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Section A



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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

WEATHER CORNER

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

LAST SEVEN DAYS			ONE YEAR AGO				
	Hi	Lo	Prec.		Hi	Lo	Prec.
Tues., Dec. 31.....	29	25	none	Sun., Dec. 31.....	28	18	Tr. S
Wed., Jan. 1.....	25	13	Tr. S	Mon., Jan. 1.....	28	17	Tr. S
Thurs., Jan. 2.....	15	11	0.5" S	Tues., Jan. 2.....	29	18	none
Fri., Jan. 3.....	17	7	Tr. S	Wed., Jan. 3.....	28	18	0.4" S
Sat., Jan. 4.....	9	0	0.2" S	Thurs., Jan. 4.....	19	14	0.7" S
Sun., Jan. 5.....	16	-2	Tr. S	Fri., Jan. 5.....	27	19	Tr. S
Mon., Jan. 6.....	19	7	0.5" S	Sat., Jan. 6.....	30	25	2.5" S

LAST YEAR

The average daily high at this time last year for the next seven days was 27, while the average overnight low was 18. The average precipitation amounts were 0.5".

Comparison

Days of precipitation recorded since Oct. 1, 2024, 57 days; 2023, 60 days. Average high of past 30 days, 2025, 26; 2024, 35. Average low of past 30 days, 2025, 14; 2024, 23.

SNOW DEPTH

Despite frigid temperatures over the weekend, some higher temps seen earlier in the week led to some area snow melting. Snow measured around 0.5" in depth at noon on Monday, Jan. 6.

ICE CONDITIONS

Following a weekend of lower temperatures that helped reform any lost ice, area lakes may be seeing 10 to 14" thickness. It is recommended to regularly check the ice before going on it due to recent temperature fluctuations.

5-DAY OUTLOOK

Wednesday: Cloudy.	Hi:15	Lo:0
Thursday: : Plenty of sun.	Hi:22	Lo:15
Friday: : Mostly cloudy.	Hi:23	Lo:12
Saturday: : Mostly cloudy.	Hi:23	Lo:14
Sunday: Mostly cloudy.	Hi:22	Lo:11

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

NEWS

Rhineland, Monico retailers sell big-winning lottery tickets

BY MICHELLE DREW
CORRESPONDENT

Two lucky winners purchased big-money Wisconsin Lottery tickets in the North Woods over the Christmas holiday.

True North Energy, located at 2219 N. Stevens St. in Rhineland, sold the winning All or Nothing ticket worth \$100,000 on Dec. 21, followed by a second sale in Monico a week later.

The ticket matched 11 of 11 numbers for the Dec. 21 evening drawing, with the lucky winner matching the numbers 2-3-6-9-10-12-15-16-19-20-21.

All or Nothing players can win a \$100,000 top prize by matching 0 out of 11

numbers or by matching 11 of 11 numbers. The odds of winning the All or Nothing \$100,000 top prize are 1:352,716.

Then, Monico Short Stop on Highway 8 sold a \$50,000 Powerball ticket for the drawing that took place Dec. 28.

The ticket matched four of five numbers (6-31-51-54-55) and the Powerball (12). It is the 37th winning Powerball ticket of \$50,000 or more sold in Wisconsin in 2024, according to the Wisconsin Lottery.

Monico Short Stop Manager Wendy Lundt said she received several calls the morning the winning ticket was sold.

"This is, by far, the largest

winner we've ever sold," Lundt said. "We're a small community, so we're thrilled to sell a \$50,000 ticket."

The odds of winning a \$50,000 Powerball prize are 1:913,130. According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2022, Monico has a population of 343 people.

Wisconsin Lottery players have 180 days from the draw date to claim their winnings. More information on how to claim a prize is available at wilottery.com.

Benefiting businesses

The players are not the only ones who benefit when lottery winners strike it big. Wisconsin Lottery retailers that sell winning tickets over \$599 receive a

2% Retailer Performance Winning Ticket Incentive, up to \$100,000. That means True North Energy will receive \$2,000 for selling the winning \$100,000 ticket, while Monico Short Stop will get \$1,000 for the \$50,000 ticket.

The Wisconsin Lottery enriches communities statewide by giving back 93% of its revenue to winners, retailers, and Wisconsin homeowners. Since 1988, the Wisconsin Lottery has generated more than \$19.1 billion in total revenue, over \$10.8 billion in prizes paid, and more than \$5.7 billion in funding for property tax credits to eligible Wisconsin homeowners.

Show

FROM PAGE 1

"Luke! How are you doing pal!? How would you like to win millions of dollars?!" the voice on the other end of the phone said. Lo and behold, it was the casting agent offering him a second chance at reality television.

"I thought standing by your word was truly something only held near and dear in Midwest culture, but I was wrong," Olejniczak said. "They kept my profile and story and the whole process was a breeze and almost effortless!"

Filming occurred over the summer of 2024, forcing Olejniczak to reschedule a handful of dinner parties he had previously booked from mid-July into August. But none of his dining guests begrudged him this experience. In fact, he said everyone was very receptive and encouraging. They even kept the information about his appearance on the show to themselves, not "leaking" the chef's exciting adventure.

The location of the elusive "Banker's Island" is strictly confidential, but Olejniczak described it as "over 3,000 miles away in a land that doesn't follow Packers football." Contestants' phones were confiscated and all efforts were in place to preserve the integrity of the show at all costs, he noted.

Olejniczak said he was "pleasantly surprised" by the conditions provided for contestants on Banker's Island.

"We were truly treated to luxury. I had been warned that we were essentially going to be 'camping,' and I was prepared for that with little concern. I often take overnight hunting trips on the Deerskin River and Wisconsin River, so I thought I'd have a leg-up over the other contestants.

"However, the memory foam mattresses, air-conditioned yurts, fluffy bathrobes and other luxuries really leveled the playing field... we even had our garments pressed!" he explained.

"It was amazing the money poured into



Olejniczak ziplines to secure a briefcase during the first excursion in season two called "The Banker's Pyramid Scheme."

production and the sheer amount of staff it took to execute such a feat," Olejniczak reminisced. "There had to be at least a couple hundred people involved in the process just to entertain viewers for an hour on a Tuesday evening during primetime. We were all treated like royalty, which was semi-uncomfortable at times; some contestants really didn't mind being waited on and having every desire granted though."

A month in paradise

The landscape may have changed, but Olejniczak was able to translate some of his favorite North Woods hobbies to use in his free time on Banker's Island.

"I of course packed fishing gear. I just dug in my walleye and pike tackle and put together what I could and thought would potentially work. No matter how crazy the action got on the island, fishing was an escape. It's the same watching a bobber for bluegills in northern Wisconsin or casting a line

on Banker's Island to bring that familiarity and peace," he said.

"There were so many wonderful times, even off the Banker's Island — tarpon fishing with a fishing guide, cooking with a local chef, running in the rainforest, surfing, and, of course, smoking real Cuban cigars was a real treat!"

Although Olejniczak was unable to land the elusive tarpon, he said the fishing on the island was incredible. Along with fishing, he embraced other experiences that allowed him to expand his horizons as well.

"I landed many jackfish and other assorted species. In the United States, jackfish are often considered garbage fish, but the guide I fished with a few times encouraged me to take a couple and cook them up.

"I found a local chef I bonded with and learned how to make jackfish curry. It turned out to be one of the best meals I had that entire month! Despite a language barrier, we understood each other and worked past it. Another memorable meal was an authentic indigenous feast I enjoyed in the rainforest on a cocoa plantation, prepared by tribal women and served in dried gourds."

In addition to connecting to fellow contestants on the show, he was able to see an array of interesting wildlife, including sloths, howler monkeys, dolphins, starfish, crabs, and a multitude of different fish — many of which ended up on the end of his line.

But the reason for his visit to paradise was to compete, which brought with it some challenges Olejniczak was not accustomed to facing in the slower-paced life the North has to offer.

"I never really paid much attention before, but constantly looking over your shoulder and trying to

figure out who's genuine and who's not was exhausting," he said. "Up here in the North Woods, the culture is authentic — we take care of each other, and people keep their word. That wasn't the case on Banker's Island, and it's not something I want to be around. Home here is truly special."

Lasting friendships

With his winning smile, kindness and positive attitude, Olejniczak was able to take in more than just the cutthroat strategy of the gameplay, creating lasting relationships with some of the contestants he met on location.

"There's one cast member I chat with weekly; he enjoys hearing about the hunting and fishing seasons up north. We exchange holiday pleasantries and talk for about 30-40 minutes each week. I'm sure we'll be flying to see each other at some point. Another one I'm persuading to come up for some walleye fishing once things settle down," Olejniczak shared.

"The other cast members I've mostly kept up with through social media. I even sent some wild game all the way to North Carolina — Wisconsin whitetail and bear steaks made it to her dinner table! There were truly some wonderful people on the show, and it was a blessing to cross paths with them."

He added that he has also made connections with some contestants from season 1 of "Deal or No Deal Island."

Good to be home

Traveling 3,000 miles can be a test of faith on a good day, and Olejniczak learned that first-hand, calling his return journey "a comedy of errors."

Battling rescheduled flights, gate changes, ticket system issues, language barriers and a brief stint

being locked in the ladies' bathroom as his plane was boarding, he said it was like he had to "fight his way back."

Upon returning home, he was able to take stock of just how blessed he is to live in northern Wisconsin, among the people and places he loves.

After a stop at Kwik Trip on the way back from the airport and a thick ribeye steak meal, Olejniczak settled back into his routine — working on scent training with his dogs to track wounded deer for the fall hunting season, calling his "near and dear" friends, and following up on dinner party inquiries he missed while he was away.

We won't know until the season airs whether or not he outsmarted the banker and struck it rich on "Deal or No Deal Island," but Olejniczak doesn't seem changed by his brush with fame. If anything, the experience has driven home how important his hometown roots are in day-to-day life.

"Even if I had all the fortune in the world, I would still pursue my career as a private chef. I feel like I've already retired at the age of 29 because I'm blessed to live in an area I love and do a job that brings me so much pleasure and fulfillment. I already consider myself retired! How could you not enjoy being part of someone's intimate occasion and creating food memories?"

"The experience gave me a great perspective on how good we have it up here in the North Woods. We really have champagne problems here in the U.S. and should count our blessings."

Deal or No Deal Island airs on NBC each Tuesday night starting at 7 p.m. Episode one aired Jan. 7 and is available to stream on Peacock.



Olejniczak displays some of the jackfish he caught during one of his many fishing outings.

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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 Ultimix 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://derbycomplex.com/> or call 715-479-4424.

derbycomplex.com/ or call 715-479-4424.

www.vcnewsreview.com

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OBITUARIES

Michael Kuehl



Michael Clark Kuehl, 69, of Three Lakes, died unexpectedly Dec. 28, 2024.

Mr. Kuehl was born Sep. 14, 1955, born to Clark and Margaret Kuehl. He graduated from Three Lakes High School.

Mr. Kuehl worked several jobs through the years including the Three Lakes Golf Course and the former Oneida Village.

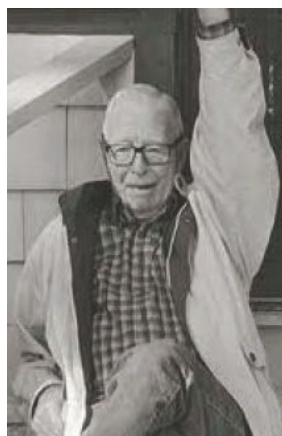
Mr. Kuehl loved the Three Lakes Community and, with his many handyman skills, was always willing to help others. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and golfing in his earlier years.

Mr. Kuehl was preceded in death by his parents Clark (Margaret) Kuehl.

Mike is survived by two brothers, Kevin (Rocio) Kuehl, James (Lisa) Kuehl; three sisters, Carol Heide, Kathy Kuehl, Beth (Robert) Kuehl-Loparco; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

John Baer



John Balfour Baer, 96, of Pittsboro, NC, died of natural causes on Dec. 6, 2024.

Born in Evanston, Illinois in 1928, to William Whittaker and Helen Millerd Baer. John lived in Wilmette and Winnetka, graduating from New Trier High School.

At age 10 he was invited to go fishing with his best friend, at their family's cottage in Three Lakes, Wisconsin, and thus began an 85 year romance with the Wisconsin Northwoods.

John attended Hobart College in his mother's hometown of Geneva, NY graduating with his BA in 1950. While at Hobart he joined Theta Delta Chi fraternity and played varsity basketball and lacrosse for the Statesmen.

John enlisted in the Air Force shortly after graduation. He was stationed in Newfoundland and Thule, Greenland, as part of the Air Weather Service, collecting meteorological data to support US military activities vs. North Korea.

He was married to his college sweetheart, Phyllis Helen Kalmbach in Grand Rapids, MI in 1953. They honeymooned in Mexico and were then stationed in Long Beach, California until he was Honorably Discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1954.

After leaving the military John took a job selling industrial chemicals for the American Cyanamid Company initially working from the Chicago suburb of Park Forest, Illinois. John retired from a spinoff of Cyanamid, CYTEC Industries, after a successful 40-year career.

John and Phyllis relocated several times as John climbed the corporate ladder, living in Lyndhurst, OH, Sandy Springs, Georgia and Mountain Lakes, NJ after Park Forest. They lived in Mountain Lakes for more than 30 years before finally retiring to Galloway Ridge at Fearington in Pittsboro, NC in 2005. The Baers were members of the St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church while in North Carolina.

Every summer, from every location, they returned to their beloved Three Lakes Rod & Gun Club to be joined by family and friends for picnics, tennis, swimming, fishing, waterskiing, and sailing.

John was a loving, dedicated son, brother, uncle, cousin, husband, and father, who enjoyed gardening, genealogy, singing (in the shower, in men's chorus, in church choir or pew – anywhere really), and monitoring the weather. He also loved organizing road trips, especially those headed Up North or towards his children's homes with stops to read historical markers. His sense of humor, laugh and smile will be missed by all who knew him.

John is predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Phyllis; older brother, William "Bugs"; both his parents; and special companion, Mrs. Woodard Heath.

He is survived by his children, Alison B. Arter of Chapel Hill, NC; John Millerd Baer (Kimbra) of Yorkville, IL; and William Balfour Baer (Gail) of Salmon, ID; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and niece Linda A. Baer (Dave Kjelstrom) of Punta Gorda, FL.

A memorial service will be held at a later date in Three Lakes Wisconsin. Memorials may be made in his name to: Helen Millerd Baer '18 Scholarship Fund, Hobart and William Smith, Office of Advancement, 300 Pulteney St., Geneva NY 14456; Galloway Ridge Resident Reserve Fund, 3000 Galloway Ridge, Pittsboro, NC 27312; or St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 204 W. Salisbury Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

This obituary and more photos can be found online at <https://endswellfuneralhome.com/in-memoriam/john-balfour-baer/> PAID OBITUARY

Patricia Ann Kollauf



Patricia Ann Kollauf (nee LeBaron) was Called Home and Answered the Lord's calling on Dec. 29, 2024, at age 86. She was reunited with her husband of 59 years, the love of her life, the late Gordon Kollauf.

Loving mother of Richard (Cindy), Craig (Rose) and Sue (Chris)

Niggemeier. Proud grandma of Angela (Steve), Aaron, Hope (Raymon), Christopher (Jennifer), Patric, Jennifer Niggemeier, Sara (Jack) Kampf, Nicholas (Lauren) Kollauf, Kristina Kollauf (Jacob Parson), Chris and Michael Johns. Proud great grandma of August, Theodore, Brody, Heath, Margot, Eleanor, Mateo, and Milo. Also loved by other family members, friends, and pets.

Patricia was a Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star Wauwatosa Chapter #219 and of Eagle River Chapter #218.

Visitation will be held at Krause Funeral Home 9000 W. Capitol Drive, Milwaukee WI 53222 on Friday, Jan. 10 from 3-5:45 p.m. Eastern Star and Funeral Service at 6 p.m. Burial at St. Germain Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials appreciated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

PAID OBITUARY

Nancy Hartwig



Nancy Jean (Sweetack) Hartwig, 87, of Eagle River, WI, passed away peacefully on Dec. 23, 2024.

Born Nov. 19, 1937, in Chicago, Ill., to Mary and Stanley Sweetack, Nancy's life reflected her love of family, faith, creativity, and dedication.

Nancy grew up vacationing on Meta Lake in Eagle River, cherishing summers spent with her parents. It was there she met her husband, Carl Hartwig, who would land his seaplane on the lake to pick her up for sunset dates. They shared 62 years of marriage filled with love, adventure, and a mutual passion for flying.

