



THE GLOBE

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Wakefield, GRWA boil water order lifted

By P.J. GLISSON
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GOGEBIC COUNTY — Gogebic Range Water Authority customers learned Monday that they no longer have to boil their water, as a temporary order to do so had been lifted.

Both the GRWA and city of Wakefield posted press releases on Monday, announcing that an ongoing water boil notice had been lifted for all GRWA users, which include the city of Wakefield and the townships of Wakefield, Bessemer and Charter Ironwood.

Persistent readings of E. coli in the Wakefield water that supplies the Gogebic Range Water Authority had led last week to the unprecedented decision to switch GRWA's water supply from Wakefield to Bessemer on a temporary basis.

Although that plan was enacted, in part, the long process of switching water sources — as of press time — was heading in reverse after Wakefield water underwent several days of testing negative.

Wakefield had posted its first water boil notice on April 26.

Tori Davey, administrator for the Gogebic Range Water Authority in Ramsay, confirmed that the transfer from Wakefield to Bessemer water had occurred last week, but only for Aspirus Ironwood Hospital and Charter Ironwood Township.

"It went quite smoothly," she said Tuesday by phone. "I just have to give credit to everyone involved," she said, referring to the cities of Bessemer and Wakefield and to the Bessemer Township Department of Public Works crew.

She also noted Mike Bastman, GRWA water operator, and engineers

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'Safe and sound'



Submitted photo
HURLEY SENIOR Eli Talsma carries Hurley second grader Nante Niemi out of the Porcupine Mountains Monday afternoon. Talsma was part of a rescue group that found Niemi who had been missing since Saturday afternoon.

Lost 8-year-old Hurley boy found after 2-day search in Porkies

By JASON JUNO
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Hurley senior Eli Talsma eats lunch daily with 8-year-old Nante Niemi and he's gone sledding and tubing with him in the winter.

So when the search party Talsma joined closed in on the missing Hurley second grader Monday afternoon in the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, Niemi recognized him.

"When we were running up to him, he was like 'Eli,'" Talsma said. "That was pretty emotional."

Niemi went missing Saturday afternoon while camping with family. Forty-eight hours later, a private search party found Niemi about 2 miles from his campsite.

He was no worse for the wear when found at 1:30 p.m. CDT on Monday.

"Honestly, if you didn't know he was in the woods for two days, you probably wouldn't have known," Talsma said. "He was all talkative. He walked out most of the way besides when we carried him for a little bit. But he was talkative, he was laughing, he was asking a bunch of questions."

Matt Tingstad started searching for him Sunday with help from Leander Somero of Superior Search and Rescue in the Keweenaw. At the end of the day

Sunday, Tingstad found his tracks in the snow. With a much bigger search party together on Monday — and a clearer idea where to look — they found him.

"He asked how long he'd been out there because he said it felt like two weeks. And then he said, 'I bet my mom misses me,'" said Tingstad, whose wife, Melissa, is friends with Nante's mom, Jessica Buerger.

The family was camping in Michigan's largest state park, and probably its most remote, between Presque Isle Park and Lake of the Clouds. Much more specifically, they were camping on the Toledo Creek, roughly a half-mile south of Lake Superior.

To get to the campsite, they would have walked north from South Boundary Road along the Pinkerton Trail — a 2.6 mile path — to the lakeshore, according to Sgt. John Kelly with the state police's Wakefield post.

Half of the family went hiking or fishing and the grandpa, uncle and Niemi went to get firewood about a thousand yards from the campsite. Niemi did not want to cross the Toledo Creek. They said OK, go back to the campsite, Kelly

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GCC student gains high honors

By MEGAN HUGHES
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IRONWOOD — Rayona Suelflow was recently inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa All-Michigan Academic Team, and spoke about her experience and what the opportunity means to her in an interview Friday.

Suelflow, a student at Gogebic Community College, explained that Phi Theta Kappa is the official National Honors Society for junior colleges, opens opportunities for scholarships and provides additional opportunities to grow academically.

"In order to qualify for the academic team I needed to be a member for Phi Theta Kappa," said Suelflow.

