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\$2.00

Section A

# The Three Lakes News



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

## WCDC to crown a vintage champion this weekend

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

Festivities for the 24th running of the Vintage World Championship Derby in Eagle River will start Thursday, Jan. 9, and conclude with the crowning of a world champion Sunday, Jan. 12.

After officials had to delay the races to late February, 2024, due to unseasonal weather, racing festivities will be on time this year despite a lack of snow and a recent warm-up. The track has a great ice base after some cold weather swept through the North Woods in December and early January, which allowed track officials to get the water trucks out on the track to start preparations.

Even with a slight warmup, the track is ready for the racers who will converge at the Derby Complex this week for a world title opportunity after crews worked tirelessly in the week leading up to the event.

“We have three water trucks and a five-man crew ready to go 24/7,” said WCDC CEO Tom Anderson about the track conditions as they head into race week.

Anderson noted this is the best the track has been in recent years.

WCDC Race Director Craig Marchbank gave fans an update on the complex’s Facebook page right before the new year, saying “Business as usual. We are ready to race,” in regards to the 24th Vintage Championship Derby this weekend.

Jaime Bourgeois of Boonville, N.Y., won last year’s championship by piloting his No. 4 sled to victory lane after fending off five-time event champion, Matt Goede, of New Germany, Minn. Both racers are expected to be back at the WCDC this year, with Bourgeois looking to defend his title, according to Marchbank.

Sabrina Blanchet of



Mike Meagher, left, of Vintage Snowmobile Magazine presents the annual World Championship cup to Jamie Bourgeois of Boonville, New York following his winning of the 23rd annual Vintage World Championship. —Staff Photo

To WCDC Pg. 7

## Local chef travels 3,000-plus miles to compete on national reality show

Trip to paradise reinforces his love of the North

BY MICHELLE DREW  
CORRESPONDENT

Residents can tune in starting this week to see one of Eagle River’s own compete on a national reality show for the chance to win millions of dollars — an experience he called an “absolute adventure.”

Luke Olejniczak of Eagle River joined the cast of season two of “Deal or No Deal Island” to play against 12 other players and the “Banker” for the grand prize of more than \$200 million.

According to NBC’s website, the show’s premise is, “Thirteen players are invited to stay in paradise, where they’ll face tough challenges, cutthroat strategy and all-star competitors... all leading up to the ultimate game of ‘Deal or No Deal’ for a shot at a record-breaking prize.”

Olejniczak grew up in the North Woods, cultivating a passion for cooking, fishing, hunting and all



Eagle River resident Luke Olejniczak kicks back in paradise during his time on season two of “Deal or No Deal Island.” —Photos Courtesy of NBC Studios

things outdoors, which made him an enticing candidate for the show. When not competing for millions of dollars in an island paradise, he operates his own business here in the North Woods — Private Chef Luke’s — where he creates memorable meal experiences for his guests.

### Earning his spot

Prior to his appearance on “Deal or No Deal Island,” Olejniczak was

actually confirmed last year to be a cast member on Gordon Ramsay’s “Next Level Chef” program in Ireland, but he had to decline due to scheduled meal bookings in the area.

“A casting agent found my Instagram page by chance and loved my story of being a self-trained product from small-town America,” Olejniczak explained. “I had to think long and hard about it, but I had far too many local dinner parties in the area scheduled and did not want to cancel any because the dinners I execute truly are important to me. I gave my word to the clients that I would execute their special dinner.”

Although he said it was the correct decision, Olejniczak regretted passing on the opportunity, assuming an offer like that would not come his way again.

But, the casting agent wasn’t ready to give up yet, promising Olejniczak he would have another opportunity. Although Olejniczak had his doubts, that agent was true to their word, and he received a phone call last March from an unlisted number in Los Angeles, Calif.

To SHOW Pg. 2

## \$21,000 bonus up for grabs during Vintage week

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

Drivers throughout the weekend of the 24th running of the Vintage World Championships at the World Championship Derby Complex in Eagle River will have a shot at \$21,000 of additional bonus money or more throughout many classes this weekend.

The two featured bonuses are the Vintage World Championship Final, which has an added \$3,000 in bonus money up for grabs, while the other is in the Relic Mod class, with a combined \$3,000 in two separate races throughout the weekend.

During Friday Night Lightning, the Relic Mod 800 final will have \$2,000 of that money up for grabs, while the Woody’s Dash for Cash eight-lap final at the end of the night will add \$1,500 to the winner.

Other added prize money Friday includes \$500 in the

Super Mod 340 final, \$300 in the Pro Mod 340 FA final and the Seniors Super Stock 340 FA/FC final, and \$250 added to the Super Stock IFS 540 final.

The winner of the Pro Mod 300 FA final Saturday will get an additional \$1,000, while \$500 will go to the Super Mod 300 FA/Liquid class champion.

Championship Sunday will see 16 classes race for extra prize money, with someone taking home an extra \$3,000 to the World Championship purse and the coveted title of Vintage World Champion.

Other big additional payouts will be \$1,000 each in the Relic Mod 340 FA and 440 FA, along with \$1,000 added purse money for the Pro Mod 440 FA class final.

A variety of other awards will be presented including championship rings, trophies, and jackets at the awards ceremony after racing concludes.

## World Championship Derby to return to Eagle River next week

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

The 62nd World Championship Snowmobile Derby will be returning to the World Championship Derby Complex (WCDC) next weekend, with races starting on Thursday, Jan. 16, and running until Sunday, Jan. 19.

The event will start 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.

Friday will be a full day of qualification racing in oval classes. Then on Friday night will be the Friday Night Thunder show, where championship qualifiers go head-to-head to determine who will sit on the pole in Sunday’s Championship race, and is designed to show fans who is the fastest and who could be the new 2025 World Champion.

The top 16 qualifiers will run two heat races with eight machines in each and pull five racers from each heat for the final. The victor will automatically qualify in the top 10 and will sit on the pole position for the final. The winner won’t have to duel it out in qualifications Saturday afternoon.

To DERBY Pg. 3



WELCOME 2025 — Folks throughout the North Woods bid farewell to 2024 and rung in 2025 last week, including the Hendrickson family, who observed a fireworks show atop a frozen Catfish Lake in Eagle River on New Years Eve. —Photo By Julieanne Hendrickson

## Ice castle construction begins this week

BY JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Construction on the annual Eagle River Ice Castle is set to begin this week, with the Eagle River Fire Department hoping to begin the five-day process on Wednesday, Jan. 8, following a weekend of chilly temperatures that helped thicken ice on local lakes — namely Silver Lake, where ice for the castle is harvested from.

With ice thickness on local lakes measuring between 10 to 14 inches, Eagle River Fire Chief Michael Anderson said that this is the prime time to harvest ice for the castle. Once thickness reaches 16 inches, however, it becomes too difficult to cut through.

The process of constructing the ice castle, from start to finish, will take approximately five days, starting with the pre-cutting of ice blocks. The fire department will pre-cut around 2,000 ice blocks, leaving two inches at the bottom to be hand-cut on harvest day. A small crew of six to eight volunteers will be needed to help caulk the cut lines to prevent flooding.

Day two is the biggest volunteer day, consisting of harvesting and hauling

To CASTLE Pg. 3



# NEWS



Posing in front of their “new” 1998 ladder truck, gifted to them by Illinois firefighters, are Three Lakes firefighters: in back from left, Devon Kirby, David Kirby and Fire Chief Bob Canada, in front, Lee Tauer and Tyler Landrus. —Photo By Kurt Krueger

## Operational referendum slated for Pines School District

The Northland Pines School District, with four school campuses located in Vilas County, will be conducting an operating referendum on Tuesday, Feb. 18, to exceed the revenue limit for operational purposes.

The district is requesting \$5.6 million per year for three years starting with the 2025-26 school year. If passed, this referendum would replace the current referendum, which was passed in 2022, for \$4.6 million per year.

In 2019 voters approved a \$4.6 million referendum that was replaced with the one in 2022 (meaning that for the last six years no increase was requested, according to the district). The current \$4.6 million referendum is set to expire at the end of the 2024-25 school year.

A key aspect of the new referendum is that in the 2024-25 school year (third year of current referendum) \$2.4 million dollars came off the levy because the last payment for the Northland Pines Middle and High School building was made. That reduced the mill rate by an estimated .72 cents or \$72 dollars per \$100,000 home. If passed, the district says that this new referendum would increase taxes by .16 cents in the first year, .11 cents in the second year and .05 cents in the last year. This means for a \$100,000 dollar house, a \$16 increase would be seen in year one, \$11 in year two and \$5 in year three. The new requested referendum dollars would be used for operational costs.

District Administrator Scott Foster will hold four informational meetings to present directly to the public regarding the operations of the school district and the impact on taxpayers of this operational school referendum. Meeting dates, times and locations are as follows:

- Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Land O' Lakes Elementary School
- Thursday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Middle School and High School Auditorium
- Thursday, Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Germain Elementary School
- Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. at Walter E. Olson Memorial Library

In addition to the scheduled events listed above, if any group would like DA Foster to meet with them to answer questions and explain the need for this referendum, it is recommended that they reach out to Foster directly at 715-479-6487, Option 3, Ext. 1 or via email at sfoster@npsd.k12.wi.us.

Visit the website: <https://www.npsd.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2025.cfm> to learn more about the needs of the referendum, how the current request is calculated, as well as how the district has used the funds in the past.

## Three Lakes firefighters gifted a ladder truck

BY KURT KRUEGER  
CORRESPONDENT

Thanks to the generosity of a fire district in Round Lake, Ill., the Three Lakes Fire Department recently replaced its outdated 1988 ladder truck with a newer and more impressive piece of fire-fighting equipment — free of charge.

That's the word from Fire Chief Bob Canada, who trekked to Round Lake two months ago with fellow firefighters to inspect and potentially pick up a ladder truck taken out of service by the Round Lake Fire District.

The district's board had made it known in firefighting circles that they were decommissioning a truck that could be donated to a department that needed it, perfect timing for a Three Lakes crew that had recently taken its 36-year-old unit out of service.

“We thought we were going to lose that fire-fighting tool,” said Canada. “It's still hard to believe

that this 1998 ladder truck became available at the same time, and that they were willing to give it to us.”

Canada said the department had been looking at a 2006 ladder truck that was priced at \$350,000, far more than they could afford. That price tag was equal to the last new main engine they purchased years ago.

“This ladder truck is not only 10 years newer, but it has a higher weight capacity that includes a platform at the top of the ladder, which goes up a maximum 102 feet,” he said. “Our previous truck could only handle a single firefighter at the top with a single water gun. This truck has two guns on the platform.”

Fortunately, the department's modern firehouse had 12-foot doors, giving them a couple of inches of leeway in fitting the 1998 ladder truck inside.

Several firefighters met at the firehouse to

get photos of the new equipment recently and Devon Kirby, one of the crew that went to Illinois to inspect and pick up the “new” ladder truck, said the treatment they received was incredible.

“We offered to take them out for lunch in appreciation for their donation and they said no way, we are taking you out for lunch,” said Kirby. “It was quite a feeling, being part of a fire-fighting fraternity where people care so much about helping others.”

As the department envisioned making the new equipment its own, along came the Three Lakes Tavern League with a \$1,000 donation to get new vinyl graphics on the truck. Canada said they are planning some other visual upgrades to make the ladder truck more uniform in appearance with the rest of their equipment.

Three Lakes was the second department in Oneida County to get a ladder truck in 1988,

when developers of the New Northernaire were required by the county, as part of its building permits, to provide the fire department with equipment capable of fighting a fire on a complex that was 35 feet in height.

