

Today's weather **58/46**

Tomorrow **53/46**

Munising, Michigan

Briefs

Give the Gift of Life: Blood Drive at Peoples State Bank

Peoples State Bank is hosting a blood drive on Monday, September 23, 2024, at their downtown Munising location, 101 W Munising Avenue, right at the traffic light. Help save lives by donating blood! To schedule an appointment, call 906-449-1450. Walk-ins are also welcome. Your donation can make a difference!

NSDAR Monthly Meeting & Potluck

The Onagomewig Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), will hold its Monthly Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 12 noon until 3 p.m. EDT at 13294 Shore Dr., L'Anse au Loup, MI (Potluck). If you have questions about genealogy and joining DAR, we will be happy to answer them after the meeting. Please call (906) 226-7836 for more information.

Annual VVA Dinner Hosted by Lions Club

The Lions Club is pleased to announce their annual dinner for the members of the VVA Club. This year's event will be held on October 21st at 5 PM at the clubhouse. Mark your calendars and join us for a wonderful evening!

Bear Trap Fun Run in Van Meer

Join the Bear Trap Inn for the Bear Trap Fun Run on Saturday, September 14, 2024. Meet at the Bear Trap Inn, located at the corner of H15 & H58. Registration is open now until 11 AM on the day of the event; cost is \$10 per person. Return to the Bear Trap by 8 PM for prizes and a 50/50 raffle. All are welcome!

Munising Bay Car Show Returns for 14th Annual Event to Support Veterans

Jennifer Champagne

The Munising Bay Cruisers are set to host their 14th annual Classic Car Show, a much-anticipated event that draws car enthusiasts from across Michigan, Wisconsin, Canada, and even as far as Nevada. From September 19 to 21, this three-day celebration will showcase classic cars, foster community spirit, and pay heartfelt tributes to veterans.

Founded in 2013 by Gary Bovan and Tom Condon, the show was created to give car owners one last chance to display their vehicles before winter and to raise funds for the local All Veterans Memorial. Bovan, who lost his brother Paul and several friends from Munising in Vietnam, feels a deep connection to the cause. "Our first show was a huge success, and it inspired us to continue. It's now a three-day event drawing car owners from all over," Bovan shared. "The event not only brings car enthusiasts together but also honors our veterans in a meaningful way."

This strong connection to the



Gary Bovan

veteran community is a cornerstone of the event, with local veterans playing an integral role. Dan LaCombe, President of the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 237, has been a key figure

in these efforts, leading the team of veterans who have managed the parking at the show for 12 years. LaCombe and Bovan share a special bond, one that was apparent last year

when LaCombe, during an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., made a rubbing of Paul Bovan's name from

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Meet Madison Johnson and Thomas Murdoch: Alger County's newest law enforcement officers

Antonio Verrelli

When Deputy Madison Johnson accepted the job as Alger County sheriff deputy nearly a year ago, she expected some fanfare from the local community - maybe a Facebook post congratulating her with a smattering of positive comments - but surely not the open-arms acceptance she receives daily by strangers, who would say they know the deputy on a first-name basis.

"Everyone knows you in the community, which is an amazing experience when you've lived in a place [Munising] all your life - or at least a huge portion of it," said Johnson. "The year I've spent as an enforcement officer has been everything I expected my dream job to be."

Starting her new role as deputy this time last year, Johnson described her first day as "business as usual," with none of the jitters one would expect from a job in law enforcement.

"By the time you finish



Courtesy Photo

Deputy Madison Johnson

with schooling you're well prepared for the job ... Everyday is different when patrolling, but they typically start with an early morning and an expectation that anything can happen."

Like most law enforcement hopefuls looking to wear the Alger County badge, Johnson graduated from the Northern Michigan University Regional Police Academy, a 16-week, 800-hour police training school designed to provide basic law enforcement training.



Courtesy Photo

Unlike most future officers, Johnson earned top marks during her training.

"I was given the honor of 1st Squad Leader out of four squads and was put in charge of six men who were all sponsored by different police departments throughout the U.P."

Johnson, a decade-long Munising resident, attended Munising High School where she kindled a real passion for criminal justice, eventually earning her associate's degree. In college,

she was excited by the idea of law enforcement and the 16-week training school, where she figured a life of adventure would be for her.

"I've always loved the idea of a career in law enforcement, so applying to the academy made sense when the situation presented itself."

Before the academy, Johnson worked odd jobs, like many young adults looking for those all-important transferable skills. Employed as a correction's

officer by night and elementary school tutor by day, Johnson admitted the job combo, while sounding unusual, taught her the value of being involved in the community she served.

Deputy Thomas Murdoch, a graduate of this year's Regional Police Academy class, could hardly have put it better - and not only because the two were high school friends.

Murdoch also worked as a corrections officer for several years before transferring to the police academy, where, like Johnson, he was elected a class leader. According to Murdoch, the process by which the academy chooses its leaders is a bit of a head scratcher, but goes mostly as follows: candidates are interviewed and placed in a selection pool with several students from across the U.P., where higher-ups decide on who the best person for the job might be.

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