



Area football players to keep an eye on in 2025

SPORTS, 1B

News-Review

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025 | PETOSKEYNEWS.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

NCMC opens a new Early Learning Center

Karly Graham

The Petoskey News-Review
USA TODAY NETWORK

PETOSKEY — North Central Michigan College hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for its brand new Early Learning Center on Tuesday, Aug. 19.

College president David Roland Finley opened the ceremony, welcoming a group of community leaders. He said

the opening of the center represents a partnership between the college, donors, educators and the community, “that shows just what’s possible when we work together.”

“It’s another step toward making Northern Michigan not just a beautiful place to visit, but an even better place to call home,” he said.

State Sen. John Damoose (R-Harbor Springs) also spoke about the expen-

sive nature of childcare and the common barriers that families encounter.

“This is critical,” Damoose said. “What you’re doing here is much, much bigger than just this building, because everywhere I go — it doesn’t matter where in the state — we hear about the problem with childcare. We hear about workforce challenges, every business I

See NCMC, Page 2A



Victoria Fruk, 11, from Charlevoix, smiles with a rabbit during the Emmet-Charlevoix County Fair on Aug. 20.

PHOTOS BY KARLY GRAHAM/NEWS-REVIEW

4-H shows its value

Students can learn responsibility and gain confidence at county fair

Karly Graham

The Petoskey News-Review
USA TODAY NETWORK

PETOSKEY — The 119th Emmet-Charlevoix County Fair carried on under sunny skies on Wednesday, Aug. 20, with vendors, carnival rides, the grandstands and animals all welcoming people into the fairgrounds.

Among the day’s activities were different animal shows, where 4-H students got to show off some of their work.

Elle Orlarey, 12, from Boyne Falls, has been a part of 4-H for many years. She said 4-H has taught her responsibility and has made it easier for her to talk to people — an important skill when talking with buyers and making friends, too.

“It means a lot to even be able to show in an organization like this because it’s really nice,” she said.

During this year’s fair, Orlarey showed swine, lambs, rabbits and cattle.

“I like 4-H because not only do you get to win cool prizes and participate in



Marlee Gien, 8, from Boyne Falls, was working barn duty and showing off the chicken “Feather Feet” during the Emmet-Charlevoix County Fair on Aug. 20.

shows that make you a better showman overall, but it’s about friendships,” she said. “I like being here because it feels like some sort of comfort — having a bunch of friends you can hang out with.”

The county fair is the finish line for

4-H kids, where they are able showcase the hard work they have put into their animals and projects over the past several months.

See 4-H, Page 3A

LOFTS AT LUMBER SQUARE

Community foundation secures final funding

Janis Reeser

AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation has raised the final \$4 million needed to close the funding gap for the \$18 million Lofts at Lumber Square development.

The 60-unit apartment building, under construction at 900 Emmet St., will serve middle-income households earning between 80% and 120% of the area median income, or approximately \$40,000-\$120,000 depending on household size.

According to a community announcement, the final funds required for the project came from Impact100 Little Traverse Bay, whose \$134,000 grant award secured the last dollars needed.

Project addresses housing shortage

Officials have estimated that Emmet County currently needs 865 additional rental units to meet workforce demand. The Lofts at Lumber Square project is intended to address some of that need.

The development is deed-restricted to keep rents attainable for at least 50 years and will be owned and operated by Northern Homes CDC, a nonprofit dedicated to creating and preserving affordable housing throughout Northern Michigan.

“For decades, we’ve watched our community’s housing problem grow

See FUNDING, Page 2A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to petoskeynews.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 150 | No. 231
To subscribe
888-561-2856
©2025

\$2.00



8 04879 15086 2