

## **1Q 2024 ISSUES PROGRAMS LIST FOR WDMJ-AM (1320)**

**January 1, 2024 to March 31, 2024**

WDMJ-AM has identified the following as significant issues facing our community in this quarter:

### **FUTURE OF MAIL DELIVERY IN UPPER PENINSULA**

The U-S Postal Service is proposing changes to its regional distribution center in Kingsford. Officials say the plan is to set up a local processing center to improve mail and package flow throughout the region. Some mail processing would be transferred to Green Bay under the proposal. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 6 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Congressman Jack Bergman says he's pleased to see that the Kingsford processing center will stay open, but he says he has—quoting now—“grave concerns” over proposed changes to the facility. He's worried they might negatively impact mail delivery in the U-P. Bergman announced his concerns in a letter Monday to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 8 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

U.P. legislators are speaking out against the U.S. Postal Service's plans for the Kingsford Processing Center. The Kingsford processing facility is in Greg Markkanen's 110th district. He says the move will slow down the delivery of mail in the U.P., and will cost jobs. U.P. Representatives Jenn Hill, Dave Prestin, John Da Moose and Senator Ed McBroom have all condemned the move. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 9 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Congressman Jack Bergman is blasting the U-S Postal Service's last-minute cancellation of a public hearing on the future of the Kingsford mail processing center. A new date has not been set and no reason was given for the postponement. Bergman says his office has been inundated with comments from area residents concerned that the Kingsford facility will be closed and all U-P mail routed

through Wisconsin. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 11 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

U-S Senator Gary Peters wants to know more about the U-S Postal Service's plans for its Kingsford Processing Center. The proposed changes include moving some operations to Green Bay, Wisconsin, which has angered local residents and politicians. So much so that the Postal Service last week abruptly cancelled a public hearing on the proposal. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 16 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Michigan U-S Senator Gary Peters remains upset with the U-S Postal Service. He is again demanding answers about proposed changes at the Iron Mountain Mail Processing Center that would see some of that work done in Green Bay. Peters says he sent his first letter on December 5th, and says he's ---quote---disappointed in the lack of response. So, Peters sent another letter yesterday, this one more strongly-worded. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 20 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

U-S Senator Gary Peters says he remains concerned that the Kingsford Mail Processing Center will be shut down, and its functions moved to Green Bay. That could harm mail delivery in the U-P. In an RRN interview, Peters says the postal service has promised to hold a local public hearing on the future of Kingsford on April first, after abruptly canceling one in February. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 26 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

### **ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ISSUES/EFFECT ON U.P.**

Nineteen illegal aliens were turned over to the U-S Border Patrol in Sault Ste. Marie after being pulled over near Traverse City. The bus transporting the illegals was stopped for erratic driving. The driver did not produce a U.S. driver's license and instead presented deputies with a Mexican voter registration card. The group was served a notice to appear. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 28 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Congressman Jack Bergman is demanding answers from Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas about what he calls an “unprecedented surge at the northern border.” The Upper Peninsula shares the northern border with Ontario, Canada. Bergman’s letter to Mayorkas is joined by 20 other members of the U-S House and comes after 19 illegals were detained in northern Michigan. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 27 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

U-P Congressman Jack Bergman was in the Republican House delegation that visited the southern border. In a video posted from Eagle Pass Texas, Bergman said there’s a way to end the chaos. Bergman says in 2023, the Border Patrol seized enough fentanyl to kill the entire U-S population. He says the influx of illegals and drugs can be stopped. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 8 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Michigan U-S Senator Gary Peters has secured three million dollars to establish a Northern Border Security Center. Peters tells RRN News that the center will include a number of existing federal operations as well as Selfridge Air National Guard Base. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 25 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Congressman Jack Bergman says the border security legislation “does nothing to stop the crisis at our southern border – rather, it normalizes and codifies it.” Bergman also notes the bill allocates just 17% of its \$118 billion to border security, something he calls “a clear failure and a stunning betrayal of the American people’s trust.” He plans to vote no on the bill. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 7 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

