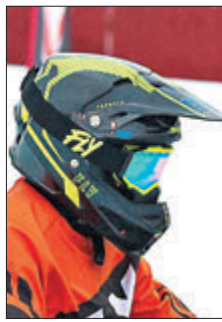


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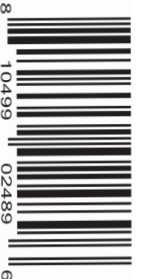
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\$2.00

**Section A**

# VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW



VOL. 139, NO. 45

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025

## Derby returns this year under great conditions

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

Racing teams and fans from around the country will converge on Eagle River this week to witness the 62nd running of the World Championship Snowmobile Derby, with ice conditions in pristine condition ahead of racing that will take place Thursday, Jan. 16, until Sunday, Jan. 19.

Tabbed as the "Indianapolis 500" of snowmobile racing, marquee names are set to return to the half-mile track in an attempt to etch their names in history as the 62nd World Champion this week.

Tens of thousands of fans can expect high-speed, competitive racing throughout a variety of classes on a surface that Tom Anderson, CEO and Owner of the Derby Complex, said is the best he's seen in recent years of the event.

Ski-doo rider Matt Goede is the reigning champion of the world championship Formula III class and is looking to make it three consecutive championships since Blaine Stephenson did it when he piloted his No.102 Polaris to a record four straight championships from 2018-21.

Stephenson and another fan-favorite, Gunnar Sterne, will also make their way back to Eagle River.

A limited amount of hot seat tickets remain available, which will be \$215 online for the Championship weekend.

Fans can also purchase super tickets, which are admission to every day of racing throughout the weekend and are \$95 online.

Single-day general admission tickets are also available online or can be purchased at the door.

**Event schedule**

Racing doesn't officially start until Friday, but



The 62nd World Championship Snowmobile Derby is set to take place this weekend with another weekend full of fast racing that will conclude with the FIII World Championship final Sunday afternoon. -STAFF PHOTO

paid practice will take place starting tomorrow, Thursday, Jan. 16, from 12 to 3 p.m. Gates officially open at 8 a.m. along with registration, safety tech and pit pass sales.

Gates reopen Friday, Jan.

17, starting at 9:15 which will be followed by a drivers meeting for every class.

World Championship time trials will kick things off Friday starting at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed by three heats of the USSA Pro

Champ ProStar Cup class. Two other rounds of heats will take place throughout the day before a last-chance qualifier race for the Pro Champs will run as the second-to-last race of the afternoon.

Friday Night Thunder, a fan-favorite of the Derby, will start with the opening ceremonies at 5:30 p.m., with racing beginning at 6 p.m.

To DERBY Pg. 6

### 62nd Championship Derby 25-lap highlight set Sunday

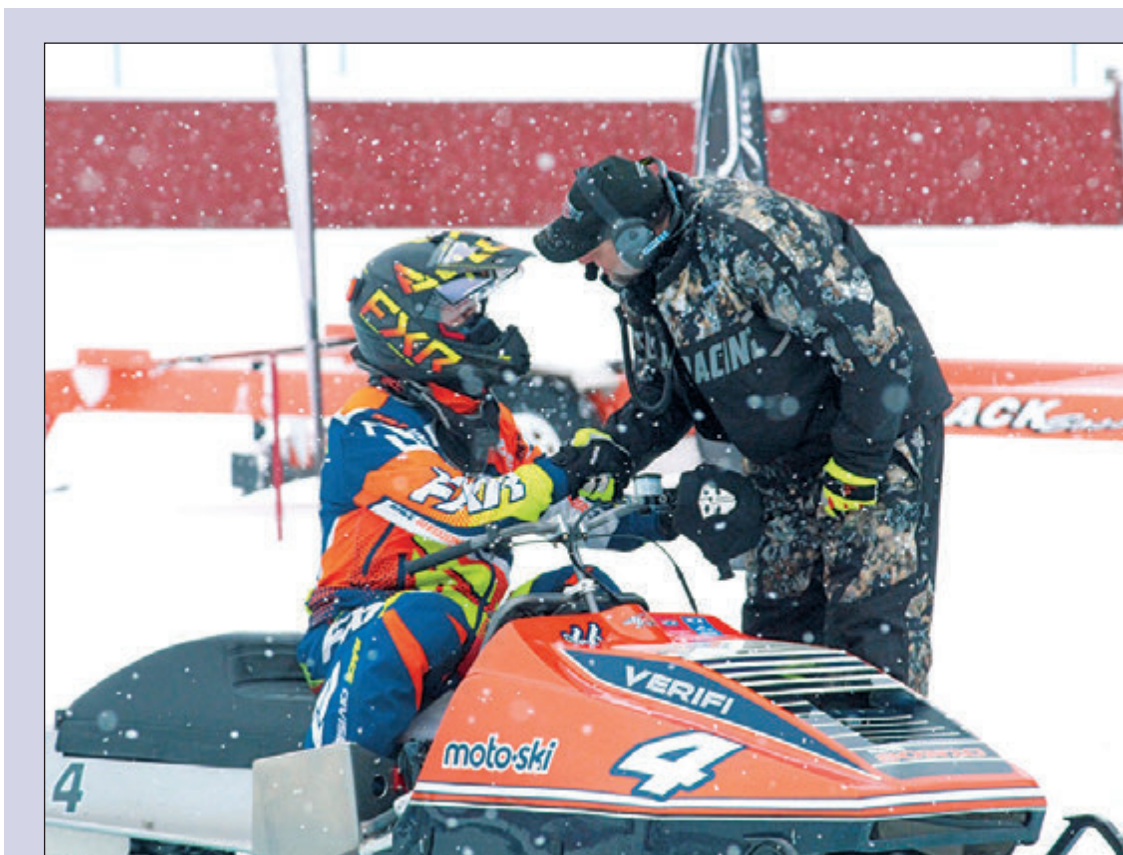
BY DOUG ETTEN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The 62nd running of the World Championship Snowmobile Derby will be highlighted Sunday by a 25-lap test of speed, endurance and, as always, a little bit of luck.

Racers and teams from around the midwest and Canada will again surround the famed Eagle River ice oval as the World Championship Derby Complex (WCDC) will crown the one and only world champ of snowmobile racing Sunday afternoon.

Race time Sunday is set for 1:30 p.m. and will be preceded by opening ceremonies,

To HIGHLIGHT Pg. 2



LAST CHANCE WINNER — Jamie Bourgeois, of Boonville, NY, gets congratulated at the start/finish line as the winner of the last chance qualifier Sunday afternoon to get into the 24th running of the Vintage World Championship race. -Staff Photo By JACOB HEID

### Friday Night Thunder to offer high-stakes racing

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

As the 62nd running of the World Championship Snowmobile Derby is set to take place this weekend, Friday night Thunder will again excite both racers and fans with faster, higher-stakes racing.

Always a fan-favorite, eight classes will hit the ice for the Friday evening event, and there is something for everyone to enjoy under the lights.

On top of the WC Sweet 16 that will highlight the evening, with an added \$1,500 to the purse and the pole position for the WC race Sunday afternoon, another \$3,000 is up for grabs in the USSA Pro Champ ProStar Cup 15-lap final, which will be one of the first races of the night.

To THUNDER Pg. 3



TRADITION RETURNS — Several days of construction and 2,000 blocks of ice later, the iconic Eagle River Ice Castle has been erected for the first time in years. Thanks to the Eagle River Fire Department, the castle can be visited just south of the Hwy 45 bridge in Eagle River. -Photo By Gary Ridderbusch

### Blanchet becomes two-time Vintage World Champion

Dominates WC race as pole-sitter

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

It really wasn't a question of who was going to win the 24th Vintage World Championship after turn one of the WC final Sunday afternoon. Sabrina Blanchet, of Drummondville, Quebec, Canada, won her second Vintage World Championship after she dominated the field Sunday.

Matt Goede, of New Germany, Minn., finished in second place, just over one second after Blanchet as he tried to keep pace with the No. 79 sled for the entire race.

These two racers were all alone by nearly 11 seconds as Jamie Bourgeois, of Boonville, N. Y., crossed the finish line 10.5 seconds after Blanchet to take third from a back row starting spot after

winning the last chance qualifier earlier in the afternoon.

"My sled was just so perfect. I can't thank my team enough," said Blanchet after the race.

From the drop of the green flag, Goede and Blanchet battled for the first and second positions before the two separated themselves early from their other competitors down the backstretch.

Goede attempted to keep the pressure on the Canadian driver, but in a caution-free 10 laps and the speed of Blanchet in a perfect run, it was too much to get close enough to attempt a passing maneuver.

She cruised past the checkered flag for her second world championship, which she won back in 2023, but couldn't return to last year's championships to defend her title.

