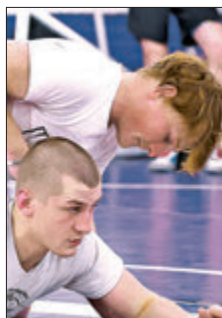


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**Wrestling coaches dedicated to program**  
■ Read full story in sports, Page 11A.



\$2.00

**Section A**

# VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW



VOL. 139, NO. 43 EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521 | 715-479-4421 | vcnewsreview.com WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024/JANUARY, 1 2025

## Long-time editor, publisher Kurt Krueger to retire after renowned 45-year career

**SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-REVIEW**

Veteran journalist Kurt Krueger, a long-time editor and current publisher of the Vilas County News-Review and The Three Lake News, will retire at the end of this week after serving the two newspapers and their respective communities for more than four decades.

During 45 years at the newspapers, Krueger worked in all facets of putting out a newspaper 52 weeks a year. Though his job titles included news editor, editor, and publisher, he also was an award-winning outdoors columnist and photographer.

Krueger started out as news editor in the fall of 1979 under the tutelage of then News-Review owners Dan and Bob Satran. He

became editor in the spring of 1985, when Delphos Herald Inc. purchased the newspapers, and he was named publisher in 2010, when former Publisher Byron McNutt retired.

Under Krueger's direction of the newsroom his first 31 years, and as publisher the last 14 years, the News-Review and its sister paper, The Three Lakes News, won hundreds of state and national journalism awards.

While there were many awards for news and column writing over the years, Krueger said a highlight of his career were multiple Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA) and National Newspaper Association (NNA) General Excellence awards for all facets of producing a quality community newspaper.

**To KRUEGER Pg. 2**



News-Review Publisher Kurt Krueger pictured with Weekly Newspaper of the Year award in 2020, received in 2021.

—STAFF PHOTO



**POWDERED** — Trying to stay warm was a little tough for wildlife last week as a cold snowy weather event hit the region. This deer was spotted just outside the airport in Eagle River.  
—Photo By William Zuelke

## Derby Complex offers 2025 winter festivities

**BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF**

The 62nd World Championship Snowmobile Derby, along with the 24th running of the Vintage World Championships, will once again bring thousands to the North Woods.

Spectators will experience the track's rich history and enduring legacy of snowmobile racing, with 11 days of thrilling action in Eagle River from January 9-19.

The event is billed as the "Indianapolis 500 of Snowmobile Racing," drawing the best ice oval racers from the United States, Canada, and Europe to Eagle River.

Oval racers will compete

**To DERBY Pg. 7**



While not enough snow has fallen for snowmobiling, visitors to local trails are still open for cross country skiing and horse-drawn sleigh rides provided by Rocking W Stables.

—Staff Photo By Kurt Krueger

## Area snowmobile trails remain closed; Three Eagle open for XC skate skiing

**BY JACOB HEID REPORTER**

updates available say for skating skiing only, with not enough snow to groom the classic trails.

Snowmobilers who are ready to hit the trails in Vilas and Oneida counties this winter will likely have to wait until after the holidays to pack up their sleds and head North.

With the lack of winter weather during the 2023-24 snowmobile season, where none of the area snowmobile trails ever opened, snowmobile club officials and riders alike are itching for the chance to hit the trails this season.

Other winter recreational activities can be enjoyed around the North Woods, such as cross-country skiing.

The Three Eagle Trail cross-country skiing trail is open, but the most recent

All 11 snowmobile trail systems in Vilas passed trail inspections ahead of the season.

The key ingredient for opening the trails promptly is cold weather before a significant amount of snow.

"We won't see an opening date until our area receives a significant snowfall to re-establish the trails with snow that was lost during our warmups," said Dan Dumas, Sno-Eagles grooming operations manager.

A clipper system entered the state last Thursday, with most of the significant snow (4-6 to 6-8 inches) hitting the

**To TRAILS Pg. 8**

## Groom to Ride raffle tickets now available

Groom to Ride, a major fundraiser for local snowmobile clubs, is currently underway.

The event is sponsored by Track Side in Eagle River and co-sponsored by four area snowmobile clubs — Sno-Eagles of Eagle River, Sno-Buddies of Conover, Northern Lights Snowmobile Club of Three Lakes, and the Phelps Snowmobile Club.

First prize is a 2025 Ski-Doo MXZ Sport 600 snowmobile donated by Track Side.

Second prize is 2026 World Championship Snowmobile Derby tickets for four, reserved indoor Hot Seats including admission and parking, donated by the World Championship Derby Complex.

Third prize is breakfast for two at Sorge's Daybreak Diner, a weekday snowmobile rental at The Boathouse, a two-night stay for four at SpiritView Lakeside, and dinner for two at Clayton's 1881 Room plus \$100 cash.

Fourth prize is a two-night stay at Peaceful Pines

Resort, a one-day UTV or snowmobile rental from Track Side and a \$100 gift card from Buckshot's North.

Fifth prize is a two-night winter stay at Phelps Hillside Resort/Phelps Lakeview Lodge and \$100 fuel from Phelps Convenience Center.

Sixth prize is a two-night stay for four people at Bauer's Dam Resort and \$100 for use at Bauer's Dam Resort.

Raffle tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20 and are available at local restaurants, bars, resorts, marinas, businesses and the World Snowmobile Headquarters.

The drawing will be held at Track Side on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at 5 p.m. The winner does not need to be present.

This raffle is one among many fundraising efforts hosted by local clubs, going towards the cost of maintaining state-funded snowmobile trails.

For more information, visit <https://snoeagles.org/>.

## Judge Overbey, Trump comeback, snowless winter top stories

**BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF**

Another year has passed and the staff from the Vilas County News-Review has taken a look a look back at some of the biggest news stories of 2024, ranging from a circuit court judge's scandal tainting the Vilas County Courthouse, Donald Trump winning presidential reelection, and local tourism economy being marred by a snowless winter.

Of the topics to have impacted the Eagle River area, one of the biggest ones is a no-snow winter that proved itself to be catastrophic for the North Woods tourism industry, with events being canceled, snowmobile trails closed down, poor ice conditions, and local businesses having reported a 75% to 80% year-over-year loss within the first few months of the season — millions of dollars in lost revenue.

To combat these losses to restaurants, lodging facilities and other tourism-driven businesses, a group of tourism entities — spanning Vilas, Oneida,

Forest, Iron, Landlode, Lincoln and Price counties — were seeking state help, as well as creative ways to draw support from those living in their communities to stay afloat. Part of this included discussions with the offices of Rep. Rob Swearingen and Sen. Mary Felzkowski in hopes of securing some state or federal funding to mitigate the catastrophic losses from lack of visitors.

The drastic shift in winter weather was attributed to the natural phenomenon El Niño, which results from variations in ocean temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, specifically when the ocean becomes uncharacteristically warmer.

The area has since bounced back from the snowless winter, with a "very busy" summer tourism season and some hopes for this upcoming winter following recent snowfalls.

### Courthouse scandal

An affair between Vilas County Clerk of Courts Beth Soltow and Vilas County Branch 2 Circuit Judge



Clerk of Courts Beth Soltow



Circuit Court Judge Daniel Overbey

Daniel Overbey caused disarray in the offices of the Vilas County Courthouse. Over the course of the last two years, staff members for Vilas County have dealt with a litany of what some of them say continues to be unprofessional conduct by Overbey and Soltow — most of what happened, both during and after the affair, became public knowledge.

Anonymous informants detailed incidents of public displays of affection, inappropriate social media messages and emails using work email addresses, texting during and interrupting court, and inspiring an overall

hostile work environment that resulted in several employees resigning.

When urged by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors in a 9 to 7 vote to approve a resolution that asked for his resignation, Overbey responded with "I'm not quitting" and voiced his fears over the future of the court if the State would appoint an interim judge prior to the next election.

"I am not going to resign because an imperfect elected judge is better than an appointed one at this time," said Overbey.

**To REVIEW Pg. 5**



# WEATHER CORNER

Note: Precipitation amounts are recorded at 8 a.m. for the previous 24 hours.

LAST SEVEN DAYS			ONE YEAR AGO				
	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	
Tues., Dec. 17	31	22	N/A	Sun., Dec. 17	33	27	0.5" R
Wed., Dec. 18	22	11	N/A	Mon., Dec. 18	37	18	2.8" R
Thurs., Dec. 19	18	8	N/A	Tues., Dec. 19	32	4	0.2" S
Fri., Dec. 20	20	4	N/A	Wed., Dec. 20	32	18	none
				Thurs., Dec. 21	34	28	none
				Fri., Dec. 22	37	32	none
				Sat., Dec. 23	41	34	0.01" R

## LAST YEAR

The area saw a great deal of snow accumulation after a snowstorm blew through the area on Thursday and into Friday morning. Snow measured around 2.5" in depth at noon on Friday, Dec. 20

## SNOW DEPTH

Snow throughout the area has been melting as temperatures increased last weekend. Snow measured at around 0.5" in depth at around noon on Monday, Dec. 16.

## ICE CONDITIONS

Increased temps may have decreased ice thickness on some local lakes, with ice measuring at around 5 inches in the Eagle River area.

## 5-DAY OUTLOOK

Wednesday: Cloudy.	Hi:31	Lo:28
Thursday: Mostly cloudy.	Hi:35	Lo:31
Friday: Mostly cloudy.	Hi:36	Lo:34
Saturday: Mostly cloudy.	Hi:39	Lo:32
Sunday: Partly sunny	Hi:24	Lo:22

PORTIONS OF THE WEATHER CORNER ARE THROUGH THE COURTESY OF DARYL RUTKOWSKI, EAGLE RIVER, WISBURN, WVIC AND NEWSWATCH 12 WEATHER.

# NEWS



TWO TURTLE DOVES — Pictured here are not turtle doves like in the Christmas beloved melody, but rather two mourning doves. These birds get their rather somber name from their distinct mournful coos. —STAFF PHOTO

## CORRECTION

There was a misprint of the mailing address for the Three Lakes Christian Food Pantry. The correct address is P.O. Box 125, Three Lakes, WI 54562.

## REMINDER

The News-Review will not be putting out any publication on Jan. 1, 2025, beyond this double-dated issue. Publication will resume as normal with the Jan. 8 edition.

## Krueger

FROM PAGE 1

"I've got to thank Murray Cohen and Byron McNutt of the Delphos Herald in Ohio for giving the News-Review staff an opportunity to create a weekly newspaper product, without any micro-management, that was among the best in Wisconsin and the nation," said Krueger. "And I'll throw the national comment out because the National Newspaper Association awarded us four of the most coveted honors — a General Excellence award in competition with weeklies in all 50 states — in four of the five years between 2017 and 2022."

McNutt, who worked with Krueger at the News-Review for 25 years, said the day of a 45-year-plus career newspaper person is over in this world of instant internet news sources.

"Then, to have spent those years at the same newspaper, makes it even more unique," said McNutt.

McNutt said the News-Review is one of the most decorated, award-winning community newspapers in Wisconsin and has steadfastly chronicled the history of the area with unparalleled professionalism.

"Kurt strived every week to produce an editorial product worthy of state and national excellence. His readers came to expect nothing less," said McNutt. "And, for as long as I've known him, Kurt has had a passion for taking and running the most artistic and newsworthy photos. He took that responsibility personally."

Krueger said the culmination of decades of work to redesign various parts of the paper, improve news coverage, stay on top of breaking stories and maintain excellence came in 2020, when the News-Review topped all weekly newspapers in the WNA's Best Newspaper Contest to win Weekly Newspaper of

the Year.

"That was the fifth time between 2011 and 2020 that we won the divisional title as best among large weeklies in the contest, but the first time that our awards out-matched weeklies statewide regardless of size," said Krueger.

Krueger is quick to point out that he always had the support of a top-notch, dedicated staff, including 36-year assistant editor and editor Gary Ridderbusch, who retired in 2021.

"I want to stress that we did all that with one of the smallest editorial staffs among the large weeklies for decades — probably with a staff of less than half the average large paper," he said. "Our entire staff worked with considerable pride week after week to produce the best newspaper possible."

Krueger said the staff also produced numerous special publications that were also award-winning — including the Salute to Emergency Personnel, a Progress Issue and the Headwaters Area Guide. A summer tourism publication, Vacation Week, ran for 12 weeks each summer.

"We had one of the most diverse and most talented production staffs in the state, producing exemplary ad layouts, page designs, special section covers and a variety of graphics that enhanced our coverage," he said.

Krueger said the use of dedicated correspondents and freelance writers helped that effort, but it took some editing expertise to make the 'community journalism' effort work.

Meanwhile, he noted the rigid weekly deadlines of getting the paper to the press can test a newspaper staff.

"Our families suffered the consequences of quality journalism because when done right with a small staff, the newspaper business dominates a person's schedule to the point where nights, weekends and real vacations are not guaranteed family time

due to sports, meetings and special events in a tourism region," said Krueger. "So I've got to thank my wife, Alice, and family for putting up with and supporting those distractions across the decades, which allowed me to be the best writer and photographer possible."

### Top photos, stories

Krueger said the legacy for quality journalism at the News-Review included great photography throughout the paper. There are dozens of plaques hanging around the newsroom for All Around Newspaper Photography, Best Photo Essay, Best Feature Photo, Best General News, Photo, etc.

"The wildlife was obviously a big hit with readers since the digital camera age hit with cheaper cameras in 2004," said Krueger, who self-published a book in 2009 featuring his wildlife photos taken across the North Woods. One of Krueger's favorite subjects in the book and newspaper was the bald eagle, as he captured the majestic bird with his camera, soaring above many North Woods lakes.

While there were the regular news stories that had to be covered for News-Review readers, Krueger said there were numerous on-going topics that stood out over the years, including Chippewa Indian treaty rights and spearfishing, national forest plans and timber harvesting lawsuits, shoreland zoning issues and aquatic invasive species in lakes, and school referendums and budgets.

Other news topics that gained readership were the no-bid Eagle River City Hall construction scandal, local election stories, and more than 40 years of covering the World Championship Snowmobile Derby and taking photos inside the famous ice oval.

"I think we always had the community's best interests in mind, whether it was supporting education through a school referendum, pushing

for shoreland zoning regs to protect our vital waterfront resources for future generations, or calling for diversity in forest management," said Krueger.

"There's got to be a thank-you thrown out to all those public officials who trusted me with their comments, tips on potential stories, off-the-record insights — for they helped us create a dynamic, interesting newspaper that strived to be a government watchdog," said Krueger. "We didn't have the personnel or time to chase down every lead, but we broke some big stories — some of which resulted in criminal charges being filed against public officials for misconduct in office."

Krueger said he was fortunate to have started an outdoor column early on, in 1985, which connected with readers and won dozens of WNA awards over the years.

"And that's one part of this legacy that I can continue for a while, and hopefully with some improvement, now that I've actually got some time to pursue more diverse topics in that column. It's not easy coming up with 52 columns a year for more than four decades," he said.

### Ink in veins

A Marion native, Krueger started his 45-year stint at the Vilas County News-Review on Sept. 17, 1979, hired by former News-Review co-publishers Bob and Dan Satran. A year and a half earlier, a young Krueger moved to Three Lakes in April of 1978, working as an aspiring reporter and photographer at the Northern Son until September 1979, when that newspaper closed its doors.

Krueger tells the story about meeting Bob Satran at a Derby media party in January 1979 and discussing future job opportunities. When the Northern Son closed for good on that Friday in September, Krueger got hired by the News-Review that weekend and went

to work on the following Monday.

"I never missed a day of work," said Krueger, ever grateful for the job opportunity with the Satrans and the hands-on training he received over the next six years until the Satran brothers sold the newspapers to the Delphos Herald Inc., owned by Cohen.

Krueger had newspapering in his blood, as his parents owned the Marion Advertiser in his hometown for many years. While Krueger grew up working in the newspaper industry, when he headed for college at UW-Oshkosh and UW-Whitewater he originally had his mind set on a business degree.

"I guess I knew I always wanted to be in the newspaper business. My parents bought the Marion paper in 1967 when I was 9 years old," said Krueger. "In college, I started in business, but then I said to myself, 'you know newspapers,' so I started taking journalism courses."

But Krueger credits the Satran brothers for teaching him more about community newspapering than his college professors. After all, they were both graduates of the Marquette University Journalism School and had three decades of experience running the Vilas County News-Review.

"The Satrans' gift to me was six years of training in every facet of newspapering, including their award-winning photography skills, page layout experience, nose for news, and aggressive attitude toward community service," Krueger wrote in a recent column.

Fast forward about 40 years. For the past couple of years, Krueger has worked with a new, young staff under the direction of the new owner at the Vilas County News-Review, Multi Media Channels LLC, out of Green Bay. He admitted the transition has been tough at times.

"My hope is that our readers won't let these temporary changes or the poor performance of the postal service impact their decision to renew a subscription or buy a newspaper off the newsstands, because this young crew of new writers will blossom in their efforts, just like the Krueger/Ridderbusch duo did so long ago," said Krueger. "Those subscriptions are crucial to maintaining a successful and vibrant community newspaper, which is important for everyone here — including churches, nonprofit groups, sports teams, chambers of commerce and, of course, tourism."

In addition to continuing his outdoor column, and contributing photos and stories to the News-Review, Krueger hopes retirement will bring more time for trips with his wife to visit grandchildren in neighboring states and distant relatives across the state and country.

Other hobbies that will consume some time include playing golf, shooting pool and volunteering with the Three Lakes Fish & Wildlife Improvement Association, where he's been on the board since the late 1990s. Krueger also was a member of the Eagle River Rotary Club for the past 15 years, serving as program chairman and on the board of directors.

"I can't wait to experience fishing, hunting or golfing on a Monday or Tuesday, the newspaper's normal deadline days," said Krueger. "It's been a long time coming. But at the same time, this career has allowed me to experience some of those things and share it with our readers through photos, columns and stories."

McNutt summed up Krueger's career with just a few words: "In the newspaper industry, we recognize people like Kurt, who are dedicated to their craft, by saying: 'He has ink in his veins.'"



FAREWELL KURT — Past and present News-Review staff gathered to celebrate the accomplishments, dedication and retirement of News-Review Publisher Kurt Krueger at Chef Rene's in Eagle River last Tuesday. Krueger has been in the newspaper industry for over 40 years, and his retirement brings about the end of the "Ridderbusch/Krueger Era" at the News-Review, a period of the newspaper marked by the 36-year editorial partnership between Krueger and Gary Ridderbusch (pictured on the far left), who retired in 2021.

—Staff Photo By JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN



# NEWS

## Public comments open thru Jan. 10 on deer management boundaries

### Virtual public hearing set for Jan. 8

BY MICHELLE DREW  
CORRESPONDENT

A public comment period is open now until Jan. 10, 2025, for a draft rule that would rework portions of the state's white-tail deer management unit boundaries.

Generally, the draft rule proposes a return to habitat-based deer management units in the Northern Forest Zone, which currently includes the entire northern portion of the state including Vilas, Oneida and Forest counties. This draft rule would allow the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to carry out the deer management unit boundary changes being proposed as part of this year's deer management unit review process.

The proposed rule also adjusts a portion of the Central Forest Deer Management Zone boundary and select Metropolitan Sub-unit boundaries.

Jeff Pritzl, Deer Management Program specialist for the DNR, explained that there are currently 19 deer management units (DMUs) in the Northern Forest Zone — 17 of which are full counties, and two (Marinette and Oconto) that are split by the zone line into both a Forest and Farmland Zone DMU.

Under the proposed rule changes, deer management would return to a habitat-based DMU configuration as was used prior to 2014, Pritzl said.

In a draft ordinance of the proposal, the DNR indicates that it reviews unit boundaries every three years.

"Prior to 2014, units were bounded by major roads

and rivers that surrounded areas with generally similar habitat. In response to a recommendation in the Deer Trustee Report of 2012, units were adjusted to instead align with county boundaries," the draft states. "County deer advisory councils (CDACs) were also established in 2014. Previous council meetings and unit boundary reviews, as well as input gathered in connection with this present review, have indicated a strong interest in returning to habitat-based units in the Northern Forest Deer Management Zone."

These CDACs establish deer population objectives and deer management unit boundary recommendations for further consideration by the DNR and the Natural Resource Board.

"The desire is not to return the 40-plus DMUs in the northern forest," Pritzl said. "Larger habitat-based units would be created by using old unit boundary lines in many cases, but combining adjacent historic units to keep them larger than the pre-2014 units in most cases. Units would cross county lines and the three counties (Vilas, Oneida and Forest) could have portions of six different units shared among them."

Pritzl touched on why there has been a push by CDACs in the northern portion of the state to change the boundaries in recent years.

"Counties like Forest and Oneida are excellent examples of where county deer advisory councils were annually challenged to try and meet the expectations of hunters when there are very different deer herd densities within the county," he said. "They were caught between hunters wanting less antlerless harvest opportunity on the side of the county that was experiencing low deer

numbers, while at the same time hearing from hunters on the other side that there was a desire or need for more harvest opportunity.

"Political expectations tend to favor listening to those expressing a desire for less harvest opportunity at the expense of not providing more opportunity where it could be provided sustainably," Pritzl added.

The proposed changes could also help combat the ever-increasing threat of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer herds.

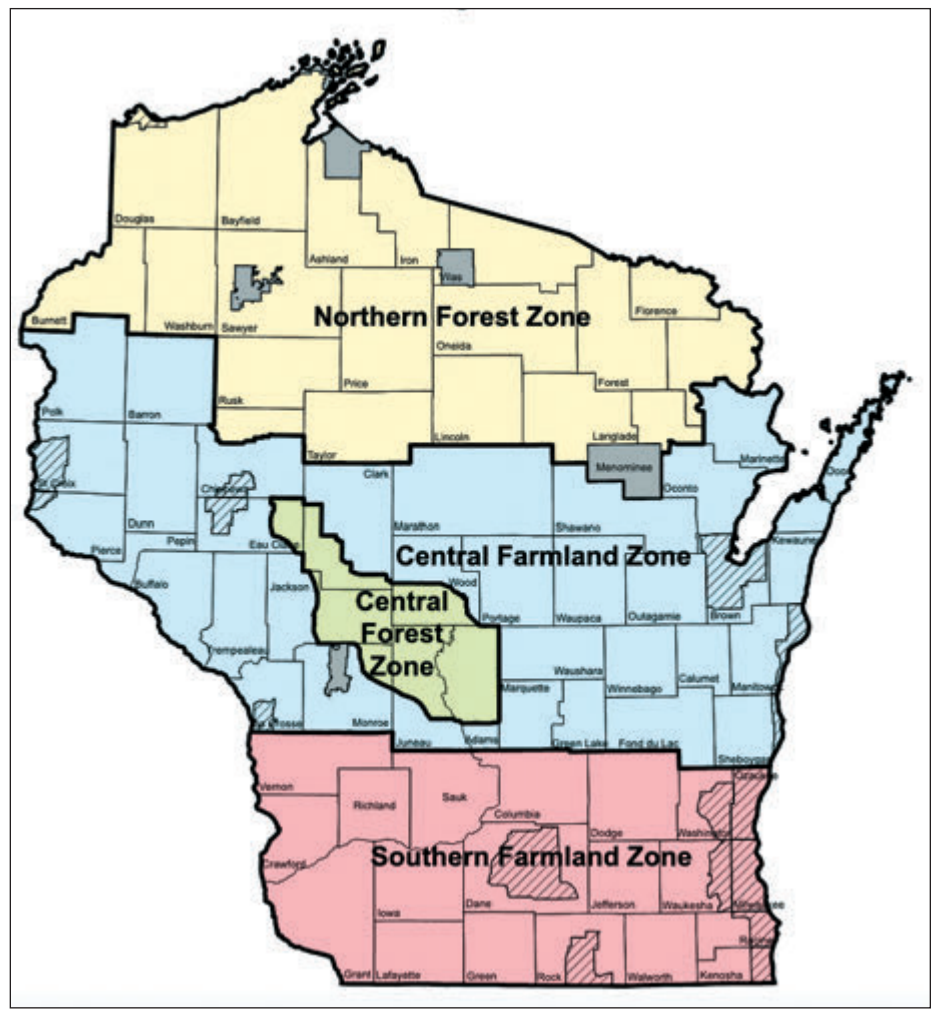
"CWD tends to be a bigger concern where deer densities are higher, so again in the example of Oneida County, the change could allow for more antlerless permits to be allocated to a unit that includes the known CWD area near Rhinelander as a means to reduce deer density if supported, while meeting the concerns from western Oneida hunters to not make too many antlerless permits available in their area," Pritzl said.

"Having units that separate lower and higher deer densities may allow for some herd growth in lower density areas, but increases are likely to be temporary depending on winter severity, which ultimately limits herd size to the habitat carrying capacity during severe winters."

The DNR has moved away from setting numeric population goals for DMUs in recent years, but instead looks to assess each unit for its ability and public desires to see the herd levels increase, stay where they are, or even decrease.

"If new habitat-based units are created, the status of each unit's objective to be increased, maintained, or decreased will be assessed and assigned accordingly," Pritzl said.

But this comes with its own challenges, since deer population levels



are unevenly distributed within a unit no matter what boundary is being used.

"Stating that there are over 20,000 deer in Oneida County, after the deer season is over, sounds like a lot of deer, but we can't say where in the county those 20,000-plus deer are," Pritzl explained. "There could be pockets with over 50 deer per square mile, and others with five deer. And if the population is allowed to increase, that could just result in the areas that had 50 now having 60, while the areas with five still have five. So hunters who are trying to carve out their deer hunting experience in suboptimal habitats may never experience the changes and always feel like there should be more deer."

**Surveys completed**  
The DNR's draft

rule states that many northern councils have been expressing a desire to return to habitat-based units through their annual meeting minutes. Additionally, the agency conducted an online survey to gauge support from the public.

Data collected in that survey indicated on a scale of 1 being no support and 10 being strong support for the concept of returning to habitat-based units, 50% of respondents shared strong support (10) and 75% of respondents shared some level of support (6-10). Ninety percent of respondents were neutral to supportive (5-10).

Respondents who indicated an interest in the Central Forest Zone boundary or Metro Subunits also affirmed the previously documented interests of councils to adjust boundaries in their

counties.

### Public hearing set

The DNR will host a virtual public hearing Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025, in order to give the public another opportunity to provide a formal comment on the draft rule.

To provide comment in writing, individuals can submit their comments to: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Scott Karel, DNR Policy and Regulation Specialist, P.O. Box 7921, 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53707; or by email at [dnradministrator@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dnradministrator@wisconsin.gov). All comments must be submitted by Friday, Jan. 10.

To read the draft rule in full, visit [dnr.wisconsin.gov/news/input/Proposed-Permanent-and-look-under-the-Wildlife-Management-section](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/news/input/Proposed-Permanent-and-look-under-the-Wildlife-Management-section).

## Praise in the Pines preparations continue

Preparations to bring the second Praise in the Pines music festival to the heart of the North Woods this summer continue, which includes announcing the band Newsboys as its headline performance.

"This is truly a special opportunity for Eagle River," said Bill Lochte, President of the Praise in the Pines board. "Bringing an artist of Newsboys' caliber to our town is a testament to the heart and spirit of this community. We're excited to create an unforgettable experience for locals and visitors alike."

The excitement is already building for residents like Nolan Hansen.

Last year, Hansen attended the festival with his mom, Jennifer, and was thrilled to participate in a meet-and-greet with the band.

"It was such a cool experience," Hansen shared. "I couldn't believe I got to meet them right here in my town."

Hansen was excited to be able to worship with his best friend since second grade, Sarah. This year, he's eagerly anticipating



Nolan and his Mom Jennifer show their excitement about Praise in the Pines.

—Contributed Photo

Newsboys' performance and has already purchased his tickets.

Until Jan. 1, 2025, there will be a "Trailblazer" promotion offering 20% off main floor and bleacher seats.

"Imagine the smiles on

your loved ones' faces when they unwrap tickets to see Newsboys live in Eagle River. This makes a great Christmas present," Lochte noted, urging everyone to take advantage of this limited-time offer.

Organizers say that they

are expecting a record-breaking turnout for the event and say tickets will never be this inexpensive after Jan. 1.

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at [praisethepines.org](http://praisethepines.org).

## Aspirus Health provides tips for safe snow removal

With wintertime snowfall becoming more prevalent, Aspirus Health reminds older individuals to remain safe while shoveling.

Every year, thousands of Americans are treated at hospital emergency departments, doctor's offices and clinics for injuries sustained while shoveling snow, according to Aspirus.

Removing snow can be especially hard on back, shoulder and arm muscles because it involves a lot

of bending and heavy lifting. It can also be hard on the heart: Older adults face an increased risk for having heart problems while shoveling. And it's not unusual for people to slip or fall — or get hit by the shovel — when shoveling snow.

Katie Zenner, a physical therapist with Aspirus Health, says that some light stretching is a good way to warm up the body before starting. After

To SNOW Pg. 7

## CORRECTION

The News-Review misprinted the name of the St. Germain Community Church. They are no longer known as the Community United Church of Christ.

## Manitowish Chain "Save the Chain" Campaign launched to combat invasive Eurasian watermilfoil

The Manitowish Chain EWM Committee is calling on the community to join the fight against Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) by supporting the newly launched "Save the Chain" campaign.