### **CLOSURE OF HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM IN ONTONAGON**

Aspirus Hospital in Ontonagon is ending its emergency services and will become a rural health care clinic. That was the word from Christine Harff, Aspirus’ U-P

Region President. Harf says the change is due to low patient counts—as little as one inpatient a day, and none at all on some days. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 21 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

The announcement that Aspirus will close its emergency room in Ontonagon, turning their hospital into what they call a “rural care center”, is not sitting well with locals. Village Manager Willie DuPont says that other than the short press release in February, they’ve heard nothing. He says that’s bad news for the area’s mostly aging population, and for potential new business. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 1 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Three U-P legislators are demanding answers about the sudden closure of the Ontonagon hospital. Congressman Jack Bergman has joined State Representative Greg Markkanen and State Senator Ed McBroom in a letter to Aspirus. They want to know why the company announced plans for a new 15-point-eight million-dollar facility in 2021, only to abandon the project. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 4 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

### **IMPACT LACK OF SNOW HAS HAD ON U.P. BUSINESSES**

The lack of snow has been a disaster for the western U-P. So says Sarah Long, president of the Lake Gogebic Area Chamber of Commerce in an interview with RRN News. Mary Beth DeFazio agrees. She is the president of the Western U-P Convention and Visitors Bureau. The two groups say they’re looking to state and federal agencies for help with what they’re calling an economic disaster. No visitors for snow sports and events means no revenue. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 17 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Congressman Jack Bergman is urging small businesses hurt by this season’s lack of snow to apply for federal help. Bergman says disasters have been declared in 42 Michigan counties due to the unseasonably-warm weather—including nine in the U-P. To find out if you’re in one of these counties, contact the S-B-A. U.P.'s

Morning News. Aired on March 6 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer urging Michigan small businesses impacted by lack of snow to apply for federal funding from the Small Business Administration. But right now, Keweenaw, Houghton, Chippewa and Baraga Counties are not eligible for the loans. That's something State Senator Ed McBroom hopes to remedy. He says Disaster Loans are available due to the ongoing drought declarations affecting 13 other counties in the U.P. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 11 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Wisconsin businesses impacted by the lack of winter snow may now be able to get a loan. Businesses in areas with a drought declaration can get assistance through a federal disaster loan from the U.S. SBA including Florence County. Eric Printz with Florence County Economic Development. Statewide, Wisconsin snowfall has been 20 to 30 inches below normal this year. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 12 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

### **UPPER PENINSULA VETERANS HOUSING/HEALTH ISSUES**

A new Jacobetti Veterans' Home in Marquette is on hold. The city of Marquette and the state could not come to terms on the proposed site at Wright Street and Lakeshore Boulevard. Michigan Veterans Homes says it is looking at other sites, but didn't share specifics. The failure of the deal will push back the start of construction into 2025. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 13 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

The V-A is using mobile medical units in rural areas, but the Government Accountability Office says there needs to be better tracking of their effectiveness. Under questioning from Upper Peninsula Congressman Jack Bergman, V-A Doctor Shereef Einahal agreed as the U-S House Veterans Affairs Committee held hearings on the issue. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 15 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

The Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center has exceeded its goal of finding housing for homeless vets in the U.P. and North East Wisconsin. Phil Shealey is the Iron Mountain Medical Center's Director. He says that 100 percent of the Veterans who returned to homelessness, were rehoused in 2023. He says they permanently housed 60 homeless Vets, meeting and exceeding its local goal by more than 42 percent. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 12 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

A series of Town Halls are an opportunity for Veterans to engage with members of the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical center. The VA's Tim Ellison says it's an opportunity to ask questions and learn about changes to their benefits and healthcare. Nine town halls around the central U.P. and northern Wisconsin throughout March. He says many veterans don't know what they are entitled to. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 29 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

