

LMAS

Former clinicians asked for oversight

Editor's note: This is the second in a two-part series examining the loss of much of the LMAS District Health Department's school-based mental-health staff and the questions that followed.

By Melissa Wentarmini
Associate Editor

When Trisha McEvers left the LMAS District Health Department in January 2025, she did so for an ordinary career reason: After more than five years building and providing school-based mental-health services in Manistique, she accepted a full-time college faculty position.

Her exit records were largely favorable, which gives important context to an email she sent nine months later to Schoolcraft County Commissioners Craig Reiter and Bruce Birr, both members of the LMAS Board of Health. McEvers told them that the two clinicians available to replace her had since resigned and urged them to investigate what was happening rather than assume questions surrounding the state budget explained the turnover.

"My intention is not to accuse but to question," she wrote, asking them "not to stop at the obvious or easy questions."

Reiter's responses over the months that followed show his understanding of the issue developing as more information reached him. On Sept. 24, 2025, he replied that he "wasn't fully aware of the extent of this issue" and would gather more information.

By February 2026, when McEvers again wrote that grant-funded services remained unavailable in Schoolcraft County and elsewhere, Reiter was drawing a clearer distinction between internal management and public consequence: Personnel matters belonged to LMAS

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FARMS FOR FOLKS



Courtesy of MSU Extension

Joe Newman, pictured with Kate Debs at Mighty Soil Farm, was one of the founders of the Farms for Folks program.

Good food, good people

By Jennifer Champagne
Managing Editor

Cost, age, disability, transportation and distance from fresh food can all create barriers. Farms for Folks is working to close that gap, delivering locally grown produce and other farm products directly to the homes of people who need

them — completely free of charge. "Many people have a difficult time asking for help," Farms for Folks organizer Elise Bunce said. "This program is here to serve anyone who asks for help, anyone who needs it

and anyone who believes that they would benefit from this program." Now in its seventh year, Farms for Folks has grown from a 2020 pilot serving 10

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Gift to MSU honors husband

Former prosecutor supports research in valve replacement

By Melissa Wentarmini
Associate Editor

After watching her husband live through six open-heart

surgeries and nearly five decades of replacement valves, former Alger County Prosecutor Karen Bahrman has made a \$100,000 gift to Michigan State University to help researchers pursue something medicine still cannot offer: a replacement heart valve made from living tissue. Bahrman has also committed half of her estate to the research,

which is underway through MSU's Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering. The gift grew out of her gratitude for what heart-valve technology gave her late husband, David — and her firsthand understanding of what it still could not do. David Bahrman was born with aortic stenosis and underwent his first valve-replacement surgery at

age 18. Over the next 50 years, he received three porcine valves, a mechanical valve and later a human donor valve. Despite that medical history, Karen Bahrman said, he enjoyed good health between surgeries for much of his life and continued the physically demanding work he

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Kayla Maki

Munising Memorial Hospital is in the process of adding specialty services so patients have greater access to care in Alger County.

MMH expands specialty services

By Jennifer Champagne
Managing Editor

For residents of Alger County, seeing a specialist can mean far more than making a doctor's appointment. It can mean arranging transportation, taking time off work and driving an hour or more — sometimes in the middle of an Upper Peninsula winter.

Munising Memorial Hospital is working to change that. The hospital has been steadily expanding access to visiting specialists, including podiatrist and foot and ankle surgeon Dr. Jake Eisenschink, while developing other programs designed to bring health care closer to patients. Hospital leaders are also beginning to explore a much larger possibility: whether some same-day outpatient surgical procedures could eventually return to MMH. "Reducing the burden of travel is a top priority for our team," MMH CEO Wendy Frusch said. For Eisenschink, that need became apparent long before he began seeing patients in Munising. In his Escanaba practice, he regularly encounters patients

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NEWS BRIEFS

Altran offering transportation to Grand Marais wine tasting

Altran will offer round-trip transportation to Grand Marais on Saturday for the community’s Wine Tasting and Auction event.

The bus will leave at 3 p.m. and return between 9 and 9:30 p.m. Round-trip transportation costs \$13, and seats may be reserved by calling 906-387-4845.

The event will feature wine, cheese and snacks, with a silent auction from 4 to 6 p.m. followed by a live auction. Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door and are available at Grand Marais Mercantile and Grand Marais Outfitters or online.

The event is presented by the Grand Marais Chamber of Commerce and Grand Marais Historical Society, with proceeds supporting community events and museums in Grand Marais.

Munising Baptist student council leaders announced for 2026-27

Munising Baptist School has announced its student council representatives for the 2026-27 school year.

Ethan Swift will serve as president, with Trek as vice president. Atley Maxon will represent grades 11-12, Ian Cross will represent grades 9-10 and Nora Cross will represent grades 7-8. Colt Wright will serve as the elementary voice on the council.

Two local soldiers prepare for 15-month deployment

Two Munising-area soldiers who also serve with the Alger County Sheriff’s Office are preparing for a 15-month deployment as part of Operation Lone Star.

Sgt. Thomas Murdock, an Alger County sheriff’s deputy, has served eight years with the Army National Guard. Spc. Robert Johns, a dispatcher and corrections officer with the sheriff’s office, has served three years.

Murdock and Johns are scheduled to begin their deployment Oct. 3.

Michigan State Police warns of cell phone delivery scam

Michigan State Police is warning Upper Peninsula residents about a scam targeting people who recently received legitimate cell phone or electronic device orders.

MSP said a resident contacted the Calumet Post after a caller claiming to represent Spectrum knew details about a recently delivered phone. The caller claimed the wrong device had been sent and provided instructions to return it using a shipping label, while offering a \$100 gift card. The resident recognized the scam and did not send the phone.

Police warn that scammers may have legitimate information about an order, making the scheme appear convincing. Anyone receiving unexpected instructions to return a device should independently contact the provider using its verified website, app, billing statement or an authorized retailer rather than contact information provided by the caller.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge prepares Visitor Center for 2027

Seney National Wildlife Refuge has taken possession of its new visitor center and headquarters, with a public opening targeted for next May. The facility, part of nearly \$14.9 million in Great American Outdoors Act-funded improvements at the refuge, will include visitor exhibits, an orientation theater and the returning Marshland Nature Store.

LMAS highlights PFAS awareness

By Leann Espinoza
LMAS District
Health Department

September 21-25 marks Michigan’s first PFAS Awareness Week, providing an opportunity for residents to learn more about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, often referred to as “forever chemicals,” and the steps they can take to reduce potential exposure.

PFAS are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1940s in a variety of industrial and consumer products, including fire-fighting foam, stain-resistant materials and nonstick cookware. PFAS are persistent in the environment and have been detected in water, soil, air, fish, wildlife and people.

The Michigan PFAS Action Response Team, or MPART, brings together multiple state agencies to identify and investigate locations where PFAS contamination may be present and to protect Michigan residents and the environment. When a potential PFAS site is identified, MPART works with local health departments and other partners to determine whether private drinking water wells in the area could be affected.

For the LMAS District Health Department, that partnership is an important part of protecting residents throughout the Upper Peninsula.

“LMAS works closely with MPART when a potential PFAS site is identified in our area,” said Elizabeth Suggitt, LMAS environmental health director. “Our role can include helping identify private wells in the area

and working with residents to provide information and, when appropriate, obtain permission for their wells to be tested. This partnership allows us to make sure residents have the information they need to make informed decisions about their drinking water.”

While the Upper Peninsula does not have the same number of identified PFAS sites as some other areas of the state, local communities have still encountered situations where PFAS concerns needed to be addressed.

One example was the Duck Lake Fire, when fire-fighting foam containing PFAS was used as part of efforts to protect homes during the fire. Following the fire, LMAS worked with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to distribute information to area residents and obtain permission from local homeowners to test private wells for PFAS.

This response demonstrates the importance of cooperation among state agencies, local health departments and residents when addressing potential environmental contamination.

What can residents do?

Residents can take several steps to reduce potential exposure to PFAS and protect their drinking water:

Test your private drinking water well if you have concerns about possible contamination or live near a known or potential PFAS source. Testing is the only way to determine whether PFAS are present in your drinking water.

Check Michigan’s Eat Safe Fish Guide before

eating locally caught fish, particularly from waters where PFAS advisories may apply.

Avoid contact with foam on lakes, rivers and streams, as some surface-water foam can contain PFAS.

Reduce the use of products that may contain PFAS, including some stain-resistant materials, cosmetics, cleaning products and other consumer goods.

Follow guidance from local and state health and environmental agencies if you live in an area where PFAS contamination has been identified or is being investigated.

Private well owners play an important role in monitoring their drinking water. Routine testing of private residential wells is not regulated under Michigan’s Safe Drinking Water Act, making it important for homeowners to be aware of potential environmental concerns in their area and test their water when appropriate.

State agencies work with local communities to identify private wells that may be affected by known or potential PFAS sources. Residents who are not part of an official investigation can also have their wells

tested through laboratories certified to conduct PFAS testing.

“Testing your well water can provide valuable information and peace of mind,” Suggitt said. “If you have concerns about the quality of your drinking water, we encourage private well owners to reach out and learn about their testing options.”

LMAS does not currently provide PFAS testing through its laboratory. However, the LMAS laboratory does offer testing for bacteria, nitrates and nitrites in drinking water. Residents with questions about water testing or concerns about their private well are encouraged to contact LMAS Environmental Health for information and guidance on available testing options.

Michigan’s first PFAS Awareness Week is intended to increase public understanding of PFAS while highlighting the work being done across the state to identify contamination and reduce potential exposure.

For more information about PFAS, private well testing and Michigan’s response, visit michigan.gov/pfasresponse.

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Merriam-Webster Dictionary’s definition of an oligarchy:
“A government in which a small group exercises control especially for corrupt and selfish purposes.”
Sound familiar?

It’s OK to change your mind. Vote in November.



ALGER COUNTY CITIZENS

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Courtesy of Karen Bahrman

Former Alger County Prosecutor Karen Bahrman is honoring the memory of her late husband, David, with a significant contribution to a program at Michigan State University dedicated to heart-valve replacement.

BAHRMAN

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loved. Farming dairy cattle, potatoes and beef was both his livelihood and his passion, and in 2024 he was inducted into the Michigan Farmers Hall of Fame.

“Farming was everything to him,” she said. “We really never took pleasure trips because you couldn’t pry him away from the farm, and he would never have retired from it.”

His heart history, however, was always part of life. The mechanical valve implanted in 1989 ticked loudly enough that people sometimes looked around a quiet room for a clock; David would explain that what they were hearing was his heart valve.