This is a joint effort of the Manitowish Waters Lakes Association, the Manitowish Waters Lions Club, the Manitowish Waters Alliance

Foundation, and with technical assistance and implementation from the North Lakeland Discovery Center.

This initiative aims to raise funds to control and prevent the spread of this aquatic invasive species that threatens the health and beauty of the Manitowish Chain of Lakes. EWM, a fast-growing aquatic invasive,

has the ability to disrupt native ecosystems, hinder recreational activities, and devalue waterfront properties. Left unchecked, Eurasian watermilfoil could jeopardize this delicate balance.

### Impacts

There are several impacts EWM has on local lake chains that range from economic, ecological and

recreational.

Local businesses, tourism and property owners, depend on the pristine conditions of local lakes, something EWM threatens.

EWM displaces native plant species which may endanger fish habitats and overall biodiversity, and thick mats of EWM can ruin

To CHAIN Pg. 4

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# OBITUARIES

## David Pucci



David John Pucci, "Hawk" passed away peacefully December 1, 2024, at Howard Young Medical Center. Dave was a "Can Do Guy" who was always on the move and ALWAYS had a joke to make you smile. He loved his family, teaching and was a passionate sportsman and fishing guide. Wood-

working and creating unique walking sticks kept him busy out in the woods collecting pinecones and gall blisters year-round.

Dave graduated from Catholic Memorial High School, Waukesha, Carol University, Waukesha with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and Art and attended the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point to attain his Master of Education degree. He taught for 35 years as an elementary building principal in Germantown and taught middle school science in Northland Pines School District.

Dave and Sue moved from Menomonee Falls to St. Germain in 1968 to teach. Following the lead of his mentors, Buckshot Anderson and Pop Dean, Dave started guiding fishing customers in 1969. Alongside his guiding, he built a bait and tackle shop and trapped his own minnows. Dave opened Hawk's Nest Canoe Outfitters in the early 70's which he and his family operated for 45 years. During the 80's he directed and produced his statewide television shows "Wisconsin's Outdoor Digest" and "Hunting and Fishing Guides." Dave's charisma and magnetic personality attracted clients from all walks of life including many McDonald Hamburger Executives.

After a wonderful life with a multitude of happy memories, Dave leaves Susan, his beloved wife of 57 years, his son Gaetano Pucci, daughter Erica Gammie, grandson Dustin Pucci, and brothers Thomas and Robert Pucci and many nieces, nephews and cousins and his dogs Rocky and Smalls.

Dave is preceded in death by his father, Gaetano V. Pucci; mother, Emily (Phillips) Pucci; sisters, Patricia Bethke, Marietta and Richard Masters; brothers, Dr. Joseph Pucci, and Michael Pucci; sisters-in law, Barbara Pucci, Dorothy Pucci, and Laurelei Pucci.

Our family is very grateful for the many angels who provided Dave such wonderful care from the Plum Lake Ambulance, Marshfield Clinic in Woodruff and Weston, Riverview Health Services Tomahawk and Aspirus at Howard Young in Woodruff. Our many thanks to everyone for making his transition as peaceful and happy as possible. And many blessings to Father Jerry Hagen for his compassion and kindness.

No formal celebration of life gatherings or services are planned at this time. In lieu of flowers memorials in David's honor can be made to The Alzheimer's Association.

Online condolences may be shared at [nimgsgernfuneral.com](http://nimgsgernfuneral.com). Nimgsgern Funeral and Cremation Services is serving the family. PAID OBITUARY

## Brad Hartman



On Sunday, Dec. 15, 2024, Bradley Hartman, age 46, loving dad, son, brother, uncle, and friend died peacefully at home in Conover, WI after a long hard fight with Multiple Sclerosis.

Brad was born on Sep. 28, 1978, in Brookfield, WI to Michael and Christine (Hoepfner) Hartman.

Brad worked for the family business in well drilling for many years. He enjoyed spending time with his sons, racing his race car and helping his son with racing his race car; the racetrack was his second home.

Brad is survived by his sons, Cole, Blake, Joshua and Bradley Jr.; stepchildren, Devon, Lauren and Emily; parents, Michael (Dedra) and Christine; sister, Brienne (Bob Olderman) Samanske; brothers, Kyle (Kathy) Hartman and Kevin (Heather) Hartman; stepbrothers, Michael Horwath, and Christopher (Hannah) Horwath. Further survived by his nephews and nieces; Austin, Kenny, Karsen, Henry, Lucy, Hudson, Kori, Scarlett, Harlow, Nova and Piper; several aunts, uncles and cousins, his wife, Christiane and his ex-wife Erin Hartman.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, uncle and godfather Jeff and stepmother Dedra.

A very heartfelt and special thank you to the hospice nurses, Erica and Kate and his aid, Sandy. You will always have a special place in the family's heart.

A celebration of life will be held at 1pm on Saturday Jan. 4, 2025, at Sweetwater in Eagle River, WI.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to MS research in Brad's name.

<https://donate.nationalmssociety.org/campaign/Brad-Hartman-MS-Memorial-Fund>

Arrangements by Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home, Eagle River. Online condolences may be expressed at [gaffney-busha.com](http://gaffney-busha.com) PAID OBITUARY

## Jeffrey "Jeff" Hahn



Jeffrey "Jeff" Charles Hahn, former owner of Hahn Printing Inc. of Eagle River, WI passed away at his home Monday, December 16, 2024, after a hard-fought battle with cancer. He was 69, born in Milwaukee, WI on March 29, 1955.

Jeff was preceded in death by his parents,

Kenneth and Jean Hahn.

He is survived by Lori Hahn his wife of 31 years, two brothers, Gary (Randa) of Texas and Greg (Karen) of Florida and nephew Ryan (Lori), and two great nephews. He is also survived by Hope.

Jeff graduated from Indiana University-Indianapolis and worked for Modine Manufacturing in Racine, WI until moving to Three Lakes, WI where he worked many years at COLE Publishing.

He purchased Satran Litho in 1987, and expanded the company known as Hahn Printing in Eagle River several times into the largest offset printer in the Northwoods. He put his life into the printing business, his employees and worked more hours than any of the staff until he sold in 2022. Any spare time was spent on his cars, his lawn, golfing at Lake Forest Golf Club and enjoying his home in Naples, FL.

A private family gathering will be held.

In memoriam of Jeff, please consider a gift to James Beck Cancer Center at <https://rhinelanderhealthfoundation.org/giving-opportunities/> or to your favorite charity.

Arrangements by Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home, Eagle River. Online condolences may be expressed at [gaffney-busha.com](http://gaffney-busha.com) PAID OBITUARY

## Gov. Evers announces \$444 million in funds to improve wastewater infrastructure

### Phelps receives \$55,000

The Town of Phelps recently received \$55,000 through the state's Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP) to improve its wastewater treatment plant.

This is part of the \$444 million allocated for financial assistance through the CWFP for 50 Wisconsin municipalities to improve wastewater infrastructure, including projects that reduce phosphorus discharges and address aging equipment, with a focus on small and disadvantaged communities.

Gov. Tony Evers, together with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), announced the recipients of the funds.

"We're working to make sure Wisconsinites have safe, clean water straight from their tap to drink, and that community water systems are safe, reliable, and can help effectively prevent harmful contaminants from being in our water supplies. Thanks to programs like the CWFP and help from the Biden-Harris Administration, these investments will go a long way toward building the 21st-century

infrastructure we need to ensure Wisconsinites have access to clean and safe water across our state," said Gov. Evers.

The CWFP provides financial assistance to municipalities throughout Wisconsin for wastewater and water quality-related urban stormwater infrastructure projects that protect and improve public health and water quality for current and future generations. The DNR and the Wisconsin Department of Administration have administered the CWFP since 1991, providing over \$6.1 billion in financial assistance to Wisconsin municipalities.

Through this round of funding, the DNR is allocating \$399.9 million in subsidized loans and \$44.1 million in principal forgiveness funding to support wastewater improvement projects. The CWFP subsidizes municipalities to buy down the market rate on program loans (reduced-interest rate loans). The principal forgiveness funding is comparable to a grant because the municipality will not have to repay those funds.

Through the Biden Administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), DNR Environmental Loans

To EVERS Pg. 7

## Sharon Rehling



Sharon Rehling of Watersmeet, Michigan passed away on Dec. 16, 2024, at home, surrounded by her family.

Born Feb. 10, 1940, in Lyons, IL, Sharon was the middle daughter of Edward and Eugenia Linder. She spent her youth in Lyons and Tomah, WI and graduated from Tomah High School in 1958.

She met her husband Bill Rehling in 1975, and they settled in Mt. Prospect, IL to raise their four sons before eventually retiring full time to the house they built on Allen Lake in Watersmeet.

Sharon and Bill developed a large circle of friends during their marriage, enjoyed an active social life, and traveled extensively. An especially memorable trip was a Biking Barge Trip with 23 friends who explored the Netherlands by riding off the barge every day, wending their bicycles around windmills and through tulip fields and stopping for picnic lunches before returning to the barge in the late afternoon.

Sharon was an easy hostess and her table in the Northwoods was often encircled by good friends for wonderful meals and lively conversation. She was a gardener, seamstress, and a gifted quilter. Her home is covered with wool rugs she hand-braided. Sharon enjoyed life to the fullest and was grateful for the good life she and Bill lived at Allen Lake.

As her illness progressed and she was given 3-6 months, she made a conscious decision to face the future with as much strength and grace as possible, aware she was setting an example for her grandchildren. She stretched those months to three full years and raised the bar of dignity and selflessness for those who will follow behind her.

In addition to her husband, Bill; Sharon is survived by her sister, Mary Etta Pierce of Tomah; her sons, Patrick (Jen) Whitman of Algonquin, IL, Darren Whitman of Lake of the Hills, IL, Bill (Laura) Rehling of Downers Grove, IL; and Jim (Kim) Rehling of Round Lake, IL. She is further survived by her grandchildren, Chloe Whitman, Ashley (Nick) Pilcher and Payton, Will, Owen, and Jake Rehling.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and an older sister, Sandra.

Sharon's laugh, her sense of humor, and her love of life will be dearly missed by her family and so many friends.

The family is deeply indebted to Regional Hospice Services for Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan in Iron River, MI for the unwavering care and loving support provided for three long years, which enabled Sharon to live out her days in her beloved lake home.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations in Sharon's name to the Watersmeet Food Pantry, P.O. Box 11, Watersmeet, MI 49969; or the National Wildlife Federation, online at [nwf.org/page/58590/donate/1](http://nwf.org/page/58590/donate/1).

Arrangements by Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home, Eagle River. Online condolences may be expressed at [gaffney-busha.com](http://gaffney-busha.com) PAID OBITUARY

## Bobbie Jean Schmidt



Bobbie Jean Schmidt, age 78, a resident of Eagle River, WI passed away on Wednesday Dec. 18, 2024, in Wausau.

Bobbie is survived by her husband Floyd.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. on Thursday Jan. 2, 2025, at the Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home in Eagle River.

A complete obituary will appear in a future edition.



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## NOTICE: Obituary policy

Death notices that appear in this space weekly are written and/or edited for content and consistency by assistant editors of the Vilas County News-Review and The Three Lakes News. Obituaries written in the paper's standard format are printed at no charge. Unedited obituaries written by the family may be printed for a fee, either in the obituary column or in smaller type with a border. For more information, call (715) 479-4421.

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# NEWS

## Vilas County court report

### Bench warrant issued for Lac du Flambeau woman

Destiny Deverney, 19, of Lac du Flambeau, failed to appear for an adjourned initial appearance on one felony charge of methamphetamine possession and one for bail jumping. The court authorized a \$1,000 cash bench warrant for the nonappearance.

Teresa Link, 44, of Rhinelander, pleaded guilty and was found guilty on one felony bail-jumping charge. Branch 1 Judge Martha Milanowski approved a deferred entry of judgment and amended Link's signature bond conditions during the hearing.

A deferred entry of judgment was also approved for another case involving methamphetamine and narcotic drug possession.

In both cases, a review hearing was scheduled for April 1, 2025.

Cody Garsow, 34, of Three Lakes, pleaded not

guilty at an arraignment hearing last week on two felony counts, one for aggravated battery and one for strangulation and suffocation. The defense stated that this case will go to trial. A judicial pretrial was scheduled for April 1, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.



**HAND-FED** — Visitors of the Anvil Lake Trail's warming area, about half a mile from the Military Road access point, may have a chance to feed black-capped chickadees out of the palm of their hands.  
—Staff Photo By KURT KRUEGER

## Review

FROM PAGE 1

### Trump reelection

The 2024 general election saw President-elect Donald J. Trump win his bid for reelection over Vice President Kamala Harris, making him the 47th President of the United States, and the second president in American history to reclaim the White House after losing it.

His victory was secured by retaking key swing states that he lost during his failed 2020 reelection bid, including Wisconsin which he won by more than 28,000 votes.

Trump saw a landslide win in the North Woods, taking Vilas in a 9,837 to 6,119 vote and Oneida County 14,455 to 10,079, with a 94% voter turnout in Vilas.

Trump's victory fortifies him as a historic political figure who prevailed despite his unfounded claims of election fraud that alienated many, proving his surprise 2016 victory over Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton wasn't a fluke.

And, like Clinton's defeat, the Harris loss was disappointing to many who believed America was ready for its first female president. Harris was also the first Black and Asian American woman to have the opportunity to

be president. Her running mate was Tim Walz, governor of Minnesota.

Trump and his running mate, U.S. Senator J.D. Vance (R-Ohio), presented a campaign that asked voters to consider if they were better off under Trump's first presidency, as Harris struggled to distance herself from an unpopular President Biden, who dropped out of the race after a faltering performance in a June 27 debate with Trump.

Trump became the 45th president when he defeated Clinton in 2016, breaking a decades-long winning streak for the Democratic Party presidential candidates stemming back to 1988.

He will become the 47th president after his Nov. 5 victory over Harris.

### Praise in the Pines

The first of its kind in the North Woods, the Praise in the Pines Christian rock music festival drew over 1,800 people to Eagle River on Sunday, July 21. The Northland Pines High School fieldhouse was transformed into a state-of-the-art concert venue that could hold approximately 2,900 people.

The event featured high-profile Christian Talent Big Daddy Weave, Austin French and Hannah Kerr, as well as keynote speaker Bob Lenz. All artists shared their experiences with Christianity and hope as they've struggled with



President-elect Donald Trump

mental illness, grief and self-doubt — inspiring their messages and music.

Praise in the Pines is set to return to the North Woods in the summer of 2025, with even more people anticipated to attend.

### Wolf management

The subject of wolf management in the North Woods has become a major point of contention in wildlife discussions this year following several attacks in local areas, with the DNR seemingly doing nothing for prevention.

The two most prominent incidents took place in Oneida County, where a Woodruff woman's dog was snatched and killed by a wolf in July, and a 19-year-old Sugar Camp waterfowl hunter was forced to shoot a wolf in September after the wolf failed to leave him alone. In both incidents, the wolves did not flee after humans attempted to scare them off by yelling and screaming.

Despite these incidents, the DNR has not increased warnings for hunters or civilians.

The incidents have led to discussions, primarily online, where many called for wolves to be delisted and managed again by a statewide hunt.

### January

In what feels like an endless string of cancellations to hit the North Woods this winter, the latest event on the chopping block is the USA Hockey's 18th annual Pond Hockey National Championships... Snowmobile trails are still closed in the northern portion of the state as local clubs hope for a wallop of a snow storm to hit the area... Big funding cuts are on the horizon for the Tri-County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (TCC), which would mean victims of domestic violence — mainly women and children — could see a decrease in

the services available to them... The race for the 61st World Championship of ice oval racing at Eagle River's World Championship Derby Complex (WCDC) will, for the second consecutive year, feature one of the largest and most competitive groups of drivers in decades... The 61st World Championship Snowmobile Derby has closed its doors on yet another successful week in the event's illustrious history as the pinnacle of snowmobile racing since 1964... nearly 21,000 race fans flocked to the WCDC in Eagle River... The Northland Pines Board of Education passed several motions at its public monthly meeting last week, including the approval of a new policy that will give parents control over the types of books that students can check out of the school libraries in the district... In a grueling week of wrestling action that saw the Wabeno-Laona-Three Lakes varsity wrestling team face several state qualifying grapplers in events at Oshkosh and Green Bay, the team returned home this past Saturday with 25 match victories and a winning record... One-hundred-seventy-five newspapers went missing from the United States Postal Service (USPS) distribution center in Green Bay last week, meaning 175 subscribers to the Vilas County News-Review did not receive their paper.

### February

Amidst cancellations of big events, snowmobile trails remaining closed and poor ice conditions on area lakes, this winter has proven to be a challenge for many local businesses that are reporting 75% to 80% year-over-year losses in the first few months of the season... Vilas, Oneida and Forest counties are in the process of withdrawing

from a program that was established 40 years ago to provide services for those suffering from mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disability issues... The name of a Bayfield County man who shot and killed a collared wolf on his property, after it allegedly posed a threat to either him or his dogs, has been confirmed... The Three Lakes School District has suffered a setback in a court ruling concerning the district's Camp 3 Outdoor classroom project on Highway A school forest land... The Small Business Administration (SBA) and local economic development corporations have found a way to assist small businesses that have been affected by the lack of snow this winter.

### March

The Vilas County News-Review has again been recognized for General Excellence in the state's Better Newspaper Contest (BNC), in addition to 26 other awards... One of the mildest winters on record turned into an economic disaster for North Woods businesses that depend on winter tourism, translating into millions of dollars in lost revenue... The weather phenomenon known as El Niño has wreaked havoc on the North Woods and the entire country this winter, locally causing record-high temperatures and a lack of snow... The recent signing of new legislative maps in the state, known as Wisconsin Act 94, will mean only minor changes to Vilas and Oneida counties compared to the rest of the state, according to a spokesperson with the office of Gov. Tony Evers... Northland Pines student-athletes Eli Repenshek, Owen Repenshek, Jason Linn and Sydney Sarkauskus all competed

To REVIEW Pg. 6



Several encounters between human beings and wolves have led to heightened discussion regarding the management of wolf populations.  
—Staff Photo By KURT KRUEGER



## WE ARE HIRING A MARKETING AND SALES CONSULTANT

### Vilas County News-Review & Three Lakes News

We are looking for an outgoing and friendly individual to be a Sales and Marketing Consultant in the Eagle River & Three Lakes area.



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# 2024 | THE YEAR IN REVIEW



A late-night fire completely destroyed the Earth Products building in Three Lakes, but quick action by the Three Lakes Fire Department and neighboring units successfully contained the blaze and saved nearby structures. —Staff Photo BY KURT KRUEGER

## Review

FROM PAGE 5

as a part of the 2024 Wisconsin Alpine Racing Association (WIARA) Championship recently, hosted by Mt. La Crosse... In a community event that brought hundreds of people to the Northland Pines fieldhouse in Eagle River last Friday, the third annual Books vs. Badges charity basketball game was a big success as a part of a fundraising effort that has raised approximately \$20,000 for local causes... Tallies are in and the annual Northwoods Blizzard Blast has again raised tens of thousands of dollars to support local fire and emergency medical services (EMS) departments in the North Woods...Lake groups, nonprofit organizations, and municipal and county governments in Vilas and Oneida counties have been awarded nearly \$1 million in funding from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surface water grants.

### April

After more than two years of planning, fundraising, and construction work, the Rotary Square building project in downtown Eagle River enters the final stages this spring prior to completion...Oneida County will be taking over the Human Service Center in Rhinelander with the hope of keeping existing staff as three area counties break from the tri-county system at the end of this year, officials said last week...Voters in Oneida County elected the first-ever woman, Mary Sowinski of Three Lakes, as Oneida County Circuit Court Judge for Branch II during the April 2 elections... Seven fire departments responded last Saturday night to a structure fire just south of Three Lakes, which destroyed a storage building on what's historically been known as Baltus farm...After hearing from residents on

both sides of the issue, the Eagle River City Council decided last week to take no action on a further extension of slow-n-wake buoys downstream of Yellow Birch Lakes...The National News Association (NNA) said last week that it's concerned about federal plans to raise postal traits by 10% in July, an increase that will result in periodical rates that are about 50% higher than just three years ago...Whether ATV/UTV traffic should be allowed on Plum Lake town roads will be the subject of an in-person advisory poll in mid-May amidst historic opposition and comments of faltering trust in the town board.

### May

An affair between Vilas County Clerk of Courts Beth Soltow and Vilas County Branch 2 Circuit Court Judge Daniel Overbey has festered to the point of causing disarray inside the offices of the Vilas County Courthouse... The opening weekend of the general Wisconsin fishing season May 4 - 5 provided a much-needed economic boost to North Woods businesses after a lackluster winter tourism season...The Northland Pines School District is just one of 10 districts nationwide to be named by the U.S. Department of Education as a District Sustainability Awardee, officials say...A bicyclist on a cross-country journey spanning 4,100 miles passed through the North Woods this past weekend as part of a mission between man and wife to spread breast cancer awareness...Rotary Square building project organizers provided an update on the new downtown pavilion last week, saying the project is likely to be finished by the end of May and opened for public use shortly after... The Three Lakes/Phelps varsity golf team won the WIAA Division 3 Regional Championship last week at Bass Lake Golf Course in Deerbrook, beating a field of eight high school teams including the second-place team from Coleman High



Despite a lackluster winter for the tourism industry, the World Championship Derby Complex was still able to hold some of its annual derby races. —STAFF PHOTO

School by 27 strokes.

### June

Saying he has no jurisdiction against elected officials, Vilas County Board Chair Jerry Burkett told fellow board members last week that without a civil resolution to problems plaguing the courthouse, there should be a recall election...The developers of a new music venue in Phelps have pulled their permit application months into the process, a move that comes as zoning officials acknowledge a permit isn't required if an event is held just once a year... The numbers are in, and the Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) \$15,000 Backpack Challenge exceeded its goal...The Town of Plum Lake will be moving forward with discussing next-step processes after seeing a majority vote "yes" to ATV/UTVs using town roads in an advisory poll taken last month...More than \$1 million in aquatic invasive species (AIS) grants are coming this year to waterfront groups, associations, nonprofits and municipalities in Vilas, Oneida and Forest counties, state records show...A Vilas County Board committee voted unanimously last week to send a resolution to the full county board, suggesting legislative action on wake boat restrictions of 500 feet from

shorelines and 20 feet of water depth...Organizers of the Rotary Square project in downtown Eagle River say the newly renovated space opened to the public last weekend, bringing to life what was once a vacant lot...The tourism industry continued to boom in Vilas and Oneida counties in 2023, with Vilas topping \$300 million in revenue for the first time and Oneida close behind at \$291.9 million, state officials said...The death of longtime detective and fishing guide Marv Elliot, and a tragic accident that took the life of his wife, Mikey, just six days later, has left family members struggling to put their lives back together.

### July

More than 1,800 attendees flocked to Eagle River for a day of faith, fellowship and music for the Praise in the Pines music festival this past Sunday, July 21. With this being the first event of its kind in the North Woods, a lot of work went into preparation, including transforming the Northland Pines Field House into a state-of-the-art concert venue...The Vilas County Board of Supervisors voted down a resolution last week, almost unanimously, that would have moved forward formal support from the elected officials urging a

recall election involving Vilas County Clerk Beth Soltow...An initial investigation into whether Vilas County District 2 Judge Daniel Overbey created and/or facilitated a hostile work environment tells two different sides to the story...The Vilas County Board voted unanimously last week to send a resolution asking the State Legislature to have meaningful discussion of minimum standards on wakeboarding and wake surfacing to protect surface waters in the county...Police say a driver will be receiving citations after numerous emergency services from both Vilas and Oneida counties were called to search for potential bodies in the Eagle River in the early morning hours of July 5... Judging from downtown traffic and merchant reports, Eagle River may have experienced an unprecedented business boom over the Fourth of July week...The Eagle River Revitalization Program (ERRP), in cooperation with the Eagle River Historical Society, have scheduled a public meeting to discuss the creation of a Downtown Eagle River Historic District...Fire destroyed a massive maintenance building at the Wild Eagle Lodge last week, leaving the condominium resort without equipment in the peak of summer, but emergency responders from Eagle River, Conover and Three Lakes kept the flames from involving nearby structures.

### August

The Vilas County Board will hear a resolution this week, formally introduced by Board Chairman Jerry Burkett, officially asking Vilas County Branch 2 Circuit Court Judge Daniel Overbey to resign immediately...A wolf killed a domestic dog at a family's home in Woodruff, leaving many in the North Woods calling for action... Officials and landowners in the Town of Lac du Flambeau were hopeful that a meeting in Woodruff will bring a resolution to what has been more than a year and a half of stalemate in a land rights dispute

between the town and the Lac du Flambeau Tribe... Fifteen-year-old Forrest Grassel of Seymour was the top angler, and Pete LaBorde of Stratford was the lucky ticket holder in the 38th annual National Championship Musky Open held on Eagle River area lakes Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, along with the Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin, sponsor the tournament on seven lake families in the area... Plum Lake town officials unanimously approved an ordinance recently that will soon allow for the majority of town roads to be open to ATV/UTV use... Barricades could return to sections of four Lac du Flambeau town roads this week as the Lac du Flambeau Tribe says that the town is in default of their financial agreement and obligation...Anthony Brown, an Eagle River man who was charged for stealing over \$71,000 from the Eagle River Recreation Association (ERRA), has seemingly reached a plea deal after a jury trial initially scheduled for Sept. 4 has been removed from the calendar.

### September

The Vilas County Board of Supervisors voted 9 to 7 last week to approve a resolution that asked current Vilas County Branch 2 Circuit Court Judge Daniel Overbey to resign his elected position as the head of the District 2 court...A longtime North Woods physician and his biotech firm in Illinois, Dream Genomics, Inc., has announced the discovery of the first-ever bioprofile in the blood of live deer that can detect Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)... The International Series of Champions (ISOC) snocross circuit headquartered in Albertville, Minn., made a splash across the snowmobile community last week with the announcement of their eight-stop 2024-'25 AMSOIL Championship Snocross tour. One stop on that tour will be Eagle River...A plea agreement in a felony theft



A first-of-its-kind music festival, Praise in the Pines drew over 1,800 attendees to the North Woods to enjoy Christian rock talent. —STAFF PHOTO



# NEWS

## Eagle River nurse earns DAISY Award

Aspirus Eagle River Hospital recently honored Morgan Westphal, RN, with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses in recognition for her commitment and patient-centered approach to care.

The award is part of the DAISY Foundation's program to recognize the super-human efforts nurses perform every day.

Aspirus Eagle River Hospital DAISY Award recipients are nurses recognized for going above and beyond patient expectations by providing service with respect, compassion, and integrity; generating enthusiasm and energy while carrying out everyday duties and responsibilities; significantly making a difference, and listening

not only with ears, but also with heart.

Westphal was working in the Aspirus Eagle River Hospital Emergency Department (ED) that day and was nominated for the DAISY Award by a grateful patient. The nomination reads: "I was seen on 6/21 in the ED after falling and hitting my head. Morgan was my nurse. She is the most compassionate, caring, understanding, outstanding nurse. This kid deserves an award! She even remembered taking care of me a year ago. I can't say enough about Morgan. She really comforted me and was truly amazing."

Westphal and her co-workers were treated to cinnamon rolls, which honor the memory of

the late Patrick Barnes who once ate his father's cinnamon roll when he was in the hospital without an appetite for food. He then requested one for the next day — and enough for all the nurses in the unit. The hope is that whenever a nurse smells that wonderful cinnamon aroma, they'll stop for a minute and think of how special they are for being a nurse. Additionally, Westphal received an honoree pin, certificate, and a beautiful and meaningful sculpture called A Healer's Touch, hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Africa.

Established in 1999, the family of J. Patrick Barnes created the DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award to

honor his memory with a tribute to the skillful and compassionate care he received from his nurses during his hospitalization. Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, visitors and colleagues, and they are chosen by a multi-disciplinary team to receive the DAISY Award.

The DAISY Award recognizes the outstanding and extraordinary care nurses provide every day. Aspirus DAISY Award winners and nominees exceed the needs and expectations of patients and families by displaying the Aspirus core values of: Compassion, Accountability, Collaboration, Foresight and Joy.

For more information about Aspirus Eagle River Hospital, visit aspirus.org.



Morgan Westphal, an RN at Aspirus Eagle River Hospital, was recently named a recipient of the DAISY Award, recognizing her commitment and approach to patient-centered care.

—Contributed Photo

## Derby

FROM PAGE 1

on more than 15 inches of solid ice around a slick, contoured track created from more than two million gallons of water spread on subzero nights by a trio of 4,000-gallon water trucks, and a 5-man "icers" crew leading up to the event.

"The 62nd Derby will feature many exciting activities to highlight this year's events," said World Championship Derby Complex (WCDC) CEO Tom Anderson.

The new ownership group acquired the property in 2018 and has since rebranded it to the WCDC to take full advantage of all the 31-acre facility has to offer for a year-round operation.

The one-half-mile oval was totally reworked and updated in the summer of 2022. GPS systems guided the dozers, loaders, and grading machines to produce a perfect track surface ready for icing and racing.

The historic site has also hosted several weddings, USA Hockey Pond Hockey tournaments, muskie tournament banquets, Relay For Life cancer fundraisers, a Mud, Sweat and Cheers race, Rotary Club Antique Shows, dealer meetings, swap meets, rock concerts and other area events.

