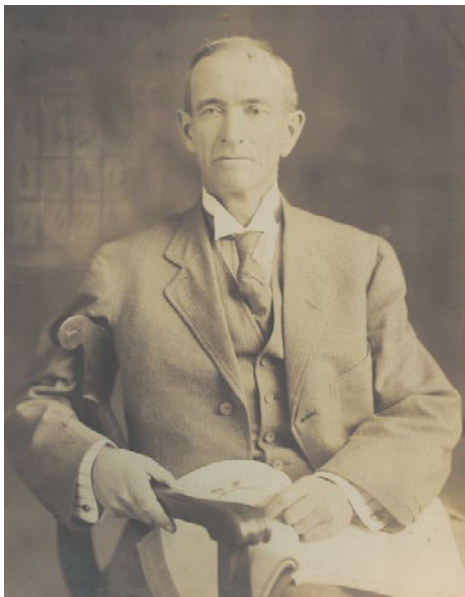
Waterproof Match Safe and Game Getter Gun, Marble rebranded the company one final time as Marble Arms and Manufacturing Co. to reflect its broadening scope.

The company’s location in Gladstone was strategic, providing access to abundant natural resources and a community that valued outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing.

Marble’s innovative spirit produced a range of outdoor tools and equipment that revolutionized the industry. The products were designed with outdoorsmen in mind, emphasizing safety, durability and practicality.

Marble’s understanding of the needs of outdoor enthusiasts set his products apart from competitors. His ability to anticipate and meet the demands of adventurers cemented his reputation as a pioneering inventor and businessman.

Marble was a prolific inventor, holding more than 60 patents throughout his career. His commitment to quality was



unwavering, and he insisted on rigorous testing and meticulous craftsmanship for every product that bore his name. That dedication to excellence earned Marble Arms a reputation for reliability and innovation.

One of Marble’s most significant contributions to the business world was his progressive approach to labor relations. At a time when he employed 400 to 500 workers, he welcomed unionization and implemented profit-sharing programs long before those practices became widespread.

Marble believed happy and motivated employees were essential to maintaining the high standards of his products. That forward-thinking approach fostered a loyal and skilled workforce, further enhancing the Marble Arms reputation for quality.

Marble’s marketing strategies were groundbreaking for his time. He was among the first to use celebrity endorsements, recognizing the power of influential figures in promoting his products.

Notable endorsements came from famous explorers, hunters, military figures and even American aviator Charles Lindbergh, lending credibility and allure to the Marble brand.

Marble personally wrote all the descriptions for his catalogs, infusing them with his passion for the outdoors and his products.

An astute marketer, Marble employed innovative techniques to track the effectiveness of his advertising campaigns. He used different addresses in

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## BUSINESS NEWS

# Hall, Cross honored by chamber of commerce

Local companies recognized as industry leaders

By Melissa Wentarmini  
Associate Editor

The Alger County Chamber of Commerce recognized two Munising-based construction firms — Hall Contracting and Cross General Contracting — as its 2026 Industry Leaders of the Year during the chamber’s annual celebration May 12 at East Channel Brewing Co.

The recognition marks the first time the chamber has presented the honor jointly to two businesses in the same industry, a decision chamber leaders said reflected not only the growth of both companies, but also their shared investment in the communities they call home.

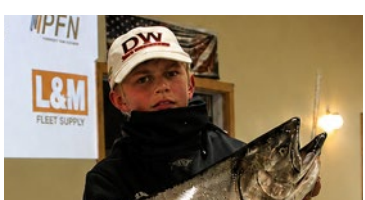
For Alger County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathy Reynolds, the similarities between the two businesses made the decision difficult to separate into a single recipient.

Both companies began as family-run operations focused largely on residential work before steadily expanding into major commercial construction projects across the Upper Peninsula. Both now maintain offices in Marquette while keeping roots in Munising and remain heavily involved in community organizations, sponsorships and volunteer work throughout Alger County.

Reynolds said the chamber ultimately felt the award needed to reflect not only commercial success, but also the broader role the businesses played in strengthening the community around them.

“You’ve got longtime residents, families, all doing great things,” Reynolds said. “They are not in it for the recognition at all. They

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## MORE INSIDE

Health: Upper Peninsula hospitals facing critical shortage of all blood types. Page 6

Community: Wyatt Erickson leads big weekend at Trout & Salmon Classic. Page 6

Business: ByGeorge Brewing expanding across UP through Pike partnership. Page 9



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Planning Commission sets public hearing for May 27

The Munising Planning Commission will hold a public hearing May 27 to consider three special and conditional land use requests within the city.

The hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. in the commission chambers at Munising City Hall, 301 E. Superior St.

John Madigan is seeking a special land use permit for a proposed hotel and condominium development on Parcel No. 051-484-014-00, which is zoned Lakeshore Two (L2).

Wacky Jack's is requesting a conditional land use permit to operate a marijuana establishment at 220 W. M-28 in a commercial-zoned district.

Jason Denman is applying for a special land use permit to convert the property at 601 W. Munising Ave. into a sporting goods store. The property is zoned Transitional (T).

Public comments may be submitted in writing to the city clerk's office through the close of business the day before the hearing or presented in person during the meeting.

## Sean Trudgeon is new pastor of United Methodist Church

Sean Trudgeon recently joined Munising United Methodist Church as pastor.

Trudgeon serves the congregation through worship leadership, pastoral care and ministry outreach while also serving as a DSA in the Northern Skies District as he works toward his local pastor license.

Church member Kim Swanberg described Trudgeon as a compassionate and community-minded pastor whose ministry focuses on helping people feel welcomed and supported. His sermons combine scripture with personal stories and reflections on everyday life in the Upper Peninsula.

In addition to leading services, Trudgeon prepares worship and livestream materials, writes prayers and provides support to congregation members during difficult times.

## State leaders vow to protect elections from interference

Michigan's top Democratic leaders said Friday they will protect the state's elections from interference, delays and intimidation following recent actions in other states and a U.S. Supreme Court ruling affecting federal voting protections.

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II and Attorney General Dana Nessel said Michigan's 2026 elections will proceed as required under federal and state law.

The statement followed the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Louisiana v. Callais, which removed key protections under the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry later suspended that state's congressional elections, while Tennessee approved a new congressional map that eliminated its only majority-Black district.

"States run elections," Benson said. "We will not allow anyone ... to interfere in our secure, independent process."

Whitmer said Michigan's elections remain "safe, efficient, fair and secure," while Nessel said the state "will remain secure and on schedule."

Michigan voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2018 creating the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw legislative and congressional district maps.

## Constitution Corner: Let's read our nation's rulebook

As the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary as a nation, The Beacon is printing the U.S. Constitution in its original wording, including the spelling and capitalization used at the time it was written. Here is this week's selection:



### Fourth Amendment

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly

describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

## NIA

Continued from Page 1

said. "Whereas the school resource officer is there to keep the kids or the schools safe, but a lot of it is just communicating, joking around, just getting along with the kids."

Alger County Sheriff Todd Brock said the role of a school resource officer goes far beyond enforcement.

"Our No. 1 priority at the sheriff's office and as a community as a whole is to take care of our youth," Brock said. "It's a friendly face for the kids. It's a face that we want the kids to be used to, comfortable with and know that law enforcement is a resource for them."

Brock knows the role personally. Early in his career, he spent about a decade working as a school resource officer and DARE instructor.

"It was the greatest job I ever had," he said.

Dyer rotates between the three districts during the week, while also teaching DARE classes at Munising Baptist School. The schedule can be complicated, especially while balancing his duties as a deputy with the sheriff's office, but Dyer said the investment has been worth it.

"There are times where it's kind of tough," he said.

"But then every once in a while you hear those stories, or a kid says they feel safer when you're there, and you realize you are making a difference."

One of those moments came recently from a special needs student who remembered Dyer mentioning his favorite color was red. The next day, the student handed him a carefully colored drawing of a red truck.

"That kind of makes you think, 'OK, you are making a difference,'" Dyer said. "Those little moments are what kind of makes it all worth it."

Administrators across the county say students have responded positively to both Dyer and Nia.

"I think there are a lot of positives," Superior Central Schools Principal and Superintendent Bill Valima said. "The intent of a school resource officer is to make it so that kids aren't afraid to talk to a law enforcement officer."

Valima said students often seek out Nia specifically.

"When Nia's not with him, they ask, 'Where is Nia?'" Valima said. "They're never like, 'Hey, Deputy Dyer's not here today.'"

At Burt Township School, Superintendent Kathleen Gould said Dyer has become "part of the culture of our school."

"That visibility is important in a small town," Gould said. "Students and staff look forward to her coming in. She's more popular than he is."

Gould said Nia adds another layer of support for students who may be struggling emotionally or socially.

"Even if it's just to bring a smile to a kid's face or to refocus them, that's really important," she said.

At Au Train-Onota School, Principal and Superintendent Bryan Tyner described Dyer as "made to be a school resource officer."

"He's super friendly. He's super approachable," Tyner said. "He gets down to the kids' level and jokes around and talks. His interaction with the kids is really good."

Tyner said Dyer's classroom confidence has grown substantially over the past several years.

"In the beginning, he was kind of the fun guy that would come in and do some lessons," Tyner said. "Now his classroom management skills have improved immensely, and the students respect and respond to him more as a teacher."

Ethan Van Bruggen, administrator of Munising Baptist School, said the DARE curriculum itself has also evolved.

"It's not all just about

drugs," Van Bruggen said. "It's about thinking properly and making good decisions."

Dyer agreed, noting that modern DARE programs now focus more heavily on life skills, peer pressure and decision making.

"It's definitely totally different than when we were going through school," Dyer said.

Beyond the classroom, Dyer also secured emergency backpacks for Alger County public schools through a 2% grant program. The bags include first aid kits, flashlights and emergency supplies designed for lockdowns or other crisis situations.

"I realized some schools needed updated emergency supplies and more standardized equipment," Dyer said. "Now they have backpacks with first aid kits, flashlights and other essentials ready if they're ever needed."

As the original state grant approaches its end, local districts and the sheriff's office are preparing to share costs in hopes of continuing the program long term.

"I hope we can continue with that and keep doing this until I'm retired," Dyer said.

For now, Dyer said he's simply grateful to be building relationships with students one conversation — and one wagging tail — at a time.

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**CHAMBER**

Continued from Page 1

do it because they like what they do, and they're hard workers."

Hall Contracting was established in 1984 by Tom Hall as a father-and-son residential construction company before gradually evolving into a commercial contractor working across hospitality, retail and multifamily projects throughout the region. Bromley Hall joined the company in the early 1990s, and today the business employs roughly 20 people with offices in both Munising and Marquette.

Although much of Hall Contracting's commercial work now takes place in larger markets such as Marquette, Hall said keeping the company based in Munising has remained personally important: "There's a reason that our home base, our home office is in Munising. I grew up here, and that's important to me."

Hall said one of the most meaningful projects tied to the company's history was Munising Memorial Hospital, replacing the hospital where he was born. While the company has completed projects throughout the Upper Peninsula, he said the hospital project carried a different level of significance because it connected the company directly back



Courtesy of Alger County Chamber of Commerce

**Celebrating Cross General Contracting and Hall Contracting were, from left, Debb Brunell, CEO of UP MI Works; Wade Cross; Jessica Kaleta of MI Works; Travis Cross; Kathy Reynolds, CEO of the Alger County Chamber of Commerce; Bromley Hall; and Tom Hall.**

to the community where it began.

That connection to Munising, Hall said, also extends to the company's broader economic impact. Even though much of Hall Contracting's work now happens outside Alger County, the company's payroll, investment and profits continue returning to the community where it remains headquartered.