Canada said the only other department in the county with a ladder truck at the time was Rhinelander. Since then, he said they've become more popular and several other Oneida departments utilize them, including Minocqua, Woodruff and Pelican Lake.

He said Three Lakes is part of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), which has all area departments working together to provide equipment and manpower whenever and wherever it is needed.

“We're still pretty shocked about the way it all went down,” said Canada, “and very much appreciative of the generosity the Round Lake Fire District has shown.”

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## Castle

FROM PAGE 1

ice.

Volunteers with ½ ton pickup trucks will be needed to haul ice from Silver Lake to the railroad depot at 116 S. Railroad St. in Eagle River, with about 100 truckloads of ice needing to be hauled. Volunteers will also be needed to pull out and unload blocks onto pallets at the depot.

Day three is when the actual construction of the castle begins. Blocks will be shaved to a uniform 12 inches, and construction on the center towers — a process that takes about a day and a half — will begin.

Construction of the ice castle will continue into days four and five of the process, with the focus being on constructing the towers and outer walls of the ice castle.

If interested in volunteering, show up at the railroad depot to check in. Trucks will require empty pickup beds and be able to hold 20 ice blocks. Volunteers who don't have a truck are recommended to bring warm clothes, suitable footwear, and “a great attitude.” Roles and schedules will be provided.

If interested in providing a forklift or additional equipment, or are looking for additional information, contact Michael Anderson at 715-891-1497.



Volunteers will be helping harvest and haul hundreds of truckloads of ice from Silver Lake this week to construct the iconic ice castle for the first time since 2022. —STAFF PHOTO

## Derby

FROM PAGE 1

Saturday will bring oval classes qualifying for 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.

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



The 62nd World Championship Snowmobile Derby, known also as the Indianapolis 500 of snowmobile racing, is set to run from Jan. 16 - 19. —STAFF PHOTO

of race fans. The SnowGoer Cup, inscribed with the names of all past WC winners, will be hoisted

in victory for the Derby photographers.

For more information and tickets, visit [https://](https://derbycomplex.com/)

[derbycomplex.com/](https://derbycomplex.com/) or call 715-479-4424.

[www.vcnewsreview.com](http://www.vcnewsreview.com)

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### Lilyan Schuster



Lilyan Schuster of Phelps died on Dec. 26th, 2024. She was surrounded by family. Mrs. Schuster worked at Lillian Kerr Nursing Home in Phelps. Mrs. Schuster is survived by three daughters, Chris (Craig) Starkweather, Cindy (Rob) Senner, Linda Schuster; one son, Lawrence Schuster Jr; and other family members.

There will be a celebration of life held Friday, Jan. 10, 2025, with a gathering at 10:00 a.m., memorial service at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch to share memories at St. Mary's Church, 4494 Town Hall Rd, Phelps WI 54554.

Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home in Eagle River is serving the family.

### Jan Ernest Winter



Jan Ernest Winter, age 93, of Eagle River, WI, and formerly of St. Paul, MN, passed away on Wednesday, December 25, 2024, surrounded by his loving daughters. He was a man of immense humor and wisdom, possessing a youthful spirit throughout his life.

Born on July 28, 1931, in Cologne, Germany, Jan moved to the United States at the age of eight, settling in Milwaukee, WI. He attended St. Andrew's-Sewanee Military Academy, a private Episcopal boarding school in Tennessee.

Jan served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953, working in Germany and managing railroad stations.

On May 27, 1960, he met and married Elizabeth (Betsy) Menrath at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Milwaukee, WI. They later moved to St. Paul, MN, where they had two daughters, Susan Winter and Heidi (Jeff) Dunn. Jan was a proud grandfather to two grandchildren, Parker Dunn and Morgan (Connor) Showalter, and great grandfather to Olivia Showalter.

Jan had a successful career as a business development manager, specializing in the sale of desalination machines, which took him on travels across the United States. With his delightful sense of fun and intelligence, he embraced life and certainly never met a stranger.

In 1998, Jan retired and moved to Eagle River, WI, where he continued to chase his dreams and stay active through snow skiing, golf, tennis, squash, and snowmobiling, among other activities.

He cherished the warmth of winters in Florida and dedicated many summers to working on the golf course as a starter and ranger until the age of 91. Known for his engaging conversations, he always kept himself informed about the latest world news.

Our father was like the mayor of his community; it wasn't about the number of people he knew, but rather the way he made them feel after spending time with him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Margaret and Hans Winter, as well as his sister, Margaret, and wife, Elizabeth Winter.

A celebration of his remarkable life will be held in the summer of 2025.

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

### Darlene Damitz



Darlene Rae (Panawash) Damitz of Eagle River, Wisconsin, passed away Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, with her family by her side.

Darlene was born on August 8, 1944, in Waukesha, Wisconsin. She was the daughter of Walter Panawash and Vera Hine. Darlene was a 1962 graduate of Waukesha South High School.

On May 8, 1965, she married Albert Damitz, who passed away October 6, 2024.

She lived in Waukesha, Wisconsin, for several years. She then moved to Birnamwood, Wisconsin, with her husband and children. When Albert retired, they moved to Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Darlene enjoyed being a homemaker cooking, baking, flower & vegetable gardening, and fishing. She was also a long-time member of Eagle River chapter of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), a nonprofit weight-loss support organization. She reached her goal weight and earned her KOPS status. (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly).

The year she became a KOP, she was the state runner up for total weight loss and was recognized for this accomplishment at a ceremony in Baraboo, Wisconsin. That was an extremely proud moment for her. She retained her KOPS status for several years.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Lyle and Jimmy Panawash, sisters, Katherine Ostrowski and Geraldine Maas, and her parents, Walter & Vera.

Survivors include her brother, Dennis (Nancy) Panawash; children, David (fiancé Sally), Pam Damitz (Mike) Kramer; grandchildren, Kevin (Amber), Kody, Kaleb, Cassidy (Gavin), Cassandra (fiancé Cody), Kylie, and Ashton, great-grandchildren, Brady, Ava, Eleanor, Aubrieh, and Madelyn.

She will be missed by her family and friends. Farewell by now...until we meet again beloved wife, mother, aunt, and grandma. God Bless and Rest in Peace.

There will be no funeral service. A celebration of life will occur at a later date. Arrangements by: <https://www.midwisconsincremationsociety.com/> MWCS Mid Wisconsin Cremation Society PAID OBITUARY

### Edward Richter



Edward August Richter, age 92, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 29, 2024.

He is survived by his son Guy (Terry) of Rye, CO, daughter Gail (Tom) Kuklinski of Cumberland, WI, two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. He married Dona Crocker in 1951, and cherished their 63 years of happy marriage until her passing in 2014. They traveled on cruises to Panama, journeyed to Alaska, and went on camping trips to Arizona making many friends along the way. The couple enjoyed snowmobiling, and Ed was instrumental in the early construction of the Derby track donating time and equipment. He loved snowmobile racing and volunteered at the track for nearly 50 years.

Ed was the last surviving member of the five Richter brothers, known for their hockey skills and concrete business. He was a life-long resident of Eagle River, before happily spending his final years at VitaCare Assisted Living near his daughter in Cumberland. Ed worked very hard his entire life, leaving school (and home) at 14 to work in a sawmill. He taught himself how to build things, fix things, and problem solve most anything. Always full of energy, no task was too big or too small. His many skills helped build Richter Ready Mix, as well as Richter's Cottages. He and his son built a log cabin on Cedar Creek in the U.P. of Michigan.

Ed was a founding member of the B&R Hunt Club (Beaudin & Richter brothers hunting shack), a treasured place in the family. His mountain hunting adventures were remarkable. He and his son harvested several elk over the years, writing a book together to keep memories alive. He was tough in the mountains, packing huge loads on his back. Nothing was too steep or too high. He was the best hunting partner, and best Dad ever. The Happy Hunting Grounds just got a new hunter!

A celebration of life will be held on June 7, 2025, from 12-4 p.m. at Eagle Waters Resort. Donations can be made in Ed's name to the Eagle River Recreation Association <https://eagle-river-recreation-association.square.site>

PAID OBITUARY

### Mary Therese Konrath Major

In loving memory of Mary Therese Konrath Major. Born October 3rd, 1939, at peace January 1st, 2025.

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one. I'd like to leave an Afterglow of smiles when life is done. I'd like to leave an echo..whispering softly down the ways of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days. I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun of happy memories that I leave behind when life is done.

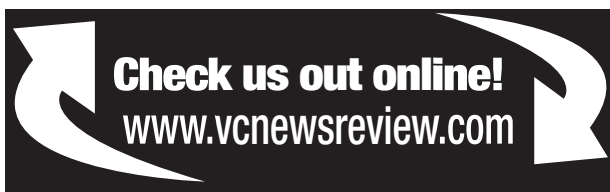
Survived by Cyndie Konrath, Brian Konrath, Michelle Samples, seven grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren.

Forever in our hearts. Arrangements have been entrusted to Curley Funeral Home, Chicago Ridge. For info: 708-422-2700 or [www.curleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.curleyfuneralhome.com). PAID OBITUARY

### Kelly Edwards

Kelly Edwards of Eagle River died on Sunday, January 5, 2025. She was 83.

A full obituary will appear in a future edition. Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home in Eagle River is serving the family.



## La Barge sentenced on multiple felony charges

Jonah La Barge, 29, of Lac du Flambeau, was found guilty of two felony charges, one as a sixth offense OWI. A third felony count was dismissed, but read into the record for sentencing.

Branch Two Circuit Court Judge Daniel Overbey sentenced La Barge to five years in the Wisconsin Prison, two years of initial confinement and three of extended supervision for both counts. The two will run concurrently with each other and any other sentence he currently serves.

There is a \$1,200 fine, court costs totaling \$2,702, three years of driver's license revocation, and an Ignition Interlock Device.

Ryan Hochrein, 41, of Lac du Flambeau, was found guilty and sentenced on one felony charge of methamphetamine possession and one misdemeanor. Judge Overbey sentenced Hochrein to four years in the WPS for the possession charge, which includes two years of confinement and two of extended supervision. Overbey ordered 24 days in Vilas Jail, which was served with 24 days of presentence credit.

Phong Xiong, 36, of Wausau, was found guilty of one felony count of possession with intent of amphetamine/methamphetamine. Judge Overbey withheld the sentence and ordered Xiong to three years of probation, which includes 45 days of conditional jail, maintaining absolute sobriety, and not going on the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Reservation. Court costs are payable to the Clerk of Courts within 30 days.

Michael Dunbar, 60, of Eagle River, had his bond amended to a \$1,000 signature bond during an adjourned initial appearance for one felony count of cocaine possession. Conditions for the signature bond include maintaining absolute sobriety, not possessing or consuming any intoxicants, not being in a tavern or tavern portion of a restaurant, not using, possessing or ingesting illegal drugs, not taking prescription drugs unless prescribed, and not being on Chain O' Lakes Road in Eagle River. A preliminary To COURT Pg. 7

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# Sports



Rebel Jays wrestler Reegan Roy goes for a takedown in his semifinal match on his way to a championship at the 106 weight class at a holiday tournament at UW-Oshkosh late last month. —Photos By William Zuelke

## Roy places first in Oshkosh as Rebel Jays pile on match wins as team

BY WILLIAM ZUELKE  
CORRESPONDENT

In the largest and most prestigious wrestling tournament of the season for the Wabeno-Laona-Three Lakes varsity wrestling team, Reegan Roy placed first in the 106-pound weight class at the Lourdes on the Water (OTW) Wrestling Classic late last month. He joined his teammates through a two-event holiday period where they collectively contributed more than 50 individual match victories and several top-five finishes.