Race fans can get information on advance ticket sales, Hot Seats reservations, motor home parking and more by calling 715-479-4424 or visiting derbycomplex.com.

### Long history

Anderson highlighted this highly competitive series of world championship racing is the oldest and grandest event in snowmobile racing, dating back to the first race on Dollar Lake in 1964.

"The event in the 1960s, under the direction of the Eagle River Lions Club, moved the race to a track between Highway 45 and Pleasure Island Road," he explained. "Numerous snowmobile manufacturers helped draw thousands of people to the event."

"The Derby Track was then purchased by the Decker family in the mid 80's, who built viewing suites, an expo hall, food service stands, and a host



The World Championship Snowmobile Derby will be held at the World Championship Derby Complex in Eagle River Thursday through Sunday, Jan. 16-19, 2025.

—STAFF PHOTO

of other infrastructure facilities before we purchased the complex in 2018."

Today, the facility boasts 31-plus acres of grounds, a famed half-mile banked oval race track, a separate youth race track, 15 corporate inside heated viewing suites, a 10,000-square-foot expo hall, and heated and cooled enclosed viewing stands on the home straight.

Additionally, the complex retains full food and liquor licenses with several bars, and 50-plus flat-screen TVs to bring the on-track racing action inside the suites for spectators to enjoy.

### Highlights

The festive 11-day show will begin the first weekend with Vintage races.

By the end of the second weekend, fans will have witnessed professional oval racing, Kitty Cat racing, motorcycle racing, a 130-lap enduro, and two under-the-lights shows billed as Friday Night Lightning and Friday Night Thunder.

### Vintage weekend

Vintage racing begins Thursday, Jan. 9, culminating with the Vintage World Championship Sunday, Jan. 12.

Promoters are calling it "Snowmobile Week at the World Championship Derby Complex."

"What started out to be only a couple of Vintage races on Derby Weekend 23 years ago quickly grew into a separate and complete Vintage weekend of racing action that gets a green flag to open the 10 days

of exciting racing action on Thursday this year," said WCDC Vice President and Race Director Craig Marchbank.

"The vintage machines of today are meticulously restored, engines are high-tech tuned, and very reliable," he added. "The competition is highly reminiscent of the good old days. We expect to see a very colorful showing of many brands and more than 900 entries of sleds on the track, including Arctic Cat, Ski-Doo, Polaris, Yamaha, Sno-Jet, John Deere, Rupp, Mercury and many more."

The Vintage World Championships opens Thursday night, Jan. 9. The following evening, racing takes place under the lights for a spectacular Friday Night Lightning show Jan. 10.

Saturday events get underway early with finals and qualifying in a host of different vintage divisions, all culminating with qualifying for the World Championship that afternoon, where typically more than 50 competitors will be vying for a spot in Sunday's finale.

On Sunday, Jan. 11, fans will see more class finals, reaching an exciting conclusion to the Vintage weekend with the super-fast Vintage World Championship Snowmobile Derby title race in the Super Mod 440 Class at 3 p.m.

### World Championship

The event that puts Eagle River on the world map starts Thursday, Jan. 16, with all-day practice

sessions for oval racers in dozens of classes, including Kitty Cats, Juniors, Amateurs and Pro Ovals. Admission is free on Thursday.

"It is a great opportunity for fans to observe their favorite racers in action and to see who might be emerging as a strong competitor in each class," said Marchbank.

Friday will be a full day of qualification racing in Oval classes. Then, on Friday night, fans will once again pack the Derby Complex grounds for the most exciting and highly popular event — the Friday Night Thunder show.

"The top World Championship qualifiers go head-to-head under the lights to determine who will sit on the pole in Sunday's championship race," said Marchbank. "This gives fans a heads-up on who is fastest, who has the handling and who could be the new 2025 World Champion."

The Sweet 16 feature has the top-16 qualifiers running two heat races with eight machines in each and it pulls five racers from each heat for the final," he added. "The victor automatically will sit on the pole position for the final. The winner won't have to duel it out in qualifications Saturday afternoon."

Saturday morning will bring oval classes qualifying. As in the past, Saturday afternoon will include qualifying the top 10 finalists for Sunday's World Championship event.

Sunday's World Championship brings on the final laps of the most competitive Oval class snowmobile racing as thousands of spectators surrounding the ice-glazed track watch, and cheer, for their favorites.

Marchbank also mentioned that early Sunday afternoon will feature a last-chance qualifier which will be held early for the two back-row spots on the starting line of the 62nd running of the World Championship, which will run promptly at 1:30 p.m.

After earning the checkered victory flag, the new World Champion will be honored in the newly created Ultimex Winner's Circle in front of thousands of race fans. The SnowGoer Cup, inscribed with the names of all

past WC winners, will be hoisted in victory for the Derby photographers.

"This event is the single most important snowmobile race of the year for the racers and the snowmobiling community," said Anderson. "To win the World Championship in Eagle River is a great accomplishment that only a very few have earned the honor of claiming."

### 130-Lap Pro Enduro

Immediately following the championship festivities, the oval will host more than 30 drivers competing in the 130-lap World Championship Pro Enduro.

"They put on a great show last year and we are thrilled to have them back for this year," said Marchbank. "Both the drivers and the sleds take a beating in this grueling race. Thirty-plus sleds all racing at once create nonstop racing action."

It's a long race for the Enduro drivers, most of whom are racers from the Michigan International Racing Association (MIRA), who are starting their 2025 season at the Derby Complex.

### World Series weekend

Feb. 21-23 will see the return of the World Series of Snowmobile Racing featuring vintage, late model, and enduro sleds in competition starting Friday evening, Feb. 21, featuring the U.S. Snowmobile Association's (USSA) late model classes.

On Saturday, both USSA and vintage sleds will run to showcase both eras of sleds. Sunday is another "blast" day with a mixture of Pro Vintage Racing (PVR), MIRA, and Big Extreme Vintage Racing Association (BEVRA) classes.

"We have combined PVR, USSA, MIRA and BEVRA into one very exciting weekend of hot racing action," said Marchbank. "It will be a blast."

### Legend Laps

The Derby Track will also host the third Legend Laps show and exhibition Thursday, Feb. 13.

Drivers, collectors, and former racers will be able to make laps on the legendary Derby Track in a safe, noncompetitive format that will showcase many of the famous drivers, iconic and original, reproduction or collectible race sleds from the past.

"Many of these sleds have not seen the ice for over 30 years," explained Marchbank. "It's a great opportunity for drivers, collectors and fans to be a part of this historic event."

### Amsoil Snocross

To wrap up the racing season at the WCDC, the AMSOIL Championship Snocross Series (ISOC) will return.

"We are ecstatic!" states WCDC Race Director, Craig Marchbank. "To have the AMSOIL Championship Snocross Series back to Eagle River will be, in a word, EPIC! Finishing off the WCDC 2025 racing season with the high flying, exciting Hayes Brakes Snocross National, it's absolutely the cherry on the top." Marchbank added.

"We couldn't be more excited to bring AMSOIL Championship Snocross (ISOC) back to Eagle River and the World Championship Derby Complex," said ISOC President Carl Schubitzke. "This venue is the pinnacle of snowmobile racing history, and having Snocross return to such a legendary location is a win for both the riders and the fans."

Don't miss your chance to witness history in the making as AMSOIL Championship Snocross comes to Eagle River, Wis. Set your sights on March 14-15, 2025, and be part of the excitement at the Hayes Brakes Snocross National.

For up-to-date racing action and event details please visit [www.derbycomplex.com](http://www.derbycomplex.com).

## Snow

FROM PAGE 3

a warmup, using good mechanics is the best way to prevent injury.

"Ideally, we want to keep the back straight so we're not putting a lot of stress and strain on the back, and utilizing the bigger muscles in your legs," said Zenner. "When you use your knees and hips by bending at your knees and trying to keep your back straight, your core muscles are pulled

in tight to help protect the back."

Avoiding awkward twists and turns can also help reduce undue strain on the body.

"Instead of just lifting with that shovel and twisting at your trunk, move your feet so you're keeping your body all in line," adds Zenner. "They also make different Ergonomic shovels that are designed to push so you don't have to lift and throw. Find the shovel that maybe works best for you and how you're wanting to shovel."

When it's time to tackle that snow-covered walkway or driveway, follow these suggestions for safe shoveling:

- Dress appropriately. Wear light, water-repellent clothing; a hat, gloves, and warm socks. Put on shoes or boots with good traction to avoid falling.
- Never use a shovel that is too heavy or too long.
- Clear snow early and often. It's easier to remove a light covering of snow from the ground than it is to clear packed, heavy snow.
- Take plenty of breaks

and drink lots of water.

- If you feel any pain, stop shoveling right away. If you have chest pain, seek medical attention immediately.
- Push snow instead of lifting it.
- Avoid throwing snow over your shoulder or to the side because it can stress your back.

For questions about snow-shoveling fitness, talk to a doctor — especially if over the age of 40, don't exercise regularly, or have a history of heart problems.

## Evers

FROM PAGE 4

programs like the CWFPP are receiving more than \$900 million in additional funding in Federal Fiscal Years 2022-2026. The BIL also appropriates \$1 billion over Fiscal Years 2022-2026 to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, specifically to address emerging contaminants including perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source pollution nationwide. The CWFPP Funding List for state fiscal year (FY) 2025 represents the third year of Supplemental Wastewater BIL funding.

Additionally, for the first time in CWFPP history, loan demand has exceeded capacity.

Total CWFPP demand in state FY25 equaled more than \$535 million. Due to recent spikes in demand for funding, the CWFPP has exhausted available revenue bonding authority and can only allocate funding to some applicants. Additional funding will be allocated to unfunded projects if it becomes available.

Since taking office in 2019, identifying and remediating contamination in ground, surface, and drinking water has been a top priority for Gov. Evers and the Evers Administration. Gov. Evers declared 2019 the Year of Clean Drinking Water to highlight the need for meaningful investments to ensure Wisconsinites have clean, safe water that is free of harmful contaminants like PFAS, lead and nitrate.



# PUBLIC NOTICES

# REAL ESTATE

## Legals 7700

### VILAS COUNTY

(One week 12/25/24)

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims) Case No.2024SC000294 Avante USA, LTD 3600 South Gessner, Suite 225 HOUSTON TX 77063

Plaintiff(s): SARAH KEUER 1513 N OLD HIGHWAY 51 RD WOODRUFF WI 54568-9719

Defendant(s): Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S): You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following small claims court: VILAS County Courthouse Telephone Number of clerk of court:715-479-3638 Address: 330 Court Street City: Eagle River, WI 54521 State Zip on the following date and time: Date: 01/14/2025 Time: 9:00 a.m.

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property. You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-479-3638 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Clerk of Circuit Court 12-17-2024 /s/ EMMA N. SCHAEFER 12/18/2024 Dobberstein Law Firm, LLC 225 S. Executive Dr. Suite 201 Brookfield, WI 53005 262-641-3715 Attorney's State Bar Number 1116788

## WVAXLP

### Bids and Request for Proposals 7705

#### STATE SEALED BID TIMBER SALE

(Two weeks 12/18-12/25/24) 7271 Main Street Lake Tomahawk, WI 54539 STATE SEALED BID TIMBER SALE Friday, January 10, 2025 at 10:01AM The State of Wisconsin, Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL), is offering for sale timber marked or designated for cutting on the following lands:

LANGLADE County, WI (80 acres) Timber Sale # 202510 Sheperds Lane Shelterwood T33N-R09E, Section 22 NENW SENW Estimate: 60 MBF Maple, Red\_L-2V 18 MBF Ash, White\_L-2V 7 MBF Ash, Black\_L-2V 5 MBF Maple, Sugar\_L-1,750 TONS Hardwood\_P-Tn 180 CORD Hardwood\_B-Cd ONEIDA County, WI (98 acres) Timber Sale # 202511 Eagle River Hardwoods T37N-R11E, Section 01 NENW T38N-R11E, Section 36 SWNE SENE SENW NESW SWSW SESW NESE NWSE Estimate: 22 MBF Birch, Yellow\_L-17 MBF Maple, Sugar\_L-11 MBF Hardwood\_L-2V 220 CORD Hardwood\_B-Cd 2,900 TONS Hardwood\_P-Tn 30 TONS Softwood\_P-Tn 30 TONS Aspen P-Tn ONEIDA County, WI (29 acres) Timber Sale # 202512 Meister Stockley Hardwoods T35N-R11E, Section 01 NWSW SWSW T35N-R11E, Section 02 SWSE Estimate: 45 MBF Maple, Sugar\_L-11 MBF Hardwood\_L-WR 80 CORD Hardwood\_B-Cd 674 TONS Hardwood\_P-Tn 50 TONS Softwood\_P-Tn 90 CORD Pine, White\_P-C 44 TONS Pine, Red\_P-Tn 30 TONS Aspen\_P-Tn ONEIDA County, WI (62 acres) Timber Sale # 202513 SC Hardwood Release T38N-R10E, Section 04 SESE T38N-R10E, Section 09 NENE NWNE SWNE SENE SENW NESW NWSW NWSE Estimate: 1,600 TONS Hardwood\_P-Tn 17 MBF Hardwood\_L-WR 45 CORD Hardwood\_B-Cd 30 TONS Softwood\_P-Tn FOREST County, WI (84 acres) Timber Sale # 202516 Trial Run Hardwoods T37N-R14E, Section 08 SWSE SESE T37N-R14E, Section 17 NENE NWNE SWNE SENE NENW SENW Estimate: 50 MBF Maple, Sugar\_L-28 MBF Maple, Red\_L-WR 22 MBF Basswood\_L-WR 5 MBF Hardwood\_L-WR 1,490 TONS Hardwood\_P-Tn 80 CORD Hardwood\_B-Cd 330 TONS Hemlock\_P-Tn VILAS County, WI (187 acres) Timber Sale # 202518 Try Again Hardwoods T43N-R08E, Section 16 Gov Lot 5 Gov Lot 6 Gov Lot 7 Gov Lot 5 Gov Lot 6 Gov Lot 7 T43N-R08E, Section 17 Gov Lot 2 Gov Lot 3 Gov Lot 19 Gov Lot 4 SWSE SESE Gov Lot 2 Gov Lot 3 Gov Lot 4 Gov Lot 17 Gov Lot 19 T43N-R08E, Section 20 NENE T43N-R08E, Section 21 Gov Lot 1 Estimate: 239 MBF Maple, Sugar\_L-35 MBF Birch, Yellow\_L-11 MBF Hardwood\_L-WR 2,600 TONS Hardwood\_P-Tn 130 CORD Hardwood\_B-Cd ONEIDA County, WI (68 acres) Timber Sale # 202519 100 Year Aspen T38N-R04E, Section 30 SENW NESW NWSE SWSE SESE T38N-R04E, Section 31 NENE NWNE T38N-R04E, Section 32 NNWV Estimate: 2,065 TONS Aspen\_P-Tn 2,000 TONS Hardwood\_P-Tn 500 TONS Spruce\_P-Tn 350 TONS Pine,

## Bids and Request for Proposals 7705

Red\_P-Tn 300 TONS Balsam Fir\_P-Tn 15 MBF Hardwood\_L-WR FOREST County, WI (97 acres) Timber Sale # 202520 Midas Touch Hardwoods

T38N-R13E, Section 04 SWNE SWNW SENW NESW NWSW NWSE T38N-R13E, Section 05 NESE Estimate: 46 MBF Maple, Sugar\_L-15 MBF Birch, Yellow\_L-14 MBF Basswood\_L-2V 7 MBF Hardwood\_L-2V 550 TONS Hardwood\_P-Tn 44 CORD Hardwood\_B-Cd 56 TONS Hemlock\_P-Tn FOREST County, WI (123 acres) Timber Sale # 202521 Polish Hardwoods T36N-R16E, Section 05 NENW NNWV SWNW SENW Estimate: 125 MBF Maple, Sugar\_L-105 MBF Basswood\_L-WR 40 MBF Hardwood\_L-WR 200 CORD Hardwood\_B-Cd 2,400 TONS Hardwood\_P-Tn 450 TONS Basswood\_P-Tn 40 CORD Aspen\_B-Cd 130 TONS Aspen\_P-Tn 30 TONS Softwood\_P-Tn SEALED BIDS must be submitted on BCPL "timber sale bid forms" and will be accepted until 10:00AM, Friday, January 10, 2025. Bids must be submitted prior to the 10:01AM, January 10, bid opening in the Lake Tomahawk Ranger Station. Contractors wanting to bid on more than one timber sale must submit separate bids for each sale. Please specify the timber sale number on the outside of the envelope. BCPL reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Download maps, cutting requirements, additional information and required bid form at [bcpl.wisconsin.gov/Pages/UpcomingTimberSales.aspx](http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/Pages/UpcomingTimberSales.aspx) or call the District Office at (715) 277-3366

2686 WVAXLP

## Meetings and Public Hearings 7720

### CITY OF EAGLE RIVER

(One week 12/25/24) NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 590 Short-Term Rental Licensing and Operation of a Tourist Rooming House Addition of Article XII to Chapter 106 - Zoning

The City of Eagle River will hold a public hearing January 9, 2025 at 5:00PM at Eagle River City Hall, 525 E Maple Street, Eagle River WI to receive comments on the proposed ordinance No. 590, which amends Chapter 106 - Zoning of the City Code. The proposed ordinance introduces Article XII, establishing requirements for short-term rental licensing and operation of tourist rooming houses within the city limits. Details of the Proposed Ordinance: Purpose: To regulate the operation of short-term rental properties (tourist rooming houses) within the city to ensure compliance with health, safety, and zoning regulations.

Key Provisions: Licensing requirements for property owners operating short-term rentals. Regulations concerning the operation, occupancy, and management of short-term rentals. Procedures for obtaining, renewing, and maintaining short-term rental licenses. Penalties for non-compliance with the provisions of this ordinance.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide feedback regarding the proposed ordinance. Written comments may also be submitted to the City Clerk's office at 525 E Maple Street, PO Box 1269, [bbolte@eagleriverwi.gov](mailto:bbolte@eagleriverwi.gov) before the hearing date. For More Information: For a full text of the proposed ordinance, or for any questions, please contact the City Clerk - Becky Bolte at 715-479-8682 x224, [bbolte@eagleriverwi.gov](mailto:bbolte@eagleriverwi.gov) or visit <https://eagleriverwi.gov> to view a copy of the proposed ordinance. The Eagle River Planning Commission will consider all public comments before making a final recommendation to the City of Eagle River Common Council on the adoption of the proposed ordinance, scheduled to be presented at the January 14, 2025 Regular Common Council monthly meeting. /s/ Becky J Bolte - City Clerk

2691 WVAXLP

### CITY OF EAGLE RIVER

(Two weeks 12/18-12/25/24) Abundant Life Church is seeking a conditional use permit to establish an annex facility for their church to host programming for youth and other groups at 216 Capich Drive, Eagle River, per Ordinance Sec. 106-338: Uses permitted by conditional grant. (1) Churches, private clubs, fraternities and lodges except those whose chief activity is a service customarily carried on as a business. The property is described as Parcel 221-962, GL 04, Sect. 27, T40N, R10E, PRT GOVT LOT 4.

The City of Eagle River Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to review the request on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at the Eagle River City Hall, 525 E. Maple Street, Eagle River WI 54521. Comments can be made at the public hearing or by mail to City Administrator, PO. Box 1269, Eagle River, WI 54521; or phone (715) 479-8682 x227 or email [rcginner@eagleriverwi.gov](mailto:rcginner@eagleriverwi.gov). Documents will be available for review at City Hall. PETITIONER, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE, SHALL BE PRESENT.

2688 WVAXLP

### CONOVER

(One week 12/25/24) Notice of Public Information Meeting for Baker Lake Road Project ALL INTERESTED ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED: there will be a Public Information Meeting on the Baker Lake Road project, this will be held on January 9, 2024 at 5:00 pm at the Conover Center Board Room. This meeting will discuss proposed road work to be completed in 2025. This roadwork includes: the widening of Baker Lake Road and adding gravel to build a well-draining road base. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit residents' input on the scope

## Meetings and Public Hearings 7720

of the project. Persons who cannot attend this meeting but have questions or wish to voice their comments and/or concerns may do so in writing. All letters will be read in at the meeting as part of the public comment. Mailing information is below.

Kendra Lederer, Conover Clerk PO Box 115; 4665 CTH K E Conover, WI 54519 715-479-8688 Email: [conoverclerk@gmail.com](mailto:conoverclerk@gmail.com) Change of Quorum Posted by: Kendra Lederer, Town Clerk December 19, 2024

## WVAXLP

## THREE LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

(One week 12/25/24) SCHOOL BOARD REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 MINUTES

President Williams called the November 20, 2024 School Board regular meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. The following were in attendance:

Board Members Present: Elisha Williams - Board President Stacey Klein - Board Vice President Josh Kral - Board Clerk Mitch Ellis - Board Treasurer Michelle Muetlein - Board Member Others Present: Teri Maney, District Administrator; Steve Gruzynski, Justin Szewes, Todd Riha, Principals; Phil Udike, JH Principal/Athletic/Activities Director; Kari Volk, Special Education Director; Caleb Kleinhans, Business Manager; Jennifer West, Communications Coordinator; Nikki Maney, BOE/DA Administrative Assistant; (7) visitors Administrator Report on the Agenda Posting Maney reported on the agenda posting and notification of the meeting to the media.

Amendments and Approval of Agenda Motion by Klein/Ellis to approve agenda as presented. Motion carried. 5:0 Approve Minutes of the October 16, 2024 Annual and Regular Meetings Motion made by Kral/Klein to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2024 budget hearing and annual meeting and October 16, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried. 5:0 Approve the Vouchers/Check Register Motion by Ellis/Muetlein to approve the checks dated October 11, 2024 through November 13, 2024 for accounts payable ACH checks 242500028-242500088, regular checks #130377-130490, manual checks #5765-5779, wire transfers #202400030-202400062 in the amount of \$747,173.37 and ACH payroll checks #90043979-900044221 and regular payroll checks #59372-59387 in the amount of \$394,035.40 for a total amount of \$1,141,208.77. Motion carried. 5:0

Visitor Comments No visitor comments. Administrator's Report Teri Maney talked about the release of DPI's state report cards. The score of 73.2, and rating of Exceeds Expectations, are similar to last year's results. She shared a report with the Board that shows how Three Lakes compares to surrounding districts. Of the schools listed on the report, Three Lakes ranks first among many of our neighboring schools in the CESA 9 region. Overall, the district is doing very well and she is very pleased. Next month she will share a more detailed report with the Board. December Meeting Date The regular meeting will be held on December 18, 2024 with a starting time of 6:00 p.m. at the Three Lakes School.

Consider Approval of Personnel Report of New Hires and Resignations Teri Maney reviewed the Personnel Report of new hires, resignations and non renewals for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion by Kral/Ellis to approve the personnel report as presented. Motion carried. 5:0 Consider 5th Grade Field Trip Request Jeff Waltz presented his request to the Board for an overnight field trip to the Northern Lakes Impact Center. If approved, the students would participate in outdoor activities which promote teamwork and build community with their classmates. The overnight trip would grant students a longer opportunity to participate in activities, and for some students it may be the only outdoor/camp experience they ever have. Motion by Klein/Muetlein to approve the 5th grade overnight field trip request. Motion carried. 5:0 Nexus/School Perceptions Facilities Planning Survey Review Bill Foster from School Perceptions reviewed the planning survey results. Projects identified on the survey were rated as being high priority or low priority and ranked from most likely to be supported to less likely to be supported.

The survey reflects that the community would most likely support up to a \$15 million, but less than a \$20 million referendum. The district could consider a second question on the ballot for projects that scored lower and let the voters decide. Community Facilities Planning Report Brian Fritz, George Polcaster, Nate Koch & Jessica Edwardson spoke on behalf of the Community Task Force on Facilities. The last capital referendum brought forth by the Three Lakes School District was in 1992 and over the years the school is showing significant wear and tear. Educational requirements and needs have also evolved significantly since that time. They noted that administration has not been idle as upkeep and upgrades have been done, but the needs have outgrown the funds available. The task force went through the results of the planning surveys and presented their recommendations to the Board. They propose that two referendum questions be posed to the voters. Question one should ask the voters to support a referendum not to exceed \$18.9 million to focus on prioritized needs identified by community as being supported in survey. Question two would be a targeted question intended to provide an option beyond question one to focus on a need not well supported by the community but is felt as being important to be addressed now instead of in the future. This question would be a request for \$2.5 million for improvements to the athletic fields, including installing a new track, new field goals, football and soccer field grading/crowning, adding a parking lot and ADA compliant bleachers.

Teri Maney thanked the task force for their work and presentation to the Board. The Board will take the recommendations of the task force into consideration and will discuss the options at next month's board meeting. Consider Approval of the Three Lakes School Library Plan Teri Maney reviewed the Three Lakes School Library Plan which is required by DPI. At this time Three Lakes does not have a Library Media Specialist, but has contracted with Beth Martin, a retired LMS through CESA 9. Beth met with the district library paraprofessionals and two goals were developed. Goal one will focus on developing a balanced current collection of print materials and goal 2 will focus on personalized professional learning. These goals have measurable objectives and the plan will be reviewed and updated annually or as needed. Motion by Klein/Muetlein to approve the Three Lakes School Library Plan as presented. Motion carried. 5:0 Consider Appointment of WASB Delegate and Alternate for the 2025 State Education Convention Williams opened the floor for nominations of the WASB delegate and alternate of the 2025 State Education Convention. Kral/Ellis nominated Williams to be the WASB delegate. Williams accepted the nomination. Motion carried. 5:0 Williams/Muetlein nominated Klein for WASB alternate delegate. Klein accepted the nomination. Motion carried. 5:0

## Minutes 7725

Consider Renewal of the Girls Hockey Cooperative with Northland Pines Udpkie presented the Board with a renewal of the hockey cooperative with the Northland Pines School District. He noted the number of girls in hockey has gone down significantly in the last few years. Three Lakes doesn't have any participants this year but will for next year's season. Motion by Ellis/Klein to approve the renewal of the girls hockey cooperative with Northland Pines as presented. Motion carried. 5:0 Parent-Teacher Conference Report Building principals reported on attendance at the fall parent-teacher conferences. Szewes stated that it was a typical conference night with most of the parents attending in the later hours of the day due to work commitments. Udpkie reported 55-65% attendance in the junior high school.

The Sugar Camp elementary had 90% of the parents attending in person with the remaining parents attending either by phone or virtually according to Riha. Gruzynski reports 98% attendance either in person or by phone. Some parents' feedback was that it was difficult to get to conferences until after work, and they felt their time to see teachers was rushed and they did not have time to speak with teachers before conferences were over. Maney commented that a group would be meeting to discuss next year's calendar and a different schedule could be looked at to accommodate the high school and junior high conference format. School Forest - Camp 3 Update/Report Teri Maney shared a letter from the attorney for the plaintiffs that they want to open talks regarding the school forest with consideration to settle the matter. The Board will be moving into executive session in this meeting to seek the advice of district counsel on how to proceed. District Related Positive Happenings Staff shared district related positive happenings. WASB Correspondence/Updates Teri Maney shared the WASB membership certificate and a letter of appreciation with the Board. Tour of Sugar Camp Elementary Facility/grounds The Board and attendees toured the Sugar Camp Elementary facility and grounds.