That mechanical valve had been expected to last for life, but in 2005 David developed endocarditis and was airlifted in critical condition to Rochester, Minnesota. Karen was told he had a 50-50 chance of surviving surgery. He did, receiving a human donor valve and aortic root, and returned to the life he loved for another 20 years. He died April 17, 2025, following an open-heart surgery in Detroit.

For Dr. Christopher Contag, director of MSU’s Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering, David’s history shows both how successful valve-replacement medicine has become and where its limitations remain. Biological valves can deteriorate, and mechanical valves generally require lifelong anticoagulation.

“The unfinished part of the story is that we are still replacing a living structure with something that is fundamentally a prosthesis,” Contag said.

Bahrman initially planned to honor David by establishing a medical scholarship. She had been deeply impressed by Dr. Kenton Zehr, the surgeon who operated on David in both 2005 and 2025, and began contacting institutions to explore how she might support the training of future surgeons. The more she learned, however, the more her thinking shifted. Training good surgeons mattered, but those surgeons would still be limited by the technology available to them.

“What patients in David’s position really need is surgeons with better tools,” Bahrman said, including replacement valves that last longer and are less vulnerable to infection. That led her to the work at MSU, where researchers hope eventually to create living valve tissue using a patient’s own cells.

Contag said the approach would begin by reprogramming a patient’s cells into induced pluripotent stem cells, then developing

“*My fondest wish is that future patients with defective heart valves will be able to obtain a ‘one and done’ correction.*”

Karen Bahrman

the specialized cell types found in heart valves. Researchers could use 3D bioprinting to arrange those cells within valve-like structures, with the long-term goal of creating tissue capable of adapting, repairing itself and maintaining its own structure. In a child, such a valve might someday even be able to grow with the patient.

That possibility remains experimental, and Contag is careful not to suggest otherwise. A heart valve opens and closes tens of millions of times each year, so researchers must create living tissue strong enough to withstand those forces while remaining flexible and biologically stable. They must also control inflammation, clotting, infection and the way the tissue remodels itself over time. Early work may include creating small valve-like tissues, or “valvoids,” that allow researchers to study how cells organize and respond to the mechanical environment of a working heart.

Bahrman’s \$100,000 gift is designed to help researchers begin that work and generate the preliminary data needed to pursue much larger grants. Contag described it as catalytic funding: money that will allow researchers to test early ideas, bring different areas of expertise together and determine which approaches are promising enough to pursue further.

Bahrman, who served as Alger County prosecuting attorney from 2002 to 2019, made the gift now because she hopes to see some of that progress in her lifetime. After watching heart-valve advances give David decades he might not otherwise have had, while never fully eliminating the prospect of another replacement, she knows what she hopes the next generation of patients might experience instead.

“My fondest wish is that future patients with defective heart valves will be able to obtain a ‘one and done’ correction,” she said, “as opposed to facing a lifetime of repeat surgeries that are increasingly unsurvivable.”

For more information about the research and David Bahrman’s story, visit the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine website at humanmedicine.msu.edu.

FARMS

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people in western Alger County to 62 people this year. Bunce said the program originated with herself and Joe Newman, both of Chatham.

Today, it is open to residents throughout Alger County, including Munising, western Alger County and Grand Marais.

The program operates on a simple premise: Help neighbors access nutritious food while also supporting the local farmers who produce it.

“These are not seconds — this is high-quality produce every time,” Bunce said.

Participating farmers are paid full market price for their products. This year’s participating farms include Yooper Country Farm, Tonella Farm, Full Plate Farm, Duke’s Farm, Rock River Farm, North Farm, Case Country Farm, Cloverland Farm, Saberniak Farm and Swanzy Farm. Joe and Kate Newman are among the participating farmers.

Recipients receive six home deliveries over the summer. Munising deliveries take place one week, followed by western Alger County and Grand Marais



Courtesy of Elise Bunce

Elise Bunce, right, pictured with Gale Rodgers of the Kiwanis Club of Alger County, organizes the Food for Folks program.

familiar produce such as kohlrabi and fennel. Information and recipes are included to help people make use of what they receive.

“Eyes light up when they see all that green goodness and the extras of pork, chicken, eggs and honey,” Moore said.

Moore has heard from recipients who use virtually every part of their produce, including making pesto from carrot and beet tops. But some of her favorite experiences have come from the relationships formed through the program.

“There is no judgment in this program, just recognition that we’re all just

while frequently lacking enough money for fresh groceries; receiving Medicaid or SSDI; frequently relying on a food pantry to make ends meet; or lacking access to a farmers market, personal garden or neighbor’s garden.

No income or eligibility documentation is required. Organizers take applicants at their word, an approach program organizers say is based on dignity, respect and trust.

The work for each summer begins months before the first delivery.

Bunce said sponsorship letters begin going out in January. Farmers need an anticipated participant count by early March so

they can purchase seed and plan for additional production. Enrollment takes place in April, volunteers are organized in May and deliveries generally begin in late June and continue into September.

Anyone interested in participating in the next Farms for Folks season should reach out to Bunce early to receive information when spring enrollment begins. The 2026 program used an April 1-30 enrollment period.

The program receives no grant or federal program funding, Bunce said. Instead, community and individual donations determine how many people Farms for Folks can serve.

Those interested in supporting a future season can also reach out now. Donations can be sent to Alger Matters, P.O. Box 121, Munising, MI 49862, with FFF in the memo line. Contributions made through Alger Matters are tax deductible.

For Bunce, the farmers, volunteers, donors and recipients have created something bigger than a bag of vegetables.

“Good food grown by good people, delivered to good people by good people, has to be good,” she said.

HOSPITAL

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traveling significant distances for specialty care.

“I see people in my practice sometimes driving three hours to come see me,” he said. “If I’m able to cut that distance in half a little bit ... I think that is just benefiting the patient.”

Eisenschink currently sees patients at MMH every other Wednesday, and he said demand has increased dramatically as residents learn what services are available.

His practice extends well beyond what some patients may traditionally associate with podiatry. Eisenschink treats foot and ankle injuries, fractures, chronic pain, diabetic foot conditions and other lower-extremity problems. He also performs complex surgical procedures, including ankle replacements.

“Podiatry is not just toes,” he said.

For patients who require surgery elsewhere, having Eisenschink available in Munising can still significantly reduce travel. Follow-up appointments can often be handled locally rather than requiring repeated trips to another community.

That model fits into a broader strategy at MMH.

Frusch said bringing specialists into the hospital allows patients to combine appointments with other services, including laboratory work and radiology, creating more comprehensive care in one location.

The hospital is also approaching access outside its walls through its mobile health unit and community paramedicine program, which can provide follow-up care in patients’ homes when appropriate.

“As the specialty providers, paramedicine program and mobile health unit grow, then patients will see that health care is coming

to them either at home or just down the street from them,” Frusch said.

Decisions about which services to pursue are informed in part by community health needs assessments, conversations with residents and changes in the health care and reimbursement landscape.

One of the biggest questions now under discussion is whether MMH could eventually offer certain same-day outpatient surgical procedures.

Frusch emphasized that those discussions remain preliminary.

The hospital’s surgery rooms closed years ago under a different health care landscape.

Determining whether they could support outpatient procedures today would require extensive evaluation of regulatory requirements, financial sustainability, staffing, equipment, community demand and the investment necessary to restart services.

Two specialists have already indicated they could potentially provide outpatient procedures and surgical services at MMH, Frusch said.

Eisenschink is among those interested in what such a program could mean for patients.

“I hope we’re in the early stages of starting to get the operating rooms going,” he said. “I’d be able to keep a lot of my patients there to be able to do even the surgeries there.”

Frusch said the discussion is part of a larger question facing the hospital as more residents use its services: What comes next?

“We need to ensure we are doing due diligence on these programs,” she said. “But as we see more and more patients access the hospital, the prudent question is, ‘What is the next step in supporting the community, and how do we have structured growth?’”

That growth could include substantially more specialty care.



Eisenschink



Frusch

Within five years, Frusch said she would like to see specialty offices at MMH hosting as many as six different providers, with some coming to Munising two or three days each week. The hospital currently has two specialists visiting twice monthly, along with Lilly Dermatology several times a month.

Potential areas for future recruitment include gynecology and women’s health, cardiology and urology, depending on community needs and provider availability.

For Eisenschink, expanding rural specialty care also

challenges the idea that patients must leave the area to receive advanced treatment.

He chose to build his career in the U.P., where his family lives, despite opportunities elsewhere.

“Just because you’re going somewhere else doesn’t mean you’re getting superior care,” Eisenschink said. “We chose to be here.”

And for MMH, the long-term vision is increasingly centered on making that choice possible for patients, too — receiving more of the care they need without leaving home.

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LMAS offers maternal peer navigator

By Leann Espinoza
LMAS District
Health Department

September is National Recovery Month, a time to uplift the stories, strengths and resilience of individuals, families and communities living in recovery. It is also an opportunity to recognize that recovery is possible — and that it can be powerful, communal and deeply rooted in connection, support and hope.

Across Michigan, the recovery community continues to lead with compassion, connection and creativity in building environments where recovery can flourish and families can thrive. One important part of that work is connecting

individuals with peer support — someone who understands the journey and can offer encouragement, resources and support along the way.

The LMAS District Health Department Maternal Peer Navigator Program provides specialized peer support to pregnant women and women up to 12 months postpartum who have a history of substance use or are experiencing challenges related to substance use.

LMAS’s maternal peer navigator is a certified peer recovery coach and certified community health worker who lives and works within the communities served by LMAS’s four-county district. Her

lived experience and professional training allow her to meet women where they are, build trusting relationships and help connect them with resources and services that can support a healthy pregnancy and a successful first year of motherhood.

The maternal peer navigator can help women identify and access a wide range of supports, including substance use treatment and recovery resources, behavioral health services, health care, transportation, food and housing resources, parenting support and other community services. She can also help women navigate systems that may feel overwhelming and provide encouragement as they

work toward their individual goals.

“Peer support can make a meaningful difference because women don’t have to navigate recovery, pregnancy and early motherhood alone,” said Hannah Edmondson, LMAS maternal peer navigator. “Sometimes having someone who listens, understands and can help you find the right resources is an important first step.”

The program is part of LMAS’s broader commitment to supporting healthy pregnancies, healthy families and stronger communities. By combining peer support with connections to health care and community resources, the program recognizes that recovery

and family well-being are strengthened when individuals have access to the support they need.

Pregnancy and the first year after a baby’s birth can bring significant changes and challenges. For women navigating recovery, those challenges may be compounded by transportation barriers, housing or financial concerns, limited access to services or fear of stigma. A trusted peer navigator can help reduce those barriers while encouraging women to remain connected to care and their recovery supports.

National Recovery Month reminds us that recovery is not a destination that people have to reach alone. It is a journey

supported by relationships, community, hope and the belief that people and families can thrive.

