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Three sites considered for National Wilderness Designation

By Bruce Johanson

The Ontonagon County Democratic Party has been invited to support the designation of three new National Wilderness Areas in Ontonagon County. Making the request is the Environmental Law & Policy Center headquartered in Chicago.

The areas under consideration for National Wilderness Designation in Ontonagon County are:

The Ehleo Area: The 16,000 acre tract is located just south of the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Originally the area was largely owned by the Edward Hines Lumber Company (the name Ehleo was thusly derived) and it was purchased, piecemeal, by the US Forest Service starting in 1937 through the late 1960's. The last commercial logging took place over 50 years ago so in the

meantime, the Ehleo area has been able to return to a fairly natural state.

Today the Ehleo tract consists of young forest containing hemlock, aspen, birch, and an assortment of conifers. The land is overall gently sloping with river drainage provided by the west Branch of the Big Iron and the Big Iron Rivers. There is also a variety of wild life including deer, black bear, fishers, at least one pack of grey wolves, and a great number of species of birds. There are very few roads, and except for hunting and hiking on the 12 miles of North Country National Scenic Trail, there is very little recreational use of the area. For the most part, the rivers are not navigable. There is one dwelling on a small private parcel and another private parcel that has no buildings.

The Trap Hills: are immediately to the southeast of the Ehleo located between M-64 and US-45. In the early days of copper exploration and mining attempts there was human activity, but little remains of this today. The US Forest Service describes the area as "comprised of large tracts of undisturbed forest, rugged slopes and ridges, streams, waterfalls, and ponds... they offer solitude and a sense of remoteness that is unique in the Great Lakes area." The highest sheer cliff in Michigan is found in the Trap Hills near Cascade Creek. There is up to 25,000 acres that is considered part of the Trap Hills

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Public Health Advisory due to fuel spill discharge, Portage Canal, Houghton County



Photo courtesy of Superior Search & Rescue

The Western Upper Peninsula Health Department (WUPHD), working in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), is issuing a public health

advisory for the Portage Canal near Houghton/Hancock due to a fuel spill that discharged to Portage Canal in Houghton County.

On June 24, a fuel tanker truck overturned on U.S. Hwy-41, Santori's Corner, Hancock, MI, and re-

leased gasoline fuel to the ground surface. Fuel discharged to a storm drain that outlets to the Portage Canal. The entire Portage Canal, including public access beaches and boat launches are temporarily closed

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Grants support Registered Apprenticeship programs

The U.S. Department of Labor today announced the award of more than \$130 million in grants to develop, modernize and diversify Registered Apprenticeship Programs in 15 states and to establish Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence in three states and Washington, D.C., to provide technical expertise and services and accelerate the expansion of Registered Apprenticeship programs.

The department's Employment and Training Administration awarded more than \$99 million in State Apprenticeship Expansion, Equity and Innovation grants – ranging from \$2 million to \$10 million – to bolster states' efforts to expand programming and inclusive recruitment strategies to attract a diverse workforce. The awards include more than \$85 million for states that demonstrated a commitment to increase their diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. These grants also aim to develop partnerships with new industries and non-traditional occupations, including industry sectors hardest hit

by the pandemic, and align Registered Apprenticeships with other work-based learning opportunities within state education and workforce systems.

"Today's announcement reflects the Department of Labor's renewed commitment to expanding Registered Apprenticeship to train U.S. workers and ensure that diversity and inclusion are core elements of our nation's post-pandemic economic recovery," said Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh. "Using Registered Apprenticeships to expand career opportunities for all workers, especially those in under-represented populations, is a priority for the department and a critical component of the Biden-Harris administration's American Jobs Plan."

To facilitate expansion of Registered Apprenticeship programs, the department also awarded nearly \$31 million through cooperative agreements to establish four Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Centers of Excellence to provide

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Ontonagon Labor Day Celebration is back

The 65th Anniversary of the Ontonagon Labor Celebration is back in full swing this year after a low key celebration in 2020. Because of the COVID epidemic, last year featured a drive by parade, with many of the usual events cancelled. This year September 3 - 5 there will be parades, Maxwell Street sales, music, race and drawings.

Co-Chairmen Margo Anderson and Tanya Weisinger and the Festival Committee are planning on making this year's event special to make up for the muted 64th activities.

Fireworks has never been part of the Labor Day celebration until last

year. It was so well received that the committee plans to bring it back for this year's event.

The events include opening up the festivities with a community picnic on Friday, September 3.

Saturday, September 4 will be packed with activity including Maxwell Street sales, Kiddies Parade, games and a full day of music.