Adjourn to Executive Session Motion made by Muetlein/Ellis to adjourn to executive session at 8:30 p.m. according to Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(g) to confer with legal counsel who is rendering advice with respect to litigation pertaining to the Camp 3 school forest trap shooting range. Roll call vote. All eyes on voice vote. Motion carried. 5:0 Reconvene to Open Session Motion by Muetlein/Klein to reconvene to open session to consider motions on matters taken up in executive session. Approve Minutes of the November 4, 2024 Special Meeting Motion made by Ellis/Klein to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2024 special meeting. Motion carried. 5:0 Adjournment Motion by Muetlein/Ellis to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. Motion carried. 5:0 Respectfully submitted, Josh Kral School Board Clerk

2693 WVAXLP

## Notice to Creditors 7735

### VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 12/11-12/25/24) STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 24PR88

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF KELLY E. PEISSIG PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth September 11, 1957 and date of death October 6, 2024, was domiciled in Vilas County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 4450 County Road B, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is March 7, 2025. 5. A claim may be filed at the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St, Eagle River, WI 54521, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office. /s/ Dawn Halverson Probate Registrar November 27, 2024 Attorney Miranda M. Lamb Nolan & Deffner Legacy Law 1803 Stewart Avenue, Wausau, WI 54401 715-842-0888 Bar Number 1112872

## WVAXLP

## Notice to Creditors 7735

### VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 12/11-12/25/24) STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY Amended Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 24-PR-86

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ALLI S. QUINN DOD: 8-14-24 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth 9-16-2024 and date of death 8-14-2024, was domiciled in PEORIA County, State of ILLINOIS, with a mailing address of 1312 W PINE ST CHILLI-COTHE, IL 61523. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is MARCH 14, 2025. 5. A claim may be filed at the VILAS County Courthouse, EAGLE RIVER, Wisconsin, Room PROBATE OFFICE. /s/ Dawn Halverson Probate Registrar December 10, 2024 JOHN C. HOULIHAN HOULIHAN LAW FIRM, S.C. P.O. BOX 630 MINOCQUA, WI 54548 715-356-1422 Bar Number 1016296

## WVAXLP

## VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 12/18-1/8/25) STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY Amended Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration) Case No. 24-PR-86

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ALLI S. QUINN DOD: 8-14-24 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: 1. An application for informal administration was filed. 2. The decedent, with date of birth 9-16-2024 and date of death 8-14-2024, was domiciled in PEORIA County, State of ILLINOIS, with a mailing address of 1312 W PINE ST CHILLI-COTHE, IL 61523. 3. All interested persons waived notice. 4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is MARCH 14, 2025. 5. A claim may be filed at the VILAS County Courthouse, EAGLE RIVER, Wisconsin, Room PROBATE OFFICE. /s/ Dawn Halverson Probate Registrar December 10, 2024 JOHN C. HOULIHAN HOULIHAN LAW FIRM, S.C. P.O. BOX 630 MINOCQUA, WI 54548 715-356-1422 Bar Number 1016296

## WVAXLP

## Ordinances 7740

### VILAS COUNTY

(Two weeks 12/18-12/25/24) NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE VILAS COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT STATE OF WISCONSIN COUNTY OF VILAS TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN Pursuant to Chapter 59.694 and 19.84 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and Article X, Section 10.3 of the Vilas County General Zoning Ordinance:

Public Notice is hereby given to all persons that a public hearing will be held at the Lac Du Flambeau Town Hall, 109 Old Abe Rd, Lac Du Flambeau, WI 54538 on Thursday January 9, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. Relative to Board of Adjustment Variance Application B2-24, submitted by Ray Frigo, Agent for Mary Lou Fisher. On the following real estate to wit: Part of Government Lot 1, Section 36, Town 41 North, Range 5 East, Town of Lac Du Flambeau, Vilas County, Wisconsin; identified by Vilas County Computer Parcel Number 10-3116. Requesting a variance to Vilas County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Article, Section 5.1B which states: A seventy-five (75) foot setback from

## Dec. 12, 2024

Jeffrey D. Wagner to Joseph A. Garcia and Juli G. Bauer, unit 2 of plat 830 in Eagle Estates XIII Condominium, \$684.

Joseph C. Yeung and Winnie W. Yeung to Nicholas A. Trapp and Brianna M. Trapp, SE SW in 23-40-6, \$2,427.

## Dec. 13, 2024

Vilas County Sheriff Agent, John J. Veatch Jr. and Carolyn C. Veatch, to Dane F. Anderson, lot 17 of plat 92 in Everett Resort, \$1,173.

Caroline M. Benson to Reu Real Estate LLC, NE NW in 16-42-5, \$1,200.

Rothmeiers LLC to Michael A. Nardulli and Carly H. Buechler Nardulli, SE SE in 8-41-10, \$114.

## Dec. 16, 2024

MKW Investments Properties LLC to Michael G. Wilton, NW SW and NE SW in 16-42-11, \$204.

William Woger and Carrie Woger to John DeWitt and Simone Bishop, gov lot 6 in 10-40-8, \$228.

## Dec. 17, 2024

Vilas County Sheriff Agent, Estate of David J. McMaster and Estate of David J. McMaster to

Andrew Holperin, lots 7-8 in block 6 of plat 403 in Habrich JF 1st Addn, \$148.80.

Ellis Enterprises INC to Eric J. and Tracy R. Egenhoefer Living Trust, Trustee Eric J. Egenhoefer and Trustee Tracy R. Egenhoefer, gov lot 1 in 21-40-5, \$3,300.

Donald A. and Mary Lou Bloch Revocable Living Trust and Trustee Mary Lou Bloch to Robert and Julie Hendry Joint Declaration of Revocable Trust and Trustee Julie Hendry, gov lot 2 in 5-42-10, \$2,175.

Richard L. Halsten and Cynthia K. Halsten to Jodi M. Markowski and William L. Young, gov lot 1 in 28-44-5, \$1,425.

## Dec. 18, 2024

Megan R. Volkmann to Kalib J. Skinner, gov lot 4 in 2-41-11, \$315.

Creative Investments & Homes Developments INC to Creative Investment Homes LLC, gov lot 2 in 20-43-5, \$753.

Brian D. Goff to Estate of Andrew T. Stebnitz and Personal Representative Kathleen K. Ruegsegger, gov lot 6 in 23-43-7, \$48.

# Trails

FROM PAGE 1

central part of the state. The amount of snowfall the North Woods got would not be enough, according to Dumas. He says ideally a foot of snow would be needed right now, but they would take six inches if that's what they can get. There is also supposed to be a warmup this coming week, with temps hovering in the mid-to-upper 30s, with lows remaining above freezing some days which could slow progress down even more.

Early season prep for snowmobile trails can be a challenging time, with Mother Nature controlling how many volunteers can do.

So far this season, there had been a cold spell that hit the North Woods that tightened up swampy areas around many trail systems, which was also mixed in with some above-freezing temperatures, which Dumas says have minimally impacted the ground freeze in the Eagle River system.

"Cold before snow is always the formula snowmobile clubs are looking for in early season prep. There are many wetlands and swamps across our trail system that must freeze to provide a solid foundation for the trail bed," he said. "The short warm-ups we've had have done some damage, but mostly to the minimal snowpack. For the most part, we are now frozen in and ready for significant snowfall to occur."

Most clubs are in the same boat as the Sno-Eagles, with most everyone having a frozen base and waiting for the snow to fall. Conover Sno-Buddies President Randy Remblake said that safety is the top priority, so getting enough snow is needed to open up the trails. Remblake said the base amount varies

by club, but he would say there is roughly a three-to-four-inch base around the Conover system.

"I would say the average out there is three to four inches on the trails, maybe a little more here or there, which is good for building these nice bases," he said. "The cold weather has definitely helped freeze the ground more, so all the swamp areas and all the lakes are building good ice, which is really important."

Remblake reiterated that the minimum of six inches would be needed to safely open the trails to the public. Many clubs have been out tirelessly to get things ready and will just wait for Mother Nature at this point. Phil Mendham, Frosty Snowmobile Club president and Sunrise Lodge owner in Land O' Lakes, said groomers have been out packing down the snow.

"We have been able to get our machines out to pack down the snow and establish an excellent base, which will be great with the new snow on top," he said. "If we get 6-8 inches of snow out of this system, the Land O' Lakes Frosty Club trails will be ready to open for the season."

He also mentioned that ice conditions on Lac Vieux Desert are pretty solid, but conditions are different on every lake you go on.

"We have 8-10 inches of solid ice and have had several groups out on the lake with snowmobiles and 4-wheelers. All lakes are different, as far as ice conditions go, so definitely check with a local expert before venturing out on the ice," he mentioned.

It's much the same in Oneida County, with Brule River Trails, which is responsible for grooming all trails in Three Lakes, saying the recent weather adds to what they have, but is still not enough. "The base is minimal and snow is needed to open up the trails. Remblake said the base amount varies

by lake you go on. Next week's (this week's) forecast warm-up and little snow in the forecast will delay any opening," they told the News-Review.

The weather outlook into the new year remains to be seen, but forecasts show minimal chances for snow throughout the first week of 2025.

## NOTICE

### VACANCY - VILAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS District #18 - City of Eagle River Wards, 4 & 5 and Town of Lincoln, Ward 5

The Vilas County Board Chairman is accepting applications for an individual to be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Vilas County Supervisor, District #18, comprised of the City of Eagle River Wards, 4 & 5 and Town of Lincoln, Ward 5. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §59.10(3)(e) applicants for this appointment must be a qualified elector and a resident of District #18 for at least 28 days to be eligible to fill this vacancy. Applicants for this position should send a letter expressing interest in the position and a resume to:

Chairman Jerry Burkett Vilas County Board of Supervisors District #18 Applications 330 Court Street Eagle River, WI 54521

Applications received later than Monday, January 6, 2025, will not be considered. Appointment of any applicant by the Vilas County Board Chairman is subject to Vilas County Board ratification.



# NEWS

## DeJoy covers his ears, but Congress listens to NNA

Last week Postmaster General Louis DeJoy covered his ears in response to criticisms from members of Congress about service quality under his tenure, perhaps cementing his "legacy of unresponsiveness and failure," according to the National Newspaper Association (NNA).

At the same time he was testifying, however, NNA's leadership and public affairs team was meeting with numerous staff members in key offices to reiterate postal concerns and priorities, and they were all ears, says the NNA.

These included Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-Missouri), Senators Eric Schmitt (R-MO), Jerry Moran (R-Kansas), Senate oversight Ranking Member Gary Peters (D-Michigan) and Jon Ossoff (D-Georgia).

The message reflected the concerns recently highlighted by "Editor and Publisher" about the series of punitive rate increases, widespread service failures, and lack of responsiveness epitomized by DeJoy's hand-on-ears moment. Staffers for all these offices were open to considering key pieces of legislation NNA is endorsing including the USPS Serves Us Act, as well as the Deliver for Democracy Act and an in-county rate cap.

Their engagement would be aided by the introduction of a bill, and the group also met

with staff for Rep. Sam Graves (R-Missouri), who confirmed that they are in active dialogue with the House Legislative Counsel office on developing a new version of the legislation, and hope to have an update in the middle of January.

The NNA public affairs team also met with staff for Senate oversight committee Chairman Rand Paul (R-Kentucky) to request his support. Given the comments from many House and Senate members during the hearings, there is a real opportunity to advance these proposals in the new Congress. At the same time, momentum appears to be building for privatization and NNA will be evaluating what, if any, variations could be acceptable and what the key goals and concerns would be for any such effort.

The NNA will be back on the Hill early next year to advocate for these solutions, consistent with the historic mission described in another recently published "Editor and Publisher" article.

To be ultimately successful, the NNA says that they will need the engagement of all NNA members to ask their legislators to enact these bills, but based on the outcome of these meetings, the 119th Congress may be the turning point opportunity to reverse the disastrous policies of the last four years.



PEEK-A-BOO — The snow accumulations hitting the area last week gave a new look to familiar faces as shown on this doe as she walked in the woods along the Wisconsin River on Thursday. —Photo By William Zuelke

## Rep. Swearingen to continue serving as State Affairs Committee Chairman

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos announced committee leadership for the 2025 -2026 Legislative Session, which included Rep. Rob Swearingen (R - Rhinelander) being reappointed as Chairman of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs.

Rep. Swearingen released the following statement in response to the Dec. 19

announcement: "I'd like to thank Speaker Vos for reappointing me as Chairman of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs. I look forward to another session working with my veteran colleagues on the committee, as well as several new members who will be appointed to serve. I'm also excited to welcome back Rep. Chanz Green (R -

Ashland) to the committee, and look forward to him serving as Vice-Chairman for another session."

In this role, Rep. Swearingen will lead the committee in overseeing legislation related to state government operations, including a wide range of issues such as elections, alcohol policy, ethics, and state employee relations.

Rep. Swearingen has served as Chairman of this committee since 2015.

Rep. Swearingen was also reappointed as Vice-Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Tourism.

Rep. Swearingen represents the 34th Assembly District, which includes the Northwoods counties of Oneida and Vilas.

## Review

FROM PAGE 6

case involving 54-year-old Anthony Brown of Eagle River and the Eagle River Recreation Association (ERRA) has been reached...The Eagle River Revitalization Program (ERRP), in conjunction with the Eagle River Historical Society, announced recently that new funding avenues for business owners are available following the designation of the Downtown Historic District, which is now part of the National Historic Registry...State Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) fired back at the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians Tribal Council recently following a release from the tribe that she was banished from the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation...U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin has called on Postmaster General Louis DeJoy to immediately address

costly delays to Wisconsin newspapers that rely on the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) are experiencing, resulting in lost revenue, customer complaints, and canceled subscriptions.

### October

The Eagle River Chamber of Commerce noted another historically high attendance at the 44th annual Cranberry Festival headquartered at the Vilas County Fairgrounds in Eagle River last weekend. According to Kim Emerson, executive director, estimations are in the 45,000 visitors range, which is right on par with some of the historical highs for the fall event... A 19-year-old Sugar Camp man shot and killed a wolf while hunting waterfowl the morning of Sept. 21...Two separate incidents involving wolves and humans in Oneida County recently haven't led to any increased warnings for hunters or civilians according to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)...The Towns of Plum Lake and



The 2024 Cranberry Fest drew in a record-breaking crowd of 45,000.

—Staff Photo By KURT KRUEGER

Phelps, among several other communities throughout the state, have each been awarded \$4,250,000 Flexible Facilities

Program (FFP) grants... Over 5,000 attendees visited the 31st Annual Pumpkin Fest hosted by the Three Lakes Fire Department Auxiliary at Three Lakes High School...With alleged vandalism at the Burnt Rollways Dam that resulted in an unauthorized discharge of water and a recent lack of rainfall, low water levels have been stranding boats throughout the Three Lakes Chain... After years of struggling to accommodate visitors following the devastating loss of the Oneida Village Inn in 2019, Three Lakes is taking steps toward building a new hotel... Because the City of Eagle River has spent about \$5 million in Tax Incremental District (TIS) funds outside of the district boundaries since 2012, the city will have to transfer about \$2 million in General Fund money to reimburse the district, the city council learned last week.

### November

Former President Donald Trump became the first in over a century to reclaim the White House after losing it, defeating current Vice President Kamala Harris after retaking key swing states

that he lost during his failed 2020 reelection bid...\$1.3 million in federal funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service will be put towards supporting three Wisconsin conservation projects, two of which are in Land O' Lakes...The River Trail Commission gave a preliminary endorsement to a Highway 45 multi-use crossing and "placemaking" project that could be billed as the initial phase of the proposed River Trail between Eagle River and St. Germain at its meeting last Wednesday... After an explosive debut that drew a crowd of 1,800 to Eagle River back in July, the Praise in the Pines music festival will return to the Northland Pines fieldhouse for a second year on Saturday, July 19, 2025...As another year comes to a close, the end of the year marks five years of community service for Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) — founded to right well-documented problems involving food insecurity in area school districts... Several extensive projects in Oneida County that are laying down hundreds of miles of fiber optic cable conduit, look to bring high-speed internet to nearly

13,000 North Woods homes.

### December

Levels of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM), an aquatic invasive species found in the Eagle River Chain of Lakes, have increased according to a report presented by Eddie Heath, an aquatic ecologist with Onterra LLC... Vilas County's transition to a Human Services Department is going smoothly ahead of its Dec. 31 deadline, according to Kate Gardner, director of the Vilas County Social Services Department... While there was a slight increase in buck registrations statewide during the nine-day gun deer season that ended Dec. 1, the buck harvest in Vilas and Oneida counties dropped from 1,749 last year to 1,603 this year, down 8.3%, state records show...As winter settles across the North Woods and the days grow shorter, the Vilas County Veterans Service Office, along with the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) of Eagle River, is sponsoring a Winter Wellness program for local veterans and their spouses and/or caregivers.



An Eagle River Light & Water employee hangs holiday decorations along Wall Street.

—Staff Photo By JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN



# Sports



The Northland Pines boys hockey team gathers in front of their own net before a game earlier this season.

—Photo By Ashley Heid



## Sideline Scoop

BY JACOB HEID

### Bucks are back with NBA Cup win

The Milwaukee Bucks are officially back after claiming the second-ever NBA Cup title last week after a struggle to start the 2024-25 campaign.

Giannis led the way with a 29-point, 19-rebound and 10-assist triple-double.

Many professional sports leagues have experimented with new rule changes or anything that could help the organizations gain traction in the viewership game.

For the NBA, Commissioner Adam Silver and his team came up with the newly founded NBA Cup, formally the In-Season Tournament, that was implemented into the 2023-24 season.

Well, in its second year of existence, the Milwaukee Bucks took down the Oklahoma City Thunder in Las Vegas last week to claim the tournament title after a surprising struggle to start the year. Each player on the winning team also gets roughly a \$500k bonus, so the extra motivation to take it seriously is there.

As fans claim the title means nothing, for a team that started the season 1-6 when no one expected them to, and with certain aspects of the team game not clicking, any fan of the Bucks will probably be happy with what they saw throughout the group and knockout stages of the tournament.

Not much went right to open the year, but since the writing of this column for an early Christmas deadline, Milwaukee won 12 of its last 15 games and sits in fifth place in the Eastern Conference behind the likes of the Cleveland Cavaliers, Boston Celtics, New York Knicks and the Orlando Magic. Cleveland sits 1.5 games ahead of Boston, but both sit at least five games clear of third place. Milwaukee is 1.5 games out of third and 7.5 games behind the second-place Celtics.

The Bucks made a statement on defense in the championship, which was something the team struggled with in their 1-6 start. Milwaukee held Western Conference-leading Oklahoma City to 81 points, 33.7% shooting from the floor and just 15.6% from long range, which was all a season-best. It would've handed the Thunder their sixth loss this season in 26 games, but the championship game doesn't make an impact in the standings.

The NBA Cup schedule is kind of wonky in the sense that the championship game between the Thunder and Bucks has no impact on the team's record or even player stats. With a quarterfinal, semifinal and final format in the knockout stage, every team entered the last two seasons with 80 scheduled regular season games instead of the normal 82. Based on a team's performance, the quarterfinal and semifinal games are those 81st and 82nd games, with the championship being an extra played game in the regular season.

Coming out of the win, the Bucks looked to make a move up the standings as they had a stretch of games at Cleveland, home versus Washington and at Chicago, before the Christmas holiday.

Giannis and Dame are the clear frontrunners offensively by averaging 32 and 25 points, respectively, but the contributions of others is what has turned the early part of the season back around.

Bobby Portis is producing off the bench once again and the youngster AJ Green has caught my eye in his third season and has clearly developed. Green has paved his way into Doc Rivers' rotation with his outside shooting ability, where he has made two or more 3-pointers in nine straight games, which included the Cup final.

He is shooting at 47-47-83 splits this season and is averaging just under nine points a game.

Back in one of my November columns, it was mentioned that Milwaukee ranked in the bottom half of the league in defensive efficiency and is now tied for 10th during its turnaround, and is tied for first during its 12-3 run over the last 15 games. It has also climbed the ranks of 3-point shooting efficiency by having multiple 40-plus percent 3-point shooters this season.

## Eagles boys to play in holiday tournament

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH  
CORRESPONDENT

Tomahawk 58-31 and lost to Rhinelander 65-48.

The Northland Pines boys basketball team will remain in action during the holidays, playing in a holiday tournament at Adams-Friendship High School Friday and Saturday, Dec. 27-28.

The tournament will start at 1 p.m. both days and will feature Northland Pines, Adams-Friendship, Hillsboro and Sparta.

The Eagles, 5-2 overall and 1-1 in the Great Northern Conference (GNC), faced Lakeland in a GNC game on Friday, Dec. 20, but the results were not available for this issue due to an early holiday deadline for the newspaper. So far in GNC contests, the Eagles beat

## Short-handed Eagles drop two before the holiday

BY CHIRS OATMAN  
CORRESPONDENT

After injuries plagued the Northland Pines boys hockey team earlier this month in a win at Pacelli, the Eagles were short-handed in a pair of games this past week, ending in 3-1 losses to both Marshfield Dec. 17 and to Lakeland at home Dec. 19.

It was a battle of long-time heated rivals when the Northland Pines Eagles hosted the Lakeland Thunderbirds in a Great Northern Conference (GNC) boys hockey game last Thursday in Eagle River.

Pines couldn't get much of anything going on offense for most of the game, and even though they made it interesting at the

end, Lakeland went home with a 3-1 win.

"We still have a couple kids out, impactful players, but no excuses, it's next man up," stated coach Zach Otto. "We do have the opportunity to give more kids playing time and experience, and that's a positive we can take from that."

The Thunderbirds scored the only two goals of the first period and held Pines to just two shots on goal. Neither team beat the other's goaltender in the middle period.

The Eagles played better in the third period and Peter Anderson got the home team on the board off a face-off in the Lakeland zone at the 9:16 mark and it was a one-goal game, 2-1.

Pines had a couple

of chances in the final minutes, but a Lakeland empty-net goal with 19 seconds left clinched the win for the Thunderbirds.

The Eagles were held to just ten shots on goal in the game.

### Marshfield loss

The Pines boys were looking to put one in the win column when they hit the road to play the Wisconsin Valley Conference Marshfield Tigers Tuesday of last week.

Pines dealt with being short-handed and lost 3-1 to the Tigers.

Despite getting younger players more ice time, Otto wasn't blaming the Eagles' loss on injuries.

"We didn't come ready to play and we didn't get anything going offensively. Not enough shots and

bodies to the net," said Otto. "I thought maybe once the bus legs wore off, we'd pick up the pace and win some races to loose pucks."

Pines scored first in this one as Cooper Saari converted on the power play, assisted by Sam Shrock at 15:32 of the first period.

That would be the only goal they would get as Marshfield scored once in the first and twice in the second while limiting the Eagles to 15 shots on goal.

Northland Pines finished the week at 4-5 overall and 1-2 in the Great Northern Conference.

Next up, the Eagles will be in Madison from Thursday, December 26, to Saturday, December 28 to play in the Culver's Cup tournament.

## Lady Jays win third straight heading into holiday break

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

After a 1-4 start in the first five games, the Three Lakes-Phelps girls basketball team has bounced back with a third-straight win after taking down Prentice 39-35 on the road Dec. 16, the team's last game before the holiday break.

Paige Bradford led the way with 11 points and eight rebounds. Haylee Barnekow and Malia Szews each had 10 points, while Barnekow tallied six steals. Ayla Connor also finished with four points.

"Winning is always nice. The big thing is turnovers and defense. Our turnovers are down. We're playing good defense, focusing on

key players on the other team, and limiting their ability to take advantage of us," said TLP head coach Rich Javenkoski. "Defense is winning our games right now. Once we get our offense going, I think we'll be in great shape."

Javenkoski said that defensive effort showed as they made everyone else on Prentice try to beat them.

"[Prentice's] key player, although she had 23 points, the other players on the team, no one had more than I think three points," he said.

The Lady Jays made a stand defensively early and came away with multiple steals in the first five minutes of the game and trailed 7-6 early.

"We slowed the game

down and tried to get them out of their zone and in the process took a lot of time off the clock," explained Javenkoski.

A fast break layup from Barnekow early in the second half put TLP's lead to nine, 29-20, with about 15 minutes to play.

Javenkoski also talked highly about the depth his team has as the Lady Jays swapped in a lot of players who contributed to the win.

"We put Haylee and Kailin Fogerty on (Kali Heikkinen) and I think we tired her out by the end," stated Javenkoski. "We asked a lot of those two kids to try and neutralize their best player and still contribute on both sides of the ball."

He said those two have

answered the bell in how they've played early on this year.

Connor's four points turned out to be a big difference in the point differential.

"Ayla Connor contributed. She only scored four points, but the four points are the difference in the game as far as I'm concerned," stated Javenkoski.

TLP moved to 4-4 (0-1) as the Christmas break hits, and Javenkoski said the winning streak is a great way to enter the break.

Next up is a Northern Lakes Conference road game in Florence on Friday, Jan. 3, at 7:15 p.m. TLP will return home to play Rhinelander Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 6 p.m.

## Northerners 70+ team places 3rd in Winter World Championships

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH  
CORRESPONDENT

The Wisconsin Northerners 70s Senior Softball team, which includes several players from the Eagle River area, recently competed in the SSUSA's Winter World Championships and finished third in the 70+AAA double-elimination tournament.

The three-day tournament was held in Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 14-16, which marked the beginning of the 2025 season for the Northerners. There were 197 teams in all age groups from 50+ to 85+, 14 of which competed in the

70+AAA division.

On the first day of the tourney, the Northerners beat Arizona Full Throttle 70s, 26-15, and lost to AZ Road Brawlers, 19-10, placing them in the No. 8 seed position. In bracket play on day two, the Northerners beat three teams; Colorado Peak Softball, 19-11, Colorado Scrap Iron 5280', 28-22, and Texas Good Times Trucking, 21-12, placing the Northerners in the winner's bracket.

On day three, the Northerners lost to the other undefeated team in the winner's bracket, Team Texas-San Antonio, by a score of 18-3. They then

lost to the winners of the losers bracket, Arizona Old School 70s, by a score of 19-10. In the championship game, Team Texas remained undefeated, beating Arizona Old School 20-19.

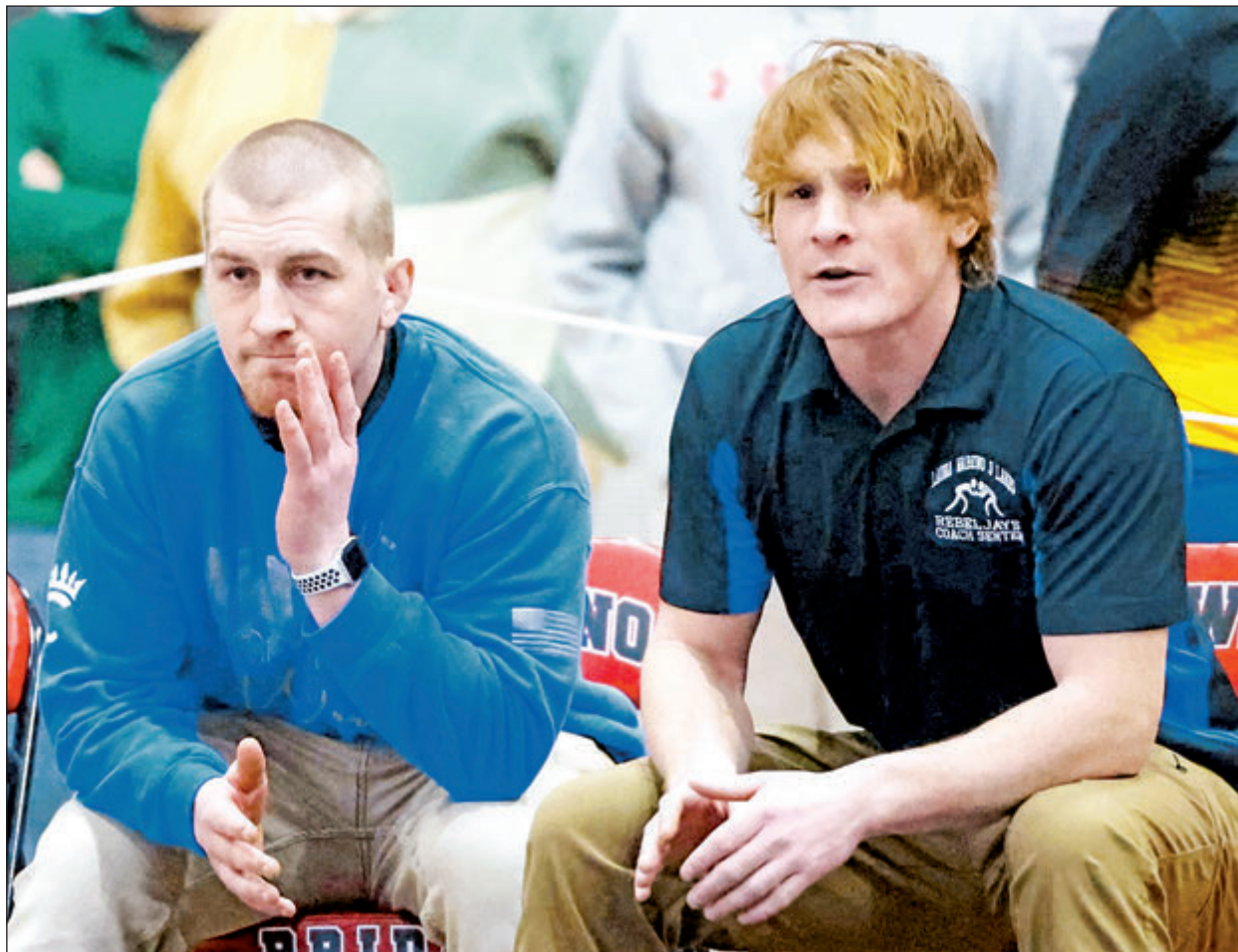
Three players from the Northerners were voted to the All-Tournament Team for outstanding defensive play and offensive contributions. They were Mike Ruzic from Lake Tomahawk, Steve Maley from Waverly, Iowa, and Larry Bartels from Baldwin, Iowa. The Northerners finished with a .646 team batting average.

Other players on the team included player/coach-manager Steve Favorite of Eagle River, Ben Gumm of Eagle River, Tod Niemuth from Rhinelander, Rollie Johnson of Waupaca, Bob Mathe from Oshkosh, Bill Kroschel of St. Paul, Minn., Charlie Milliren from Owen, Duane Meth of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Scott Benash from Janesville, Jimmy Hannula of Osseo and Craig Mittelstaedt from Oshkosh.

The next winter tournament for the Northerners will be in Phoenix, Ariz., on Jan. 16-17, 2025. The spring tournament season begins in the midwest in Waterloo, Iowa, on May 15-16, 2025.



# SPORTS



Colin Schubert, left, and Seth Senter, right, sit matside during a recent match with the Three Lakes-Laona-Wabeno wrestling team. —Photos By William Zuelke

## Rebel Jays head coaches dedicated to wrestling and student development

BY WILLIAM ZUELKE  
CORRESPONDENT

The Wabeno-Laona-Three Lakes wrestling team has been very successful to date, with four wrestlers winning at least 10 matches and several others off to great starts with solid match records. While the early successes of the Rebel Jays have been great, according to the head coaching duo of Seth Senter and Colin Schubert, helping to shape the students to succeed after high school is equally important.