U-P Congressman Jack Bergman says it's important to have the latest adaptive technology available to paralyzed veterans. Bergman's so-called STAND Act passed through Congress with wide bipartisan support. Annual exams are a big part of legislation dealing with paralyzed veterans. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 26 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

A commission that evaluates hospitals nationwide is praising the Oscar Johnson V-A Medical Center. The Joint Commission made its announcement following its latest triennial survey. The survey reviewed three areas: the main hospital facility, the home care accreditation program, and behavioral health care and human services. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 25 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

## **UPPER PENINSULA NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES**

Thanks to a change in the Soo Tribe of Chippewa's membership ordinance, native Americans across the U-P have a shot at tribal membership. And it's a big deal, says Tribal Chair Austin Lowes in an interview with RRN News, opening up more access to services. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 29 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

There's a special program on U-P human trafficking in Ishpeming. Stephanie Graef heads up the U-P Human Trafficking Task Force. She says human trafficking has come to the U-P in the past few years., and she says Native American women are the most targeted group for exploitation. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 6 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

The Soo Tribe of Chippewa is regulating the harvest northern white cedar by tribal members on public lands. Members must now get a permit before cutting these trees and numerous regulations apply. Soo Tribe Chairman Austin Lowes calls the trees "sacred elder beings" that have been used for centuries for a variety of purposes. He also says the species is threatened by climate change. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 14 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

The Soo Tribe of Chippewa is looking for input on how to improve its health care services. Chairman Austin Lowes says they've hired a company called Bluestone to run a meeting in Manistique. Lowes says they want to know what's working well in the health system and what changes members would like to see. Other meetings are also being held across the Eastern U.P. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 30 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

### **UPPER PENINSULA EVENTS EFFECTED BY WARM WEATHER**

The Board of Directors of the Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race has canceled the event due to a lack of snow. The race was supposed to take place on January 6 and 7 at the Muskallonge Lake State Park in Newberry. This is the second year in a row that the race has been canceled due to not enough snow on the trails. U.P.'s

Morning News. Aired on January 4 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

Another sled dog race has fallen victim to the U-P's unseasonably warm weather. Organizers have cancelled the CopperDog race set for March 1st through the 3rd in the Keweenaw. All is not lost, though. Race officials say the Copper Pole and the Copper Dash will still take place as part of what they call a "weekend festival."

U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 14 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

The U.P. 200 Sled Dog Race has been canceled because of the warm weather. The other sled dog races associated with it were also cancelled. Interviewed UP 200 President Darlene Walch. She says they had no choice, and it was a safety issue. They will instead have a Festival of the Sled Dog in downtown Marquette. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 4 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

The El Nio is hurting winter tourism across the state, but leaders hope a snowy forecast will turn things around. Nick Nerbonne with Travel Michigan says tourists are changing their habits to visiting museums, restaurants, and sporting events. He says the last couple weeks have seen an improvement, but many events are being canceled. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 12 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.

### **ISSUES WITH UPPER PENINSULA HOSPITALS/HEALTH CARE**

U-P Health System has released its community benefits report for 2023. The annual report highlights ways the system is meeting the area's health needs. UPHS added 41 new providers last year and donated over 25-million dollars in care to those who couldn't pay. They also aid almost 36-million dollars in local and state taxes. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 26 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 am.