The Lourdes OTW event was held at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and drew wrestlers from 64 high schools in front of thousands at the Kolf Sports Center. Since the co-op's inception between the high schools of Wabeno, Laona and Three Lakes, Roy is the first member of the Rebel Jays to capture a title here, finishing the two-day event with a perfect 6-0 record.

His win to get into the first-place match was against the top-rated Division 3 wrestler in his weight bracket, Zander Mueller, of Brillion High School. He then defeated August Lubinski in the championship match by a 12-4 major decision. Roy is now 26-1 and is rated the top high school wrestler in the state at 106 pounds according to the popular website Wisconsin Grappler. "Reegan is hyper focused and is always willing to put in the extra work to reach his goals," head coach Seth Senter said after the top placement in Oshkosh. "He is very easy to coach and always understands and follows the match strategies that



Freshman Ryker Schingeck gains control in his match moments before a pin victory in Oshkosh.

coach (Colin) Schubert and I help him set. This kid just wants to win and, so far, he has been controlling nearly every aspect of the high-profile matches."

Roy was joined by his freshman teammate Ryker Schingeck (120 lbs.) in earning a podium finish in Oshkosh as Schingeck went 6-2 in the tournament and worked his way from a quarterfinal loss to Ethan Bast of West Bend West to a fourth-place finish by winning three of his final four matches. Schingeck is off to a 13-3 start in his first year on the varsity squad.

According to Senter, a high finish at the Lourdes OTW Wrestling Classic is a good barometer of where the team sits deep into the season.

"This event attracts the best wrestlers throughout the state," he said. "The competition and atmosphere here is very similar to those found at state championship matches and it was very

gratifying to see our kids performing so well."

Max Clark (113 lbs.), Jayse Demerath (126 lbs.) and Brody Hoffman (175 lbs.) were other Rebel Jays with winning records in Oshkosh as each shared 3-2 records in the event. The three grapplers were each coming off strong performances in the previous week at the Shawano High School Holiday Classic where Clark, competing at a JV level, placed first, while Demerath and Hoffman placed sixth in their respective weight classes.

Three Lakes High School senior wrestler Noah Kincaid (165 lbs.) was 1-2 in Oshkosh, but placed second while competing at the JV level in Shawano as he won by pin and another by decision on his way to a second-place finish. Kincaid finished the holiday period with a 3-3 record while contributing 16 points.

While others on the

team, including Naaman Stanley, Sawyer Jameson, Levi Shepard, Worawat Thawonwan and Nolan Milham did not have winning records, each won at least one match and Shepard had two pin wins and a major decision to his credit in Shawano. Shepard and Milham won their 10th varsity match of the season during the holiday tournaments.

Coach Senter also called out the performances of Michael Milligan, Yukon Volk, Cameron Tilton and Kyra Beaber as each scored victories in JV action during the last couple of weeks, with Tilton reaching a top placement at 126 pounds with a 3-0 record, all by pin.

The team will compete this Thursday, January 9, at Lena High School with a quad event at 5 p.m. followed by another large invitational at New London High School on Saturday, Jan. 11, beginning at 9:30 a.m.



## Sideline Scoop

BY JACOB HEID

## Vintage Championship Derby returns

After a delayed and shortened Vintage World Championship Derby weekend last year due to unseasonable temperatures, the two consecutive weekends of championship racing start tomorrow with the 24th running of the Vintage World Championships.

The North Woods got hit with a cold spell early, but a lack of snow hasn't helped anyone get on the trails yet this year. Actually, with a recent warm-up, it looks kind of like spring outside with more grass showing than snow as we near mid-January.

Despite the lack of white stuff on the ground, it was cold enough for a time that the half-mile track at the World Championship Derby Complex is ready for racers to return for an on-time event this year.

Jaime Bourgeois of Boonville, N.Y., won the 23rd Vintage championships last year by piloting his No. 4 sled to the victory lane after fending off five-time champion of the event, Matt Goede, of New Germany, Minn.

As the track continues to be prepared up to race day, officials said the track has a solid five-inch base which held through a recent stretch of temperatures in the high-30s a few weeks ago.

The high-speed, competitive racing starts Friday, Jan. 10, beginning at 8:30 a.m., with over 20 classes of racing before Friday Night Lighting opening ceremonies begin at 5:30 p.m. with racing at 6 p.m.

The Woody's Dash for Cash highlights the night with four heat races, two semifinals and one final, that will determine the pole position of Sunday's final.

Championship qualifying will start between 2-3 p.m. Saturday, as other classes will also be out on the ice throughout the day. All the anticipation and preparation leads to a chance to race on Championship Sunday.

A last-chance qualifying race will take place at noon for a shot at the back row starting positions in the WC that will start at 3 p.m.

Racers will take 10 laps around the half-mile track in an attempt to etch their name in history and become the 24th World Vintage Champion.

Top finishers throughout the weekend will be celebrated at an awards ceremony roughly an hour after the final race has concluded.

## Culver's Cup offered tough competition for Eagles

BY CHRIS OATMAN  
CORRESPONDENT

During the Christmas holiday break, the Northland Pines High School boys hockey team again participated in the annual three-day Culver's Cup Hockey Tournament in Madison, which saw the team end with a 1-2 record.

The 28-team tournament field included some of the state's top teams, and the Eagles started with an impressive 6-0 victory over Cedarburg in their opening game December 26. Pines then lost contests to Madison Memorial (8-2) and Madison West (4-0).

"We hope to keep improving as a team, and this trip was a great opportunity for the boys to be together off the ice," said Pines head coach Zach Otto. "We plan to attend the same tournament next year."

The Eagles passed the puck around nicely in the opening game, where a handful of skaters found the twine in the win.

"Great way to start the tournament," stated Otto about the Cedarburg win. "Not too often in a high school game do you see six different scorers on six total goals. It was great to see the kids find the back of the net with some really nice goals."

Nicholas Boxrucker of the Eagles scored the only goal of the first period unassisted, and they all but put the game away with four goals in the second period.

Cooper Saari scored unassisted and Easton Otto tallied with a helper from Tyler Busha.

Michael Schmidt scored unassisted and Sam Shrock set up Jazek Jantzen to make it 5-0 Eagles after two periods.

Jantzen then returned the favor by assisting Schrock for the only goal of the third period and a 6-0 Eagles' victory.

"(Freshman Goalie) Evrett Leslie played an amazing game in the net (35 saves)," added Otto. "He blocked several good scoring opportunities, giving our team a boost of confidence."

Next up was the eventual tournament champion, Madison Memorial, and the Spartans went right to work, scoring five goals in the first period and three in the second on the way to an 8-2 win over the Eagles.

"I think our team was a little shocked by the pace of Madison Memorial. By the time we settled in, the game was out of reach," commented Otto.

Leslie faced a heavy dose of shots with 57 and he stopped 49 of them.

Shrock scored for the Eagles in the first period with an assist from Cooper Saari.

The other Pines goal came when Peter Anderson cashed in on a second-period penalty shot.

Pines closed out the tournament with a 4-0 loss to Madison West.

"The team was a little more prepared for the fast pace, and Evrett played great in the net again and took us into the third period in a scoreless tie, but we gave up the four goals," noted Otto.

Northland Pines has

## Eagles win one over the holiday break

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH  
CORRESPONDENT

The Northland Pines boys basketball team lost its second straight Great Northern Conference (GNC) game on the road at Lakeland 51-46 just before the holiday break, but bounced back to win one of two games in a holiday tournament at Adams-Friendship.

The Eagles started the Lakeland game back on Dec. 20 slow and fell behind early 5-0. Pines then went on a 14-0 run to lead 14-5 with 7 minutes remaining in the half.

Lakeland chipped away at the Eagles' lead and built a 19-16 lead with four minutes to go before intermission. Both teams traded baskets with the Thunderbirds leading 25-24 at the break.

"We started off really slow and had a couple

turnovers early, but we stayed the course and made a good run," said Pines coach Terry Klemett. "But we just didn't shoot the ball well overall and we lost a nice lead."

The teams exchanged baskets early in the second half, with the game tied at 38 apiece with 5:30 remaining in the contest. A late corner three by Lakeland was the separation they needed to secure the 51-46 win.

"We got into another shooting slump. Sometimes we get aggressive and we get a couple to drop. This game it seemed no one wanted to shoot," said Klemett. "I thought we defended well enough to win, but you're just not going to win a whole lot of games scoring only 46 on the road."

Pines shot 40% on their field goals, but just 21% from beyond the arc.

Cody Vojta led Pines with 11 points and eight rebounds, followed by Mylo Albrecht and Jack Albrecht with nine points apiece. Jonathan Miller chipped in with eight points and Jacob Beer had seven. A.J. Muench had seven rebounds.

### Holiday tourney

The Eagles traveled to Adams Friendship for a holiday tournament Dec. 27-28, taking on a strong Sparta team Friday and falling 76-62.

Northland Pines competed offensively, according to Klemett, but couldn't get the stops they needed throughout the game to come up on top.

"This was a very good Sparta team, and it was good for us to play a team that will help us later on in the conference and for the tournament," said Klemett.

Statistics were not available from the game.

On the second day of the holiday tournament, Dec. 28, the Eagles played Hillsboro in the consolation game and Pines got a 58-48 come-from-behind victory.

Hillsboro led throughout the first half and got up by as many as eight points before the Eagles cut the lead to one at 25-24 at the break.

Pines continued to struggle to make shots in the second and were down 34-28 with nine minutes to play. That's when Albrecht got hot as he drilled three straight triples, plus a tough lay-in, to give the Eagles some life and the lead at 39-34.

"Our defense started to ramp up and we got some good stops," said Klemett.

On the other end, Pines

To BASKETBALL Pg. 11

To EAGLES Pg. 11



# SPORTS



**HOLIDAY GAMES** — Northland Pines athletes competed in several events right before the holiday break in late December. Lucy Nowak, above left, deflects a shot versus Black River Falls, while teammate Emalee Detienne, top right, skates with the puck. Senior Vienna Klemett, bottom right, fires a shot in a home game versus Lakeland. —Staff Photos By JACOB HEID



## Falcons torch nets again on home ice

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

It was another offensive showcase for the Eagle River Falcons as they poured in 13 goals Dec. 28 in a 13-2 victory in a Great Lakes Hockey League battle with the M&M Shamrocks in Eagle River.

This game was the second where Eagle River put up double digits on the scoreboard.

The visiting Shamrocks would take an early 1-0 lead in the first period, but

the Falcons would strike with a one-timer by Bryan Kronberger and another goal by Zach Maillette for a 2-1 lead. M&M scored both its goals in the first, as Eagle River held the 3-2 advantage after one period.

From there, a steady dose of goals throughout the second and third periods gave the Falcons an 11-goal win and the fourth victory of the season.

Goal-wise, Kronberger led the team with a hat trick, along with two goals and three assists from

forward Todd Koritzinsky. Koritzinsky has continued his production from a 32-goal season a year ago, with eight goals and 20 total points five games into the 2024-25 season.

Maillette followed with two goals, and six other Falcons tallied one goal in the win.

Eagle River is back on the ice for Vintage Derby weekend where they will face the Calumet Wolverines inside the Historic Eagle River Dome this Saturday, Jan. 11, starting at 7 p.m.

## Basketball

FROM PAGE 9

got some decent offense to build a 12-point cushion and ultimately seal the 10-point victory.

Albrecht led the Eagles with 21 points and nine rebounds, followed by Vojta with 13 points and

Ethan Miller with eight.

The win pushed the Eagles record to 6-4 overall on the season. Pines is 1-2 in the GNC. The Eagles were scheduled to host Mosinee on Tuesday of this week and will travel to Medford this Friday, Jan. 10, in a pair of GNC games starting at 7:15 p.m.