“Wrestling is a sport of physical and mental toughness that requires high levels of personal commitment and dedication to succeed,” Senter said at a team practice last week, “but as coaches, we also understand that good sportsmanship and an academic focus are key ingredients that can last a lifetime.”

Schubert agreed and added, “It is important to us that we help promote good skills of discipline and personal responsibility which will serve our kids well as they become adults. Watching a kid win his or her first match is exciting, but it is similarly rewarding for me to hear about a first job opportunity or a decision on which college to attend.”

The current Rebel Jays co-op arrangement began in 2020 and in each year that followed, Senter and Schubert have coached state qualifiers. Reagan Roy and Brady Shepard were the latest qualifiers from Wabeno competing in the WIAA Individual Championship event in Madison last season, while Gus Fink was the last wrestler from Three Lakes High School to make the cut two years ago.

Both coaches agree that



The two coaches show their high school wrestlers a drill during one of the team's practices last week.

one of the factors that made these appearances in Madison special was the fact that they occurred while Roy, Shepard and Fink were also being honored for their academic achievements by the Wisconsin Wrestling Coaches Association by maintaining a minimum 3.5 grade point average. Several Rebel Jays have reached this level in recent years, something that brings pride to the two head coaches.

Regarding the sport of wrestling itself, Senter and Schubert have reached their own levels of success. Senter was a four-year wrestler and two-time state qualifier for Three Lakes High School. He went on to club competitions before coaching at the high school level in the Green Bay area. He returned to Three Lakes 10 years ago where he became the head coach of the Bluejays wrestling team.

During this time, he also got married, had two

children and started his own building company. Family is important to Senter and he can often be found in tournaments with his kids running on the sidelines wearing Rebel Jays gear, which he says is reminiscent of his younger days when his grandfather used to drive him to wrestling meets, often coached by his older brother Phillip.

Schubert won the WIAA Division 2 Individual State Championship in 2013 as a 145-pound senior at Southern Door High School. He also placed first in sectional competition that same season and had several top-five finishes on the way to the state title.

He went on to wrestle successfully for Northern Michigan University and then competed in a variety of programs nationally and internationally before ending up at Wabeno High School five years ago to coach and teach physical education and health. Schubert earned All-

American status in Greco-Roman grappling, and at one time was a legitimate Olympic wrestling hopeful.

The two head coaches are also good friends and originally met through a wrestling club operated by Dennis Hall, a U.S. Olympic silver medalist and member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Each received training instructions from Hall at different points, but the early connection ultimately led to a long-term friendship and the start of the current co-op arrangement between the high schools of Wabeno, Laona and Three Lakes.

The unique competitive nature of wrestling is the common bond that each has appreciated throughout the years.

“This is one of the truest forms of sports competition,” Schubert said, “with just one person standing in front of a single opponent. It does not get any better than that.”

## Pines girls drop a third close game this year

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

Close games have been the norm so far this year for the Northland Pines girls basketball team, which included a third loss this season in a game decided by seven points or less. The Eagles fell to Florence at home 38-32.

The other games where the Eagles came up just short include a 37-30 loss to Three Lakes-Phelps and a 42-39 loss to Tomahawk.

“It’s hard to take a loss from Three Lakes, Tomahawk, and Florence all right in a row. Progress has been made with each one of these losses,” said Pines girls head coach Jaclyn Halsey. “Although looking back on these three

losses that were winnable games, I know we are better now than what we were three weeks ago. That’s what a coach wants to continue to see.”

It was a tight first half, with just a combined 25 points being scored between the two sides. Offensively, the Eagles spread the ball around nicely and saw five different players score four or more points. Florence held a 13-12 lead at the halftime break.

“Coming into Florence, we knew it would be a battle, as last year it came right down to the wire as well. We were up for the challenge with Florence as they run a little different offense set than what we see in our conference,” explained Halsey. “We

came out a little flat in the first half. We were running our offense through, but just being a little slower on ball movement than what I would like, and passing up opportunities to score.”

Halftime adjustments were made by Pines and it proved to be crucial in the opening few minutes of the second half. Ryley and Rynn Darr, who combined for 12 points with six points each, scored a combined six points to kick off the second half.

“We came out in the second half, with the Darr sisters making a quick six points to get the ball rolling. We certainly needed that,” said Halsey.

Though late-game mistakes were the ultimate difference between the loss

and picking up a third win, sophomore Natalie Kohn kept Pines in the game, according to Halsey. She finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

“She locked in our team’s first double-double of the season. She is a big reason why we stayed in that game,” stated Halsey. “She does all the same things that don’t always show up on the stat board as well. I couldn’t be happier with how she is playing.”

The Eagles recently played a Great Northern Conference game against Lakeland at Pines this past Friday, but results of that game are not in this story due to an early deadline for this publication. Pines will be back in action Friday, Jan. 3, at Marathon.

# Nicolet NATIONAL BANK PRESENTS Senior Spotlight

## Hayden Demerath, THL-Laona-Wabeno wrestling

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Senior Spotlight series will highlight the senior athletes in the area around the communities of Eagle River, Three Lakes, and Phelps. This week, Three Lakes-Laona Wabeno senior wrestler Hayden Demerath is in the spotlight. He is a senior at Wabeno High School and has not wrestled yet this season due to an injury. He was one of the top wrestlers on the team last year and is expected to return to action sometime this season.



holidays and continuing to count my calories and not go over my calorie intake.”

**What is your favorite childhood memory?**

“My favorite childhood memory is riding around in my go-kart in the backyard during summer with my brother.”

**Do you have a favorite meal during the season?**

“My favorite meal during wrestling season is steak and eggs with a bowl of fruit on the side. High protein and easy to burn off while also being super delicious.”

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

“In five years I see myself working for WPS as an electrical lineman with my own house and a dog.”

**Do you have plans for right after high school?**

“I will be attending NWTC for electrical line distribution in June of 2025.”

**What got you into wrestling?**

“I started wrestling my sophomore year because I was going with my brother to the gym in the mornings and my coach said that I should think about joining and my parents convinced me to join.”

**Do you have a nickname your friends and family call you?**

“I earned the nickname ‘hei hei’ from the chicken in Moana from Coach Schubert.”

**What’s the biggest challenge in maintaining weight during the wrestling season?**

“The biggest challenge maintaining weight is definitely staying disciplined during the

## Brewers to remain in Wisconsin

The Milwaukee Brewers will continue to wow fans in Milwaukee for at least another quarter of a century, as the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District (the District) voted Dec. 18 to approve a new lease agreement for American Family Field to ensure the Brewers remain in Wisconsin through 2050.

The vote comes roughly a year after Gov. Tony Evers signed 2023 Wisconsin Act 40 and 41 to keep the Brewers and Major League Baseball (MLB) in the state.

It’s important to keep a professional baseball team in the state, and having the park be successful is crucial to supporting working families, among other things.

Since opening in 2001, the ballpark has generated \$2.5 billion in total economic output for the state. In 2022, the

park supported 3,000 jobs. Along with the Brewers, they also support more than 1,100 union jobs, including Brewers and union employees.

“This is a home run, and it’s a great day to be a Wisconsinite and a Brewers fan. I am incredibly proud of the good, bipartisan work that has gone into getting to today, to ensure future generations of Wisconsinites can grow up rooting for our home team,” said Gov. Evers. “The Brewers have long been a critical part of our history and our heritage in Wisconsin, with billions of dollars in annual economic impact and hundreds of local, family-supporting jobs.”

Without the investment from the state, the District wouldn’t have had the resources to meet contractual and legal obligations to maintain and update American Family Field.

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# SPORTS

## Eagles co-op gets back on track with road win

BY CHRIS OATMAN  
CORRESPONDENT

Despite goals being hard to come by for the Northland Pines girls co-op hockey team, the Lady Eagles overcame that problem on the road in a 7-4 win at Medford Dec. 17. Pines was supposed to play a home game Dec. 19 in Rhinelander, but that game got postponed due to weather conditions.



Sarah Nordine opened the scoring in the Northland Pines girls co-op hockey team's 7-4 win at Medford Dec. 17.

—Contributed Photo

In a high-scoring battle, the Eagles kept the Raiders winless this season with its second win of the year against them.

"It was a much-needed win for our team," noted Pines coach Jeff Stebbeds. "I was proud of the way the girls worked together and played as a team. We've been struggling to put the puck in the net and tonight we had some beautiful goals."

Those Pine goals came early and often, with three of them unanswered in the first period.

Sarah Nordine scored from Ally Fuller, Larken Paff tallied one unassisted, and Bella Nowak had a helper from Ruby Kasper for the 3-0 lead.

Medford finally answered at 6:31 of the middle period before Pines rattled in three more goals to make it a 6-1 game.

Reese Retallick and Olivia Peterson scored, and Nowak got her second of the game.

The Raiders had a big third period with three goals, but Lilly Beitler scored from Paff as Pines secured the 7-4 win.

The Eagles opened the season with a 4-3 overtime win at home against the Medford Raiders.

Since then, Pines had been shut out in four straight times going into last Tuesday's win at the Raiders.

Pines improved to 2-4 on the season, and recently played Black River Falls Dec. 20 at the Dome in Eagle River. The team will also play in games over the holiday break, with games scheduled Friday, Dec. 27, against the Badger Lightning in Baraboo and Saturday, Dec. 28, versus the Icebergs in Stoughton. Games are scheduled for 4:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m., respectively.



MONEY RAISED — The senior olympics that took place Dec. 13 had \$330 raised by members of the Wellness Center and those that took part in the senior olympic activities. —Contributed Photo

## Rebounding haunts Jays in loss; end week with noncon home win

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Three Lakes boys basketball team played its second Northern Lakes Conference game of the season against Crandon Dec. 16, and rebounding played a crucial role in a 72-69 defeat before the Jays picked up a 64-44 noncon win Thursday versus Wakefield-Marenisco.

With the week split, the Bluejays moved to 3-4 (1-1) on the season.

Crandon came to town last Tuesday and had a significant height advantage going into the matchup and it showed throughout the night. The Cardinals outrebounded the Jays 46-28, which Three Lakes head coach Gerge Lurvey said was a critical part of the close loss.

"The story of this game was rebounding. It's awfully hard to win a game with rebounding numbers like that," he said. "Crandon has a huge height advantage over us, but our lack of effort in rebounding is the main reason we lost the game."

Three Lakes trailed 7-3 early on in the game before freshman Easton Lurvey, the team's leading scorer, buried a straight-away 3-pointer to cut the lead to one, 7-6.

The Cardinals built that lead back up to 13, 29-16, with 6:43 left.

A few defensive plays kept Three Lakes within striking distance and senior Eli Erickson made a 3-pointer late in the half to cut the deficit to seven, 35-28.

After trailing by 15 at the break, the Jays cut into that early in the second with a Lurvey triple.

The Jays just couldn't string together the stops they were looking for defensively.

"Another reason we lost was just our overall defensive effort. We have been priding ourselves as a defense-first team, and we just failed to execute good defense and help side defense throughout the entire game," stated Lurvey.

The coaching staff looks at this game as a good stepping stone in the

growth of the team. Coach Lurvey has already seen some positive steps forward as the team competes in every game.

"Sometimes a loss leads to good things in the future and I believe that is the case here. Offensively, we have had a couple of games in a row now where we are getting more balanced scoring, which is our goal. In this game, Eli Erickson shot very well from the field to lead the team with 18 points," explained Lurvey. "Owen Liebscher also had a very good game offensively, and defensively he continues to be the heart of our team."

Erickson shot 7-for-12 from the floor and Lurvey followed Erickson with 17 points on 5-for-16 shooting. He also led the team with nine rebounds. Senior Peyton Pitlick finished with 12 points and Owen Liebscher had 11.

### Home win

In what was a tough NLC loss to Crandon a few days prior, the Jays bounced back in a big way at home with a 20-point win.

"We had a good bounce-

back game after our loss to Crandon, but we still weren't our best on defense, especially in the second half of this game," stated Lurvey. "We need to continue to improve on our help defense so we can finish with a complete game."

Lurvey continued his consistent scoring output during his freshman season, this time finishing the game with 27 points. Eighteen of his 27 points came from beyond the 3-point line.

The coaching staff said the team will continue to improve on some aspects of the game, including keeping focus for a full 36 minutes.

"We tend to lose focus at times and give up scoring runs to our opponents, which is something we are working on," explained Lurvey. "We continue to work hard and learn every week, so the best is yet to come for us."

Three Lakes will have two weeks off before its next contest Friday, Jan. 3, against Niagara, in Three Lakes at 7:15 p.m.

## STANDINGS

### EAGLE RIVER DARTBALL

Results of 12/18/24

Team results: Club 45 3, Club Denoyer 0; Thunderbird 2, Mud Creek I 1; Sweetwater I 2, Mud Creek II 1; Sweetwater II 2, Veterans Center 1; Shotskis 2, Eagle Lanes 1

Top female shooters:

Mabel Ernst 5/23, Billie Jo Ernst 5/23, Kari Welzien 4/18, Cherie Linguist 4/21, Kristi Wethington 3/16, Jean Rhyner 2/15, Lisa

Friese 2/22

Top men shooters:

Brian Arnoldussen 8/18, John Ariola 8/27, Warner Russell 8/27, Dave Kamppi 7/22, Joe Struck II 7/23, Bill Ernst 7/30, Pete Aiello 7/23, Dan Welzien 6/19 Russ Radowicz 5/15, Scott Eschenbach 4/22, Doug Talbott 3/15

Home runs:

Jean Rhyner (2), Kelly Resih, Cheri Lindquist, Frank Merkle

Standings

Club 45

16

7

(one tie)

Eagle Lanes

15

9

Shotskis

15

9

Sweetwater II

13

11

Sweetwater I

12

12

Thunderbird

11

12

Veterans Center

10

14

(one tie)

Club Denoyer

8

Mud Creek II

16

Mud Creek I

4

20

### EAGLE RIVER POOL LEAGUE

Results of 12/19/24

Results: Eagle Lanes 13, Log Cabin 3; Uncle Kent's I 9, Club 45 II 7; Denoyer's I 11, Denoyer's II 5; Club 45 I 10, Uncle Kent's II 6; Northern Exposure 9, Brew's Pub 7; Club 45 III 10, Lumpy's 6

Eight Ball Runs: Runs: Jerry Johnson, Trent Griffin, Albert Pete, Frank Sarkauskas, Richard Wilson 2

Standings

Eagle Lanes

129

47

Club 45 III

115

61

Brew's Pub

108

68

Northern Exposure

95

81

Uncle Kents I

90

86

Denoyer's I

88

88

Club 45 I

86

90

Uncle Kents II

75

101

Lumpy's

72

104

Denoyer's II

71

105

Log Cabin

64

112

Club 45 II

63

113

### Three Lakes Dartball

Results of 12/18/24

Team Results: Wildcats 2, Oneida Village II 1; Village People 2, Newbies 1

Top women shooters:

Sue Schultz 2/10, Amy Carlson 2/7, Ann Kuntzsch 2/9, Lisa Gonzalez 1/9

Top men shooters:

Chico Travis 2/9, Ken Carlson 3/7, Reg Videgar 4/10, Bob Borek 6/8

Home Runs:

Bruce Carlson (1)

Standings

Wildcats

15

3

Legion Newbies

9

Village People

6

12

Oneida Village II

6

12

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## Hockey Schedules 2024-'25

Dec. 26, 2024 - Jan. 8, 2025

**Eagle River Falcons**

Sat, Dec. 28 vs M&M Shamrocks - 7:00pm

**Northland Pines Eagles**

**Boys**

Thurs, Dec. 26 - Sat, Dec. 28 Tournament in Madison vs Hayward - 7:00pm

**Girls**

Fri, Dec. 27 @ Baraboo - 3:00pm

Sat, Dec. 28 @ Stoughton - 12:30pm

Fri, Jan. 3 @ viroqua - 7:00pm

Tues, Jan. 7 @ DC Everest - 7:00pm

Subject to change please check team websites  
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## Upcoming High School Varsity Hoops Schedules

Dec. 26, 2024 - Jan. 8, 2025 WINTER 2024-'25

**Northland Pines Eagles**

**Boys Basketball**

Fri, Dec. 27 - Sat, Dec. 28 Tournament @ Adams Friendship vs Mosinee - 7:15pm

Tues, Jan. 7

**Girls Basketball**

Fri, Dec. 27 - Sat, Dec. 28 Tournament @ Adams Friendship @ Marathon - 7:15pm @ Ewen-Trout Creek - 6:30pm @ Mosinee - 7:15pm

Fri, Jan. 3

Mon, Jan. 6

Tues, Jan. 7

**Three Lakes Blue Jays**

**Boys Basketball**

Fri, Jan. 3 vs Niagara - 7:15pm

Tues, Jan. 7 vs Rhinelander - 7:30pm

**Girls Basketball**

Fri, Jan. 3 @ Florence - 7:15pm

Tues, Jan. 7 vs Rhinelander - 6:00pm

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**Put your football predictions to the test throughout the season! Pick this week's winners for your chance to win \$100!**

The Vilas County News-Review's Football Contest is easy and fun! Simply circle the winner of each game listed. Game 1 has added importance. See Game of the Week notes. Each game represents one point. A perfect score is 16 points. Be sure to fill in the Tiebreaker section. For any game ending in a tie, or if a game is delayed, postponed or rescheduled for any reason, the point will be thrown out. See official rules below. You must be at least 8 years old to enter. To enter, clip along the dotted line, then place game entry in the drop box at any of our sponsor's retail outlet. Entrants must list name, address and phone number clearly ... information must be legible. Illegible entries will be disqualified. Decisions of the Contest Judge (News-Review) are final. Drop off your entry forms at the participating businesses listed below, or at the Vilas County News-Review office. Deadline is noon Friday unless otherwise stated.

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WEEK 17 DEC. 28 & DEC. 29

CIRCLE THE WINNING TEAMS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$100!

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- Indianapolis at N.Y. Giants
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- Carolina at Tampa Bay
- N.Y. Jets at Buffalo
- Green Bay at Minnesota
- Las Vegas at New Orleans
- Tennessee at Jacksonville
- Dallas at Philadelphia
- Miami at Cleveland
- Boston College at Nebraska (NCAA)
- Louisiana at TCU (NCAA)
- E. Carolina at NC State (NCAA)
- UConn at N. Carolina (NCAA)

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**How to Play**  
For each of the 16 games listed above, circle the team you are picking to win. **One entry per person.**

**Game of the Week**  
You must correctly pick the winner of Game 1 to advance in the contest. If you pick Game 1 incorrectly, you cannot win the weekly contest, unless all entrants pick Game 1 incorrectly.

**Tiebreaker 1**  
Total combined points scored (both teams) in Game of the Week.

**Tiebreaker 2**  
Total combined offensive yards (both teams) in Game of the Week.

Week 16, 17 and 18 winners to be announced in the January 8th issue.

**DEADLINE - NOON - FRIDAY DEC. 27**

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Due to early deadlines and the holidays, the football contest winners for week 16, 17 and 18, will all be announced in the January 8th issue.

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  - No points are awarded on tie games, or in case any game is not played for any reason during the scheduled week. Should the News-Review make an error listing a game/games, those games will be thrown out, not counted.
  - Entering the Football Contest constitutes permission by the entrant for his or her name and photograph to be used for news and reasonable promotion purposes at no charge.
  - Employees of this newspaper and their immediate families are ineligible to participate. No entries will be accepted after the posted deadline.
  - Any inquiry about a protest of weekly results must be made by noon on the Friday following the announcement of the winner. The decision of the Contest Administrator is final.
  - No purchase is necessary. Entries will be accepted if received by 12 p.m. Friday or the specified date of entry week-by-week. Email entries to newsreview@mmlocal.com
  - Weekly deadline for entry will be noon Friday, except when noted otherwise on the weekly entry form.
  - Neither this newspaper nor any co-sponsor will be responsible for illegible entry forms or those lost, stolen or damaged in any way.
  - Limit: one entry per person per week.** Each entry must represent the original work of one entrant; group entries, systems or other attempts to enter multiple entries will be disqualified. Filing out extra forms and putting your friends' or relatives' names on them violates this rule. Any such entries are destroyed prior to grading.



# VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW FOOTBALL CONTEST

NEW CONTEST EACH WEEK!  
WIN \$100! PAID WEEKLY!

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**SPECIAL \$200 PRIZE!**

All 18 weekly winners, plus all other players during the season (with valid entries) who have perfect scores (16 out of 16) will be entered into a Playoff Contest. This will be a one-time Bowl Game/Playoff Game Contest after the regular season concludes. The winner of the Playoff will win \$200 cash thanks to the businesses that sponsor the annual contest.

**Put your football predictions to the test throughout the season! Pick this week's winners for your chance to win \$100!**

The Vilas County News-Review's Football Contest is easy and fun! Simply circle the winner of each game listed. Game 1 has added importance. See Game of the Week notes. Each game represents one point. A perfect score is 16 points. Be sure to fill in the Tiebreaker section. For any game ending in a tie, or if a game is delayed, postponed or rescheduled for any reason, the point will be thrown out. See official rules below. You must be at least 8 years old to enter. To enter, clip along the dotted line, then place game entry in the drop box at any of our sponsor's retail outlet. Entrants must list name, address and phone number clearly ... information must be legible. Illegible entries will be disqualified. Decisions of the Contest Judge (News-Review) are final. Drop off your entry forms at the participating businesses listed below, or at the Vilas County News-Review office. Deadline is noon Friday unless otherwise stated.

**ACE**  
The helpful place.

Open 7 Days a Week to Serve You  
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**THREE LAKES CHEESE HAUS**

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**WEEK 18 DEADLINE: NOON, FRIDAY, JAN. 3**

PLEASE CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

**VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW FOOTBALL CONTEST**

**WEEK 18 JAN. 4 & JAN. 5**

CIRCLE THE WINNING TEAMS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$100!

**GAME OF THE WEEK**

1. Seattle at L.A. Rams
2. Cleveland at Baltimore
3. L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas
4. Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
5. San Francisco at Arizona
6. Carolina at Atlanta
7. Kansas City at Denver
8. Houston at Tennessee
9. N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia
10. Jacksonville at Indianapolis
11. Minnesota at Detroit
12. Washington at Dallas
13. Chicago at Green Bay
14. Miami at N.Y. Jets
15. New Orleans at Tampa Bay
16. Buffalo at New England

**How to Play**  
For each of the 16 games listed above, circle the team you are picking to win. **One entry per person.**

**Game of the Week**  
You must correctly pick the winner of Game 1 to advance in the contest. If you pick Game 1 incorrectly, you cannot win the weekly contest, unless all entrants pick Game 1 incorrectly.

**Tiebreaker 1**  
Total combined points scored (both teams) in Game of the Week.

**Tiebreaker 2**  
Total combined offensive yards (both teams) in Game of the Week.

Week 16, 17 and 18 winners to be announced in the January 8th issue.

**DEADLINE - NOON - FRIDAY JAN. 3**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**Drop off your entry at these sponsors:**

- Eagle River
  - Hometown Pharmacy
  - Nelson's Ace Hardware
  - Peoples State Bank
  - VC News-Review
- Land O' Lakes
  - Hometown Pharmacy
  - St. Germain
  - Timber's Bar
- Sayner
  - Taylor's Sayner Pub
  - Three Lakes Shell
  - Scottie's Bait & Tackle

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Due to early deadlines and the holidays, the football contest winners for week 16, 17 and 18, will all be announced in the January 8th issue.

**FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS, WE HOPE YOU HAVE A VERY Merry Christmas AND A SAFE, JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

**OFFICIAL RULES**

1. The object is to pick the winner of 16 games. Games will include professional and college games played Friday, Saturday or Sunday. The weekly winner will be the entrant with the most points ... 16 being the most possible. The weekly winner must have the Game of the Week correct. If there is a tie, it goes to Tiebreaker 1, the total points scored by both teams in the week's designated game. If that fails to determine a winner, the judges will go to Tiebreaker 2, total offensive yardage from scrimmage in the designated game. If there is still a tie, a drawing at the News-Review, Eagle River, will be used.
2. No points are awarded on tie games, or in case any game is not played for any reason during the scheduled week. Should the News-Review make an error listing a game/games, those games will be thrown out, not counted.
3. Entering the Football Contest constitutes permission by the entrant for his or her name and photograph to be used for news and reasonable promotion purposes at no charge.
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# Lifestyle



**SNOW BIRDS** — Even in the dead of winter, some colorful visitors can be seen in North Woods backwards.

**Top:** A male cardinal.

**Bottom:** A bluejay.

**Top right:** A black-capped chickadee.

**Bottom right:** A bald eagle.

—STAFF PHOTOS



## Warm The Children funding goal met, thanks to community support

Program exceeds \$80,000 for seventh straight year

**BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF** While the donation goal for Warm The Children (WTC), a program sponsored by the Vilas County News-Review under the auspices of the Eagle River Rotary

Foundation to provide winter clothing for children in need, has now been reached for the seventh consecutive year, donations are still being accepted for next year.

The program has successfully met its fundraising goal each year since increasing the amount from \$70,000 to \$80,000 in 2018. The increase in fundraising goals has allowed WTC to provide warmth for more area children, as well as raise the spending amount per child.

News-Review Publisher Kurt Krueger said although the program has ended for the 2024 season, donations are still coming in to help clothe children.

“This enables us to start the 2025 winter season with money already in reserve. Because we start the

shopping season so soon after we start receiving donations, it is important that we have funds so that children can be shopped for as the winter season begins,” he said.

He stressed that every penny raised goes to clothe children in need in the area, as the News-Review funds all of the administrative, marketing, and other costs associated with the program.

“I think it’s important that the money being donated is used exclusively to help the kids and families that need it most,” said Krueger. “We can fund all the program costs because we have a strong community newspaper with fantastic support from readers and area businesses, our advertisers.”

The spending limit was

also raised for shoppers this year.

“We also want to let supporters of this program know that because of their generosity, we were able to increase the spending limit from \$220 to \$260 for children ages 2 to 17, and \$110 to \$130 for those younger than two years of this year. When the community is generous with their donations, we are able to better serve those in the program,” said program coordinator Nancy Brandner.

“For low-income families to be able to purchase needed clothes for their children, especially new, high-quality clothing, is such a much-appreciated gift,” she added.

Krueger said while there are many programs that seek financial help during the holidays, the WTC

program continues to be well accepted.

Although the program has ended for the year, donations still have been trickling in as people wrap up their year-end giving.

“How inspiring it is to live and work in communities that harbor such generous and thoughtful people — both residents and seasonal visitors,” said Krueger.

WTC operates under the auspices of the Eagle River Rotary Club Foundation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit group.

Tax-deductible donations may be made year-round and are applied toward the next year’s program, allowing volunteers to send children shopping when the cold weather begins in the fall.

To WARM, Pg. 2



### Not that you asked, but ...

BY ERIC JOHNSON

### Paging Santa

*“Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmastime.”*

— American writer Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867-1957)

Reporter’s Note: Coming down sick on deadline, I revisit a favorite holiday chestnut in Johnson family circles.

As I sat down to write this early deadline Christmas column, I couldn’t help but think of all the holiday seasons I’ve spent with loved ones.

The memories always keep flooding back, more so over the years and I grow older and loved ones increasingly pass away.

The magic of the Christmas season, while it still shines bright, somehow seems to burn brighter in my memories of Christmases past, remembering the times shared with family and memories that fondly linger, especially this time of year.

Memories of time spent surrounded by people I love — and loved — the most.

The smell of Christmas cookies baking in the oven, the sound of Bing Crosby crooning “White Christmas” in the background, and the sight of the sparkling lights and ornaments adorning the tree never fail to transport me back to a simpler time of childhood moments that made life special then and served as the building blocks for memories that have become a part of who I am today.

As a child, Christmas Eves were spent celebrating with my dad’s folks, Grandma and Grandpa Johnson, my folks and I in our 1968 Dodge Charger R/T heading north out of Milwaukee for the quaint Ozaukee County hamlet of Cedarburg, known then and now

To JOHNSON, Pg. 6

## Vilas Economic Development Corporation announces Business of the Year Award

The Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) announced that the Eagle River Animal Hospital has been selected for its 2024 Business of the Year Award.

The announcement was made at the VCEDC Annual Meeting on Friday, Dec. 13.

The Eagle River Animal Hospital was selected among eleven VCEDC Business of the Month recipients this past year. The Eagle River Animal Hospital was named the January 2024 Business of the Month.

“When you look back at 2024 one business stood out to us, the Eagle River Animal Hospital,” said Jim Tuckwell, VCEDC Board Chairman.

“Owner Dr. Katie Hom had a vision to take veterinary care in Eagle River to the next level with its new, modern, and efficient 10,000 sq. ft. facility, which is serving pet owners from throughout the North Woods, central Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. After one year in its new facility, the Eagle River Animal Hospital is already

exceeding growth targets which is a testament to the quality of care that they provide.”

Dr. Hom expressed her gratitude for the Business of the Year Award recognition, saying, “We are honored to receive the Business of the Year award for a 2024. We hoped to create a professional, modern facility while preserving the warmth and compassion of our personalized care. This recognition affirms that we didn’t just build a building, but a piece of the community that will continue

to serve pets far into the future.”

