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L'Anse Sentinel

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Lyme wins tourney, fall sports warm up



MEET AND GREET-National Night Out was held Tuesday, Aug. 4, beginning at 6 p.m., at Baraga County Memorial Hospital and brought together law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, hospital staff, towing services, corrections personnel, emergency management, and

families from across the area. There was fun for all at the community event, including bounce houses, food, and refreshments, though the biggest attraction was meeting the hometown heroes of Baraga County.

Community comes together for the National Night Out



HOMETOWN HEROES--Residents, first responders, and local agencies gathered for Baraga County's first-ever National Night Out, a nationwide community-building event designed to strengthen relationships between the public and the hometown heroes who serve them. The event was hosted and sponsored by Baraga County Memorial Hospital with representatives attending from BCMH, the Baraga County Sheriff's Office, Bay EMS, L'Anse Police and Fire, Baraga Fire, KBIC Police and Fire, Covington Fire, the prison, Dynamite Towing and Wrecker Service, and Baraga County Emergency Management.

by Melissa Newland

Baraga County marked a milestone this week as residents, first responders, and local agencies gathered for the county's first-ever National Night Out, a nationwide community-building event designed to strengthen relationships between the public and the hometown heroes who serve them.

The event was held Tuesday, Aug. 4, beginning at 6 p.m., and brought together law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, hospital staff, towing services, corrections personnel, emergency management, and families from across the area.

Hosted and sponsored by Baraga County Memorial Hospital (BCM), which also serves as a first responder organization, the evening offered the community a chance to meet emergency personnel in a welcoming setting rather than during a crisis. Representatives attended from BCMH, the Baraga County Sheriff's Office, Bay EMS, L'Anse Police and Fire, Baraga Fire, KBIC Police and Fire, Covington Fire, the prison, Dynamite Towing and Wrecker Service, and Baraga County Emergency Management.

"Since community interactions with these resources often occur

Night Out

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Curwood claims the crown?

by Melissa Newland

Michigan's long-running debate over its highest natural point appears to have a new answer: Mount Curwood, a forested summit in Baraga County's Upper Peninsula, has been measured slightly higher than nearby Mount Arvon using modern satellite-based surveying equipment.

The finding comes from Dr. Eric Gilbertson, a mechanical engineering professor at Seattle University who holds a Ph.D. from MIT and researches mountain elevations as part of his academic work. In October 2024, Gilbertson surveyed both peaks with professional-grade GNSS equipment, marking what he said was the first modern satellite-based survey of the two summits.

His measurements place Mount Curwood at 1,979.3 feet and Mount Arvon at 1,978.9 feet, giving Curwood a narrow advantage of four-tenths of a foot. The results were later published in the peer-reviewed journal Progress in Physical Geography:

Earth and Environment, in a 2025 paper on LiDAR accuracy on North American mountain summits.

Mount Curwood and Mount Arvon sit about five miles apart near L'Anse, and for decades the question of which peak stood higher has shifted with each new survey. Because the two summits are so close in elevation, small differences in measurement methods have carried large symbolic weight: whichever peak is tallest becomes Michigan's state highpoint.

Early U.S. Geological Survey work in the 1950s placed Curwood several feet above Arvon. A 1958 survey again favored Curwood, and a 1963 spirit-level survey by the Committee for Michigan's Highest Point measured Curwood even higher. But in 1982, a field survey using third-order levels reversed the order, listing Mount Arvon at 1,979 feet and Mount Curwood at 1,978 feet. That result helped establish Arvon's modern reputation as Michigan's highpoint.

More recently, 2015 LiDAR data collected by the USGS showed Arvon

only one-tenth of a foot higher than Curwood, a difference well within the uncertainty range for laser-based measurements in heavily forested terrain. That left the matter unresolved and set the stage for a closer ground survey.

To reduce uncertainty, Gilbertson visited both summits in late October 2024, when leaf cover was minimal and satellite reception was more reliable. On Mount Curwood, he mounted one GNSS unit on the summit monument and another on the highest bedrock point, which he identified with an Abney level. He collected four hours of data there before traveling to Mount Arvon, where he repeated the process during a five-hour overnight survey.