## Eagles

FROM PAGE 9

a 5-7 record and was set to host Hayward on Tuesday at the Dome.

The Eagles will then welcome Hayward to Eagle River for a game Saturday, Jan. 11, at 3:30 p.m.

## Pines girls co-op opens new year with road win

BY CHRIS OATMAN  
CORRESPONDENT

The Northland Pines girls hockey team (3-7) is 1-0 in 2025 after beating Viroqua 2-1 on the road last Friday night.

The win comes after the Eagles stayed warm throughout the holiday break, even though they dropped three contests then.

The Eagles were down 1-0 Jan. 3 when Ruby Casper set up Larken Paff with the tying goal at 8:34 of the second period.

The defensive battle continued into the third period until the Eagles' Emalee Detienne scored what proved to be the game-winning goal, assisted by Mia Tulowitzky, with less

than three minutes left in the game.

"We have been in enough games with this young team where the other team scores first," noted Pines coach Jeff Stebbeds. "I am proud they worked so hard against another senior and junior-stacked team. We are building something special here and the girls can see that."

In previous contests, on December 20, the Pines girls lost a 4-0 game at home to Black River Falls. The team was 5-4-5, but freshman goalie Lucy Nowak stopped 50 of those shots for the Eagles.

The Eagles then dropped an 8-2 decision to the Badger Lightning in Baraboo on December 27.

Olivia Peterson scored

for Pines, assisted by Bella Nowak, while Lilly Beitler scored with help from Peterson and Ruby Kasper.

"I'm almost thinking about taking the holidays off for games next year. Then they can have a week to get healthy."

A day later, Pines was back on the road at Stoughton where they dropped a 1-0 heartbreaker to the Icebergs, who scored the game's only goal at 8:41 of the first period. Pines fired 21 shots on target, with none being able to sneak behind the Icebergs' Anika Mueller.

The Eagles were back in action to play the Central Wisconsin Storm Tuesday at Marathon County Park in Wausau.

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## Hockey Schedules 2024-'25

**Eagle River Falcons**

Sat, Jan. 11 vs Calumet Wolverines - 7:00pm

**Northland Pines Eagles**

**Boys**  
Sat, Jan. 11 vs Ashland - 3:30pm  
Tues., Jan. 14 vs Rhinelander - 7:00pm

**Girls**  
Fri, Jan. 10 vs Stoughton - 4:30pm  
Sat, Jan. 11 vs Eau Claire North - 1:00pm  
Tues., Jan. 14 at Medford - 6:00pm

Subject to change please check team websites  
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# SPORTS

## Small things haunt Jays in loss to Niagara

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

It came down to the small things as the Three Lakes boys basketball team fell 69-55 in a nonconference matchup against Niagara Jan. 3 at Three Lakes High School.

Playing with a faster pace, and the struggle of rebounding, hurt the Jays as the Badgers took advantage of extra possessions in the game.

Freshman Easton Lurvey led Three Lakes in scoring again with 19 points in the loss. Levi Lurvey and Peyton Pitlik each tallied 11, while Pitlik notched a double-double with 11 rebounds as well.

"This game came down to rebounding like every other loss we had this year; we have been working on rebounding and boxing out at every practice for weeks, but it seems to still haunt us every game. Niagara had 15 more rebounds

than us in this game (45 to 30)," said THL head coach George Lurvey. "Our other downfall was that we got caught up in playing too fast of a pace, giving Niagara too many possessions and not getting the best looks on our offensive possessions. Niagara is a very good team that will likely win their conference, but we certainly did not play our best basketball in this matchup."

A slow start offensively led to Niagara grabbing an early advantage.

Lurvey (Easton) hit an early 3-pointer to lead 3-2 before the Badgers went on a 10-0 spurt to lead 12-3 about halfway through the first half.

A few steals and fast break opportunities for senior Eli Erickson added some points on the board, while Niagara kept answering to keep a 28-13 lead late in the first. It ended up being a 31-16 deficit for the Jays at the

break. Many role players for the Badgers stepped up after Three Lakes held their best player with just five first-half points.

"Our concentration for this game defensively was to slow down their stud player, Tommy Martin," stated Lurvey. "Owen Liebscher was assigned to that task and did an exceptional job holding him to five points in the first half and 12 points total. However, their role players picked up the slack and made some big shots for them."

The team came out of the break with some fire and cut the lead down to six, 33-27, with 13:04 left to play.

A lay-in by Liebscher and another 3-pointer by Lurvey (Easton) cut the lead down to five, 37-32. Three Lakes was held to just four points over the next few minutes and the deficit ballooned back up to 15 with about seven



Three Lakes senior Charlie Liebscher goes for a block down on the block in the first half of a 69-55 loss to Niagara last Friday in Three Lakes. —Staff Photo By JACOB HEID

minutes to play.

With a 3-5 (1-1) record, the Jays return to Northern Lakes Conference play for

the first game of a back-to-back this Thursday, Jan. 9, with a road game at Laona-Wabeno at 7:15 p.m.

They will then travel to Hurley Friday, Jan. 10, for a noncon game starting at 7:15 p.m. as well.

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WEEK 16 - Chris Blicharz of Three Lakes went 14-2 to win week 16 of the News-Review football contest. Here, Stacy Scheurer of the sponsoring Three Lakes Shell convenience store presents Blicharz with the \$100 cash prize. —STAFF PHOTO

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WEEK 17 - Tom Robinson of Conover tied with multiple entries at 13-3, but won the week 17 tie breaker. Here, Shirley Thompson, Owner/Pharmacist of the sponsoring Hometown Pharmacy in Land O'Lakes, presents Robinson's wife Cindy, with the \$100 cash prize. —STAFF PHOTO

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Week 18 - With a 14-2 record, Katie Kuehl of Muskego WI (not pictured), was the final regular season winner of the News Review weekly football contest. Pictured here with the \$100 cash prize are owner Taylor Klingaman and server Peggy Nimz, of the sponsoring Sayner Pub. —STAFF PHOTO

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# Lifestyle



**HAPPY NEW YEAR** — The Hendrickson Family — consisting of members Don, Paula, Jade, Piper, Morgan Cohen, Hannah and Julieanne — were one of many across the North Woods to ring in 2025 with a bang. Here the family can be seen watching a colorful fireworks show on a completely frozen over Catfish Lake in Eagle River.

—Photos By Julieanne Hendrickson

## Aspirus Health announces top baby names of 2024

The names Henry and Evelyn were announced as the top baby names of 2024 by Aspirus Health.

Out of a total of 2,911 live births at Aspirus facilities during the 2024 calendar year, 1,427 were baby girls.

The top boys' names included: Henry (47), Oliver (29) and Liam (28).

The top girls' names included: Evelyn (23), Charlotte (21) and Violet (19).

In comparison, last year's most popular names included Levi, Oliver and

Hudson for boys, and Amelia, Harper and Emma for girls.

Aspirus Health is proud to be a trusted partner in delivering care to mothers and their newborns. With comprehensive maternity services, Aspirus ensures a safe and personalized birthing experience for all families.

For more information about Aspirus birthing services, <https://www.aspirus.org/birthing-services>.

## Northland Pines School District accepting charter school applications

The Northland Pines School District is accepting families' applications to have children attend its charter schools now through Friday, Feb. 28.

The district operates three Charter Schools including the Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center, SOAR Charter Middle School, and the School of Options and Applied Research Charter High School.

Charter schools are public schools that are tuition-free and give parents and families a choice for education. Northland Pines offers three so that students in grades 4K through 12th grade have additional educational opportunities.

During the month of

January and through Friday, Feb. 28, the Northland Pines School District allows families to apply to have their children attend the Charter Schools. Current Northland Pines area students, open-enrolled individuals, and home-schooled students are eligible to attend. If more students apply than the spots available, a lottery system is used to determine which students can attend.

There will be parent meetings and/or school tours held at each school. See the information under each school below:

**Montessori Learning Center (Grades 4K-4) - St. Germain**

The Northland Pines

Learning Center is developed around the Montessori educational philosophy that was originated by Dr. Maria Montessori. It is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations of children from birth to adulthood.

The Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center shares a building with St. Germain Elementary School which allows them to share the library, kitchen, playground and other resources with St. Germain Elementary School. Students at the Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center follow a similar school calendar as the Northland Pines School District.

The school times are a little different to ensure that all students in the district can be bussed to St. Germain in time.

The school day at the Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center officially begins at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 2:50 p.m.

An informational meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 20, at 6:30 p.m. It is encouraged, but not required, that parents RSVP to [tduffek@npsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:tduffek@npsd.k12.wi.us). The in-person parent meeting will be held at the Montessori Learning Center, located at 8234 State Highway 70, in St. Germain.

The Montessori Learning

**To CHARTER, Pg. 4**



## Not that you asked, but ...

BY ERIC JOHNSON

### Starting anew

*"Kindness, kindness, kindness. I want to make a New Year's prayer, not a resolution. I'm praying for courage."*  
— American writer Susan Sontag, 1933-2004

As we welcome and ring in the new year of 2025, many of us take a moment to reflect on the past year and think about how we'd like to improve ourselves, starting with a 365-page blank slate.

We make resolutions to change our habits, to become better versions of ourselves, to reach new goals. I know I have in the past.

To lose weight — again. To begin exercising — again — or at the very least exercise my right to Taco Tuesday. To stop procrastinating — eventually. To wear less Under Armour. To stop double-dog daring people to lick frozen flagpoles. To tell the doctor the truth, not just what he wants to hear. To stop referring to autumn as Pumpkin Spice Latte Season. To stop lying to myself about following New Year's resolutions.

But how many of us actually stick to those New Year's resolutions?

Not many, truth be told, with a success rate running at an abysmal 9-12%.

As American actress and director Joey Lauren Adams once quipped, "May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions."

I think the problem with finding success is that we don't really think about why we're making resolutions in the first place. Is it because it's an annual

**To JOHNSON, Pg. 7**

## Boulder Junction ice-skating ribbon becomes popular winter attraction

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH  
CORRESPONDENT

While North Woods snowmobile trails remain closed due to a lack of snow, winter recreation enthusiasts might want to experience the new ice-skating ribbon at Boulder Junction Winter Park.

Locally known as The Glide, the 0.8-mile meticulously maintained ice-skating loop opened Dec. 23 and has received thousands of visitors in just two weeks as people look for recreational

opportunities during this low-snow season.

Boulder Junction Winter Park, located just .25 miles east of downtown Boulder Junction on Old Highway K, also features a lighted ice skating rink, sledding hill, picnic pavilion, bonfire pit, warming hut and portable restroom. It's open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

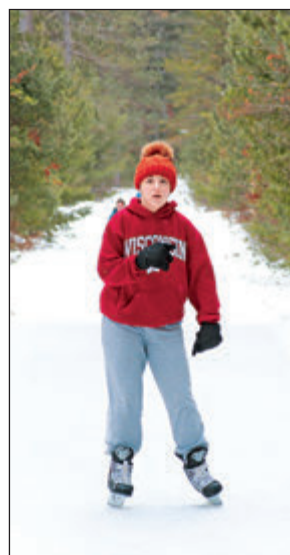
Vilas County holiday visitor Logan Southwell of Grand Rapids, Mich., said the skating ribbon was a unique experience.

"It definitely was fun and something very unique," he said. "We made three loops around the trail, each taking about 15 minutes. It was very scenic and was a pretty good workout. The warming

hut is nice for changing into your skates."

For those who don't have their own skates, there are a limited number of skates to borrow on site, donated by local residents and the Boulder Junctions Parks Board, who recently developed the unique ice-skating trail.

