



## Petoskey's Bartel fueling win streak on both ends of court

SPORTS, 1B

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## Marine Corps is only service to pass audit



Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth has committed to landing a clean Pentagon audit by 2028. JOSHUA ROBERTS/REUTERS

### Pentagon, other military branches fail financial review

**Cybele Mayes-Osterman**  
USA TODAY

PENTAGON — The U.S. Marine Corps passed its third annual audit in a row, a benchmark of financial accountability and fraud prevention that no other military service, or the Pentagon as a whole, has ever passed.

Independent auditors who reviewed the Marine Corps' budget bookkeeping for last fiscal year gave it a passing grade for the third year in a row, the Marines announced on Feb. 9.

"It's a big, happy day for the Marine

Corps," Lt. Gen. James Adams III, the Marine Corps' deputy commandant for programs and resources, told reporters. Over the course of a year, Adams said, an independent company had "reviewed all our records and that our financial records are all materially accurate, complete and in compliance with federal regulations."

No other military service has ever passed an audit, let alone the Pentagon as a whole — a point of criticism for decades for the government agency that receives more American taxpayer dollars than any other. The Pentagon an-

nounced in December that it had failed for the eighth consecutive time since the first audit of its finances was conducted in 2018.

President Donald Trump has proposed raising the military's budget to \$1.5 trillion — a 50% increase.

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth has committed to landing a clean Pentagon audit by 2028. "The American taxpayers deserve that," he said in February of last year.

But the Government Accountability

See **AUDIT**, Page 2A

## King salmon rebounded after 75% population crash

**Keith Matheny**  
Detroit Free Press  
USA TODAY NETWORK

There's a reason why Chinook salmon are also known as king salmon.

"They put up an incredible fight," said Dennis Eade, a tournament fisher for decades up and down Lake Michigan from his home in Holland.

"It's so intense that even the last 20 yards behind the boat is the most precarious time to land them. They are notorious for jumping and spitting that lure right behind the boat. It's extremely exciting, and you are totally worn out. It takes typically 20 minutes to fight a salmon of over 15 pounds and get it into the boat. They provide a phenomenal experience."

Eade is the executive director of the

See **SALMON**, Page 2A

## Battle food insecurity at NCMC's Hunger Games

**Jillian Fellows**  
The Petoskey News-Review  
USA TODAY NETWORK

PETOSKEY — The North Central Michigan College Timberwolves will host their fourth annual Hunger Games basketball doubleheader on Wednesday, Feb. 18.

With the women's team taking on Alpena Community College at 5:30 p.m. and the men's team following at ap-

proximately 7:30 p.m., fans can bring a nonperishable food item or make a donation to the college's Campus Cupboard in lieu of purchasing a ticket. All funds and food items that are donated will go to support the Campus Cupboard, which is a year-round, on-campus food pantry available to any NCMC student.

The Hunger Games have been a tradition in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association since 2014 and

is designed to raise awareness of food insecurity and raise funds for local student food pantries. NCMC led all participating colleges in 2023 and 2024. In 2024, the Timberwolves collected more than 600 pounds of food and provided 4,606 meals to students in need.

"The generosity of our fans and community continues to inspire us," said NCMC Athletic Director Ashley

See **GAMES**, Page 2A



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