After processing the data with Trimble Business Center and TrimbleRTX, Gilbertson found that both the GNSS measurements and

Curwood

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County millage proposals pass

by John Raffel

Requests for millage renewals were passed by Baraga County voters in the primary election on August 4.

The renewal for proposed roads and streets got 1,116 yes votes and 551 no votes.

The county-wide road millage "has been in place in Baraga County since the early 1980's," engineer Doug Mills said in a statement released to the *Sentinel* prior to the primary.

"It was first approved at an August 11, 1981 election. It has remained at the same rate of two mills for five years having been re-approved by the voters at every renewal election since that time.

"The renewal for continuation of another five years at the same amount (two mills) is on the August 2026 primary election ballot. Dollars collected from this

millage are distributed to the Baraga CRC, the Village of L'Anse and Village of Baraga based on the formula provided by state law."

Baraga Township requested a renewal of fire millage and it passed 377-187.

Baraga Township supervisor George Danielson told the *Sentinel* prior to the election renewal is for the three fire departments his township supports

"We pay half for Baraga and we also have Keweenaw Bay and Pelkie fire departments," he said. "It's not an increase.

"It is at the same millage rate we had before. Our millage expired at the end of 2025.

"This is the millage, but at the same rate, 1.5 which was the previous millage from the township. It was not an election year in 2025. All it is bringing the 1.5 mills back. It's not an increase."

County voters make their picks

by John Raffel

According to Baraga County officials, there are 6,894 registered voters and 1,969 cast their ballot on Aug. 4 in the primary. That's a percent of 28.56.

For Democrats, Jocelyn Benson got the most votes in the county at 656 for governor. Christopher Robert Swanson was second at 96 votes.

The Republican vote in Baraga County for governor was close with John James getting 502 votes compared to 457 for Perry Johnson. James won the entire state GOP vote.

For U.S. Senate, Haley Stevens had 354 votes compared to 340 for Abdul El-Sayed who was the statewide winner.

Mike Rogers got 1,071 county votes as the lone GOP candidate for U.S.

Senate.

For U.S. Congress, Callie Barr drew the most Democrat votes in the county at 498. Jack Bergman got the most GOP votes with 828.

Kelli Van Ginhoven was the lone Democrat and got 693 county votes for State Senate.

Beau Matthew LaFave edged David Prestin in Baraga County 588-533 for the GOP state senate nod. Prestin will be on the November ballot.

Anna Aho Rink got 694 votes as the only Democrat candidate for the 109th state district house seat. Karl Bohnak got 1,098 votes as the only GOP candidate.

Ashley Kristo ran unopposed for the unexpired two-year term for treasurer on the GOP side and got 978 votes.



DILL-icious

Luke Turunen enjoying a pickle at the Baraga County Fair. Luke is the son of Rian Turunen and Maegan Kraft. Photo by Tammy Mantila. Results of the BCF were not available by press deadline. Story, more pictures and those results will be in next week's edition of the *Sentinel*.

Curwood

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corrected comparisons with LiDAR and historical USGS data pointed to the same conclusion: Mount Curwood is higher. Based on the reported sigma values from the GNSS data, the confidence level that Curwood exceeds Arvon was greater than 97 percent.

The difference is slight, less than the height of a coffee mug, but in the language of state highpoints, it is enough to matter. Gilbertson's published figures list Mount Curwood at 1,979.3 feet and Mount Arvon at 1,978.9 feet under the NAD83(2011) Epoch 2010 and NAVD88 Geoid 18 reference system.

While the official United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps may still take time to be updated, Gilbertson's survey utilizing differential Global Navigation Satellite Systems (dGNSS) corrected previous errors from aerial LiDAR data.

The shift does not change the character of either summit, both of which remain modest, wooded rises in the rugged landscape of the western Upper Peninsula. But it does revise a point of geographic pride that has been debated for generations.