A proud graduate of Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., Nancy was one of the school's first co-eds and served as secretary of her graduating class. She began her teaching career in Chicago and later returned as a substitute teacher in Three Lakes and at Northland Pines in Eagle River, sharing her love of learning with her community.

Faith was a cornerstone of Nancy's life. She volunteered extensively at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Three Lakes and St. Peter's Catholic Church in Eagle River, serving as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and in other capacities. Distributing the Eucharist was a role she cherished deeply, and she found great joy in serving her parish communities.

Nancy's creativity was boundless. She taught figure skating and choreographed Silver Blades Ice Shows with the Eagle River Recreation Association, designing costumes, backdrops, and even performing on the ice. She was also an indispensable partner in the family business, managing bookkeeping and traveling with Carl to trade shows nationwide.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Carl, and their seven children, Mark (Sandy), Kurt (Amy), Terry (Ted) Bogeman, Chris (Christine), Lisa (Eli) Bliefert, Steve, and Matt. She was a beloved grandmother to 13 grandchildren and proud great-grandmother to two.

Nancy's life will be celebrated with a gathering of family and friends over the summer at Meta Lake, the place she loved so dearly and where so many of her happiest memories were made.

Nancy's legacy of love, creativity, and dedication will forever be cherished by her family, friends, and all whose lives she touched.

Arrangements by Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home, Eagle River. Online condolences may be expressed at gaffney-busha.com PAID OBITUARY

Terry "Monk" Guerin



Terry "Monk" Lee Guerin, age 71, of Eagle River, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 21, 2024.

Born on Aug. 19, 1953, Monk was a devoted husband to his beloved wife of 46 years, Holly Guerin (née Elliott). Together, they raised two sons, Mike and Dan, who were the pride of his life. Monk

was also a loving grandfather to his three grandsons, Freddie, Bryce, and Mason, who brought him immense joy.

Monk had a strong work ethic and was known for his skills in several trades. Over the years, he worked as a logger and concrete mason, later owning and operating his own concrete business, Up North Poured Foundations. His years and expertise in the industry earned the respect of his peers for his dedication and craftsmanship.

In his free time, Monk enjoyed woodworking, a hobby that allowed him to express his creativity and skill. He handcrafted many custom and unique log furniture pieces over the years.

Monk was an avid Green Bay Packers fan. Cheering them on in his newly updated man cave with his Packer Crew was one of his favorite Sunday traditions.

Monk loved spending time at Camp 57 whether it was hunting, atvng, relaxing or BSing over a campfire and a cocktail. Deer Camp was a treasured time, spending time hunting and telling tall tales with his buddies. This little slice of heaven brought him great joy and peace in the outdoors.

A true outdoorsman, he also loved fishing, whether it was on the open water or out on the ice, where he enjoyed chasing walleye and spending time with friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Frank Guerin; mother, Bobbie Guerin; sisters, Debbie Friemoth, Sandra Weltzien; brother-in-laws: Robert Weltzien and Kent Elliott; and one of his best friends, Greg Mattson.

He is survived by his wife, Holly; sons, Mike (Katie) Guerin and Dan (Shannon) Guerin; sisters, Joann Graboski, Rhonda (Bobby) Dreger and Sharon Simpkins; brother-in-laws, Randy Friemoth, Scott (Mel) Elliott; sister-in-law: Carole Elliott (Tom Olson) and many other close family and friends. Monk's family and friends were his greatest treasures and shared many fond times with each. He will be remembered for his generosity, hard-working nature, and the deep love he had for his family and friends. Monk's unexpected passing has left a void in the hearts of all who knew him, but his legacy of hard work, love, and laughter will live on.

A celebration of Monk's life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, from 12:00-3:00 p.m. at The Log Cabin in Conover, WI.

The family kindly requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to a local charity in Monk's name.

Arrangements by Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home, Eagle River. Online condolences may be expressed at gaffney-busha.com PAID OBITUARY

John Hora Jr.

John Hora Jr. of Eagle River died on Sunday Jan. 5, 2025. He was 95.

A full obituary will appear in a future edition.

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

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Luke 1: 37

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NOTICE: Obituary policy

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

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438301

438302

Vilas County court report

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Legals 7700

VILAS COUNTY
(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25)
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY
Case No. 24CV000120
Our File #W151293
DISCOVER BANK
vs. STACIA PFEIFFER
Plaintiff,
Defendant.
AMENDED SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN
TO: STACIA PFEIFFER
5364 RIVER RUN LN
BOULDER JUNCTION WI 54512-7701
You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is also served on you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.
Within Forty (40) days after January 8, 2025, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY, 330 COURT ST, EAGLE RIVER WI 54521-8362 and the Kohn Law Firm, Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 735 N. Water St., Suite 1300, Milwaukee, WI 53202. You may have an attorney help or represent you.
If no Complaint accompanies this Summons you must respond within the said 40 day period with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint by mailing or delivering said written demand to the court and to the Plaintiff's attorneys at their respective addresses listed above.
If you do not provide a proper answer to the Complaint or provide a written demand for said complaint within the 40 day period, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin December 26, 2024.
KOHNS LAW FIRM S.C.
/S/JOHN DANNER
JOHN DANNER
State Bar No. 1125953
Attorney for Plaintiff
2702

WNAIXLP

VILAS COUNTY
(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25)
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
Case No. 24-CV-000100
GITSIT Solutions, LLC not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Separate Trustee of GITSIT Mortgage Loan Trust BBPLC1
vs. The Estate of Doris M. Close, Deceased
Defendant.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on November 12, 2024 in the amount of \$281,749.09 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:
TIME: February 13, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.
TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds, payable to the clerk of courts (personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The clerk of courts requires any down payment in excess of \$20,000 must be provided to them via cashier's check. The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the clerk of courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation of the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold 'as is' and subject to all liens and encumbrances.
MINIMUM BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS: No 3rd party bidder may submit a bid at a sale of mortgaged premises unless the 3rd party bidder meets all of the qualifications required under Wis. Stats. Sec. 846.155.
PLACE: Courthouse Annex Addition, Main Public Entrance, 330 Court St, Eagle River, WI
DESCRIPTION: A PARCEL OF LAND IN GOVERNMENT LOTS 1 AND 2, SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 39 NORTH, RANGE 10 EAST, LINCOLN TOWNSHIP, VILAS COUNTY, WISCONSIN, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT MEANDER CORNER ON THE WEST SHORE OF LOON LAKE WHERE THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID GOVERNMENT LOT 2 EXTENDED TO INTERSECT THE SHORE OF LOON LAKE, MARKED BY AN IRON PIPE FROM WHICH A 6 INCH X PINE BEARS DUE WEST A DISTANCE OF 7.20 FEET AND A 12 INCH W. BIRCH BEARS S27°E A DISTANCE OF 21.70 FEET A PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG THE SHORE OF LOON LAKE N20°11'W A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET; N03°35'E A DISTANCE OF 200.00 FEET; N21°07'E A DISTANCE OF 200.00 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE ON THE SHORE OF LOON LAKE; FROM WHICH A 6 INCH N. PINE BEARS S40°E A DISTANCE OF 4.30 FEET AND AN 8 INCH N. PINE BEARS N46°E A DISTANCE OF 20.40 FEET; THENCE N84°49'W A DISTANCE OF 378.20 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE ON THE EAST LINE OF TOWN ROAD FROM WHICH A 20 INCH N. PINE BEARS DUE EAST A DISTANCE OF 55.30 FEET AND A 4 INCH N. PINE BEARS N55°E A DISTANCE OF 20.90 FEET THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG THE EAST LINE OF TOWN ROAD S28°30'E A DISTANCE OF 420.90 FEET; S34°24'E A DISTANCE OF 179.10 FEET TO THE EXTENDED SOUTH LINE OF GOVERNMENT LOT 2, SECTION 4-39-10 EAST; THENCE N82°10'E ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID GOVERNMENT LOT 2 A DISTANCE OF 24.80 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. EXCEPT THE SOUTH 50.00 FEET AS CONVEYED IN VOLUME 467 DEEDS, PAGE 418.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 758 Loon Lake Rd Eagle River, WI 54521-8431
DATED: December 17, 2024
Gray & Associates, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
16345 West Glendale Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151-2841
(414) 224-8404
Please go to www.gray-law.com to obtain the bid for this sale.
Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7

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Legals 7700

bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.
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Meetings and Public Hearings 7720

VILAS COUNTY

(Two weeks 1/8-1/15/25)
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE VILAS COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT STATE OF WISCONSIN ss COUNTY OF VILAS TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN Pursuant to Chapter 59.694 and 19.84 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and Article X, Section 10.3 of the Vilas County General Zoning Ordinance:
Public Notice is hereby given to all persons that a public hearing will be held at the Presque Isle Town Hall, 8306 School Loop Road, Presque Isle, WI 54557 on Thursday January 23, 2025 at 11:00 A.M.
Relative to Board of Adjustment Variance Application B3-24, submitted by Jeff Labs, Agent for Thomas Balistreri. On the following real estate to wit: Part of Government Lot 17, Section 22, Town 43 North, Range 6 East, Town of Presque Isle, Vilas County, Wisconsin; identified by Vilas County Computer Parcel Number 22-785-01.
Requesting a variance to Vilas County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Article VI, Section 6.4 (C) 3 (a) which states:
A non-conforming principal structure located 35-75 feet from the OHWM:
3. May be expanded laterally with the following limitations:
a. No more than 200 square feet of lateral expansion is permitted over the life of the structure.
The applicant is requesting a Variance to build an approximately 1060 square foot home addition fifty (50) feet from the OHWM.
The Board of Adjustment may conduct an on-site inspection of the above-described property prior to the public hearing.
The Board will meet at the Presque Isle Town Hall at 10:30 AM to proceed to the property with a hearing to follow.
A copy of the application is on file at the Vilas County Zoning Office. All persons interested are invited to attend and be heard at the Presque Isle Town Hall.
Vilas County Board of Adjustment
Bridgette Nutter, Secretary
Dated at Eagle River this 20th day of December, 2024

2698 **WNAIXLP**

Minutes 7725

NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT

(One week 1/8/25)
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
October 15, 2024
(Student Expulsion Hearing)
Board President Jennifer Payne called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Present for the Board of Education: Jennifer Payne, Chris Petreikis, Chelsea Romaker, and Nick Seeger. Absent: Erica Lane, Becky Nordine, and Kelly Roach. A quorum of the Board was present.
District Administrator Scott Foster confirmed that the meeting notice had been properly posted.
Motion made by Chelsea Romaker and seconded by Chris Petreikis to approve the agenda. Motion passed 4-0.
Motion by Jennifer Payne, seconded by Chelsea Romaker, to adjourn into closed session pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. §§ 19.85(1)(a) and (f) and 120.13(1)(c), for the purpose of conducting a student expulsion hearing.
A roll call vote was taken as follows:
Jennifer Payne Aye
Chris Petreikis Aye
Chelsea Romaker Aye
Nick Seeger Aye
Motion carried.
Motion by Jennifer Payne seconded by Chelsea Romaker to adjourn closed session and reconvene into open session.
Motion carried.
Motion by Chelsea Romaker seconded by Nick Seeger to adjourn.
Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.
2704 **WNAIXLP**

NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT

(One week 1/8/25)
Regular Board Meeting Minutes of Monday, November 18, 2024
Opening of Meeting at 6:00 pm
Call to Order: The Regular Board Meeting of the Northland Pines Board of Education was called to order by Jennifer Payne, Board President, on Monday, November 18, 2024, at six o'clock p.m. (6:00 p.m.) in the Northland Pines Middle and High School Large Group Instruction Room, Eagle River, Wisconsin.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Note: This meeting was streamed live via the district's YouTube site.
Roll Call, Establish a Quorum
Attending:
1. Erica Lane, Board Clerk
2. Becky Nordine, Board Treasurer
3. Jennifer Payne, Board President
4. Chris Petreikis, Board Vice President
5. Kelly Roach, Board Member
6. Chelsea Romaker, Board Deputy Clerk
7. Nick Seeger, Board Member
Also present were the following:
1. Scott Foster, District Administrator
2. Tera Fritz, Business Manager
3. Emily Rhode, Director of Special Education & Pupil Services
4. Gretchen Smart-Hall, Principal, Eagle River Elementary School
5. Sue McKay, Director of Teaching & Learning
6. Dan Marien, Principal, Middle & High School
7. Tony Duffek, Principal, St. Germain Elementary & Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center
8. Carle Nordine, Principal, Land O'Lakes Elementary & SOAR Middle School
9. Ashley Heid, Social Media & Public Relations Specialist
10. Susie Block, Executive Assistant to the District Administrator & Board of Education
There were thirteen (13) citizens in attendance.
Open Meeting Verification: Jennifer Payne announced the meeting had been duly called. Meeting notices were sent to the following locations: Northland Pines Middle School &

2705 **WNAIXLP**

Minutes 7725

High School in Eagle River; Northland Pines Elementary Schools in Eagle River, Land O'Lakes and St. Germain; Vilas County Courthouse in Eagle River; Eagle River City Hall; Vilas County News Review-Eagle River; WERL/WRJO Radio Station-Eagle River.
Approval of Agenda: Motion by Chris Petreikis to approve the agenda as presented and leave the order to the discretion of the Chair. Second by Erica Lane. Voice vote 7-0. Motion carried.
Public Participation Section of the Meeting:
1. Dr. Scott Preisler, Jack Stoskopf, Larry Snedden, and Susie Gowler spoke in support of the Northland Pines Community Foundation and provided information on the mission, vision, goals, types of funds and types of donor for the Foundation.
2. Chelsea Sims spoke in opposition of alleged bullying behavior by a bus driver towards her daughter.
3. A minor student spoke in opposition of bus issues that she alleged were unfair towards another student.
4. A minor student spoke in opposition of bullying that she alleged was due to the attire she wears to school. Board Committee minutes – no action was taken:
1. DA Foster shared that the Board's attorney will be stepping away from his legal firm due to medical reasons; the Board is still protected as we have worked in the past with several other attorneys in the firm. DA Foster said that after the holidays we can discuss further and he can give the Board some options to consider for their main attorney moving forward.
2. DA Foster reported that following discussions with the Committee members, the meeting on the Board's calendar schedule for December 3, 2024, has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled due to the short month and holiday break.
3. Written minutes of board committee meetings were shared in BoardDocs for the public to view.
Consent Agenda: Motion by Erica Lane to approve all items contained in the consent agenda. Following is a list of the items contained in the consent agenda:
1. To dispense with the reading of the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2024, and approve the meeting minutes and closed session minutes, as presented.
2. To approve the payment of all district wide checks pursuant to the summary check register of 10/16/24 - 11/15/24 in the amount of \$1,466,556.53, as presented.
3. To approve Open Enrollment IN alternative application for student #12, effective for the 2024- 2025 school year.
4. To approve the revisions to Policy 7510 Use of District Facilities, as presented.
5. To approve the revisions to the Employee Handbook for 2024-2025, as presented.
6. First Review/no action taken: new course titled "Drama as Literature" for the Middle and High School beginning 2025-2026.
Second by Becky Nordine. Voice vote 7-0. Motion carried.
Discussion & Action Items:
Referendum: Motion by Jennifer Payne to approve the Resolution Authorizing The School District Budget To Exceed The Revenue Limit For Nonrecurring Purposes And Providing For A Referendum Election. Second by Chris Petreikis. Voice vote 7-0. Motion carried. It was noted the Resolution is for a three year non-recurring Referendum election vote to be held on February 18, 2025, for \$5.6 million per year for 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28.
Review of Referendum meetings and dates – no action was taken: DA Foster shared a flyer of the following dates and times he will hold Public Referendum Informational Meetings, as follows:
1. Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. – Land O'Lakes Elementary School
2. Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. – Middle and High School
3. Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. – St. Germain Elementary School
4. Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. – Walter E. Olson Memorial Library
The public is welcome to attend any or all of the meetings; the presentation will be the same at each meeting and DA Foster will provide time for Q&A (questions and answers) at the end of each presentation.
Referenda Results – no action was taken: DA Foster shared a report on the referenda elections held in Wisconsin on November 4, 2024. It was noted that 120 districts asked 138 questions. A total of 92 district passed 107 questions.
First Review 2025-2026 School Calendar – no action was taken: DA Foster and the Board discussed two Draft options for the 2025-2026 School Calendar. This agenda item will be on the December committee agendas and on the December board meeting for approval.
ERRA Hockey Lease Agreement: Motion by Becky Nordine to approve the revisions to the Eagle River Recreation Association (ERRA) Hockey Lease Agreement, as presented on page 5, adding \$10,000 to the contract for locker room maintenance and construction needs, noting this contract is evaluated and reviewed annually and this amount will be reviewed next year with a consideration of a lesser amount for maintenance of both boys' and girls' locker rooms moving forward. Second by Kelly Roach. Voice vote 7-0. Motion carried.
Written Reports – no action was taken:
• Administrative reports were shared in BoardDocs in public view.
• School Resource Officers reports were shared in BoardDocs in public view.
District Administrator's report – no action was taken: Scott Foster reported on the following topics:
• Veterans' Day Ceremonies
• National Honor Society Induction
• Winter Concerts
• Press Release from DPI proposing Universal free meals for Wisconsin students
• Wisconsin Association of School Boards Policy Perspectives pertaining to Act 20 and the Department of Public Instruction
Community Opportunities Free Events:
• Coffee Chats
Adjournment: Motion by Chelsea Romaker to adjourn. Second by Nick Seeger. Voice vote 7-0.
Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted,
Susie Block
Executive Assistant to the District Administrator & Board of Education
2705 **WNAIXLP**

2706 **WNAIXLP**

Notice To Creditors 7735

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25)
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY
Amended
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 24PR-63
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JEFFREY L LONG
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 12/18/1951 and date of death 11/12/2024, was domiciled in Vilas County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 10386 Little Rice Lane, Boulder Junction, WI 54512.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 4, 2025.