The Copper Country Clown Band will lead off the day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. including leading the Kiddies Parade. Mike Urbis and his band will follow from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and local talent will also be featured at

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Michigan Lottery warns of scams

The Michigan Lottery is warning the public to be aware of scam artists claiming to be lottery prize agents or prize winners.

The Michigan Lottery processes all prize claims for free, and players must have a valid winning ticket to claim a prize. If you haven't bought a Lottery ticket or played a Lottery game, there's no way you could win a prize.

To check if a lottery prize, offer or promotion is legitimate, members of the public may contact the Lottery's Public Relations Division at 844-887-6836, option 2, or via email

at onlinehelp@michiganlottery.com.

Lottery prize scams surface from time-to-time, and the public should always remain vigilant.

Generally, there are two types of lottery prize scams:

- A person gets a letter, email or phone call to inform them that they've won a big lottery prize but must pay a fee to collect the prize. If the person agrees, the scam artist convinces them to mail a cashier's check, make an electronic funds transfer, or even arranges a meeting to get the money in cash.

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MIOSHA emergency rules align with Federal OSHA

On June 22, 2021, the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) filed COVID-19 emergency rules to align with Federal OSHA's Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS). The updated rules are effective and set to expire December 22, 2021. The rules rescind the emergency rules issued on May 24, 2021 and focus on health care.

The updated MIOSHA emergency rules adopt the Federal OSHA ETS and focus on health care settings where known or suspected

COVID-19 patients may be present. These workplaces may have a higher exposure risk for employees and need continued protections to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

"As we continue to get Michigan back to work, our priority remains keeping workplaces safe for employees and protecting customers as they support these businesses," said Governor Whitmer. "With our state at full capacity, we can boost our economic Jumpstart and ensure businesses can emerge from the pandemic stronger

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County Democratic Party meeting

By Bruce Johanson

The Democratic Party of Ontonagon County met at the Rockland Township Hall on June 22, the second longest day of the year. The roll call indicated that all of the County Democratic Party officers were present except Roger Halquist and co-chair Violet Kyllonen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Co-Chair Marlene Broemer.

The minutes of the May 25 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented. Treasurer Al Warren also presented a brief report on the funds in the treasury and this was approved.

The main topic of discussion was a request from the Environmental

Law and Policy Center to support the nomination of three new designation National Wilderness areas within Ontonagon County.

A bit of background for those interested: Over the past three years the Congress has designated new National Wilderness areas in several states across the country and more recently, three new areas have been identified as meeting the Federal standards for Wilderness designation.

There are currently 16 National Wilderness areas in Michigan, 10 of which are located in the Upper Peninsula, 2 in the Lower Peninsula, and four are collections of off-shore islands.

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Businesses encouraged to enroll in Back-to-Work Incentive

Governor Whitmer has asked the legislature to expand Michigan's Back-to-Work Incentive, which builds off the state's Work Share program, to give eligible laid off employees a \$300 per week bonus for returning to the workforce through September 4, 2021. The state is using the federal \$300 per week in unemployment benefits to incentivize people to go back to work, maximize families' income, and help employ-

ers fully staff their businesses. The program allows job providers to bring back or keep employees working with minimally reduced hours while they receive partial unemployment benefits to make up a portion of the lost wages. The governor has asked the legislature to expand the incentive to allow employers to hire new employees.

Find more information at Michigan.gov

Newspaper delivery problems?

If you are having trouble receiving your Ontonagon Herald in a timely manner, please contact the U.S. Postal Service Complaint Department at 1-800-275-8777.



EARLY DEADLINE NOTICE
Due to the Independence Day Holiday, all ads and articles must be in the Herald office **before 12:00 pm Thursday, July 1** for inclusion in the following issue.
Office will be closed Mon., 07/05

Words of Wisdom

20 years from now you'll be more disappointed in things you didn't do, than in things you did do.

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Ontonagon Labor Day Celebration is back

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various sites during the day. Saturday will conclude with the fireworks display.
Sunday the Ed Hansen 5K and 10K race will kick off the day followed by the big parade at 2 p.m. Marty's Goldenaires, Bessemer High School Band, Copper Country Band, and possibly other bands as well will march down River Street. Home-built float competition in Open, Commercial and youth divisions are expected to return with vigor. Following the parade Marty's will give their popular farewell to summer

concert at the reviewing stand.
The Festival will conclude with the family gathering, food, music and dancing at the Recreation Center.
The committee members emphasized that with the return of many activities and addition of fireworks costs, it is more important than ever before to sell Festival 50-50 tickets. Business donations and the sale of tickets are the main source of financing for the events and are available at the village office and many other local businesses.