"We live in such a small community but have been able to benefit the community for a lot of the work that happens outside of this community," Hall said.

Hall said the company's long-term success ultimately comes down to reputation and relationships.

"I really think that it's family values, being a family-owned contractor," he said. "If you're looking at doing things with integrity, honesty — in such a small area, I don't know how you could do it any other way."

Cross General Contracting traces its roots back even farther. The company was founded in 1969 in Steuben by Terry Cross as a one-man operation run out of a two-wheel-drive Ford pickup truck. Wade Cross said he and his brother Travis grew up in the company, going to work with their father as children before eventually taking over the business following Terry Cross' death in a woods

accident in 2007. Today, Cross General Contracting employs about 65 people and operates offices in both Munising and Marquette.

Cross described receiving the chamber recognition as both humbling and somewhat unexpected, particularly because the honor is being shared with another company he deeply respects.

"We believe that Hall Contracting fits that bill," Cross said. "We are just honored to have been included in an honor with Hall Contracting."

He said he and his brother often reflect on what their father would think if he could see the company today.

"The answer varies wildly from 'My boys have lost their minds' to humble, beaming pride that only a father can feel," Cross said. "I'm sure that he would be proud."

Cross said the company has intentionally tried to build a culture centered on integrity, accountability and trust, values he believes matter especially in small communities where reputations follow companies for decades.

"We genuinely take true, fair and honest personally," he said. "We would never shortcut a process or a client in order to make money or make a project successful."

He also credited the company's employees for much of its growth and

reputation throughout the region.

"If you're the smartest person in the room, you're in the wrong room," Cross said. "We have a smart, hardworking group of people. That is what makes us successful."

Reynolds said both companies ultimately stood out not simply because of the scale of their projects, but because of the way they continue investing time, money and leadership back into the community. Leaders from each business actively serve on local boards and

organizations while continuing to sponsor events and volunteer throughout the area. Reynolds said the chamber regularly hears positive feedback not only about the quality of the companies' construction work, but also about the way they conduct business and support the communities around them.

"You're out and about, you hear nothing but fantastic things about both companies," Reynolds said. "It just makes you proud when people talk about the good work that these businesses are doing."

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**M Mather Elementary STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

**Paisley Lynch**

Paisley Lynch, daughter of Jessica Lang and Brandon Lynch, has been named Student of the Week. She is a student in Mrs. VanBuren's Kindergarten class and was nominated by Mrs. Wing.

Paisley was chosen for her continuous efforts to be a model STANG and for being a great helper. She is respectful and puts forth great effort. If she is stuck on something, she will ask for help and not give up.

In school, her favorite activities are with her friends — playing Roblox on the playground and eating lunch. Outside of school, she likes to play kitchen with her cousin and go to Papa's. She has fun with her cat Peaches and dog Ace.

**Keep up the great work Paisley!**

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**M Munising Middle/High School Student of the Week!**

**Athena Platt**

Munising Middle/High School's Student of the Week is senior, Athena Platt. She is the daughter of William Platt.

Athena has a great sense of humor and great attitude. She works hard in all that she does. Athena has been in sideline cheer, competitive cheer and softball. She spends her summers working at Eh! Burger, and she also enjoys snowboarding and spending time with her friends.

In the fall Athena plans to attend Bay College to pursue a degree from Paramedic School.

**Congratulations to Athena and her family, keep up the great work!**

Sponsored by: **Alger County Chamber of Commerce** **Munising Downtown Development Authority**

## MARBLE

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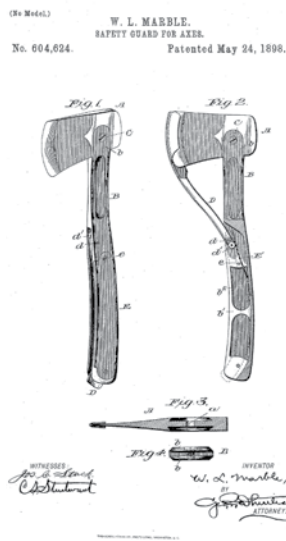
magazine advertisements to identify which publications generated the most interest and sales. That data-driven approach allowed him to refine his marketing strategies and maximize their impact.

Marble's understanding of consumer psychology was ahead of its time. He recognized people often desired his products not only for their utility, but also for their aesthetic appeal and the sense of adventure they embodied.

That insight guided his product design and marketing efforts, ensuring Marble Arms products were both functional and desirable.

Marble's legacy extends beyond his inventions and business acumen.

His influence is preserved and celebrated at the Webster Marble: Inventing



the Outdoors Museum in Escanaba. The museum, located inside the Visit Escanaba building, showcases Marble's life, inventions and impact on the outdoor industry.

The exhibit was initially showcased at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. It began when Dennis Pace, a private collector of Marble's work, brought

his collection to share with Sandra Clark, the museum's director.

Clark, who had not previously heard of Marble, was inspired by Pace's extensive collection and the compelling story behind it.

"Just as I was formulating the thought of asking him to loan these items to the museum for an exhibit, he asked if we would like to have them for our collections," Clark said.

That serendipitous moment led to the creation of an exhibit that not only highlighted Marble's contributions, but also aligned with the museum's mission to tell personal and impactful stories from Michigan's history.

The exhibit's journey to Escanaba was a collaborative effort fueled by community pride.

Pace played a crucial role in inspiring the exhibit, but it was Vickie Micheau,

executive director of the Delta County Chamber of Commerce, whose dedication helped bring the exhibit to fruition in Escanaba.

Her advocacy to return Marble's work to its roots was instrumental in securing the exhibit's permanent home.

The Michigan History Center, recognizing the exhibit's significance, collaborated to make it a lasting feature in Delta County.

"Webster Marble's story is a cornerstone of our local heritage," Micheau said. "Bringing this exhibit to Escanaba ensures future generations understand the profound impact he had on the outdoor industry and our community."

The establishment of the museum was not without challenges.

Micheau's ability to mobilize community support was crucial in overcoming obstacles and

securing the exhibit's permanent home. Her efforts, alongside those of Ann Jousma Miller, curator of the U.P. Military Museum, and Pace's contributions, exemplified the community's commitment to honoring Marble's legacy.

"We were determined to bring Webster Marble home to Delta County," Micheau said. "The community's response and support have been overwhelming, and it's a reflection of the pride we have in our local history."

Building the museum involved significant financial contributions from multiple sources.

The John and Melissa Besse Foundation donated \$1 million to construct the new Commerce Center, providing a substantial foundation for the project.

The community also engaged in successful crowdfunding efforts

through Michigan's Paternity program, raising \$50,000 that was matched by the state with an additional \$50,000.

The U.P. State Fair Authority supported the project with a loan of more than \$400,000. The Daniel J. Kobasic Foundation contributed more than \$200,000, helping ensure the project's completion.

The Michigan Economic Development Corp. also contributed a \$500,000 grant through the efforts of former state Rep. Beau LaFave.

In total, the efforts generated approximately \$2.2 million for the project.

*Editor's note: Look for the May 27 issue of The Beacon for the second installment of this two-part series. Part 2 examines how the Webster Marble exhibit evolved into a major tourism attraction for Escanaba.*

## SCHOOLS

## Anna River field trip explores salmon ecosystems

By Nicole Gearhart  
Beacon Correspondent

Students from two local school districts visited the Anna River last week as part of conservation projects they have been working on within their classrooms throughout the school year.

Sarah Shilman of Superior Central and Hilary Ludecke of Munising Public Schools have been leading their eight grade science students through a Salmon in the Classroom (SIC) project since last fall.

The aim of the SIC program is for students to raise salmon from eggs to fry while monitoring tank water quality and participating in stream habitat studies. Through these hands-on activities, hopes are to develop appreciation for water resources, foster conservation ethic and gain a deeper understanding of ecosystems.

John Highlen is the conservation chairperson for the Fred Waara Chapter of Trout Unlimited, which covers a



Courtesy of Superior Central Schools

Munising, Superior Central eighth graders study ecology during Anna River excursion.

large part of the Upper Peninsula, and said they currently work with 17 U.P. schools involved in the Salmon in the Classroom program. "It is basically a collaboration between the local Trout Unlimited chapter, the Michigan DNR and the school involved," Highlen said.

The DNR provides the fertilized salmon eggs in the fall and Trout Unlimited provides the equipment and support,

such as getting the equipment running, getting the eggs in and helping the teachers with questions or equipment problems. "In the spring, we help plan a big fish release in a local river approved by the DNR," Highlen said.

Ludecke has been working with SIC for a few years, and said students learn a lot about the life cycles of the fish through the program. "We get to watch the salmon hatch

from eggs, and then we raise them from that little sack fry stage all the way up to the par stage," Ludecke said. "At that point they're ready to go back into the river, and they imprint on the river. So they sense the chemistry of the water as they travel to the big lake."

Then salmon will spend a few years in Lake Superior. When they're of reproductive age, the salmon sample the

water and follow that same chemical imprint back to their natal stream — in this case, the Anna River — and swim upriver to spawn.

"Our first drop was in 2023, so we're starting to see some of those now adult fish come back up the river to spawn in the Anna," Ludecke said. "So we're establishing a population there, and it's kind of a neat thing."

In the meantime, the kids get to learn a lot about ecology and water quality.

"They learn about life cycles, and they learn about how the environment affects the quality of the fish that we pull out of the lake," Ludecke said. "It's so place-based because Munising does count on the fisheries for an economic input into our community. So it's very pertinent to the kids that live here."

As part of their lessons, Shilman's classes discussed the salmon life cycle, where the fish come from and why they're getting put into the Great Lakes. They have also been working on follow-up

activities, including studying stream and water-quality health.

"I think whenever there's real world applications, having to do with their own environment and things that they have experience with that you can incorporate into lessons, it's always more meaningful than just learning from a textbook or a website," Shilman said.

Having activities that kids can learn about science in their local environment is key, she said.

"It was a great field trip for us, and I think it was a positive experience for everybody," Shilman said. "We all enjoyed it, and we really appreciate all the people that came and put on all the different programs for us. We're still in the starting phase, but I'm loving it. I plan to keep incorporating it as much as possible, because it is a great program."

For more information on the Salmon in the Classroom program, visit fredwaara.org or michigan.gov/dnr.

## EARTH FEST 2026

## ACRES hosts data mining, AI and crypto presentation

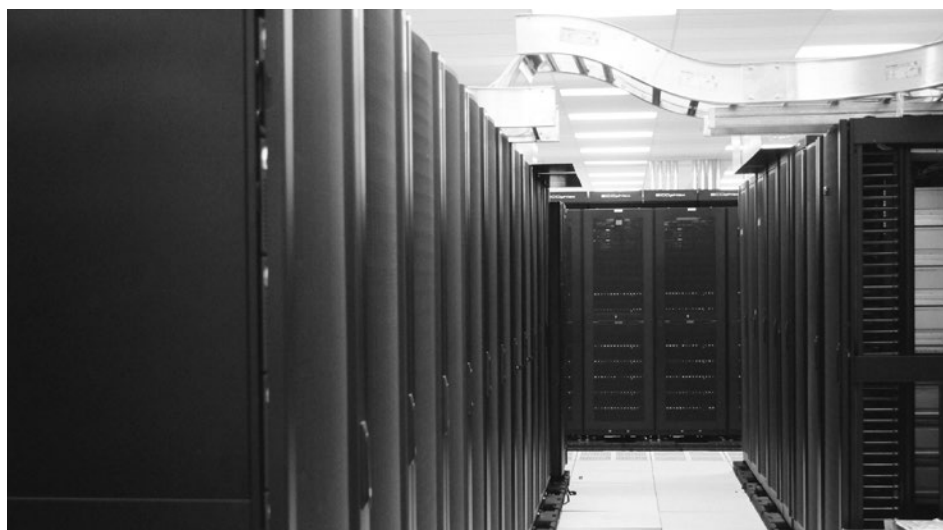
By Melissa Wentarmini  
Associate Editor

As conversations around energy use, emerging technology and large-scale infrastructure continue to surface across the Upper Peninsula, a recent Earth Fest 2026 presentation in Munising set out to answer a not-so-simple question: What's behind the technologies people are being asked to weigh in on?