2707 **WNAIXLP**

Notice To Creditors 7735

against the decedent's estate is April 4, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court Street, Eagle River, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.
/s/ Dawn Halverson
Probate Registrar
December 26, 2024
John M. Remmers
Cramer Multhaul LLP
P.O. Box 558, Waukesha WI 53187
262-542-4278
Bar Number
1008875

2701 **WNAIXLP**

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25)
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY
Order Limiting Time for Filing Claims (Formal Administration)
Case No. 24PR91

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VICKI LEE SUNDBERG
DOD: 7/24/2023
A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.
THE COURT FINDS:
1. The decedent, with date of birth 01/15/1952 and date of death 07/24/2023, was domiciled in Vilas County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of PO Box 712, Land O'Lakes, WI 54540.
2. All interested persons waived notice.
THE COURT ORDERS:
1. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 4, 2025.
2. A claim must be filed at the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court St, Eagle River, Wisconsin, Room - Office of Register in Probate.
/s/ Dawn Halverson
Probate Registrar
December 26, 2024
Attorney Steven C. Garbowicz
221 S First St, PO Box 639
Eagle River, WI 54521
Telephone Number
715.479.6444
Bar Number
1018485

2697 **WNAIXLP**

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25)
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 24-PR-90

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS M. SCROGGINS, JR.
DOD: 10/24/2024
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 05/10/1955 and date of death 10/24/2024, was domiciled in Vilas County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 11369 Lemna Creek Road, Arbor Vitae, WI 54568.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 4, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court Street, Eagle River, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.
/s/ Dawn Halverson
Probate Registrar
December 26, 2024
Nick G. Cirilli
116 E. Davenport St.
Rhinelander, WI 54501
715-369-3443
Bar Number
1101541

2700 **WNAIXLP**

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25)
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY
-PROBATE-
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 24PR84

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARYANN MILLER
DATE OF DEATH: 1-1-2018
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 2-14-1933 and date of death 1-1-2018, was domiciled in VILAS County, State of WISCONSIN, with a mailing address of 13771 HWY 70 LAC DU FLAMBEAU, WI 54538.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 4, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the VILAS County Courthouse, EAGLE RIVER, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.
/s/ Dawn Halverson
Probate Registrar
December 26, 2024
JOHN C. HOULIHAN
HOULIHAN LAW FIRM, S.C.
P.O. BOX 630
MINOCQUA, WI 54548
715-356-1422
Bar Number
1016296

2706 **WNAIXLP**

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25)
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY
Amended
Order Limiting Time for Filing Claims (Formal Administration)
Case No. 24-PR-63
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LANNY W. STUDDARD
DANNY: 05/24/2024
A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.
THE COURT FINDS:
1. The decedent, with date of birth 01/28/1950 and date of death 05/24/2024, was domiciled in Vilas County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 5315 US Hwy 45, Conover, WI 54519.
2. All interested persons waived notice.
THE COURT ORDERS:
1. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 4, 2025.
2. A claim must be filed at the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court Street, Eagle River, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.
/s/ Daniel L. Overbey
Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2
December 30, 2024
Nick G. Cirilli
116 E. Davenport St.
Rhinelander, WI 54501
715-369-3443
Bar Number
1101541

2695 **WNAIXLP**

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25)
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY
Amended
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 24-PR-86
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ALLEN S. QUINN
DOD: 8-14-24
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 9-16-2024 and date of death 8-14-2024, was domiciled in PEORIA County, State of ILLINOIS, with a mailing address of 1312 W PINE ST CHILLICOTHE, IL 61523.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 4, 2025.

2696 **WNAIXLP**

POLICE REPORT

Vilas County Sheriff

The Vilas County Sheriff's Department reported a total of 171 incidents last week, which included 19 911 hang-ups, nine car versus deer accidents, two hit and run accidents, one personal injury, three property damages, five agency assists, five burglary alarms, one fire alarm, one fake ID, four ambulance requests, one dog bite, three attempts to locate, one ATV complaint, six conditions of bond, seven citizen assists, one criminal damage to property, one custodial interference, four death investigations, one disorderly conduct, five deer in roadway, two disturbances, four domestic violence complaints, nine sick leaves, one fire, one fireworks complaint, one harassment, five warrant confirmations, one dumping, 18 information reports, one injury on duty, one jail problem, two juvenile problems, one lifeline alarm, one powerline down, one lost property, one OWI, one parking problem, one protection order, one vacation check, three officer requests, one snowmobile violation, one suicide attempt, eight suspicious circumstances, one property

theft, one shoplifting, one threat report, four hazards, seven traffic violations, one prisoner transport, two warrant transports, two property trespasses, one weapons offense and five welfare checks.
A total of 14 people were taken into custody and booked into the Vilas County Jail.

Eagle River Police

The Eagle River Police Department reported a total of 26 incidents last week, which includes one ambulance assist, three assaults, one citizen dispute, one custodial interference, two citizen assists, one drug possession, three domestic violence offenses, three information reports, one noise complaint, one property damage, one suspicious person, one sex offense, one hit and run accident, one traffic hazard and five traffic accidents.
A total of one person was taken into custody and booked into the Vilas County Jail.

Three Lakes Police

The Three Lakes Police Department failed to submit a report before the press deadline of this week's publication.

Wisconsin DMV serves 2.3 million customers in 2024

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) conducted nearly 2.3 million transactions at its 80 DMV Customer Service Centers across the state in 2024 and millions more completed their DMV tasks online.
In addition, DMV provided:
· 922,374 vehicle registrations/titles
· 928,163 driver licenses and IDs (new, renewals, replacements, etc.)
· 288,340 Knowledge Tests to new drivers
· 110,746 Skills Tests with DMV driving examiners
· 240,970 answers to customer emails
With the convenience of having nearly all Wisconsin DMV tasks available online, 30,421 renewed their driver's license online and 35,655 requested a copy of their driving record. This year, Wisconsin DMV also developed new innovations to serve more customers, help first responders, and deliver new products and new services.
"As a state agency, it's our responsibility to meet the diverse needs of our customers. We've added many innovative and self-service options that are convenient and easy to use," DMV Administrator Tommy Winkler said. "Behind this customer-service focus is the work of our DMV team members across the state. Their dedication allows us to deliver timely, accurate and professional assistance that sets an industry standard for DMV service."
Wisconsin DMV's innovations this year include:
· Allocating \$6 million to provide free driver training courses to nearly 10,000 low-income students through Wisconsin's new Driver Education Grant Program. Many new drivers start their journey at wisconsin.dmv.gov/teendriver and find a nearby driver training school with the interactive map that launched this year.
· Delivering new EV/hybrid stickers to nearly 168,000 electric and hybrid vehicles as required by a new law. Lost stickers can be easily replaced online at wisconsin.dmv.gov/sticker.
· Adding emergency contact information to 50,000+ residents' records so law enforcement can contact a family member or other loved one more quickly in the event of an emergency. Residents can add their information conveniently online at wisconsin.dmv.gov/emergencycontact.
Other, popular new features in 2024 included:
· Three new special license plates, Spay and Neuter, Suicide Prevention, and the Crane Foundation plates join DMV's current offering of 63 specialty plates. See the plates at wisconsin.dmv.gov/specialplates.
· Two new, centralized emissions testing facilities opened in Milwaukee. A self-serve option using kiosks was also added through the Vehicle Inspection Maintenance Program at these sites.
· One new Motorists' Handbook has been updated to deliver driver information that is clear, understandable and easy to read.

Notice To Creditors 7735

VILAS COUNTY

4, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the VILAS County Courthouse, EAGLE RIVER, Wisconsin, Room PROBATE OFFICE.
/s/ Dawn Halverson
Probate Registrar
December 26, 2024
JOHN C. HOULIHAN
HOULIHAN LAW FIRM, S.C.
P.O. BOX 630
MINOCQUA, WI 54548
715-356-1422
Bar Number
1016296

2690 **WNAIXLP**

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25)
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY
-PROBATE-
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 24PR92

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN A. ZINK
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 8-15-1926 and date of death 11-28-2024, was domiciled in VILAS County, State of WISCONSIN, with a mailing address of 12448 CHIPPER, PRESQUE ISLE, WI. 54557.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 4, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the VILAS County Courthouse, EAGLE RIVER, Wisconsin, Room PROBATE OFFICE.
/s/ Dawn Halverson
Probate Registrar
December 26, 2024
John E. Danner
Harold Scrobell & Danner SC
P O Box 1148
Minocqua WI 54548
715-356-9591
Bar Number
1005567

2707 **WNAIXLP**

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25)
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY
Notice to Creditors (Informal Administration)
Case No. 24PR93

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Paula J Catter
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth November 20, 1954 and date of death December 6, 2024, was domiciled in Vilas County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 129 Black Squirrel Lane Eagle River, WI 54521
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is April 4, 2025.
5. A claim may be filed at the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle River, Wisconsin, Room Probate Office.
/s/ Dawn Halverson
Probate Registrar
December 27, 2024
Kathryn Coley
408 Pipe Creek Ln
Georgetown, TX 78633
512-946-7777

2696 **WNAIXLP**

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NEWS

FORK distributes food security resource guides

Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) has just distributed 170 of their updated 2025 Food Security Resource Guide (Resource Guide) to those who are on the front lines in the fight against food insecurity in Vilas and Oneida counties.

These individuals may include educators, counselors, social workers, law enforcement officers, pastors and priests, food pantry directors, homeless shelters, county officials, school district administration and more.

The Resource Guide was created in partnership with the Vilas and Oneida County Departments of Social Services to address their need for comprehensive and accurate information about sources for food support across the North Woods.

“Throughout the year, FORK collects updated information regarding all of the food support programs available to local residents,” said FORK President Perry Pokrandt. “Those updates are then included and redistributed in the following year’s Resource Guide.”

Vilas County Human



Vilas County Human Services Director Valerie Wielhouwer poses with the 2025 Food Security Resource Guide.

—Contributed Photo

Services Director Valerie Wielhouwer explained that resource information is always changing, saying that programs come and go, hours of operation change, program qualifications change, and contact information is “in a constant flux.”

“Human Resource Department resources are limited. In the past, these ongoing changes

challenged our social workers in their efforts to offer accurate direction to the residents to whom they provided support,” she said.

As those changes are ongoing, FORK regularly updates its online version of the Resource Guide as new information is made available throughout the year.

“Our online Resource

Guide ensures that our area professionals always have accurate information by which they can advise food insecure families,” continued Pokrandt.

Additionally, all area residents have access to this information themselves at FeedOurRuralKids.org/Resource-Locator. The online Resource Locator provides a directory of available food support resources by community.

“The support available to a household is dependent on the community in which they live,” said Wielhouwer. “The Resource Locator shows what programs are available to residents based on the community in which they live.”

Individuals can also access this information by calling FORK’s Family Food Helpline at 888-479-FORK (3675). The call is answered by professionals who will help area residents connect with the programs that will best meet their needs.

The Family Food Helpline is available to residents of all ages.

Feed Our Rural Kids is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

DNR to host virtual public hearing on proposed deer management unit rule

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 5 p.m. to provide members of the public a formal comment opportunity on the draft rule that would change portions of the state’s deer management unit boundaries.

The DNR reviews deer management unit boundaries every few years, with this year’s review focusing on the management units in the Northern Forest Zone, the Metropolitan Sub-Units, and the boundary lines between the Central Forest and Farmland Zones.

Additionally, the DNR may consider options to adjust the geographical areas represented by deer advisory councils in the Northern Forest Zone to better align with adjusted unit boundaries.

Proposed changes

The draft rule includes a return to habitat-based deer management units in the Northern Forest Zone and an adjustment to a portion of the Central Forest Deer Management Zone boundary and select Metropolitan Sub-Unit boundaries.

Additionally, the draft rule will allow consideration for the public feedback received to adjust the geographical areas represented by deer advisory councils in the Northern Forest Zone to better align with adjusted unit boundaries.

The public is encouraged to visit the DNR’s Proposed Permanent Administrative Rules webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/news/input/ProposedPermanent> (under the Wildlife Management section) for a link to the draft rule and details on the public hearing. Submit comments by Friday, Jan. 10 to:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
C/O Scott Karel, DNR Policy and Regulations Specialist
P.O. Box 7921
101 S. Webster St.
Madison, WI 53707
DNRAAdministrativeRulesComments@wisconsin.gov

Visit the DNR’s Deer Management webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/deermanagement> to learn more about the deer management unit review process and to view a recording of the recent virtual open house on the topic. The recording includes an explanation of the proposed changes and an ensuing question-and-answer session with the public.

Event details

What: Public hearing on a permanent rule related to white-tailed deer management unit boundaries (virtual).
When: Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025, 5 p.m.

Where: Virtual: Join this meeting via Microsoft Teams. More information about the upcoming public meeting, along with a link to the Microsoft Teams meeting room, is available on the DNR’s Meetings and Hearings calendar at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/calendar>.

Aspirus provides reminders for staying safe and smart with over-the-counter medications

Aspirus Health is encouraging patients to approach over-the-counter (OTC) medications with caution and informed decision-making.

OTC medications are a convenient solution for managing common ailments like coughs, colds and congestion. However, improper use can lead to unintended side effects — or even harm.

“Patients may not know what the active ingredients are in each medication,” says Stetson Potrykus, Aspirus Pharmacy Resident. “This can lead to taking multiple products with overlapping

ingredients, which increases the risk of side effects by raising the overall dose.”

Many OTC medications are combination products designed to target multiple symptoms. While helpful, these products require careful label reading to ensure safe use.

“The key is to narrow down the symptoms you have and select a medication that addresses those symptoms specifically,” Potrykus adds. “That approach reduces the risk of taking unnecessary ingredients and minimizes side effects.”

Tips for OTC medications

To get the most benefit from OTC medications while minimizing risks, Potrykus recommends:

- Identify symptoms: Select a medication designed for specific needs.
- Check the labels: Avoid products with duplicate active ingredients to reduce the risk of overuse.
- Use combination products carefully: Ensure they align with symptoms and avoid taking unnecessary ingredients.

Consulting health care providers

While OTC medications

are effective for short-term relief, they aren’t always the solution. Potrykus advises contacting a health care provider if:

- Symptoms persist for more than a week.
- Symptoms worsen despite OTC treatments.
- Being unsure which medication is safe, particularly if someone has underlying conditions or takes prescription medications.

Taking these precautions can significantly reduce complications and ensure effective symptom management. For personalized advice, consult a health care provider.

WCDC

FROM PAGE 1

Drummondville, Quebec, Canada, who made history as the first Vintage World Champion in 2023, was not present last year to defend her title due to the uncertainty of the race track, but will be in line to race in the 24th installment of the Derby, also according to Marchbank.

He expects 50-60 racers will be registered for the World Championship class, but many wait until the week of the event to register.

General admission tickets for Friday, Saturday and Sunday are \$32 plus potential fees online, or fans can purchase tickets at the door for \$30. Super tickets are on sale for \$85 plus potential fees online, which includes admission to all days including Friday Night Lightning.

Indoor Hot seats remain available for \$175 for Vintage weekend. Marchbank said they are roughly three-quarters full, with one to two seats here and there left, with not enough seats together for a bigger group to sit together.