Goede gave Blanchet props after the final, saying that his team had

To BLANCHET Pg. 2



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62<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP  
SNOWMOBILE DERBY  
JANUARY 16-19, 2025



5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP  
ENDURO  
(130 LAPS)  
JANUARY 18-19, 2025



# 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., Jan. 7	20	3	Tr. S	Sun., Jan. 7	28	22	Tr. S
Wed., Jan. 8	17	1	0.4" S	Mon., Jan. 8	26	21	none
Thurs., Jan. 9	26	-1	0.2" S	Tues., Jan. 9	30	26	0.2" S
Fri., Jan. 10	25	19	0.2" S	Wed., Jan. 10	28	23	2.0" S
Sat., Jan. 11	24	19	0.1" S	Thurs., Jan. 11	28	22	1.2" S
Sun., Jan. 12	27	10	2.2" S	Fri., Jan. 12	25	22	Tr. S
Mon., Jan. 13	5	-1	2.2" S	Sat., Jan. 13	22	5	2.0" 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 20. The average precipitation amounts were 0.8".

### Comparison

Days of precipitation recorded since Oct. 1, 2024, 64 days; 2023, 66 days. Average high of past 30 days, 2025, 25; 2024, 33. Average low of past 30 days, 2025, 13; 2024, 23.

### ICE CONDITIONS

Lakes are seeing 12 to 15" of ice in the area, however, it's still highly recommended to be safe on ice and take necessary precautions. It is also recommended to check ice conditions from location to location every day.

### 5-DAY OUTLOOK

Wednesday:	Considerable cloudiness.	Hi:19	Lo:17
Thursday:	Cloudy.	Hi:32	Lo:23
Friday:	Mostly cloudy.	Hi:36	Lo:12
Saturday:	Cloudy.	Hi:16	Lo:-7
Sunday:	A mix of sun and clouds.	Hi:0	Lo:-15

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

## Highlight

FROM PAGE 1

driver introductions, and the famous SnowGoer Cup ceremony. For it's that trophy that will be embossed with the winning driver's name and be part of the ongoing rich history of the Derby Complex.

"This is the pinnacle of ice oval racing," said Derby Complex ownership partner and CEO, Tom Anderson. "There are only a select few in our sport that can call themselves a world champion, and the only way they can do it is by crossing this hallowed finish line first this coming Sunday."

The lore of race history runs deep, not just for Anderson, but for those 12 drivers that will qualify for the Sunday finale.

Last year's race brought the first two-time and back-to-back champion in the modern era. Modern meaning since the change in race classes, from the former 440 Pro Champ powered motors, to the more modern Formula III, a stock 600 motor package.

Races get underway Thursday with time trials, followed by the pole position race during Friday Night Thunder. Qualifying heats will then take place Saturday afternoon, followed by the Sunday morning last chance qualifier race that will determine the final two spots in that afternoon's championship.

Included in this year's field is two-time defending Formula III World Champion Matt Goede of New Germany, Minn.

His Houle-powered Ski-Doo has already seen some success this season, and he'll likely come into this weekend as the favorite for many race fans.

"Matt's one of the best

drivers this sport has seen," said Anderson. "And a great ambassador for racing in general. If he's right, he's hard to beat."

Goede will be chased by rival, competitor and friend in racing, Blaine Stephenson.

He's no stranger to success either when it comes to the track at WCDC, as he is one of only two (PJ Wanderscheid) to ever win four championship races. It's been almost half a decade, however, since he last hoisted the Snow Goer Cup, and he's had his trials and tribulations with the change to Formula III.

Other household names competing this weekend include Chicago-area driver Gunnar Sterne who, through the years, has piled up the race wins at Eagle River, but has yet to win the "big one." He, along with Stephenson's teammate Tom Olson of Lodi, who finished third last year in his first-ever WC podium, are also going to be looked at to come through the 25-lap final near the top.

Twice, Zach DeWald, out of the MIRA Enduro Series, has found his name near the top of the running order, and he holds one of the best chances this year to improve and bring home a World Championship.

DeWald is heralded as one of the best ice oval endurance racers, and, if given an opportunity, poses a serious threat to the field should he avoid trouble.

In total, an expected field of between 35 and 40 drivers are expected to throw their hat in the ring this week in attempt to win the prestigious snowmobile race.

A full rundown of competitors, along with a more in-depth title race preview, can be found following qualifying online this Saturday at [vnewsreview.com](http://vnewsreview.com).



Sabrina Blanchet joined the two-time club as she controlled the Vintage World Championship race from her pole position this past Sunday. The Drummondville, Quebec native fended off Matt Goede of New Germany, Minn., and Jamie Bourgeois, of Boonville, New York, who finished second and third. -Photo By SpeedShot Photography

## Blanchet

FROM PAGE 1

confidence heading into that race, but came up short. He said that he will be back more determined than ever for next year's Vintage Championships. Goede also returns this week to try and make history at the 62nd running of the World Championship Snowmobile Derby.

To round out the top

three, Bourgeois was the biggest mover of the field as he jumped eight spots in 10 laps. He started from the back row, and charged his way forward, to collect a podium finish after a tough weekend of equipment failures.

As the Derby Complex hosts the 62nd Derby this weekend, the Vintage racers look forward to returning to the Derby Complex for the 25th Vintage Championships next year.



Sabrina Blanchet rides her championship sled to the start-finish line, moments before she would become a two-time Vintage World Champion. Her best lap of the 10-lap final was 17.959. -Staff Photo By JACOB HEID

# Deerskin River residents ask for help to secure state funding for dredging project

BY JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN NEWS EDITOR

The Town of Washington, along with local residents, are asking the public for help in reaching out to state legislators so that state funding may be secured for a dredging project on Deerskin River.

The removal of a dam almost 20 years ago has led to a steadily increasing build-up of silt along the river's bottom and shoreline, primarily downstream of Rangeline Road, with some areas having silt reportedly reaching a depth of three feet.

Larry Springer, a resident along the affected portion of the river, has been spearheading efforts to raise awareness of the situation and explore potential solutions. He has been working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Town of Washington,

Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department, the Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association (ERCLA), Trout Unlimited, the Wisconsin River Alliance, and state legislators in his efforts.

The first step in this process was conducting a geomorphic study on Deerskin River on July 26, 2024, at the cost of \$5,600. The survey conducted by Inter-Fluve, an engineering firm that specializes in stream restoration, was funded by the Town of Washington and ERCLA.

"Per Inter-Fluve, sediment accumulation is dependent on channel depth and slope," described an e-newsletter released by the Washington town board. "The slope is fixed by the lake outlet, so the only way to remove accumulated sediment is through dredging. This can be done through mechanical dredging using excavating

equipment mounted on barges, or suction dredging."

The next steps recommended by Inter-Fluve were:

- Meet with the DNR to discuss permitting requirements for any proposed dredge project.

- Estimate sediment volume via bathymetric and sediment depth survey.

- Contaminant testing to determine the appropriate method of dredge disposal.

With costs being as great as they are, the Vilas County Board and the Town of Washington have each signed a resolution of support for the commitment of state funds to complete the dredging on Deerskin River.

Senator Mary Felskowski visited the site and, according to the town board, will be submitting a funding request in collaboration with Representative Rob Swearingen for the 2025

state budget.

To help secure funding, Springer, along with the town, are reaching out to the public for help.

"Please email our legislators and the governor, respectfully asking them to include money in the state budget to cover the cost of dredging," said the e-newsletter.

Sen. Felzkowski can be reached at [sen.felzkowski@legis.wi.gov](mailto:sen.felzkowski@legis.wi.gov). Rep. Swearingen at [rep.swearingen@legis.wi.gov](mailto:rep.swearingen@legis.wi.gov) and Gov. Tony Evers at [govinfo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:govinfo@wisconsin.gov).

The original earthen dam was constructed in 1948 on the Deerskin River, approximately three miles upstream from Rangeline Road. The dam was declared unsafe and removed in 2001 despite public opposition.

For more information, contact Larry Springer by email at [larrandar@gmail.com](mailto:larrandar@gmail.com) or by phone at 715-572-0881.

## DNR raises awareness on impacts of road salt

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Wisconsin Salt Wise invite the public to learn more about the impacts of road salt on drinking water and freshwater ecosystems during Winter Salt Awareness Week, running Jan. 27-31.

Winter Salt Awareness Week will include a series

of YouTube livestreams featuring speakers and topics focused on the true impacts of salt and ways to be a freshwater advocate.

Speakers include Abby Hileman (Izaak Walton League of America), Jess Hua (University of Wisconsin-Madison), public works professionals from across the country, and a panel of experts providing salting policy perspectives from New Hampshire, Ohio, and Minnesota.

Register in advance at <https://wintersaltweek.org/register/> or watch afterward on the Wisconsin Salt Wise YouTube Channel @ [w1saltwise1739](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCw1saltwise1739).

