

## FORECAST FOR LUDINGTON, MI.

Tonight	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Partly Cloudy, Increasing Clouds Late Winds ESE 5-10 <b>Lo 43°</b>	Showers/Isolated Storms Likely Winds SE/SW 5-15 <b>Hi 61° Lo 50°</b>	Cloudy, Slight Chance of Showers Winds WNW 8-17 <b>Hi 55° Lo 40°</b>	Partly Sunny Winds WSW 5-10 <b>Hi 57° Lo 43°</b>	Few Showers Possible Winds W 5-15 <b>Hi 54° Lo 40°</b>

### Yesterday's Almanac

Temperatures	Precipitation
High.....59° (Mason County Airport)	Last 24 hours.....0.00"
Low.....34°	Month (Total).....1.12"
Normal High.....60°	Month (Normal).....1.43"
Normal Low.....41°	Year (Total).....21.78"
Record High.....77° (1997)	Year (Normal).....25.27"
Record Low.....25° (1993)	

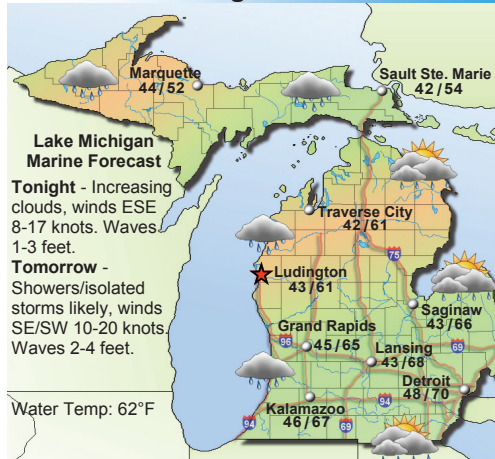
### Sun and Moon

Full	Last	New	First
Oct 18	Oct 26	Nov 3	Nov 10
Sunrise 7:59 AM	Sunset 7:03 PM	Moonrise 4:40 PM	Moonset 3:06 AM

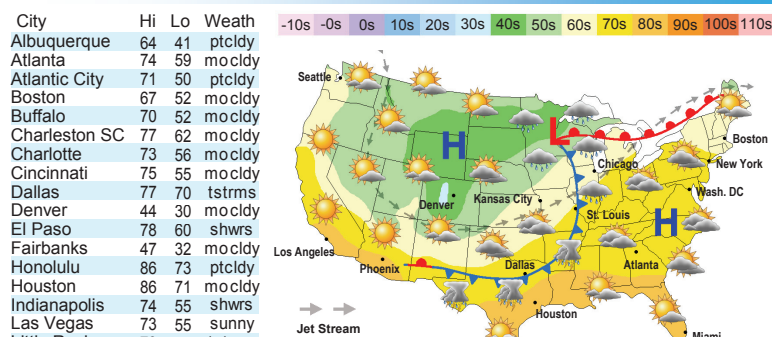
### Tomorrow's Regional Cities

City	Hi	Lo	Weath	City	Hi	Lo	Weath
Alpena, MI	60	53	shwrs	Lansing, MI	68	59	shwrs
Ann Arbor, MI	70	58	shwrs	Manitowoc, WI	59	48	shwrs
Chicago, IL	67	49	shwrs	Marquette, MI	52	48	shwrs
Detroit, MI	70	60	shwrs	Milwaukee, WI	64	49	shwrs
Flint, MI	68	57	shwrs	Saginaw, MI	66	56	shwrs
Grand Rapids, MI	65	56	shwrs	St. Ste. Marie, MI	54	48	shwrs
Green Bay, WI	60	46	shwrs	Toledo, OH	72	57	shwrs
Kalamazoo, MI	67	55	shwrs	Traverse City, MI	61	50	shwrs

### Tomorrow's Regional Outlook



### Tomorrow's National Outlook and Cities Forecast



### Weather History

1984: Dense fog dropped visibilities to near zero in southeastern Wisconsin, which led to a 118 vehicle accident on Interstate 94, just south of Milwaukee.

# Health plan sign-ups on the rise in Michigan

BY JEFF KAROUB  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT (AP) — Amid the problems and political finger-pointing since the launch of online health care exchanges, Adnan Hammad sees progress.

The community health director at Dearborn-based nonprofit organization ACCESS said his staff has helped hundreds of people enroll in plans under the federal health care overhaul and educated thousands about the available options. That's despite technical problems that have plagued the site and frustrated consumers in Michigan and across the country since its Oct. 1 debut.

Glitches and delays persist, but they started to ease in the second week of the marketplaces — envisioned as a 21st century portal to a health care law designed to provide insurance for people who don't have access to coverage on the job. Technical problems with the overloaded website frustrated consumers for days.

The exchanges launched as the federal government partially shut down. Republican leaders had demanded that votes to reopen the government be tied to dismantling President Barack Obama's health care law and cutting federal spending.