**To SKATING, Pg. 2**



# LIFESTYLE

## Skating

FROM PAGE 1

According to board members, The Glide was modeled after a wooded skating trail at Canada's Arrowhead Provincial Park and was converted from a cross-country ski trail that was largely underutilized due to the flat terrain and short distance. But the pine

forest presented an ideal setting for the one-way skating loop.

The board utilized a grant from the Boulder Junction Community Foundation and funds from the town room tax to purchase a 500-gallon water tank rig and a Zamboni attachment on a tractor to lay down the ice and maintain the trail during the season. There also are rest benches and lights

along the trail for nighttime skating.

When people visit the park, the following safety advice is offered:

- Exercise caution in the parking lot and walking areas around the pavilion and warming hut. These areas are very icy and the board recommends wearing ice cleats for added safety.

- All skaters are encouraged to wear helmets as the

ice is slippery and safety is a top priority.

While there is no charge to use the facility, donations are welcome and will help support the regular maintenance of the park.

For more information, contact the Boulder Junction Chamber of Commerce at (715) 385-2400 or visit boulderjct.org.



## Chamber seeks subjects for winter photo shoot

The Eagle River Chamber of Commerce is looking for groups of friends and families (of all ages) to be a part of winter activities for their upcoming photo shoot on

Thursday, Jan. 16 - Friday, Jan. 17.

If available or interested in helping, contact Kim Emerson at 715-479-6400 or [kim@eagleriver.org](mailto:kim@eagleriver.org).

Activities include ice fishing, dining, snowshoeing/hiking, tubing/sledding, and ice skating.

## Kalmar Winter Bingo begins

Senior Eagle River Volunteer Enterprise, Inc. (SERVE) and all of its volunteers, invite everyone to attend Kalmar Winter Bingo, which started on Tuesday, Jan. 7, and will run through Tuesday, April 29.

Winter Bingo will be held

at the Kalmar Community Center at 1013 N. Railroad St., Highway 45 North in Eagle River, every Tuesday afternoon at 1 p.m.

The center is smoke-free.

The public is welcome and children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Sales of cards

will begin at 12:30 p.m. No daubers are needed. Pizza, snacks and beverages will be available at the Bingo Kitchen. The higher the attendance, the higher the pots.

For more information, call 715-337-2510.

## Pines announces first trimester honor roll

The Northland Pines School District announced its honor roll for the first trimester of the 2024-2025 school year.

### Highest Honors

**Seventh Grade:** Kyndra Felesena, Austin Fuller, Natalie Geraghty, Jayne Halsey, Zack Hodgson, Briella Huлтsch, Hannah Kadlec, Emma Kelly, Ella Keranen, Hunter Posielenzny, Natalie Schoolman, Axel Stiemke, Nolan Tameling, Ryleigh Thompson and Madysen Wallace.

**Eighth Grade:** Finley Adamovich, Wilhelmina Bramstadt, Lilyan Burnham, Flori Djeladini, Benjamin Duffek, Edison Flores, Rosalynn Garrison, Jonathan Graves, Nelson Kirschbaum, Sandra Kitzerow, Carter Maines, Ryan McGrath, Colin Miller, Owethu Ndlangamandla, Valarie Paquet, Payton Sullivan, Elaina Swartz, Adelyn Thompson and Lexi Wagner.

**Ninth Grade:** Benjamin Braunel, Anna Chicka, Draedon Dykas, Charlotte Frenz, Nicholas Hahn, Addyson Harsla, Sophie Hoffman, Cheyenne Hyczyk, Jessica Kadlec, Morgan Keranen, Sophie Kusick, Bernadette Laudando, Calvin Margelofsky, Tatum Meier, Ava Meyer, Bristol

Parling, Isaac Price, Tyler Price, Emily Ritter, Sierra Starling, Isabella Stenschke, Kendal Sullivan, Olin Weinand and Gregory Selten.

**Tenth Grade:** Jack Albrecht, Giada Bass, Lilly Beitler, Griffin Beyer, Tucker Brock, Ryley Darr, Oscar Eliason, Kaylee Gumholf, Nolan Huelskamp, Marcus Kinney, Miles Kirschbaum, Everett Leslie, Wes McClelland, Ethan Miller, Liam Payne, Elijah Repenshek, Emily Sauer, Wyatt Stebbeds, Olivia Stiemke, Tyler Votja, Oliver Weberg and Jadon Wing-Caskey.

**Eleventh Grade:** Ava Carrillo, Brendan Ceckiewicz, Holden Conley, Rynn Darr, Joshua Graves, William Gregersen, Charles Haack, Jordyn Hahn, Nevaeh Harden-Lopez, Tucker Hollis, Zaven Karenke, Maria Krueger, Cambree Lowery, Breann Molle, Bella Nowak, Tanner Romaker, Lily Rushman, Brett Schalinske, Timothy Stoltman, Leah Verkuilen, Jonah Will, Julie Wojtusik, Connor Zabel and MaKayla Zmek.

**Twelfth Grade:** Natasha Baril, Davis Beyer, Madison Brock, Tyler Busha, Riley Cain, Elizabeth Chicka, Eliana Conrad, Matanna DePuydt, Alexis Feckett, Owen Frenz, Owen Grassl,

Kyli Gwyn, Brandon Haagen, Owen Hahn, Anthony Halada, Emma Hinton, Grace Indermuehle, Jayna Johnson, Emily Kasper, Michaela Kieffer, August Klessig, Owen Libby, Jason Linn, Tanner Maines, Meredith McCormack, Chyanne Meacham, Matthias Milanowski, Jonathan Miller, Kinsey Neff, Olivia Payne, Abbey Perry, Brandon Peterson, Emma Petrekis, Isabellah Reeves, Malia Remme, Maggie Reppert, Hope Rothmeier, Natalie Rozga, Aleena Ryan, Danika Rychlock, Ricaye Samuelson, Autumn Stecker, Anna Westfall, Madison Wielhouwer and Andrea Wiler.

### High Honors

**Seventh Grade:** Courtney Archuleta, Riley Butler, P h o n g n a p h a t Chanmangkorn, Nora Christensen, Alaina Dahlquist, Aspen Halada, Byrdie Kukanich, Ayla Leslie, Christian Letsinger, Jackson Malanche, Braden Molle, Alexia Stenberg, Casey Stensche and John Weberg.

**Eighth Grade:** Brock Adamovich, Cooper Anderson,

To HONORS, Pg. 7

## Four-week teen journaling workshop to open at Warehouse Wednesday

The Warehouse Community Art Center will be providing teens ages 13-18 with a four-week journaling workshop, taught by Kathy Holperin, that runs every Wednesday from 4 - 5 p.m. starting Wednesday, Jan. 8.

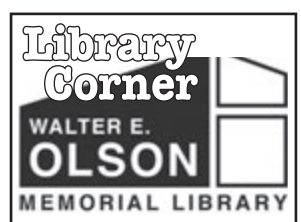
Each Wednesday afternoon, participants will learn about and practice

at least two different journaling techniques to help them become more aware of the world around them, record memories of time spent with friends and family, and to express feelings through an art journaling technique.

Participants will need to bring a journal, diary or notebook if they have one,

as well as gel pens and/or pencils. Composition notebooks are available for \$2 each if needed. Cost to register is \$30.

Registration can be completed online at <https://eagleriverart.com/events/teen-journaling/> or by calling 715-479-4060.



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), 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:

- 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!

- Did you get a new device for Christmas? Have a technology question? The Library offers free tech help appointments! Check out the Library website or get in touch to schedule.

- Thursdays, 4:30 - 6 p.m.: Silent Book Club. Never find the time to read? Put our weekly Silent Book Club on your schedule. Bring your current read (or find one here), then take some time for yourself.

- Monday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Nicolet Academic Success Center services resume for the new semester. Get help with GED and college prep, computer skills, academic support, and more. Information at 715-365-4455.

- Monday, Jan. 18, 10 - 11:30 a.m.: Memory Café. Memory Café is an opportunity for people living with memory loss and dementia, and their care partners, to enjoy regular, social interaction and refreshments with others to laugh, to learn, and create community. Questions? Contact Leah Baughman, Dementia Specialist for the Vilas County ADRC at (715) 479-3625.

- Saturday, Jan. 25, 1:15 - 2:30 p.m.: Check out the Library's new Historical Fiction Book Club! This month, we're reading "The Girl on the Carpathia" by Eileen Enwright Hodgetts.

- Monday, Jan. 27, 5:30 - 7 p.m.: Gather your team — or compete solo — in the Library's latest puzzle competition! You'll have up to 90

minutes to complete a 500-piece puzzle. Background vibes and snacks provided!

### Weekly offerings

- Mondays & Wednesdays - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Nicolet Academic Success Center. Get help with GED and college prep, computer skills, academic support and more. Information at 715-365-4455.

- 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
- Thursdays, 4:30 - 6 p.m. - Silent Book Club

- 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. 13 (Feb. 3)

- Memory Café (New schedule - 2nd Mondays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.) - Jan. 18 (Feb. 10)

- Growing Together Family Support Group (second 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 information, or to join W.O.L.F., contact the Library.



Contact us for a free estimate

(715)479-7488 • [www.pitlikandwick.com](http://www.pitlikandwick.com)

8075 County D • Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

## LIFESTYLE

### Boulder Junction Public Library opens posthumous art exhibit

The Boulder Junction Public Library welcomes the public to view their January Art in the Library exhibit featuring a posthumous show of Susan Klein's artwork, which opened Monday.

In 2010, Sue Klein retired from the Madison Public Schools and UW-Madison after a 35-year-long career of teaching art. She and her husband Jack moved to Natural Lakes (a homeowner's association between Boulder Junction and Presque Isle) where they designed and built

both a home and a creative space to pursue their artistic interests in this beautiful and pristine Northwoods setting. Klein primarily worked in acrylics, watercolor, inks and ceramics, with her work primarily focused on reflecting her love and respect for the "critters" who visited their home and shared the beauty, joy, and humor she always saw in the natural world around her.

Klein earned a master's degree in Education and a second master's in Fine Arts (specializing in drawing)

from UW-Madison, and she was an enthusiastic supporter and encourager of artists, from elementary students through retired adults. She also loved kayaking, baking, reading, swimming and taking nature photos to use as references in her work.

Klein was an active member of the Lakeland Art League and was on their Board of Directors. She was also integral in starting the Art in the Library program at the Boulder Junction Library, and was the featured December

artist for many years. Klein passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 2, 2023, as she was preparing for her library art show. Her family is honoring her lifelong love for the arts and artists with a posthumous show of her work as January's artist of the month.

For questions about the Art in the Library exhibits, the application process, or the Artwork policy, contact the library at [info@boulderjunction.wislib.org](mailto:info@boulderjunction.wislib.org) or 715-385-2050.

### Doll club to hold January meeting

The Enchanted Doll Club of the Northwoods will hold its first meeting of the new year on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 1 p.m., in the meeting room of the Kalmar Senior Center located at 1011 N. Railroad St. in Eagle River.

The theme of the meeting will be a discussion and sharing of dolls representing winter by their attire, their accessories, or their color.

The doll club welcomes guests who would like to learn more about dolls or to share their dolls. For more information about the program or the doll club, contact Judy Wainwright at 715-482-9804.

### Registration opens for Olson Library bake-off fundraiser

Registration for bakers is open for the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library cookie bake-off fundraiser to be held on Saturday, Jan. 18, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bakers can register by contacting the library at 715-479-8070, stopping by the library, or registering online at <https://olsonlibrary.org/adults/>. To participate, bakers must commit to baking at least 3 dozen cookies. Winners in Youth and Adult categories will receive prizes and bragging rights. Community taste testers will judge the winners.