### Salty impacts

Although salt keeps Wisconsin roads safe during winter, the DNR says that using more salt than needed comes at a price. In Wisconsin and much of the U.S., chlorides from salt are infiltrating lakes, streams and groundwater. According to Wisconsin Salt Wise, one teaspoon of salt is all it takes to make five gallons of water toxic for freshwater organisms.

The DNR measures chloride levels in Wisconsin rivers over time. Recent studies have shown a

steep increase in chloride loads. In the early 2000s, the DNR measured about 600,000 tons of chlorides annually. By 2018, that number increased to nearly 800,000 tons per year. Fifty rivers and streams and one lake in Wisconsin have been designated as impaired by high chloride concentrations, primarily from salt used during winter.

"All 43 of the long-term trend water quality monitoring sites across Wisconsin are showing increases in chlorides," said Shannon Haydin, DNR Storm Water Section Manager. "Chlorides persist in the environment forever and cause significant impacts to fish, aquatic life and human health. In Wisconsin we are seeing evidence of Fresh Water Salinization Syndrome which is a condition where our freshwater becomes more like ocean water in terms of its saltiness. Now is the time to make a change and reduce salt use when we can."

These increased chloride loads are partly due to road salting, but chlorides also enter Wisconsin waters because of water softeners and fertilizers.

People can find out if their softener is salt-wise with this diagnostic tool <https://www.wisaltwise.com/Take-Action/Home-Water-Softeners>.

Increased chloride levels can have significant impacts on daily life, including environmental and economic effects. Nationwide, winter salt causes \$5 billion in damage to infrastructure each year, causing corrosion of bridges, roads and other infrastructure. Road salt can also impact pets by causing irritated paws or other health concerns if ingested.

In Wisconsin, 39% of community wells exceeded the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' recommended sodium level for individuals on a low-salt diet of 20 mg/L at least once since 2004. This can mean individuals managing diseases by limiting salt intake may take in more salt than they may be accounting for.

### Salt tips

Reducing salt use is critical to decreasing chloride loads. Follow these steps to right-size salt use:

- Shovel: Clear walkways

To SALT Pg. 7

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# NEWS

## Goede looks for historic run at 62nd Derby

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

Looking to become a World Champion at the World Championship Derby Track in Eagle River is only something most people dream of. Matt Goede, a native of New Germany, Minn., has done it not once, but twice, and is looking for a chance at doing something only one other person has done at the half-mile track.

Since the switch to the Formula III class in '22, Goede and his No. 28 Ski-Doo had swept consecutive championships in '23-24 to introduce themselves to a new class. He is looking for a WC three-peat this weekend, no matter the class, which only Blaine Stephenson, the No. 102 Polaris, has done in Eagle River in the 61 runnings of the event.

"If we could add a third to that, it would be unbelievable. It adds a lot of pressure, honestly," Goede said during vintage weekend. "I'm just going to do the best I can. In '23, the first year we won, I feel like speed-wise and handling-wise, we were the best sled."

Goede also dominated the weekend last year on his way to his second-straight World Championship.

After a bumpy and bare world champ race last year, over a foot of ice covers the oval this year, which makes the confidence skyrocket despite the always-changing track conditions.

"This is a good track for



Matt Goede, who drove in the 24th Vintage World Championships last weekend and finished second behind Sabrina Blanchet, will look to make Derby history this upcoming weekend in the 62nd World Championship Snowmobile Derby.  
—Staff Photo By JACOB HEID

me. I definitely have some confidence coming here. We didn't really struggle at the end of last year with the FIII, but we started getting beat every once in a while and then this year, too, at Ironwood," stated Goede. "It should be a different race than the last couple of years. We'll see; we still go through a lot of ice, so hopefully there's enough ice. I don't do really well when my carbides get dull and I can't turn. The track is still going to get really rough and bumpy."

He rarely ran his FIII sled at the opening weekend in the Canadian Power Toboggan Championships and won all of his heats in Ironwood before

Stephenson beat him out in the final.

As the field grows and continues to get better, there are more racers hungry for the title of World Champion. The Minnesota racer will have a distinct advantage heading into this weekend as he'll be plenty of race laps ahead of the field as he raced in the Vintage Championships last weekend on his Super Mod 440.

"I know everyone's been working hard and it's not going to be easy by any means," he said. "Having some experience on the track before anyone else is going to help for sure. We're going to have a lot more laps going into the weekend."

It's sort of a devil in disguise as most WC racers last weekend were working on their sleds for this week, while Goede was focused on his vintage sleds.

"The one thing that they're doing though, right now, is testing and working on their sleds. We're here running the vintage sled when we should be probably working on our champ and FIII."

Action for the World Champ racers will get underway Friday, Jan. 17, with time trials starting at 10:30 a.m. The Sweet 16 race, for the chance at the preferred line heading into the WC Sunday, Jan. 19, will be during the Friday Night Thunder festivities.

## Winter events to continue at Derby Complex

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

While the 62nd World Championship Snowmobile Derby this weekend, along with the Vintage World Championships last weekend, may bring thousands to the North Woods, there are still plenty of winter games that await spectators at the World Championship Derby Complex (WCDC). There will be events running at the derby complex until March, starting with the third annual Legend Laps show and exhibition on Thursday, Feb. 13.

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

the past.

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

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

Wrapping up the racing season at the WCDC, the AMSOIL Championship Snocross Series (ISOC) will return to Eagle River on March 14-15.

For up-to-date information, visit [www.derbycomplex.com](http://www.derbycomplex.com).

## Thunder

FROM PAGE 1

Other class finals that will run include 206 Pro/Semi-Pro, which will be two laps of racing for the pro class and one lap around the half-mile track for the semipro.

Junior I and Junior II stock will take three trips

around for its final, while the USSA Outlaw 600 ProStar Cup 8-lap final will be a nice lead into the Sweet 16 semifinal races.

Lastly, the F-500, Sportsman 600 (\$500 added to purse), and BIG Bikes finals will round out the night before the grand finale Sweet 16 final hits the ice as 10 sleds will take 16 laps for a chance at Sunday's pole position.

# Vilas home buyers struggle to find housing as prices vastly exceed income opportunities

## County's median home prices over 5 times higher than median income levels

BY MICHELLE DREW  
CORRESPONDENT

The dream of purchasing a home remains out of reach for many working families hoping to make Vilas County their permanent residence, even as interest rates are beginning to come down and building permit numbers are on the rise.

This can be attributed to a number of causes, but one of the main factors seems to be that the cost of housing has outpaced the income of many looking to live and work in the area. Other factors at play include high rental costs for families who are not in a position to purchase their own homes right now, as well as a lack of availability and high interest rates.

A report released last spring by Wisconsin Policy Forum (WPF) — a statewide nonpartisan, independent policy research organization — indicated that since 2017, home prices in Wisconsin have risen

much faster than incomes.

Meanwhile, the median income among renters has kept pace with rising rental prices, though numbers show the share of renters spending more on housing than what is typically deemed affordable has grown.

WPF's analysis shows the median sales price of homes in Wisconsin increased by more than half (53.3%) in just five years, from \$172,900 in 2017 to \$265,000 in 2022. During those years, the state's median household income increased by only 19.7%.

Data gathered by the forum indicated that in 2022, median home sale prices in Vilas County were 5.33 times higher than the median household income — \$339,950 vs. \$63,726, respectively. Notably, according to WPF, rural counties like Vilas include a high proportion of homes used for recreational purposes.

Other counties where the median home sales price in 2022 was at least four times the median household income include Oneida, Iron, Florence, Barron and Washburn counties in northern Wisconsin. In Oneida County, the median home sales price was \$265,000 compared to a median household income of \$66,111 — a ratio of 4.01, WPF said.