2025 schedule

Racing festivities begin tomorrow, Thursday, Jan. 9, with World Championship time trials beginning at noon. All times and lap amounts are subject to change throughout the entire weekend. Gates will open at 7 a.m. Thursday, 8 a.m.



Jesse Wergin of Hazelhurst leads the field into turn run with his 340 vintage No. 12 Yamaha during the division’s championship race Friday of last year at the World Championship Derby Complex in Eagle River.

—Staff Photo

Friday and Saturday, and 9 a.m. on Championship Sunday.

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

The Woody’s Dash For Cash will feature the evening, with four heat races being narrowed down to two semifinals for the World Championship drivers before an eight-lap final will determine the winner. The winner gets the pole position in Sunday afternoon’s Vintage World Championship race.

Other class finals on Friday night include the Pro Mod 340 FA, Mod Stock 300, Super Stock IFS 540, Juniors Combo, Relic Mod

800 FA, Super Mod 340 and Seniors Super Stock 340.

Classes will again race throughout the day Saturday, Jan. 11, starting at 9 a.m., while WC qualifying will be later in the day.

Vintage World Championship qualifying will start between 2-3 p.m. to determine the top 10 who line up for Sunday’s championship.

Championship Sunday, where many race fans line the front stretch, will have racing begin at 9:30 a.m. with a last-chance qualifying race at noon for the W/C back-row positions.

All racing will conclude between 2 and 3 p.m. for track preparations for the W/C race. Any class that wasn’t completed before the 10-lap W/C final will be run afterward.

At 3 p.m., racers will

line the front stretch in preparation for intense racing. There will be \$3,000 in added prize money to the WC championship purse.

After the final, a champion will be crowned and an awards ceremony will take place roughly an hour after the final race. There will be a 24th WC top-10 ring ceremony and trophies for first, second and third in every class that is scheduled to run.

For up-to-date information, Anderson noted to check the WCDC website at <https://derbycomplex.com> or on the World Championship Derby Complex Facebook page.

Following Vintage Championship weekend, the 62nd World Championship Snowmobile Derby is set for next week, Thursday-Sunday, Jan. 16-19.

Court

FROM PAGE 5

hearing was set for Jan. 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Michael Mortag, 51, of Sayner, entered a not-guilty plea at an initial appearance hearing on one felony charge of firearm possession - convicted of a felony.

A preliminary hearing was set for the case Jan. 15 at 1:45 p.m.

Ezekiel A Charette, 34, of Washburn, pleaded not guilty to multiple felony charges, including possession with intent/delivery of narcotics and a bail jumping charge.

A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Feb. 12 at 8:30 a.m.

Destiny Deverney, 19, of Lac du Flambeau, failed to appear for an adjourned initial appearance on one felony charge of methamphetamine possession. The signature bond was forfeited for \$500.

Melissa Klumpp, 41, of Taylor, pleaded not guilty at her preliminary hearing on one felony count of moveable property theft (\$2,500-5,000) and one felony charge of THC possession.

Deputy Brook Lewis from the Vilas County Sheriff’s Office testified during the hearing and identified Klumpp during the testimony.

A judicial pretrial was set for Feb. 18 at 11:15 a.m.

Richard Burns, 66, of Boulder Junction, was found guilty of one felony OWI charge and another misdemeanor.

Judge Overbey ordered three years in the Wisconsin Prison System for the felony OWI, which includes 18 months of initial confinement and 18 months of extended supervision. The conditions for the ES include an AODA assessment/follow-through, a mental health assessment and follow-through, and a SCRAM bracelet for the first six months out of prison.

Aspirus Health provides critical tips on handling respiratory viruses for people with diabetes

Respiratory virus season presents added risks for everyone, but individuals with diabetes face significantly greater risks, according to Aspirus Health officials.

Diabetes weakens the immune system and disrupts blood sugar regulation, making it harder to fight infections.

“People with diabetes are at higher risk of more frequent or severe infections, including common respiratory viruses like influenza, COVID-19 and RSV,” says

Alex Trecartin, M.D., a family medicine physician with Aspirus Health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that people with diabetes — even those whose diabetes is well-managed — are three times more likely to die and six times more likely to be hospitalized due to flu-related complications than those without diabetes.

Dr. Trecartin explains that infections can

NEWS

MSA welcomes Nick Wagner as new CEO

MSA Professional Services, Inc. (MSA) announced the transition of Nick Wagner, PE, to the role of chief executive officer effective Jan. 1.

Wagner succeeds former CEO Gil Hantzsch, PE, who will serve in a strategic advisory capacity until his retirement in late 2025. This planned transition maintains MSA's success in delivering top-tier client service and quality projects to communities across the country.

Wagner first joined MSA as a co-op student in 2004 and as a summer intern in 2005. He was hired full-time in 2006, moving to the company's Dubuque office location where he was promoted to the role of team leader in 2012. In 2013, growth of the organization's Quad Cities team led Wagner to relocate to Bettendorf, Iowa, to guide growth and development initiatives in the greater eastern Iowa-western Illinois region, after which he was promoted to the role of Illinois program manager in 2017. In 2018, Wagner was appointed an ESOP trustee for MSA — an acting fiduciary and overseer of the company's employee-owned S-Corporation trust. In 2019, he was elected



MSA CEO Nick Wagner

to the company's board of directors, and in 2020 promoted to senior vice president of the Buildings service line, where he guided the strategic growth and pursuits of the firm's vertical infrastructure division from Kiel, Wis. Wagner was selected as the company's CEO-elect as announced publicly in August 2024.

Wagner holds a bachelor's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, from which he was honored with an Outstanding Alumni Award in 2021. He is a licensed professional engineer in Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin, a graduate of the American Council

of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Senior Executives Institute (Class of 2019), and a member of the ACEC Coalition of American Mechanical and Electrical Engineers (CAMEE).

Throughout his career, Wagner has demonstrated consistent success through strong client relationships and servant leadership, supporting clients throughout the firm's footprint, and establishing strong professional relationships across the industry.

"I am incredibly honored and enthusiastic to step into this role," commented Nick Wagner, MSA CEO. "Gil and I have been working together to ensure a smooth transition of leadership and lay the groundwork for the next phase of MSA's journey as a thriving employee-owned firm. I'd like to thank Gil for his exceptional tenure of leadership and look forward to working with him in an advisory capacity in the coming months. MSA has been the cornerstone of my professional career. I am steadfast in my loyalty to its success and committed to continuing the firm's tradition of excellence in the years to come."

Health

FROM PAGE 7

complicate diabetes management.

"Our body's metabolism changes during illness, and blood glucose control can be harder to maintain," he explains. "It's important to monitor blood sugar levels more often and communicate with your health care provider about adjustments to your treatment plan."

To protect themselves during respiratory

season, Aspirus Health encourages individuals with diabetes to take the following proactive steps:

- Stay Current on Vaccines – Immunizations for flu, COVID-19 and RSV significantly lower the risk of infection and reduce the severity of symptoms if illness occurs.
- Maintain Good Glucose Control – Keeping blood sugar levels within a healthy range helps reduce the likelihood of complications from infections.
- Practice Good Hygiene – "Washing your hands

frequently is perhaps the most important thing you can do to lower your risk of respiratory infection," advises Dr. Trecartin.

Taking these precautions will help individuals with diabetes reduce their risks and navigate respiratory virus season more confidently.

For more information about managing diabetes and staying healthy during respiratory virus season, contact a health care provider or visit www.cdc.gov.



PANTRY DONATION — Nelson's Ace Hardware donated \$1,035.88 to the Vilas Food Pantry. The funds were raised at Nelson's gift wrap table and at their exit door. Donations will go towards operation costs for the pantry. Pictured here is Nelson's Ace Store Manager Kim Trzcinski (left) and Vilas Food Pantry Director Sandy Weber (Right). Not pictured is Nelson's Office Manager Anne Franke. —Photo By Anne Franke

Rural homelessness highlights the fight to do 'more with less'

BY HALLIE CLAFLIN
WISCONSIN WATCH

NORTHERN WISCONSIN — Last winter, Eric Zieroth learned that multiple layers and a down blanket were the best way to keep warm while living in his car in far northwestern Wisconsin.

For over a year, he and his then-20-year-old daughter Christina Hubbell regularly parked in a corner spot at a public boat landing a mile outside Shell Lake, where they had spent most of their lives.

Now, because they are homeless, they have been ostracized for showering, parking and sleeping in public places.

Washburn County has no homeless shelters. Hubbell's job at a dollar store keeps them from relocating to a shelter in another county.

They are on a waitlist for a low-income housing unit.

Zieroth is awaiting a surgery that will allow him to get back to work.

If it weren't for his daughter, the former mechanic said he might consider committing a crime and getting booked into jail instead of spending another winter in the vehicle.

"There's no way I could do it again," Zieroth said. "I had to figure out something else this year."

In rural Wisconsin, homelessness is often hidden behind a veil of individuals and families who are couch surfing and sleeping in their vehicles.

Resources are few and far between, shelters are always full, and funding can be a significant challenge.

After falling for years, the state's estimated homeless population has been rising since 2021, surpassing 5,000 in 2024 for the first time since 2017.

In the 69 counties outside Milwaukee, Dane and Racine, the homeless population increased from 2,938 individuals in 2023 to 3,201 in 2024 — and that's likely an undercount.

Those living in cars are often missed, and those sleeping on couches don't count because they're "housed," said Jenny Fasula, executive director of Wisconsin's Foundation for Rural Housing.

Despite accounting for over 60% of the state's

homeless population in 2023, these mostly rural counties collectively contain just 23% of the state's supportive housing units, according to the Wisconsin Policy Forum.

Experts say such long-term housing support with on-site services is the best way to address chronic homelessness. But providing the option is an expensive, labor-intensive task for small, rural providers with limited funding.

Rural shelter providers across the state identified several solutions to the problem: Cutting out county governments as the middleman for state reimbursements, increasing the availability of new rental units, consolidating multiple definitions of homelessness, more consistent and proportional state funding, and assistance with case management are just a few.

Federal funding and HUD

Since 2009, HUD — the main federal agency that handles homelessness — has targeted permanent supportive housing programs with long-term, sustainable services like case management for federal funding.

The national shift from temporary housing programs reflects a widely adopted "housing first" approach — that the security of a permanent shelter is the first, necessary step before people can address the root causes of their homelessness.

While permanent housing programs effectively lowered Wisconsin's homeless population in both rural and urban areas before the pandemic, the shift hasn't been easy for rural shelters that are strapped for resources.

"As a shelter, when you have 50 people, it's impossible to have the funding to hire case managers that are really involved and able to really assist people," said Michael Hall, a former Waupaca County shelter worker and director of Impact Wisconsin — a nonprofit providing housing and recovery services in a six-county rural region.

Restrictions on federal funding and multiple definitions of homelessness are another barrier for

rural homeless providers, said Millie Rounsville, CEO of Northwest Wisconsin Community Services Agency.

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homelessness specifically for youth as minor children who "lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."

But HUD defines homelessness in multiple categories including: 1) an individual or family who is immediately homeless and without shelter and 2) those at imminent risk of homelessness.

Homeless children and families in the rural region surrounding Superior tend to be doubled up in some kind of housing, Rounsville said.

While they often meet the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless, they are considered category two homeless under HUD's definitions.

But in order to qualify for HUD-funded Rapid Rehousing programs, individuals must fall under category one.

"The funding needs to be flexible," Rounsville said. "We can't assume that every community across the country has the same need."

It's a housing issue

Rural Wisconsin is lacking affordable, habitable homes.

Providers in Rusk County, Taylor County, Bayfield County and Waupaca County said without low-income options, they often can't get people into permanent housing.

"As fast as units open up, they get filled," said Kimberly Fitzgerald, interim director of the Rusk County Lighthouse shelter. "In Ladysmith specifically, there are next to no rental units. So even if somebody did get approved for the housing program, where are we going to put them?"

Rural areas are also home to the state's aging housing stock, which can mean higher energy bills.

"People stereotype them to think 'Oh, we have these programs because people don't know how to manage their money.' It's not that," Fasula said. "These are folks that come in that just have a crisis. ... They don't have anything to fall

back on. Any little hiccup is a big impact for them financially."

While working to eventually afford an apartment in Shell Lake, Hubbell is making \$13.50 an hour at Dollar General, but only scheduled to work 20 hours a week. The living wage calculation for one adult in Washburn County is \$19.45 an hour working 40 hours a week, according to the MIT living wage calculator.

State funding

In the state's 2023-25 biennial budget, the Legislature rejected Gov. Tony Evers' recommendations to spend some \$24 million on emergency shelter and housing grants, homeless case management services, and rental assistance for unhoused veterans.

The Legislature also nixed \$250 million Evers proposed for affordable workforce housing and home rehabilitation grants.

The state funds two main grants for homeless shelters and housing annually.

The State Shelter Subsidy Grant (SSSG) receives around \$1.6 million per year, and the Housing Assistance Program receives \$900,000.

But for small shelters like Taylor House — the only homeless shelter in rural Taylor County — the funding is "pennies," said Adam Schnabel, the shelter's vice president.

The facility has a continuous waitlist.

The north central Wisconsin shelter with a 17-person capacity received \$10,000 from SSSG this year, Schnabel said.

That's around \$588 per person. But four emergency shelters in Milwaukee with a combined capacity of around 392 received \$400,000 from the \$1.6 million grant total — \$1,020 per person.

The state's Recovery Voucher Grant Program awarded \$760,000 to grantees in 2024 to provide housing to those experiencing homelessness and struggling with opioid use disorders.

Half of these funds went to three providers in Dane, Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.

Another state resource is the Homeless Case Management Services (HCMS) grant program, which distributes up to ten \$50,000 grants per year

to shelters and programs that meet eligibility requirements.

While helpful, these pots of money quickly run out, and many of them don't cover operating costs or wages.

Small shelters face county-level hurdles

Some shelter workers and advocates say in rural Wisconsin, homelessness is addressed only to the extent that their local governments and administrations are willing to acknowledge the issue and get involved.

Providers in several rural counties noted that there aren't any shelters that are owned or operated by local governments.

Washburn County Social Services can only direct homeless residents to the Lakeland Family Resource Center.

Hall and Schnabel said local governments need to be more involved in their work, whether that be providing a county employee to serve as a shelter director, or simply making better use of their limited resources.

Schnabel added that small shelters often cannot pay their directors a decent wage, resulting in frequent staff turnover.

Taylor House has had four directors in the last 18 months, he said. The inconsistency leaves "a bad taste" in the mouth of those reviewing their grant applications.

Some counties are much more willing than others to utilize Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) — a state program aimed at addressing substance abuse and mental health needs.

The program allows counties to contract employees and case managers who provide services such as skills development and peer support.

The county can bill those expenses back to the state through BadgerCare.

But some county officials are unwilling to engage in the program, Hall said.

He added that allowing local shelters that serve those covered under BadgerCare to bill the state directly for these services instead of relying on the county to initiate it "would solve the problem tomorrow."

Hall also noted that county governments can use their opioid settlement funds to provide housing and shelter to those with eligible needs, yet some have instead spent it on other things.

Waupaca County, for example, told Wisconsin Watch it has spent nearly \$100,000 in opioid settlement funds on awareness campaigns, training, a counselor position, and equipment that helps local police quickly identify narcotics.

Another challenge is that some small communities reject homeless shelters, assuming they will bring negative footprints.

The small city of Clintonville approved an ordinance last winter enforcing a 60-day limit on local hotel stays in a six-month period, citing drug concerns, disorderly conduct and disturbances.

Many homeless individuals in the area are put up in those hotels.

"We're trying to figure out, what are we going to do with those 50 people this winter when the police departments come through and say they have to get out," Hall said.

Shunned by their community

While still homeless, Zieroth and Hubbell were fortunate enough to find a temporary place to stay as the weather gets colder — a small room in the unfinished basement of an acquaintance who didn't want to see them living out of their car.

They insist on paying the homeowners \$50 a week — all they can afford — for letting them stay in the basement.

Zieroth uses his skills as a mechanic to fix things around the property, and Hubbell picks items up for them at the Dollar General whenever she can.

Once healed, he wants to get back to work and acquire a property of his own, but his first priority is his daughter.

After getting on her feet, Hubbell hopes to go to cosmetology school in Rice Lake.

"She has her whole life ahead of her and experience has taught me that some real bad beginnings get really good endings, and she deserves a good one," Zieroth said.