LMAS encourages women who are pregnant or up to 12 months postpartum and experiencing substance use challenges or who have a history of substance use to reach out and learn more about available support. The maternal peer navigator can help connect women with resources throughout the LMAS four-county service area.

For more information about the LMAS Maternal Peer Navigator Program or other maternal and infant health services, call LMAS District Health Department at 906-387-2297, extension 403, or visit lmasdhd.org.

LMAS

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administration, he wrote, but “the broader consequences, including service disruption, are absolutely within the scope of what we must pay attention to.” He pledged to push for “transparency, accountability and a plan to restore these programs as quickly as possible.”

Follow-through on that pledge has a broader consequence — Alger County is actively studying whether it could withdraw from LMAS and establish a health department of its own, Alger Commissioner Dean Seaberg confirmed.

The line between administrative authority and board oversight is central to understanding the Board of Health’s role. Michigan law places day-to-day administration with the health officer, whom the district Board of Health appoints; LMAS itself describes its commissioners as helping oversee public health initiatives and allocate resources across Luce, Mackinac, Alger and Schoolcraft counties.

The current LMAS website identifies two commissioners from each county and publishes meeting dates and instructions for attending by phone, Zoom or in person. It does not, however, maintain a publicly accessible archive of Board of Health minutes on that page or elsewhere on the site, meaning residents cannot simply work backward through online minutes to see when school mental-health vacancies, program finances or clinician concerns were discussed.

The information gap matters because former clinicians increasingly made the adequacy of board information part of their complaint. McEvers expanded her February 2026 correspondence to the full board and encouraged commissioners to speak directly with clinicians who had left rather than rely on secondhand accounts.

Former clinician Wendy Young followed with an April 2026 letter describing the loss of providers as “not only a workforce concern, but a broader risk to community health outcomes,” and asked the board to consider additional oversight, consultation or systems-level review.

Another former clinician, Rachel Harmon, wrote in June that school-based mental-health budgets should become a regular board topic, adding that she had not found

substantive discussion of those issues in the minutes she reviewed, although she acknowledged discussion could have occurred without being reflected there.

LMAS Director and Health Officer Nicholas Derusha said the board was being informed well before those letters arrived. In an August interview with The Beacon, he said he discussed the state budget threat, staff stress and eventual turnover with commissioners throughout the summer and fall of 2025, and his impression was that board members were comfortable with how events had unfolded. He also said current clinicians had expressed satisfaction with LMAS and that board members were “eager to move on,” support the department and fill the remaining positions.

Reiter’s account doesn’t flatly contradict Derusha’s. But his most recent answers add something Derusha’s version leaves out: He said the level of detail varied, that he later asked for more specific staffing and program-continuity information, and that “more detailed and proactive communication earlier” would have been helpful. The completeness of what a governing board knows, he noted, depends in significant part on what administration reports to it.

Reiter also confirmed that the Board of Health never conducted a formal investigation into why the clinicians left. His position has been consistent that individual personnel investigations and internal operational reviews belong to LMAS administration rather than commissioners, while service disruption and restoration do fall within the board’s oversight responsibility.

Reiter’s distinction — personnel matters

are administration’s job; service disruption is the board’s — is a standard one for how public health boards operate. But it’s also exactly what former clinicians have been challenging for nearly a year: If their concern was that administrative decisions themselves helped produce the staffing loss, they argue that referring examination of those decisions back to administration did not allow for independent review. The email record documents repeated requests for the board to examine systems and leadership, not merely reverse individual personnel actions.

By June, what had begun as private correspondence was becoming increasingly public. Melissa Carlson, McEvers and Young posted about the dispute on social media; Carlson also submitted a formal letter to the Alger County Board of Commissioners raising questions about LMAS oversight, and on June 24, 2026, five former clinicians — Carlson, Harmon, McEvers, Jessica Potvin and Young — signed a letter to the editor describing the staffing losses and alleging broader problems involving ethics, leadership and the board’s response.

The email chain itself also deteriorated in tone. After a lengthy exchange involving Alger County Commissioner Mickey Rondeau and the former clinicians, Reiter accidentally sent McEvers a message saying he thought one of the women “needs a hobby,” later saying publicly that the remark had been copied into the wrong thread and was unrelated.

The remark got attention at the time. But it distracted from the more basic question clinicians had been asking for months: What, if anything, was the board doing about their concerns?

Young put that question

more plainly when she and Carlson eventually appeared before the Alger County Board of Commissioners. She opened and closed her comments by asking, “Who in Alger County is looking out for the children?”

When The Beacon later asked Derusha to answer that question directly, he said: “I would say that we are looking out for the children.” He pointed to the department’s decision to pursue the school programs in the first place, its advocacy during the funding fight and its continued efforts to recruit therapists as evidence of that commitment.

The disagreement, then, is not over whether children deserve services; nearly every person interviewed said the programs are valuable. It is over whether restoring positions is sufficient without also understanding what allowed so much clinical capacity to disappear.

The Alger County meeting also produced one of the more serious claims. Carlson said Seaberg, one of Alger County’s two representatives to the LMAS Board, asked her and Young to remain after the meeting and told them the county was considering separating from LMAS because of concerns about Derusha’s influence and how much information reached board members.

Carlson remembers Seaberg saying, “You can quote me on this. We are looking to depart,” and discussing the possibility of Alger County pursuing its own grants and programs. Seaberg has confirmed those concerns remain, saying Alger County is “actively looking at the possibility of pulling out” and plans

to study whether it is feasible to operate its own health department. “We have informed LMAS that we’re going to look into it,” he said, stating the county’s concerns include the limits of its influence within a four-county system and dissatisfaction with some decisions affecting Alger County.

While Alger County considers whether the current structure still works for its residents, LMAS continues to try to rebuild the programs at the center of the dispute. Reiter told The Beacon in August that current clinicians had reported satisfaction with their jobs and that he understood the remaining vacancies were expected to be filled by the end of the month.

Derusha had similarly reported Aug. 5, 2026, that Munising was filled, Manistique had an accepted offer and Engadine had applicants. Since then, the Manistique candidate has withdrawn because suitable housing could not be found; LMAS has extended an offer in Engadine; and the department continues to recruit while exploring contracts with outside providers.

Whatever one makes of the earlier dispute, the Manistique withdrawal is a reminder on its own: In this region, an experienced licensed clinician who leaves isn’t easy to replace.

After months of emails, public letters, social media posts, personnel records obtained under FOIA and interviews with both former clinicians and LMAS leadership, the basic details are clearer than the underlying blame.

What’s still unresolved is whether the board’s oversight worked once the problems became

visible. Reiter’s most recent answers acknowledge both that the board initially lacked some of the detail he now wishes it had received and that no independent board review took place, while Derusha maintains that commissioners were kept informed and supported the department’s response.

It makes Young’s question more than a rhetorical closing line. “Who is looking out for the children?” is really a question about what happens when responsibility gets split three ways — between clinicians, an administrator and a board watching from a distance.

LMAS says it never stopped looking out for them. Former clinicians say looking out for them now means figuring out why so many experienced providers left in the first place. Alger County’s decision to study whether it should leave LMAS suggests a third view of what looking out for them requires. For families whose children use these services, that’s the part that remains unanswered.

Clarification: Part one reported LMAS Director Nicholas Derusha’s statement that clinicians would have at least 90 days to transition patients if state funding ended, but The Beacon has not obtained documentation establishing when the plan he described was developed or communicated. Former clinicians said no 90-day transition plan was communicated to them during the July 2025 intake dispute and they were instead directed to post notices warning that services could not be guaranteed after Oct. 1, 2025.



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FOR THE RECORD

In memory: Jan Alan Golisek Sr.

Jan Alan Golisek Sr., age 79, of Munising died in his family’s home in Brown’s Addition under the loving care of his family and North Woods Home Care and Hospice on Wednesday morning, Sept. 16, 2026.

Jan was born in Marquette on May 10, 1947, to Carl and Lois (Credland) Golisek. He grew up hunting, fishing, gathering and spending summers on Grand Island at the family camp with his parents and siblings.

Jan married Ellen “Sue” Martin on Aug. 6, 1966, and together they raised their four children. He learned to weld, repair engines, restore cars and build everything imaginable, from toys and furniture to

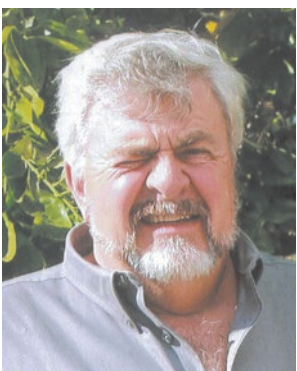
houses, throughout his life. Fishing on the big lake and inland lakes both summer and through the ice in the winter was a passion — along with classic cars, firearms, snowmobiles, motorcycles and boats he collected, restored, built from parts and/or traded vehicles.

Jan and his brother David started the first shipwreck diving business in Munising through an alliance with Northern Michigan University in 1971 — building a raft and engine to hold parties of 15 divers from around the country — diving on the Smith Moore and Herman Hettler most summer weekends for several years.

For 30 years, Jan was the City of Munising’s

mechanic. He purchased and maintained vehicles, snowplows and other equipment. Jan and his wife, Sue, were “snowbirds” to the desert southwest for 18 years post-retirement, where he picked up flint knapping and lapidary skills, making knives and jewelry, tabletops and wall plaques from unique stones. Jan carved life-sized models of all the native species of fish around Lake Superior using basswood he cut from his daughter’s property.

Jan was a man gifted with an artistic eye, extraordinary skills and diverse interest. One of his many joys was exploring the U.P. woods with Sue, digging leeks in the spring, foraging



mushrooms, picking berries, finding burls to carve and turn into bowls, camping and enjoying the change of seasons and wildlife. There is not a room in Jan and Sue’s home that doesn’t display his prolific art and crafts conveying his interests in natural and local history.

Just like his parents and six siblings, Jan loved his

family and instilled a deep appreciation for the U.P. in his four children, 10 grandchildren and small army of extended family and friends. To most that have had the pleasure of knowing this kind and fascinating human being, Jan has not only carved Superior’s fish, he is a “big fish” in our neck of the woods.

Jan is survived by his loving wife of over 60 years, Ellen “Sue” Golisek of Munising; their children, Jan (Tina Mannisto) Golisek Jr. of Christmas, Brenda (Howard Jr.) Mannisto of Munising and Deserée (Nathan LaFerner) Bosely of Shingleton; grandchildren, Kendra Golisek, Michael Golisek, Jan Golisek III, Emily Mannisto, Stephanie Mannisto,

Hanna (John Dartt) Mannisto, Ally (Thomas Richardson) Houle, Henry Bosely, Selby Beauchaine, Margaret Beauchaine, Jordan Beauchaine, Molly Beauchaine, Sydney Bonneau; son-in-law Terry Beauchaine; siblings Mike (Sharon) Golisek Sr., Cynthia (Lou) Kuston, Rebecca (Luc) Marti, Debra (Rick) LaPlant and Lisa (Jerry) Nankervis; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Lois Golisek, daughter Nancy Beauchaine, granddaughter Olivia Bosley and brother David Golisek.