Hosted by ACRES — Alger County Renewable Energy Solutions — the session on April 21 titled "Data Mining, AI and Crypto Pros/Cons" drew a modest but engaged audience, with 11 people attending in person and nine joining virtually. Both speakers are affiliated with Michigan Tech's Advanced Power Systems Research Center.

For ACRES board member Joan Potter-Sommer, the topic reflected both urgency and uncertainty. The group sought experts who could present the information clearly and without bias, giving residents a chance to better understand technologies often framed in extremes.

"People need to be informed so that the AI and data mining tools can be used in the best and most productive manner for the Earth and the living beings on it," she said.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Data centers support artificial intelligence discussed during EarthFest in Munising.

Dr. Vinicius Bonfochi Vinhaes, who leads training and curriculum development at Michigan Tech's Advanced Power Systems Research Center, began by placing AI in historical context. While many associate it with its recent surge into public awareness, the concept has been developing for decades.

"What changed wasn't really that this is a new idea," he told attendees. "What changed is that it became accessible for everybody now."

That shift has also accelerated anxiety. Vinhaes addressed those concerns by first stripping away the mythology. The machines with human consciousness,

emotions and desires that dominate science fiction, what researchers call general AI, have no evidence of existing today.

What does exist, he explained, is narrow AI: systems built to do specific things well, responding to input and using patterns in data to make predictions.

"It's just waiting for an input, and then it runs an algorithm, which is math, to reply," he said.

On the question of jobs, Vinhaes was candid: "Is artificial intelligence going to take our jobs? The honest answer is that it's complicated. If anyone comes and gives you a simple yes or no, they're not giving you the full picture."

He drew parallels to past technological shifts, such as the steam engine, electricity and the internet, none of which were painless or affected everyone equally. AI will likely follow the same pattern, and researchers, educators and policymakers are still working through what it will mean.

"I can't pretend that I have a clear answer," Vinhaes said. "What I can offer is what I believe to be the best preparation — understanding what all of these things are."

The presentation also covered cryptocurrency, which Vinhaes framed as a response to a real gap: A significant portion of the world's population has no access to banks or the formal economy.

Crypto allows anyone to store and transfer value without institutional permission, secured through a decentralized ledger replicated across thousands of computers worldwide.

Co-presenter Robert Waara described data centers as the physical backbone of all these technologies — facilities that have evolved from single rooms into large-scale operations running continuously.

"These are built on the order of a campus," he said, with some exceeding 200 acres and drawing anywhere from five to more than 100 megawatts of power, plus hundreds of thousands of gallons of water daily for cooling. Those demands have drawn scrutiny in communities across Michigan.

Vinhaes put the figures in

“*What changed wasn't really that this is a new idea. What changed is that it became accessible for everybody now.*”

Dr. Bonfochi Vinhaes

context: The same technologies driving that consumption are also being used to optimize power grids, model climate and design more efficient systems.

The smaller audience allowed for frank questions. One attendee asked whether the hundreds of jobs often cited in data center proposals are realistic. Waara, who spent much of his career in automotive manufacturing, was frank.

"If you did square foot for square foot, there's no comparison" to a manufacturing plant. Construction brings workers, he said, but long-term operations employ far fewer. Another attendee raised concerns about oversight — who controls these systems and what prevents misuse.

Vinhaes acknowledged it as a genuine concern. The guardrails, he said, are built by people, and getting them right matters.

"We have to be smart about how we are building those fences and rules for all of this artificial intelligence," he said.

Potter-Sommer hopes similar conversations continue — potentially with local officials in the room.

"Decision makers need to be informed while constituents need to hold them accountable," she said.

# FOR THE RECORD

## IN MEMORY

### Kenneth L. Bodell

Kenneth L. Bodell, age 90, of Madison, Wisconsin, and formerly of Bark River and Munising, Michigan died Sunday, Jan. 25, 2026 at Oak Park Place in Madison.

Graveside services will be at Maple Grove Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, 2026. His obituary and online guestbook may be viewed and signed at [bowermanfuneralhome.net](http://bowermanfuneralhome.net).

### Kip Cherry

Garnet E. "Kip" Cherry, age 79, of Munising died at his home under the loving care of his family and North Woods Hospice on Sunday, May 17, 2026. His obituary and tribute wall may be found at [bowermanfuneralhome.net](http://bowermanfuneralhome.net). A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

### Dial-A-Ride launched in 1976

100 years ago  
May 1926

**The Munising News**  
Munising Catholics packed Sacred Heart Church in May 1926 as Bishop Joseph Nussbaum visited the city to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class of more than 100 children and adults. The two-week parish mission leading up to the ceremony drew overflowing crowds, with evening services reportedly filling the church "to the doors."

Ionia Mayor Fred W. Green formally announced his candidacy for governor. Thousands reportedly attended "Fred W. Green Day" celebrations in his honor, with supporters from across Michigan gathering in Ionia for speeches, parades and campaign events.

Road improvements were another major topic locally. State officials announced plans for extensive Upper Peninsula highway work, including eight miles of concrete paving between Munising and Marquette. The project would eventually help create a continuous paved route between the two communities.

50 years ago  
May 1976

**The Munising News**  
Munising officials in May 1976 approved plans to launch Dial-A-Ride bus service on a one-year trial basis, marking a major step forward for public transportation in the area. The

system was designed to provide on-call transportation for residents through cooperation with the Michigan State Highway Department.

At the same time, city leaders wrestled with mounting infrastructure issues, including delinquent water and sewer bills totaling roughly \$30,000 and ongoing concerns over unmetered properties and aging plumbing systems. Commissioners debated stricter enforcement policies, including possible water shutoffs for overdue accounts.

Trenary High School prepared to graduate 14 seniors, while Eben High School announced 34 graduates for the Class of 1976.

25 years ago  
May 2001

**The Munising News**  
Memorial Day preparations were front and center across Alger County in May 2001 as veterans organizations announced ceremonies, cemetery services and a Blessing of the Fleet in Munising Harbor.

The Alger County Centennial Arena was also making headlines as supporters asked the Munising City Commission to explore refinancing options for arena debt and needed facility improvements. Leaders cited aging equipment, roof condensation problems and maintenance concerns as reasons additional financial planning was necessary.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### ACRES thanks Earth Fest supporters

To the editor:

It is with great appreciation that I write this letter. Earth Fest 2026 was a success. This was the fourth year that Alger County Renewable Energy Solutions (ACRES) collaborated with the Munising School Public Library to host events during Earth Fest Week.

Additional collaborative efforts throughout April included Armchair Trips at the Gallery and a Hotdog Social and Program with the Alger Conservation District at

the Au Train Community Center.

We are grateful to all who attended any of the Earth Fest 2026 events and a special thank you is extended to the 35 individuals who attended the DIY Small Scale Solar Installation Workshops and the instructors who volunteered their time to lead the discussions.

As a direct response to the interest generated during the recent DIY Small Scale Solar Installation Workshops, ACRES has partnered with three local homeowners to provide

guided tours of their solar arrays. The tours will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 23. The arrays are located at the following addresses: E4775 M28, AuTrain; E9795 CR-H58, Munising; 6301 Rock River Road, Chatham. Individuals who are interested in touring the three arrays can drive to them during the scheduled times. Participants who tour all three sites will be entered to win a \$25 debit card.

The arrays available for the tour range from 3kW

to 10.44kW in power output. Two are self-installed and the other professionally installed. Visitors will be able to see solar panels, mounting systems, inverters, and batteries. All systems are connected to the electrical grid and homeowners will be present to answer questions.

Again, ACRES is appreciative of the Community's support. Earth Fest 2026 would not have been the success it was without you.

**Joan Potter-Sommer**  
ACRES Chair/Organizer

## ALL ABOUT TOWN WITH MARY JAYNE



Mary Jayne Halifax / Courtesy of Superior View

For decades, the work of Munising photographer Mary Jayne Halifax graced the pages of **The Munising News** in a regular feature titled **All About Town with Mary Jayne**, including this undated photo, believed to have been taken in the late 1940s or early 1950s, showing a worker during a sea lamprey harvest operation near a local river. (If you can identify him, please let us know at [news@munisingbeaconmedia.com](mailto:news@munisingbeaconmedia.com).) Now, thanks to Jack Deo of Superior View and Halifax's daughters, her historical photos will be featured in **The Munising Beacon**. Deo has offered to make 5-by-7 prints of Halifax's photos for \$5 each. Visit [viewsofthepast.com](http://viewsofthepast.com) for details.



## Your Voice Matters

Letters to the editor keep community dialogue alive.

[editor@munisingbeaconmedia.com](mailto:editor@munisingbeaconmedia.com)

## Munising Memorial Hospital - Conference Room

**1-5 p.m. | Monday, June 1**  
**1500 Sand Point Road, Munising**



# COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



**Together we can make a difference — one pint at a time.**

Donate blood and help save lives across the Upper Peninsula.

Someone in the United States needs blood or platelets every two seconds.

All blood donated through the Upper Peninsula Regional Blood Center stays in the Upper Peninsula and supports local patients receiving lifesaving care at area hospitals. A single donation can help save up to three lives.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 906-449-1450.



THE TRAILHEAD

# Dirt season has arrived: Trails are officially open

The snow is finally gone, mostly, and trails maintained by the Munising Bay Trail Network (MBTN) are officially open for hiking, biking, running, dog walking and more.



**Rhonda Lassila**

*Beacon Columnist*

Opening more than 50 miles of trail this early is no small task. MBTN is fortunate to have a dedicated core of volunteers willing to put in countless hours to make these trails accessible for everyone to enjoy. A huge thank you goes out to every volunteer who spent time clearing debris, removing fallen trees and helping get the trails ready for the season ahead.

This winter left the forest floor covered in debris, with hundreds of fallen trees blocking trails throughout the network. Volunteers spent long days hiking with flicking poles and carrying chainsaws to clear routes and make the trails safe again. The outdoor community here is passionate, hardworking and deeply invested in the

public lands surrounding Munising — one of the many reasons this area is such a special place to live and explore.

Strong winds, saturated soils and heavy rain continue to bring down branches and trees, meaning trail maintenance never really stops. Every trail user can help. Taking a moment to move a branch off the trail instead of riding or walking over it can make a big difference. Small efforts from many people go a long way toward keeping trails enjoyable for everyone all season long.

Great trails do not happen by accident. They exist because people care enough to build and maintain them.

**May 16 Trail Update**

**City Trails:** Dry, cleared and riding well. A reminder to all bike park users: helmets are mandatory. Parents, please ensure children are wearing helmets as well. Safety comes first. If you need assistance

obtaining a helmet, contact MBTN at [info@mbtn.org](mailto:info@mbtn.org).

**Bruno's Run:** Clear and ready for all users.

**Valley Spur:** Doing Oak Eh, Just Beechy and Cedar Streak are all cleared of deadfall and debris. Hemlock Valley still has a few sections farther from the trailhead requiring additional cleanup work. Riders should continue using caution, as several areas experienced damage from uprooted trees and changing tread conditions. Repair work is ongoing.

**Pine Line:** Cleared from the Wetmore Recreation Area to the Chamberlain Road crossing. Logging operations near the airport on the west side of H-13 will continue for the next few weeks, so that section will remain uncleared until work is complete. Please avoid the area during active operations.