"I'm not a politician. ... I'm just seeing it from the human side," said Hammad, whose organization is one of four in Michigan sharing \$2.5 million from the federal government to help people sign up for insurance. "It is just an exciting time for us to actually see all those families and children come to our doors and leaving happy ... saying, 'Hey, I'm going to have health insurance now.'"

Hammad said things have steadily improved and ACCESS has boosted the hours of the workers dubbed "navigators" to keep up with demand.

Still, the public's overall satisfaction with the exchanges is low, according to a survey conducted from Oct. 3-7.

The AP-GfK poll released Thursday found just 7 percent of Americans saying the rollout of the health exchanges has gone well. The poll also found 40 percent of Americans said the launch of the insurance markets hasn't gone well,

20 percent said it's gone somewhat well and 30 percent didn't know what to say.

Among those who have actually tested out the system, three-quarters of those polled said they have experienced problems trying to sign up. Only about 1 in 10 succeeded in buying health insurance.

The survey of 1,227 adults with a margin of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points offers an early snapshot on use of the new exchanges. Michigan is among 36 states using the federal government's site, Health-Care.gov, which the Obama administration said has had millions of unique visitors. The administration has declined to release en-

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rollment statistics, saying that will be done monthly.

Michigan officials have no control over the function of the marketplace, but the state's online premium estimator was used about 120,000 times between Oct. 1 and Thursday. A state website with information about the federally controlled insurance exchange saw more than 14,000 visitors, and the volume of calls to a toll-free number still are above normal but have been tapering off, according to Department of Insurance and Financial Services spokesman Caleb Buhs.

"I am hopeful that the process will become easier as improvements are made to the federal system," Kevin Clinton, the department's director, said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Our department will continue to provide help for Michigan residents who have questions about health insurance through our website and call center."

## Halloween at White Pine Village

Historic White Pine Village will host trick-or-treaters on Saturday, October 19, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Admission is free for kids 12 years of age and younger, and \$5 for those 13 and older. This kid-friendly event is geared towards family fun and not to be mistaken as a gory, ghoulish, haunted village. All children must be accompanied by an adult for admission. Ticket sales will take place at the admission building from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., with the buildings on the grounds open until 8 p.m. for trick-or-treating. The gift shop will remain open until 8 p.m.

A costume contest for kids 12 and under will be a part of the event, and judging will take place in the town hall at 7:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the funniest and the scariest costumes.

Bring a trick-or-treating bag and flashlight to take part in the village trick-or-treat fun. Many of the buildings will be open with volunteers ready to dole out treats.

## Spinning for Autumn Days



White Pine Village volunteer Loretta Gunberg has been spinning yarn since 1990 and has been volunteering at Historic White Pine Village for about six years. "I learn something new every time I come out here," Gunberg said. Gunberg was spinning wool as part of White Pine Village's Autumn Days this weekend, which was the last event of the village's regular season. A special trick-or-treat event is held Oct. 19. See more information to the left of this photo.

JEFF KIESSSEL | DAILY NEWS

## Huron County at tip of Thumb doubling wind power

BAD AXE, Mich. (AP) — Huron County at the tip of Michigan's rural Thumb region is becoming a wind power mecca, with an expected doubling of the number of turbines by 2014.

The largely agricultural county is about 100 miles north of Detroit. It has Lake Huron to the west, north and east, which gives it some of Michigan's best wind power potential. The county had 160 turbines at the end of 2012, according to county building Director Jeff Smith in Bad Axe.

"By sometime next year, we should have 328 wind turbines in Huron County because of what has been approved and what is under construction," Smith told the Huron Daily Tribune (<http://bit.ly/1boB49S>). "Ninety-eight turbines are currently under construction."

Eighty-eight of the planned turbines will come from two new wind parks, Pheasant Run Wind I and II, Smith said.

The Huron County wind turbines are part of a growing state effort spurred by a 2008 law mandating renewable energy generation. The Michigan Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act signed by then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm requires state electricity providers to generate at least 10 percent of

their electricity from renewable sources by 2015.

The state's top providers, DTE Energy Co. and CMS Energy Corp., are on track to reach the 10 percent mandate, Smith said.

Wind parks in Huron County should bring in an average of 542.4 megawatts of energy production a year, Smith said. The new parks mean that 10 of Michigan's 21 wind farms will be located in Huron County, according to the state.

Michigan produced about 980 megawatts from wind in 2012, according to the American Wind Energy Association's annual market report.

"We're behind a lot of states on wind production in the country," Smith said. "But we're on track to meet the standards put in place by the federal government."

Huron County residents at first met wind turbines with some skepticism, Smith said, but he said the trend in the area seems to be moving forward for renewable energy.

"The first projects came through with about a 60 percent" of people backing them, Smith said. "The latest projects that have been approved tend to be at participation levels with landowners around 85 to 90 percent. That's where the turbines are located."

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