Private family services will be held. Jan’s obituary and online guestbook may be found at bowermanfuneralhome.net.

In memory: Marilyn Seaglund

Marilyn Seaglund, age 74, of Wetmore died peacefully at her home on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026. Graveside services with Pastor Jason LaFlamme will take place at Maple Grove Cemetery at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026, and a luncheon will follow at Munising Baptist Church. For details, visit bowermanfuneralhome.net.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Strike approached its fourth month

**50 years ago
Sept. 29, 1976
The Munising News**

The long-running strike at Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co.’s Forest Products Division sawmill and veneer plant between Munising and Shingleton was nearing its fourth month. A new settlement proposal from federal mediator George Vogl called for a 35-cent hourly raise retroactive to July 1 and another 6% increase in July 1977. Members of Local IV-303 of the International Woodworkers of America rejected the proposal by a 58-48 vote. The newspaper noted the margin was considerably narrower than an earlier vote and reported some union officials wanted to return to negotiations.

bottom of Wetmore Hill. Grahovac was assisting with the extrication of a victim when he was struck by a responding fire truck that apparently had lost its brakes. The newspaper reported that between 60 and 70 law enforcement, fire and emergency response agencies attended his funeral escort. Grahovac served not only as an Alger County sheriff’s deputy, but also as a certified EMT, member of the county extrication team and member of the Munising Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Munising High School mathematics and science teacher Mandy Frantti was named one of three Michigan finalists for the National Science Foundation’s Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The program recognized outstanding mathematics and science educators and was administered by the NSF for the White House.

Former Munising resident Joan Liquia won the \$200,000 grand prize in a Michigan State Lottery drawing at the National Guard Armory in Sault Ste. Marie. Liquia, formerly Joan Emanuelson, had lived in Ishpeming for 12 years and was studying to become a legal secretary at Northern Michigan University. Alger County resident Thomas Nolan of Upper Twin Lake also had a winning night, taking home \$10,000.

Munising Parks and Recreation Director Barry B. Bacon reported a slate of improvements underway across the city. The Lincoln Elementary School gymnasium had been returned to recreational use after previously being divided into classrooms, while work also included a dance studio at the Community Center and renovations at Maple Mountain Ski Hill. Bacon said other facilities being reviewed included Tourist Park, the municipal ball fields, tot lots and Bayshore Park.

Local law enforcement agencies joined an Upper Peninsula-wide effort to aid rescue and recovery personnel in New York following the Sept. 11 attacks. Munising Police Chief Steve Swanberg announced that city police, the Michigan State Police Munising Post and Alger County Sheriff’s Department were participating in “America United,” an effort to collect tools and equipment specifically requested by New York City Police Department Emergency Services personnel. U.P. Special Delivery donated a tractor-trailer to carry collected equipment to Brooklyn.

About this column

This column is made possible through the Munising School Public Library Digital Archive. These historic editions of The Munising News and other local papers offer snapshots of life in Alger County over the decades. To explore more, visit Munising School Public Library and ask how to access the digital archive collection.

**25 years ago
Sept. 26, 2001
The Munising News**

Alger County mourned Sheriff’s Deputy Paul Grahovac, 34, who was killed in the line of duty while helping at the scene of a three-vehicle crash at the

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 images such as this photograph of the Munising Fire Department in 1970. 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 for details.

Beacon welcomes letters

The Munising Beacon welcomes letters to the editor and encourages thoughtful discussion about issues affecting Alger County and our communities. Letters may support, criticize or challenge ideas, decisions, public officials, candidates and matters of public interest. A diversity of viewpoints is welcome.

Length: Letters should generally be limited to 400 words. Longer submissions may be edited for length or returned to the writer for revision.

Identification: Letters must include the writer’s full name and community of residence. Writers must also provide a telephone number and email address for verification. Contact information will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be accepted.

Accuracy: Writers are entitled to their opinions, but factual statements must be accurate and verifiable. Documentation or sources supporting factual claims may be requested. Letters containing statements that are demonstrably false, misleading or cannot reasonably be substantiated may be rejected or returned to the writer for revision.

Civility: Letters may contain strong criticism and disagreement, but should address issues rather than engage in personal attacks, threats, discriminatory language or gratuitous insults. Potentially defamatory statements and

unsubstantiated allegations of criminal, unethical or otherwise improper conduct will not be published.

Public officials and public issues: Letters discussing elected officials, candidates, government agencies, ballot proposals and other matters of public concern are welcome. The same standards for accuracy, attribution and civility apply regardless of the viewpoint expressed.

Original submissions: Letters should be the writer’s own work and submitted specifically for publication in The Munising Beacon. Form letters, mass-produced campaign submissions or substantially identical letters submitted by organized groups may be declined. Writers should disclose significant affiliations or interests directly related to the subject of their letter when relevant.

Frequency: To provide space for a broad range of

community voices, writers are limited to one published letter to the editor in any 30-day period. Additional letters may be submitted during that period but will not be considered for publication until the 30-day period has passed. Publication of any letter remains at the discretion of the editorial staff.

Editing: The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, grammar, punctuation, Associated Press style, accuracy and potentially libelous content. Letter writers should avoid use of bold, italics, random capitalization and other formatting that does not meet journalistic standards. Editing will not intentionally alter the writer’s meaning or position. When substantial changes are necessary, The Beacon may return the letter to the writer for revision rather than edit it for publication.

Responses: When a letter contains significant criticism or allegations involving an identifiable person or organization, The Beacon may provide that person or organization an opportunity to respond.

Election periods: The Beacon may establish deadlines for election-related letters to avoid publishing significant new allegations or claims so close to an election that there is not a reasonable opportunity for response.

Publication: Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. Publication is at the discretion of The Munising Beacon’s editorial staff. Decisions may take into account accuracy, newsworthiness, available space, timeliness, repetition of previously published arguments and adherence to these guidelines.

Letters may be submitted to news@munisingbeaconmedia.com.

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SPORTS

MUSTANGS FACE IRONWOOD ON FRIDAY

MHS looking forward to homecoming

By Terry Foster
Beacon Correspondent

Discipline. Composure. Staying cool in the heat of the moment.

Those are the traits Munising High School coaches have pounded into their players' heads before Friday's homecoming game against Ironwood (1-3). They emphasized that the mental is just as important as the physical. The Mustangs must learn to keep their composure no matter what happens Friday.

How do the winless Mustangs regroup to win, perhaps the first winnable game of the season?

The Mustang football season has become a broken record. They play teams like angry dragons. Games are close. Something happens, and this team falls apart against superior talent, speed and muscle.

It happened again during Friday's 59-8 loss at North Central (3-1), and Munising coaches are still scratching their heads trying to figure



Kris Uehlein

A Lake Linden-Hubbell player reaches for the goal line against Munising on Sept. 11. LLH posted a 50-12 victory.

out why. This one made no sense because things were looking rosy late in the third quarter.

Munising (0-4) trailed by one touchdown, and if you look at the scores from this season, that is reason for the Mustangs to feel good

about themselves. Running backs Brody Johns and Levi Hauler were breaking off runs and stuffing the run on the other side, and the Mustangs believed winning was within reach.

Munising created turnovers on defense and

another one on special teams.

Then wacky happened. There was a blatant holding call on a North Central player. The Mustangs thought officials missed the call. They did not. Even as officials walked off the

penalty yardage, players were still barking. Scuffles broke out, and the Mustangs never got it together.

How could something like this happen?

"That's a great question," Munising coach Matt Mattson said. "I guess that

is where we are."

NC players became overjoyed as a previously tough opponent became unfocused, and ran away with the game while handing Munising its 15th straight loss.

"We lost our composure a little bit," Mattson said. "This is not the way we want to play. We are going to do things the correct way. We are going to keep our cool and be disciplined."

Mattson loves coaching this team. He loves their competitive spirit. He loves showing up to practice every day. But he won't tolerate silly stuff.

The goal is no longer to make the state playoffs. The Mustangs hope to make homecoming enjoyable with a win over Ironwood, which is coming off a tough 14-8 loss to Ontonagon. Mattson also has a keen interest in helping mold these young men into pillars of the community.

"It was frustrating," Mattson said. "We have to clean up a lot of things, one play at a time. We will worry about Ironwood and move on from there."



Kris Uehlein

Conor McDonnald, 5, and the Superior Central defense get ready for the snap.

Cougars' rally falls short

By Terry Foster
Beacon Correspondent

Gavin Vining is one of those kids who doesn't want a fuss to be made over him. He is a leader in a quiet way.

You would not know he is on the football field for Superior Central if he weren't pounding the rock on offense and rocking somebody's world on defense. He does his job and stands down.

Vining is also the heart and soul of Superior Central's football team. So, when he lay in a pile of tangled bodies two plays into the Cougars' 50-34 loss to Rapid River, that became a major disruption.

His ankle was twisted so badly that Vining would not return to the game. Bodies needed to be shifted, the offensive game plan simplified and the blocking scheme changed without him on the field. The defense went from man-to-man to a zone concept in the secondary.

"We were ready for this game and looking forward to it," Superior Central coach Todd Spranger said.

And then they weren't.

Young guys with little or no experience became major players. They experienced Football 101 on the fly.

"We count on [Vining] for his leadership and skill," Spranger said.

This almost became the 8-player football version of the Miracle on Ice. The Cougars fell behind, 24-0, at the half — adjusting to Vining's absence. Young guys were bumping into each other trying to figure out where and how to be.

But things began to click. Without Vining, the young guys became football players. The Cougars began to whittle away at the deficit. Tight end Eli Valima, one of the veterans, snagged three touchdown passes, including one for 70 yards, which made the squad squeal in delight.

Junior Conor McDonnald was one of those guys who replaced Vining at linebacker and perhaps even surprised himself at how well he played.

Late in the third quarter, the Cougars trailed by six points and had the ball. Sadly for the Cougars,

emotion and grit turned into reality as Rapid River shook off its hard-charging opponent to make key plays down the stretch.

How would things have been different with Vining in the lineup? We might find out in five weeks. Superior Central and Rapid River play again at Rapid River and, if his ankle mends properly, Vining will be back in the lineup. It is rare for teams to play each other twice in the same season unless it is in a conference championship game or during the state tournament.

"I have no idea who the scheduling gods are," Spranger said.