For Gilbertson, the result reflects the value of bringing modern instruments to long-standing geographic questions. For Michigan, it adds a new chapter to the story of its highest ground: not a dramatic mountain peak, but a quiet summit whose claim now rests on a margin measured in inches.

For the Highpointers Club though, which notes on its website that it "unites adventurers and friends in the pursuit of summiting the highest point in every U.S. state, Justin Sutton, board member and membership chair, shared, "At this time, the Club still recognizes Mount Arvon as the highest point of Michigan."

From a personal per-



spective of his own, Sutton stated he thinks it is important to note that Mount Curwood was the recognized high point until 1982, "So it makes sense that it and Mount Arvon are going to be close in height," he said.

"Dr. Gilbertson's work presents compelling evidence and is something the highpointing community is following closely. I am interested to see where this discussion goes in the next year or so. Personally, I am all about having a reason (as if one is needed) to visit the UP in the near future. I think Gilbertson's work is continuing to gain more acceptance. I'm not sure when the USGS will take a deeper look."

He went on to say that it is important to note that Highpointers who reached the highest point stated at the time of their ascent receive credit, if you will, for that ascent, even if the Highpoint changes. "With that said, I do expect to see a much renewed interest in visiting Mount Curwood in the coming years as well."

If you are planning a trip to the summit in Baraga County, make sure you get details on road conditions and driving directions to Mount Arvon and Mount Curwood. GPS is not always reliable in this area as it will direct a vehicle to go on trails intended for snowmobiles and ORVs.

Mobile mammography is back

by Melissa Newland

Corewell Health Betty Ford Breast Care Services will bring its mobile mammography unit back to KBIC Health System in Baraga, offering area women convenient access to breast cancer screening close to home.

The mobile unit will be available September 14, 15 and 16 at KBIC Health System, 102 Superior Ave., Baraga. Appointments are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 14 and 15, and from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 16.

The visit is part of Corewell Health's effort to make breast care services

more accessible through mobile mammography, a service of Spectrum Health Hospitals. The program is funded in part by a generous donation from Meijer.

Health experts emphasize that early detection remains one of the most important tools in treating breast cancer. A woman's chance of developing breast cancer over her lifetime is about one in eight, and breast cancer is most treatable and curable when it is found early.

The American College of Radiology recommends that women begin receiving annual mammograms at age 40. Depending on

KBIC wins recycling grant

by Melissa Newland

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) has been selected to receive a \$1.5 million federal grant to strengthen recycling and composting infrastructure on the L'Anse Indian Reservation, marking a significant investment in local environmental protection, waste reduction, and community sustainability.

KBIC was one of only 23 applicants chosen from a competitive field of 151 tribes and intertribal consortia that applied for funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants program. Community representatives are scheduled to meet with the EPA on Sept. 3 to begin the next phase of planning and implementation.

The grant will support the community's Materials Management Spoke and Hub Recycling and Composting Project, a broad effort designed to repair and upgrade the

existing recycling facility while launching a new composting program. The project site is located on the L'Anse Indian Reservation in Baraga County and falls within EPA Region 5.

Planned improvements include paving dirt floors and roads, repairing facility doors and lighting, adding a fire suppression system, and purchasing heavy equipment and machinery to support safer and more efficient recycling operations. These upgrades are expected to provide a more reliable place for community recycling work while improving day-to-day facility conditions.

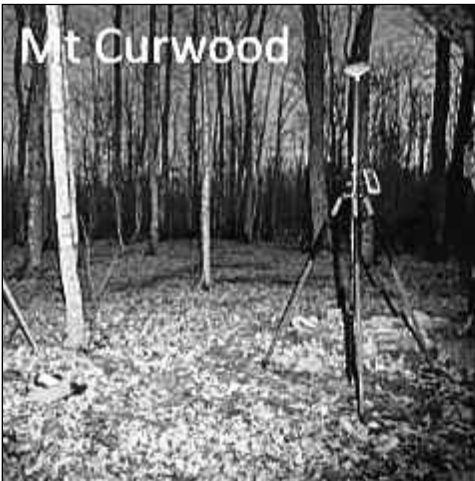
In addition to recycling facility upgrades, the project will establish a composting program intended to divert fish waste into productive use, including support for community gardens. Composting equipment will be purchased as part of the effort, helping turn organic waste into a resource that can benefit local food production and reduce material sent

to landfills.