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

To EAGLES Pg. 11

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

SPORTS

Windigo grab momentum again with sweep of Bears

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wisconsin Windigo opened the new year by grabbing momentum again after a sweep of the Kenai River Brown Bears Jan. 3-4 at the Historic Eagle River Dome.

Before the two wins, Wisconsin finished 2024 with losses in five of its last six games.

During the series-opening win, Braydon Beahm scored his 24th goal of the year, which ranks second in the North American Hockey League (NAHL).

Wisconsin is now 22-8-1-2 and sits in first place in the Midwest Division ahead of the Anchorage Wolverines.

"It was great to get back to our winning ways after struggling a bit over our last few series. Having some of our players return to the lineup was an immense help," said Windigo head coach John Mitchell. "We got scoring from six different players this weekend, which was great to see."

Brown Bears 2, Windigo 5

In the Windigo's first game since Dec. 21, the offense got on the board first late in the opening period. With only a combined 13 shots in the first, Alexios Georgaklis took advantage of his one and lit the lamp at 15:18 for the 1-0 lead.

With a 1-0 lead heading into the second, the Windigo made it what was thought to be a commanding 3-0 game with goals at 2:58 and 7:57 before Kenai River put its first on the board. The Brown Bears also netted a shorthanded tally at 8:04 of



Wisconsin Windigo players Logan Nickolaus and Samuel Misak advance up the ice on a potential breakout during the weekend sweep of the Brown Bears in Eagle River last weekend.

-Contributed Photo

the third to get within one, 3-2, late in the game.

Beahm has been a premiere goal scorer for Wisconsin this year and came up big once again to take a 4-3 lead with less than five minutes to go in regulation. The Windigo defense held up with a big penalty kill and put the game to bed with an empty netter to take the 5-2 win.

"Our penalty kill was strong all weekend, especially on Friday, when we killed off a double minor late in the third period," stated Mitchell.

Beau Altman got the win in net as he stopped 20 of the 22 shots he faced.

Brown Bears 2, Windigo 3

It was another highly contested contest in game two, with the Brown Bears outshooting the Windigo 26-22 on the night.

Logan Nickolaus put Wisconsin on the board first, about nine minutes into the game, after finding himself all alone against the Brown Bear goalkeeper.

"It was great to see Logan Nickolaus regain his form after missing 13 games due to an injury. His three goals and two assists during the weekend were huge for us," said Mitchell.

Kenai River answered shortly after that to tie things up at 1-1, as that was the score after one period. Luke Baker found a one-timer opportunity on his stick early in the second, where he capitalized on giving the Windigo a 2-1 advantage shortly after a powerplay expired.

With seven minutes left in the second, the Brown Bears took charge after a defensive zone turnover and knotted things up at 2-2.

Nickolaus scored his second of the night, and third of the weekend, and was the beneficiary of a rebound to put the Windigo in the lead for good.

Altman picked up his second consecutive win with 24 saves.

"Altman played well in net for us. It is important to have depth at goaltending, such that we don't overburden any one goaltender," explained Mitchell. "It is a long season and we need to make sure we have something left in the tank come playoffs."

Up next for the Windigo are two games with the Minnesota Wilderness during Vintage weekend in Eagle River. Wisconsin will host a Thursday, Jan. 9 game, starting at 7 p.m. The Friday, Jan. 10, game will start at 7:30 p.m.

Nicolet NATIONAL BANK PRESENTS
Senior Spotlight

Jonathan Miller, Northland Pines boys basketball

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Senior Spotlight series will highlight the senior athletes in the area around the communities of Eagle River, Three Lakes, and Phelps. This week, Jonathan Miller, a three-sport athlete with Northland Pines, is in the spotlight.



Miller is being highlighted during his winter basketball season, but also runs cross country in the fall and hits the diamond in the spring for baseball.

Growing up, he dreamed of being a Major League Baseball player or having a job in some capacity in the league.

Here is more on the Pines senior:

Do you have a nickname that your friends or family call you?

"The nickname that my friends have for me is Steiner because they used to call me Jonstein, and then that turned into Steiner."

What has been your favorite sports moment at Northland Pines?

"My favorite moment from Northland Pines sports is when Nolan Lurvey passed it behind his back to Gabe Smith, who then proceeded to dunk on someone. It was a really exciting game before that, and we had a great student section

with great energy."

What was your dream job when you were growing up?

"When I was growing up my dream job was to be an MLB player or do something working for an MLB team because I love baseball."

Is there an athlete you look up to the most?

"Joey Wiemer is the athlete I look up to most. He always has a positive and fun attitude and plays freely with a lot of energy."

Favorite snack/meal before a game?

"I don't really have a pre-game snack, but I always go to Kwik Trip before home games."

How many sports do you play?

"I play three sports: Baseball, Basketball, and I run cross country."

Do you have plans for after high school?

"I want to go to college and study data science, I just don't know where I want to go yet."

STANDINGS

EAGLE RIVER POOL LEAGUE

Results of 1/2/25

Results: Eagle Lanes 10, Uncle Kent's II 6; Uncle Kent's I 9, Northern Exposure 7; Club 45 I 8, Denoyer's II 8; Lumpy's 11, Denoyer's I 5; Club 45 II 12, Log Cabin 4; Club 45 III 11, Brew's Pub 5
Eight Ball Runs: Jerry Johnson, Tristan Hazen, Josh Dishno, Richard Wilson.

STANDINGS	W	L
EAGLE LANES	139	53
CLUB 45 III	126	66
BREW'S PUB	113	79
NORTHERN EXPOSURE	102	90
UNCLE KENTS I	99	93
CLUB 45 I	94	98
DENOYER'S I	93	99
LUMPY'S	83	109
UNCLE KENTS II	81	111
DENOYER'S II	79	113
CLUB 45 II	75	117
LOG CABIN	68	124

First half defense a shining moment in seventh straight loss for Eagles

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northland Pines girls basketball team had a good defensive performance in the opening 18 minutes of a 48-25 road loss to Marathon, which is the seventh consecutive loss as the team looks to get out of a slump. The Lady Eagles dropped two games to Sparta and Onalaska at a holiday tournament at Adams-Friendship Dec. 27-28. The two scores were 28-67 and 28-52, respectively.

Pines fell to 2-8 (0-3) on the season with the loss.

Head Coach Jaclyn Halsey said after the loss that the defensive play in the first half kept the team in the game, but the offense couldn't take advantage of the good effort on the other end.

"We started off the game with a 3-2 zone, and our defense rotations were textbook. We even did a

great job with covering their high posts and running a triangle in the lane. Eleven minutes into the game, we only allowed 12 points. Our defense did what it needed to do in the first half," she said. "Unfortunately, we weren't able to see that pay off as we came out very flat on the offensive end. Game film showed that we were rotating the ball, and attempting an offense set, but we weren't aggressive enough to find our opportunities."

Offensively, the Eagles only scored three points in the opening roughly 12 minutes of the game and trailed 12-3.

Marathon extended that lead, and continued the defensive pressure, and led the Lady Eagles 35-12 almost midway through the second half.

Halsey said that at halftime the conversation was about the shooters on the team having a shooters mentality in the second half.

"As we got into the second half, it took us a couple minutes, but once we broke the ice with two back-to-back buckets, we started to look at creating our own opportunities, finding the gaps, and working better with the drive and dish," she stated.

Rebounding, specifically on the offensive end, is something Pines could improve on to create more opportunities, according to the coaching staff.

"Something that has been killing us is we are not doing our job on offensive boards. A scary statistic is that out of 29 opportunities to grab an offensive board,

we grabbed four," explained Halsey. "It will be very hard to win games without being able to grab some second and third opportunities. Too many teams are beating us, solely on the fact that they grab their own offensive rebound and get those second chances."

Senior Vienna Klemett led the Eagles with nine points, while Ryley Darr went 3-for-9 from the field and finished with six points.

Northland Pines returned to the court at Mosinee Tuesday for a Great Northern Conference matchup. The Eagles will then start a four-game homestand Thursday, Jan. 9, with a matchup with Medford at 7:15 p.m. Antigo will then come to town Tuesday, Jan. 14, with tipoff at 7:15 p.m.

Lady Jays suffer first loss in last five games

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

Heading into the new year, the Three Lakes-Phelps girls basketball team held a four-game win streak before falling in a tight 33-29 battle in a Northern Lakes Conference game at Florence, 33-29, last Friday.

In a first half where the Lady Jays scored only 10 points, the Florence team used its press defense and mistakes from Three Lakes to take the 19-10 lead after 18 minutes.

"Turnovers were a key factor. We need to get a handle on that to get back to our winning ways," said TLP head coach Rich Javenkoski after the loss.

"The team defensively played well as a whole." Florence never really let up on the defensive end, as

the Bobcats pressured the junior guards of TLP in the backcourt for a full game. "Pretty much pressed us the whole game and that was a factor," stated Javenkoski.

Despite trailing by nine, the team's defensive effort was there to keep it a low-scoring game, which gave TLP a chance offensively to make a run in the second half. Things did flip toward the Jays in the second, gaining momentum and cutting the deficit down to two late in the game.

TLP outscored Florence 19-14 in the second, but late free throws by the home Bobcats, who shot 7-of-20 from the charity stripe, sealed the win.

Javenkoski said that junior Libby Eppler played her best game of the season, showing versatility on both sides of the floor. "Libby

Eppler played her best game of the season, both offensively and defensively. Her intensity was great."

TLP returned to play Tuesday with a home game with Rhinelander before two away games at Phillips Thursday, Jan. 9, and at Crandon Monday, Jan. 13. Both games are slated for 7:15 p.m.

Javenkoski mentioned that the team is focused on another game where the opposition will likely pressure them in the backcourt. He also said they went toe-to-toe with the Hodags last year, so they hope to come out with a win.

"When we played Rhinelander last year, we played head-to-head with them. Hopefully, we can duplicate that and keep moving forward."

Upcoming High School Varsity Hoops Schedules

Jan. 9 - Jan. 15, 2025

Northland Pines Eagles
Boys Basketball
Fri., Jan. 10 at Medford - 7:15pm
Tues., Jan. 14 at Antigo - 7:15pm

Three Lakes Blue Jays
Boys Basketball
Thurs., Jan. 9 at Laona-Wabeno - 7:15pm
Fri., Jan. 10 at Hurley - 7:15pm
Tues., Jan. 14 vs Florence - 7:15pm

Girls Basketball
Thurs., Jan. 9 vs Medford - 7:15pm
Tues., Jan. 14 vs Antigo - 7:15pm

Girls Basketball
Thurs., Jan. 9 at Phillips - 7:15pm
Mon., Jan. 13 at Crandon - 7:15pm

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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, 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

Jan. 9 - Jan. 15, 2025

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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Pharmacy

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. 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

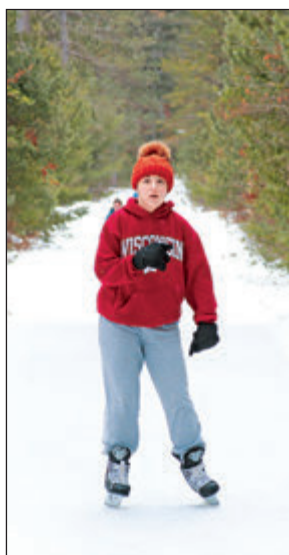
While North Woods snowmobile trails remain closed due to a lack of snow, winter recreation enthusiasts might want to experience the new ice-skating ribbon at Boulder Junction Winter Park. Locally known as The Glide, the 0.8-mile meticulously maintained ice-skating loop opened Dec. 23 and has received 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:

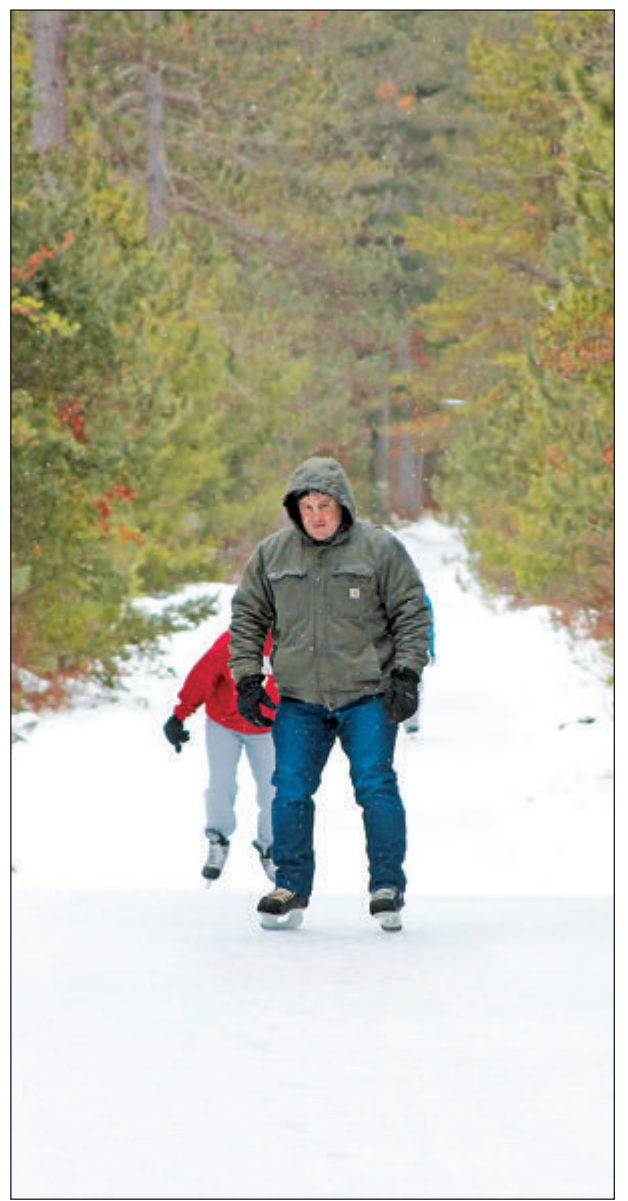
- Exercise caution in the parking lot and walking areas around the pavilion and warming hut. These areas are very icy and the board recommends wearing ice cleats for added safety.

- 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.

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.

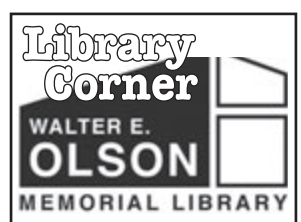
Each Wednesday afternoon, participants will learn about and practice

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, contact the Library at 715-479-8070, or 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. 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.



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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 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.

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 and click on News & Events, contact the NWLT office at 715-479-2490, or email 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 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 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

FORK Pantry

AUDREY LEHMAN

THREE LAKES

715-360-2282
alehman@mmclocal.com

WINNER — Team Pine Isle won the 2024 Chili Cook-Off sponsored by Three Lakes/Brule River Trails in late December. Here, Cook-Off Chairman Scott Swendson (left) presented the winning prize to Pine Isle owner Scott Merck and staff members Joe Bocek and Crystal Gayle Johnson. Also pictured at right are Trails Secretary Bonnie Zienkiewicz and President Tom Bartel.

—Contributed Photo

Center for the Arts reflects on 2024 season; announces upcoming changes

After hosting 25 live events, 31 movies, 3 gallery nights, several art shows, and other activities, the Three Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCFA) will take a temporary break from events in January.

During this time, the TLCFA will work on technical projects to enhance the audience experience at their theater and gallery. From new lighting and energy efficiency projects, to enhanced marketing displays, they will be testing, tweaking, and improving the environment of their building.

The 2025 season will open April/May, 2025.

The TLCFA promotes the Arts through live performances, film, art classes and an art gallery exhibiting local artists.



Over the winter TLCFA will work on installing a digital marquee in place of their current manual marquee on the front of their building. The new marquee will be a 4' by 8', digital programmable sign that will fit the same space as the current marquee.

—Contributed Photo

Watch the TLCFA's social media pages and website at <https://www.tlcfa.org/> for information about the upcoming 2025 season.

If interested in supporting the arts in the North Woods, consider a donation or volunteering. TLCFA is 501(c3) and all donations

are tax deductible.

See www.tlcfa.org for more information, or contact ColletteSorgel@gmail.com or at 715-477-0001.

Women's Club to hold chili luncheon Jan. 15

Chili and all the fixin's are on the menu when the Three Lakes Women's Club holds its next meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Reiter Center in Three Lakes.

The annual chili luncheon will begin with a social hour at 11 a.m., followed by homemade chili, cornbread and desserts at noon. Members are encouraged to bring a spouse, significant other, or a guest to this meeting.

The featured speaker will be Curt Drumm of Three Lakes, who will talk about his more than 20 years of experience as a professional pilot, flight instructor, and aviation business owner.