The Cougars were to play Mid Pen the week before in another rematch. That game won't happen because Mid Pen dropped football because of low roster numbers.

Superior Central is looking for an opponent to fill the gap.

Spranger looks forward to the rematch with Rapid River; he had a clear plan that could help the Cougars win this game: "Don't sprain your ankle," he quipped.

Schultz earns induction into Lakeland Hall of Fame

By Ben Murphy
Beacon Correspondent

When 1994 Munising graduate George Schultz began his college football career for Lakeland University, he expected to compete for a role as a punter. While he eventually earned that duty as a junior and senior, it was at wide receiver that he made the most noise — so much so that he has been named to the Lakeland University Hall of Fame Class of 2026 and will be officially inducted Sept. 27.

"I'm almost 30 years removed from college sports. I was a little shocked," Schultz said of learning he was entering the hall of fame. "I had records there, so it means a lot of validation. When I got the call that I was getting in, I was super happy. Over the course of the 100-plus years of that institution, there's only been around 200 inducted, so to be one of those out of thousands and thousands of athletes, it is a big honor."

In his time with the Muskies, Schultz graduated as the program's career receptions leader with 178 (he's now third all-time), and he had 1,800 total receiving yards. His junior year alone he had 11 receiving touchdowns. In his final three years, the team went 24-5-1 overall and won two league championships, including an undefeated 10-0 campaign his senior year.

Learning that he was named to the school's hall of fame was a surprise in itself. However, the way he learned he was going to be inducted was a down-right shocker. His wife, Amber, got the call with the news back in December, and she decided to keep it a secret from George for a couple of months, waiting for the perfect time for the reveal.

"My 50th birthday was coming up at the end of February. She kept the secret from me, and we held a surprise party at our brewery [ByGeorge Brewing Co.]," Schultz said. "I thought it was a birthday party for



Courtesy of Lakeland University
George Schultz during his playing days at Lakeland.

me, then all of a sudden she popped up on the video screen [and announced] that I was inducted. It was a pretty cool moment, the way I found out. To say I was shocked was an understatement. I was blown away."

His football journey was an interesting one, too. He went from being known as a punter while at Munising to something much more at Lakeland.

"In the '80s and '90s, [Munising football was] running the ball 90% of the time. My role of receiver there wasn't really as a receiver as much as I was a decoy. There weren't many plays designed for me to catch," Schultz said. "What got me in the door for college was I was an all-U.P. punter. I had a great leg."

An ankle injury his senior year prevented him from going to Ferris State University. However, Lakeland head coach Randy Awrey, a U.P. native himself from Iron Mountain, was ready to give Schultz a chance.

"He kind of pioneered recruiting the small schools in the U.P. and in northern Wisconsin, and he happened to come to our school," Schultz said. "He gave me a call and gave me an opportunity to go down there and be part of the team at Lakeland. So I thought I would give it a try, to punt."

Schultz guesses he was around 6 feet tall and 142 pounds as a freshman.

"I was severely undersized," he said.

That didn't stop him from putting in the work and eventually catching the attention of his coaching staff. He worked on punting during morning practices, then in the evenings, he ran through wide receiver drills. That's when things started to come together.

"After a couple weeks, they pulled me into the office and said they didn't want me punting anymore," Schultz said. "I thought, am I getting kicked off the team? They said, 'No, we really like what you're doing with receiving, so we want to focus more on that.'"

Things escalated pretty quickly from there.

"A couple games in, I was second or third on the depth chart. The guy I'm behind gets hurt, so I get put in and I just had an amazing game — 10 receptions, 100-something yards — and from that point forward, I never looked back. I started every game," Schultz said.

He started punting again his junior and senior seasons, and he figures he grew almost 3 inches and gained almost 60 pounds by the time he reached his senior year.

In his final season, Lakeland went 10-0 and led the nation in scoring at the Division III level. The Muskies were left out of the post-season tournament despite that undefeated record.

"I ended my career winning 18 games in a row. That's pretty crazy," Schultz said. "We had a pretty prolific offense. Our team was brilliant. So many of our players from our team should be in the hall of fame, so I'm blessed to be going in. I think it's cool because I get to represent them, and because I am going in, a part of them is going in too."

Going from an admitted decoy in high school, to a hall of fame college career, that's quite the athletic journey — and one that Schultz cherishes to this day.

"I wouldn't trade it for anything," he said.

Munising tennis team completes busy week

By Ben Murphy
Beacon Correspondent

The Munising girls tennis team was quite busy last week, competing in three road matches. The Mustangs dropped all three, but head coach Abbie Hayes appreciates the hard work her squad has been putting in of late.

“We had a long week of Munising tennis with three matches,” she said. “The girls are settling into their new routines with the school year, and our season is winding down.”

On Monday, Sept. 14, Munising had its

closest battle, when it lost at Escanaba, 5-3.

The Mustangs earned wins at No. 1 singles (Kinley Hall), No. 1 singles (Keira Albright) and No. 3 doubles (Ava Prunick and Juliana Smith).

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, they competed at Gladstone, in what turned into a 7-1 setback. Hall had the Mustangs’ lone victory.

Their stretch of three matches in four days ended on Thursday, Sept. 17, with an 8-0 loss at Negaunee.

“We had tough battles and ultimately came up short,” Hayes said of the match at Negaunee. “The

girls’ scores don’t always match the way they play. They have been hitting really well and fighting hard despite the challenges they have faced this season with cancelled matches, lack of matches and lack of players. They have been working really hard.”

Munising competed at Norway on Monday; heads to Westwood today (Wednesday); and will compete in the Division 2 U.P. Finals in Ishpeming on Oct. 1.

“We are officially on to the last two weeks of the year, which is conference and U.P. Finals weeks,” Hayes said.



Munising Baptist’s Isaac Beaverson, 1, and Will Norton, 11, close in on an opposing player in a recent match.

Munising Baptist finds goals tough to come by

By John Vrancic
Guest Correspondent

Goals were absent for the Munising Baptist Bobcats at home on Monday, Sept. 14, in a 3-0 soccer loss to the Hannahville Soaring Eagles.

The Bobcats finished with 17 shots on goal, but were unable to get the ball past goalkeeper Antonio Eagle, who showed quick hands in this Northern Lights League match.

M.J. Smith provided the Soaring Eagles with their third goal on a breakaway in the final three minutes.

“Their numbers definitely helped,” MBS coach Hunter MacArthur said. “They have nearly a full team on the bench, and we have three subs and they’re young. Their third goal was a perfect setup. We were sloppy with the ball in the first half. At halftime, I got after them for a lack of effort. The second half was better.”

Hannahville’s Devin Arteaga scored from point-blank range in the first half, and Dawson Lea scored on a breakaway 22 minutes into the second half.

The Bobcats appeared to be more aggressive at the beginning of the second half, but the Soaring Eagles proved equal to the task.

They were able to put a lot of pressure on junior keeper Ethan Swift, the two-time Most Valuable Player in the NLL, who provided the Bobcats with 16 saves.

“Their goaltender is quick,” Hannahville coach Dan Kleikamp said. “He had some nice saves. [Eagle] also had some nice saves. Our defense has been playing real well. I’ll give them credit. They had a handful of shots we thought would get in.”

The Bobcats appeared to be more aggressive at the beginning of the second half, but the Soaring Eagles proved equal to the task and were able to put a lot of pressure on Swift.

“We had a lot of shots from outside,” MacArthur said. “We got to work on getting the ball past their defensive line and get better shots.”

At Garden Corners, the Bobcats again were unable to find the back of the net, leading to a 3-0 loss to the Big Bay de Noc Black Bears on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Junior Eli Cooper did all the scoring for Big Bay

de Noc, which improved to 6-0 overall and in the league. Munising Baptist dropped to 4-3.

Trek scored four times for the Bobcats in an 8-0 triumph over Bay Mills Ojibwe Charter on Sept. 8.

Swift added two goals and two assists, and eighth-graders Hunter Norton and Max Wright got a goal apiece.

On Beaver Island, Trek scored a hat trick in a 4-1 conquest of the Islanders. Freshman Alex Frederick had the remaining goal. Senior Isaac Beaverson, junior Will Norton and sophomore Ian Cross each had an assist.

The Bobcats hosted the Escanaba Bayside JV team on Monday, Sept. 21, and Hannahville on Tuesday, Sept. 22. They travel to Escanaba to face the Bayside varsity team on Friday, Sept. 25, at 5:30 p.m. and visit Ojibwe Charter on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m.



Munising’s Kaylen Kienitz serves in a recent match. The Mustangs reached the quarterfinals of the Forest Park Invitational last week after going 5-1 in pool play.

Munising reaches quarters at Forest Park Invitational

By Terry Foster
Beacon Correspondent

Senior Piper Grabowski was missed by the Munising volleyball team because she played in a hockey tournament last weekend.

However, the rest of the gang bonded to fill the void and advanced to the quarterfinals of the Forest Park Invitational after going 5-1 in pool play. The Mustangs had nothing left after playing six matches without Grabowski, who is a key player and team captain.

The Mustangs were eliminated by West Iron County.

“The girls played super tough throughout the day,

despite being down a starter and team captain,” coach Josh Cole said. “We ran out of energy toward the end of the day, but can’t complain with the effort each of them showed.”

Junior Addie Bowerman finished with 39 kills, 11 solo blocks and five aces. Kaylen Kienitz added 34 kills and six aces, while Carissa Deatsman finished with 78 assists, four aces and six kills.

Earlier, the Mustangs (6-2) crushed Mid Pen, 25-10, 25-9, 25-15, as Bowerman recorded 11 kills, three solo blocks and nine digs. Kienitz added six kills, five aces and eight digs while Deatsman chipped in 21 assists, six

“

The girls played super tough throughout the day, despite being down a starter and team captain.

Josh Cole

”

digs and two aces.

Vera Nettleton also played well with four kills, three aces and a solo block.

Volleyball fans can see the Mustangs in action at 7 p.m. Thursday as part of homecoming week as they host North Dickinson.

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OUTDOORS

DNR proposes some reduction in bear licenses

Starting in 2027, when a new two-year regulation cycle begins for managing Michigan’s black bears, the Department of Natural Resources is proposing to increase the bear harvest in the U.P. to help stabilize the increasing population by reducing the number of hunting licenses available in some cases.

If that sentence doesn’t make sense to you, you are not alone. It doesn’t make sense to me either — along with many other people.

The Gwinn Bear Management Unit, or BMU, which includes Alger County west of Munising, is one of the BMUs where the DNR plans to reduce bear license quotas for the next two years. Alger County east of Munising is in the Newberry BMU, where there is a minor increase in tags proposed. There are six major BMUs in the U.P., each of which has three separate hunt dates.