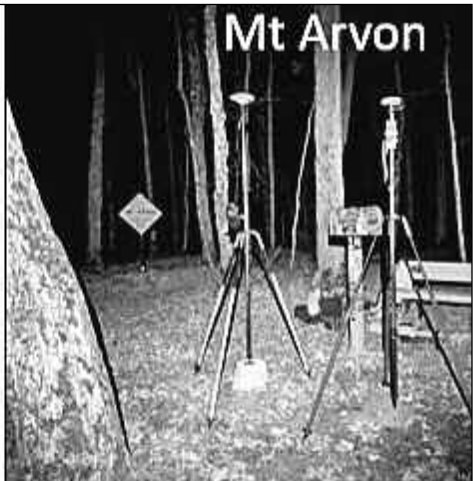
The funding is part of the broader SWIFR grant program, created under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve recycling systems, support the National Recycling Strategy, and advance a more circular economy. The program helps communities improve collection and materials management, reduce contamination, strengthen recycling markets, and increase the amount and quality of recyclable and compostable materials diverted from disposal.

For KBIC, the award represents more than an infrastructure project. It is an opportunity to reduce pollution, expand sustainable waste practices, support local gardens, and build a safer, more efficient system for an isolated rural community.

As work begins with the EPA, the grant positions the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community to make lasting improvements that will serve both people and the environment for years to come.



SURVEYED SUMMITS--Dr. Eric Gilbertson, a mechanical engineering professor at Seattle University who holds a Ph.D. from MIT and researches mountain elevations as part of his academic work, surveyed



Mt. Curwood and Mt. Arvon with professional-grade GNSS equipment, marking what he said was the first modern satellite-based survey of the two summits.

More roundabouts coming

by John Raffel

More roundabouts might be coming in west-central UP in the future although it might for a few years down the road, MDOT spokesperson Dan Weingarten said.

One is currently being built at the intersection of M 35 and county road 492 between Negaunee and Marquette and expected to

be done this year.

Currently, from L'Anse to Marquette, there are seven roundabouts on US 41, starting in western Ishpeming.

An eighth roundabout is scheduled for north of Gwinn and south of Marquette in 2029 and will consist of a major project. Roundabouts usually go in areas where there have been problems with crash-

es, Weingarten said. There's also a roundabout set for US 41 and M 28 in Negaunee for 2031.

Overall, for projects in the UP, "everything is moving along well," Weingarten said. "We're making progress on all of our major projects. No major delays to report. It's going smoothy which is great considering we had the heat and the smoke issues a few weeks ago which made work outside difficult. Projects are moving along well."

The Covington to Trout Creek project has entered a new phase.

"It's one of our bigger projects and at last report, it's moving into our milling and repaving phase," Weingarten said. "They'll be taking the top surface off and putting a new layer of asphalt down to get more years of service out of it. That's after a bunch of work on culverts and restructuring some of the culverts was done,

"Folks traveling out that way in the western UP will run into some alternating traffic on sections they're working on," Weingarten said. "You should be prepared for flag control and some delays when you're going east-west."

Calls, arrests, traffic stops up dramatically

by John Raffel

The Baraga County Sheriff's Department said there were 118 calls for service in July.

This is more than doubled from June.

Traffic stops went up dramatically to 92, more than three times from the previous month. Arrests were up to almost double at 16. Traffic crashes decreased to nine.

The numbers for June showed there were 57 calls for service, almost less than half from a month ago. Traffic stops were down slightly at 29. Arrests were down to nine and traffic crashes were up to 14.

In May, there were 101 calls for service, up by 12 for the previous month. Traffic stops were the same at 35 while arrests were at 15, traffic crashes at eight and property inspections at 62.