The past VCEDC Business of the Year Award recipients include Private Chef Luke in 2023, Trout Lake Station in 2022, Camp Manitowish in 2021 and Great Wisconsin Steak Company in 2020.

The Vilas County Economic Development Corporation, a 501c3 nonprofit, has a mission to build a strong, diverse North Wood economy. For more information, or to donate, visit [www.vilas-countydec.org](http://www.vilas-countydec.org)



# LIFESTYLE

## Northwoods Project SEARCH to host Jan. 8 open house

The Northwoods Project SEARCH program will host an open house on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at its host business, Aspirus Hospital in Rhinelander.

Project SEARCH is a business-led program that allows young adults with developmental disabilities an opportunity to perform internships to learn and develop job skills, and explore career paths. The program includes instruction, skills training, and ongoing job development.

The information night will serve to inform those

attending the goals of the program, provide information on becoming a Project SEARCH Intern, and how to get enrolled with Project SEARCH.

This open house is open to all potential interns and their families, teachers, caseworkers, care managers, counselors, and learning support directors to gain more understanding of Project SEARCH.

For more information, contact Project SEARCH instructor Rod Olson at 715-482-8957 or [olsonrod@rhinelander.k12.us](mailto:olsonrod@rhinelander.k12.us)



**CHARITABLE DONATION** — St. Peter's Thrift Store and Annex donated \$500 to Trees For Tomorrow. Presenting the check is Fr. Ron Serrano of Northern Lakes Catholic Communities (left) and Kristin Beyer, manager of St. Peter's Thrift Store and Annex (middle) to Executive Director Cheryl Todea of Trees For Tomorrow (right). — Contributed Photo

## Warm

FROM PAGE 1

Checks can be made out to "Warm The Children: and mailed to the Vilas County News-Review, P.O. Box 1929, Eagle River, WI 54521 or dropped off at the News-Review office. Online donations can be made at [newsreview.com](http://newsreview.com) on the homepage.

Volunteer shoppers are always welcome to sign up and take families shopping. The program serves children in the North Woods.

### Shopping completed

The final families completed their shopping just ahead of the Christmas holiday, Brandner added.

This brings about the end of another successful season which clothed a total of 468 local children.

"What's truly amazing is that we have again surpassed the \$80,000 fundraising goal and will now have money in reserve to begin the shopping next year," Brandner said.

"We couldn't put on this

amazing program without the volunteers and the donors. Their time and monetary efforts given each year are truly a blessing," she added.

For more information, call Brandner at 715-479-4421.

### Community donations

In addition to many anonymous donors, donations were received as of Dec. 20 from residents in the following communities:

**Conover:** George and Sue Holloway.

**Eagle River:** Brett and Louise Edwards of Eagle River Floor Covering; Dennie Gother and Nancy Mayer; Brian and Mell Ross.

**Other Wisconsin cities:** Mike and Angie Neylon, Pardeeville.

**Out of state:** The Lee Krajewski Family, Naples, Fla.; Mary Kapke, Eagan Minn.; Claudia Wittmann, Buffalo, Minn.; Jim and Karen Zima, Chattanooga, Tenn.



**PANTRY DONATION** — The BoBoen Snowmobile Club and a Secret Santa donated \$2,430 and food to the Vilas Food Pantry. Presenting the check and food donations to the Vilas Food Pantry were, pictured from left to right, club members Bob and Judy Schell, Director of the Vilas County Food Pantry Sandy Weber and Gene Weber. Half of the funds were raised at the club's annual Christmas party by a combination of member donations and a 50/50 raffle. The other half was from matching funds from a Secret Santa. This is the fourth year the snowmobile club and a Secret Santa have made a joint donation to the Food Pantry. The Club members also donated 10 boxes of nonperishable food items. — Contributed Photo

## Resources available for free flu, COVID, RSV vaccines

The winter months can witness an uptick in respiratory viruses, but there are several resources available to those seeking free vaccines for the flu, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

"We know that getting vaccinated is the best defense against severe illness and death caused by flu, COVID-19 and RSV," said Nirav D. Shah, MD, JD, principal deputy director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[@vcnews](https://www.facebook.com/vcnews)

"Respiratory virus season is here and now is the time to get your updated vaccines so you can focus on what matters most: spending quality time with friends and family."

It is recommended that everyone 6 months old and older should get this season's flu and COVID-19 vaccines. Adults ages 75 and older, adults 60-74 years old who have certain health conditions, and adults age 60 and older who live in nursing homes should

get an RSV vaccine if they have never been vaccinated against RSV. Pregnant people should also get an RSV vaccine to protect their babies from severe RSV disease in their first six months.

The following is some information on how and where someone can get vaccinated:

### Where to get vaccinated

There are many places to get vaccines against flu and COVID-19, as well as RSV if

eligible. It is possible to get all of these vaccines in one visit.

Vaccines can be obtained at some doctor's offices, local health centers, or most pharmacies. To find a local pharmacy, visit [vaccines.gov](http://vaccines.gov).

State or local health departments may also be able to say where one can get vaccinated in their local area.

For more information on immunizations

To **VACCINES**, Pg. 5

# SHOP LOCAL

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Thanks everyone for another great year!

We're still havin' fun downtown and hope you will join us there in 2025.

Grandma's Toy Box - Eagle Craft & Hobby

Downtown Eagle River (715)-477-2227 Open every day at 10:00 a.m.

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10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Great Family Fun... Any Size Group

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northwoodsattractions.com



# LIFESTYLE



**GIRL SCOUTS** — 12 local Girl Scout troops of all ages visited Legacy of the Northwoods senior living facility on Sunday, Dec. 15 to sing some Christmas tunes. A graduate of the Girl Scouts Alyssa Imse also joined and played the piano for the girls. There was hot chocolate and cookies served for both the girls and residents. —Contributed Photo



In attendance for the award presentation of the Christmas Card Art Contest were, from left to right, Dr. Pete Schindelholz, contest winner Ellie Sullivan, Dr. Laura Goll and art teacher, Megan Running. —Contributed Photo

## Schindelholz Dental Christmas art contest winner announced

Ellie Sullivan, a 2nd grade Land O' Lakes Elementary School student, was named the winner of Schindelholz Dental's annual Christmas Art Contest. Dr. Pete "Painless" Schindelholz and Dr. Laura

Goll, Land O' Lakes dentists, organized the event alongside art teacher, Megan Running. Students, grades 1st through 4th, were invited to submit a holiday painting or drawing. Of these entries, one student's

artwork is selected as the official Schindelholz Dental Christmas card for the year. This is Schindelholz Dental's twelfth year sponsoring this event. Sullivan will be taking home a new art supply kit

and a personalized pillow with her artwork printed on it. The Land O' Lakes Elementary School also received a donation from Schindelholz Dental for their art program.

## Northern Waters Genealogical Society Meeting scheduled for Jan. 7

The Northern Waters Genealogical Society invites the public to their next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025, from 2 - 3 p.m., at the Boulder Junction Community Center, 5392 Park St. A brief business meeting will follow. A Zoom option is also available.

This month's program is "Censational Census Strategies for Finding Those Missing Persons" with speaker, Mary Kircher Roddy by recorded webinar. The U.S. Federal census and its "little brother," the state census, are among the major workhorses of genealogical research. This presentation presents 20+ tips for finding missing ancestors and mining the census for more clues for follow-up research.

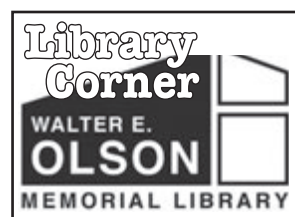
Mary Kircher Roddy, CG®, grew up in San Rafael, Calif. She earned a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from The University of California, Riverside, in 1982 and a master's in professional accounting from the University of Texas in 1984. She earned a certificate in genealogy and family history at the University of Washington in 2005. She was credentialed by the

Board for Certification of Genealogists® in 2019. She is a trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists and is a former treasurer for the Association of Professional Genealogists. She is co-editor of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

Mary became interested in genealogy in 2000 in anticipation of a sabbatical in Ireland where her husband was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Limerick. She was sure she would complete all her Irish genealogy while her husband taught at UL and her children attended Monaleen school. Two decades later, the genealogy is still a work in progress. But the trip to Ireland awakened something deep in her Celtic bloodlines, the Irish tradition of the Seanachí, the storytellers and historians of yore.

This program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

For more information or to request the Zoom link, call 715-686-7339.



The Library is open for in-person visits and curbside service. As always, Wi-Fi access and digital services are available 24/7. Have questions? Find answers at [olsonlibrary.org](http://olsonlibrary.org) and contact the library at 715-479-8070 or [olsonlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:olsonlibrary@gmail.com).

Here's what else you need to know about current Library happenings:

- The Library will be closing at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 31, and will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1 for New Year, but the digital library never closes! Browse digital books, audiobooks and popular magazines at [wplc.override.com](http://wplc.override.com) or by using the Libby app. You can also find streaming video, crafting tutorials, language classes and more at [olsonlibrary.org/digital\\_resources](http://olsonlibrary.org/digital_resources).

- Attention cookie bakers of all ages! Register for OML's upcoming Cookie Bake Off contest, scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 18. Prizes will be awarded in Youth and Adult categories. Sign up now by phone, in person, or at [tinyurl.com/5avk33f8](http://tinyurl.com/5avk33f8). Tasters, more details to come.

- Thursday, Jan. 2, 1 p.m.: Compassus Grief Support Group. Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Compassus offers a monthly support group that can help. Call 715-301-7210 to learn more.

- Saturday, Jan. 4, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Monthly Mending Day. Call or stop by to sign up! Bring your clean clothes (or a well-loved toy) to the Library for free mending by our wonderful volunteers. You can even check out a sewing machine if you want to do your own mending or crafting projects.

- Monday, Jan. 6, 4:30 p.m.: Eagle River Genealogical Society. Connect with others doing family history work to build skills, find new resources, and tackle tricky questions. This month's meeting will be devoted to learning about the David Rumsey Map Collection. Don't forget you can access local history materials — including microfilm of the VCNR going back to the 1890s and Family Search Affiliate Library records — at OML.

- Thursday, Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m.: Growing Together, a free monthly program for children and their grown-ups from Vilas Public Health. Each month the Library will do a craft/activity, learn about area resources, and build connections within and between families. RSVP

at [surveymonkey.com/r/5TSYKXK](http://surveymonkey.com/r/5TSYKXK) so they have enough supplies!

### Weekly offerings

- Mondays, 2 - 3:30 p.m. — Hone your skills at Ukulele Practice. Don't play? Bring another instrument — or your voice — and join us!
- Tuesdays, 10 a.m. — Story Time with Ms. Tori. Bring your grown-up for stories, songs and fun!

- Thursdays, 9 - 11 a.m. — Aunt Gracie's Sewing Circle
- Fridays, 10 - 11 a.m. — Wiggle, Giggle & Shake music and movement program for children ages 0-5.

### Monthly offerings

- Compassus Grief Support Group (1st Thursdays, 1 - 2 p.m.) — Jan. 2 (Feb. 6)
- Free Mending Day (1st Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.) — Jan. 4 (Feb. 1)
- Eagle River Genealogical Society (1st Mondays, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.) — Jan. 6 (Feb. 3)
- Growing Together

Family Support Group (2nd Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.) — Jan. 9 (Feb. 13)

Find books, puzzles, movies and more! A reminder that the Walter Olson Library Friends (W.O.L.F.) has ongoing book sales in the library lobby. For more information, or to join W.O.L.F., contact the Library.

## Badger Bridge details results

### Winners of North/South:

First: Joel De Angelo and Bob Busakowski. Second: Dan Del Ponte and Marge Kleszczewski.

### Winners of East/West:

First: La Nora Kleerup and Joy VandenHeuvel. Second: Bob Dow and Jerry Baerenwald; Susan Mommaerts and Dorothy Hospodar.

## We're Skipping an Issue for New Years Week

Other than this doubled-dated edition, there will be no Vilas County News-Review or The Three Lakes News published the week of Jan. 1, 2025

*Happy New Year!*



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## DEADLINES FOR SECTIONS

**OBITUARIES**  
MONDAY 10 AM

**NEWS**  
MONDAY 10 AM

**LIFESTYLE**  
FRIDAY 10 AM

**TOWN PAGES**  
THURSDAY 4 PM



# LIFESTYLE



Jan Christofferson (right), W.O.L.F. Treasurer, presents the donation to Library staff members Sara Klemann (center) and Aley Schiessl-Moore (left). — Contributed Photo

## W.O.L.F. makes donation to Olson Library

The Walter Olson Library Friends (W.O.L.F.) donated \$6,500 to the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library.

The funds will be used to supplement funding from the six municipalities served by the library

to purchase materials, produce programs, and provide services to Library users.

Funds were raised through the library's three large annual used book sales, ongoing lobby book sales, donations,

W.O.L.F. membership dues, and summer sales at the Farmer's Market.

For more information on how you can support the library, visit [www.olsonlibrary.org/support-oml](http://www.olsonlibrary.org/support-oml) or contact the library at (715) 479-8070.

## Ava Polcaster earns Dean's List Honor at Lee University

Lee University congratulates Ava Polcaster of Three Lakes on earning Dean's List honors during the Fall 2024 semester.

Dean's List recognition is earned by full-time, undergraduate students with a semester grade point average between 3.7 and 4.00.

Lee University is a private, Christ-centered university located in Cleveland, Tenn., in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. For more information, visit [www.leeuniversity.edu](http://www.leeuniversity.edu).

## DNR provides recycling tips for holiday season

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering tips to help families save money, reduce waste and keep recycling, and trash workers safe during upcoming holidays.

"We know recycling can be confusing," said Jennifer Semrau, DNR waste reduction and diversion coordinator. "But there are some basic tips people can use to make tackling holiday waste less overwhelming. Knowing the right thing to do with things like batteries and light strings can prevent damage to recycling facilities and keep workers safe."

### Recyclables

Many items can be recycled anywhere in Wisconsin. These items, which the state bans from landfills, include:

- Cardboard – Flatten boxes before putting them in carts or bins so that recycling equipment can handle them properly
- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Office paper
- Plastic #1 and #2 containers
- Aluminum cans
- Steel (tin) cans
- Glass bottles and jars

Be sure containers are empty of liquids and excess gunk and give them a quick rinse. They don't need to be spotless, but they should be mostly clean. Don't crush or flatten cans or bottles going into a curbside recycling cart or container — this makes it harder for equipment at recycling facilities

to recognize and properly sort things like aluminum cans.

Some recycling programs accept wrapping paper that can be torn and doesn't have any glitter, foil, ribbons or other adornments, but others don't accept any wrapping paper because of the risk of contamination from nonrecyclable coatings and decorations. Most communities accept junk mail and other mixed paper, such as cereal boxes.

Check locally for a complete list of what local programs accept, and don't rely on packaging labels. Keep in mind that recycling at a relative's home may be different than what can be recycled closer to home.

### Non-recyclables

Some items can cause serious problems at recycling facilities that aren't designed to handle them, including a risk of fire and worker injury. Many of these can be recycled at drop-off sites, but should not go in curbside recycling bins or carts. These include:

- Holiday light strings, cords and other "tangles."
- At modern recycling facilities, these wrap around equipment, meaning a facility has to be shut down for workers to cut the material loose. Some retailers, electronics recyclers and communities offer seasonal recycling programs for light strings. If that's not an option, put broken lights in the trash.

- Plastic bags, plastic film and wrap. These also get tangled in recycling

equipment. In addition, bagged recyclables cause problems because workers can't be sure what's inside, meaning recyclables in bags will likely end up in the trash. If collecting cans, bottles and other recyclables in a bag to reduce mess, empty the bag into a bin or cart and then put the bag in the trash. Many types of clean, dry plastic bags and wrap can be used to store items at drop-off locations. Learn more about reducing, reusing and recycling plastic bags and wrap on the DNR's Recycling Plastic Bags webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/bags.html>.

- Batteries and electronics. Recycling facilities that manage cans, bottles and cardboard, and waste facilities that manage household garbage aren't set up to handle batteries and electronics. Rechargeable batteries can cause fires in collection trucks and facilities if they are damaged by equipment, and many electronics contain hazardous materials. Find more on how to recycle batteries and electronics, including drop-off site locations, on the DNR's Electronics Recycling webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Ecycle>.
- Tissue paper. While not a hazard, the fibers in this type of paper are too short to be recycled and reused again.
- Photo cards and cards that play music, light up, or have glitter or ribbons. These cards may contain batteries, which are a fire risk, or nonrecyclable material that contaminates other paper.

For more information about what can and can't be recycled, visit the DNR's What to Recycle in Wisconsin webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/Banned.html>.

To RECYCLE, Pg. 6

## Senior Citizen Menus

Dec. 30 - Jan. 3  
Sponsored by ADRC of Vilas & Oneida Counties

### Eagle River

**More Than A Meal Café**  
at The Rock Mission Center  
Serving at noon  
Lighter substitute available in place of main entrée: grilled chicken salad. Reservations or cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance. Call Jennie Johnson at 715-891-1221 to reserve or cancel a meal.

**Monday, December 30**  
Chicken breast, mushroom and bacon sauce; brown and wild rice blend, brussel sprouts, apple slices, banana cake.  
New Year Celebration.

**Tuesday, December 31**  
Ham and scalloped potatoes, peas, pineapple, multi-grain bread, chocolate pudding.

**Wednesday, January 1**  
Closed for New Year Holiday.

**Thursday, January 2**  
Lasagna, whole kernel corn, mixed greens with dressing, garlic breadstick, fruit gelatin dessert.

**Friday, January 3**  
Beef chop suey on whole grain rice, Oriental blend veggies, pineapple, carrot cake, and apricots.

### St. Germain

**St. Germain Community Center**; Serving at 10:30 a.m.  
Home-delivered meals only. Home-delivered meals are available based on eligibility. For reservations or cancellations, please call Pam Cira at (715) 891-5453 (must call 24 hours in advance). Lighter substitute available in place of main entrée: Grilled chicken salad (or healthy salad).

**Wednesday, January 1**  
Closed for New Year Holiday.

**Thursday, January 2**  
Lasagna, whole kernel corn, mixed greens with dressing, garlic breadstick, fruit gelatin dessert.

**Friday, January 3**  
Beef chop suey on whole grain rice, Oriental blend veggies, pineapple, carrot cake, apricots.

### Phelps

**Golden Years Café, Northern Exposure Restaurant**  
Serving at noon  
Lighter substitute available in place of main entrée: Healthy salad. All meals are served with fat-free milk, whole grain rolls/bread with margarine. Meals are served Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon. Reservations or cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance. Call Judi Heikkinen at 715-545-3697 to reserve or cancel a meal.

**Monday, December 30**  
Shepherd's pie with ground beef and mixed vegetables, whole wheat roll, apple strudel.

**Wednesday, January 1**  
Closed for New Year Holiday.

**Friday, January 3**  
Baked fish, baked potato rounds, baked beans, whole wheat bread, applesauce.

### Land O' Lakes

**Love of Life Café, Gateway Lodge**  
Serving at 11:30 a.m.  
Butter and margarine offered. Coffee and fat-free milk served with each meal. Lighter substitute in place of main entrée: Grilled chicken salad. Place reservations and

choice with Anna Moore (715) 547-6076 at least 24 hours in advance.

**Tuesday, December 31**  
Salisbury steak with mashed potatoes and gravy; dark green salad, green beans, whole wheat bread, cookie.

**Wednesday, January 1**  
Closed for New Year Holiday.

### North Lakeland Elementary School (NLES)

**Manners Café**  
Serving at 11:15 a.m.  
Butter and margarine offered. Coffee and fat-free milk served with each meal. For reservations, contact Mary Ellen Duranso at (715) 904-0065 at least 24 hours in advance.

**Wednesday, January 1**  
Closed for New Year Holiday.

**Thursday, January 2**  
Closed for New Year Holiday

### Three Lakes

**Reiter Center**  
Serving at 11 a.m.  
Contact 715-499-3738 at least one day in advance to make or cancel a reservation.

**Monday, December 30**  
Chicken breast, mushroom and bacon sauce; brown and wild rice blend, brussel sprouts, apple slices, banana cake.

**Tuesday, December 31**  
Closed for New Year Holiday.

**Wednesday, January 1**  
Closed for New Year Holiday.

**Thursday, January 2**  
Lasagna, whole kernel corn, mixed greens with dressing, garlic breadstick, fruit gelatin dessert.

## Backward Glances

Compiled by Josephine Hinderman

### One Year Ago - 2023

The 23rd annual Vintage World Championship Snowmobile Races have been rescheduled due to record-high winter temperatures halting ice oval preparations, according to World Championship Derby Complex (WCDC) Race Director Craig Marchbank...Marchbank stated the WCDC grounds crew, which has more than three decades of combined experience building race-tracks, has had a hard time maintaining the oval's build this year.

### 10 Years Ago - 2014

In response to a lawsuit brought against the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia has vacated a 2012 decision which delisted wolves as an endangered species... U.S. District Judge Beryl Howell's order affects Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. The ruling bans further wolf hunting and trapping in those states.

### 20 Years Ago - 2004

A Three Lakes Junior High School student died in an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) accident in the town of Monico Christmas Day, according to the Oneida County Sheriff's Department... (Joel Cudahy) was an eighth-grade student in the Three Lakes School District. He was the third Three Lakes student to die as a result of an ATV or snowmobile accident since 2002.

### 30 Years Ago - 1994

The Eagle River Area Fire Department responded to three calls during the past week, but no serious fires were reported, according to Fire Chief Patrick Weber...The department responded to an alarm at the Eagle River Health Care Center...The Department also received a call of an electrical fire in the main office of the Eagle River Inn...The final call came in when the department responded to an apartment building at 1000 East Wall St. in Eagle River.

### 40 Years Ago - 1984

Because notice of a confirmation hearing was



**DURABLE, 1954** — A durable and loveable symbol of Sheltered Valley ski area is Bernese, the hill's St. Bernard mascot, who found a whitetail fawn friend at the Northernaire estate. Sheltered Valley and the Northernaire hotel are widely known not only for delux facilities, but for the frequency of native wildlife sighting.

given a day later than specified by law, a decision on the \$365,000 bid, entered to purchase the bankrupt Northernaire Resort in Three Lakes, was postponed last week to Tuesday, January 11...It is expected that more opposition to the bid will come from the creditors who will be paid nothing if the sale was confirmed, including Fidelity Savings of Antigo and Peoples State Bank of Three Lakes.

### 50 Years Ago - 1974

Despite the generally gloomy economic picture, a fairly bright tourism season in Florida has been predicted by a number of airline and hotel representatives, according to Bill Broelich, Jr., of Froelich's Sayer Lodge, who is spending the winter in Florida.

### 60 Years Ago - 1964

County traffic officers in northern counties, including Vilas County, have issued warnings that snowmobiles may not be driven on highways...It is definitely illegal according to the Vilas County Traffic department...Not only is this illegal, county officers add, but snowmobile owners are reminded about trailer regulations. If they haul snowmobiles on a trailer, the new Wisconsin

law requires all trailers to have electric tail lights and turn signals.

### 70 Years Ago - 1954

As the year closes, so close the books of two of the finest charity projects in this area — the Help-A-Child fund for humans and the Vilas Humane Society for pets. A spokesman for these two organizations pointed out that "they can only continue if you open your hearts to them — if you did not submit a Christmas offering, you can still do this."

### 80 Years Ago - 1944

Radical changes in food rationing, which seem to indicate that the next three months will see the tightest situation since the war started, were announced this week by the local war price and rationing board...The changing situation in the war in Europe, as well as the increasing demands of the war in the Pacific and the necessity for increased production, have altered the condition on the home front and have made certain rationing changes necessary.

*Due to the poor condition of the bound volumes of old newspapers used to compile Backward Glances, we will only include 90 and 100 years ago if the quality of the books allows.*

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# THREE LAKES

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The Demmer Library will give families the opportunity to make their own gingerbread houses during the week of Dec. 25 in the Libratory. During business hours that week, families can drop in and will find everything they need to make a gingerbread house from graham crackers.

“Graham crackers are an easier material than gingerbread,” April Lammert, Demmer’s Programming Librarian said. “Families can leave the houses here to be displayed in the young adult area or take them home to enjoy.”

The program is free and offered the whole week.

### Weekly Offerings

- No Story Hour the week of Dec. 30
- Have you started looking at your family tree and don’t know where to go

next? Let the Three Lakes Genealogical Society help you. The group loves to assist new, novice, and expert family sleuths find more records and more answers to questions. They are offering active “office hours” in the local history room of the library where you can drop in and ask your questions on Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m. Call the library for more details.

### Monthly Offerings

- In-Person and Virtual D&D (1st & 3rd Sundays)
  - Harry Potter Club (1st Monday)
  - Lego Club (2nd Monday)
  - Crafternoon (2nd Tuesday)
  - Drop-in Scrabble (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
  - Writers Group (3rd Thursday)
  - Teen Hosted Book Club (4th Monday)
  - Books: The Other Channel (Third Wednesday)
- For more information, call the library at 715-546-3391.

## Vaccines

FROM PAGE 2

in Vilas County, visit the Vilas County Public Health Department website at [https://www.vilas-countywi.gov/departments/services/public\\_health\\_department/index.php](https://www.vilas-countywi.gov/departments/services/public_health_department/index.php)

Vaccines are free to those with insurance, including Medicaid. People with Medicare (Parts B and D) or Medicare Advantage, can also get the vaccines for free.

Most plans through a job or state’s marketplace fully cover the flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines through in-network doctors.

If one is uninsured or doesn’t have health coverage, state, local health departments, or local community health centers may offer the flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines at no cost.

For more information on Vilas County’s immunization costs, visit [https://www.vilascountywi.gov/departments/services/public\\_health\\_department/immunizations.php](https://www.vilascountywi.gov/departments/services/public_health_department/immunizations.php).

To explore insurance options and affordable health plans, visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or see if a person can get covered through Medicare or Wisconsin’s Medicaid program.

### Getting vaccinated

The CDC says that vaccines are the best protection against getting sick from flu, COVID-19 and RSV, and that getting vaccinated soon means a person will be ready for upcoming winter gatherings.

Visit [cdc.gov/RiskLessDoMore](https://www.cdc.gov/RiskLessDoMore) to learn more about the flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines.

Free COVID-19 kits (four per household) are available to order at [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.COVIDTests.gov).

It is recommended to talk to a doctor about which vaccines are the right fit or visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to get started today.

### Holiday season tips

With holiday gatherings during the colder months, spikes in respiratory illnesses can be dangerous for older adults.

“Holidays are a time to gather with family and friends,” said Charlene Wong, MD, MSHP, senior advisor for health strategy at the CDC, “but for older people, this can come with risk of serious respiratory illness. Get your updated flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines to reduce your risk and do more together.”

Before heading to holiday gatherings, check out these tips from the Risk Less. Do More. vaccine education campaign. They can help

## Chicken Soup Cluck Off Fundraiser to support the Three Lakes-Brule River Trails

The public is invited to slurp their way to happiness with a warm bowl of soup at the Chicken Soup Cluck Off and Meat Raffle to be held on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025,

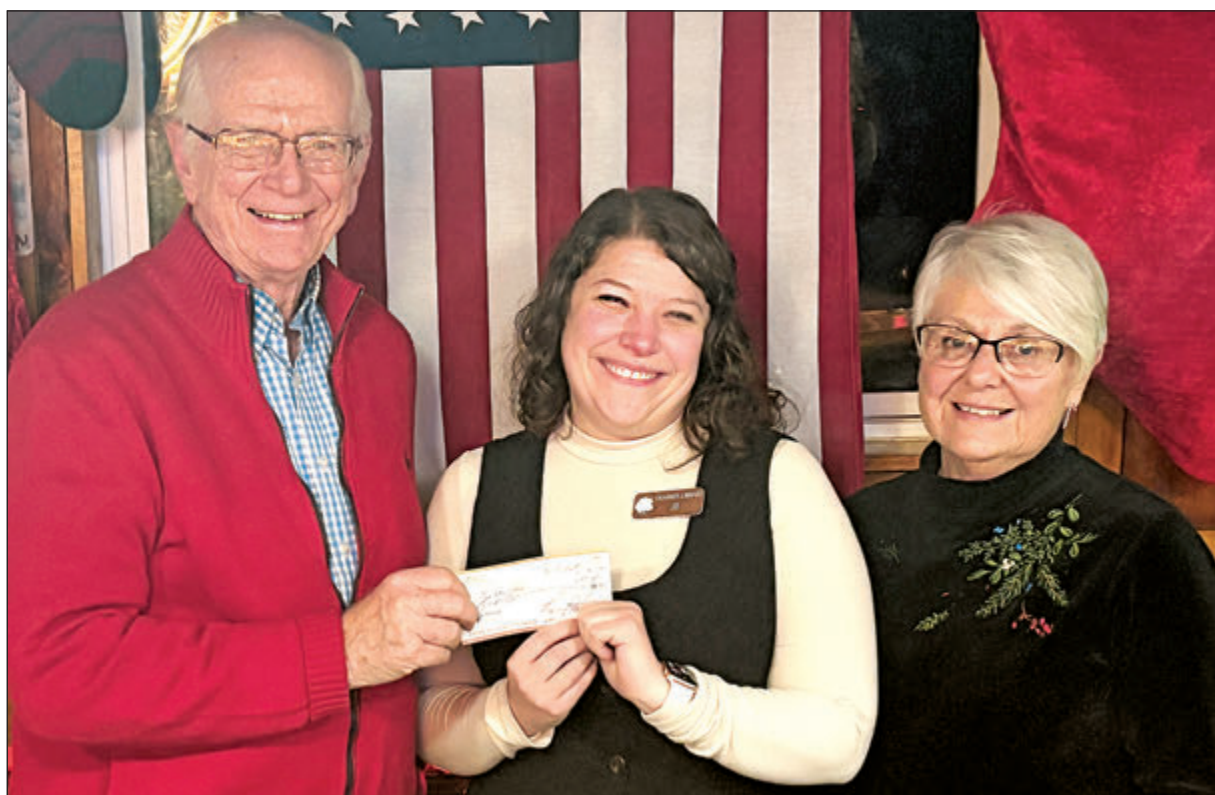
from 2 - 5 p.m.