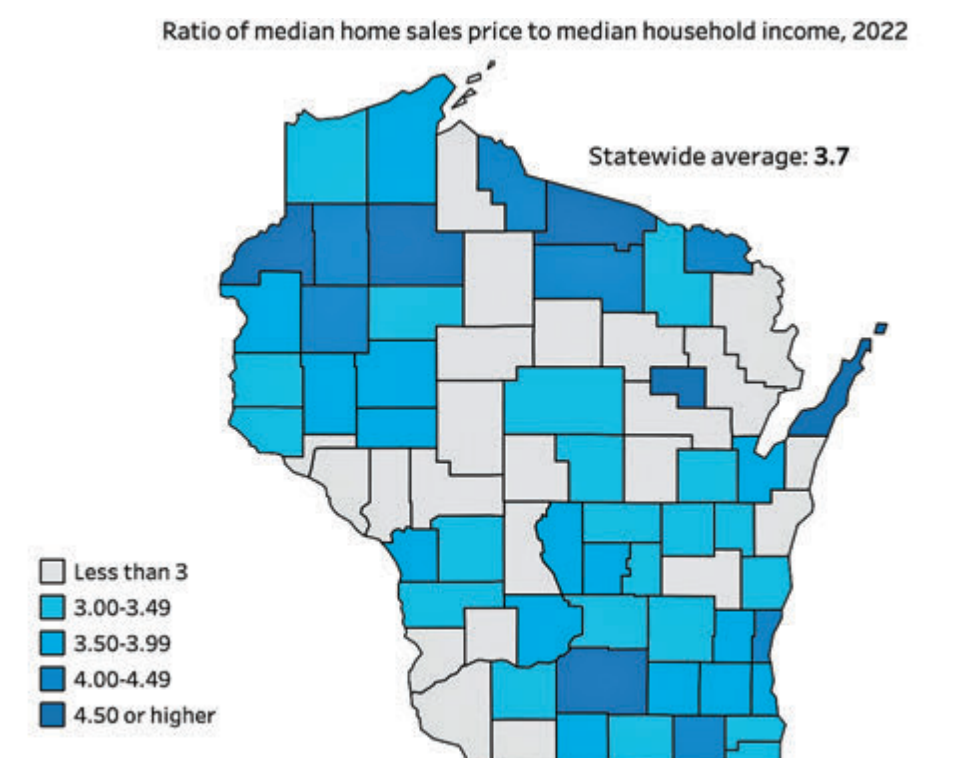
WPF notes that a general rule used by many real estate agents is that homebuyers can afford to spend roughly 2.6 times their household income on a home.

"This divergence was particularly acute during the pandemic years, pushing the state's price-to-income ratio to its highest point in data extending back to 2007," WPF stated in its analysis. "While the median price of homes sold in Wisconsin was 3.3 times the state's median household income in 2007, that ratio dropped to a low of 2.6 in 2011 as the Great Recession stifled the state's economy and housing market. It then increased gradually to 3.1 in 2019 before jumping to 3.7 in 2022."

Pandemic, interest rates still affecting market

WPF speculates a number of factors have caused the supply of homes on the market to decline and remain depressed for the past several years, reducing vacancy rates and pushing prices upward.

"The pandemic caused many existing homeowners to postpone or cancel plans to sell their homes. This trend accelerated in 2022 when mortgage rates shot up to their highest levels since the Great Recession, as lower interest rates on the mortgages on their current homes likely



Sources: Wisconsin Realtors Association; U.S. Census Bureau: ACS 5-year estimates

Vilas County is one of only five counties in the state that has a ratio of more than 4.5 of the median home sales price to median household income. —Graphic Courtesy of Wisconsin Policy Forum

left many homeowners reluctant to sell," WPF's analysis said.

According to Freddie Mac, the 30-year fixed rate mortgage average rose from under 3% in 2021 to a peak of 7.8% in November 2023. Interest rates have cooled since then, but still remain high for many homebuyers.

Mary Jo Bowe, 2024 chair of the board of directors for Wisconsin Realtors Association (WRA), said

the 30-year mortgage rate has clearly come down over the last year after it peaked at almost 8% at the end of October 2023.

"However, the rate has stayed in the upper 6% to low 7% range for much of this year (2024), and it averaged 6.8% in November. High mortgage rates create significant affordability problems for first-time buyers who rely heavily on financing to buy homes,"

Bowe said.

A Wisconsin Housing Report, provided by the WRA in November, states that inventory of available homes remains very tight even as solid demand conditions persist. The mismatch between supply and demand is another factor that has limited sales growth and driven up home prices.

To HOUSING Pg. 7

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# OBITUARIES

## Kelly Edwards



Kelly Leon Edwards of Eagle River died at home on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025. He was 83.

Mr. Edwards was born in Concord, NC in 1941 to Marvin L. and Minnie L. He attended Concord Public schools before enlisting in the US Navy at the age of 17.

Mr. Edwards served 20 years in the US Navy, in the Silent Service as Torpedoman Mate 1st Class before his retirement.

Mr. Edwards enjoyed his family, Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers, animals, horse trail rides, attending auctions, and going to the casino.

Mr. Edwards was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin and Minnie Edwards; daughter, Renee (Scott) Rackley.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria; one son, David (Laura); six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one brother, Raymond.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution in Kelly's name to the Humane Society of Vilas County.

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

## John J. Hora Jr



John J. Hora Jr. passed away peacefully at home on Jan. 5, 2025, at the age of 95.

John was born in Stickney, IL on July 31, 1929, to Martha Hendrickson Hora and John J. Hora Sr.

He served in the Navy as a radio operator from 1951-1955. He was stationed in Key West, FL.

He married his first wife, Carol Mathis, and lived in Brookfield, IL where they raised their two sons, John J. Hora III and Thomas M. Hora, who predeceased him in 2024.

John worked most of his life as a pressman for several Chicago newspapers. He was a Boy Scout leader when the boys were young.

After retirement, he moved to Eagle River where he was involved in the Northwood's Wood Carvers Club and was chaplain for Camp 56, Disabled American Veterans of Eagle River/Vilas County. He was also an avid bowler and while on the Senior Bowling league he met and later married Florence Simms. They were blessed with 27 years together. They traveled to Arizona for many winters and spent summers in the U.P. at their home on Huron Bay.

John is survived by his wife, Florence; son, John III; grandchildren, Bethany (Nathan) Edmonds, Aly (Logan Howe) Hora, Christopher (Adriana) Hora and Jackie (Andrew) Oettinger; nine great-grandchildren, stepchildren, Judy (Tripp) Anderson, David Simms, Randy Simms, Debbie (Jim) Beenken and Rick Simms.

A funeral Mass was held Monday January 13, 2025, at St. Peter Catholic Church in Eagle River, WI. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service.

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

## Gary Jacobs



Gary L. Jacobs, age 72, of Lomira and Eagle River, WI, passed away at home on Jan. 1, 2025, surrounded by his wife and daughters. Gary was born on Oct. 19, 1952, in Fond du Lac, to LaVerne and Margaret (nee Essman) Jacobs.

He was the youngest sibling to Bill, Bob, and Sandy, and was the devoted husband of Linda.

Gary was the proud father to his two daughters, and the cherished "Papa" to his four beloved grandchildren, an uncle to many, and a thoughtful friend to countless others.

After graduating from Goodrich High School in 1971, he went to Fox Valley Tech and earned his degree in electronics in 1973. He was a Master Electrician at Quad Graphics in Lomira for over 35 years where he became a go-to expert for troubleshooting and maintaining their crane and automation systems.

He married Linda (nee Engebregtsen) on July 19, 1975. Of all the relationships in his life, the relationship he shared with his wife was most dear to him. They did everything together and were best friends, fishing partners, each other's caretaker, travel buddies, and true partners for almost five decades.

Gary's love for his family was boundless. He was a hardworking, fiercely loving father who taught his daughters invaluable life lessons, including how to change a tire and how to musky fish. His life was defined by a deep love for his family, his strong sense of duty and a lifelong passion for fishing, a love sparked in his youth by his older brother Bill.

Fishing became a lifelong pursuit, creating cherished friendships and unforgettable memories. His passion for the sport led him to many local tournaments, where he often found success. He used his tournament winnings to build the family cabin on the lake by hand, with the help of his wife Linda and many family and friends over several years.

The cabin was not just a building—it was a symbol of Gary and Linda's hard work and dedication to their children and grandchildren, a place where so many cherished memories were made, a place they gathered to laugh, relax, enjoy nature and create bonds that will last a lifetime.

His grandchildren were the light of his life, and he cherished every moment spent with them—teaching them to fish, having fun, sharing his wisdom, and introducing them to the wonders of the world. He made sure they knew just how special they were.

Gary's remarkable strength and resilience were evident in the way he faced numerous health challenges. Diagnosed with Crohn's disease at the age of 31, he fought the disease with determination and grace for much of his life. In recent years, he was also diagnosed with cancer, but Gary faced both illnesses with the same quiet dignity and refusal to complain. His courage and unwavering spirit were an inspiration to all who knew him. He never sought sympathy, instead choosing to embrace life's challenges with grace and perseverance, living each day to the fullest.

He was a member of the Headwaters Chapter of Muskies, Inc. where he was a past director of fish releases. He held the longest winning streak of the annual LaVerne Jacobs Trout Classic. Gary and Linda placed 5th in the PMTT World Championship in 2004. He fished in the Monday Night Muskie League in Eagle River, and was a member of the Sno-Eagles Snowmobile club.

Gary was known for his generosity and willingness to lend a hand to others. Whether helping a neighbor, offering fishing advice, or simply spending time with those he cared about, he always made others feel valued.