She had learned of the opportunity from Dayle Jackson, the

GCC Phi Theta Kappa advisor and student outreach and engagement director.

According to a letter by Jackson, PTK has 39 states participating nationwide, and nominees are selected from junior college across the state.

"She let me know when that I qualified and that it would be awesome to have me," said Suelflow. "It helps give you that feeling of accountability, helping you stay on track."

Suelflow explained that as part of her position in the All-Michigan Academic Team, she is in the running for the National Academic Team.

"I was the only recommendation made from Gogebic this year," she said. "I would encourage anybody who qualifies to send

in the application. It's lengthy and takes some time to do, but it's worth it."

PTK offers more than \$1 million in competitive scholarships according to its website, with the goal of helping a student get one step closer to earning a degree. The program also offers scholarships aimed at students looking to transfer to a four-year program as well. Since the organization's founding more than 3.8 million students have been inducted.

Suelflow said each school only nominates a handful of students each year.

"It wasn't until the first week of February that I found out that I was accepted," said Suelflow. "I

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Rayona Suelflow



P.J. Glisson/The Globe

EASY LAUGHS prevail during a break in Monday evening's Wakefield City Council meeting. From left are City Attorney Ray O'Dea and City Manager Robert Brown, Jr.

Back to drawing board

Authorities begin search again to find Trail 2 reroute between Ramsay and Wakefield

By P.J. GLISSON
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WAKEFIELD — The status of the connecting link between Ramsay and Wakefield is again in question for Trail 2.

The trail, which is managed in part by the Gogebic Range Trail Authority, in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, is used by snowmobilers in the winter and by ORV riders in other seasons.

Last fall, the Wakefield City Council granted permission for the trail to be rerouted along land that includes city

property running along Old U.S. 2. That move was made when an easement was pulled for the former trail which ran north of U.S. 2.

Now, City Manager Robert Brown, Jr. announced at a Monday council meeting that council members had "no interest" in renewing the agreement that was honored this past winter.

He cited too many complaints from owners of homes and businesses along the

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TODAY Partly cloudy — Details, page 2

Wednesday		Today's records	
High	70	High	87 (1922)
Low	51	Low	17 (1981)
Year ago today		Precipitation	
High	77	This month to 7 a.m.	
Low	50	Wednesday	2.56 in.

Snowfall	
This month to 7 a.m.	
Wednesday	10.9 in.
Snow depth	none
Season total	253.4 in.
Last year	182.3 in.

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WATER OVER SCOTT STREET



Jason Juno/Daily Globe

BARRICADES BLOCK a portion of Scott Street in Ironwood Tuesday afternoon as water runs out of a fenced off old mine hole on the right, filled with rocks and capped with a pile of sand. The water runs across the road to the west (left) into the nearby Montreal River. In the distance is the former Knights of Columbus Hall on the left and the intersection of Scott and Silver streets, further in the distance in the middle, where Scott Street is again blocked to traffic. Ironwood city manager Paul Anderson said the mine hole and fenced area belongs to Xcel Energy, and it put the rock and sand in the hole. He said the water is not city water. Ironwood city commissioner Rick Semo suggested at Monday night's meeting that the water is coming from the ponds in the caved ground just to the east, as the water is high and this flooded spot is below the water level in the ponds. Anderson said "only the Man upstairs really knows what's really going on down there."

Found

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said. "They assumed since there were a thousand yards or what-not, and he had the guide of the river he would make it back fine, so they sent him back, the 8-year-old," Kelly said. "Well, he never made it back, he got turned around."

That set off a massive search operation that included more than 150 search and rescue personnel from the state police and other local police, nine K9s, and air and water support units, according to an MSP release. Other groups came from across the region.

The search also included Tingstad and his group.

They located Nante about 2 miles southeast of the campsite. That was somewhere between the Cross Trail and Big Carp Trail, Kelly said.

"There's no specific place I can tell you because it's out in the middle of nowhere," Kelly said. "It was an area that we had searched numerous times. But he was lost, he was turned around, so he was circling. So that's why he wasn't picked up right away."