For \$8 participants will have a chance to try any or all homemade chicken soups from local businesses and vote for which one they think is the best.

There will also be many ongoing meat raffles throughout this event.

All proceeds support Three Lakes-Brule River Trails for grooming and trail maintenance.

Follow the Three Lakes Trails Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Threelakestrails/> for up-to-date event details.



LIBRARY DONATION — The Three Lakes Lions Club has contributed a generous donation to the Demmer Memorial Library, enabling the acquisition of large print books to meet the needs of community members and visitors. This donation supports one of the Lions Clubs’ core missions, which is to support vision-related projects within the community. Pictured from left to right are Lions Immediate Past District Governor Don Meeder, Library Director Jill Roth and Three Lakes Lions Club Vice President Sue Miller. —Contributed Photo

you and your older loved ones enjoy a happy holiday season while lowering the risk of serious illness from flu, COVID-19 and RSV.

Older adults are at higher risk of getting seriously ill, ending up in the hospital, or dying from flu, COVID-19 or RSV. Vaccines are the best protection against severe disease from these common respiratory illnesses.

The CDC recommends that all adults ages 65 and older get the updated flu and COVID-19 vaccines. An RSV vaccine is also available to help protect older people from severe RSV. It is recommended for all people 75 and older, and for those ages 60-74 with certain health conditions, like heart or lung disease or diabetes, or who live in a nursing home. If someone is a caregiver or helps an older adult with their medical decisions, encourage them to talk to their doctor about the vaccines that are right for them.

### Safe gatherings

Respiratory illnesses often thrive in indoor

spaces where people are in close contact, according to the CDC. If the weather permits, try hosting holiday gatherings outside. When gatherings are inside, think about keeping windows open or using fans for ventilation.

If someone is going to a large indoor gathering, consider wearing a mask. Washing hands frequently, or using hand sanitizer, also helps reduce the spread of germs. Encourage older loved ones to take these precautions as well.

### Pregnancy health

Illness from the flu, COVID-19, and RSV viruses can be dangerous for pregnant people and newborns. Staying up to date on vaccines for flu, COVID-19 and RSV during pregnancy can offer protection, and now is the time to get vaccinated if one hasn’t already.

“During the holidays, pregnant people can help protect their health and the health of their baby by getting updated vaccines,” said Dr. Rachel Levine, assistant secretary for health at the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). “During the holidays, you’re more likely to be exposed to flu, COVID-19 and RSV. Vaccination not only helps build up your immune system, but can give protection for your little one.”

Here are some tips from the HHS Risk Less. Do More. public education campaign for a safe and festive holiday season:

- Get vaccinated against flu and COVID-19 – Getting sick with flu or COVID-19 can be dangerous for people who are pregnant and young infants. During pregnancy, there is a greater risk of flu or COVID-19 infections becoming severe and leading to hospitalization. Babies are also at risk of severe flu and COVID-19, but they cannot get vaccines until they are 6 months old. By getting vaccinated during pregnancy, a person can pass on antibodies that help protect the baby during the first few months of life.
- RSV is a common cause of severe respiratory illness in infants. In fact, it is the top reason babies in the United States are

hospitalized each year. One can get an RSV vaccine if they are 32-36 weeks pregnant between September and January, the months when RSV spreads the most. The RSV vaccine helps a baby build protection from severe RSV before birth. If a parent does not get an RSV vaccine during pregnancy, their newborn can still get protection through a preventive antibody immunization soon after birth.

• Stay home or change plans when ill – if someone is not feeling well, stay home to avoid spreading illness. Also, if someone they plan to see is sick, or respiratory viruses are surging in the community, consider staying home. You can also wear a mask or, if weather permits, move the gathering outdoors.

If you have questions or concerns, talk to your doctor. Knowing the facts about vaccines and pregnancy can offer confidence and comfort. Visit [cdc.gov/RiskLessDoMore](https://www.cdc.gov/RiskLessDoMore) to learn more about getting your flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines before the holidays. Or visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to get started.

## Endangered Species Act Protection proposed for monarch butterflies

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing protection for the monarch butterfly and is encouraging the public to be part of its recovery.

The Service is seeking public input on a proposal to list the species as threatened with species-specific protections and flexibilities to encourage conservation under section 4(d) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Public comments will be accepted on the proposal until March 12, 2025. The Service will then evaluate the comments and any additional information on the species and determine whether to list the monarch butterfly.

“The iconic monarch butterfly is cherished across North America, captivating children and adults throughout its fascinating lifecycle. Despite its fragility, it is remarkably resilient, like many things in nature when we just give them a chance,” said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Martha Williams. “Science shows that the monarch needs that chance, and this proposed listing invites and builds on unprecedented public participation in shaping monarch conservation efforts. Providing monarchs with



Due to dropping populations numbers and habitat loss, the iconic monarch butterfly may be added to be protected under the Endangered Species Act. —Contributed Photo

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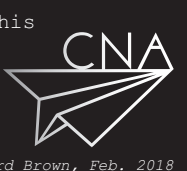
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## Fire department receives landing zone training

The Land O' Lakes Fire and EMS Department was trained by Matt Tormalen, a flight paramedic from Life Link III in Rhinelander, on the importance of landing zone procedures and safety on Sunday, Dec. 15.

This comes after Land O' Lakes recently prepared new landing sites to speed up extractions of patients.

The program provided insight into the personnel,

aircraft, procedures and workings of Life Link III.

With fully equipped and staffed hospitals being far afield in the North Woods and Upper Peninsula, flights by aircraft for serious accidents and other incidents are paramount in saving lives.

With just one call to the Life Link III communications center by first responders, they can arrange

bedside-to-bedside transport for their patients.

Within minutes, Life Link III crews can be en route. Interventions are performed in the aircraft, when possible, to minimize the time before the patient reaches definitive care.

The practical part of Sunday's program, with a live helicopter, could not take place due to inclement weather. This is being rescheduled.



Matt Tormalen, flight paramedic of Lifelink III, who gave the presentation.



Land O' Lakes Fire & EMS members attending the training.

—Photos By Bob Hughes

## Recycle

FROM PAGE 4

### Food waste

The organization ReFED estimates that on Thanksgiving alone, 316 million pounds of food is wasted in the United States. This represents more than \$556 million of groceries thrown away in a single day.

When this wasted food decomposes in landfills, it will release nearly 5,000 metric tons of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. This is similar to what's emitted by powering 26,000 homes' electricity for a year.

Here are some tips to prevent and reduce food waste at home:

- Understand date labels and when food items are actually unsafe. Date labels are NOT regulated by federal law and do not indicate food safety, with the exception of infant formula. Manufacturers provide dates to help consumers and retailers decide when food is of peak quality. The U.S.

Department of Agriculture advises consumers to examine foods to determine if the quality is sufficient for use. Relying on eyes and an old-fashioned sniff test can be a better indicator of whether food is good to eat, and help avoid disposing of healthy and safe food.

- Shop with a plan and prepare for gatherings. Buying more food than what is needed often leads to more food waste. Shoppers can reduce this problem by taking inventory of what they already have, planning meals, and making detailed shopping lists. Save the Food's free portion planner, The Guest-imator, can help estimate how much is needed to prepare for gatherings. Leftovers can be shared by having containers on hand to send home with guests.

- Store food to extend its life. Proper food storage can reduce waste and save the time and money associated with additional grocery store runs. Save the Food's Store It Guide gives ideas on

how to organize a fridge and offers tips and tricks for storing food.

- Freeze before tossing. Consider putting holiday leftovers and surplus ingredients in the freezer before it's too late. Freezing food is like hitting the pause button and preserves the food until it's ready to be eaten. Extra eggs can be removed from their shell and frozen. Vegetable scraps, extra meat, and bones can be frozen and used later for soup stock.

For more details and additional tips, visit the DNR's Reducing Food Waste at Home webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/waste/residentialfoodwaste.html>.

Find more information on reducing household waste during the holidays on the DNR's Recycling and Waste Reduction webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Recycling/Tips.html>.



Columnist Eric Johnson's paternal uncle, 25-year Cedarburg Fire Department volunteer firefighter and EMT Ronald "Roundy" Johnson, used the ruse of faux Christmas Eve emergency calls to make his annual transformation into Santa Claus for his niece and nephews. —Contributed Photo

## Johnson

FROM PAGE 1

for its landmarked 1800s Greek Revival-styled grist and woolen mills and breweries hugging picturesque Cedar Creek.

We gathered at my grandparent's sprawling tri-level, affectionately known as the "Johnson Boarding House" for its humanitarian role in sheltering a variety of family members, including my three cousins and their folks, and my dad's lifelong bachelor uncle, Ronnie.

For my cousins and I, the highlight of Christmas Eve's sugar-induced juvenile bedlam was the eagerly-awaited annual arrival of Santa Claus.

Since my earliest memory, particularly in the era of action-adventure medical drama "Emergency" on NBC, I stood in awe of my Uncle Ronnie, in part because he had that quintessential boyhood dream job as a fireman and trail-blazing EMT, logging 25 years as a Wisconsin emergency services volunteer, eventually serving as a lieutenant and captain. I would later serve 16-years myself as a volunteer firefighter in the North Woods, running with Boulder Junction.

In the great tradition of Clark Kent morphing into Superman, it was a remarkable but unfailing annual coincidence that right before Santa's arrival, Uncle Ronnie would be personally summoned to the station for a call by an obliging dispatcher over his emergency scanner, which was strategically placed in the living room for all to hear.

Uncle Ronnie would rush out the door, back his truck out the drive, and race off — or so we thought — to Cedarburg's landmarked 1908 brick fire station, where he would suit up in his turnout gear, don his fire helmet, and zoom off in red-lights-and-siren glory to save the day.

In actually, once out of sight of the house, he parked his truck on the shoulder of Alpine Drive and headed furtively back to the house on foot under the cover of the winter darkness.

After slipping through the back door of the garage, dank with winter chill, Uncle Ronnie donned his velvet red-and-white Santa suit, gloves, boots, and billowy faux locks and beard, all of which had been stashed discreetly between my grandparent's olive green Pontiac and an aging vintage freezer full of his summer fishing bounty from the crystal lakes of Wisconsin's North Woods near Rhinelander, where he and several of his CFD fire-fighting "brothers" owned a small, rustic hunting and fishing cabin.

Nicknamed "Roundy" for his uncanny resemblance to the jolly, plump cartoon grocer then used as a trademark by Milwaukee-based Roundy's Better Foods, Uncle Ronnie needed no pillow for his disguise. His own girth was sufficient.

When the transformation was complete, Uncle Ronnie would energetically burst through the door into Grandpa and Grandma Johnson's house as "Santa" with his bulging sack of gifts, heartily laughing "Ho, ho, ho" and "Merry

Christmas" in a disguising bass. As he parceled out presents from his sack, he inquired as to our behavior since his last Christmas Eve visit. My cousins and I assured him of our angelic dispositions, forgetting entirely that we had been at juvenile fisticuffs just moments before.

Uncle Ronnie watched us open our gifts and gladly received our appreciative hugs. Then he would depart into the night, presumably taking off in his reindeer-drawn sleigh to make other deliveries to children around the globe.

After a suitably plausible time, assuming no real emergency page came in, Uncle Ronnie would return from his "fire call". My cousins and I, not wanting Uncle Ronnie to be left out of the Christmas festivities, excitedly regaled him with a detailed account of the jolly old elf's visit. Enjoying our earnest stories, Uncle Ronnie feigned surprise and also disappointment at having missed Santa's magical appearance yet again.

As we grew older, we naturally began to question our belief in Santa Claus until the oldest, wisest and most jaded among us eventually exposed Uncle Ronnie's secret. After that he never answered another Christmas Eve pager call, unless it was legit, and sadly, Santa came no more.

Through the years, Uncle Ronnie bestowed many gifts, but his greatest gifts are the cherished memories that he is fondly remembered by.

Eric Johnson can be reached at [eric@fyinorthwoods.com](mailto:eric@fyinorthwoods.com).

### DISCOVER & EXPLORE

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JACKI HILDEBRANDT

# CONOVER

conoverjacki@gmail.com

## Sledding and skating set this weekend

The Town of Conover invites residents and visitors to join for an evening of skating and sledding under the lights.

The Park Committee will host the party on Monday, Dec. 30, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Conover Town Park located at 4697 Park Circle in Conover. Hot dogs, chili, nachos, lemonade and hot cocoa will be served

inside the Recreation Center, while s'mores will be toasted on the outdoor bonfires.

The popular sledding hill and skating rink will both be lit, along with music playing for evening fun. Heated restrooms are on site, as well as a warming shack near the skating rink. Bring a sled and skates from home, or borrow from

the loaner sleds and skates available for use.

Donations are appreciated for park improvements.

Per Conover Town ordinance, pets are not permitted in the park during events for the safety of both participants and animals.

For more information, contact Amanda Martinson at 715-617-9500.

## Clubs join to host Jan. 11 trailside roast

The Conover Sno-Buddies and Phelps Snowmobile Clubs will team up to host the 3rd Annual Trailside Roast on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The trail-side roast will be held at Vilas County trail intersection #500 located just off Blong Road on Trails 45 and 6. This location is

where Conover, Phelps and Lake O' Lakes snowmobile trails intersect.

Riders stopping by will enjoy hot dogs and brats fresh from the grill, s'mores, hot cocoa and more.

Leaders from both organizations will be on hand to hear feedback and share stories of years gone by. Each club will have raffle tickets, apparel and club

membership forms available during the event.

For more information, check out Conover Sno-Buddies at [www.conoversnobuddies.com](http://www.conoversnobuddies.com) or on Facebook. Phelps Snowmobile Club can be found at [www.phelpssnowmobileclub.com](http://www.phelpssnowmobileclub.com) or on Facebook.

## ST. GERMAIN/SAYNER

JACKI GOEBEL | 715-891-8028 | jackigoebel@gmail.com



SALVATION ARMY — St. Germain Women's Service Club members rang bells for the Salvation Army this year. The ladies rang for three days At Camp's Fresh Market and brought in \$1,003.18, each day over \$300. The club sends volunteers to ring every year. Bell ringers for this year included (front left to right) Robin Lindberg, Patty Krarup, Rosemary Gapa, Barb Steinhilber, (back, left to right) Bonnie Eliason, Carol Seegers, Nancy Szott, Jacki Goebel, Cathy Dennison, Roxanne Platz and Daun Puetz. —Contributed Photo

## Riders wanted for Jan. 11 race

The Conover Sno-Buddies and Phelps Snowmobile Club will be leading a vintage ride from the Sno-Buddies Groomer shed, and the Phelps Military Creek Trailhead, to the Trailside Roast Event on Saturday Jan. 11, 2025.

No registration is required. Those vintage riders wanting to participate in the ride from Conover should arrive at the groomer shed located at 4685 Park Circle in Conover by 9 a.m. The park and ride lot is adjacent to the groomer shed at the park.

The ride from the Conover groomer shed to the site of the event, Vilas County Trail Intersection #500 located just off Blong Road on trails 6 and 8, is approximately 7.2 miles.

Those vintage riders wanting to participate in the ride from Phelps should arrive at the Military Creek Trailhead, located off of CTH E between STH 17 and CTH K, and is alongside Corridor Trail 6 in Phelps by 9 a.m. The Phelps groomer will lead the group to the site of the event. The ride from the Phelps Military Creek Trailhead is approximately 7.4 miles.

Participants who participate in the vintage ride with either club will be entered to win a prize. For more information, check out Conover Sno-Buddies at [www.conoversnobuddies.com](http://www.conoversnobuddies.com) or on Facebook. Phelps Snowmobile Club can be found at [www.phelpssnowmobileclub.com](http://www.phelpssnowmobileclub.com) or on Facebook.

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VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW



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# Everyone has something to give. Please help us warm our children.

Many children are wishing for things much more basic than toys: a warm winter coat, boots to keep their feet warm and dry mittens to warm chilly fingers. Through the Vilas County News-

Review's WARM THE CHILDREN FUND, needy area children will get the winter clothing they so badly want and need.

## WARM THE CHILDREN

Providing New Winter Clothing for Local Children In Need

No administrative fees. Every cent received is used to buy winter clothing!

Our goal is to raise over \$80,000.

The Need Continues With Over 500 Children Served!



Eagle River Rotary Club Foundation Inc. 501(c)(3)

So what is the Vilas County News-Review's WARM THE CHILDREN FUND?

It's neighbors helping neighbors. The Vilas County News-Review is asking readers to donate to the fund, and proceeds will be used to buy warm winter clothing for needy area children. There are no administrative fees; all the money will be used for the children.

How will needy children be identified?

The staff at Social Services and area officials will help us identify needy children and work with the Vilas County News-Review's WARM THE CHILDREN coordinators.

How will the children's clothing be purchased?

The coordinators of the Vilas County News-Review's WARM THE CHILDREN program have made arrangements with Glik's in Eagle River and Northland Clothing Co. in Three Lakes and will assign volunteer shoppers to take the children shopping for their winter clothing. Shoppers will be volunteers who want to help by donating a little of their time for this worthwhile cause.

How can I help?

Simply complete the coupon on this page and send it with your donation to the address on the coupon. All donations are tax deductible, as they go through the Eagle River Rotary Club Foundation Inc. (ERRCF).

**CLIP & MAIL THIS COUPON**

Enclosed is my donation to the Vilas County News-Review's **WARM THE CHILDREN FUND. Make checks payable to Warm The Children-ERRCF.\***

For News-Review use:  
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Amt. rec'd:  
Check #:

Please check one:

I DO want my name published on the donor list.  
 I DO NOT want my name published on the donor list.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Vilas County News-Review's WARM THE CHILDREN FUND  
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\*In cooperation with the Eagle River Rotary Club Foundation, Inc.

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# PHELPS

SHARON GIFFORD

715-617-0308  
gifford.se3@gmail.com



A number of ladies model their festive pajamas at the annual Christmas luncheon.

—Photos By Sharon Gifford

## Woman's Club donates to food pantries

At the recent Phelps Woman's Club Christmas Luncheon, members brought items from home to donate to the Christmas auction, where \$560 was collected from auction bids. The auctioneer was Vicki

Andersen with helpers Kay Hickson and Mary Ann Holcomb. The club voted to split and donate the money between the Headwaters Food Pantry and the Vilas County Food Pantry.

Twenty-eight ladies attended the event. Member Laura Aldridge coordinated the Christmas pajama party event. The club is always looking for new members. More information can be

found at <https://www.phelpswi.us/business/phelps-womens-club/>. The next meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 20, at 1 p.m. at the Congregational Church in downtown Phelps.



Vicki Andersen asks for bids for the festive hat.



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### New Releases

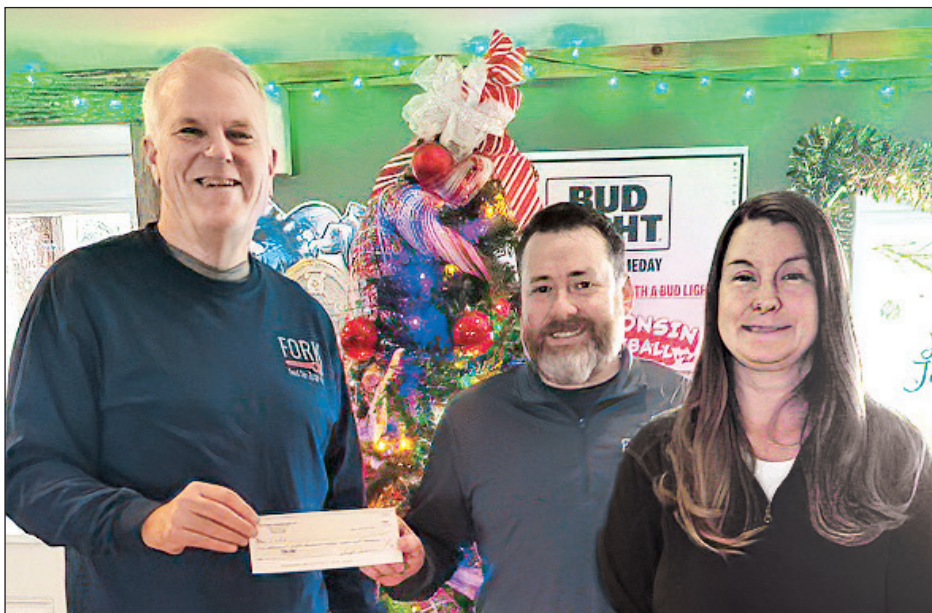
Adult Fiction: "Daughter of Mine" by Megan Miranda, and "All the Broken Places" by John Boyne, bestselling author of "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas." Available on DVD: "Bluey" Seasons 1 and 2, "The Wild Robot," and "Transformers ONE." YP Books: The latest "DOG MAN" is here! "Big

Jim Begins" is book 13 in the series. The Next Chapter Book Club will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 15th, at 10 a.m. The book choice this month is "West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge. Book copies for meetings are available for pickup at the library or call to reserve. For more information about the current book, upcoming book choices, and meeting dates and times, please visit the library website under the Adult Programming tab at <https://phelpspubliclibrary.org/adult-programs/>. Call the library

for more information on how to join this group. Don't have time to stop by during operating hours? Call and ask about the library's outside lockers so you can pick up books and other items at your convenience! Free puzzle and magazine exchange is in the library entryway. New materials are added often. The Phelps-Land O' Lakes Lions Club's used glasses receptacle is located in the entryway as well. Donations of used glasses and hearing aids are greatly appreciated. Library hours are

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Wednesday 2 - 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. WiFi and digital services are available 24/7 and can be accessed either inside during business hours or anywhere in the parking lot. Find the library online at [phelpspubliclibrary.org](http://phelpspubliclibrary.org) or on Facebook at Eleanor Ellis Public Library. Contact the library by phone at 715-545-2887 or email [director@phelps.wislib.org](mailto:director@phelps.wislib.org)

**FORK DONATION** — The owners of the Great Escape Bar and Restaurant donated \$1,888 to Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK). The proceeds were from the recent Breakfast with Santa fundraiser held at the restaurant. Pictured from left to right is FORK representative Perry Pokrandt and Joe & Tracy Bostwick. Tracy said, "We were very pleased with the turnout this year; our numbers go up every year." —Contributed Photo



## Phelps Radar Run planned for Jan. 25

The Phelps Snowmobile Club is planning the Phelps Radar Run on North Twin Lake, headquartered at Great Escape Bar, on Saturday, Jan. 25. Registration will be held at Great Escape starting at 9:30 a.m., and races will run from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. out on the lake. Races will take place on a 1000-foot groomed snow track on North Twin Lake, just off the shore from Great Escape Bar

and the North Twin Lake boat launch in downtown Phelps. In addition to races, on the lake there will be a bar, food, bonfires, raffles, music and an MC announcing the action and more. The entry fee for racing will be \$10 for one run or three runs for \$20, and there will be several classes of racing. First and second place times in each class will win trophies. There will also be a special

beachwear fun run at the end of the day. Spectators and racers should follow signs posted on social media and around town in Phelps for trailer parking and event parking locations. Follow the Phelps Wisconsin page at <https://www.facebook.com/PhelpsWisconsin/> and the Phelps Snowmobile Club page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/PhelpsSnowmobileClub/>.

This event was made possible with the help of sponsors such as the Phelps Chamber of Commerce, Phelps Convenience Center, Great Escape Bar, Phelps Lakeview Lodge and Greenhill's Log Cabin. For more information, email [chamber-office@phelpswi.us](mailto:chamber-office@phelpswi.us) or visit [phelpswi.us/phelps-radar-run](http://phelpswi.us/phelps-radar-run).

## Monarch

FROM PAGE 5

enough milkweed and nectar plants, even in small areas, can help put them on the road to recovery. Working together, we can help make this extraordinary species a legacy for our children and generations to come."

For more than 50 years, the ESA has been an effective catalyst for on-the-ground collaborative conservation, promoting the recovery of wildlife and conserving the habitats upon which they depend. This proposed rule will help build on and enhance monarch conservation efforts while balancing activities in support of economic growth. With its notable orange and black markings, the monarch butterfly is one of the most recognizable insects in the world.

In North America, monarchs are grouped into two long-distance migratory populations. The eastern migratory population is the largest and overwinters in the mountains of central Mexico. The western migratory population primarily overwinters in coastal California. In the 1980s, over 4.5 million western monarchs flocked to overwintering grounds in coastal California. In the mid-1990s, an estimated 380 million eastern monarchs made the long-distance journey to overwintering grounds in Mexico, completing one of the longest insect migrations in the world.

Today, the eastern migratory population is estimated to have declined by approximately 80%. The western migratory population has declined by more than 95% since the 1980s, putting the western population at greater than 99% chance of extinction by 2080. During this same period, the probability of extinction for eastern monarchs ranges from 56 to 74%, according to the Service's most recent species status assessment.

Threats to monarchs include loss and degradation of breeding, migratory and overwintering habitat; exposure to insecticides;

and the effects of climate change. Although many people have already helped conserve the butterfly, additional habitat and protections are needed to ensure the species is conserved for future generations.

To assist with monarch conservation efforts, the Service is also proposing critical habitat for the species at a portion of its overwintering sites in coastal California. Overwintering habitat provides an essential resting place for monarchs during the cold winter months and helps them prepare for breeding in the early spring. In total, the Service is proposing 4,395 acres of critical habitat for the western migratory monarch population across Alameda, Marin, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Ventura counties in California. A critical habitat designation imposes no requirements on state or private land unless the action involves federal funding, permits or approvals.

The Service collaborates closely with Tribes, federal and state agencies, academic institutions, and nongovernment organizations to carry out conservation efforts for the monarch butterfly. Many partners across the monarch's range are involved in surveys, monitoring and habitat improvements. Much of this work takes place on private lands with the support of local landowners.

The proposal to list the monarch butterfly, and designate critical habitat, was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, Dec. 12. A 90-day comment period will open on Dec. 12 and will close on March 12, 2025. Information about how to submit comments can be found on [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) by searching for docket number FWS-R3-ES-2024-0137. This docket also includes information about how to attend two virtual public information meetings, and associated public hearings, about this listing proposal.

For more information about the monarch listing proposal, and how to help conserve monarch butterflies, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/monarch>.



**KNIGHT SPOTLIGHT** — Phelps December Spotlight Knights are on 10th grader Keira Riihimaki (left) and 8th grader Bella Marohl (right). Mrs. Friel said, "Keira has a really good work ethic and isn't afraid to correct work. She truly focuses on understanding the material rather than getting the answer right." Mr. Crownhart said, "In my class, Bella's class participation has been exemplary and the assignments she has turned in have been quality work." —Photo By Sharon Gifford



# Outdoors

## Wolves, DNR, spearing records make the 'wish list'

IN THE heart of the Christmas season, it is time once again to formulate a "wish list" in regard to some of the nagging issues that impact those of us who live to spend time in the great outdoors.

They call it the season of miracles, and as we celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever known, it can't hurt to ponder how we might help improve the future of Wisconsin's outdoor traditions.

We've got more than our share of turmoil these days over wolf overpopulation, a struggling deer herd that's far below the good old days, deteriorating water quality, failed fish reproduction, new diseases, lack of logging, etc. The list is long.

Part of the improvement might be a change in personal responsibility, for each of us plays a role in resource conservation.

My wish list is not written to a plump man in a red suit, but more as a prayer for some divine intervention. It's also intended to encourage those who appreciate the outdoors to give back, conserve resources, improve attitudes and pass this unique heritage to new generations.

This list isn't just for those of us who hunt, fish and trap. The future depends on our stewardship of the state's plentiful, but certainly finite, natural resources. Conservation of resources should be promoted and funded by all state residents.

So here goes . . . for the Christmas season and coming months, I wish:

- That legislators would act to

force the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to consider deer depredation and wolf impacts on deer hunters as being just as significant as depredation on livestock, hunting dogs and pets — protecting this state's all-important deer hunting tradition.

• For more great decisions like the DNR's move to continue a ban on personal minnow harvest from VHS-affected waters, revising a proposed rule change that could have easily brought this deadly fish disease to northern lakes and rivers.

• In the name of public record integrity, that a state law be passed to force the tribes and their Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) to make public all spearfishing records regarding the quantity, size and sex of every walleye and muskie speared from public waters. Information regarding harvests from public-owned lakes should not be protected by any kind of tribal sovereignty or immunity.