New trail maps are available at Down Wind Sports and South Bay Outfitters. For continued trail updates, follow the MBTN Facebook page.

**Membership Month**

May is membership



Mike Verhamme

**Downed trees block an MBTN trail following winter storms and high winds.**

month and one of the most important opportunities to support the future of the trail system. Memberships help MBTN secure grants, improve trail quality and expand recreational opportunities throughout the area.

This year's membership includes a local business perk card valid through April 30, 2027. Members can enjoy discounts at participating businesses while supporting the trails they use and love.

You can join or renew your annual membership at [mbtn.org](http://mbtn.org).

**Upcoming Events**

**Hiawatha's Revenge**

**Gravel Ride:** The 12th annual ride takes place Saturday, June 6, with an 8 a.m. rollout (from the Upper Parking lot) at Valley Spur Recreation Area. Riders can choose 50K, 100K or 100-mile routes through the Hiawatha National Forest. This is a free, self-supported group ride, although donations supporting local trail maintenance are appreciated.

**Big Local Good Day:**

Support the trails by visiting Slabz Bar & Grill on Monday, June 8. Mention

you are supporting the trails and 10 percent of your bill will be donated to MBTN at no additional cost. Volunteers will be onsite throughout the day with trail maps, information and merchandise.

**Pictured Rocks Road**

**Race:** Volunteers are still needed for road crossings and start/finish line support for the June 28 event. Anyone interested in helping can reach out through [info@mbtn.org](mailto:info@mbtn.org).

Additional trail updates and event information are available at [mbtn.org](http://mbtn.org) throughout the season.

Health Matters

# Critical shortages continue impacting U.P. blood supply

In the time it takes to read this column, more than 100 people in the United States will need blood or platelets.

The United States faces a critical and growing need for human blood, with demand continuing to outpace supply. Rural communities are especially vulnerable to shortages because of limited resources, weather-related travel issues and seasonal illness.



**Rikki Ake**

*Beacon Columnist*

Blood is truly precious. It is used every day to help people facing trauma, surgery, cancer treatment and other medical emergencies. Yet only a small percentage of the population is eligible to donate.

Strict regulations are in place to ensure blood products are as safe as possible for transfusion. Eligibility criteria generally include being in good health, meeting age and weight requirements and not having certain medical conditions or risk factors.

In 2017, the need for blood became deeply personal to me. My father died from acute blood loss after receiving more than 50

units of blood products during a MTP, or mass transfusion, event. That experience reinforced what I had already learned through years of working in transfusion medicine — volunteer blood donors are extraordinary people.

For more than 17 years, I have worked with human blood products. I began my clinical laboratory career at the UPHS Blood Center in Marquette, where I learned the process of collection and preparation of human blood for transfusion. I later joined Munising Memorial Hospital, where I oversee the testing and matching process in our transfusion medicine department.

Despite ongoing challenges, the UPHS Regional Blood Center continues supplying blood products

to 12 Upper Peninsula hospitals. Blood collected through the UPHS Regional Blood Center stays in the Upper Peninsula and is used to treat our friends, families and neighbors during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

The need is urgent. The UPHS Blood Center is currently experiencing a shortage of all blood types.

When a unit of blood is donated, it can be separated into multiple blood products. Packed red blood cells are used to treat anemia caused by conditions such as cancer treatment or blood loss from accidents and surgeries. Plasma is used to treat coagulation defects and increase proteins and antibodies. Platelets are used to treat coagulation disorders and help control bleeding.

These products also have limited shelf lives. Red blood cells must be used within 42 days of collection, while platelets have a shelf life of only five to seven days. Because of this, blood donation centers

are constantly searching for prospective donors.

Munising Memorial Hospital receives its blood products from UPHS and also hosts blood drives several times each year.

The donation process begins with reading educational materials and completing a questionnaire regarding health history and lifestyle risk factors. Donors then complete a brief medical screening to ensure they are healthy

enough to donate before the collection process begins. Including recovery time, the entire process usually takes about an hour.

The UPHS Blood Center has an experienced and dedicated team skilled in blood collection techniques. Anyone interested in learning more, asking questions about eligibility or receiving additional information can contact the U.P. Regional Blood Center at 906-449-1450.

The next blood drive at Munising Memorial Hospital will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. on Monday, June 1 in the Maple Conference Room.

Please consider joining us and giving the gift of life.

And to those who already donate regularly, thank you. From the front lines, you are making a difference every day. Every donation can help save multiple lives in the community.

LIBRARY NEWS

# Now closed through June 8

By Lisa Cromell and Kaylee Veneberg  
*Munising School Public Library*

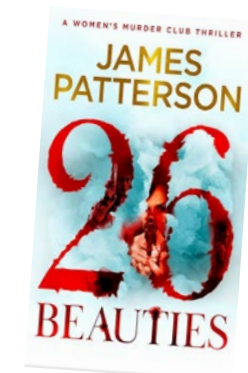
The Munising School Public Library will temporarily close from Saturday, May 23 through Monday, June 8. It will reopen on June 9 in a smaller summer location within the school, where we will remain for the duration of the renovation project. If you have questions, please feel free to call the library at 906-387-2125. Feel free to ask us about the summer repairs to the building and when our space will get back to normal. No worries, we will still keep you in books whether you want physical materials or ebooks, Munising Library has you covered.

digital archive that is super easy to use. Stop by and we will be happy to show you all of the tips and tricks for doing research via the local newspapers with our keyword searching capabilities. Within minutes, users are able to locate the people and events that shaped our county's history. If it was in the paper, we have it. The archive is exclusively for use at the library.

**New book**

"26 Beauties" by James Patterson. The Women's Murder Club goes searching for 26 beauties — young women missing in San Francisco. SFPD Sergeant Lindsay Boxer's best friend, Claire Washburn, is named medical examiner of the year.

But an uninvited guest crashes the Women's Murder Club's party: a concerned



father seeking investigative reporter Cindy Thomas's help in locating his missing daughter. And she's not the only one.

Lindsay's been investigating the deaths of a Jane Doe washed up on a nearby beach and a young woman found in Golden Gate Park. What if all these cases are connected?

The answers lie with the 26 Beauties on the run and in the wind. (Provided by publisher).



"Advertising with the Munising Beacon has played a key role in boosting awareness of the services we offer at Munising Memorial Hospital. The Beacon was instrumental in promoting our open house event — and the results spoke for themselves. We welcomed more than 200 community members through our doors. The visibility and reach made a real impact, and we're grateful for the strong community connection it continues to build."

— Robin Bergamasco, Director of Human Resources and Marketing



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## SPORTS

## SUPERIOR CENTRAL ROUNDUP

## Lady Cougars continue winning streak

By Ben Murphy  
Beacon Correspondent

The Superior Central softball team continued its offensive surge last week, sweeping doubleheaders against Carney-Nadeau and Stephenson while piling up runs in all four games.

On Monday, May 11, the Lady Cougars earned 16-1 and 33-10 victories at Carney-Nadeau.

Kiera McDonald earned the win in the opener, allowing one run on one hit while striking out five.

At the plate, McDonald, Hope Brunngraber and Kylie Stuer each collected two hits.

In game two, Stuer and McDonald shared pitching duties. McDonald again led the offense with three hits, while Marlene Johnson and Rory Hancock added two hits apiece.

Superior Central followed with two more wins Thursday at Stephenson, defeating the Eagles 28-1 in three innings and 17-6 in five innings.

McDonald picked up the win in the opener, allowing one run over three innings while striking out one and walking one.

She also powered the offense with five hits, including a triple and a double, and scored five runs. Janessa Perron and Hancock both recorded three hits, while Stuer added a triple, double and single.

McDonald pitched most of the second game as Superior Central completed the sweep. Addie Frusti led the team with three hits, McDonald added a triple and double, and Stuer finished with two hits.

Superior Central hosted Manistique on Monday and travels to Bark River-Harris on Wednesday for its



Kris Uehlein

Superior Central's Kiera McDonald slides safely into second base during recent action against Forest Park.

regular-season finale. The Lady Cougars will also host a Division 4 district tournament Saturday, May 30, opening against Newberry.

"We had four wins last week. That's quite a few wins in a row now," head coach Rich Swajanan said. "We lost to North Dickinson recently, but we could not find the plate in that game."

### Cougars shine regionally

The Superior Central track and field teams turned in a strong performance Wednesday, May 13, at the Division 3 regional meet in Rapid River, with the girls team finishing second and the boys team placing third. Multiple athletes also qualified for the U.P. Finals.

For the girls team, Meredith Kempker finished second in the 100-meter dash to qualify for the U.P. Finals, while Kiera McDonald placed third to also advance with times of 14.03 and 14.16 seconds. In the 200, Marlene Johnson placed second and Kempker finished third, both qualifying with times of 29.80 and 30.50. Johnson also finished second in the 400 in 1:06, while Kendra Johnson placed fourth in the 800 with a qualifying time of 3:01.

Addie Frusti took third in the 1,600 to qualify with a time of 6:50, while Kendra Pederson placed third in the 3,200 in 15:05. Emma Stoliecki finished third in the 100 hurdles to qualify and also placed fifth in the 300 hurdles.

Superior Central also qualified both its 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams after winning both events in 57.46 and 2:00. The relay teams consisted of Johnson, McDonald, Elaina Karvinen and Kempker.

McDonald finished eighth in the shot put, Frusti was ninth in the discus and Karvinen placed fourth in the high jump to qualify for the finals. Karvinen also won the long jump with a qualifying leap of 14-4.

For the boys team, Will Spranger won both the 100 and 200 to qualify for the U.P. Finals with times of 11.61 and 23.62. Cole Ozoga placed third in the 100 and Chris Kulik was fourth, with both also qualifying in times of 12.19 and 12.20. Carter Korpi finished fourth in the 800 with a qualifying time of 2:19, while Scott Losee placed 10th in the 1,600 and seventh in the 3,200. Spranger also added another regional title in the 300 hurdles with a qualifying time of 45.84.

The Cougars qualified two

relay teams for the finals. The 4x100 team of Jack Kasten, Ozoga, Juddson Rondeau and Kulik finished second in 49.20, while the 4x200 team of Ozoga, Cody Moore, Rondeau and Spranger also placed second in 1:43.

Connor Blomgren won the shot put with a qualifying throw of 40-3 and placed second in the discus with a qualifying mark of 113-5. Moore finished fourth in the long jump to qualify with a leap of 17-4.5.

Superior Central competed Tuesday at the Skyline Conference meet at North Dickinson and will close the season May 30 at the U.P. Finals in Kingsford.

### Cougars fall twice

A series of miscues proved costly for Superior Central as the Cougars dropped a pair of games Thursday to Ishpeming Westwood, losing 13-0 and 7-2.

"We gave them quite a few extra outs and couldn't handle the baserunning," head coach Greg Mannisto said. "It was lopsided from the start. Westwood's pitcher had us demoralized, striking us out seven times until Aidan Korpi got the first and only hit for the game."

Isaac Rondeau started game

one and took the loss after pitching two innings with three strikeouts. Brandon Boyak also threw two innings and struck out two batters.

In game two, Gavin Vining took the loss after pitching two innings and striking out three while allowing four runs. Ryder Kroupa pitched four innings and struck out five.

At the plate, Boyak recorded two hits and an RBI, while Jaykob Dahm added a double and scored a run.

Superior Central also dropped two games Wednesday, May 13, at North Dickinson by scores of 14-4 and 3-2.

Korpi made his first pitching appearance of the season in game one and took the loss after pitching three innings and striking out two batters.

"We were needing Aidan to get us through a couple innings. It was a brutal stretch of games the last couple weeks. The defense did him no justice," Mannisto said.