Tingstad had some experience in that area. Finding kids isn't much different than finding deer; and the kids don't run away from you like the deer, he said. Tingstad said he started putting a plan together Saturday night after they heard from his mom. He went out there Sunday morning and met up with Somero.

"We just walked the area, we made a big loop around the outside of the area where he was to make sure that Nante didn't get out of that area," Tingstad said.

"We put 12 miles on. At 12 miles, we split up, I went to the lake. Somero, he came back out to the vehicle because he had been out since 8 o'clock the night before. He was there right away."

"When I was coming back out, 6:30 p.m. at mile 14, after 14 miles of walking, I found Nante's tracks in the snow."

He took photos and video of the tracks. Without a head lamp, he got out of the woods before dark. He said he gave the information to those in charge of the search operation after exiting the woods.

Tingstad also sent that stuff to Jake Allen, of Marenisco, who got some more guys together. They had 12 when they went back on Monday.

On Monday, they went 1.03 miles in to get him and they went 1.3 miles back out straight to South Boundary Road.

"If somebody had went in there after I was out Sunday night, he could have been recovered," Tingstad said. "But physically, I thought that was my best bet to get out of there Sunday night and come back Monday. Honestly what I thought was going to happen is I'd get that information to searchers Sunday night and they'd go get him Sunday night, but nobody was in there. ... I gave them exact coordinates, nobody ever went and checked those when we went back there on Monday. We were the first party to go back there on Monday and he was 232 yards from where I found his tracks the day before."

They expected to find him alive.

"There was very minimal bear signs, there wasn't any active wolf signs," he said.

The temperature, 45 to 55 degrees, even at night, he said, wasn't all that bad.

"That's fine, it's hoodie weather," Tingstad said. "There was snow higher up in the elevation. Where we had to park our vehicles there was snow. The Little Carp Trailhead, there was like about a foot of snow on the ground there, but as soon as you dropped elevation, then there was no snow anymore. Getting in there, you had to walk through snow to get started going down there, so we knew he wasn't up high."

There wasn't any snow at all where he was; in fact it was dry.

"He was in a hemlock forest, which is pretty common out there," Tingstad said. "Hemlocks have a good thermal cover where they don't let much air from the atmosphere into the woods. The trees hold all the temperature that's at ground level in that little kind of sub cultural, subterrain in there. It doesn't get as cold in there as you think it would. It protects the ground from getting cold."

"It was probably the best three days of the year to be lost out there besides early fall — no bugs, no critters, no snow."

Talsma helped make sure Niemi wasn't afraid when rescuers got there.

"That's one of the reasons why they wanted me to go up there so bad because they knew he'd recognize me," Talsma said. "We didn't know if he was going to be scared or anything and that I'd be able to calm him down."

The Michigan State Police said he withstood the elements by taking shelter under a log where he was found.

"What I heard is he didn't drink any of the water, he didn't eat anything," Talsma said. "And then at night, he would find low pine trees and he'd take branches and leaves and cover himself with it and he would sleep there most

of the night."

It was quite a moment when they found him.

"It was interesting, all the young guys without kids ran to check his condition and see how he was," Tingstad said. "And all the dads in the group basically just stood back and were like thank the Lord that he was alright, he was safe, and just sat back and took it all in that it was a success."

Before he was found, the state police talked about the tough conditions in the woods. Before he went missing, the state park posted how tough the park was to get to with South Boundary Road closed to through traffic, Lake of the Clouds still inaccessible, trails still snow packed and rivers raging.

"Honestly, if any kid were to go up and get lost, I think the best one would have been Nante," Talsma said. "I knew he'd be able to do it."

Talsma led Hurley to the WIAA state boys basketball tournament last year for the first time since 1949. He also rewrote the school's record book, becoming the school's leading scorer late this season. Tingstad calls him "twenty-one thirty" for the 2,130 points he scored.

None of that compares now. "This is probably the best thing that's ever happened in Hurley because none of that other stuff really matters, but somebody's life was on the line for this," Talsma said.