Grants support Registered Apprenticeship programs

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technical assistance to apprenticeship programs and their enrolled trainees. Located in key areas, the RA-TA Centers of Excellence will seek to create successful and inclusive talent pipelines that meet the needs of today's industries, workers and communities. Centers of Excellence will provide technical assistance to employers and industry to build out model-registered apprenticeship programs across a range of industries

and jobs, including those in America's critical supply chains. The centers will also work across public and private sector partners to expand opportunities in Registered Apprenticeship for women, youth, people of color, rural communities, justice-involved individuals and people with disabilities.
Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity in Lansing, MI received \$10,000,000.

Three sites considered for National Wilderness Designation

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which has the West Branch of the Ontonagon River at its core.
The Norwich Plains: is located in the Ottawa National Forest. There has been little or no logging for the past 34 years which has allowed it to revert to a more natural state. Today it consists of roughly 8,000 acres located roughly north of Topaz and south of the Norwich Mine location.
Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness Addition: Though located in Houghton County southeast of Bob Lake, this 2,000 acre parcel would be added to the existing Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness that was a designated by the Michigan Wilderness Act of 1987. This area offers visitors the opportunity for off-trail recreation such as hiking and hunting and would expand the Sturgeon River

Gorge Wilderness to 19,000 acres.
There are currently 16 Federal Wilderness Areas in Michigan; Big Island Lake, Delirium Wilderness, Horseshoe Bay Wilderness, Huron Islands Wilderness, Isle Royale Wilderness, Mackinac Wilderness, McCormick Wilderness, Michigan Islands Wilderness, Nordhouse Dunes, Rock River Canyon, Round Island, Seney Wilderness, Sleeping Bear Dunes, the (existing) Sturgeon River Gorge, and the Sylvania Tract Wilderness.
Anyone who wishes to comment on the proposal to add three designated wilderness areas in Ontonagon County is invited to contact Tyler Barron at the Environmental Law & Policy Center (www.ELPC.org) or contact Nancy Warren at nwarren1@earthlink.net.

MIOSHA emergency rules align with Federal OSHA

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than ever while keeping their workers safe."
Dialing back workplace rules for non-health care settings allows employers to use their best judgment in determining whether to maintain:
• Daily health screenings
• Face covering requirements
• Social distancing requirements.
Nevertheless, MIOSHA strongly encourages workplaces to follow the available CDC and OSHA recommendations to mitigate hazards.
MIOSHA has a duty to protect Michigan workers and the agency's emergency rules have provided employers and employees with the guidance and certainty they needed to stay safe. These updated rules demonstrate that the agency has the flexibility it needs to ensure consistency with federal OSHA.
Non-healthcare settings should align policies with CDC guidelines to ensure they help contain the spread of COVID-19. Federal OSHA has updated guidance for non-healthcare employers as well.

"These updates recognize the great progress we have made in Michigan to contain COVID-19 and the power of vaccinations. We will continue to provide critical workplace protections more focused on areas of increased COVID-19 risk," said Michigan COVID-19 Workplace Safety Director Sean Egan. "In non-health care settings, it's important that all employers recognize that they have a general duty to provide a safe workplace."
To request MIOSHA's consultation, education and training services, call 517-284-7720 or online at MIOSHA Request for Consultative Assistance.
For more information about MIOSHA's safety and health guidelines to protect Michigan's workforce, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDWorkplaceSafety. Employers and employees with questions regarding workplace safety and health may contact MIOSHA using COVID-19 hotline at 855-SAFE-C19 (855-723-3219).
To report health and safety concerns in the workplace, go to Michigan.gov/MIOSHAComplaint.

Grand opening of Marquette's emergency homeless shelter

Prepared by Megan O'Connor
The Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) recently assisted the Room at the Inn (RATI) with a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completed construction of the first permanent emergency homeless shelter in Marquette, Michigan.
The RATI is a local non-profit organization that currently operates a Warming Center, as well as, a rotating homeless shelter with the help of local churches. On average RATI assists 20-25 guests per night and serves an average of 1,600 meals per month at the Warming Center located at 447 W Washington St. in Marquette.
The building known as Room at the Inn's Warming Center is a two-story structure with a partial basement originally constructed in the late 1800s. The first floor of the building was renovated in 2013, when RATI purchased the building, to provide a commercial kitchen and dining facilities for meal service. The second floor of the building was a single-family residential apartment, the partial basement was used for storage and sleeping accommodations for transient, homeless individuals were not provided at this facility. The project completed renovations on part of the first floor and all of the second floor to provide overnight sleeping facilities for 30 homeless individuals, a new bathroom on the second floor, the demolition of the enclosed porch, and the construction of a new emergency exit stairway.
RATI operates the shelter be-