Andrew Charlebois and Boyak each finished with one hit and one RBI.

Game two was a close battle as Charlebois pitched all six innings, allowing three runs on three hits while striking out four. North Dickinson secured the win on a walk-off single in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Rondeau hit a double and drove in a run, while Kroupa doubled and scored once.

Superior Central split a doubleheader Monday, May 11, against Bark River-Harris, winning the opener 5-3 before falling 2-1 in the second game.

Dahm earned the win in game one after pitching a complete game, allowing three runs and striking out eight.

"It was a well-pitched game on both sides," Mannisto said. "Jaykob only gave up one hit through four innings. They put a couple hits together to score in the fifth and another in the sixth, but he was in control all game."

Charlebois delivered a two-run hit in the third inning, scoring Korpi and Dahm. Eli Valima and Vining later scored on RBI hits from Korpi and Rondeau in the fourth inning, while Boyak singled to lead off the fifth and eventually scored.

Rondeau took the tough-luck loss in game two despite pitching all six innings, allowing two runs on one hit while striking out seven.

"Bark River made us pay for a couple errors. It was a tough loss for Isaac," Mannisto said. "On the other side of the hill, the Broncos' pitcher was rolling as well. He struck us out 14 times. We couldn't adjust to the velocity. Vining broke up the no-hitter in the fifth, then in the sixth Rondeau led off the inning with a triple and scored on a wild pitch. Dahm doubled and Andrew Charlebois bunted his way on, but with no outs we couldn't get the tying run across."

Superior Central hosted Marquette on Monday, hosts Powers North Central on Thursday and travels to Hancock on Friday, May 29, for a Division 3 district semifinal matchup against Calumet.

## MUNISING ROUNDUP

## Adkinson, Bowerman headline regional performance

By Ben Murphy  
Beacon Correspondent

The Munising track and field team competed Friday at the Division 2 regional meet in Bark River-Harris, where the Mustangs' boys team placed fifth and the girls team finished fourth.

Dylan Adkinson had a strong day for the boys team, qualifying for the U.P. Finals in the 100-meter dash, 200 and 400. He finished second in the 100 with a time of 11.88 seconds, third in the 200 in 24.27 and fourth in the 400 in 54.78.

Tyson Devries-Johns placed eighth in the 800, Dylan Krause finished seventh in the 1,600 and Blake Lakosky took fourth in the 3,200 to qualify for the U.P. Finals with a time of 11:07. Prion Shalom finished seventh in the 300 hurdles and ninth in the 110 hurdles.

Munising qualified three relay teams for the finals. The 4x800 relay team of Devries-Johns, Lakosky, Krause and Ben Dryke finished second in 9:16. The 4x400 relay team of Keelan Hase, Levi Hauler, Dryke and Adkinson took fourth in 3:49, while the 4x200 team of Hase, Keenan Nesberg, Jacob Coppock and Hauler also finished fourth in 1:42.

Avery Murk finished second in the shot put to qualify for the U.P. Finals with a throw of 40 feet, 11.25 inches. Shalom placed fourth in the high jump to qualify



Renee Bowerman

Munising's Addie Bowerman, center, prepares to race alongside Rudyard's Emma DeYoung, left, and Iron Mountain's Lindsey Lewandowski in the girls 100-meter hurdles at the MHSAA U.P. Region 44-2 meet Friday at Bark River-Harris. Bowerman won the event in 17.57 seconds.

with a leap of 5-6.

For the girls team, Olivia Cotey placed sixth in the 100, fifth in the 200 and third in the 400 to qualify for the U.P. Finals with a time of 1:05. Addie Bowerman won the 100 hurdles to qualify and finished second in the 300 hurdles in 52.14 to also advance.

Bowerman also won the shot put to qualify for the U.P. Finals with a throw of 29-4. Piper Grabowski finished eighth in the discus and Jersey Lassila was seventh in the long jump.

Munising competed Tuesday at the Skyline Conference meet at North Dickinson and will travel to Kingsford for the U.P. Finals on May 29 to close out the 2025 season.

### Lady mustangs surge

The Munising softball



Kris Uehlein

Munising softball coach Jim Maxon meets with the Lady Mustangs during a mound visit. Munising swept Forest Park last week to improve to 7-9.

team continued its strong late-season play Thursday, sweeping Crystal Falls Forest Park at home with 15-5 and 21-17 victories. The opener ended after five innings.

Bailey Tyner earned the

win in both games as the Lady Mustangs improved to 7-9 overall this season.

"At the risk of sounding like a broken record, this team continues to meet and exceed our expectations, and I couldn't be prouder of how

they have worked," head coach Jim Maxon said.

Munising played at North Dickinson on Monday in a makeup game. The Mustangs travel to Gwinn on Wednesday before closing the regular season at home

Thursday against Rapid River. Munising will also face Rapid River in a Division 4 district semifinal Saturday, May 30, at Superior Central.

### Rautanen leads mustangs

Munising golfers close out regular season

The Munising golf team competed in its final two meets of the regular season last week.

On Thursday, May 14, the Mustangs competed in the Big Bay Invitational at Garden Golf Course.

Makai Rautanen led the boys team, placing third overall with an 18-hole score of 81. Weston Jones shot a 96, Jaris Goings recorded a 97, Levi Syers finished with a 104 and Dawson Heyrman carded a 129.

For the girls team, Jersey Lassila shot a 133 and Natalia St. Amour recorded a 174.

Munising then competed Monday at the Skyline Conference meet, hosted by Gladstone at Terrace Bluff Golf Course.

Rautanen led the Mustangs with an 88. Heyrman shot a 112, Jones carded a 115, Goings finished with a 117 and Gordon Robare recorded a 144.

Munising returns to action Wednesday, May 27, at the Division 2 U.P. Finals at Portage Lake Golf Course in Houghton.

## CITY GOVERNMENT

## Water costs spark concern

By Melissa Wentarmini  
Associate Editor

A week after residents packed Munising City Hall to push back against a proposed utility increase, many returned Wednesday night looking for clarity about how much more the city's aging water system may ultimately cost them. A central concern expressed at both meetings was what the city's plans are when utility costs exceed what residents can realistically absorb.

Commissioner Rod DesJardins said the city is obligated to provide water and sewer and can only charge what it must to do so. Then he acknowledged the other side of that: it also has to charge as much as necessary to maintain the system. Neither reality was the one the gathered citizens were looking for.

That tension sat at the heart of a nearly 90-minute special meeting of the Munising City Commission. The city knows water infrastructure costs money. Residents, while understanding that, know they are already stretched. The gap between those two facts is where Munising finds itself now.

The May 13 meeting was called specifically to address questions left over from the previous week, when a proposed 13.4% increase to the water portion of the utility bill drew more than an hour of public pushback. City Manager Michelle Harrison opened Wednesday by acknowledging the confusion separating the water and sewer utilities. The May 13 presentation, she reiterated, would focus on water only.

The number that matters most for most households is the city's recommended water increase would add about \$8.25 per month to the average residential bill. Households would see their water-only bill rise with a new per-gallon rate of \$0.01049 and a monthly water service fee rising from \$24.65 to \$27.96.

Harrison walked through why the city needs more than inflation — the CPI figure referenced during the meeting — alone would justify. The water system brings in about \$1,353,000 a year in user-fee revenue and spends about \$1,273,000, leaving about \$80,000 for reserves. But bond and loan requirements, along with the practical demands of running a water system, require the city to set aside \$190,000 a year for repair and replacement. Under the current rate structure, it is falling \$110,000 short of that target every year.

Harrison shared concrete examples of those repair and replacement costs. A lift station pump that cost \$4,500 in 2012 runs about \$15,000 today. Fire hydrants that cost \$3,200 in 2010 cost about \$8,700 now. Eight-inch water main pipe went from \$31 a foot in 2010 to \$102 a foot in 2025. One-inch copper tubing went from \$4 a foot in 2014 to \$21 a foot today.

The city has about 20 miles of water mains, 160 fire hydrants and six groundwater wells. All require maintenance to provide safe and reliable services to residents.

“

*If you can only get \$1 million from the state and the city has to pay \$5 million for the project, a larger loan at a higher rate may still be the only workable path.*

Rod DesJardins

”



There are two projects driving this year's increase beyond the usual inflation adjustment. The Washington Street project, a full replacement of a water main, sewer main and road surface along a corridor the city identified as a need back in the late 1990s, carries a total cost of about \$6 million, with the water portion financed through a bond of approximately \$1.719 million.

The water main there is aged, undersized and has lead joints. The sewer main also is failing. About \$2 million in grant funding is available to restore the road surface above, but only if the underground work happens first.

DesJardins said the grant for road restoration was “quite rare” and not interchangeable with the water and sewer costs. “The water is the water, the sewer is the sewer,” he said. “And the grant is to restore everything above it.”

Resident Joe Case pressed the city on financing. He wanted to know whether the city had pursued State Revolving Fund loans, which typically carry lower interest rates, before settling on USDA Rural Development financing for the project.

Officials said the city had applied for state funds but had not qualified for the Washington Street project. Case pushed for a precise answer on that point, saying he was not trying to be difficult but needed to know whether lower-cost options had actually been sought and denied.

DesJardins said a lower interest rate does not automatically mean better terms if it comes with less funding. “If you can only get \$1 million from the state and the city has to pay \$5 million for the project, a larger loan at a higher rate may still be the only workable path,” he said.

The second project, a state-mandated lead service line replacement, carries a total cost of about \$2.77 million, split between a \$1.385 million state grant and a \$1.385 million bond. An 11% water rate increase, the presentation slides noted, is the minimum required to qualify for the bonds financing both projects. Higher rates would be needed in a subsequent year to fully meet repair and replacement reserve requirements.

Commissioner Brice Burge raised questions about large, outside-city water users, specifically the Alger Correctional Facility. He said outside users appeared to account for roughly 30% of total water consumption while representing a small number of accounts and asked whether higher rates for

those customers could take some pressure off city residents. Harrison said customers outside city limits already pay 1.5 times the residential rate, per-gallon.

Burge also asked about comparisons to neighboring communities — a question that has come up repeatedly. Harrison cautioned that water bill comparisons across municipalities are difficult to make fairly. Houghton, she noted, has roughly four times Munising's population and about three times as many households. Larger communities spread fixed infrastructure costs across more customers. Munising serves about 1,030 water customers across a system that costs nearly the same to run regardless of how many people are on it.

Burge expressed dissatisfaction near the end of the meeting, noting he was “very upset about this entire process” — specifically noting the gap between the technical information driving the decision and what residents had been given the chance to understand. Several speakers echoed that frustration, saying meeting materials were hard to find on the city's website, that the PowerPoint had not been posted in advance and that clearer public access to financial documents, policies and planning records would help residents engage before a proposal reaches a vote.

Former commissioner Zach Eckert made a candid admission from the public comment seat. He said he had learned more about Munising's water system in the two recent meetings than in his three years on the commission — and that was partly his own fault for not pressing harder while he was in office. He thanked current commissioners for doing a job that involves far more homework than most residents know, while urging them to find other cost reductions where possible, including energy expenses that affect city operations like the water system itself.

Mayor Chris Berry acknowledged the answers the commission was giving were not the ones people wanted to hear. But she said the city has no real alternative to maintaining its infrastructure if it wants to attract families and support growth, noting that without a functioning water system, Munising cannot progress. “In order to move forward, we have to keep these reserves up or else we won't be able to,” she said.

No vote was taken Wednesday and the commission did not set a timeline for a final decision.

Munising City Commission meetings are available on the City of Munising's YouTube page.