There will be a \$5 admission for tasters, and voting from community members runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact the library.

### Vilas Health Department hosting health and growth family classes on second Thursdays of the month

The Vilas County Public Health Department will be hosting a free grown up and child work class on Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Olson Memorial Library from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

This is a part of a series of Growing Together classes hosted by the health department on the second Thursday of every month.

There is a craft or activity done every session that

encourages participants to learn about area resources, connect with children, and to connect with other families.

For more information on the class or to RSVP, contact

Dominica Hedberg, public health nurse with the health department, at 715-479-3659 [ordohedb@vilascountywi.gov](mailto:ordohedb@vilascountywi.gov).

### Northwoods Land Trust, Trees to host free lake ecology program

Join Northwoods Land Trust (NWL) and Trees For Tomorrow (TFT) in exploring winter lake ecology in a free event to be held on Thursday, Jan. 23, from 1 - 3:30 p.m. at the TFT campus.

After an indoor introduction, participants will venture out on frozen Silver Lake to collect physical data on the lake including

ice thickness, water depth, lake temperature, dissolved oxygen and clarity.

There will be opportunities to use underwater cameras to study plant and animal life.

Afterward, participants will discuss how these parameters change seasonally and what that means for the organisms that use the lake.

Dress appropriately to be outside for around one hour. To register for the event, go online at [www.northwoodslandtrust.org](http://www.northwoodslandtrust.org) and click on News & Events, contact the NWLT office at 715-479-2490, or email [troy@northwoodslandtrust.org](mailto:troy@northwoodslandtrust.org) by Monday, Jan. 20. Space is limited.

NWLT permanently conserves natural shorelands,

woodlands and other natural resources to benefit present and future generations in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Iron, Price and Langlade Counties.

Visit [www.northwoodslandtrust.org](http://www.northwoodslandtrust.org) to learn more about NWLT's conservation services, protected lands, and future events.

### Kemp Station to host winter ecology presentations this weekend

The public is invited to hear short summary presentations on the winter ecology findings of students from the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 1 p.m. at the Kemp Natural Resource Center.

Students of MIAD descended upon the Kemp Station to complete a series

of short term research studies on the winter ecology of the forests and lakes in the area.

Stepping out of their academic comfort zone, and stepping into this natural sciences honors field course, were students majoring in fine arts, product design, illustration or communication design.

The public can learn about the findings from the students' week-long endeavor, exploring a variety of ecological aspects, and including an overview of their art/design interests. Topics can range from 'do biotic factors drive biodiversity' to 'implications of different forest management strategies' and

everything in between, depending on each student's personal research interest. This is the third time Kemp has hosted this event, which will be held at the Kemp Station at 9161 Kemp Road in Woodruff.

For more information, contact the Kemp Station at 715-358-5667.

### Boulder Junction Public Library to present Winter Wellness Series

The Boulder Junction Public Library will be offering a series of free informational presentations this winter to help patrons learn ways to support their health and wellness all winter long.

The first program in the series is "An Introduction to SHAPE ReClaimed Health Restoration Program" hosted by Jane Thomas, ND, CHHP, on Thursday, Jan. 16 from 10:30 a.m. - noon. Special guest speakers, Dr. Todd and Linda Frisch, will also join Thomas.

In this introductory session, participants will learn how to restore health and embrace a healthier lifestyle and find out why the SHAPE ReClaimed Program has helped thousands of people restore their health over the past 15 years. The SHAPE program is not a diet or weight loss program. It gets to the root cause and helps bodies heal on a neurological and cellular level.

Boulder Junction resident, Jane A. Thomas ND,

is a traditional Naturopath, Certified SHAPE ReClaimed Practitioner, Certified Why the Face (WTF) Facial Analysis Practitioner, Master Herbalist, Certified Ingham Reflexologist, Reiki Master, Certified Product Formulator, and Certified Health Coach. Thomas' education and training included Trinity School of Health, American College of Healthcare Sciences, The International Institute of Reflexology, and SHAPE ReClaimed. Her areas of specialty include designing a complete health restoration protocol using foods, herbs, and teas, and nutraceuticals therapeutic baths.

Dr. Todd Frisch is the president and founder of SHAPE ReClaimed. As a chiropractor for 37 years, he specialized in functional medicine, nutrition, homeopathy, kinesiology, acupuncture, iridology, and the art and science of traditional Chinese medicine. His passion has always been to find the missing piece of

the puzzle to help sick people get well. Dr. Todd graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in 1980 and went on to obtain years of advanced education and training. After retiring from his private practice in 2017, Dr. Todd continued in his effort to Transform Healthcare: One Patient at a Time, by teaching like-minded practitioners how to gather the diagnostic puzzle pieces that make up the unique health picture of their patients.

Linda Frisch is the co-founder and Director of Financial Operations of SHAPE ReClaimed. Linda met Dr. Todd Frisch in 1984, and within months they realized they shared a passion to help others heal. For the next 33 years, she managed Dr. Todd's private practice. They truly believe food is medicine and SHAPE ReClaimed shines a spotlight on the negative eating habits that contribute to common health challenges.

Registration is not

required, but would be appreciated. For more information or to register, call the library at 715-385-2050.

#### Program two

The second program in the series is "Massage: Enhancing Health and Well-Being Through Therapeutic Touch" with Nikki Kassien, LMT, on Monday, Jan. 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Discover the power of therapeutic touch. Explore how massage can enhance relaxation,

To WELLNESS, Pg. 8

### YMCA of the Northwoods offering reduced membership fees

Join the YMCA of the Northwoods in Rhinelander during their Pay the Day membership promotion running until Jan. 12, and membership fees will be adjusted according to the day of joining.

Those who have not used the facility are welcome to stop by and request a tour. If someone activates

a membership the same day, their joiner's fee will be waived, and their first month's membership will be equal to the day they join.

The earlier a person joins, the more they save.

For more information visit [www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.org](http://www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.org) or call 715-362-9622.

### Badger Bridge details results

1st Place - Ed Stoever and Joel De Angelo.  
2nd Place - Ginny Arvey and Marie Andersen.  
3rd Place - Bob Busakowski and Mary Jo Berner.

Yes, we have jigsaw puzzles for all ages and abilities!

Up for a real challenge? Try a 9,000 piece puzzle from Ravensburger.

**Grandma's Toy Box - Eagle Craft & Hobby**  
Downtown Eagle River (715)-477-2227 Open every day at 10:00 a.m.  
*Sounds like that one would keep us busy until Spring!*

## TAKE WHAT YOU NEED...

**Eagle River Elementary Pantry Hours -**

**Sept. to May - Monday to Friday**

7:30a.m. - 4:00p.m.

**June to Aug. - Monday to Friday**

7:30a.m. - 3:00p.m.

Plus any hour school is open for special events.



#### FIND A FORK PANTRY NEAR YOU!

- Eagle River Elementary
- Land O' Lakes Elementary
- Conover Town Hall
- Plum Lake Public Library
- Soar High School (As part of Closet)
- Northwoods Children's Museum
- St. Germain Elementary School
- St. Germain Community Center
- Sugar Camp Elementary
- Three Lakes School
- Phelps School
- Northland Pines High School and Middle School (As part of Locker)



LEARN MORE:  
[FeedOurRuralKids.org/FORK-Pantry](http://FeedOurRuralKids.org/FORK-Pantry)

**FORK Pantry**





SHARON GIFFORD

# PHELPS

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**GRINCH SIGHTING** — The Grinch was spotted at UCC Congregational Church in Phelps on Sunday, Dec. 15 where the beloved Dr. Seuss grouch learned the true meaning of Christmas. —Contributed Photos



28 Phelps children from 12 families were able to be serviced through Project Santa. —Photos By Sharon Gifford

## Project Santa shared with 28 children

Project Santa coordinators, Dick and Debbie Ryan, have announced that the money raised through the program went towards buying Christmas gifts for 28 children from 12 different Phelps families.

“We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations,” they said. “We were able to raise enough to ensure all the children of Phelps had a merry and joyful Christmas. Your gratitude and incredible generosity helped make

these families Christmas a lot happier and brighter.”

The children asked for everything ranging from hats, mittens, clothes, games, legos, crafts and many other items.

“As coordinators, each year it’s amazing to see these lists and what each child feels is important to them,” said the Ryans. “Project Santa is a very special program to help those families in need. We extend our wishes for a wonderful 2025 to all of you.”



The children asked for everything from hats, mittens, clothes to games, legos, crafts and many other items.

## Backward Glances

Compiled by Josephine Hinderman

### One Year Ago - 2024

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 soon see a decrease in the services available to them. Sarah Carias, the council’s Vilas County outreach coordinator, worries these cuts to funding could prove devastating to the hundreds of people served locally by the program each year.

### 10 Years Ago - 2015

A 72-year-old Eagle River man has apparently gone missing in Alaska, according to a spokesperson for the Alaska State Troopers. Roger Yaeger visited family in Wasilla, Ala., in early August and then set out to explore greater Alaska on his own. He has not been seen since, said Beth Ipsen of the Alaska State Troopers last week...Ipsen said Roger Yaeger told his family he was going to explore Alaska and would contact them on what he had been doing sometime around Christmas...Ipsen said there is no record of him flying out of Alaska.

### 20 Years Ago - 2005

It’s the ice castle that almost wasn’t. Three weeks ago, when volunteers were plowing snow on Silver Lake, there wasn’t enough ice. Two weeks ago, temperatures dropped to 30 degrees below zero and everything was good to go. Last week, a thaw hit, ruining more than 1,000 blocks of ice already cut and ready to be stacked...“We cut it down in size from my initial design, but it’s not too bad,” (Jack Thomas) said. “It’s more the size of the original ice castles built many years ago. It’s acceptable.” This year’s version of the ice castle consists of about 1,800 blocks, stacked in a diamond shape. It is 37 feet wide and stands 14 feet tall. It was built by more than 30 volunteers, including firefighters with the Eagle River Area Fire Department, of which Thomas is an assistant fire chief.



**FRIGID FUNDRAISER, 2014** — The 15th annual Polar Plunge was held on Spirit Lake in Three Lakes for the first time Saturday, raising a record total of \$50,000 for the cancer support foundation Angel On My Shoulder. —Staff Photo By ANTHONY DREW

### 30 Years Ago - 1995

Gov. Tommy G. Thompson has signed into law a measure creating violence-free school zones designed to create a safer learning environment for Wisconsin students. The law provides for enhanced penalties for violent crimes committed within 1,000 feet of the premises of a school or school bus stop, as well as crimes committed on a school bus. Penalties can be enhanced by five years for a felony and three months for a misdemeanor, and a court may also require a person to complete 100 hours of community service...Thompson said making Wisconsin schools safe for students is an important element to improving education in the state.

### 40 Years Ago - 1985

The Vilas County Sheriff’s Office reported two snowmobile accidents which occurred before Christmas, both in Arbor Vitae...The first, which happened on December 22, left a driver of a 1983 Polaris snowmobile in serious condition with possible skull fractures and a smashed leg, according to sheriff’s officials...The other accident occurred on Christmas Eve on U.S. 51 and Terry Drive. The driver of a Jag snowmobile pulled out in front of Jack Richardson, who was driving a Ford truck, sheriff’s reports say.

### 50 Years Ago - 1975

Vilas county is part of four major fast-growing, nonmetropolitan regions in the United States experiencing a rapid influx of new residents migrating from the cities, according to the studies of U.S. Department of Agriculture demographers...According to Calvin Beale, agriculture department demographer, while the nation’s population was only growing by 3.2% from April 1970 to July 1973, the population in the Upper Great Lakes region of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota increased by 8%.