Gary was a lifelong learner, a meticulous planner, and a detail-oriented number cruncher. He was left handed and disliked his handwriting, loved drinking tea and eating ice cream, wore buffalo plaid and canadian tuxedos often, was dyslexic but incredibly smart and was terrible at spelling. His hidden talent was being able to ride a unicycle. He was moral, meticulous, practical and frugal and would be furious about the money we spent on this long obituary.

His in-laws would like to remind him again about that Christmas many years ago when he drove into the garage with the Christmas tree still tied to the roof of the family van because he was too busy having fun singing Christmas songs with his wife and daughters.

He lived and loved well and was loved in return. Gary's legacy will live on in the hearts of his wife, Linda; his daughters, Tanya (Jason) Heimke, and Jessica (Richard) Pribnow; his grandchildren, Adyson Heimke, and Sydney, Avery, and Riley Pribnow. His Brother, William Jacobs; and sister, Sandy (Bob) Pagel. His sisters and brothers-in-law, Christine Sprout, Bonnie Lueck, Karen (Dave) Schroeder, and Susan (Al) Kennedy, David (Mary) Engebregtsen, Steve (Sandy) Engebregtsen, Dan (Sandy) Engebregtsen, John Engebregtsen, Allen (Lynn) Engebregtsen and Tom Engebregtsen. Numerous nieces and nephews and countless friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Robert Jacobs; sister-in-law, Sandy Jacobs; parents-in-laws, Chris and Eileen Engebregtsen; brother-in-laws, Al Lueck, Jim Engebregtsen, and Paul Engebregtsen; and his nephew Cody Engebregtsen.

Gary's family invited friends and relatives to a time of visitation on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, at Zacherl Funeral Home. A celebration of Gary's life took place after the visitation.

His family would like to thank Dr. Evans, those at the Fond du Lac Cancer Center, and the SSM Hospice Care nurses for their care and support of Gary and his family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. Visit [www.zacherlfuneralhome.com](http://www.zacherlfuneralhome.com) to send condolences.

PAID OBITUARY

## Daniel "Dan" Doucette



Following a brief illness, Daniel Lee Doucette, 71, of Indianapolis, IN passed on Dec. 19, 2024, surrounded by his family.

He was born in Tomahawk, WI to Nieland "Nocky" and Betty Doucette on Nov. 21, 1953. He attended Tomahawk High School, where he was an accomplished wrestler.

Dan received a master's degree in guidance counseling from the University of Wisconsin - Superior.

He worked for many years as a guidance counselor in the Northland Pines School District (Eagle River, WI), assisting many students. He spent his summers developing a talent for house painting.

Dan was an accomplished hunter and fisherman, growing up near the Tomahawk River. He often entertained his family and friends with stories about fishing. Living most of his life in Wisconsin, Dan was an avid fan of the Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers. Spending an evening fishing while listening to a Brewers game was something he greatly enjoyed.

Dan is survived by his wife, Barbara; three daughters, Jess Doucette, Janessa (Joe Frederickson) Doucette, Jordan (Nickolaus) Hall; son, Ryan Doucette. He also is survived by four sisters, Carol (Charles) Jensen, Jeanne (Bill) Grodevant, Sue Doucette and Jude (Mike) Stevenson, four brothers, Tom, Bob (Beth), John and Bill (Jane). Dan also had a granddaughter, Iris, who was born this year and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Dan's life will be done on a future date. PAID OBITUARY

## Bobbie Schmidt



Bobbie Schmidt of Eagle River, died unexpectedly on Dec. 18, 2024, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. She was 78.

Mrs. Schmidt was born in Catron, MO on July 9, 1946, to Henry Sr. and Mavis Conklin.

Mrs. Schmidt spent most of her professional career in the insurance business.

Mrs. Schmidt loved spending time with her children, grandchildren and extended family. She enjoyed traveling, she took a cruise to Alaska, she also took trips to Switzerland and France to watch her youngest granddaughter play hockey, Pennsylvania to see her grandson graduate law school, New Orleans in preparation for her oldest granddaughter's graduation from law school.

Mrs. Schmidt also enjoyed helping her husband research and write books about trains. They attended meetings and railroad conventions together. She was a staff member, volunteer and avid church goer at Prince of Peace Church in Eagle River.

Mrs. Schmidt was preceded in death by her parents, Henry Sr. and Mavis; brother, Eddie; sister, Willa Mae.

She is survived by husband, Floyd "Bud"; son, Michael (Michelle); daughter, Michelle (Jaime); four grandchildren four brothers, Harold (Christina), Willie (Pam), Henry Jr, William (Jean); two sisters, Geri, Shirley (Jim); numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A visitation was held January 2, 2025, at the Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home in Eagle River, WI. A funeral service was held Jan. 3, 2025, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Madison, WI. Burial took place at the Central Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery in King, WI.

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

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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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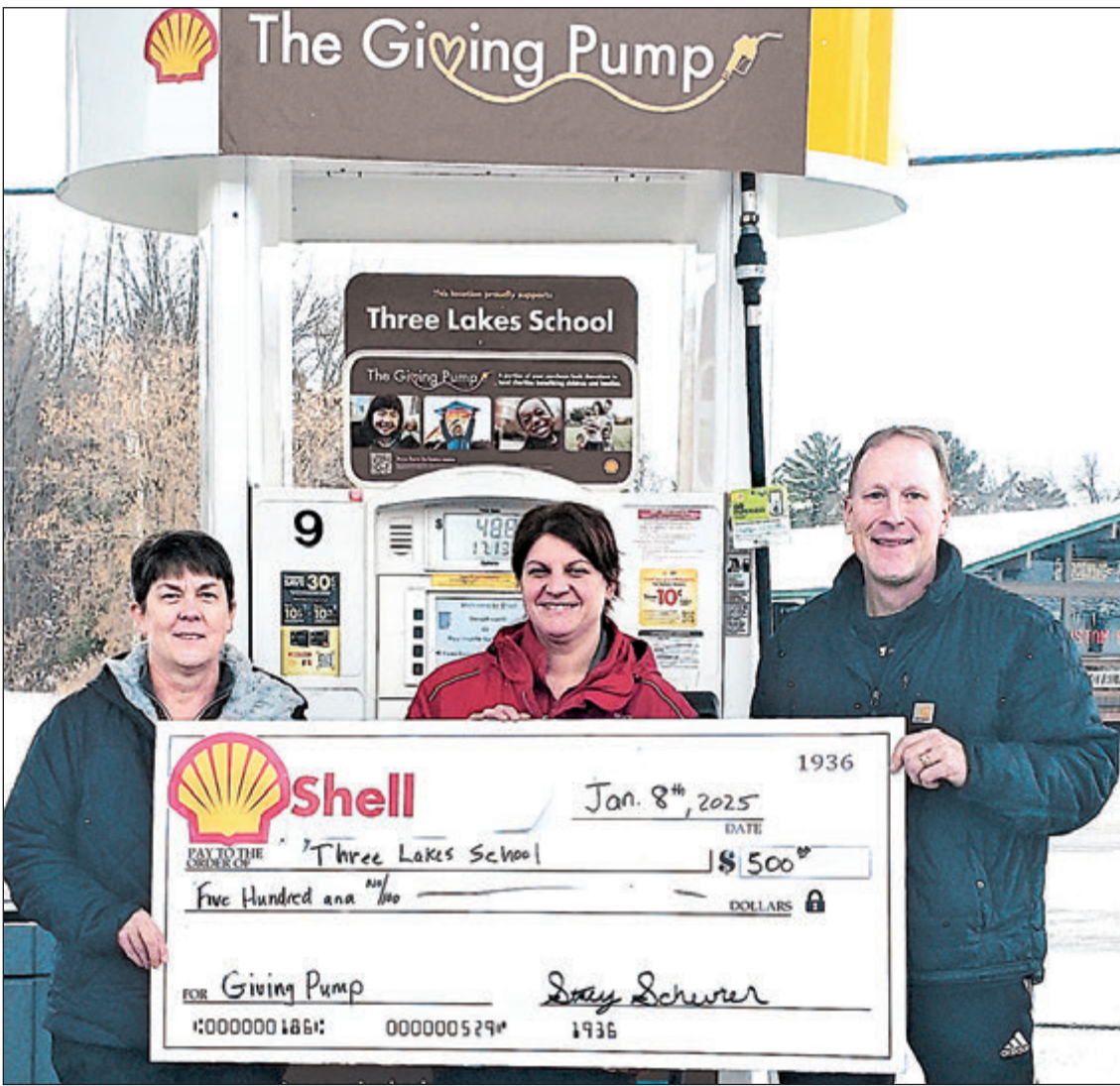
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# NEWS

