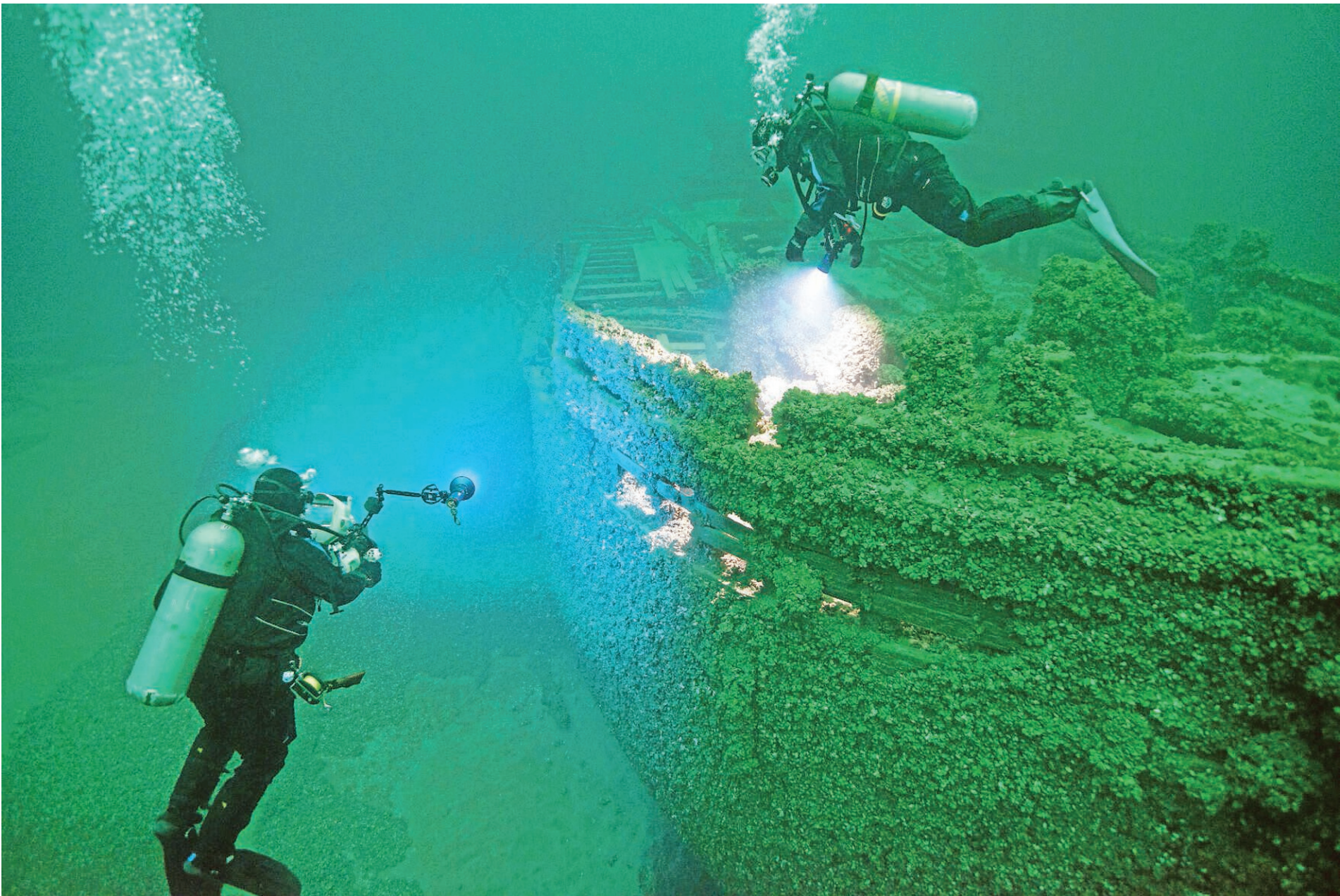


ENVIRONMENT

WATERY WONDERS



NOAA

Two divers investigate the wreck of the St. Peter, one of the most visited recreationally accessible shipwrecks in the newly designated Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary.

Lake Ontario sanctuary council to meet in Cayuga County

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The Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary’s advisory council will meet in Cayuga County later this month.

The meeting is scheduled for 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 30, at the Sterling Nature Center, 15730 Jensvold Road. It is open to the public.

To register to attend the meeting, complete the form at forms.gle/A1YF8MfMX-7iADrvG8.

According to a news release, the meeting will include member introductions, executive committee elections and project presentations. A public comment period will be held near the end of the meeting.

The Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 2024 after a years-long process. The sanctuary covers a 1,722-square-mile area of the lake that includes Cayuga, Jefferson, Oswego and Wayne counties. There are 41 known shipwrecks and an aircraft in the sanctuary.

An advisory council was formed to advise the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on the management of the sanctuary. The council has 15 voting members: Two citizen at-large seats, two representing business, economic development and marketing fields, two for history, maritime heritage and public interpretation and two

representing tourism.

One of the voting members has Cayuga County ties. Katie Malinowski, a Sterling native who now lives in Oswego County, is one of the citizen at-large representatives.

Karen Kuhl, the county’s tourism director, is an alternate on the council.

More information about the council, including the meeting agenda and documents, is available at sanctuaries.noaa.gov/lake-ontario/advisory.

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CRIME

Auburn police charge two with drug crimes

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Two people were arrested on felony drug charges Wednesday night after the Auburn Police Department found nearly 60 grams of methamphetamine, crack and fentanyl during a traffic stop.

In a news release Thursday, the department said that Beth L. Geiger, 45, of Auburn, and Antwan L Smith, 40, of Syracuse, possessed 48.5 grams of methamphetamine and 11 grams of crack cocaine when stopped by police who were looking for a vehicle believed to have been involved in a larceny in the city.

Multiple glassine envelopes with fentanyl were also in the vehicle, police said, along with a digital scale, suspected cutting agents and packaging typically used in narcotics sales.

Geiger and Smith were each charged with two counts of third-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance (a Class B felony) and two counts of fourth-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance (a Class C felony). Due to Smith’s five previous felony convictions, Geiger being on probation and both suspects being on parole, they were remanded to the Cayuga County Jail.

The arrests came after Cayuga County 911 dispatchers received a larceny complaint at about 7:30 that night from the Dollar Tree at 314 Genesee St. A description of a suspect and their vehicle was provided and a “be on the lookout” was issued to local law enforcement, police said. Officers then found the vehicle near South and Genesee Streets, and stopped it there.

Upon interviewing the people in the car, including Geiger and Smith, it was determined the larceny suspect was Ronald A. Agee Jr., 50, of Syracuse, police said. It was determined the vehicle’s oc-

cupants dropped Agee off at a residence in Auburn after the larceny was reported. Agee was charged with petit larceny (a misdemeanor), and also had an active state parole absconder warrant.

State parole officers took custody of Agee and he was taken to the Onondaga County Justice Center, where he will stay pending further court proceedings, police said.

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