• That DNR big-wigs sitting in their ivory towers in Madison would appreciate their partnership with weekly newspapers to the point of mandating, for every agency division, that all press releases regarding timely events such as application deadlines or opening seasons be sent out two weeks in advance.

• That the now Republican-controlled Congress gets its act together and takes liberal federal judges out of the wolf management equation in responsible states such as Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Wyoming, returning that

right to federal and state wildlife experts to manage a reasonable, sustainable wolf population. We have revised a wolf plan we can't enforce.

• For a new movement to strengthen shoreland zoning regulations before irreparable damage is done to our lakes and water quality, which are the basis for all recreation, tourism and property values. Vilas County had the best lake classification system in Wisconsin before state legislators took away local control.

• That Dr. Gary M. Pusateri and his Dream Genomics team could have a miraculous breakthrough on a reasonably priced blood test for chronic wasting disease in deer, making it easier for hunters to test their deer prior to consumption.

• To praise those parents, grandparents and friends who are taking the time to mentor young hunters, giving them an early appreciation for an outdoor sport that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

• That the DNR would give us back Escanaba Lake as a sustainable, educational, all-year walleye fishery where, due to the research, tribal spearing is not allowed. It is currently being regulated in favor of the spearing harvest, not open to anglers until the second Saturday in June.

• To heap praise where it belongs, on the managers of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, who currently are selling and cutting more wood volume than any national forest in the country. Ditto to the DNR for partnering with the Forest Service to manage 25% of the logging jobs.

• For health and prosperity to those volunteer instructors who take the time, without pay and/or fanfare, to teach hunting safety, boating safety, snowmobile safety and other certification courses to our youths.

### In the Outdoors

BY KURT KRUEGER



In lieu of running yet another wolf picture with this Christmas "wish list" column, here's a festive shot of Maddie the puppy, the hunter, in holiday garb. —Photo By The Author

• For stricter regulation of deer farms and fenced preserves that are threatening, single-handedly, the health and well-being of the country's best whitetail deer herd — which sustains the sport of hunting and conservation work in general, through license sale revenue.

• That all upland bird hunters could experience a day or two afield over a great dog, so they could know firsthand the added

enjoyment, productivity and conservation brought by man's best friend.

• And lastly, for God's richest blessings upon the soldiers who are deployed to distant lands during this time of love and family togetherness. They are the true defenders of freedom, deserving our support and unending gratitude.

Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

## All eight Wisconsin elk hunters harvested a bull during season

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

The state's seventh managed elk hunt concluded last Friday, Dec. 20, and all eight Wisconsin hunters who participated successfully harvested a bull elk in either the Northern or the Central Elk Zone.

The 2024 hunt, which began Oct. 12, represented a milestone in Wisconsin's elk management. For the first time, hunters had the opportunity to hunt in both the Northern and Central Elk zones instead of just the northern zone.

"It's exciting hunters have the opportunity to pursue elk in our home state," said Christina Kizewski, DNR Wildlife Biologist. "Each year, every hunter experiences something unique and memorable, but especially this year with the first opportunities to hunt elk in the Central Elk Zone. The fact that the population is now at a level that allows for a limited hunt underscores the



Friday, Dec. 20, marked the close of Wisconsin's seventh managed elk hunt, which allowed hunters to hunt in both elk management zones for the first time since reintroduction.

—Photo By Wisconsin DNR

successful management of Wisconsin's healthy and growing elk herd."

The eight Wisconsin

hunters who participated in this year's hunt were randomly selected

from a pool of more than

25,500 applicants. The DNR received 17,761 applications to hunt in the

To ELK, Pg. 11

## DNR reminds anglers that musky season closes next week

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds anglers that the 2024 open

water musky fishing season will close statewide on Tuesday, Dec. 31.

Anglers are also

reminded that musky may not be targeted through the ice at any time.

Wisconsin has about 775

lakes and streams with thriving musky populations, and several waters have special 50-inch minimum lengths. Anglers should consult the 2024-2025 Fishing Regulations for the waters they fish for more information.

Anglers can use the DNR's Quality Waters webpage to find trophy-class musky opportunities near them or go to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/regulations/qualitywaters.html>.

The season will reopen in the southern zone on May 3, 2025, and in the northern zone on May 24, 2025.

Learn more about these famous fish, including where to find them, on the DNR's Musky webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/musky>.



Wisconsin has about 775 lakes and streams with thriving musky populations, and several waters have special 50-inch minimum lengths. —Photo By Wisconsin DNR



### Fishing with the guides

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

## Ice depths improve despite warm days; fishing reports good

Believe it or not, we are getting some good ice despite some warmer weather. There have been enough cold nights and days below freezing to keep what we've gotten, and to continue building ice. We're hearing reports of 6-10", depending on the lake and location.

The chain, due to current and wind, took a while to lock up this year, but folks have been fishing along the shorelines and in bays of most every lake for the last few weeks. Because this report covers two weeks, it's tough to say but fair to assume, that by the time we write again for the second week in January, there should be enough safe ice to see machines and bigger shacks out there, too. Let's hope that assumption is accurate!

Walleye fishing has been really good, including on the Chain, and we expect that to continue. Anglers are fishing in the 10 to 15' range in the evenings and after dark, with tip-ups set with either sucker minnows or shiners.

On the bigger lakes the start of the season was pretty slow, as the ice was slower to develop. We were hearing about a lot of shallow fish, but a lot of that was a matter of access.

Northerns have been very active, as usual, and are being caught pretty much everywhere in the weeds. The attraction of these fish, other than their aggressiveness, is that they hit all day long so you can get great action with these fish during the day, then hit the walleye in the evening. Large shiners work best for these fish, with tip-ups set in the weeds.

Panfish season has also been good, with all species now being caught consistently.

For crappie, if you're fishing shallow, look along weed edges in the 8-10' range. If you're looking deeper, search for those pockets of fish in or near the deep holes. Once you find where they're hanging out, it's a good bet that you will find other schools of fish in different spots that have similar structure — at the same depth.

The perch have been in the shallower water on many lakes and are taking waxies and smaller minnows well. Bluegill fishing has been really hot, with early mornings and late afternoons being peak times. Look for these fish in the shallows at three to eight feet. Waxies and spikes work great, but smaller plastics are also a good choice.

As we look back on 2024, it's clear that weather inconsistencies affected fishing all year. That has made counting on our "normal" patterns a little more challenging.

Wishing you all a very safe and happy Holiday season! This time of the year can be hectic and irritating to the nerves. There's nothing like spending a few hours on the ice thinking about life and catching some fish. It's medicine for the soul and we can all use a little of that right now. Enjoy!

Good luck and good fishin'!



# Our View

## Some Cheers, Jeers as new year arrives

As we near the end of 2024 and usher in the new year, it's an appropriate time to issue some cheers and jeers regarding events and happenings of the past year.

**CHEERS** to those generous donors and volunteers who support children's programs such as Warm The Children and Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK), giving of their time, talents and finances to help a segment of the population that is at the mercy of the parents and guardians entrusted to care for them.

**CHEERS** to the Praise in the Pines organization and founder Bill Lochte, who not only brought this first revival to Eagle River, but is striving to make it an annual summer event.

**JEERS** to Vilas County Branch 2 Circuit Court Judge Daniel Overbey for becoming the first judge to taint our judicial offices here with a scandalous affair that impacted court operations for months and caused good staff members to quit their jobs.

**JEERS** to Anthony Brown, the former Eagle River Recreation Association treasurer who stole tens of thousands of dollars from a vital nonprofit that's so closely tied to the community's extensive hockey heritage.

**CHEERS** to U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany for finally getting involved in the road easement dispute between the Chippewa Tribe and town officials in Lac du Flambeau, because such disputes originated from federal decisions and should be solved, nation to nation, between the tribe and federal government.

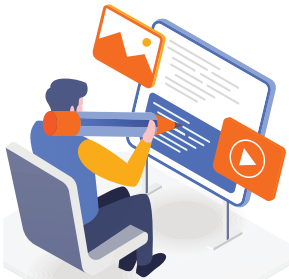
**CHEERS** to Great Headwaters Trails and the River Trail Commission for pledging to continue, for the sake of tourism and both cyclists and pedestrians, to extend the 52-mile Heart of Vilas Trail System from St. Germain to Eagle River, where it would also connect to the Three Eagle Trail.

**CHEERS** to the Rotary Club of Eagle River and all the donors who supported the effort to raise more than \$500,000 in a two-year period to plan and construct the Rotary Square, a great addition to downtown Eagle River.

**JEERS** to state officials who aren't listening to the Vilas County Board, which voted unanimously in July to urge the State Legislature to have meaningful discussion of minimum standards on wake boarding and wake surfing boats to protect our lakes.

### Behind the editorial 'we'

Members of the Vilas County News-Review editorial board include Publisher Kurt Krueger, Assistant Editors Josephine Hinderman and Audrey Lehman, Sports Editor Jacob Heid.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

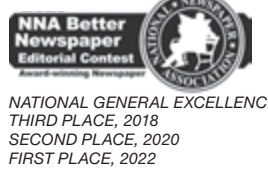
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See Letters Policy for guidelines

# EDITORIAL

## OPINION/COMMENTARY



JUDGED WISCONSIN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



## Take my opinion to the banks

Over the years, several friends and acquaintances of mine have advised me that since I am such a singularly great writer of outdoor tales, I should start writing articles for all the big-name outdoor magazines.

Well, first of all, I don't read those magazines. Years ago, I discovered half of what was published in those magazines was nothing but a bunch of horse hockey, stuff no one needs to know to fully enjoy adventures outdoors.

That said, since my misguided friends tell me "Yer an expurt on everything about the outdoors, and yer writing is pur-dee poetry," I thought maybe I should tackle magazines.

Then again, as I sat down and started thinking about all the outdoor things I'm an expert at, I couldn't come up with one single technical skill I'm much of an expert on at all. Being a man of honesty and strong moral fiber, I could not pretend to be such an expert.

When it comes to outdoor gear, don't ask me anything about operating

or maintaining outboard motors — I've never owned one.

My idea of a depth finder is rowing to the edge of a hotspot bar to fish, after which I drop my anchor to confirm I'm in the right spot. If the anchor doesn't touch the bottom, I row one way or the other while triangulating on three landmark trees before test-dropping my anchor again. If it still doesn't touch the bottom, I suddenly remember that Old Faithful Bay on the other side of the lake, which is only six feet deep anywhere in the weed-covered bay, is most certainly going to be the hotter of the hotspots to fish that day.

As far as tying fishing knots go, I tie only one knot. It's a matter of pushing line through a hook or leader hole, then wrapping the end of the line around itself maybe six times

before clinching it by drawing it through a loop I left in it. Works for at least a dozen casts or so before it

lets go, thereby sending a favorite bucktail flying unfettered about 100 yards away.

The only thing I can think of that is outdoors related that I am an expert at is simply enjoying everything there is about the outdoors, be it lakes, creeks, hills, trees, fish or wild critters and all other such things. A suggestion or two of how to enjoy all those things?

Take some young kids with you for a day of exploring the outdoors. If you don't happen to own any kids of your own, beg, borrow or steal some from your neighbors, or maybe from your local orphanage.

Once you've gotten your hands on a kid or two, say eight years old or so, dig up enough worms to fill an emptied baked beans can,

add to it an old spincast outfit you have hanging in your garage, and head for the nearest lake where the kid — or kids — can take turns landing about

2,000 six-inch bluegills in an afternoon filled with fishing, laughing and piercing shrieks of joy.

Another great way to enjoy the outdoors is to take a dog, a real dog, not one of those runty little yipper-yappers some people call dogs, but a good big dog like a Lab, golden retriever or springer spaniel, and get out into the woods where you can watch them run, run, run and sniff a million good sniffs of everything they happen upon in the woods.

Watch that dog chase red squirrels and chipmunks, scare up a duck or two along the shore of a quiet, back-in-the-woods lake, or watch it get into a Mexican standoff with a painted turtle aggravated when said dog interrupts its nap on a sun-drenched lakeshore log.

Another way to enjoy the outdoors? Take an armload or two of dry maple and oak, build a nice-sized campfire and sit within the glow of that fire on a dark summer night looking up at millions of stars brightly shining in the sky.

In the fall, cradle a favorite scattergun in your arms while thrashing through favored ruffed grouse coverts. Try to concentrate on getting that scattergun

To MAINES, Pg. 11



## Trails & Tails

BY WILL MAINES



Cal Thomas

## The ultimate gift

In past years I have suggested going beyond Christmas and other holiday gifts that will soon be forgotten, returned or worn out, in favor of one that will last for generations to come.

Last year I wrote about the Children's Scholarship Fund, which provides private school tuition for poor and middle-class children in failing public schools. Not only do the private schools offer them a better education (most go on to college), but they also provide a moral foundation essential to living a successful life.

This year I'm recommending the ultimate gift — the gift of life to an unborn child, with accompanying assistance to the mother to help her prevail over what can be difficult circumstances in an unplanned pregnancy.

Heartbeat International was founded in 1971, two years before the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court case which struck down all state abortion restrictions. According to its year-end report, "(Heartbeat) is now the most expensive network in the world, assisting more than 3,500 affiliated pregnancy help locations ... with medical clinics (ultrasounds), maternity homes, and adoption agencies in more than 90 countries

To THOMAS, Pg. 11

## Trump's immigration crackdown would hurt state's ag industry, experts say

Agricultural observers in Wisconsin are leery of Donald Trump's mass deportation plan, saying it could deal a multi-billion dollar blow to the state's ag industry.

Trump has pledged to declare a national emergency after he's inaugurated in January in order to deport immigrants living in the country illegally en masse, as well as mobilize military assets to do so.

While the exact size of the undocumented workforce in Wisconsin and elsewhere is notoriously difficult to pin down, the Migration Policy Institute estimates 70,000 undocumented immigrants live in Wisconsin, including 47,000 or 70% that are employed. That total includes 5,000 working in agriculture. Wisconsin agriculture more broadly supports about 354,000 jobs annually, or 9.5% of the state's total

employment, according to DATCP.

Those MPI figures are based on 2019 data, but a spokesperson said the institute does "not think that the size of the unauthorized population has increased exponentially" since then, noting the overall undocumented immigrant population in the United States has remained relatively stable for the past 15 years or so.

When asked about the potential economic impact of mass deportations on the state's farming industry, UW-Madison professor and economist Steven Deller offered a "rough estimate" of \$4.49 billion based on the undocumented ag worker total from MPI.

To create a working model, he assumed all 5,000 work on Wisconsin dairy farms, which he said collectively employ about 49,000 people in the state and add

\$15.2 billion in industry sales or revenues.

"If you removed 5,000 undocumented immigrant workers, that would have an economic impact of 14,396 jobs and \$4.49 billion in industry sales ... undocumented immigrants account for 29.5% of the impact of dairy farms," Deller wrote in an email. "That is a reflection of how important these immigrants have become to Wisconsin dairy."

Tyler Wenzlaff, director of national affairs for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, warns of a "ripple effect" of mass deportations throughout the economy due to state agriculture's employment of undocumented workers. However, he added, "it's hard to assess" specific impacts beyond a loss of workforce before a concrete policy proposal comes out.

But Wenzlaff told WisBusiness in a recent interview that farmers in Wisconsin are taking a "wait and see" approach at this point, noting campaign

rhetoric can differ from governing policy.

"Sometimes, those can look very different from what was originally posed, and what you might have in your mind," he said, adding that many WFBF members are Trump supporters. "What he actually does can look completely different from what we think we might see, when the proposal actually comes to implementing it, and what

that mass deportation might actually look like."

Paul Mitchell, director of the Renk Agribusiness Institute at UW-Madison, also questioned "how much of this is political posturing," though he expects at least some deportations to happen as a fulfillment of election promises.

But in a recent

To OTHERS, Pg. 11

### Letters Policy

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- Letters may be edited by our staff for length, clarity and facts.
- The Vilas County News-Review/The Three Lakes News will only print letters that address a specific issue or article that may be of interest to the bulk of our readers.
- Submit Letter to the Editor Here: (kkrueger@mmlocal.com, 715-479-4421, P.O. Box 1929, Eagle River, WI 54521).

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# OPINION/COMMENTARY



**MERRY BIRD** — A chickadee finds a good resting spot in a Christmas tree that was adorning a deck over the holidays, not far from the backyard feeders. It's amazing that this tame and friendly bird, measuring just 4 1/2 inches, can stay warm during North Woods winters when overnight temps can drop to 20 below zero. —Staff Photo By KURT KRUEGER

## Thomas

FROM PAGE 10

to provide alternatives to abortion.”

In its annual report for 2023, Heartbeat says it received more than 1.8 million in-person client visits. Their promotion of a pill that reverses abortions for women who have changed their minds after initiating the procedure has “rescued” 5,000 babies. It is something Planned Parenthood vigorously opposes.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta sued Heartbeat to force the organization to provide women at their help centers with abortion information. The Supreme Court rejected California’s efforts, but thanks in part to subsidies from the federal

government (Elon and Vivek take note as you seek to reduce spending), they are likely to pursue other efforts to stymie the work of Heartbeat and pro-life organizations.

The experience of holding a baby in your arms and embracing a woman who sought life-affirming help, rather than an abortion - realizing you have contributed to that moment — is a unique experience. It is one I have enjoyed on many occasions.

Think of the positive impact. Each child rescued from an abortion will likely have children, and they will have children and so on for generations to come. A woman will be free of the guilt and sometimes depression and self-destructive behavior that too often comes after the procedure. An abortion

removes a branch from the family tree.

News stories report sharp declines in birth rates in the U.S., Canada and Europe. There are several reasons, but abortion, along with a desire to avoid the “expense” of children, appear to be the main ones. Failing to have enough children to at least replace adults who die will have serious economic, social, political and other consequences for especially free nations.

While there have been more abortions since Roe was overturned in the Dobbs decision, Heartbeat and other pro-life groups continue to spread information often denied women by abortion clinics. On Heartbeat International’s website there are testimonies from women who at first sought an abortion,

in some cases taking the abortion pill, and then changed their minds. Their comments also include the words “support” and “resources,” something lacking at abortion clinics. Their stories counter the lie told over the years that pro-life people don’t care about the woman or the baby after birth.

Saving lives — babies and mothers — is a two-way blessing. Make a donation and see what I mean.

Readers may email Cal Thomas at [tcaditors@tribpub.com](mailto:tcaditors@tribpub.com). Look for Cal Thomas’ latest book “A Watchman in the Night: What I’ve Seen Over 50 Years Reporting on America” (HumanixBooks).

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## Maines

FROM PAGE 10

up on a flushing grouse when all the while you fight to keep your mind on the birds instead of a maple tree full of brilliant red leaves or a balsam fir that would make a perfect Christmas tree.

Sit on a deer stand on a November morning watching squirrels chase each other round and round a huge oak, listening to chickadees chick-a-dee-dee, or hearing a soft breeze rattle dried, bronzed oak leaves, all the while with ears keenly listening for a deer coming your way.

Go duck hunting, or just duck watching come spring, summer or fall.

Admire the unmatched beauty of a drake wood duck’s plumage, listen to mallards quack or geese honk, and maybe watch a muskrat share the birds’ territory.

Then, if you want a few good laughs after enjoying any or all of those outdoor pursuits, pick up a half-dozen outdoor magazines loaded with all the technical information you supposedly need to be successful and happy in the outdoors; then use the pages of those magazines to light an evening campfire in your backyard.

All the things I’ve put on paper here are all you need to know about getting the most and enjoying the best of the outdoors. You can take my expert opinion on this to the bank.

## Elk

FROM PAGE 9

Northern Elk Zone and 7,750 applications for the Central Elk Zone.

Officials said the random drawing ensures that each applicant has an equal chance of selection within the respective management zones. Applicants were required to identify their management zone of choice during the elk hunting application process.

In the Central Elk Zone, all four hunters successfully harvested a bull elk on the third day of the season. Two hunters in the Northern Elk Zone successfully harvested a bull elk, and Ojibwe Tribal hunters met their four-bull harvest declaration.

Of interest, Kizewski

said a 10-year-old mentored hunter was able to harvest a mature northern Wisconsin bull elk.

The DNR’s elk management is supported by the revenue received through hunter application fees, which contribute directly to the future of the state’s elk population. For each \$10 application fee, \$7 goes directly toward elk management, habitat restoration and research.

The 2025 elk hunt application period for Wisconsin residents is expected to open in early spring and run through May 31, 2025. During the application process, hunters must select which management zone they would like to hunt in.

For more information on elk in Wisconsin, visit the DNR’s Elk in Wisconsin webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/elk>.

## Others

FROM PAGE 10

interview on the public affairs TV program “UpFront,” Gov. Tony Evers pledged to push back on mass deportations in Wisconsin.

“As far as taking people from farms and factories in this state, that are the backbone of this economy, that will not work for us,” Evers said. “We’ll find out if they get that far. I’m not sure they will get that far.”

Jose Martinez, CEO of nonprofit immigrant advocacy group UMOS Inc., said both farmers and immigrants are “very concerned, very nervous” about the threats of mass deportation. The group provides social services and workforce support to this community, which he argues takes on the jobs “that nobody wants to do” such as picking fruits and vegetables and other fieldwork.

“I always tell folks, if there’s an agricultural labor job that’s considered labor-intensive, then you’re going to find that folks that are working in these labor-intensive jobs are individuals that are undocumented,” he said in an interview, adding mass deportations would leave a “void” in the state’s workforce.

Mitchell also said deportations and rhetoric around undocumented immigrants would likely have a “chilling” effect on the broader immigrant community, as those working in the country with work visas may reconsider staying and others may change their plans to come to the United States.

“These changes would likely increase the cost of labor for the agricultural economy, creating disruptions and putting upward pressure on prices, at least in the short term,” Mitchell said in an email. “Longer term, companies would look for labor saving changes, continuing the trend to invest in

automation that has been ongoing for several years.”

Aside from shouldering positions that may be otherwise hard to fill, undocumented workers also have “an enormous impact” on the economy, Martinez argued. Based on 2022 figures, he said these workers across all industries pay \$240 million in taxes in Wisconsin without benefiting from Social Security and other tax-funded programs.

How undocumented workers are compensated varies farmer-to-farmer, Martinez explained, though in most cases they’re paid in cash. Some farmers pay them by check, while “they pay taxes, but they don’t identify the workers,” referring to them as contract labor.

“Therefore, they’re required to obtain a W9 from contract labor. Sometimes that is reported, sometimes it’s not reported,” he said.

In other cases, farmers will bring in a third-party entity that employs the undocumented farm workers. That outside employer, typically a U.S. citizen, will use their own tax information for reporting purposes, according to Martinez.

“The grower will still take out the taxes on payroll, and that is reported, but that is reported under this individual who then turns around and pays [undocumented workers,]” he said. “But does the grower fear, in terms of retribution? Of course, because it’s illegal ... but we have to also understand that some of these are mom and pop operations. They’re just trying to survive.”

Meanwhile, Wenzlaff highlighted the shifting economic landscape in rural Wisconsin, noting the state’s dairy industry has lost 30% of its farms over the past decade or so.

“When you think about the agricultural workforce, it looks a lot different from 20, 30 years ago,” he said. “Family members are asked to get off-the-farm jobs now to help support

the farm. And it isn’t the neighboring kid who comes to help out ... because that farm that had the neighbor kids that helped out, probably went out of business.”

He also noted dairy farms are excluded from the H-2A visa program that allows certain U.S. employers to hire foreign workers for temporary agriculture jobs. He argued opening that up to dairy farms, as well as extending the duration of the visas provided under the program, “would be a huge help” for Wisconsin’s ag industry.

“When I talk to farmers, they talk about how they love their employees, how they enjoy having them around, how they’re productive members of the community, and that they’ve been on their farm for years,” Wenzlaff said. “Their families are part of the community, and part of the farming lifestyle in rural Wisconsin. Whether they’re here illegally or not, they’re part of the Wisconsin landscape.”

For more, visit [WisPolitics.com](http://WisPolitics.com)

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## Aspirus Health provides tips on traveling with medication

As people are traveling for the holidays, Aspirus Pharmacy Resident Rebecca Thao offers advice for managing medications while on the go.

“To maintain their efficacy, you want to keep them in an insulated container if you can and keep them in their original container...just keep it from freezing temperatures,” says Thao. Proper storage is essential to ensure medications work as intended, especially in extreme temperatures.

Here are tips for traveling with medication:

**1. Protect Medications from Temperature**

**Changes** – Medication storage needs vary by climate, including:

- Cold Weather – Use insulated containers to prevent freezing.
- Warm Weather – Store medications in a cool, shaded place, away from direct sunlight.
- Refrigerated Medications – Pack insulin, biologics, and certain hormones in a cooler with ice packs if refrigeration is required.

**2. Pack Extra Medication** – Running out of medication while traveling can lead to health complications. Bring enough medication to last a trip, plus extra in case of delays or emergencies.

**3. Prepare for the Unexpected** – If someone loses their medication or runs out:

- Contact a health care provider for a new prescription at a nearby pharmacy.
- Request a prescription transfer through a national pharmacy chain.
- Visit a local walk-in clinic to obtain a new prescription.

**4. Review Medications Before Traveling** – Discuss medication needs with a health care provider or pharmacist to ensure there is enough for a trip.

“Please review your medications before your trip to ensure you have enough supply to last the whole trip,” advises Thao.

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We will be closed so our employees can spend time with families during the holidays. Sorry for any inconvenience. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**THERE WILL NOT BE A WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025 ISSUE**

The Wednesday, January 8 issue will be out as usual.





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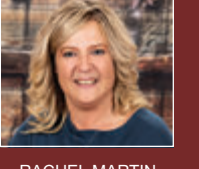
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### Catfish Lake



- 4 BR/3 BA luxury log home on Eagle River Chain
- 412' level swim frtg, 4000 sq ft, 2 gas fireplaces
- Park-like picture perfect setting, private

**\$2,500,000**      **MLS#209223**

### Scattering Rice Lake



- 8 BR/4 BA chalet, meticulously maintained
- 100' pancake level sand frtg on Eagle River Chain
- Great rental history, investment opportunity

**\$1,700,000**      **MLS#209552**



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### Big St. Germain Lake



- 4 BR/3 BA renovated lakefront home
- 100' level sand frtg, lakeside sun deck
- 2 car detached garage, blacktop driveway, dock

**\$999,000**      **MLS#208245**

### Little Bearskin Lake



- 2 BR/3 BA + loft, 3911 sq ft
- 500' frtg, 10 AC wooded lot
- Full log, 1800 sq ft of garage space

**\$799,000**      **MLS#209508**



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### Eagle River



- 7100 sq ft commercial space
- 2240 sq ft of warehouse/loading dock
- Tenant in place – immediate rental income

**\$624,900**      **MLS#206124**

### Pelican River



- 3 BR/2 BA, 2128 sq ft private modern home
- 2320' frtg, 39 AC, deck, 2 car detached garage
- Bright kitchen, master suite, main floor laundry

**\$600,000**      **MLS#209558**

### Wisconsin River



- 2 BR/2 BA, 1244 sq ft, 1.5 story home
- 344' sand frtg, private setting, 2.24 AC
- 1 BR/1 BA guest cottage, detached garage

**\$549,900**      **MLS#208499**



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### Eagle River



- 3 BR/2.5 BA, 1825 sq ft townhome
- Home 38, new construction, near ER Chain
- Community clubhouse, indoor pool, bb court

**\$484,000**      **MLS#209854**

### Little St. Germain Lake



- 3 BR/3 BA, 3240 sq ft condo
- 2100' shared sand frtg, boat slip
- Walkout lower level, 2 car set garage

**\$424,900**      **MLS#206235**

### Marenisco, MI

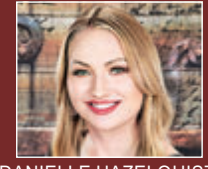


- 240 AC, Ottawa National Forest
- Lake Gogebic nearby, low taxes
- Investment opportunity, CFA plan

**\$325,000**      **MLS#210129**



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### Ironwood, MI



- Prime commercial location, over 6300 sq ft
- Lg wraparound bar, open & pvt dining areas
- Walk-in coolers, updated roof & updated HVAC

**\$299,000**      **MLS#208438**

### Big Pine Creek



- 4 BR/1 BA 5 AC hobby farm
- Creek runs through property
- Large open kitchen, multi-level barn

**\$250,000**      **MLS#209066**

### Grassy Lake



- 2 BR/1 BA, 1.25 AC, walkout lower level
- 225' frtg, private, near town, deck
- Large flat lot, on snowmobile/bike trail

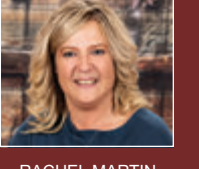
**160,000**      **MLS#207099**



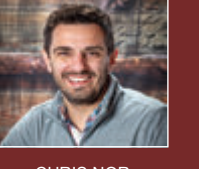
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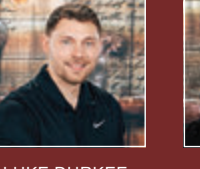
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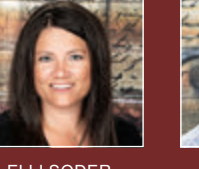
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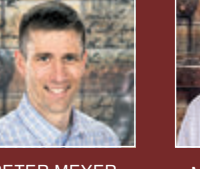
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