# POLICE REPORT



**THE GIVING PUMP** — The Three Lakes Shell Station donated \$500 to the Three Lakes School District to fund the Three Lakes Elementary School's ski trip to Ski Brule. The funds were raised at the gas station's Giving Pump (pumps 9 and 10), in which every 2 cents per gallon is donated. Pictured from left to right are Michele Brown, Stacy Scheurer and elementary school physical education teacher Charlie Volk. —Staff Photo By JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN

## Vilas County Sheriff

The Vilas County Sheriff's Department reported a total of 169 incidents last week, which includes thirteen 911 hangups, seven car versus deer accidents, one hit and run accident, three personal injuries, two nonreportable accidents, seven property damages, one agency assist, four burglary alarms, two fire alarms, one ambulance request, one animal problem, one all points broadcast, two attempts to locate, one ATV complaint, one battery, 11 conditions of bond, six citizen assists, two death investigations, one defraud restaurant, one disorderly conduct, two deer in roadway, two disturbances, two domestic violence complaints, one emergency detention, six sick leaves, one fire, two chimney fires, one structure fire, one vehicle fire, one internet fraud, 18 warrant confirmations, six information reports, two restraining violations, two employees injured on duty, two juvenile problems, one lifeline alarm, one lost party, three OWI reports, two officer requests, one sex offender registration, one lewd report, one sexual assault, two smoke reports, one subject removal, one suicide attempt, eight suspicious circumstances, six threat reports, seven hazards, three traffic violations, one prisoner transport, three warrant transports

## and 10 welfare checks.

A total of 18 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 two animal problems, one bail jumping, three citizen assists, one controlled substance report, two DUI reports, one fire, two information reports, one juvenile problem, two suspicious circumstances, one traffic accident with property damage, one traffic accident with personal injury, two traffic hazards, one theft, one traffic offense, one utility problem and four welfare checks.

A total of one person was taken into custody and booked into the Vilas County Jail.

## Three Lakes Police

The Three Lakes Police Department reported a total of 94 incidents last week, which includes two 911 calls, one alarm, three ambulances, one animal incident, one citizen assist, two motorist assists, one bartender application, 55 business checks, one commitment report, six extra patrols, one false alarm, four hazards, one narcotics violation, one property report, one background check, two suspicious circumstances, one theft, and nine traffic stops.

## Vilas County court report

# Lac du Flambeau woman sentenced on drug possession, other charge

Amanda Valliere, 37, of Lac du Flambeau, pleaded guilty and was sentenced in multiple cases, one on two felony charges, including one for methamphetamine possession, and one for bail jumping.

Judge Milanowski sentenced Valliere to one year of confinement for each count, to run concurrently, and two years of extended supervision for the possession charge and three for bail jumping. The case will also run concurrent with two other cases she was sentenced for.

guilty of one felony count of Operating While Intoxicated. The court ordered Groth to face five years in the Wisconsin Prison System, two years of initial confinement and three of extended supervision. There is a \$1,200 fine plus court costs totaling \$2,702. Groth will have a three-year license revocation and will have an IID installed for three years. There were 157 days of presentence credit, and the sentence will be served concurrently with whatever he is serving now.

appear for a sentencing hearing on one felony count of methamphetamine possession. The court authorized a body-only warrant for the nonappearance.

Dalton Keuffer, 21, of Conover, had a plea/sentencing hearing set during his final pretrial hearing on one felony count of 2nd-degree sexual assault of a child. The hearing was scheduled for Feb. 26, at 1:30 p.m.

Glen Barth, 66, of Eagle River, had a plea/sentencing hearing requested by his defense team during a

judicial pretrial on five counts of possession of child pornography. His \$100,000 bond was continued for the case. The hearing is scheduled for Feb. 5, at 1:30 p.m.

Christopher Gagnon, 38, of Eagle River, had a plea/sentencing hearing today after his defense addressed the court by saying there was an agreement in the case. He is being charged with one felony count of narcotic drug possession, with the alleged incident happening June 24 of last year.

Joshua Groth, 42, of Milwaukee, was found

Jonelle Allen, 33, of Lac du Flambeau, failed to

# Property tax bills due soon

BY JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

Vilas County payments after February 1st can be mailed to Vilas County Treasurer, 330 Court Street, Eagle River, WI 54521.

Property owners should have received their 2024 tax bills and are reminded by tax officials in Vilas and Oneida counties to pay their local treasurer at this time.

Those who have not received a tax bill are still required by state law to pay their taxes on time. If a bill hasn't been received, homeowners should contact their county or local treasurer.

Vilas County Treasurer Paulette Sarnicki explained that, "Tax bills must be mailed by the municipalities by the third Monday in December per State Statute. The municipalities are the collectors of their municipality's taxes until Jan. 31. By Jan. 31, a minimum of the first half must be paid or they will be considered delinquent."

Starting Saturday, Feb. 1, the county becomes the collector of all taxes. The complete tax bill must be made by July 31, or the tax bill will become delinquent, and interest is charged monthly until it is paid in full. This information is only after Feb. 1 for current and delinquent taxes.

Payments in person can be made to the County Treasurer's office on weekdays from 8 to 4. The Treasurer's office is located on the first floor of the Vilas County Courthouse in Eagle River.

Payment by credit card can be made through Point & Pay by calling 1-866-518-2304 or at [www.vilascountywi.gov](http://www.vilascountywi.gov). Be aware that Point & Pay will charge a convenience fee for using their services: 2.39% for credit cards and \$1.50 for Electronic Check transfers.

Vilas County tax information is available on the county website at <https://www.vilascountywi.gov/>. Property owners can go to the Treasurer Department to view tax information and represent a copy of their tax bill. Tax payments are updated as they are processed.

Residents of Vilas County can contact Paulette Sarnicki at the treasurer's office by calling 715-479-3609.

The Oneida County treasurer's office can be reached at 715-369-6137.

# REAL ESTATE

## Jan. 2, 2025

Brandy Lake Convenience LLC to APG NWI LLC, lot 4 of plat CSM 5454 and lots 13-17 of plat 70 in Dennhardt's Brandy Lake Plat, \$345.

James C. Holperin and Kathleen M. Holperin to Andrew C. Holperin and Jennifer A. Jackl, lot 6 in block 1 of plat 400 in Plat of the Nenw, \$900.

James Will Trust, Trustee James L. Will and Trustee Marilyn E. Will to Loon Storage Eagle River LLC, gov lot 5 in 3-39-10, \$780.

Estate of Donald P. Stelling and Personal

Representative Harley P. Stelling to Kelly S. Jackson-Golly, gov lot 2 in 33-41-5, \$1,410.

## Jan. 3, 2025

Yeti's Drive in LLC to Merrill Pine Ridge LLC, NW NW in 34-40-10, \$720.

Jason Jensen and Kelly Jensen to 16 Pigs LLC, NW SW in 31-40-9, \$555.

Windshore LLC to David K. Fein and Kerry J. Fein, gov lot 5 in 36-44-6, \$2,295.

Belich Trust 03/16/17 and Trustee Joanne Belich to Tood M. Mosier and Laura L. Mosier, gov lot 3 and SW SE in 13-39-10, \$960.

Joshua E. Jones and

Ashley L. Jones to Jacob Stepp, NE NE and SE NE in 19-41-6, \$69.

James A. and Christine M. Christenson Revocable Trust of 2007, Trustee James A. Christenson and Trustee Christine M. Christenson to Michael A. Garvin and Laura L. Garvin, SE NE in 29-40-4, \$141.

## Jan. 6, 2025

Harold Meiners and Elaina Meiners to Aimee C. Pritzl, NW NW in 6-42-10, \$420.

Rodrigues Joint Revocable Trust 01/30/06, Trustee David A. Rodrigues Sr., Trustee Sandra Rodrigues, Jeffrey A.

Rodrigues and Michael A. Rodrigues to David A. Rodrigues Jr. gov lot 9 in 29-41-12, \$910.20.

Bullseye Family Trust and Trustee Douglas K. Gunderson to Bullseye 2687 Trust, gov lots 6-7 in 2-40-9, \$1,825.50.

Todd A. Sanborn to Daniel G. Sanborn and Elizabeth M. Vold, gov lot 4 and 11 in 13-40-10, and 13-40-10 of plat 673 in Omitted Lands, \$270.

Jay M. Shifra to Linda L. Halada and Chance Halada, lots 7-9 of plat 404 in Lake Park Addn, \$600.

To REAL ESTATE Pg. 8

# Aspirus Health shares cold weather injury prevention tips

As temperatures begin to fall again, Aspirus Health shares that it's important to raise awareness about cold weather injury prevention.

Exposure to cold weather can lead to various health risks, including frostbite, hypothermia and other cold-related injuries.

"Prevention is key," says Dr. Bryan Judge, Aspirus Emergency Medicine Physician and Emergency Trauma Medical Director. "Preparing appropriately when you're out and about, and in the car having a pair of gloves, hat and boots in case you get stranded is important."