## LMAS salutes home visiting

By Leann Espinoza  
LMAS District  
Health Department

The second annual National Home Visiting Week, observed April 20-24, was a time to recognize home visitors and the meaningful impact they have on maternal and child health outcomes.

Parenting can be challenging, but home-visiting professionals walk alongside families every step of the way — empowering parents, building confidence and fostering resilience. Through a variety of evidence-based models, home-visiting programs support healthy birth outcomes, promote family self-sufficiency and help ensure children enter school ready to succeed.

The LMAS District Health Department proudly offers four home-visiting programs that work together to support young families across our communities:

## Maternal Infant Health Program

MIHP is a free insurance benefit available to pregnant individuals and infants covered by Medicaid. The program provides essential support services to promote healthy pregnancies, positive birth outcomes and infant well-being. Services are delivered by registered nurses and licensed social workers.

## Healthy Families Upper Peninsula

This program offers home visits from highly trained family support specialists who partner with families to strengthen parenting skills and support child health and development. HFUP also connects families to community resources and helps them work toward self-sufficiency, fostering safe, stable and nurturing home environments.

## UP MOM Program

The UP MOM Program takes a whole-person approach to care, supporting women during pregnancy and up to 12 months postpartum. Community health workers assist individuals who have experienced, are currently experiencing or are at risk for substance use challenges. The program focuses on reducing barriers and promoting healthy lifestyles for both parent and child.

At LMAS, we are incredibly proud of our home visiting team. Their dedication, compassion and expertise make a lasting difference in the lives of local families. During this special week — and every week — we extend our sincere gratitude to these professionals for the vital work they do.

If you would like more information on any of these programs, reach out to uphvn@lmasdhd.org.

AU TRAIN TOWNSHIP  
SPRING CLEANUP

Saturday, June 6th  
8:00 am - 11:30 am

Where: Wood Island Landfill, Munising

**YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO UNLOAD YOUR OWN DROPOFF - AS GFL WILL NOT HAVE STAFF ON HAND TO ASSIST!!**

**YOU MUST PROVIDE NAME AND PROPERTY ADDRESS. A LIMIT OF ONE TRUCK LOAD PER HOUSEHOLD.**

- **TIRES** (without rims) will be accepted, a MAXIMUM of 4 per household will be strictly enforced.
- **MATTRESSES** will be accepted, with a maximum of 1 per household.
- **NO Construction** materials accepted - wood remnants, roofing etc.
- **NO Refrigerators**, freezers or air conditioning units will be accepted (with or without freon).
- **Additional items that WILL NOT be accepted:** Ashes, brush, yard waste, leaves, propane tanks, batteries, engines or motors containing gas or oil, fuel tanks, air conditioning units, and drums of any size. **NO HAZARDOUS WASTE ACCEPTED** (gas, oil, paints, thinners, insecticides, anti-freeze or anything containing PCP's).

Please contact Supervisor,  
Tom Balmes at 906/892-8279,  
with questions.

CITY OF MUNISING  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the **City of Munising Planning Commission** will conduct a public hearing in the Commission Chambers of City Hall, located at 301 E. Superior St., Munising, Michigan, on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.** for the purpose of hearing the following Permits:

**For: John Madigan at Parcel # 051-484-014-00, is applying for a Special Land Use to build a Hotel / Condo's This is zoned L2 (Lakeshore Two)**

**For: Wacky Jack's, is applying for a Conditional Land Use, to have a Marijuana establishment at 220 W M-28, this is zoned C (Commercial)**

**For: Jason Deman at 601 W Munising Ave. Jason is applying for a Special Land Use, to change the use to a sporting goods store. This is Zoned T (Transitional)**

The **Special Land Use and Conditional Land Use Permits**, the City of Munising Zoning Ordinance, and Zoning Map are available for public inspection at City Hall during regular office hours. Public Comment will be taken in writing at the Clerk's office until the close of business on the day prior to the hearing, or in person at the public hearing. For further information please contact the Munising City Hall, at (906) 387-2095.

This notice is given in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1976 and Munising Zoning Ordinance.

“ **Your value is reflected in what you do for your community and in your willingness to give back through volunteering and service to others.** ”

— Leo Champagne

**BUSINESS NEWS**

# ByGeorge taps into U.P. growth

By Samantha Meyer  
Beacon Correspondent



ByGeorge Brewing Co. is expanding its reach across the Upper Peninsula through a new partnership with Pike Distributing. This expansion will bring its craft beer to more retailers, bars and customers throughout the region.

The recent distribution through Pike has already brought the products to new markets throughout the Upper Peninsula.

"It's been pretty level the last two months, but starting to see more of a presence in Marquette County, Delta County," said Jordan Humphrey of ByGeorge.

While the brewery is currently focused on growing throughout the U.P., Humphrey said expansion outside the region could eventually follow.

"Eventually we hope further," Humphrey said. "Not sure which way first, whether it's big presence downstate, Wisconsin, both. Depends on how

quickly we can grow this location."

Founder and owner George Schultz said the partnership came as demand for ByGeorge products continued to grow.

"Partnering with a distributor such as Pike gives us the opportunity to reach a broader audience in the U.P. and showcase our product line to more retailers and consumers," Schultz said. "We have gained increased popularity in Michigan, and the ByGeorge brand has taken off where it has become necessary to work with

Pike to take it to the next level."

The brewery currently has about 15 beers with their own label that are available for distribution, while also continuing to create limited-run specialty brews for customers visiting the brewery.

Those one-off creations are typically kept in-house rather than distributed widely. This helps the brewery maintain unique offerings that have become popular with customers. With 18 taps available, Humphrey said the brewery has room to experiment.

"That's the big part with 18 taps now," Humphrey said.

Schultz said the company's long-term goals include creating additional opportunities within the community.

"The goal is to hopefully grow into brewery expansion and a potential second production facility within the next few years," Schultz said. "A larger facility means more sustainable jobs for our community, which is a win-win scenario."

As tourism traffic begins picking up ahead of summer, the brewery expects to see an increase in demand in the coming weeks. Local businesses will begin reopening before Memorial Day, which will also increase foot traffic in the area.

"We haven't seen a lot of busy yet," Humphrey said. "The U.P. is just starting to see movement, but I anticipate Memorial Day weekend, we'll sort of see a lot of movement."

# Dream Bean celebrates Stella anniversary

By Melissa Wentarmini  
Associate Editor



Libby Lewandowski was 22 when she launched The Dream Bean out of a vintage Volkswagen bus, hauling coffee to music festivals and teaching yoga in the mornings before working the bus all day. Ten years later, she's bringing some of that festival spirit home.

Stella Fest, a free community celebration marking The Dream Bean's 10th anniversary, takes place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 23 at E21733 Braziel Street in Grand Marais. The event is named for Stella, the bus that became both the face of the business and the starting point for everything that followed.

"We started doing festivals with the bus," Lewandowski said. "It just made sense to bring the festival to the community."

For the first four years of the business, Lewandowski and Stella traveled regularly to music festivals across the region, building a customer base, event by event, before eventually settling into a more permanent home in Grand Marais. Stella Fest, she said, is intended to reflect much of what shaped those early years: music, community, family

and a place for people to simply spend time together.

The day begins with beach yoga from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., taught by Lewandowski's step-mother. Both women are certified yoga instructors, and Lewandowski said yoga has long been part of The Dream Bean's identity. The business also hosts seasonal beach yoga classes each summer, typically during July and August, and she said Stella Fest felt like a natural opportunity to incorporate that part of the business into the anniversary celebration as well.

From there, the celebration shifts into live music and family activities. Hot Flat Pop, an acoustic cover group featuring Lewandowski's brother, performs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., playing what she described

as "the playlist we'd listen to on a busy Saturday morning anyway, to get everyone vibing." Her father will emcee the event, while another brother is also scheduled to perform later in the day.

Throughout the afternoon, attendees can expect a petting zoo, bounce houses, face painting, hair tinsels, cornhole, giant Jenga and coffee-themed craft stations, along with a sensory bin for younger children, hourly giveaways and a prize wheel.

A chair masseuse will offer 10-minute massages by donation, while hot dogs and Dream Bean drinks will be available for purchase. Free popcorn will also be provided. Organizers are opening the backyard area to give families space to spread out lawn chairs and blankets and stay for the afternoon.

"We just wanted to expand on what we do in general, which is family-friendly and good times," Lewandowski said.

Beneath the games and music, Stella Fest is also intended as a thank you to the customers who supported The Dream Bean from its earliest days. Lewandowski said she has spent the past several weeks posting throwback photos online from the business's first year, revisiting the festivals, events and people that helped the company gain its footing.

"All of our customers are so kind and supportive," she said. "They go the extra mile to leave reviews, to refer their friends. We really want this to be for the community and about them."

Lewandowski said she has not yet decided whether Stella Fest will become an annual tradition or remain a one-time anniversary celebration, though ideas for future expansion — including a possible coffee garden and even franchising — are beginning to surface as the business enters its second decade.

For now, though, the focus is less on what comes next than on celebrating the bus that started it all and the community that helped keep it going.

**COMMUNITY**

# Anglers rally for annual classic

By Nicole Gearhart  
Beacon Correspondent

Despite a weekend spent on the water in mixed weather, organizers are calling the 2026 Munising Trout & Salmon Classic, held May 16 and 17 on Lake Superior, a success.

"We were fortunate to have a great weather day Saturday for the event, and even though Sunday turned colder,

with all fish cleaned by volunteers. On Sunday, fishing was followed by weigh-in and an awards ceremony. Organizers said they were happy to have community members join them for the festivities.

"What makes the Trout & Salmon Classic special is that it's more than just a fishing tournament — it's a community event,"



Kayla Maki

**Wyatt Erickson, 12, of Ishpeming, holds the winning salmon during the 2026 Munising Trout & Salmon Classic on Lake Superior. Erickson and the Sniper team won the Big Fish Salmon Category and the Salmon Division.**

the fishing actually picked up," said Munising Fire Department Chief Ryan "Red" Anderson. "That's part of fishing on Lake Superior — conditions can change quickly, and the anglers adapted well all weekend. The community support throughout the tournament was tremendous."

The event, sponsored by the Munising Visitors Bureau and hosted by the Munising Fire Department, has been the department's main fundraiser since 2013. Tournament proceeds directly benefit the MFD, helping to provide funding for essential equipment and daily operations.

"The amount of sponsor support and donated prizes this year was outstanding," Anderson said. "We're incredibly grateful to the businesses and individuals who continue to invest in this event and help us make it a success for both the fishermen and the community."

Organizers said they had a decent turnout, with 47 teams registered for this year's event. Teams were mostly local, with visitors from Wisconsin and Minnesota filling out the ranks. "We were down a few boats, but for the most part, we're happy with the result," said MFD Assistant Chief Dave Fulcher.

Saturday saw participants on the water from 5:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., followed by weigh-in at the American Legion Post 131 banquet hall. Afterward, anglers and the public alike were invited to a fish fry,

Anderson said. "You see anglers, families, volunteers and local businesses all coming together for a good cause, and that's something we're proud to continue each year."

After both days were wrapped up, leaderboards showed the "Sniper" team, led by captain Wyatt Erickson, leading the Big Fish Salmon Category with a weight of 16.79 pounds, as well as the Salmon Division with 44.73 pounds; the "Relentless" team with captain Nate Concha led the South Shore Combo Category with 28.26 pounds; the "Outta Line" team with captain Dylan Holzenkamp leading the Trout Division with 114.56 pounds; and the "Danger Zone" team with captain Colton Wiggins leading the Big Fish Trout Category with 19.21 pounds.

For Sniper captain Wyatt Erickson, 12, of Ishpeming, fishing with his father, Ryan, 48, and grandfather, Don, 72, has always been part of his life. Winning two categories was icing on the cake. "It was awesome," Wyatt said, noting his favorite part of the tournament was "probably everything."