Since 1990, the DNR has limited the number of bear licenses they issue to better manage the animals. Hunters have to apply for the BMU and hunt they prefer between May 1 and June 1 each year. A drawing is held to determine which hunters will get bear licenses. Hunters that are unsuccessful in the drawing get a preference point. The longer they apply, the better their chances of getting a license.

The DNR has steadily reduced the number of bear licenses for the U.P. for years even though the bear population is increasing. The number of bear tags handed out for U.P. BMUs during 2025 and 2026 was 300 less than the previous two years.

The problem is the number of bear licenses the DNR decides to issue is tied to hunter success. The higher hunter success is, the fewer licenses they issue.

It’s a vicious cycle if you don’t want to have to wait years to draw a bear tag. Due to the presence of more bears and less hunting pressure, hunting success will continue to increase. If the DNR doesn’t change its formula for determining the number of bear licenses it issues, the number of hunters that will be able to hunt bears every year will continue to decline.

The number of bears DNR wildlife biologists decided they wanted hunters to harvest from the Gwinn BMU for 2025 and 2026 is 158. All successful bear hunters are required to register their kills. There were 217 bears registered for that unit during 2025, 59 more than the “desired harvest.” The desired harvest for the Gwinn Unit was 150 during 2024 when 212 bears were registered, a difference of 62.

For 2027 and 2028, the DNR increased the desired harvest to 190 for Gwinn, which is still much lower than the registered harvest for at least the last two years. They are recommending reducing the number of bear licenses for Gwinn by five even though the desired harvest was increased by 32.

To put the DNR’s proposed desired harvest for the Gwinn Unit into perspective, that unit is 2,408 square

miles in size. A desired harvest of 190 comes out to .0789 bears per square mile. The recommended license quota of 730 for all three hunts in that unit is .3 bear hunter per square mile.

For the Newberry BMU, the desired harvest in 2025 was 286 and hunters registered 334 — 44 more. In 2024, the desired harvest was 260 and hunters registered 328, which was 68 higher. The DNR bumped up the desired harvest for the Newberry Unit to 330 for the next two years, which is close to the number actually registered in the last two years.

They plan on issuing five more licenses for that unit during 2027 and 2028 even though the desired harvest was increased by 44.

The Newberry Unit is 5,191 square miles in size. A desired harvest of 330 comes out to .0635 bears per square mile. A license quota of 885 for all three hunts in that unit is .17 hunter per square mile

spread over three separate hunts. The number of permits for each hunt puts an even smaller percentage of hunters on the landscape.

The desired harvest is an arbitrary number selected by DNR wildlife biologists based on what they think will achieve the goal of “stabilizing” the bear population. The impact that bears have on the U.P. deer population isn’t considered when determining the desired harvest of bears.

Based on DNR estimates, there were 11,041 bears that were at least a year old in the U.P. prior to 2025 bear seasons, which is up about 700 bears from an estimate of 10,353 for 2024. Once a desired harvest number is selected, the DNR takes the average hunting success from the three previous seasons to determine how many licenses to issue to achieve the desired harvest.

“In order to achieve the desired harvest in the Gwinn Unit for the next two years, we are proposing to reduce the license quota by five for the next two years due to

the high success rate there,” DNR bear specialist Cody Norton told members of the Bear Forum at a meeting in St. Ignace on Aug. 22. The forum is composed of representatives of various hunting organizations, the Michigan Farm Bureau, beekeepers and independent bear hunters to provide input to the DNR about all aspects of bear hunting.

Most forum members are bear hunters, and they want to see more bears. Therefore, input from the majority of forum members is biased toward having more bears.

The DNR recognizes that the U.P. bear population is increasing and exceeding desired harvest goals they set due to a growing bear population.

“Bear seasons were very successful last year,” Norton said. “The registered kill in all U.P. bear management units exceeded desired harvest goals we set. All of the available information we have confirms that the bear

population in that part of the state is increasing.”

Sarah Mayhew does bear population estimates for the state, and she gave a presentation during the forum about the modeling she uses to make those estimates.

“We evaluate the model every five years, and this is one of those years,” she told forum members. “We have to make a number of assumptions in the model. The U.P. model is not a good match for the real world. There are too many things to adjust to.”

The U.P. model shows a steep incline in the bear population during recent years. There are more bears on the landscape than the model is showing, resulting in an underharvest of the animals. The U.P. bear population will continue to increase rather than be stabilized under proposed harvest levels. Since the DNR bear estimates do not include cubs, the actual number of bears in the U.P. is much higher than their estimates for that reason alone.



Richard P. Smith
Beacon Columnist

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Grand Marais Wine Tasting & Art Auction

Saturday, Sept. 26

- Departs Munising: 3 p.m.
- Return departure: 8-8:30 p.m.
- Bus fare: \$13
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Bus tickets may be purchased at ALTRAN-Alger County Transit Authority 906-487-4845



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MOUNTAIN GOAT MASH

SATURDAY, OCT. 10 • 9 A.M.
Valley Spur Recreation Area, Hiawatha National Forest

Take on approximately **20 miles of cross-country-style mountain biking** on the singletrack trails at Valley Spur.

RACE DETAILS

- Staggered start — one rider every 30 seconds
- Two aid stations with water and electrolyte drinks
- Drinks and snacks at the start/finish

REGISTRATION

- Online registration closes **5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9.**
- Race-day registration closes **30 minutes before the start.**

KIDS CAN RIDE, TOO!
An approximately **2-mile kids race** will follow the main event, expected to begin between **11:30 a.m. and noon.**
Kids register **race day only, 8:30-11 a.m.**

HIT THE TRAILS. TAKE ON THE MASH!

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MICHIGAN FOREST PATHWAYS

Mountains, molehills, motivations

Roadless Rule
still generating
heated opinions

By Bill Cook
Guest Columnist

The Roadless Rule: It was controversial a quarter century ago, and it appears that it remains so. The “environmental” PACs are coming out in earnest, no doubt hoping to drum up memberships with sensationalist boilerplate language that often doesn’t mean much after critical review.

First, most of the Roadless Area (a federal designation) lies in a handful of western states, and half of that probably would not be considered forests, at least from a visual standpoint. Not that unforested lands haven’t ecological and other value. They do. However, if one adopts a forestland perspective, much of those areas are unproductive. The 2001 policy was to hold federal roadless areas “on hold” pending future study and deliberations.

Secondly, Michigan has only 16,000 acres of designated Roadless Area. For the most part, nobody in their right might would venture into most of it, as more than half is practically an impenetrable swamp. Think of the Delirium Unit in the eastern Hiawatha National Forest. Uff-da. It’s called that for a reason, and it’s not related to joyful bliss.

Similarly, the Bear Swamp area in the Manistee National Forest is,

well, a swamp. Difficult to slog through. The Norwich Plains in the Ottawa National Forest does have some potential for timber, recreation and other value, but also has a considerable amount of low quality real estate.

On the other hand, Government Island in the Les Cheneaux islands, is rather attractive. Although, it will remain roadless with or without any special designation, due to inaccessibility.

Thirdly, the Roadless Rule was enacted largely for western states. The battle to keep — or not keep — these areas is one for the west. Roadless Areas in the east were mostly an effort to fit a square peg into a round bureaucratic hole. Many of the areas are not roadless; some have been cutover, and most have been burned at least once. Yet, each national forest was required to conform to the rule even where it made no ecological sense.

Changes to the management, or lack thereof, are unlikely, as the parcels consist mostly of non-commercial lands. So, the hub-bub about rescinding the Roadless Area designation is moot — at least in Michigan.

The negative environmental impacts touted by the environmental PACs are “old hat” boilerplate and have little standing, once one probes a bit further beyond the media hype.

Habitat impact is likely to be nil if the rule is lifted. Fragmentation, if it occurs, which it probably will not, will be inconsequential.

“
Habitat impact
is likely to be nil
if the rule is lifted.
Fragmentation
... will be
inconsequential.
”

The Michigan Roadless Areas are too small for that to be relevant. The notion of “fragmentation” is generally absurd in this framework, as current Michigan Roadless Areas are likely to remain untouched because they’re untouchable.

Fragmentation occurs far more frequently by those folks who buy little pieces of heaven and plant a house there — not from forest management.

Often cited species of concern occur with equal or greater numbers across managed forestlands. Such species include wolves, bats, bear, moose, martens, lynx and others. The landscape picture is similar for endangered and special plant species. These species, and most others, do better in managed forest landscapes as long as the forest remains as forest.

In some cases, the additional woods roads are beneficial to wildlife, particularly wolves and bats.

Most Michigan wildlife species have healthy population trajectories, including many that were once endangered. The environmental laws of the 1960s and 1970s worked, for the most part. Current wildlife populations that are under

stress have underlying causes rarely related to forests and forest management, including logging.

The sense of the wild, quiet and solitude attributed to Wilderness Areas and Roadless Areas are far from restricted to these boxes on maps that have been enacted and labelled by Congress. This “spiritual” aesthetic can be easily experienced across much of Michigan’s 20 million acres of forestland. To suggest these attributes occur only on designated lands is disinformation.

Is there an increased risk of wildfire if the Michigan Roadless Areas become undesignated? No. Withdrawal from the program is unlikely to increase usership or promote road building. Even if roads are built, they will be forest roads, not the paved highways the environmental PACs might have one believe. In the Norwich Plains, those old roads are already there.

As an outdoor enthusiast (backpacker, paddler, day-hiker), I have no trouble finding solace among the forests and rivers of the U.P. I’ve walked most of the long trails and paddled many of the rivers. Conversely, I tend to shun “designated” areas simply because there are too many people that visit them. Ironic, isn’t it?

With all the challenges facing Michigan forests, one would think focusing on the major issues would be more important.

Bill Cook is a retired MSU Extension forester/biologist.



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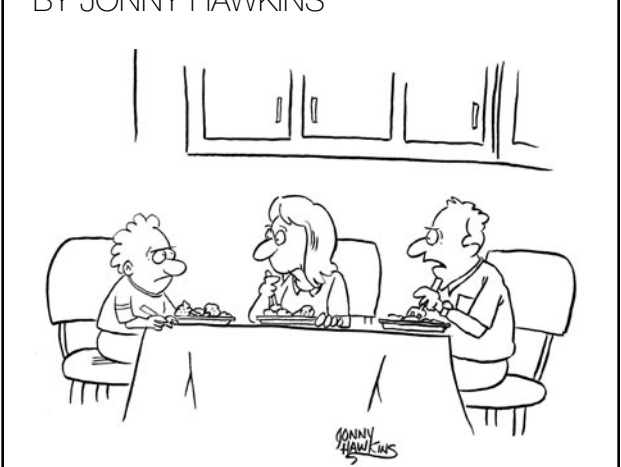
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“I’m not playing God - I’m telling you to eat your broccoli!”