Health officials say three respiratory infections are plaguing us this winter: Covid, the flu and R-S-V. But they have different targets, says U-P Health System Pediatrician Dr. Isaac Smith. He says that R-S-V targets mostly the elderly and very young children. No matter which variety hits our area, though, he says local hospitals are ready. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 22 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Marshfield Medical Center-Dickinson has been designated a Level Four trauma center by the state of Michigan. Requirements include an emergency department that follows Level Four protocols, trauma physicians and surgical and critical care services. They also must have transfer agreements in place with hospitals that offer more advanced trauma care. The designation follows a 20-month evaluation. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 27 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Bellin Health is expanding across the Upper Peninsula. The Green Bay-based health system has expanded to several U-P locations, including Escanaba, Iron Mountain and Menominee. Interviewed Hannah Holsworth from Bellin Health. Bellin donated five automatic external defibrillators to various Marquette County groups with training provided by NMU. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 21 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Escanaba's OSF Saint Francis Hospital is celebrating its 140th anniversary. It started in 1883 as Delta County Hospital, but the locals soon found they couldn't handle the patient load. OSF's Joanna Wilbee Amis says there'll be a full week of special activities ranging from health screenings to a special Mass. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 6 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

UP Health System-Bell has been recognized as a 2024 Top 100 Critical Access Hospital by the Chartis Center for Rural Health . Chartis' annual Top 100 award program recognizes outstanding performance among the nation's rural hospitals.

U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 20 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

The American College of Cardiology has recognized UP Health System – Marquette for Cardiac Cath Lab. The group renewed the lab’s accreditation based on what hospital officials call “a rigorous onsite evaluation.” Hospital officials note that more than 805-thousand Americans suffer a heart attack each year—and the lab is an important part of their early intervention program. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 20 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Members of the Michigan Nurses Association rally outside the MyMichigan Medical Center in Sault Ste. Marie. Unionized nurses say they want a wage that is competitive with other hospitals. They are threatening to go on strike. Interviewed Kevin Kalchickis president of MyMichigan-Sault. He says they’re offering an 18% increase that would put wages at around \$43 per hour. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 13 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

### **UPPER PENINSULA HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

A new degree path for students destined for a social work career. The pact sets up a seamless transfer process from a Bay College Associate’s Degree to a Bachelor’s degree at NMU. Bay’s Jessica Van Sloten tells RRN News that there’s a big need for social workers nationwide. She adds that Bay credits will easily transfer to Northern. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 13 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Northern Michigan University will be looking for donations on April 18th, which the school has designated as Giving Day. Andy Hill is coordinating the project and tells RRN News that this coincides with NMU’s 125th birthday. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 29 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

A new student health clinic has opened on Bay College's Escanaba campus. It will offer RN type services like immunizations, health counseling, and mental health counseling. That's according to Bay's Amy Reddinger. She tells RRN News that their student population needs these services. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 4 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Michigan Tech University has been named as one of six public university partners in a \$5 million Michigan University Innovation Capital Fund. The money comes from two state programs—the Michigan Strategic Fund and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The Capital Fund will provide seed money to new ventures, as well as existing companies just getting off the ground. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 30 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Bay College is rolling out a new medical training program—for phlebotomists. Those are the folks that draw your blood in hospitals, clinics and blood donation centers. Bay's Renee Lundberg tells RRN News that training for this profession starts in February on Bay College's Escanaba campus. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 25 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Getting a social work degree is much easier thanks to an agreement between Bay College and Northern Michigan University. Tanya Savage at NMU tells RRN News that Bay students will even be assigned and NMU advisor to make sure they stay on track. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 14 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

The 2024 regional Skills-USA competition was held at Bay College's Escanaba campus. The best career and technical students from across the Upper Peninsula competed in various skills categories, they say. Students competed for scholarship money and a chance to advance to the statewide competition in Grand Rapids in April. The theme this year was "No Limits." U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 9 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

## **STATE AND FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR UPPER PENINSULA**

The city of Ishpeming is getting a 300-thousand-dollar grant from the state. The money will provide—quoting now—" increased food and community-focused programming through a partnership with Pattridge Creek Farms. They'll also build a skate park and what's called a "gathering space" in the city's downtown. Interviewed Ishpeming City Manager Craig Cugini and PCF Director Sarah Johnson. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 25 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Two U-P communities will be getting federal help to upgrade their water systems. The Village of Baraga will use a one-point-two million-dollar loan and a 727-thousand-dollar grant to finish improvements to its water system. And the western U-P City of Wakefield will use a 575-thousand-dollar loan to complete improvements to its water distribution system. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 29 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