Ryan said he is an avid fisherman, and always enjoys taking part in the classic. "I have fished tournaments all over the world and that's probably the one of the best run ones there is," he said.

For details, including full leaderboard results, visit fishmunising.com.



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
ALGER COUNTY

## ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE RECORD OF THE FRIEND OF THE COURT

Pursuant to Michigan law, the chief circuit judge annually reviews the performance record of the friend of the court. The review will be conducted on or about July 1, 2026.

This review is limited by law to the following criteria: whether the friend of the court is guilty of misconduct, neglect of statutory duty, or failure to carry out the written orders of the court relative to a statutory duty; whether the purposes of the Friend of the Court Act are being met; and whether the duties of the friend of the court are being carried out in a manner that reflects the needs of the community. Members of the public may submit written comments to the chief judge relating to these criteria. Send your written comments, with your name and address, to:

Hon. Beth A. Gibson, Chief Judge  
101 Court St.  
Munising, MI 49862

OUTDOORS

# Prescribed burns planned in Hiawatha National Forest

By Melissa Wentarmini  
Associate Editor

Prescribed burns planned this year in the Hiawatha National Forest will take place on familiar ground for Alger County residents, including areas near Au Train and on Grand Island, where fire managers say low-intensity burns are designed to reduce wild-fire risk while minimizing long-term disruption.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, one planned unit covers roughly 156 acres near Au Train, not far from the M-28 corridor, while a second, larger unit of about 337 acres is located on Grand Island in the Tombolo area. Both are categorized as low-intensity “underburns,” a term the Forest Service uses to describe a method that targets leaf litter, small brush and downed wood while leaving most mature trees intact.

The work is part of a broader effort across the Hiawatha and Ottawa national forests, where prescribed fire is used to manage fuel buildup and maintain forest health.

During active burns, impacts to residents and visitors are expected to be minimal, though awareness is still important.

“People may see smoke and flames from roads or areas downwind of the burn,” said Chelsea Kallery, public affairs officer for the Hiawatha National Forest. “Smoke may also settle in low-lying areas, especially in the evening and early morning.”

Drivers traveling near burn sites may encounter reduced visibility and are advised to slow down and use headlights when necessary. Air quality conditions can be monitored in real time through the website AirNow, which provides localized updates during fire activity.

Timing, however, is far less predictable than Forest Service maps might suggest. Fire managers plan burns around a narrow set of conditions, including wind direction, humidity, temperature and fuel moisture. While the Forest Service provides advance notice when possible through its website, social media and local partners, final decisions are often made the day of a planned burn.

“Conditions can change quickly, so crews make final go or no-go decisions on the day of the burn,” Kallery said, noting that shifting weather patterns can delay or cancel operations with little notice.

Because of that variability, residents are encouraged to monitor updates through the Forest Service website, local channels and inciweb.wildfire.gov, which provides active fire information as conditions evolve.

Access to certain areas may also be affected, particularly during active ignition and while crews monitor burn sites afterward. Depending on the size and complexity of a unit, closures can last from a single day to several days before areas are reopened to the public.

On the mainland near Au Train, that could mean temporary limitations on forest roads or nearby access points, while on Grand Island, visitors may encounter short-term disruptions to trails or backcountry use depending on where activity is taking place.

Forest officials say the tradeoff is a reduced risk of more severe wildfires in the future. Without management, Kallery said, layers of forest and woody debris accumulate on the forest floor, creating conditions that can fuel hotter, faster-moving fires.

“Without prescribed fire and other active forest management, forest fuels such as leaves, needles, brush and downed wood continue to build up,” Kallery said. “That increases the risk of more intense and harder-to-control wildfires.”

Prescribed burns are intended to interrupt that cycle, lowering overall fire intensity while supporting ecosystems that evolved with periodic fire.

The visual changes are often subtle at first, but noticeable over time. In the weeks following a burn, Kallery said, new plant growth can emerge quickly as sunlight reaches the forest floor. Over the next year or two, burned areas may appear more open, with less dense undergrowth and a mix of regenerating vegetation. Standing dead trees, known as snags, can also provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, contributing to a more diverse landscape.

**BE THE REASON  
SOMEONE LIVES.**

**DONATE BLOOD. SAVE LIVES.**

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M-Th, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • F, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Sat, Closed • Sun, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
1504 Sand Point Road, Munising • 906-387-4220

**Your health. Your hometown. Your superior care.**



**Superior Central  
Student of the  
Week!**

**Jasmine TeBear**



**Jasmine**

We are happy to recognize Jasmine TeBear as our Student of the Week! Jasmine is the daughter of Eric TeBear and Dakota Lamar and is in first grade. She is a great example of what it means to be a Cougar and lives out the ROAR expectation daily.

Jasmine is always respectful, making her an excellent example for others. She not only keeps her own spaces organized, but she also takes pride in keeping the playground and hallways clean.

Jasmine is accepting of others every day, including them in games and activities. Jasmine is a pleasure to have in class.

**Congratulations to Jasmine and her family!**

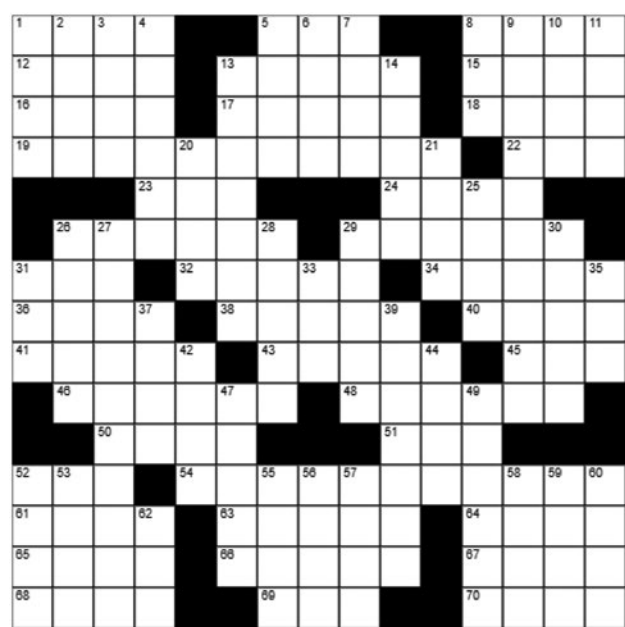
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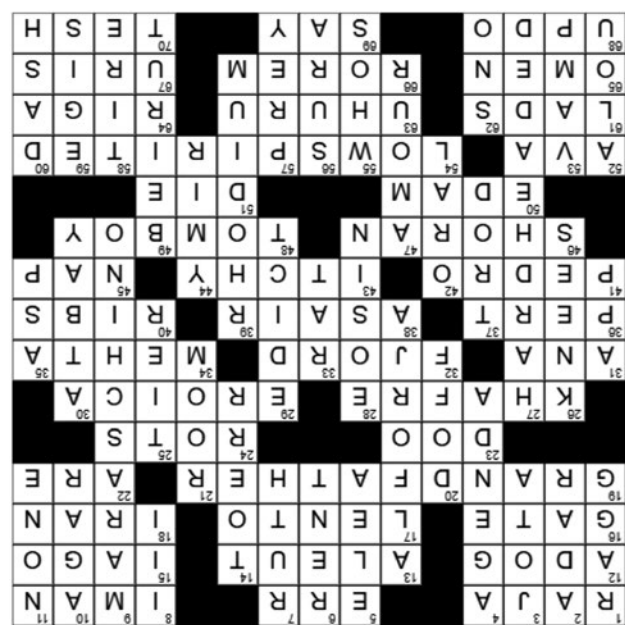
# BRAINTEASERS

CROSSWORD

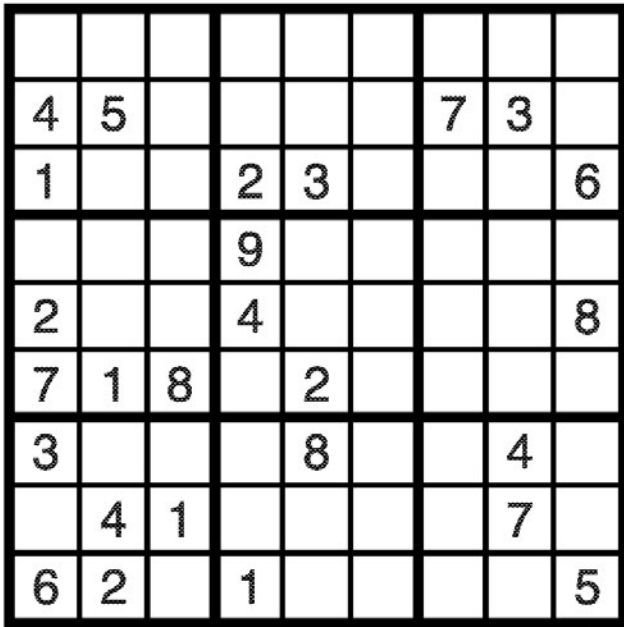
- Across
- 1- Prince of India
  - 5- Mess up
  - 8- Mogadishu-born model
  - 12- Work like \_\_\_\_
  - 13- Native Alaskan
  - 15- Othello villain
  - 16- Fence opening
  - 17- Slow, musically
  - 18- Turkmenistan neighbor
  - 19- Patriarch
  - 22- We \_\_\_\_ the World
  - 23- Scooby-\_\_\_\_
  - 24- Doesn't keep
  - 26- Son of Cheops
  - 29- Beethoven's Third
  - 31- Gasteyer of "SNL"
  - 32- Long narrow arm of the sea
  - 34- Conductor Zubin
  - 36- Smart-mouthed
  - 38- Light \_\_\_\_
  - 40- Barbecue fare
  - 41- Pitcher Martinez
  - 43- Like a mosquito bite
  - 45- Doze
  - 46- System of aircraft navigation
  - 48- Hoyden
  - 50- Dutch treat
  - 51- Vegas roller
  - 52- An ex of Frank
  - 54- Depressed
  - 61- Youngsters
  - 63- Swahili for "freedom"
  - 64- Latvia's capital
  - 65- Sign of the future
  - 66- Composer Ned
  - 67- "Trinity" author
  - 68- High hair style
  - 69- For instance
  - 70- New Age musician John
- Down
- 1- Sturdy wool fiber
  - 2- Purim's month
  - 3- Spanish dance
  - 4- To-do list
  - 5- Zeno of \_\_\_\_
  - 6- Regular payment for agreed hire
  - 7- Batting Babe
  - 8- Jr.'s junior
  - 9- Cordial distilled from marascas
  - 10- Culture medium
  - 11- Fourth little piggy's share
  - 13- Leather saddlebag
  - 14- \_\_\_\_ is human...
  - 20- Tip, in a way
  - 21- Part of a Clue accusation
  - 25- Echelon
  - 26- They may buckle
  - 27- Stubborn
  - 28- Silk dye
  - 29- Court order
  - 30- Cornered
  - 31- PC program
  - 33- Deserter
  - 35- Venomous viper
  - 37- Trampled
  - 39- Metallic element of the platinum family
  - 42- Word-of-mouth
  - 44- Primordial giant in Norse myth
  - 47- Love, in Paris
  - 49- Capital of Lebanon
  - 52- Baseball family name
  - 53- Repair
  - 55- \_\_\_\_ Sorry Now?
  - 56- Chapter of the Koran
  - 57- One hunted
  - 58- Lose pep
  - 59- Sponsorship
  - 60- Recipe amount
  - 62- \_\_\_\_-Cat



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- 62- \_\_\_\_-Cat



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 crochet.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 1 = T)

- A. 19 1 12 1 24 17**  
Clue: Loop of thread around hook
- B. 25 3 6 9**  
Clue: Spun thread
- C. 18 3 1 1 4 6 9**  
Clue: Model or form
- D. 17 16 7 7 25**  
Clue: Enjoyable pursuit

Answers: A. stitch B. yarn C. pattern D. hobby

**CALENDAR**

Continued from Page 12

Brewing Co.