In April, calls for service

were 89, up by six from March. Traffic stops were way down to 35. Arrests were the same at 14. Traffic crashes, 10, were up by one. Property inspections were at 67.

In March, calls for service numbered 83, down seven from February. Traffic stops are at 55, up by three. Arrests were at 14, down by four while traffic crashes were at nine, down by five. Property inspections increase 11 from a month ago to 57.

February activity included 96 calls for service and 52 traffic stops.

The number of traffic stops was almost doubled from January.

There were also 18 arrests, 12 traffic crashes and 46 property inspections in February.

The sheriff's office activity numbers from January included 103 calls for service and 28 traffic stops.

family history, individual risk factors and a physician's findings, screening may be recommended earlier or more often.

Patients visiting the mobile mammography unit can expect a clinic-on-wheels designed for comfort, privacy and advanced care. The unit includes a welcoming registration and waiting area, a private dressing room and modern mammography technology.

The mobile unit provides the same high-quality screening services offered at Corewell Health Betty Ford Breast Care Services locations. The organization is recognized as a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence and is among the top five percent of breast centers in the United States.

Corewell Health Betty Ford Breast Care Services was also the first in Michigan to offer tomosynthesis, or 3D screening mammography. Today, 3D mammography is available at all of its breast care loca-

tions and mobile mammography units, supported by radiologists who specialize in breast imaging and diagnostics.

Free mammograms will be available for uninsured or under-insured women who qualify. To learn more about eligibility for free mammograms, call 616-486-6022.

To schedule an appointment for the Baraga mobile mammography visit, call KBIC Health System at 906-353-4511. Additional information about Corewell Health mobile mammography services is available at corewellhealth.org/mobile-mammo.

For many women, a mammogram is a simple appointment that can make a life-changing difference. By bringing advanced screening technology directly to the Baraga community, Corewell Health is helping make early detection easier, closer and more accessible.

EDC releases new business toolkit

by the EDC-Baraga County

The EDCBC is announcing the release of its newest small business toolkit, "Small Business Marketing".

Business owners are stretched in a million directions. The EDC is here to help by providing the resources that can make the job easier. This new toolkit is being unveiled at the perfect time for businesses to plan 2027 marketing strategies and budget.

This resource guide will assist you from setting an initial strategy to budgeting and on to implementation. Here is a sneak peak of what you will find in the

toolkit:

- How to define your marketing strategy and target audience.
- Develop a realistic budget.
- Familiarize yourself with the many marketing options available and the pros and cons of each.
- Learn how to collaborate with other businesses and organizations (like the Chamber.)
- Methods to evaluate your strategy on a regular basis and make necessary adjustments.

Often times marketing

EDC

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Night Out

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during difficult situations, I wanted to implement this event in my new role as County Emergency Manager to foster positive connections and highlight the dedication of the men and women who serve our community," said Heather Shalfoe, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator at Baraga County Memorial Hospital.

The event featured vehicle and personnel displays, a barbecue with food and refreshments, bounce houses for children, goodie bags, and a grand prize drawing for an emergency preparedness bag. The mix of activities gave families an opportunity to learn more about local emergency services while enjoying an evening of food, conversation, and community connection.

Organizers said the strong turnout reflected the community's appreciation for those who respond when help is needed most. "We had a wonderful community turnout for this inaugural event," Shalfoe said. "Given its success, we plan to make National Night Out an annual tradition for our community."

Death Notices

Vanessa L. Hastings, age 39 of L'Anse, MI died July 10, 2026. A celebration of life visitation will be held from 2 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026 at the Reid Funeral Service and Chapel, L'Anse.

Kerry Sue Duis, age 57, of Baraga, MI, died July 12, 2026. A Celebration of Life was held in Marquette, MI.



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- Healthmart located inside of the Baraga County Memorial Hospital, L'Anse
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- Wilkinson's Store, Baraga
- Huron Bay Trading Post, Skanee
- Karvako's Market, Tapiola
- Kurts Korner Store, between Elo & Tapiola
- Michigamme Market, Michigamme
- Watton Country Store, Watton