Drumm has logged nearly 5,500 hours in various aircraft from single and multi-engine

airplanes to seaplanes and charter aircraft. He is currently working with Nicolet College to develop an aviation education program.

Reservations for the chili luncheon are due by Friday, Jan. 10, by contacting hostess Kym Bartel. More information is available in the club handbook.

Donations to the Three Lakes Christian Food Pantry are welcomed at the meeting.

The Three Lakes Women's Club is always looking to welcome new members. The organization is open to all area women who are interested in supporting education and the community. They usually meet on the third Wednesday of each month.

For more information, contact threelakeswomen@gmail.com.

Registration cash winnings available at 23rd annual LSR Vintage Ride

Those that register early for the 23rd annual LSR Vintage Ride on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., will be entered into a drawing for \$100 cash winnings

Registering a vintage sled (1987 or older) at SpiritView Lakeside at 10 a.m. on Feb. 1 will enter the participant into a drawing that consists of three separate \$100 cash drawings. To be eligible, participants must register on the morning of the event before departing on the ride. The fee to enter this is \$10 per vintage sled.

The ride will start at SpiritView Lakeside at 11:30 a.m. and head to Lindy's Hideaway, Pine Isle, The Legion, 32 South and then to Tavern on the

Loop, where there will be raffles and free food.

Get a bar card for a \$20 donation at most local establishments and have it stamped at a minimum of six listed on the card to be entered in the 50/50 drawing on Feb. 1.

Half of the proceeds go to Three Lakes Trails to help with trail maintenance.

The drawing will be at 7 p.m. on Feb. 1 at Tavern on the Loop - 1451 N. Big Lake Loop, Three Lakes. Winners need not be present.

T-shirts for this year's events will be announced when they're available. All proceeds from the

sale of the shirts will go to Three Lakes Trails.

Follow the group on Three Lakes Trails or LSR Vintage Ride Facebook pages for up-to-date event details.

Charter

FROM PAGE 1

Center will also hold two tours with question/answer sessions:

- Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 9:30 a.m.

- Thursday, Feb. 6, at 9:30 a.m.

For any questions or additional information, contact Tony Duffek, Principal, at (715) 542-3632 or email tduffek@npsd.k12.wi.us.

SOAR Charter Middle School (Grades 5-8) - Land O' Lakes

SOAR (School of Options and Applied Research) Middle School serves as an educational option for 5th-8th grade students of the Northland Pines School District. The Project Based Learning instructional methodology at SOAR encourages students to learn and apply academic content and skill through the development of well-designed projects.

SOAR Middle School is located in a wing at Land O' Lakes Elementary School. Northland Pines School District area students are provided transportation. SOAR follows a similar school calendar as the Northland Pines School District. However, the students only attend in person Monday through Thursday most weeks. Fridays are designed as opportunities to learn outside of the school walls. The school day at SOAR Middle School officially begins at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 2:50 p.m.

Informational meetings will be held for parents interested in SOAR Middle School throughout January and February.

Parents are encouraged, but not required, to RSVP to canordine@npsd.k12.wi.us. The in-person parent meeting will be held at

the SOAR Charter Middle School, located at 6485 Town Hall Road, in Land O' Lakes.

SOAR Charter Middle School will hold the following informational events:

- Monday, Jan. 20 - SOAR MS Prospective Family Presentation 6 p.m.

- Tuesday, Jan. 28 - SOAR MS Project Showcase Night 5:30 p.m.

- Tuesday, Feb. 4 - SOAR MS School Tour 9:30 a.m.

- Monday, Feb. 10 - SOAR MS Prospective Family Presentation 6 p.m.

For any questions or more information, contact Carie Nordine, Principal, at (715) 547-3619 or email canordine@npsd.k12.wi.us.

School of Options and Applied Research Charter High School (Grades 9-12) - Eagle River

The School of Options and Applied Research Charter High School has transformed education in the Northland Pines School District. Each student works closely with advisors to intertwine disciplinary learning to create unique, options-based learning experiences that both excite and challenge students in their learning.

Options-based learning focuses on all the ways students can learn. Students enrolled in this school become aware of their learning styles and follow a path that best suits their individual needs. This includes:

- Up to two credits per year at Northland Pines High School

- Build projects that become a learning experience

- Seminars with experienced staff present

- Multi-age learning environment

- Student-directed community environment

- Outdoor resources available minutes from the campus

- Test out of content they already know to focus on what they need to learn

- Challenge themselves with expeditions that bring them into learning through location, travel and authentic experiences

- Use flexible learning spaces to construct learning experiences that engage them in multiple ways

- Create a flexible schedule that embraces the needs of some students to work and learn outside the walls of the school

- Recognize learning that happens when school is not in session and allow students to document and receive recognition for their learning, no matter where it happens.

Current Northland Pines area students, open-enrolled individuals, and home-schooled students are eligible to attend the School of Options and Applied Research Charter High School. Students follow a similar school calendar as the Northland Pines School District. The school start and end times are the same in both high schools, 8:20 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. The district provides students transportation from within any area of the district. Students may also drive themselves if their parents approve.

Current Northland Pines area students, open-enrolled individuals, and home-schooled students are eligible to attend SOAR Charter High School which is located in the same building as the Eagle River Elementary School.

An informational meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. It is encouraged, but not required, that parents RSVP to hleusink@npsd.k12.wi.us. The in-person parent meeting will be held

at the School of Options and Applied Research Charter High School, located at 1700 Pleasure Island Road in Eagle River.

School of Options and Applied Research Charter

High School will also hold two tours with question/answer sessions:

- Tuesday, January 21, at 9 a.m.

- Thursday, January 30, at 9 a.m.

For any questions and additional information contact, Harlan Leusink, Principal, at (715) 479-5701 or email hleusink@npsd.k12.wi.us.

Senior Citizen Menus

January 13-17
Sponsored by ADRC of
Vilas & Oneida Counties

Eagle River

More Than a Meal Café at the Rock Mission Center

Serving at noon.

Lighter substitute available in place of main entrée: Grilled chicken salad. Reservations or cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance. Call Jennie Johnson (715) 891-1221 to reserve or cancel a meal.

Monday, January 13

Beef vegetable stew, biscuit, whole kernel corn, dark greens salad, dressing, cookie.

Tuesday, January 14

Lemon and herb chicken, twice baked mashed potatoes, carrots, biscuit, diced pears.

Wednesday, January 15

Hamburger with grilled onions on a bun, ketchup, baked beans, potato salad, ambrosia fruit salad.

Thursday, January 16

Cabbage roll casserole, country trio veggie, whole wheat bread, pineapple, fudgy black bean brownies.

Friday, January 17

Chicken florentine, penne pasta, cauliflower, mandarin oranges, fruit pie square.

St. Germain

St. Germain Community Center

Serving at 10:30 a.m.

Home-delivered meals only. Home-delivered meals are available based on eligibility. For reservations or cancellations, please call Pam Cira at (715) 891-5453 (must call 24 hours in advance).

Lighter substitute available in place of main entrée: Grilled chicken salad (or healthy salad).

Wednesday, January 15

Hamburger with grilled onions on a bun, ketchup, baked beans, potato salad, ambrosia fruit salad. Cabin Fever Meal.

Thursday, January 16

Cabbage roll casserole, country trio veggie, whole wheat bread, pineapple, fudgy black bean brownies.

Friday, January 17

Chicken florentine, penne pasta, cauliflower, mandarin oranges, fruit pie square.

Phelps

Northern Exposure Restaurant

Serving at noon

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

Monday, January 13

Potato round casserole with ground beef and mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread, pudding with berries.

Wednesday, January 15

Kielbasa and sauerkraut, boiled potatoes, baked beans, whole wheat bread, gelatin with fruit.

Friday, January 17

Sausage pizza, mixed dark greens salad with tomato, peaches.

Land O' Lakes

Love of Life Café

Gateway Lodge

Serving at 11:30 a.m.

Butter and margarine offered. Coffee and fat-free milk served with each meal.

Lighter substitute in place of main entrée: Grilled chicken salad. Place reservations and choice with Anna Moore (715) 547-6076 at least 24 hours in advance.

Tuesday, January 14

Meatloaf, spinach salad, mashed potatoes and gravy, whole wheat bread, grapes.

Wednesday, January 15

Ham and scalloped potatoes, whole wheat bread, tomato juice, peas, pumpkin pie.

North Lakeland Elementary School (NLES)

Manners Café

Serving at 11:15 a.m.

Butter and margarine offered. Coffee and fat-free milk served with each meal. For reservations, contact Mary Ellen Duranso at (715) 904-0065 at least 24 hours in advance.

Tuesday, January 14

Chicken enchiladas, mixed greens salad, refried beans, mandarin oranges, dessert.

Wednesday, January 15

Burger on a whole grain bun with lettuce and tomato, tater tots, mixed fruit, dessert.

Thursday, January 16

Hot beef sundae, steamed peas, pears, whole grain dinner roll, dessert.

Three Lakes

The Reiter Center

Serving at 11:30 a.m.

Contact 715-499-3738 at least one day in advance to make or cancel a reservation.

Monday, January 13

Spaghetti with meat sauce, dark greens salad and dressing, garlic breadstick, mandarin oranges, pineapple cake.

Tuesday, January 14

Sliced turkey sandwich on whole wheat bread, romaine leaf and tomato, Tuscan bean soup with chicken and sausage, peach slices, cookie.

Wednesday, January 15

Roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, diced beets, whole wheat roll, chocolate mint cake.

Thursday, January 16

Crustless chicken pot pie, steamed broccoli, green beans, biscuit, pumpkin bar.

PHELPS

SHARON GIFFORD

715-617-0308
gifford.se3@gmail.com



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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bob.cher159@yahoo.com



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.

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Northwoods Muskies Inc. ice fishing tourney set Saturday, Jan. 18

Northwoods Muskies Inc. and Last Cast Fishing Outfitters will host a family ice fishing tournament in St. Germain on Saturday, Jan. 18, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be an award ceremony following the tournament at 5 p.m. at the St. Germain Community Center.

The event is geared towards increasing tourism in the North Woods and encouraging youth participation. Muskies Inc. is involved in the research and stocking of muskies, and giving back to the community through grant and scholarship programs.

Jim Lund, owner of Living the Dream Guide Service in St. Germain, is one of the event's coordinators. Lund said his vision is to have ice fishing tournaments in every community.

"Anyone can win and it's a family tournament; all you have to do is catch a fish of a minimum length," said Lund.

To register for this tournament, an app called Fish Donkey will be needed on a computer or mobile device. When on the app, there is a link to "Battle on Saint Germain Lakes" which will lead the user to the registration page. The app costs \$5.00 and there is a \$5.00 registration fee per fish.



Jim Lund, owner of Living the Dream Guide Service in St. Germain is one of the ice fishing tournament's coordinators.

—Contributed Photo

The purpose of the app is to take pictures and rank catches, while also tracking the number of participants between all nine fishing locations.

The first 50 youths to register will receive a bucket of ice fishing supplies.

Lakes included in the tournament are: Plum Lake, Lost Lake, Found Lake, Big and Little St. Germain lakes, Big and

Little Arbor Vitae lakes, Pickerel Lake off of CTH J, and the Rainbow Flowage.

"I encourage all families to come on up and enjoy the North Woods; we usually always have some snow. By January the ice should be very safe," said Lund.

For more information call Lund at (920) 948-5706 or visit Facebook page Living the Dream Fishing Guide Service.

CONOVER

JACKI HILDEBRANDT | conoverjacki@gmail.com

Clubs join to host trailside roast this weekend

The Conover Sno-Buddies and Phelps Snowmobile Clubs will team up to host the 3rd Annual Trailside Roast on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The trail-side roast has been moved to the Conover Town Park Rec Center at 4697 Park Circle in Conover with heated restrooms, a big bonfire

and the sledding hill and skating rink available. Pets are not allowed in the park. Riders stopping by will enjoy hot dogs and brats fresh from the grill, s'mores, hot cocoa and more.

Leaders from both organizations will be on hand to hear feedback and share stories of years gone by. Each club will have raffle tickets, apparel and club

membership forms available during the event.

For more information, check out Conover Sno-Buddies at www.conoversnobuddies.com or on Facebook. Phelps Snowmobile Club can be found at www.phelpssnowmobileclub.com or on Facebook.

LIFESTYLE

Boulder Junction Public Library to offer free photography classes

The Boulder Junction Public Library is offering free photography classes with local artist and photographer, David Mayeau, on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon.

The classes will be held in the Boulder Junction Community Center. The first class will be held Saturday, Jan. 11, and will focus on purchasing a camera. The next classes will be held on Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22 and will cover Photography 101.

On January 11, Mayeau will discuss the differences and what to look for in a DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) or mirrorless camera. Participants will learn about lenses and what kind of pictures are taken with them.

This class will help participants gain insight and confidence to purchase a camera. Participants should bring a notebook to take notes and a camera phone if needed to capture a photo for later referral. Note that participants will be required to bring their own camera for the Photography 101 classes.

The Photography 101 Classes will need to be taken in progression. In other words, participants will need to register for all five classes. Each participant's best photo will be entered into the library's March Art in the Library Exhibit. Required equipment for the classes is a DSLR (Digital Single

Lens Reflex) or mirrorless camera and two sets of fresh batteries.

The class schedule:

Class 1 - Saturday, Jan. 25

In this class, participants will review the three fundamentals of the Photography Triangle (Shutter speed, Aperture and ISO) and how to use them to enhance their photography. Participants will learn to navigate and customize these settings in their cameras and how to photograph different subjects using these settings.

Assignment: Practice taking photos using shutter speed, and download and submit three photos on thumb drive for presentation/discussion in Class 2.

Class 2 - Saturday, Feb. 1

This class will focus on pictures taken from the assignment on shutter speed.

Assignment: Practice taking photos using aperture, and download and submit three photos on thumb drive for presentation/discussion in Class 3.

Class 3 - Saturday, Feb. 8

This class will focus on pictures taken from the assignment on aperture.

Assignment: Practice taking photos using ISO, and download and submit three photos on thumb drive for presentation/discussion in Class 4.

Class 4 - Saturday, Feb. 15

This class will focus on pictures taken from the assignment on ISO.

Assignment: Review photo library and select up to three photos for consideration/selection for final show.

Class 5 - Saturday, February 22

All final photos will be presented and reviewed by class participants, and they will select one photo each to be presented at the Final Show.

Assignment: Have a picture matted and framed in preparation for the Final Show.

Mayeau is teaching this class to help others understand, enjoy, and be able to take better pictures with their cameras. His interest in art started in grade school art class. Mayeau's father is an artist and encouraged him to express himself in various artistic formats. Childhood outdoor explorations and activities, often as a family, led him to appreciate nature. His formal art training was received at Northern Illinois University. Mayeau is an abstract acrylic painter, nature photographer, and does sculptures of wild things. He has been creating art for 40 years.

Mayeau's work can be viewed at www.david-mayeau.pixels.com.

Participation is free, but registration is required, and class size is limited to 30 people. Registration is online only on the library website at <https://www.boulder-junctionlibrary.org/> or for more information, call the library at 715-385-2050.



The St Germain Community Church Thrift Store in St. Germain presented Wild Instincts with a check for \$1,300 for operating costs. Pictured from left Debbie Henderson, thrift store volunteer; Mark Naniot, director of wildlife rehabilitation; and Ruth Wagner, thrift store volunteer.

—Photo By Jacki Goebel

St. Germain Community Church Thrift Store donates \$1,300 to Wild Instincts

Wild Instincts of Rhinelander received a \$1,300 donation from the St. Germain Community Church Thrift Store for operating costs.

Mark Naniot and his wife, Sharon Larson, co-founded Wild Instincts in 1996, and since then have been responsible for the care and treatment of over

15,000 wild animals from over 100 different species.

Wild Instincts is permitted to treat all species of Wisconsin wildlife by state and federal governments. No funding is received; their only funding comes from generous donations and memberships from organizations and individuals.

For more information, visit Wild Instincts website at wildinstinctsrehab.com.

The thrift store chooses a local program each month to sponsor with customer donations received from a jar they place on the counter. Store hours are Mondays, and Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wellness

FROM PAGE 3

reduce stress, improve balance, alleviate aches and pains, and improve overall well-being. Learn practical tips for incorporating massage into a daily routine and its benefits for better sleep, increased mobility, and improved circulation. Whether someone is curious about massage or looking for ways to enhance their quality of life, this program is tailored to their needs.