© 2009 Jonny Hawkins

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BY JEFF MUGLESTON



WE SHOULD PROBABLY ASK FOR DIRECTIONS. I THINK WE PASSED THAT LEAF ALREADY.

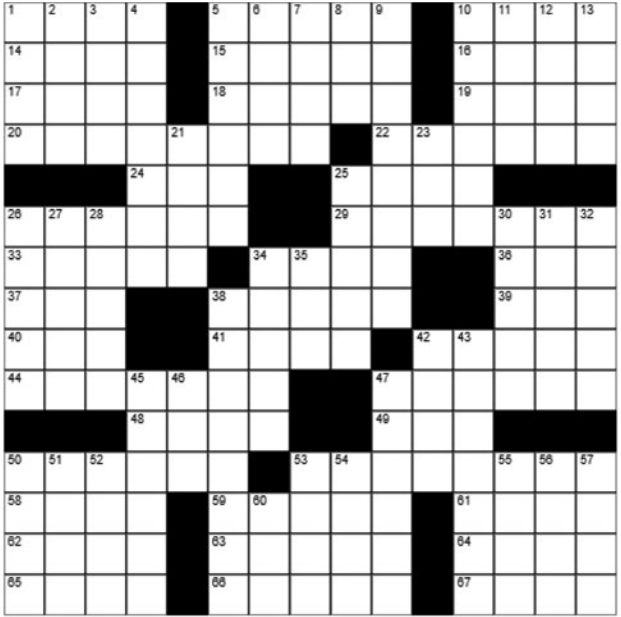
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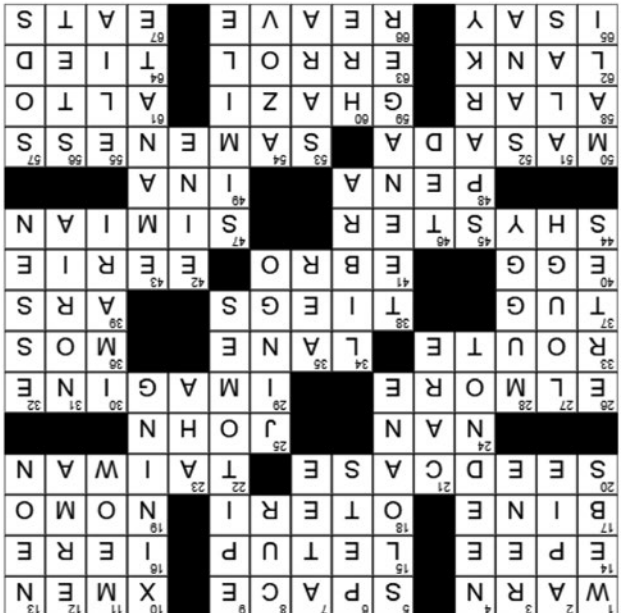
CROSSWORD

- Across
- 1- Tip off
 - 5- Room
 - 10- Marvel superheroes
 - 14- Fencing sword
 - 15- Slacken
 - 16- Able was ____
 - 17- Common hop
 - 18- Cheri of “Saturday Night Live”
 - 19- Hurler Hideo
 - 20- Pericarp
 - 22- Island off the SE coast of China
 - 24- Photographer Goldin
 - 25- Fourth Gospel
 - 26- Author Leonard
 - 29- Conceive
 - 33- Path
 - 34- Pool division
 - 36- Cal. pages
 - 37- Drag
 - 38- Supermodel Cheryl
 - 39- ____ Poetica
 - 40- Ovum
 - 41- River of Spain
 - 42- Creepy
 - 44- Unprofessional lawyer
 - 47- Apelike
 - 48- Clinton cabinet member Federico
 - 49- Actress Claire
 - 50- Ancient fortress in Israel
 - 53- Monotony
 - 58- Banned apple spray
 - 59- Muslim soldier
 - 61- Low woman
 - 62- Slender
 - 63- Swashbuckler Flynn
 - 64- Bound
 - 65- Brit’s cry
 - 66- Steal, ransack
 - 67- Consumes

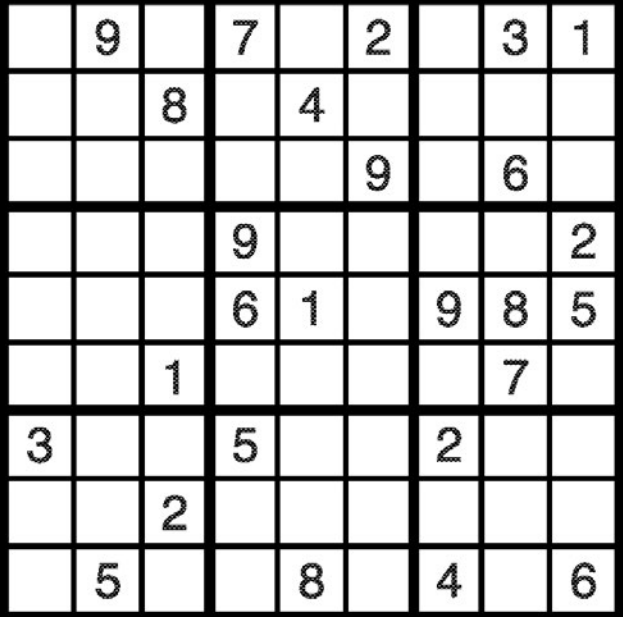
- Down
- 1- Entanglements
 - 2- ...baked in ____
 - 3- Russo of “Ransom”
 - 4- Is obliged to
 - 5- Everett of “Citizen Kane”
 - 6- Teachers’ favorites
 - 7- To ____ (perfectly)
 - 8- Mangy mutt
 - 9- Concise summaries
 - 10- Capital of Qinghai province China
 - 11- Cat call
 - 12- Writer Bombeck
 - 13- Noble gas



- 21- Minister to
- 23- Bingo!
- 25- One who favors war-like policies
- 26- Some Art Deco works
- 27- A lake
- 28- Humid
- 30- Japanese porcelain
- 31- Water wheel
- 32- German industrial city
- 34- Seventh sign of the zodiac
- 35- ____ Lingus
- 38- Mall-goer, often
- 42- German article
- 43- Flow out
- 45- Animated
- 46- A Turner
- 47- Figure of speech with “like” or “as”
- 50- Timbuktu’s land
- 51- Expression of pity
- 52- Capital of Yemen
- 53- Gilbert of “Roseanne”
- 54- Northern arm of the Black Sea
- 55- “East of Eden” director Kazan
- 56- Editorial notation
- 57- Lays down the lawn
- 60- Charlemagne’s realm: Abbr.



SUDOKU



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 letter writing.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 1 = E)

A. 2 1 15
Clue: Writing device

B. 2 19 2 1 16
Clue: Thin sheet material

C. 20 1 24 21 26 19 16 6
Clue: Part of a computer

D. 10 5 26 8 17 5 10 14
Clue: Cognitive processes

Answers: A. pen B. paper C. keyboard D. thoughts

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 12

Grand Marais

Burt Township Planning Commission meeting: 6 p.m.; Burt Township Community Center, E21738 Brazel St.

Munising

Facing the Mourning: 10:30 a.m. to noon; Munising United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.; free interactive support group open to anyone experiencing loss.

Casual pinochle: 1 to 5:30 p.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department, 413 Maple St.

Moose Lodge 1386 member meeting: 6 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge 1386, 124 W. Superior St.

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Munising

Kiwanis Club of Alger County meeting: noon; Westminster Hall, First Presbyterian Church of Munising, 402 Elm Ave.

Tai Chi for Arthritis: 1:15 p.m.; First Presbyterian Church, 402 Elm Ave.

Cribbage tournament: 6 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge 1386, 124 W. Superior St.; games follow ICC rules; experienced and new players welcome.

Jammers! live music: 6 to 8 p.m.; Falling Rock Cafe & Bookstore, 104 E. Munising Ave.

Co-ed pickleball league: games begin at 6:30 p.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department, 413 Maple St.

Yoop Dog Gentle Yoga: 6:30 p.m.; Down Wind Sports, 101 E. Superior St.

Munising AA, Munising 1st Group: 8 p.m.; Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1150 M-28; closed meeting.

Thursday, Oct. 1

Munising

Casual/party bridge: noon to 4 p.m.; Munising United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.

GriefShare grief support group: 4 to 6 p.m.; Munising Baptist Church Ministry Center, N6285 Connors Road; help and encouragement following the death of a loved one.

Munising City Commission meeting: 6 p.m.; City Hall, 301 E. Superior St.

Acoustic jam: 6 to 8 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge 1386, 124 W. Superior St.

Vietnam Veterans of America meeting:

6 p.m.; VVA Clubhouse, E8025 Jingle Bell Lane, Christmas.

Narcotics Anonymous: 7 p.m.; Munising United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.; open meeting.

Friday, Oct. 2

Munising

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

Moose Lodge fish fry: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge 1386, 124 W. Superior St.

American Legion fish fry: 5 to 8 p.m.; American Legion Post 131, 610 W. Munising Ave.

Trivia night: 6:30 p.m.; Whisky Dick's, 109 Elm Ave.; donation-based.

Saturday, Oct. 3

Marquette

Autumn Comforts Quilt Show: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Ojibwa Casino Marquette, 105 Acre Trail; more than 200 quilts, door prizes, basket raffles and a raffle quilt; admission \$5.

Munising

Slow Flow Yoga: 10 a.m.; basement of First Presbyterian Church, 402 Elm Ave.

Sunday, Oct. 4

Chatham

Garden Workshop: Planting Garlic & Putting the Garden to Rest; noon; Chatham Community Garden, 5264 Gladstone St.; learn about garlic varieties, planting methods and preparing the garden for next season.

Grand Marais

Grand Marais AA meeting: 1 p.m.; basement meeting room, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 1000 Grand Marais Ave.; open meeting.

Marquette

Autumn Comforts Quilt Show: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Ojibwa Casino Marquette, 105 Acre Trail; more than 200 quilts, door prizes, basket raffles and a raffle quilt; admission \$5.

Munising

Silent Book Club: 2 to 4 p.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department, 413 Maple St.

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

FALL FESTIVAL & Community Event

Good Food ★ Great Music ★ Friends ★ Family ★ Fun

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

Square Dancing WITH A CALLER

EAST CHANNEL STRINGS

Playing Celtic/American music for us to dance to!

BBQ

Cheesy potatoes, coleslaw, rolls, and dessert!

DATE: Saturday, October 17

LOCATION: Grand Marais community center

TIME: 5:00 PM

\$20 PER ADULT

This price includes music & food!

\$10 17 and UNDER

Bring your own drinks!

Sponsored by the Women's Club

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Jennifer Paul at 810-444-4496.