tween the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. The facility is fully staffed for the entire overnight period by at least one RATI Supervisor with additional volunteer support from the community. All guests in the upstairs facility will be assigned a bed-contract, which will serve as their housing plan. Should RATI exceed the capacity of the 30-bed shelter, the dining facility in the Warming Center will be used for any additional homeless individuals seeking shelter. It is important to note that RATI will only take in an excess of 30 people in the winter months (October-May) on an emergency basis. Tables and chairs in the dining area would be replaced with individual sleeping mats for unsheltered individuals that would otherwise be left to the harsh winter conditions.
An adequate permanent Emergency Shelter, coupled with state funding, expands Room at the Inn's capability of tackling homelessness in Marquette. The shelter will reduce the social burden of helping the homeless on the general public, as well as, the strain on public entities such as the library, police force, hospitals/medical care providers, etc.

To donate to Room at the Inn visit Roomattheinn.org or mail in a donation to 347 Rock Street, Marquette MI, 49855. To volunteer with Room at the Inn visit roomattheinn.org/volunteer/.
RATI acknowledges Closer Construction and architects Ken Czapski and Bob Cambensy for their hard work on this project.

County Democratic Party meeting

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In Ontonagon County, the areas under consideration are Elcho Area, the Trap Hills, and the Norwich Plains. Also in the Upper Peninsula is the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness Addition.
Before taking action on endorsing these areas for Wilderness and given the many question from among those present, it was moved to table action until the July meeting so that members (and the public) may get more information on the areas being proposed for National Wilderness designation, and what this may entail. This motion was carried. A brief description of each of the proposed National Wilderness Areas is in a separate article in this issue of the Herald.

It was reported by Co-Chair Broemer that a contributor to the Michigan Democratic Rural Caucus, Peter Block, has written a book, *Community: the Structure of Belong-*

ing which is the basis for a series of Zoom sessions for discussion. Information and the Zoom link may be obtained from Marlene Broemer.
The summer picnic was discussed at some length. It was finally decided that the picnic will take place on September 11 (alternate date, in the event of inclement weather is the 12) at the Ball residence at 409 Epitote Street in Ontonagon. The gathering of Democrats and friends will begin at 3:00 PM. Grills will be fired up and those attending are to bring something to grill. Other refreshments are being planned by the picnic committee.
There will be an information booth during the Maxwell Street observance during the Labor Festival weekend at Ontonagon.
The next meeting of the Ontonagon County Democrats will be on July 27.
The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

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NOTICE TO BID

Deadline: 7/16/2021 1:00pm cst

GOCOA Head Start will receive sealed bids for transportation of Head Start students in Ontonagon County. Specifications are available by calling 906-663-4302 ext. 10. Address envelope "BUS BID" Head Start Program Manager, 304 East Iron Street, Bessemer, MI 49911.
GOCOA Head Start reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and are not bound to accept the lowest bid.
EOE



GOGEBIC-ONTONAGON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Position Vacancies

GSRP Lead Teachers

The Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District is seeking applicants for two full-time Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Lead Teachers for our classrooms located in Ironwood and Wakefield. These are 170 day program year positions.

Qualifications:
Applicants should have one of the following certifications in the State of Michigan:
1. Bachelor's Degree or higher in Early Childhood Education or Child Development
2. Current Michigan Teaching Certificate with ZA or ZS endorsement

Interested individuals should submit materials including, at a minimum, a resume, three letters of recommendation, copies of professional licenses, and transcripts to:
Patty Ollila
Assistant Director of Business & Finance / Human Resources
Gogebic-Ontonagon Intermediate School District
200 South Elm Street, PO Box 20
Ewen, Michigan 49925

Electronic submissions can be emailed to polliila@goisd.org

Date Posted: June 23, 2021
Closing Date: These positions are open until filled.

Questions regarding this position may be directed to Megan Hagen, Director of General Education: mhagen@goisd.org or 906-575-3438, ext 102

The candidate selected for this position must pass a criminal background check and drug test prior to being recommended to the Board of Education.

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities.

Sudoku Mania

	8				5	2	
		4			5		
3				4	8		
					6		
						6	9
	1			5		2	8
7	6						
2		9			1		

Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square. *Solution in this issue*



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