Trivia Night: 6:30 p.m.; Whisky Dick's.

**Trenary**

Munising Memorial Mobile Health Unit visit: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Township Hall parking lot, 2995 M-67.

Food pantry: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Trenary Tavern.

**Saturday, May 23**

**Au Train**

Solar array tour: 1 to 4 p.m.; E4775 M-28.  
Live music featuring Tumbleweed Taylor: 6 to 8 p.m.; The Brownstone Inn.

**Chatham**

Solar array tour: 1 to 4 p.m.; 6301 Rock River Road.

**Eben Junction**

Nifty Thrifty Pantry: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; ET Road at M-94.

**Grand Marais**

Stella Fest: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; The Dream Bean.  
Live music featuring Hot Flat Pop: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; The Dream Bean.  
Live music featuring Andy Raymond: 7 p.m.; Grand Marais Tavern.

**Munising**

Beach yoga: 8:30 a.m.; The Dream Bean.  
Slow Flow Yoga: 10 a.m.; First Presbyterian Church basement.

Author meet and greet with Christine Pleiman: 10 a.m.; Falling Rock Cafe & Bookstore.

Solar array tour: 1 to 4 p.m.; Open Wings Pottery & Gallery, E9795 CR-H58.

**Trenary**

Food pantry: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Trenary Tavern.

**Wetmore**

Sam Corp live music: Midway General Store.

**Sunday, May 24**

**Grand Marais**

Grand Marais AA meeting: 1 p.m.; basement meeting room, Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

**Munising**

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

Blue in Review AA open meeting.: 7 p.m.; Presbyterian Church, 402 Elm Ave.

**Trenary**

Food pantry: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Trenary Tavern.

**Monday, May 25**

**Chatham**

Chatham VFW Memorial Day service: 10 a.m.; All Veterans Memorial.

Superior Central Schools Board of Education meeting: 7 p.m.; Superior Central Library.

**Christmas**

Munising Lions Club meeting: 6 p.m.; V.V.A. Clubhouse, Jingle Bell Lane.

**Grand Marais**

Munising Memorial Mobile Health Unit visit: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sandee Sibbald Medical Center, 21843 Grand Marais Ave.

**Munising**

St. Vincent de Paul Pantry: noon to 3 p.m.; 413 Maple St.

Alger County Road Commission meeting: 4 p.m.; ACTC E9427 M-28

Bingo: doors open at 5 p.m.; Moose Lodge No. 1386.

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

Munising Public Schools Board of Education meeting: 6 p.m.; Room 2178, Munising High/Middle School.

Pickleball Open Play: 6:30 p.m.; APRD.

**Onota**

Onota Historical Society meeting: 6 p.m.; Onota Township Hall.

**Trenary**

Food pantry: 2 to 4 p.m.; Trenary Tavern.

**Wetmore**

Wetmore Community Club meeting: 6 p.m.; Wetmore Township Community Building.

**Tuesday, May 26**

**Au Train**

Au Train AA meeting - open meeting: 7 p.m.; Au Train Community Center, N7569 Spruce St.

**Eben Junction**

Nifty Thrifty Pantry donations accepted: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; ET Road at M-94.

**Grand Marais**

GM Helping Hands Food Pantry: 3 to 5 p.m.; First Lutheran Church, E21677 Braziel St.

**Munising**

Alger Community Pantry: noon to 3:30 p.m.; 414 E. Munising Ave.

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

Member meeting: 6 p.m.; Moose Lodge No. 1386.

**Trenary**

Food pantry: 2 to 4 p.m.; Trenary Tavern.

**Wednesday, May 27**

**Eben Junction**

Nifty Thrifty Pantry: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; ET Road at M-94.

**Limestone**

Limestone Township Board meeting: 7 p.m.; Office of Limestone Township, N2690 State Highway 67.

**Munising**

St. Vincent de Paul Pantry: noon to 3 p.m.; 413 Maple St.

Tai Chi for Arthritis: 1:15 p.m.; First Presbyterian Church.

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

Facing the Mourning grief group: 10:30 a.m.; Munising United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.

Cribbage tournament: 6 p.m.; Moose Lodge No. 1386.

Munising Planning Commission meeting: 6 p.m.; City Commission Chambers, City Hall,

301 E. Superior St.

Co-ed pickleball league: 6:30 p.m.; Central Community Center Gymnasium.

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

Munising 1st Group AA meeting: 8 p.m.; Eden Lutheran Church.

**Trenary**

Food pantry: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Trenary Tavern.

**Thursday, May 28**

**Grand Marais**

GM Helping Hands Pantry: 3 to 5 p.m.; First Lutheran Church, E21677 Braziel St.

**Munising**

Annual Plant and Flower Sale: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Munising Baptist Church and School, N6285 Connors Rd.

Facing the Mourning grief group: 10:30 a.m.; Munising United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.

Alger Community Pantry: noon to 3:30 p.m.; 414 E. Munising Ave.

Casual/Party Bridge: noon to 4 p.m.; United Methodist Church.

19th Annual Hometown Art Gala opening: 5 to 7 p.m.; Gallery Coffee Co.

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

Acoustic jam: 6 to 8 p.m.; Moose Lodge No. 1386.

**Trenary**

Food pantry: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Trenary Tavern.

Free community meal by Feeding Hearts Inc.: 6 to 8 p.m.; Trenary Community Building.

**Friday, May 29**

**Munising**

12 and 12 AA open meeting.: 9 a.m.; United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.

Annual Plant and Flower Sale: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Munising Baptist Church and School, N6285 Connors Rd.

Fish fry: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Moose Lodge No. 1386.

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

**Trenary**

Food pantry: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Trenary Tavern.

**Saturday, May 30**

**Eben Junction**

Nifty Thrifty Pantry: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; ET Road at M-94.

**Munising**

Slow Flow Yoga: 10 a.m.; basement of the First Presbyterian Church.

Annual Plant & Flower Sale: 9 a.m. to noon; Munising Baptist Church & School, N6285 Connors Rd.

**Sunday, May 31**

**Grand Marais**

Grand Marais AA meeting: 1 p.m.; basement meeting room, Holy Rosary Catholic Church.

**Munising**

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

Blue in Review AA open meeting: 7 p.m.; Presbyterian Church, 402 Elm Ave.

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We'll take care of it so you don't have to.



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**Annual Plant & Flower Sale**

- Annual flowers
- Tomatoes and vegetable plants
- Perennial flowers and plants
- Great selection for gardens, porches and patios
- Support local church and school programs

**Thursday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
**Saturday: 9 a.m. to noon**

**May 28-30**



**Munising Baptist Church & School**  
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# EVENTS CALENDAR

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY MUNISING VISITORS BUREAU

Have an upcoming event, meeting, live music performance, fundraiser or community announcement? Email [calendar@munisingbeaconmedia.com](mailto:calendar@munisingbeaconmedia.com) for consideration in the Munising Beacon community calendar. Calendar listings are published space permitting and should be submitted as early as possible with complete event details including date, time and location.

## Wednesday, May 20 Chatham

Munising Memorial Mobile Health Unit visit: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; carpool parking lot, N1600 M-94.

## Eben Junction

Nifty Thrifty Pantry: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; ET Road at M-94.

## Grand Marais

Grand Marais Women's Club meeting: 7 p.m.; Community Center.

## Munising

Munising Downtown Development Authority meeting: 8 a.m.; Alger County Chamber of Commerce.

Kiwanis Club of Alger County meeting: noon; Westminster Hall, First Presbyterian Church of Munising.

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

## TRADES



Photo courtesy of Northern Michigan University Jacobetti Complex

Welding student Calla Porter works with a torch inside the Jacobetti Complex welding lab at Northern Michigan University. Porter, a Superior Central graduate from Traunik, is entering her final year in NMU's Welding program and plans to pursue a career as a Certified Welding Inspector after graduation.

Discover Innovate Marquette Resources & Opportunities for Your Business: 4:30 p.m.; Falling Rock Cafe & Bookstore.

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

Special City of Munising meeting: 6 p.m.; City Hall.

Acoustic jam: 6 to 8 p.m.; Moose Lodge No. 1386.

Senior All-Nighter Committee meeting: 7 p.m.; Munising High School cafeteria.

## Trenary

Food pantry: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Trenary Tavern.

Free community meal by Feeding Hearts Inc.: 6 to 8 p.m.; Trenary Community Building.

## Friday, May 22 Au Train

Live music featuring Tumbleweed Taylor: 6 to 8 p.m.; The Brownstone Inn.

## Munising

12 and 12 AA meeting - open meeting: 9 a.m.; United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.

Fish fry: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Moose Lodge No. 1386.

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

By George Brewery home opener: 6 to 9 p.m.; ByGeorge

St. Vincent de Paul Pantry: noon to 3 p.m.; 413 Maple St.

Tai Chi for Arthritis: 1:15 p.m.; First Presbyterian Church.

Alger County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority meeting: 1:30 p.m.; Alger County Courthouse Boardroom.

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

APRD board meeting: 3:15 p.m.; APRD Office

Alger County Democratic Party meeting: 5 p.m.; Munising Township Hall.

Community yoga:

5:30 p.m.; Gallery Coffee Co.

Cribbage tournament: 6 p.m.; Moose Lodge No. 1386.

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

Co-ed pickleball league: 6:30 p.m.; Central Community Center Gymnasium.

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

Grand Island Shanty Club sing-along: 7 p.m.; East Channel Brewing Co.

Munising 1st Group AA meeting: 8 p.m.;

Eden Lutheran Church.

## Trenary

Food pantry: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Trenary Tavern.

Food and community discussion: 4 p.m.; Trenary Community Building.

## Thursday, May 21 Au Train

Live music featuring Troy Graham: 6 to 8 p.m.; The Brownstone Inn.

## Grand Marais

GM Helping Hands Pantry: 3 to 5 p.m.;

First Lutheran Church, E21677 Braziel St.

## Munising

Facing the Mourning grief group: 10:30 a.m.; Munising United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.

Alger Community Pantry: noon to 3:30 p.m.; 414 E. Munising Ave.

Casual/Party Bridge: noon to 4 p.m.; United Methodist Church.

Free store: 1 to 3 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.; Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church.

See CALENDAR, Page 11

## Our Mobile Health Unit is hitting the road!

*Highway to Health*

Check out our locations near you!



### Chatham

Third Monday of the month

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Carpool parking lot  
N1600 M-94, Chatham

### Engadine

First Monday of the month

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Poly Tech Furniture  
N7497 State Hwy M117, Engadine

### Trenary

Second and fourth Fridays of the month

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trenary Township Hall parking lot  
2995 M-67, Trenary

### Sawyer

Fourth Thursday of the month

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sawyer Village Shopette  
126 Voodoo Ave., Gwinn

### Grand Marais

Last Monday of the month

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sandee Sibbald Medical Center  
21843 Grand Marais Ave., Grand Marais

Call 906-387-4338 to schedule an appointment



## Munising Garden Center

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### Munising Garden Center

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[munisinggardencenter.com](http://munisinggardencenter.com)

### Hours

Monday-Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sunday: Noon-5 p.m.



Barn  
Clearance  
Sale

## STELLA FEST

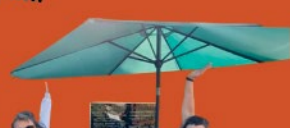
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