### 60 Years Ago - 1965

The first oral polio vaccine will be given out this Sunday, January 10, from 1 to 5 p.m. in Vilas county. This is the first in a series of two vaccines that will be given to the residents of Vilas, Oneida and Forest counties...Since this is a two part program, everyone is asked to take both doses of the vaccine. Both doses must be taken for proper protection to be built up in the body. One dose is not enough and both must be taken, said the Vilas county nurse. The second dose will be given sometime in March.

### 70 Years Ago - 1955

Miss Joyce M. Larkin, former editor of this newspaper, missed out on what was believed to be a good chance of being named Wisconsin’s secretary of state, when Governor Kohler appointed a Madison woman to that post Saturday...Joyce M. Larkin, in an interview this week over the telephone said, “I have blazed the trails before for the Republican party and did not receive the fruits of my hard work...and I will, no doubt, blaze the trails again.”

### 80 Years Ago - 1945

Maybe some people think the war is “almost over,” but L. A. McDowell, who is director of purchases at the Massey-Harris company in Racine, is so busy helping to get the tanks rolling that this firm makes, that he hasn’t much time to think about the end of the war. He’s just thinking about bringing the war to an end as speedily as possible by starting on the job. Mr. McDowell is a former resident of Vilas county, and was a candidate at one time for the assemblyman from this district.

*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.*

BOB HUGHES

# LAND O' LAKES

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**ANNUAL TRADITION —**  
The annual tradition of burning of the Christmas tree and fireworks at the Alley Lanes & Tavern lived on another year with a crowd of over 200 people coming out to ring in the new year with family and friends. Nancy and Pete Bevan from Madison, who have a cabin in Boulder Junction, said, "We would not miss this event thanks to the Alley for another great evening, we wish all at the Alley A Very Happy New Year & thank them again."

—Photos By Bob Hughes

**LAND O' LAKES PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
Land O' Lakes Public Library  
P.O. Box 450 715-547-6006

Is 2025 the year you learn how to use your gadgets? Did you get a new tablet or cell phone for Christmas? Give the library a call to set up a one-on-one tech appointment. Learn to protect your information and avoid scams, back-up your photos and files, send emails or texts to friends and family, shop and find coupons online, check the weather, read or listen to downloadable books, and more!

The Land O' Lakes Library Puzzle Challenge, sponsored by Charlie's Northwoods Market, will be held on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 4:30 p.m. Teams may consist of up to 4 people and the winning team will receive \$100 in gift cards to local Land O' Lakes restaurants. Registration is required as the contest is limited to 8 teams.

January's movie will be "It Ends With Us" starring Blake Lively. Based on the bestselling book by Colleen Hoover, this film addresses themes of domestic violence. Movie Afternoon will be Monday, Jan. 13, at 1:30 p.m. and Movie Night on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m. Use back parking lot door for evening programs.

Lego Club is normally held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. However, note that January's meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (Jan. 8 and 22) to avoid a conflict with New Year's Day. Participants may be dropped off or take the school bus to the library. Call the library with any questions.

Qigong and Balance classes, taught by Dottie Reeder, will be offered on Fridays from 9 - 10 a.m. through spring. Qigong is free of charge and all are welcome.

Mahjong games are held Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the downstairs community room. Beginning and experienced players are all welcome.

Storytime Read n' Play is held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. All children and their caregivers are welcome.

Friends of Land O' Lakes Library is having a Quilt Raffle. Tickets for the Quilt Raffle are available at the library and are \$5 each or 5/\$20. The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Winter Mini Used Book Sale. Winners do not need to be present to win. The quilt, made by a local fiber artist, is on display at the library.

New fiction on the Land O' Lakes Library shelves: "The Teller of Small Fortunes" by Julie Leong, "What the Wife Knew" by Darby Kane, "The Rivals" by Jane Pek, "Desolation Code" by Clive Cussler, "Golden Hour" by Stuart Woods, "Betrayal at Blackthorn Park" by Julia Kelly, "Sweet Vidalia" by Lisa Sandlin, and "The Champagne Letters" by Kate MacIntosh.

Library hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Wednesdays from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For more information, call the library at 715-547-6006, visit landolakeslibrary.org, or find the library on Facebook and Instagram.



## Frosty Snowmobile Club teaches 18 youth at safety class

The Frosty Snowmobile Club educated 18 attendees at another snowmobile safety class on Friday, Dec. 27.

The class was run by experienced riders and club members, who fully educated the 18 attendees on the importance of safe riding when they hit the trails.

Any person born on or after Jan. 1, 1985, and who has reached the age of 12, must have completed and received a snowmobile safety certificate in order

to operate a snowmobile in Wisconsin. They should carry the certificate when operating a snowmobile.

The tutors from the club stressed the importance of riding and operating rules that are in place to keep everyone on the trails safe, to help avoid accidents, and to become responsible riders.

The club provides groomed and marked snowmobile trails for everyone to enjoy the sport, which tutors also emphasized

staying on.

Many of the trails are on landowners' property, so it is important to show respect and ride sensibly so that everyone can enjoy the ride. Extra caution must be taken at road crossings, and all stop signs must be observed.

Speed is a contributing factor in nearly all snowmobile accidents. Attendees were encouraged to only ride at a pace that will allow reaction time in any situation. Always

wear a full-faced helmet, goggles or visor to prevent injuries from twigs, stones, ice chips and flying debris. Observing many of these rules will ensure that the students enjoy the ride and stay safe.

The course that the Frosty Snowmobile Club runs each year fully educates the students with the knowledge on how to ride safely and respectfully. Next up for them is to obtain the practical stages of careful riding.



Frosty Snowmobile Club staff educating class attendees.

—Photo By Bob Hughes

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**FROSTY TRIVIA** — The Frosty Snowmobile Club held another fun night at the Veterans Center with their Music Trivia Night fundraiser. Entertainment was provided by Prairie Fire DJ Services. There were some silent auction items available for bidding on along with bucket raffles and a 50/50 drawing. With the bar kept busy, the kitchen was providing pizza by the slice from Melanie Mae's Stage Stop. Proceeds from the Frosty Club's Fundraiser benefits the snowmobile trails upkeep.

—Photos By Bob Hughes



Last year's Fire and EMS volunteers.

## Flapjack Blast set Jan. 18

Flapjack Blast will be returning to the historic Gateway Lodge on Saturday, Jan. 18, from 8 - 11 a.m. where participants can show local fire and EMS volunteers their support and appreciation through a bake sale, raffle baskets, a 50/50 raffle, and more.

Each year, fire and EMS volunteers organize the Flapjack Blast as part of Land O' Lakes' contribution to Blizzard Blast. Fire and EMS departments from Land O' Lakes, Conover and Phelps organize their own events, with the proceeds going to the total raised by Blizzard Blast. In turn, the

sum raised is donated back to each of the three towns' fire and EMS departments.

Bake sale donations can be left at Headwaters State Bank, The Bel-Air Motel, or the Gateway Lodge on the afternoon of Friday, Jan. 17, or early morning on Jan. 18 directly at the Gateway Lodge.

## Honors

FROM PAGE 2

Trevor Barber, Adalynn Brunton, Nasir Dale, Maxx Dumovich, Jarrett Grassl, Nolan Haas, Kayden Halsey, Alyssa Kevilus, Hayden Merkel, Tessa Mortag, Mason Nagy, Peyton Olivotti, Sawyer Otto, Gage Posielenzny, Royce Remme, Aria Sandberg, Hunter Sergent and Madeline Vessel.

**Ninth Grade:** Amber Arnold, Kaitlynn Baril, Charlie Bauknecht, Jordan Cain, Dane Felesena, August Gillan, Aubrie Gosnell, Mason Hug, Benjamin Jastrow, Chrysta Jensen, William Johnson, Marissa Jones, Briley Lageauz, Joseph Laudando, Jacoby Loren-Nelson, Lexi Maillette, Eleanor Martens, Nathan Miller, McKenzie Moore, Brianna Smith and Ryan Wielhouwer.

**Tenth Grade:** Kaydence Brost, Aubrey Burns, Bryan Drobby, Brady Dumovich, Layk Evenson-Mortag, Ava Gaetano, Xavier Gaffny, Ella Hahn, Naomi Kadlec, Natalie Kohn, Gabriel Letsinger, Cadmen Libby, Taytum Mullins, Easton Otto, Alaina Peterson, Avery Renkes, Kayleigh Rulec, Ryan Rydeski, Samuel Shrock and Hudson Warner.

**Eleventh Grade:** Mylo Albrecht, Vayda Barber, Izabella Bresher, Thomas Burr, Mikayla Busha, Hector Cervantes-Ramos, Eden Gaulke, Clayton Glen, John Hyczyk, Kaiden Langueux, Kylie Lester, Taylor Maillette, Miana Miller, Aiden Minx, Isabelli Renkes, Carsen Saari, Michael Schmidt, Lily Sellnow, Brianna Sullivan and Derek Verkuilen.

**Twelfth Grade:** MacKenna Altmann,

Nicholas Boxrucker, Maya Brooks, Stevie Brown, Quinn Calix, Morgan DePuydt, Anthony Gaetano, Zachary Gries, Christopher Hunt, Bowen Ivaska, Kayleigh Jones, Anderson Kielty, Vienna Klemmett, Skyla Komorowski, Robert Martinson, Ike McClelland, Julian Merschorf, Aidan Moore, Riley Moore, Austin Muench, Lilith Ramsey, Olivia Reid, Addison Skarda, Elianna Smith, Kimberly Tomaszewski, Aiden Trzebiatowski, Cody Vojta, Alex Wethington and Cole Wiedenbeck.

### Honor Roll

**Seventh Grade:** Claire Adamovich, Kenzie Beer, Andilyn Bergum, Makenna Blackberg, Evan Carboni, Brodie Crum, Finn DeYoung, Scout Feltes, Natalie Goehle, Elliana Holoubek, Kelsey Huber, Patrick Kennedy, Dylon LaRose, Mason Meier, Taylor Prout, Emma Schilling, Ava Skarda, Harmony Stevens and Lucas Abrams.

**Eighth Grade:** Teri Abrams, Jordi Adamovich, Gavyn Brost, Henry Conley, Robert Hicks, Hunter Hoffman, Hannah Hunt, Bryce Kreil-Kadlec, Ruby Pinski, Mya Renkes, Parker Ryan, Jacob Rydeski, Chase Seeger, Ayla Shepherdson and Anthony Wiler.

**Ninth Grade:** Paxton Brown, Bryce Dillahunt, Noah Duffek, Dechlan Favorite, Mikayon Harris, Daisy Heitke, Colt

Holmberg, Jazek Jantzen, Natalie Jastrow, Anthony Letsinger, Aiden Long, Logan Manriquez, Juan Moorhead, Lucy Nowak, Dakota Richter, Joseph Rooyakkers, Cooper Saari and Adam Wethington.

**Tenth Grade:** Conrad Drobby, Juliette Ellenberger, Ella Frank, Devin Geraghty, Jessica Gries, Brewer Janny, Lyla Lederer, Alex Martinson, Madeline Myers, Kami Nedd, Morgan Nymann, Jackson Olejniczak, Benjamin Plank, Ethan Reeves, Dayton Rein, Iland Shepherdson, Nathan Stotman and Aubrey White.

**Eleventh Grade:** Peter Anderson, Jacob Beer, Austin Boehmer, Eliza Brunton, Ava Hamblen, Jackson Lane, Natalia Lopez, Sophie Mesun, Mason Minuado, Chloe Moran, Sarah Nordine, Jade Numrich, Alexandra Oas, Cody Price, Kira Sandberg, Sydney Sarkauskas, Sara Schiddel, August Stenberg, Chloe Tabbert, Emma Thoma, Benjamin Voeltner and Jack Voeltner.