Aspirus Health stresses the critical importance of cold weather injury prevention to mitigate

the potential dangers associated with winter weather.

Here are some tips for preventing injuries related to cold weather:

- **Layer clothing** – Wear multiple layers of clothing to trap warm air close to the body. The layers should include a moisture-wicking base layer to keep sweat away from the skin, an insulating layer for warmth, and a waterproof and windproof outer layer to protect against the elements.

- **Protect extremities** – Keep extremities such as hands, feet and ears well-covered. Wear insulated and waterproof gloves, thick socks, and a hat that covers the ears to prevent frostbite.

- **Stay dry** – Wet clothing and skin significantly increase the risk of cold-related injuries. Use waterproof outer layers to protect against rain and snow, and change into dry clothing if someone becomes wet.

- **Hydration** – Stay hydrated, as dehydration can increase the risk of cold injuries. Drink warm beverages and avoid excessive consumption of caffeine or alcohol, as they can contribute to dehydration.

- **Know the signs of frostbite** – Be aware of the early signs of frostbite, including numbness, tingling or pain in extremities. If someone notices these symptoms, they should seek shelter

and warm up the affected area gradually.

- **Know your limits** – Be aware of one's own cold tolerance and know when it's time to seek shelter. Avoid pushing the body beyond its limits in extremely cold conditions.

- **Play it safe with outdoor activities** – If engaging in winter sports or outdoor activities, plan ahead. Check weather forecasts, inform someone of your plans, and have the appropriate gear and equipment.

- **Stay informed** – Be alert to weather conditions and warnings in the area. Be prepared to alter plans to take extra precautions based on the changing weather forecasts.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Legals 7700

VILAS COUNTY (One week 1/15/25) PUBLIC NOTICE Invitation for Bids - Online Auction of Vilas County Real Estate A public online auction will be conducted on behalf of the Vilas County Finance and Budget Committee by Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction at the following website: http://www.wisconsin-surplus.com/ for the sale of land in accordance with the conditions set forth by the Finance and Budget Committee until January 22, 2025. Auction instructions and a description for the parcel may be obtained at the Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction website. There is one parcel of land for sale that is in the Town of Winchester. The Vilas County Finance and Budget Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids. The highest qualifying bid will be publicly awarded at the Finance and Budget Committee meeting following the conclusion of the online auction. Submitted by: Darcy Smith Finance Director 2708 WNAIXLP

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/15-1/29/25) STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE Case No. 24-CV-000098 Cascade Investment Group, LLC Plaintiff, vs. The Estate of Katherine A Sullivan, Deceased Defendant.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on December 27, 2024 in the amount of \$335,332.99 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows: TIME: February 20, 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: LOT THIRTEEN (13) AND FOURTEEN (14), BLOCK FOUR (4) OF THE RECORDED PLAT OF LAKE PARK ADDITION TO THE VILLAGES (NOW CITY) OF EAGLE RIVER, SAID PLAT BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF GOVERNMENT LOT EIGHT (8), SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT (28), TOWNSHIP FORTY (40) NORTH, RANGE TEN (10) EAST, CITY OF EAGLE RIVER, VILAS COUNTY, WISCONSIN, AS THE SAME APPEARS OF RECORD IN VOLUME 3 OF PLATS, PAGE 21, AND THE PART OF THE VACATED ALLEY ADJACENT THERETO AS DESCRIBED IN VOLUME 836 OF RECORDS, PAGE 299. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 635 N Bond

Legals 7700

Eagle River, WI 54521-8401 DATED: January 2, 2025 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 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt. 2710 WNAIXLP

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/15-1/29/25) STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY Case No. 2024CV000051 Nationstar Mortgage LLC Plaintiff, v. Douglas M. Geiger, et al. Defendants.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE By virtue of a judgment of foreclosure made in the above-entitled action on August 8, 2024 in the amount of \$29,323.45, I will sell at public auction, located in the Courthouse Annex Addition, main public entrance, 330 Court Street, Eagle River, WI 54521, on February 13, 2025 At 2:00 PM, all of the following described premises, to wit: THAT PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4 NW 1/4) OF SECTION TWENTY-TWO (22), TOWNSHIP FORTY (40) NORTH, RANGE EIGHT (8) EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN, VILAS COUNTY, WISCONSIN, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 22; THENCE SOUTH 45o 18' EAST 47.1 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY "155" AND SOUTH RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF JUVE ROAD, THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE EAST 613.6 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0o 41' EAST 300 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE NORTH 89o 56' WEST 613.6 FEET; THENCE NORTH 0o 41' WEST ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY "155", 300 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; EXCEPTING THEREFROM THAT PART AS DESCRIBED IN VOLUME 271 RECORDS, PAGE 660 AND AS CORRECTED IN VOLUME 659 MICRO RECORDS, PAGE 149. Street Address: 8073 Juve Road, Saint Germain, WI 54558-9038 Tax Key No. 024-986 THE PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD AS IS AND SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL REAL ESTATE TAXES, SUPERIOR LIENS OR OTHER LEGAL ENCUMBRANCES. TERMS OF SALE: CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK OR CERTIFIED FUNDS, payable to the Clerk of the Courts (10% down payment at sale, balance due within ten (10) days of Court approval; down payment to be forfeited if payment not received timely). Buyer must comply with minimum bidder qualifications as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 846.155. Buyer to pay applicable Wisconsin Real Estate Transfer Tax in addition to the purchase price. /s/ Joseph A. Fath Sheriff of Vilas County, Wisconsin Codilis, Moody & Circelli, P.C.

Legals 7700

Attorneys for Plaintiff (414) 775-7700 50-24-00484 NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. 2709 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 Plaintiff, 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 J. 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 37.20 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 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt. 2699 WNAIXLP

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25) STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY Case No. 24CV000120 Our File #W151293 DISCOVER BANK Plaintiff, vs. STACIA PFEIFFER 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. KOHN LAW FIRM S.C. /S/JOHN DANNER JOHN DANNER State Bar No. 1125953 Attorney for Plaintiff 2702 WNAIXLP

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 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

Meetings and Public Hearings 7720

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT STATE OF WISCONSIN COUNTY OF VILAS TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN Pursuant to Chapter 59.694 and 19.84 of the Wisconsin State Statutes and Article X, Section 10.3 of the Vilas County General Zoning Ordinance: Public Notice is hereby given to all persons that a public hearing will be held at the 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

Name Change 7730

VILAS COUNTY (Three weeks 1/15-1/29/25) STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF Talon Adam Lee Clements By (Petitioner) Richard Donald Carlson III Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 24CV141 NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Talon Adam Lee Clements To: Talon Adam Lee Carlson Birth Certificate: Talon Adam Lee Clements IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Vilas County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: Martha J. Milanowski Place: Vilas County Courthouse, Courtroom 1 330 Court Street, Eagle River, WI 54521 Date: February 6, 2025 Time: 10:30 am IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Vilas County News-Review, a newspaper published in Vilas County, State of Wisconsin. /s/ Martha J. Milanowski Circuit Court Judge/Court Commissioner January 2, 2025 2711 WNAIXLP

Name Change 7730

VILAS COUNTY (Three weeks 1/15-1/29/25) STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF Talon Adam Lee Clements By (Petitioner) Richard Donald Carlson III Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing Case No. 24CV141 NOTICE IS GIVEN: A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above: From: Talon Adam Lee Clements To: Talon Adam Lee Carlson Birth Certificate: Talon Adam Lee Clements IT IS ORDERED: This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Vilas County, State of Wisconsin. Judge's Name: Martha J. Milanowski Place: Vilas County Courthouse, Courtroom 1 330 Court Street, Eagle River, WI 54521 Date: February 6, 2025 Time: 10:30 am IT IS FURTHER ORDERED: Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Vilas County News-Review, a newspaper published in Vilas County, State of Wisconsin. /s/ Martha J. Milanowski Circuit Court Judge/Court Commissioner January 2, 2025 2711 WNAIXLP

Notice To Creditors 7735

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. 24-PR-63 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LANNY W. STUDDARD DOD: 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 1010541 2695 WNAIXLP

Notice To Creditors 7735

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. 24-PR-63 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LANNY W. STUDDARD DOD: 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 1010541 2695 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 John M. Remmers Cramer Multhauf 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. 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

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/8-1/22/25) STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY 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

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 Cope 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

Notice To Creditors 7735

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 1149 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. 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 Lemma 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 1010541 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 -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 Order Limiting Time for Filing Claims (Formal Administration) Case No. 24-PR-63 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LANNY W. STUDDARD DOD: 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 1010541 2695 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. 24-PR-63 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LANNY W. STUDDARD DOD: 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 1010541 2695 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. 24-PR-63 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LANNY W. STUDDARD DOD: 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 1010541 2695 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. 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. 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 2703 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 Cope 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

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 Cope 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

VILAS COUNTY

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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 Cope 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

Notice To Creditors 7735

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



# NEWS

## Tri-County Mental Health COPE Coalition donates to local mental health organization

The Northwoods Tri-County Mental Health COPE Coalition donated \$500 to the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Northern Lakes, to support services and programming in local communities.