Kassien has a two-year associate's degree in Massage Therapy and has practiced for over 10 years. She has also practiced Reiki since 1992. While she is trained in many modalities, she specializes in Myofascial Release Techniques, including scar tissue release, and relaxation. Kassien is professionally recognized by the International Association of Reiki Professionals and the American Massage Therapy Association.

Registration is not required, but would be appreciated. For more information or to register, call the library at 715-385-2050.

Program three

The third program in the series is "Introduction to HeArt-Centered Meditation" with Lia Montgomery on Monday, Jan. 29, at 10:30 a.m.

Join Lia Montgomery for an introduction to guided meditation that meets the Middle Way where a person is the center of their own spiritual life, surrounded by a physical existence that requires their participation in big and small ways. Discover a practice that enhances how they live in this real world, putting their Heart and Mind in every step, with every decision and choice. With focused attention on the breath, mantra and stillness of the body, participants can achieve a clarity of focus that extends from their hearts to the everyday lives they live.

Montgomery brings 45 years of meditation experience and a devout Buddhist practice to her teaching and guidance. Her spiritual journey began as a college student with training in Transcendental Meditation (TM) in 1977. In

1985, she began her practice of Buddhism, following the Mahayana tradition of Nichiren Shoshu Buddhism, which she practices to this day. She is also a devoted follower of His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama, and considers herself an ongoing student of Tibetan Buddhism. Her sponsorship of a Tibetan immigrant for residency in the U.S., while living in Seattle in 1992, has given her a personal interest in the Tibetan struggle for freedom. Montgomery also incorporates Zen walking meditation (kinhin) into the meditation experience.

Montgomery holds a Master of Social Work degree. She is also the author of "Wandering: Lessons from the Heron and the Haul Road." Montgomery currently lives in Presque Isle and offers individual spiritual guidance and training at Unwind Spa in Woodruff.

Montgomery can be contacted at www.sacredearth-sangha.com with questions and for more information.

Registration is not required, but would be appreciated. For more

Registration opens for Oneida ADRC healthy living workshop

Registration is open for a Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body workshop hosted by the Oneida County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) on Tuesday, Jan. 21, from 1 - 2:30 p.m.

This workshop, offered through the Alzheimer's Association ©, covers seven areas of lifestyle habits that are associated with healthy aging:

- Smoking
- Mental health
- Cognitive activity
- Physical health and exercise
- Diet and nutrition
- Social engagement

In each area, the workshop will discuss what is known and what can be done about Alzheimer's, drawing on current research, to improve or maintain overall health in each area. This program is designed for individuals of

any age who are looking for information on ways to age as well as possible.

To learn more about this program, or to register (registration is requested), contact Julie St. Pierre at (715) 352-4091 or jstpierre@alz.org.

Individuals can also register by reaching out to the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 1-800-272-3900 or by visiting: <https://bit.ly/HLYBBRHJan21>.

information or to register, call the library at 715-385-2050.

Program four

The fourth program in the series is "WTF? Why the Face: A Practical Guide to Understanding Health and Personality Through Facial Diagnosis" with Dr. Todd Frisch on Wednesday, Feb. 12, from 10:30 a.m. - noon.

Some people may wish they had x-ray vision so that they could see inside their body and know right away what is going on and how to fix it. A person's face is the most obvious microsystem reflecting a map of their entire being, both psychological and physiological. Facial diagnosis is the tool that practically gives them x-ray vision. The face is a map of the body. Every blemish, line and crease reveal something that's going on.

Participants can discover

more about themselves so that they can live a healthier, more authentic life. Their face shape teaches them about their communication style, personality characteristics, and symptom tendencies. Their facial features teach them about their health strengths and weaknesses, genetic tendencies, and goes even deeper into their personality.

This ancient technique was used for over four decades in a clinical setting by Dr. Todd Frisch. If he's heard this once, he's heard it thousands of times in his career, "how do you know that about me?" This will be a fun discussion with audience participation.

Local resident Dr. Todd Frisch is the author of "WTF? Why the Face: A Practical Guide to Understanding Health & Personality Through Facial Diagnosis." 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.

Dr. Todd graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in 1980 and went on to obtain years of advanced education and training. He served as the president of the American Board of Chiropractic Acupuncture (ABCA) and the Council of Chiropractic Acupuncture (CCA). He was an educator and lecturer for the Missouri State Chiropractors Association (MSCA), Council on Diagnosis and Internal Disorders of the American Chiropractic Association, Inc. (CDID-ACA) and Heel, Inc.

Registration is not required, but would be appreciated. For more information or to register, call the library at 715-385-2050.

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 waxie.

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.

Our View

Clothing fundraiser shows the heart of a community

The North Woods region of Vilas and north-eastern Oneida counties is one mighty special place to live — a grand community of caring, compassionate people — evidenced by the generosity that helped the News-Review reach its \$80,000 fundraising goal for this year's Warm The Children program.

Thank you! We are merely the administrators of a great program that was suggested by friends in the newspaper industry some 27 years ago, a program that would not be possible without our generous readers, more than three dozen volunteer shoppers, coordinator Nancy Brandner of the News-Review's production staff, and community volunteer Debbie Buss.

These volunteer shoppers are donating a great deal of time and patience to ensure that parents and their children spend wisely and get the maximum amount of helpful clothing within our budgeted guidelines.

We couldn't do it without the retail power and cooperation of Glik's in Eagle River and for the third year, Northland Clothing Co. in Three Lakes. They have stocked the stores with tens of thousands of dollars in merchandise they didn't always carry.

The News-Review's Warm The Children program is a nationally acclaimed, award-winning project. This year, the program provided basic winter clothing to at least 467 children from impoverished families. Purchases totaling up to \$260 for each recipient were limited to coats, footwear, mittens, scarves, sweaters, snow pants and other winter basics. When you consider the discounts provided by the stores, the value of the clothing exceeds \$275.

It's important that donors know that every penny they gave went toward the purchase of winter clothing for the children. Thousands of dollars in administrative costs, bank fees, postage costs, promotion and other expenses associated with the management of the program are borne by this newspaper. It wouldn't be nearly as successful without help from the Eagle River Rotary Club Foundation, to which Warm The Children donations can be designated and makes them fully tax-deductible because of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit status of the organization.

The Warm The Children program has truly been embraced by the community as a worthwhile annual project. More than \$1.95 million has been raised. For that support, we are forever grateful — thank you!

Behind the editorial 'we'

Members of the Vilas County News-Review editorial board include Assistant Editors Josephine Hinderman and Audrey Lehman, and Sports Editor Jacob Heid.

ATVs and sound levels

To the Editor,

Over the years, I have heard misstatements about the sound of ATVs as compared with other recreational vehicles. Once, a lawyer stood in front of a town board meeting implying that the sound of ATVs is trivial as compared with motorcycles he hears running past his home. In a recent letter to the editor, it was stated that the ATVs are no louder than the snowmobiles we welcome in the winter. The Wisconsin and federal statutes prove both of these claims to be in error. For those interested, internet addresses to references are listed after statements.

§205.152 Noise emission standards (Code of Federal Regulations) limits noise levels for new motorcycles from the model year 1986 and beyond to 80 decibels or less <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-40/chapter-I/subchapter-G/part-205/subpart-D/section-205.152> and Wisconsin statutes bar modifying stock exhaust systems so that they emit more sound than emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle. [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/347.39\(2\)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/347.39(2)).

For every snowmobile manufactured on or after July 2, 1975, the noise level standard for exhaust and engine noise shall be 82 decibels ([https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/350.095\(2\)\(d\)1](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/350.095(2)(d)1)).

No person may manufacture, sell, rent or operate an ATV which emits more than 96 decibels in Wisconsin ([https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/23.33\(6m\)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/23.33(6m))).

Sound energy doubles with every 3 dB increase, (https://journals.lww.com/thehearingjournal/Fulltext/2022/10000/Why_Are_Noise_Exposure_Guidelines_So

Complex_2.aspx). In other words, an ATV legally operating at 96 decibels emits more than 32 times as much sound energy as the loudest legally operating motorcycle in Wisconsin. That same legally operating ATV produces more than 8 times the sound energy as the loudest legal snowmobile. Incidentally, the snowmobile only operates in the winter when far fewer people are here; and those that are don't have their windows open.

Noise is the aspect of ATVs that almost everyone is concerned with. Many responsible ATVers know that ATV trails are refused or lost after approval because of excessive sound levels (<https://www.atvcourse.com/blog/2011/06/the-sound-issue/>). However, just as there are lots of ATVers who relish 'mudding,' there are plenty of irresponsible ATVers who love the 'throat' of their machines. Some will buy after market exhaust systems to further 'enhance' their sound to even more irritating and damaging levels.

Vilas County Supervisor Art Kunde, a staunch ATV supporter, once complained in a meeting, open to the public, about an excessively loud ATV that went past his home every afternoon. It seems that Supervisor Kunde is likely to have no legal recourse. Is it reasonable to bring this sort of problem onto the main streets of towns where residents, tourists, and businesses seek serenity? It seems clear that ATVers are often their own worst enemies.

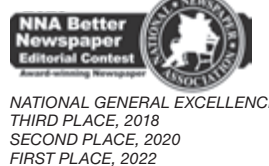
Steve Halverson
Boulder Junction

EDITORIAL

OPINION/COMMENTARY



JUDGED WISCONSIN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



NATIONAL GENERAL EXCELLENCE THIRD PLACE, 2018 SECOND PLACE, 2020 FIRST PLACE, 2022

Wildlings tell their own stories

"There are a million stories in the naked city." Truer words were never spoken than those in the 1948 Academy Award-winning movie, "The Naked City."

The city in question was, of course, New York City. While I agree with the reference to New York, I would have to say that in my mind there are far more than a million stories told in the wild outdoors wherever one roams.

When it comes to seeing or touching something that brings on a million stories, I also can't help but think of the late, great improvisational comedian Jonathan Winters who could look at any object and tell a hilarious story about it.

This thought of Winters popped into my head the other day as I listened to tales being told by fellow outdoorsmen who swore they were, without a doubt, 100% true.

Myself, being an upright moral being, unable to tell an outright lie about anything concerning my exploits in the outdoors, knew they were exaggerating, while knowing that my own tales are irrefutably true.

I may, from time to time, inject a little humor into the stories I tell while in the company of characters whose character is suspected to be, or is factually known to be, shady if not outright

outrageous, but I never tell an outright lie. Just ask me and I'll swear to that statement on my honor — such as it is.

Now, you won't find much of any comedic value in my stories—since they are all factual and true. As everyone knows, I opt to relate my experiences with nothing but the truth and the whole truth contained within.

That said, as I walk through the forest several times every week, I look all around seeking to find something worthy of writing a complete thesis about it, or at least a term paper of some substance.

On my walks during the last few weeks I asked myself the eternal question, what in blue blazes does one look for that would be worth the time and effort of putting it on paper?

Could it be a gnarled and twisted remainder of a tree trunk long fallen? What made it fall? Was it a tornado, an ambitious beaver or perhaps simply old age? I contemplated working up something on gnarled and twisted trees for this treatise, but without the sharp wit and improvisational

skills of Jonathon Winters I came up with a blank.

Then, as I walked slowly along the shores of a long-favored lake of mine, I realized that there are thousands of stories in the forest just waiting to be told.

They might not be worthy of an A-plus on a term paper, but all are, and long have been, meaningful to me.

Take for instance, the feathers and other remains of a wild turkey I found that met its maker on a recent day. What kind of critter slew that magnificent bird? Tracks were scant, but the few still showing in crusty snow looked like those of a coyote.

What story could be told by the path of strewn feathers, the foot-long end of a wing torn from the turkey's body, or the still visible path of blood drops leading into the surrounding woods?

It would be the age old story of the wild, one species relying on another for food and survival. It would be the story of the predator being successful, maybe after several other unproductive attempts.

Whatever the full story

was, it was just another story of survival of the fittest that the wilds all over the world tell on a daily basis.

Along a hiker's path the woods can tell many other stories. The human interloper can stop for a few moments simply to watch chickadees flit from branch to branch.

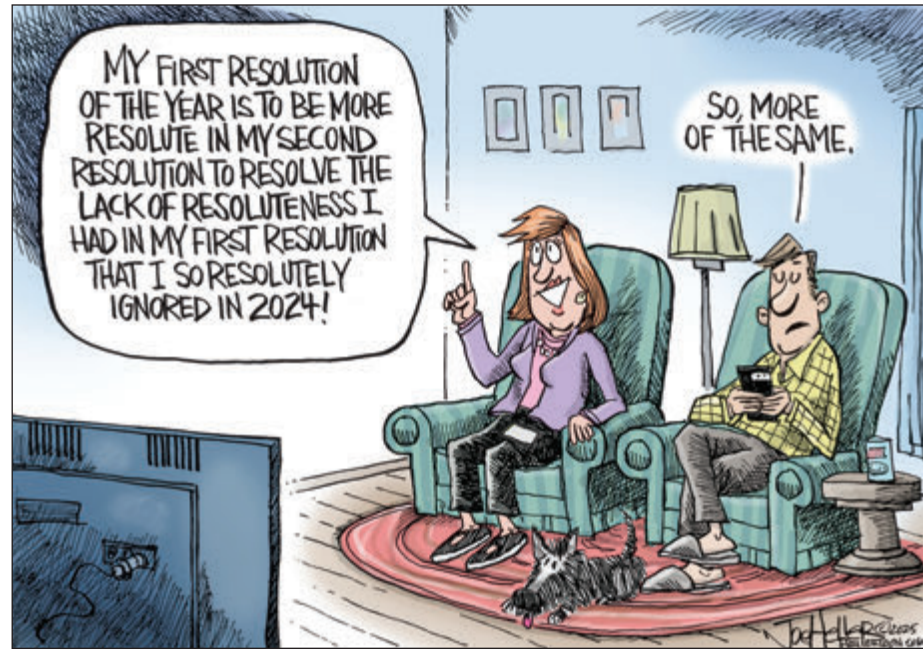
A human may wonder how such a tiny, fragile looking little creature can survive all the rigors of winter Mother Nature can throw at it. How does it know what seeds it can eat and how to find them? How does it keep warm on nights when the temperature sinks far below zero?

This wanderer of the woods has watched chickadees and their fellow feathered friends for many, many decades, and there is still wonder and appreciation of their abilities to survive where, given the same circumstances, a human would never live a fortnight.

Be it red, gray and black squirrels, deer, ruffed grouse or any other wildling of the forest, this spectator of the wild is forever amazed by what they do to live in an environment that can be harsh and cruel to the strongest of them all.

Tracks, sounds and sights in the forest all tell their stories. I like nothing better than to wander through their "home," listening to all the stories they have to tell.

Would it only be that I could tell their stories as well as they do.



Protect the press against frivolous lawsuits

Shereen Siewert, publisher of the Wausau Pilot and Review, has been breathing easier these days. In September, a Wisconsin appeals court upheld a lower court's dismissal of state Sen. Cory Tomczyk's defamation lawsuit against Siewert, the nonprofit newsroom she founded in 2017, and one of its reporters.

The ruling, which Tomczyk did not appeal, ended a three-year legal nightmare that began after the Pilot and Review reported that Tomczyk, before joining the Legislature, "was widely overheard" calling a 13-year-old boy a "fag" at a Marathon County board meeting about a surprisingly contentious resolution affirming community inclusivity. Tomczyk denied using the slur and accused the news outlet of having "smeared" his reputation.

Although the Pilot and Review prevailed, the lawsuit took a severe financial and emotional toll, including some \$200,000 in legal bills, lost donors and sponsors, and the trauma of fearing bankruptcy while Siewert was caring for her dying sister and mother.

"I had serious

conversations with my son about selling him my home if I couldn't pay my legal bills," says Siewert, noting that she was personally named in the suit. "I woke up in a panic thinking — I'm 56 years old and am about to lose everything."

The case drives home the need for what are sometimes called anti-SLAPP laws; the acronym stands for Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation. While 34 states and the District of Columbia have enacted such laws to protect media and individuals from frivolous defamation lawsuits, Wisconsin has not.

"We are starkly aware that any reporter and any news organization in Wisconsin can be sued at any time for anything," Siewert says. "Every time we write a story, we're putting our livelihood on the line."

Bills introduced last year by Democrats would have allowed Wisconsin judges to quickly dismiss SLAPP suits and require plaintiffs to pay the defendants' legal fees. The state's GOP-controlled legislature did not even give them a hearing. But 2025 offers lawmakers a fresh opportunity to pass anti-SLAPP legislation.