"He made his mark here already," athletic director Steve Lombardo said while he was waiting with Talsma for another interview. CNN and ABC News had already called Monday and the whirlwind continued Tuesday. "Another piece of who he is and what he's going to be leaving here in a few weeks."

Having Talsma out there to help rescue him contributed to the storybook ending. Connecting students of all ages has benefited them all at Hurley.

"It was pretty special for Nante to have a familiar face out there to see and feel comfortable knowing Eli," Lombardo said. "Seeing Eli as well as a number of our other senior students who work so well with our elementary kids as role models for our school. They meet with those kids during lunchtime, at recess, interacting with them, which of course is a benefit of having a pre-K-12 building. We're able to utilize a lot of our older students, Eli in particular, so to see how he interacts with kids on a day-to-day basis here, I knew that it was special for him and Nante, both, to meet in the wilderness together."

Talsma has snowmobiled and hunted deer in the Porkies, and he had a connection with the other rescuers.

"Very fitting for him to be up there, he knows what he's doing," Lombardo said.

The Hurley staff met Sunday after hearing what had happened, Lombardo, also the elementary principal, said.

"We had a plan in place Monday morning to obviously support our students here," he said. "Nante having four siblings, obviously a lot of students were connected to him and concerned."

Once they found out he was safe, they announced the good news to the entire school to an "uproar of cheers."

"It was certainly overwhelming, everybody was thankful, a lot of tears, a lot of happiness around the school. It certainly was a relief to be able to announce positive news to everybody," Lombardo said.

Property owners hurt by flooding eligible for free help

MARQUETTE — The Michigan State Police announced on Tuesday that free assistance is available for persons who experienced damage from recent heavy rain and melting snow, which has been exacerbated by two winter storms in mid-April and at the start of May.

A recent press release encourages owners of any Michigan home or business to call 211 to request aid. The deadline to call is May 19.

"Labor assistance includes but is not limited to water removal, tearing out of drywall or flooring, removal of damaged personal items, and yard cleanup," states the release issued by Lt. Mark Gianunzio, public information officer for MSP's Eighth

District. "Free cleaning supply kits are also available."

According to MSP's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, volunteer teams will not haul away garbage or debris.

"As we continue to support the local efforts to recover from this devastating event, we encourage anyone in need to take advantage of these resources available," said Capt. Kevin Sweeney, deputy state director of Emergency Management and commander of the MSP/EMHSD. "This is designed to help take some of the burden off those who are most affected."

As noted in the report, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emer-

gency last month in Gogebic, Ontonagon, Houghton, Alger, Baraga, Dickinson, Iron and Marquette counties due to roads, bridges, utilities,

homes, businesses, and other infrastructure damaged by recent flooding.

For additional guidance on how to prepare for, cope with, or recover from an

emergency or disaster, see michigan.gov/miready or follow MSP/EMHSD on Twitter at @MichEMHS.

The MSP EMHSD coordinates state and federal

resources to help local governments in relation to disasters or emergencies. It also coordinates homeland security initiatives and federal grants.

NORTH WOODS MANUFACTURING
A Hurley High School Student Operated Enterprise
OPEN HOUSE EVENT
Tues., May 16 from 9am-3pm
5503 W. Range View Dr., Hurley, WI

PSALM Shared Ministry
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN & SHARON LUTHERAN
New Sunday Worship Hours
begin on May 28, 2023
8:30am — Sharon Lutheran
100 E. Seller St., Bessemer, MI • 906-667-0891
10:30am — All Saints Lutheran
1202 Putnam Blvd., Wakefield, MI • 906-224-8421
psalmshared.org

GOGEBIC Community Mental Health
Community Mental Health Authority is accepting bids for the following:
Grass cutting and lawn maintenance services for the 2023 season at our two group home locations in Ironwood and the main office building grounds located in Wakefield. For more information, please contact Mike Mieloszyk at 906 229-6107.
Contractors must be insured. Sealed bids will be due no later than 4:30 pm on 5/26/2023. CMHA has the right to accept or reject any and all estimates.

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Downtown Ashland 4-8pm!
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