Business owners in Ishpeming have money available to help to upgrade building façades. David Aeh is with the Ishpeming D-D-A and he tells RRN News that the state money offers a 50/50 match of up to ten thousand dollars. He says the application begins with a sketch of the proposed project. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 1 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

A Rapid River business will be expanding with help from the state. Creative Composites supplies, among others, the aviation and automotive industries. Governor Gretchen Whitmer says a 135-thousand-dollar state grant will generate a capital investment of nearly a million dollars. The expansion will include hydraulic press upgrades and other additions—creating 17 additional jobs. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 26 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

The Superior Watershed Partnership has received a grant it says will benefit water quality, coastal habitat and climate adaptation in the City of Marquette. The \$323,000 grant is from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Sustain Our Great Lakes Program. It will be used to install so-called green infrastructure at numerous sites within the city. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 22 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced 87-point-five million dollars in grants for “transformative projects.” Governor Gretchen Whitmer promises they’ll generate “thousands of good-paying jobs.” Only one of the 18 grants is coming to the U-P, but it’s a large one, some 970-thousand dollars to the Hancock Business & Technology Park. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 31 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

The Superior Watershed Partnership and Land Conservancy has purchased what it calls an “ecologically unique” 226-acre parcel on the Keweenaw Peninsula. The \$600,000 grant is from the US Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The Partnership says it will create a trail network with interpretive signs for hiking, skiing and K-12 environmental education. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 6 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

The Michigan Strategic Fund is putting up 50 million dollars for preparation of the proposed site of the Copperwood Mine. The facility in Gogebic County is expected to create 380 long-term jobs, as well as 300 construction jobs. Copperwood employs so-called “greenfield” technology which avoids the acid runoff of traditional mines. The new copper mine would be the first in the western Upper Peninsula since 1997. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 27 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

### **SEX CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN IN UPPER PENINSULA**

A 59-year-old Door County, Wisconsin man will spend between ten years and life in prison after being convicted of being a sexual predator. The U-S Attorney in Grand Rapids says Todd Stafford met his underage victim online. The victim’s

father found their conversations and called police. Stafford was arrested after traveling to the Iron Mountain area in hopes of having sex with his intended victim, who is under 16 years of age. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 18 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

An 18-year-old western Mackinac County man is facing a host of charges after the sheriff says he had an inappropriate online relationship with a 12-year-old girl—and sexual relations with a dog. Kelton Paul Salowitz of Curtis is jailed on a 500-thousand-dollar bond facing 25 separate charges. While investigating that, the sheriff says they unearthed a video showing the incident with the dog. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 1 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

A Grand Rapids man has been arrested following an undercover operation in Alger County. The sheriff says Manuel Uribe-Mendez drove from Grand Rapids to Alger County to pick up what he thought was a 15-year-old girl. Turned out “she” was in reality a sheriff’s deputy. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on March 25 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

A 32-year-old Ishpeming man was arraigned on a 51-count child sex abuse indictment. State Police arrested James Nicholas Schwarten in his Ishpeming home last October, where they say they found him with a 15-year-old girl. Troopers say they also found child pornography on several of his electronic devices. The arrest came after an investigation by Ishpeming Police and the state police Computer Crimes Unit. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on February 1 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

A Chippewa County man is headed to prison for a long time after being found guilty of four counts of child sex abuse. Ronald Charles Gates’ sentence of 25 to 50 years follows his 2023 trial. The abuse happened between 2005 and 2012, but the crimes were not reported until years later. U.P.'s Morning News. Aired on January 17 at 6:04 a.m., 6:30 a.m., 7:04 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:04 a.m.. and 8:30 a.m.

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