**Twelfth Grade:** Carson Adamovich, Joseph Adkins, John Bass, Mason Brewer, Dalton Brown, Jose Cervantes-Ramos, Abigail Congleton, Bryan Etheridge, Kaemyn Heritage, Eli Kerner, Landon Manriquez, Kyle Page, Aurora Ratliff, John Rooyakkers, Alyvia Streich, Ryder Will and Matthew Wilson.



Last year's Flapjack Blast.

—Photos By Bob Hughes

## Johnson

FROM PAGE 1

good-intentioned pop culture tradition or do we genuinely want to make positive, substantive, lasting changes in our lives?

Over my lifetime, admittedly I've embraced the former and given lip service to the latter.

Heading for the milestone big 6-0 in February, it's really time for this Peter Pan to grow up and face the grim reality that stares me down in the mirror every morning. I'm not getting any younger and need to get serious about the better-version-of-me resolution thing — and I'm not talking about perfecting my charcuterie board skills. I'm talking about serious, substantive, positive lasting change — for a change.

Oscar Madison's past-trami-on-rye-washed-down-with-a-beer fueled journalistic lifestyle in The Odd Couple might make for entertaining TV and a good live studio audience laugh reaction, but it definitely takes its toll in real life over the course of a 36-year newspaper career. Just ask my surgeon and my pharmacist, HIPPA medical privacy regulations notwithstanding.

There's nothing like 12 days in the hospital, clawing day by day, hour by hour and minute by minute, out of the dark medical abyss, and the associated long nights of the soul in a hospital bed, tethered to tubes and machines, to reorient your head and life priorities.

So this year, with the turn of the calendar page, I'm being serious about making resolutions to change my habits, to become a better version of myself, to reach new goals.

To lose weight — for real. To begin exercising — this time with a membership to the local fitness club. To stop procrastinating. To wear more, but smaller-sized Under Armour. To tell the doctor — and my wife — the truth about whatever medical questions they ask. And yes, to stop referring to autumn as Pumpkin Spice Latte Season and stop double-dog daring people to lick frozen flagpoles.

And, I also resolve to laugh more and stress less, even around deadlines, and to find ways to do more things that bring joy — to myself and those around me, purposefully cultivating a sense of peace and contentment that's hard to find in this world.

All resolutions are worth keeping.

Eric Johnson can be reached at [eric@fyinorthwoods.com](mailto:eric@fyinorthwoods.com).

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# Outdoors

## *Fishing helps bring them home for the holidays*

**WE WERE** struggling to find a decent number of crappies in any area on a late morning outing in December, moving from deep hole to deep hole and barely marking a fish on the vertical electronics.

A half-dozen stops got us several rock bass and a half-dozen bluegills, and the absence of at least one larger school of “slabbers” was puzzling.

But we stayed mobile and kept looking for any sort

of deeper structure, even shoreline-related, in hopes of changing our luck. We honestly ended up somewhere entirely new, found a couple of old holes, and started drilling.

The first drop of the depth finder showed like 27 feet of water and marks off the bottom, a welcome sight. The first drop of a minnow on a jig produced an 11-inch crappie, another welcome sight.

It was game on. We spent the next three hours hauling in a mixture of crappies, bluegills and perch, and the action was pretty much nonstop.

Son Steve and grandson Alexander had trekked with the family from Minnesota on Christmas morning, an unprecedented move aimed at taking advantage of a brief warm spell over the holidays.

The action was so good that even granddaughter Adri and Steve's wife, Jess, got in on the crappies and bluegills.

We didn't even have to put out bobbers or tip-downs, mostly fishing a single jigging rod with some sort of tungsten jig tipped with either a minnow or wax worm.

I don't recall ever fishing on Christmas Day before, not the sort of tradition I'd suggest starting unless my only goal was to upset



### In the Outdoors

BY KURT KRUEGER

my wife. And that's not the case.

But this was not my plan, yet I had a duty to support the kids and grandkids in whatever fits their schedule for a holiday get-together.

**And yes, I was snickering as those words were written. Any excuse to get together with the family is a good one, and if it happens to involve fishing on one of the most significant holidays of the year, so be it.**

To put it all into perspective, a plan to come the weekend before Christmas was postponed due to a cold spell that would make fishing uncomfortable for a couple of big-city teenagers who could use more outside time.

And even if they did fish in the Shakopee area, the biggest metro crappies measure about eight inches and the bluegills are even smaller. Besides the



Hoisting a dandy crappie that she jigged up on a wax worm in deep water just after Christmas is Jess Krueger of Shakopee, Minn.

smaller fish, the lakes are crowded with anglers.

So they relish the opportunity to come to northern Wisconsin, where 11-inch crappies and 8-9 inch bluegills are somewhat common.

We fished for three days in those above-average temperatures which, by Friday afternoon, had turned the entire lake surface to standing water. The bite was on

and off, and the fish very mobile, but it was still great until virtually the last minute we fished on that Friday.

Of course, we enjoyed the normal Christmas holiday things, exchanging gifts, playing games, eating way too much, throwing cards and just spending time together. But those things happened after dark, mostly, because they came to fish.



Adri Krueger of Shakopee caught this crappie on a jig and waxie. —Photos By The Author

## DNR seeking public comment for ATV/UTV mapping grant project application

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comment for a grant project application to support ATV/UTV mapping and communication.

The application stems from new funding created through the 2023 Wisconsin Act 67.

The funding is designated for groups participating in the ATV Enhancement funding program. It will support projects pertaining to the acquisition and

maintenance of statewide digital information application software for providing safety, regulatory, and riding opportunity information to ATV/UTV riders. It will also support the acquisition of communications equipment, technology, and the production of maps.

The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding the draft project application by Friday, Jan. 31, to Jacob.Holsclaw@wisconsin.gov or mail to:

Wisconsin Department

of Natural Resources  
Lt. Jacob Holsclaw,  
Wisconsin DNR Off-Highway Vehicle Administrator  
1300 West Clairemont Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701-6127

Based on the comments received, the DNR may revise the grant project application and provide a summary of the DNR's consideration of the input received.

## Annual pred hunt opens Jan. 17 in Phelps

The Phelps 16th annual predator hunt will kick off starting Friday, Jan. 17, and run all the way through Sunday, Jan. 26, at noon. The hunt starts after a meeting Friday, Jan. 17, at 6 p.m. inside Northern Exposure in Phelps.

The entry fee is \$40 for a one or two person team, with hunters from Wisconsin and Michigan allowed. The fee for any team with two hunters is \$20 per person and three nonperishable food items.

Rules and regulations include calling and stalking being allowed, while

baiting and running with dogs will not be permitted. There will be a big dog contest, which is the biggest weighted coyote, and there will be a \$10 per team fee to enter.

A top gun award will also be offered for hunters who enter both the Phelps and Conover hunt, with a \$5 per hunter fee to enter. Total points between coyote (20 points) and fox (15) are the

winners.

Half of the proceeds will be donated to a Phelps family or families in need, along with the nonperishable food items.

All predators shot should be brought to Northern Exposure for weighing Sunday, Jan. 26. Any carcass can be donated to the Northwood's Raptor Center for the feeding of wildlife in captivity.



### Fishing with the guides

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

## *Good walleye, panfish action; use caution on ice*

We had a great week of fishing from Christmas to the New Year. Those warm temperatures early on made it easy to decide to go out — and the fishing was good! We lost an inch or two off some lakes, but now this cold is just building us more ice. We're seeing from 10 to 14" throughout the area now. This is another year where you should check the ice you're on often — especially if you're not familiar with the lake. Vehicles? We're seeing them everywhere, but that doesn't mean it's safe or smart. Check the ice at your location and be safe, people!

Walleye action has been good throughout the area. We saw things start this year rather shallow but then move deep, and it seems those deep weed edges are the key now. Tip-ups set with suckers or shiners at the weed edges work great. Late afternoon and evening are the best times as you're intercepting the fish moving back and forth for feeding. Evening/night is definitely the best time for walleye right now.

Northern fishing has been great, and the fun thing about these guys is they're hitting in the middle of the day. Use tip-ups set with large shiners near or over the weeds, and fish for these guys while you're waiting for the walleye bite to start. The deeper the weeds, and the bigger the bait, the better.

Panfish action has been good, with bluegill and crappie hitting well. Look for these guys suspended in the deep water now — try the holes on any body of water and look in the 10'-12' plus range.

Vertical jigs set with waxies or tip-downs, set with minnows or Rosie Wells, are working great. Perch are hitting pretty well near the bottom over muddy areas — so again, look deep.

While we'd love to see some big snow now that we've got solid ice, we'll just have to be grateful for the winter we have. At least we have ice. It looks like the coming week is pretty perfect for fishing — and at least there's no slush! It's fantastic to see the ice castle being built again in Eagle River this year. Realistically, it's still early in the season — so bring on the SNOW. We'd love to get some snowmobiling, skiing and snowshoeing in yet this year, too!

Good luck and good fishin'!

## Inland trout early catch and release opened Jan. 4

Officials from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) remind anglers that any of Wisconsin's inland trout species can be targeted on designated early-season trout streams, which began Jan. 4.

Only artificial lures can

be used, and any trout caught must be released immediately. The season runs from Jan. 4 through May 2. Fish can be kept once the general hook-and-line season starts Saturday, May 3, as long as bag limits and length restrictions are met.

Any angler looking to

fish the season must have a general 2024-25 fishing license and an inland trout stamp. Each can be purchased through Go Wild, or at one of the many sales locations, and will be good through March 31. Fishing after March 31 will require a 2025-26 fishing license and

inland trout stamp.

For more information on trout streams across the state and other trout fishing information, visit the DNR's Inland Trout fishing webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/trout/index>.

## Winter free fishing weekend registration due Wednesday

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites clubs and organizations to host free fishing clinics on Winter Free Fishing Weekend, Jan. 18-19, 2025.

On Free Fishing Weekend, residents and nonresidents can fish most waters of the state without a fishing license or a stamp for trout or salmon (see exceptions regarding trout waters below).

Event registration and materials request forms must be submitted by Wednesday, Jan. 8. The clinic will be promoted, and educational materials will be sent. Anglers ages 15 and under may fish without a license any day of the year. Therefore, organizers are encouraged to also welcome adults new to ice fishing.

No ice is safe ice. A strong ice safety message is recommended to be stressed at every clinic. The DNR does not monitor ice conditions,

but local bait shops and fishing clubs may have current information. Download the brochure Know Before You Go for facts about ice and tips to prepare for a safe outing on the ice. If the lake chosen for the clinic doesn't freeze over, anglers can cast from shore into open water.

Clinic plans should include anglers with limited mobility. Many state properties and community partners have accommodations or equipment to make the outdoors accessible for all. Learn about the available accommodations at state-managed properties on the DNR's Accessible Recreation webpage and for other options from partner organizations.

Clinic hosts are advised to consult the trout regulations when planning clinics and outings to ensure that the body of water is open to fishing. While most trout streams are open during the catch-and-release season



Host a fishing clinic this upcoming Free Fishing Weekend and help share the joy of angling with others. —Photo By Council To Advance Hunting And The Shooting Sports

on Free Fishing Weekend, there are trout streams, spring ponds and lakes that are closed to fishing. Check with the local DNR fisheries biologist for any questions about specific waters. For open trout streams,

only artificial lures are allowed, and anglers must release all trout caught.

All other fishing regulations, including bag limits, size limits and species restrictions, remain in effect.





