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The Cheboygan River upstream from the Cheboygan Lock & Dam Complex, races under a footbridge toward Lake Huron, April 14. JOHN WISELY/DETROIT FREE PRESS

A mother's intuition guided her to her child in Cheboygan



Byron McCauley
Guest columnist

CHEBOYGAN — Amber Noel didn't want to wait to find out.

On the eve of another round of rain, with flood warnings hanging over the Cheboygan River, she got in her car with her fiancé and drove from Alpena to pick up her 23-year-old daughter, Molly, whose residence is just a few blocks away from the water's edge.

"I didn't want to risk it," Noel said. "She has no means of transportation out of here. There's nobody else close by. I made the trek today because there was no guarantee I'd be able to get through tomorrow."

By nightfall on April 14, weather forecasters predicted more rain to fall here overnight and possibly cause the enfeebled Cheboygan Lock and Dam Complex to overflow. Emergency officials have asked residents to gather their things that matter to them and be ready to flee to safer areas — just in case.

Noel made a proactive decision in the in-between — the uneasy space between warning and impact. Cheboygan

was living in this space — a town waiting. Waiting as rising water tested the limits of infrastructure. Waiting to see whether preparation was enough. Yards were already taking on water. U.S. 23, which runs along Lake Huron into Cheboygan, was shut down by early evening.

For days, crews have been stacking big sandbags at the dam complex, anticipating a worst-case scenario. They applied engineering solutions to allow more water to flow through.

The anticipation of possible flooding of the Cheboygan River, which cuts

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Port Huron paper mill reopens

Johnathan Hogan

Port Huron Times Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

PORT HURON — One of Port Huron's two paper mills that closed down in recent years is now reopen for business.

Legacy Paper and the BMI group held an open house Wednesday, April 15 to tour the facility once used by the Domtar Corporation at 1700 Washington Ave.

The event heralded the return of one of Port Huron's most prominent industries after the plant has sat unused for five years.

The Domtar plant has been closed since 2021, taking 200 jobs from the city with it. It was quickly followed by the closure of Dunn Paper, its chief competitor, in 2022.

The BMI Group, a Canadian-based company that purchases and repurposes or restores industrial assets, invested \$24.5 million to restore the plant to working order after purchasing the property. The restoration also received \$1 million in state funding through the Michigan Business Development Program.

Port Huron Mayor Anita Ashford read a certificate of recognition during the open house thanking Legacy Port Huron Paper for investing in the community.

"This grand opening signified more than the restart of operation, but a shared commitment to bringing quality jobs, sustainable industry and a new opportunity to the Port Huron

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Lakeside ceremony to honor forgotten graves

Andy Jeffrey

Port Huron Times Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK — MICHIGAN

PORT HURON — For generations, a quiet corner of Lakeside Cemetery held hundreds of lives with little to mark them.

No headstones. No signs. No indication that beneath the grass lay men, women and children — many poor, many forgotten — buried in what became known as the cemetery's paupers' section.

In three weeks, that will change. The Lakeside Paupers Cemetery De-

claration Ceremony is scheduled for 10 to 11 a.m. May 2 at Lakeside Cemetery, inviting the public to gather and formally recognize those buried in the once-overlooked section of the cemetery.

The one-hour ceremony will include prayer and music, with remarks from Port Huron Mayor Anita Ashford, Pastor Roxie Davis, local historian Andrew Kercher and project organizer Erik Wurmlinger.

Why it matters

What now appears as a small, de-

finer section of the cemetery carries a much deeper and more complicated history.

Port Huron's earliest known burial ground dates back to 1842, when a cemetery was established on Minnie Street.

That site was later closed, and bodies were moved to Pinewood Cemetery, where they remained for about 30 years, according to a 1945 Times Herald article.

Pinewood Cemetery, established in 1850, served as the city's primary burial ground before Lakeside Cemetery was

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