Under the current standard set for defamation of public figures, a news outlet must show "actual malice" in publishing the information in question — either knowing it to be false or with "reckless disregard" as to its veracity. The Pilot and Review argued, and both a trial court judge and three-member appeals court panel unanimously agreed, that Tomczyk, as a local businessman who publicly opposed a resolution to declare Wausau a "Community for All," qualified as a public figure and had failed to prove "actual malice."

Indeed, the record showed that the Pilot and Review took appropriate steps to affirm the accuracy of its reporting. Three people swore they heard him use the slur, which he acknowledged using on other occasions. (Tomczyk did not respond to requests for comment for this column.)

The two lead Democrats behind last year's anti-SLAPP bills — Sen. Melissa Agard of Madison and Rep. Jimmy Anderson of Fitchburg — aren't returning this session.

But Rep. Alex Joers, D-Middleton, expects his

To OTHERS, Pg. 11



Mary Sanchez

Don't call Trump's MAGA supporters lazy

OK slacker nation, listen up.

Two of President-elect Donald Trump's helpers — Vivek Ramaswamy and Elon Musk — laid out what's wrong with America, according to them anyway.

While most of the nation was enjoying the holidays with family and friends, these two decided to outline America the slothful.

Ramaswamy took to X and pontificated that for at least three decades, but likely longer, the nation has been a culture adrift. He believes that we spend way too much time leisurely shopping and catching up on reruns of long defunct sitcoms, like Friends.

"A culture that celebrates the prom queen over the math olympiad champ, or the jock over the valedictorian, will not produce the best engineers," Ramaswamy stated.

Hence, the need for more foreign-born workers, people who arrive with valuable engineering and STEM skills, is the fault of American laziness.

In another snippet, Ramaswamy said native-born masses "venerated mediocrity over excellence for way too long."

Musk joined in, posting on X, "The number of people who are super talented engineers AND super motivated in the USA is far too low."

To SANCHEZ, Pg. 11

OPINION/COMMENTARY



Jessica Linn of Eagle River caught this 26.5-inch walleye on a Vilas County lake Dec. 21. —Contributed Photo

Will be missed

To the Editor;
Congratulations to Kurt Krueger on his well-earned retirement. He could disagree without being disagreeable, and tried to be factual in his reporting. When it was his opinion, he made it clear that it was his opinion. I didn't always agree with his position, but amazingly, we were often not far apart. Kurt

made sure the outdoors folks knew about important meetings and issues, not just of local importance, but state and national as well. What more could we ask of the media? He was often hard on the DNR, my former agency, and on the game wardens, including myself, but always kept the door open to conversation. Most of all, he was one of

us, the hunters, fishermen, all outdoors folks, and he is a labrador retriever man to top it off. I can only hope that he will continue to get his thoughts and opinions to us.
Thank you and enjoy!

Duane Harpster
Retired Conservation
Warden
Boulder Junction

Dream teams

To the Editor;
I've lived in News-Review Country for over 40 years. My family came north when Dan and Bob Satran were at the helm of the paper.

Then our local weekly paper brought together a dream team of Byron McNutt, Gary Ridderbusch and Kurt Krueger, who served in various degrees for the last 30+ years.

I write this note of appreciation now, as recognition of the retirement of its current Publisher, Kurt Krueger. Thank you for all you have done to make this community a better place!

I wanted to also take this opportunity to recognize not only these men, but to recognize the vast numbers of dedicated staff that, then and now, make the News-Review possible each week.

And, I want to put the newspaper's current staff and leadership on notice; you have BIG shoes to fill. Please don't let us down.

Kurt, this community owes you a debt of gratitude and we all offer you our best wishes for a long and healthy retirement.
Congratulations!

Perry Pokrandt
Eagle River

Pines referendum again?

To the Editor;
Money does not fix the failing grade of Public Education, and the Northland Pines School District is no exception. According to U.S. News and World Report, only 21% of high school students at NPSD test proficient or higher in math, and only 27% test proficient or higher in reading. That means that 79% of NPHS students do not test proficient in math and 73% do not test proficient in reading!

Recent articles in both the Vilas County News-Review and the "Invest in Our

Future" mass mailer sent to 'Postal Customers' from the Northland Pines School District show the inability nor desire of our local school board and administrators to live within their budget. Something taxpayers do every day.

A message from the District Administrator, Scott Foster, yet again begs the local taxpayers for more money. Boldly titling the pro-referendum propaganda as Invest In Our Future, while 2023 statistics from govsalaries.com show Mr. Foster's annual salary of \$160,050 to be 148% higher

than the median salary of the people he is begging for more money!

The full list of government salaries is available to the public as we pay their salaries. They work for us. The student test results show that they are not doing a very good job. More money is not the answer.

Government waste and inefficiency are at the top of the list as Elon Musk makes the news in assisting the reigning in of bloated spending. Perhaps it's time the Northland Pines School District does the same. If education was streamlined

back to the basics, perhaps our students and graduates would be better prepared for life and proficient in basic things like reading and math.

As our world becomes more competitive by the minute, our students must do the same if we are truly to Invest In Our Future. Covid ripped the mask off the epic failure of public education. Now is the time to breathe life and learning back into the system, not more money.

Teresa Dorn
Land O' Lakes

Putting aside party lines

To the Editor;
Wisconsinites:
It's time to put party lines aside for the good of the nation. We need our legislators to work together rather than be at odds with each other. We need Congressional people and Senators to negotiate. To be able to give and take and come to agreements that will benefit the country. Case in point, the recent disagreements on the budget. I understand that each party has their own view about which direction they think is best, but let's take a look at what a normal, morally ethical person would consider. How would a normal person explain to a parent whose

child has cancer that they will be denied millions of dollars for treatment because it's deemed wasteful?

How could a normal person reduce social security to retired policemen, firemen and teachers who are already on a fixed income?

How could an ethical person vote to deny farmers and disaster victims the aid they need?

How could any congressional legislator or senator vote to shut down the government at Christmas and make federal employees and military people work for free? Are those same legislators willing to work for free? I think not. In fact, they voted

themselves a pay increase.

These issues are no-brainers. Any "human being" with a conscience knows the right thing to do. You don't steal money from the poor to give to the rich. Billionaires don't need more money. They could fund all these programs and have plenty of money left over.

But Congressmen Tom Tiffany and Senator Ron Johnson did just that. They were willing to let Elon Musk and President-elect Trump influence their votes. They did not take a stand and DO THE RIGHT THING. I know they happen to be Republicans, but I would say the same thing if they were

Democrats. Let's call it like it is. We are being governed by legislators who are not compassionate, caring, or concerned about WE the PEOPLE.

It's time we faced that fact. No matter who you voted for, no matter if they are Republican or Democrat, if they can't do what's right they are not helping WE the PEOPLE. Voice your disgust with their decisions. Write to them and let them know they are wrong! It's time to DO THE RIGHT THING FOR AMERICA.

Dan Wiperman
Eagle River

Others

FROM PAGE 10

colleagues will revive the legislation in 2025 and hopes slimmer partisan margins will encourage more compromise than in the past. The Assembly's unanimous passage last year of a bill to protect student media

from censorship showed Republicans and Democrats can find common ground on press protections. (The bill, however, died in the Senate.)

The benefits of an anti-SLAPP law would extend beyond newsrooms. Joers, who worked for Agard before joining the Legislature, recalled Agard researching the issue after learning that

companies were suing people who left negative reviews on Yelp. Anti-SLAPP laws in other states — including Republican-led Texas and Tennessee — have protected residents from expensive lawsuits.

"This could happen to anybody," Joers said.

It should happen to no one.

Sanchez

FROM PAGE 10

Musk is South African-born and Ramaswamy's parents are from India. Musk says that he first came to the U.S. on a visa involved in the conversation, the H-1B. It's intended to allow companies to fill college-educated specialty positions, like software engineering roles, when there aren't enough native-born people available.

But don't tell MAGA supporters that they're lazy. Ramaswamy and Musk have been roasted for their remarks.

The two men stomped on the MAGA ethos that plays off a fervent belief in American exceptionalism.

According to this ethos, to criticize the U.S., to admit to its flaws and inequities, is disloyalty. If there is any room allowed for criticism, easy scapegoats can be cited: immigrants, the leaders of Democratic-led cities, or anyone who can be dismissed as too "liberal."

For the MAGA ideologues, suggesting that the nation's problems are caused by sluggo Americans and that foreigners are necessary to keep industries vibrant is akin to treason.

How unfortunate for MAGA that it's also partly true.

In recent decades, the percentage of immigrants who arrive with college degrees has risen. The nation imports, via the H-1B visa, talented people, especially from India and China.

Ramaswamy also broadcasted a sentiment that is heard in immigrant circles, be they college-educated, or people who work manual labor jobs. Immigrants are highly aware that they're performing work that many U.S.-born people might snub their noses at, or simply aren't qualified to perform.

But Ramaswamy veered into fantasyland when he insinuated that people in his parents' native India are more disciplined toward higher education and hard work than U.S.-born people.

The college attainment rate for India is about 13%, far lower than for native-born Americans — 35%.

Most Indians, a nation of 1.4 billion, finish only elementary school, or they remain illiterate. It's due to opportunity, not intellect or aptitude.

The world squanders human potential. And the U.S. needs immigrants.

Baby boomers are

retiring, with not enough younger workers replacing them. As technology reshapes workplaces, there are and will continue to be a need for foreign-born workers. Demographics alone call for it.

The H-1B is one route to legal hiring of temporary workers. But the visa is notoriously misused by some industries. It can be used to undercut fairness by keeping foreigners in a form of indentured servitude because their legal status is tied to their employment. In essence, they are severely limited in a dynamic economy and must remain at their current job. Many have only a sliver of a chance of becoming legal permanent residents.

For H-1B workers from India, the wait for a green card or legal permanent status is a lifetime, more than 100 years. Demand far exceeds the green cards made available annually by Congress.

Immigrants to the U.S. are not only hardworking, intelligent people, they're also extraordinarily patient. They rightly contest their adopted nation's immigration policy and ridiculous backlogs.

Trump has weighed in

via social media in recent days, noting that he favors work visas like the H-1B. It's a counter to his usual nativism.

Ramaswamy and Musk ought to use this as leverage.

As co-chairs of the previously nonexistent and still questionably valid Department of Government Efficiency or DOGE, Trump tasked them with cutting the federal budget.

One area to press is understanding the economic value of immigrants, who tend to start businesses that employ everyone. Immigrants can do so when they are allowed to break free of the tether of an H-1B temporary visa.

Musk, love him or hate him, is an example.

Get past the bruised feelings, MAGA.

Open up to the broader picture and press Trump and Congress to do better by immigrants.

Readers can reach Mary Sanchez at msanchezcolumn@gmail.com and follow her on Twitter @ [msanchezcolumn](https://twitter.com/msanchezcolumn).

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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

Finding The Perfect Someone

Dear Reader,

Life's treasures aren't measured in material possessions like a sleek car or a spacious mansion. You could have all of these things, but without someone to share them with, what do they really mean? Isn't life truly about finding that perfect someone—a person who turns the ordinary into extraordinary?



We long for someone who is more than just a partner; someone who is witty, who lights up the room with a smile, and who can turn even the dullest moments into something unforgettable. This is the person who finishes your sentences, who has your back without question, who loves you with a fierce loyalty that never wavers.

Together, you become more than just individuals; you are a team, a unit that others see as one. Friends and family expect to see you together, and even children instinctively ask for the other when only one is present.

But what happens when that magical connection is suddenly severed? How do you navigate life without the person who brought joy to your every day, who was your constant in a world full of change? How do you move forward knowing that no one will ever quite match what they brought to your life?

Finding the perfect person means everything. It's a rare and beautiful gift that, once lost, leaves a void nothing else can fill.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.

ATV/UTV studies

To the Editor;

There have been two letters to the editor written recently regarding the Vilas County ATV/UTV Alliance's request to the Vilas County Highway Department regarding opening all county highways to ATV/UTV use, and the use of a study done by the Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association. In fact, there are two studies that were conducted; the first by the Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation, and the second by the Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association. Let's take a look at the facts.

Both studies clearly show that all aspects of outdoor tourism in the State of Wisconsin grew with the exception of one area. Per the Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation of 2023, the sport of Motorcycling/ATV/UTVing contributed \$1.1 billion to the state's economy. The Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association study showed that in 2023 ATV/UTVing contributed \$5.4 billion, with \$4.2 billion attributed to rider spending. It makes no difference which study a person believes, the economic impact of this sport cannot be denied.

While it may be true that Vilas County policy, created 20 years ago, allowed individual towns to create their own rules regarding the use of ATV/UTVs in their jurisdiction, the sport was in its infancy and many changes have happened since that time regarding voter opinion of the sport. For example, in Boulder Junction this past summer, a petition was circulated among both voters and visitors to the Boulder Junction area on

their thoughts regarding ATV/UTV's. The results were that 1530 signatures in total were received with only 48 no votes. In addition, the Town of Plum Lake has now passed an ordinance that allows ATV/UTVs on county roads which takes all traffic through the town. To quote Bob Dylan "the times they are a changing".

The Penn State study highlighted in previous letters stated all the negative environmental impacts listed; however, there was a codicil stating that these negatives occur when trails are not properly managed or designed. As part of the WATVA study, the Wisconsin DNR provides guidelines for trail maintenance, including how to address issues like trail rutting, drainage problems, and loss of surfacing. As an officer for the St. Germain ATV Club, I can attest that the DNR is very serious about this issue and we conform to all requirements set forth by the DNR.

Finally, while law enforcement does need to understand the difference in laws for the areas they patrol, having diverse rules for county highways does make this difficult, not only for law enforcement but also for our visitors. There are many rules and regulations that our visitors have to follow and removing this one rule will have a significant impact. One impact is that our visitors will be able to traverse all of Vilas County into Iron County. We frequently have to address this lack of access with our visitors.

Lisa Penner
St. Germain



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Voyageur Lake



- 11 BR/11 BA, 7859 sq ft luxury home
- 100' sand frtg, professional landscaping, covered patio
- Game room, full wet bar, theater, private

\$5,100,000 **MLS#209134**

Island Lake



- 5 BR/4.5 BA, 4350 sq ft, newly constructed
- 100' level sand frtg, radiant in-floor heat
- Custom built, home gym, 1216 sq ft garage

\$2,385,000 **MLS#209147**



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Two Sisters Lake



- 4 BR/3 BA, around 3700 sq ft, 3 car garage
- 349' sand frtg, crystal clear water
- Wide 2.3 AC lot, western views

\$1,075,000 **MLS#209397**

Wisconsin River



- 3 BR/3 BA, 20+ AC, 2 car attached garage
- 2200' frtg, barn, fenced pasture, deck
- Several updates, finished extra garage

\$719,000 **MLS#208488**



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Arbor Vitae



- Wild Boar Restaurant, turnkey business
- 1.21 AC, private parking lot, signage
- Close to other businesses, highway access

\$650,000 **MLS#209332**

Long Lake



- 2.00 AC wooded
- 250' frtg, gradual slope to water
- Thoroughfare to Eagle River Chain

\$599,900 **MLS#210236**

Eagle River



- 4 BR/3.5 BA, 2575 sq ft townhome
- Home 34, new construction, near ER Chain
- Community clubhouse, indoor pool, bb court

\$539,500 **MLS#209209**



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Arbor Vitae



- 3 BR/2 BA ranch, attached heated garage
- Unfinished LL has egress windows/stubbed BA
- Detached pole building w/heat, many updates

\$395,000 **MLS#209899**

Watersmeet, MI



- 3 BR/3 BA move in ready home, gas fireplace
- 2.6 AC, open concept, wooded, private
- Partially finished basement, 2 car att garage

\$330,000 **MLS#209375**

Presque Isle



- 1 BR/1 BA, ~1000 sq ft chalet style home
- End of road privacy, gorgeous scenery
- Heated and insulated 2 car detached garage

\$249,900 **MLS#210180**



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Hat Rapids Flowage



- 200' Wisconsin River frtg, 6 high visibility AC
- Zoned General Use, city annex potential
- Corner of Hwy 17 S & Hwy 8 bypass

\$150,000 **MLS#209585**

Rhinelander



- 0.55 AC vacant lot, paved, private parking
- City sewer & water, prime location
- Excellent visibility from Stevens Street

\$119,900 **MLS#207361**

Lincoln



- 3 BR/2 BA low-maintenance mobile home
- WB FP, across from ER Chain & rec trails
- Mobile home only, land is leased

\$66,000 **MLS#209624**



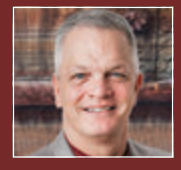
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