

# Leelanau Enterprise

M I C H I G A N   N E W S P A P E R   O F   T H E   Y E A R

## Reason for Optimism

"While economies in Europe, China, and Japan are slowing, the U.S. economy grew 3.3% in the fourth quarter last year. Despite consumer concerns over inflation, America's economy remains surprisingly resilient.

The job market is the strongest since the 1960s, with unemployment at a 50-year low. 401Ks are reaching new heights as the stock market booms. Inflation has cooled to more normal levels, and Biden announced his administration is taking on price gouging.

Wages are rising at historic rates, boosting incomes for workers at all levels. New business creation is surging while budget deficits have plummeted from the pandemic era peak. Renewable energy production hit new highs last year, while US oil production set a new record in 2023.

Biden's investments in infrastructure, manufacturing and the climate will sustain prosperity for decades. The uninsured rate is the lowest ever thanks to the ACA's record enrollment. For young Americans, opportunities abound with a robust job market and higher minimum wages.

After a pandemic-related spike, crime and murder rates dropped significantly in 2022 to a fraction of levels from 30 years ago.

While challenges remain, this Administration has delivered tangible progress benefiting families here and nationwide. Biden's steady leadership on the economy, healthcare, climate, and public safety have made the country demonstrably better off. Americans are right to feel increased optimism about the future. Biden deserves credit for competent, compassionate governance, steering us through crisis and toward shared prosperity."

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