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Dr. Jake Eisenschink, Podiatrist

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Mercy Odueyungbo, MD, FAAD, FACM Dermatology & Mohs Surgery

A board-certified dermatologist and fellowship-trained Mohs surgeon specializing in the detection and treatment of skin cancer, including Mohs micrographic surgery, through Lily Dermatology.

Carol Horne, Education Outreach Coordinator

Helping community members navigate important resources through Medicare and Medicaid fraud-prevention education and coordination of veterans benefits through the iReach program.

Carmen Perry, EMT-P, CP-C Community Paramedicine

Helping patients transition safely home after a hospital stay through MMH's new Community Paramedicine program, with a focus on reducing readmissions and helping patients stay healthy at home.

Amar Singh, PT, FDN1 Physical Therapist | Dry Needling

Targeted treatment for muscle pain, tension and movement dysfunction. Dry needling uses thin, sterile needles to target muscle trigger points and may help reduce pain, improve mobility and complement an individualized physical therapy program.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY MUNISING VISITORS BUREAU

Wednesday, Sept. 23
Au Train
Live music by A Place to Land: 6 to 8 p.m.; The Brownstone, E4635 M-28.

Grand Marais
Community potluck and discussion about democracy: 6 p.m.; Burt Township Community Center, E21738 Brazel St.; sponsored by Alger County Indivisible; free van transportation available to and from Munising for the first 15 people; email algercounty indivisible@gmail.com to request a ride.

Limestone
Limestone Township Board meeting: 7 p.m.; Limestone Township Hall, N3010 Highway M-67.

Munising
Kiwanis Club of Alger County meeting: noon; Westminster Hall, First Presbyterian Church of Munising, 402 Elm Ave.
Tai Chi for Arthritis: 1:15 p.m.; First Presbyterian Church, 402 Elm Ave.
Cribbage tournament: 6 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge 1386, 124 W. Superior St.; games follow ICC rules; experienced and new players welcome.
Jammers! live music: 6 to 8 p.m.; Falling Rock Cafe & Bookstore, 104 E. Munising Ave.
Munising Planning Commission meeting: 6 p.m.; City Commission Chambers, City Hall, 301 E. Superior St.
Co-ed pickleball league: games begin at 6:30 p.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department, 413 Maple St.
Yoop Dog Gentle Yoga: 6:30 p.m.; Down Wind Sports, 101 E. Superior St.
Munising AA, Munising 1st Group: 8 p.m.; Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1150 M-28; closed meeting.

Thursday, Sept. 24
Au Train
Live music by A Place to Land: 6 to 8 p.m.; The Brownstone, E4635 M-28.

Marquette
“Munising in Black/White: The Photos of Mary Jayne Hallifax”: noon; Beaumier U.P. Heritage Center, 1401 Presque Isle Ave.

Munising
Casual/party bridge: noon to 4 p.m.; Munising United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.
GriefShare grief support group: 4 to 6 p.m.; Munising Baptist Church Ministry Center, N6285 Connors Road. Help and encouragement following the death of a loved one.
Live music by Terry Creamer: 5 to 8 p.m.; ByGeorge Brewing Co., 231 E. Superior St.
Acoustic jam: 6 to 8 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge 1386, 124 W. Superior St.
Narcotics Anonymous: 7 p.m.; Munising United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.; open meeting.
Live music by Whiskey Ryan: 7 to 10 p.m.; East Channel Brewing Co.’s The Connection, 205 E. Superior St.

Friday, Sept. 25
Munising
Munising AA, 12 and 12: 9 a.m.; Munising United Methodist Church, 312 Lynn St.; open meeting.
Moose Lodge fish fry: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge 1386, 124 W. Superior St.
American Legion fish fry: 5 to 8 p.m.; American Legion Post 131, 610 W. Munising Ave.
Live music by Jay Krueger: 6 to 9 p.m.; ByGeorge Brewing Co., 231 E. Superior St.
Trivia night: 6:30 p.m.; Whisky Dick’s, 109 Elm Ave.; donation-based.

Trenary
Munising Memorial Mobile Health Unit visit: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Township Hall parking lot, 2995 M-67; call 906-387-4338 to schedule an appointment.
Dolly Parton Day: 7 p.m.; Trenary Tavern, N1072 Trenary Ave.

Saturday, Sept. 26
Crystal Falls
Caregiver retreat: 10:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern; Fortune Lake Camp, 138 Fortune Lake Camp Road; activities include yoga, an outdoor activity, an art project, chair massage, caregiver support group and lunch; \$30; for nonprofessional caregivers.

Munising
Stake the Lake 2026: registration begins at 9 a.m.; Munising Middle/High School, 810 M-28 West; program begins before the 10 a.m. walk; presented by the Eric R. Beverly Family Foundation and Pat’s Foods.

Slow Flow Yoga: 10 a.m.; basement of First Presbyterian Church, 402 Elm Ave.
Live music, performer TBD: 6 to 9 p.m.; ByGeorge Brewing Co., 231 E. Superior St.

Sunday, Sept. 27
Grand Marais
Grand Marais AA meeting: 1 p.m.; basement meeting room, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 1000 Grand Marais Ave.; open meeting.

Munising
Munising Moose Lodge 1386 new member orientation: noon to 2 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge 1386, 124 W. Superior St.; all are welcome to meet new members and learn more about the Moose.
Silent Book Club: 2 to 4 p.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department, 413 Maple St.
Munising AA, Blue in Review: 7 p.m.; First Presbyterian Church, 402 Elm Ave.; open meeting.
Live music by Whiskey Ryan: 7 to 10 p.m.; East Channel Brewing Co.’s The Connection, 205 E. Superior St.

Monday, Sept. 28
Grand Marais
Munising Memorial Mobile Health Unit visit: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sandee Sibbald Medical Center, 21843 Grand Marais Ave.; call 906-387-4338 to schedule an appointment.

Munising
Munising Farmers & Artisans Market: 4 to 7 p.m.; Bayshore Park, 355 Elm Ave.
Live music by Whiskey Ryan: 4 to 7 p.m.; Munising Farmers & Artisans Market, Bayshore Park, 355 Elm Ave.
Moose bingo: doors open at 5 p.m.; Munising Moose Lodge 1386, 124 W. Superior St.
Trivia night: 6:30 p.m.; Life on the Rocks, 115 E. Munising Ave., Suite 1.
Pickleball open play: 6:30 p.m.; Alger Parks and Recreation Department, 413 Maple St.

Tuesday, Sept. 29
Au Train
Au Train AA: 7 p.m.; Au Train Community Center, N7569 Spruce St.; open meeting.

See CALENDAR, Page 11



There’s still time to register!

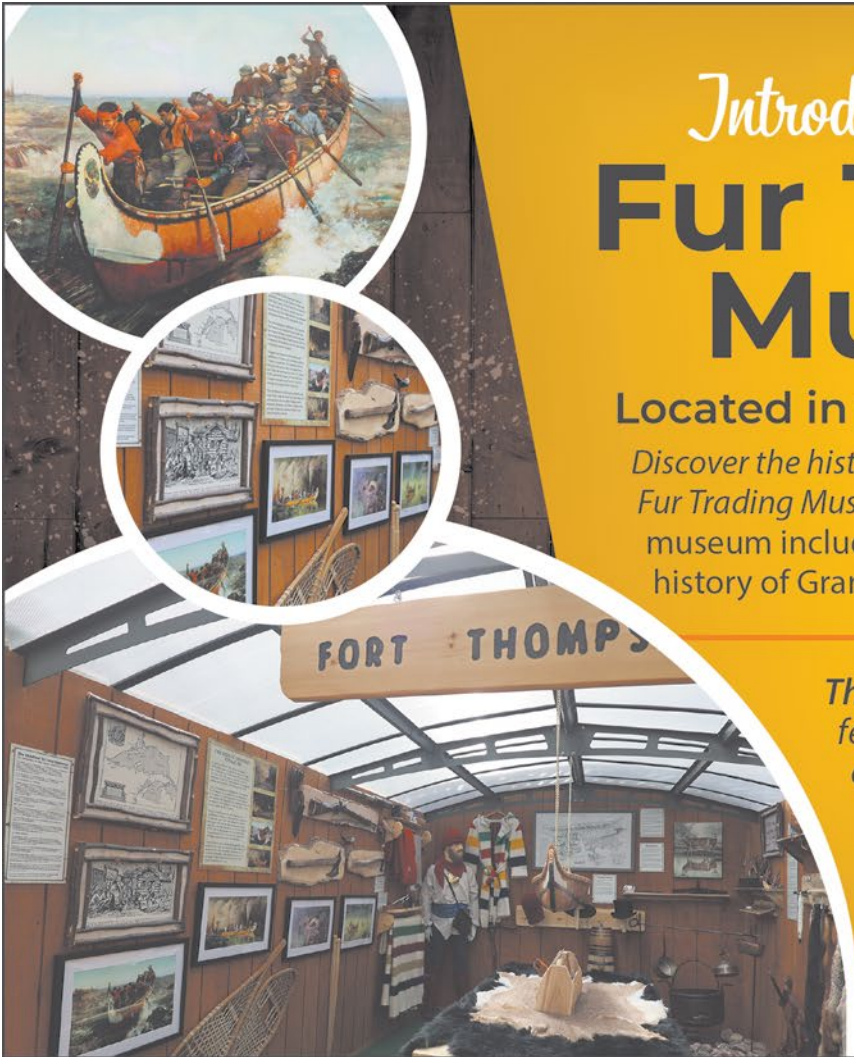
The Stake the Lake Walk is this Saturday, Sept. 26!

- Stake the Lake will begin at Munising Middle/High School (810 West M-28)
- Registration begins at 9 a.m. in the gym. Walk begins at 10 a.m.
- Raffle, silent auction and 50/50 will all take place prior to the start of the walk
- Early T-shirt pick-up is in the school cafeteria from 4:30-6:00 p.m on Friday, Sept. 25

Every dollar stays in Alger County to support families, friends and neighbors whose lives have been touched by cancer.

To register Online:
Scan the QR code or visit
beverlyfamilyfoundation.org/events





Introducing Our New Fur Trading Museum

Located in the outdoor dining area

Discover the history of Grand Island! Check out our new Fur Trading Museum while you wait for your order. The museum includes exhibits on fur trading and the history of Grand Island. Free to the public.

The Duck Pond Eatery & Beer Garden features fresh Lake Superior Whitefish, caught daily, and 30 Michigan craft beers

The Duck Pond will be closing for the season Sept. 30; final day of service is Sept. 29.
*Closed Wednesdays



Take-out or Reservations
906-387-1689



OUR MENU



E7974 W. M-28, Christmas, MI | duckpondeatery.com