COPE Coalition members come together all year round, along with community partners, to serve and support people affected by mental health and suicide through education, intervention and prevention efforts. In February, 2021, 36.4% of adults in Wisconsin reported symptoms of anxiety or depression; 18.6% were unable to get needed counseling or therapy, according to NAMI.

NAMI Northern Lakes provides free in-person and virtual services to those affected by mental illness including peer and family support groups, a peer-run drop-in center in Rhinelander, and educational classes. They also offer resources, presentations, and

trainings in the community and advocate at local, state and national levels for policies that could improve the lives of people affected by mental health conditions.

Donations to NAMI Northern Lakes help fund presentations and resources, train volunteers with lived experience to provide free evidence-based programs, offer hope, and break the stigma surrounding mental illness. To learn more about programs offered by NAMI Northern Lakes, visit their website at [naminorthernlakes.org/](http://naminorthernlakes.org/), or call 715-420-1700, Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

To learn more about the Northwoods Tri-County Mental Health COPE Coalition, visit [mhcopecoalition.wixsite.com/mysite](http://mhcopecoalition.wixsite.com/mysite) or contact Rachael Cornelius, Community Health Educator at the Vilas County Public Health Department at 715-479-3657 or [racorn@vilascountrywi.gov](mailto:racorn@vilascountrywi.gov).



Pictured from left to right are Kristin Bonamo, Executive Director, NAMI Northern Lakes; Heidi Pritzi, Co-lead for the Tri-County Mental Health Coalition & Clinical Therapist for Aspirus Koller Behavioral Health; Rachael Cornelius, Co-lead for the Tri-County Mental Health Coalition & Community Health Educator for the Vilas County Public Health; Jennifer Tienhaara, Oneida County Public Health Nurse & Maternal Child Health/ Prenatal Care Coordinator; Jessica Wilson, Forest County Health Department Public Health Nurse & Coalition member; and Morgan Seidl, Forest County Health Department Public Health Nurse & Coalition member. —Contributed Photo

## State Patrol training applications due Sunday

The deadline for applications to join the 71st and 72nd Recruit Classes, to become a Wisconsin State Patrol trooper or inspector, is Sunday, Jan. 19.

The Wisconsin State Patrol accepts in-state and out-of-state applicants who are new to law enforcement or have previous experience. Applications for troopers and inspectors open once a year during the Wisconsin State Patrol's annual recruitment period which began in October and ends this Sunday.

"Pursuing a career with the State Patrol comes with great reward," said Wisconsin State Patrol Superintendent Tim Carnahan. "The role of a State Patrol officer extends beyond highway safety. Citizens across the state count on the State Patrol to serve and protect their communities. We are looking for people to join our team that are passionate about giving back and will strive to uphold our core values and state laws. Don't hesitate; apply today."

Wisconsin State Patrol is a statewide, multi-role law enforcement agency whose mission is to provide exceptional public safety services, which include transportation safety, criminal enforcement, and specialized technical and tactical support to municipal, county, state and federal partner organizations.

In addition to enforcing traffic and criminal laws across Wisconsin, State Patrol officers may serve in specialized roles including pilots, K-9 officers, crash reconstruction experts, and commercial motor vehicle inspectors. Other special units focus on combatting human trafficking and drug interdiction, and services like Honor Guard and dignity protection.

### Requirements and training

Qualified candidates must pass physical readiness tests, a background investigation, interview, and pre-employment medical and

psychological exams.

Applicants accepted into the State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy receive a salary plus meals and lodging during their training. Taught by Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Training and Standards certified instructors, cadets learn from experienced officers with the goal of strengthening communication skills, self-confidence and physical capabilities.

The State Patrol's 71st Recruit Class will begin training at the Academy on July 14. This traditional recruit class is for individuals new to or with limited experience in law enforcement. After graduating from the State Patrol Academy, new troopers and inspectors are assigned to one of the five State Patrol regions where they will receive 12 additional weeks of on-the-job field training.

The 72nd Recruit Class is for individuals who have been certified and employed

as law enforcement officers. Recruits complete an accelerated training program that begins at the State Patrol Academy on July 28. The class rotates between training at the Academy and training in the field until 18 weeks have been completed.

Members of the 71st and 72nd Recruit Classes will be sworn in and receive their badges at the Wisconsin State Patrol Graduation Ceremony on Nov. 21. The new troopers and inspectors are then assigned to counties throughout the state to enforce traffic laws and keep Wisconsin's highways safe.

Applicants must have a two-year associate degree or a minimum of 60 college-level credits prior to starting at the Academy. Up to 60 credits may be waived for individuals with relevant training or military experience.

For more information, visit [wsp.wi.gov](http://wsp.wi.gov) or contact a local State Patrol post and ask to talk with a recruiter.

entire 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. If someone sees oversalting, Wisconsin Salt Wise offers some simple steps to help educate others about salt.

- Switch: Salt is much less effective when pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.

Statewide Reduction Efforts  
The DNR works to

reduce chlorides at the source through permitting programs for municipalities and industries. These measures include tuning or replacing water softeners, identifying significant chloride contributors and finding reductions, and processing efficiencies or improvements by instituting sewer use ordinances.

Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation works

with Wisconsin counties to reduce road salt application using brine and pre-wetting road surfaces, significantly reducing salt use.

For more information on the DNR's efforts to monitor chlorides and reduce their effects, visit the DNR's Salt and Storm Water webpage at [https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/stormwater/learn\\_more/salt.html](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/stormwater/learn_more/salt.html).

## Salt

FROM PAGE 2

and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow removed manually, the less salt will be needed and the more effective it will be.

- Scatter: When using salt, scatter it so there is space between the grains. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an

## Housing

FROM PAGE 3

In the state, November existing home sales rose by a modest 1.7% compared to November 2023, and the median price rose 10.8% to \$310,000 over that same 12-month period. On a year-to-date basis, home sales were up 4.1% compared to the January-through-November period in 2023, and the median price rose 8.8% to \$310,000.

November sales varied across regions, with weaker sales in the northern part of the state.

According to the WRA, the housing market remains a strong seller's market, with just 3.3 months of available supply — well below the six-month benchmark that characterizes a balanced market.

"Affordability remains

a significant challenge, especially for first-time buyers who don't have equity from the sale of an existing home to apply to a home purchase. Although 30-year fixed mortgage rates are more than a half percent lower than November 2023, they have been rising the last two months," the WRA says.

The Wisconsin Housing Affordability Index shows the portion of the median-priced home that a buyer with median family income can purchase, assuming 20% down and the remaining balance financed with a 30-year fixed mortgage rate. The index fell 3.2% since November 2023.

Limited number of homes available

One specific challenge locally is the lack of single-family homes at an affordable price available for working families. With more individuals relocating to the area during the

pandemic, and more of the existing properties being used as vacation rentals as opposed to full-time housing, home buyers are feeling the effects of the limited supply.

Vilas and Oneida counties saw limited growth in single-family home building permits through Quarter 3 (Q3) of last year according to data from the Wisconsin Builders Association (WBA). Final figures for 2024 have not yet been released.

Figures collected from July to September show that statewide, there was a 12.8% year-to-date increase in activity compared to the same period in 2023. Locally, Vilas County saw a 30.1% increase, while Oneida saw only 3.2% growth. The latest data is compiled of county-specific statistics through September for building permits submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional

Services.

"A total of 10,203 (single-family) permits were reported through Q3 for 2024 compared to 9,049 permits during the same period in 2023, reflecting a 12.8% growth," said WBA President Jim Doering. "Activity in just Q3 is up 1.5% compared to Q3 of 2023."

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Vilas County issued 256 single-family building permits in 2023, and 72 multi-family unit permits.

On a statewide level, WBA Executive Director Brad Boycks said he is pleased with the growth that has been seen thanks to more stabilized interest rates, increased awareness of the need of housing, and WBA's work enacting pro-housing legislation and loan programs to support new construction projects.

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

### Project Opportunity: Invitation to Bid – Elvov Creek at County Highway A Road-Stream Crossing Replacement

**Project:** Elvov Creek at County Highway A Road-Stream Crossing Replacement Project

**Location:** Vilas County, WI (46.036993, -88.939857)

**Contact:** Chris Collier  
Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager  
Trout Unlimited  
[chris.collier@tu.org](mailto:chris.collier@tu.org)

**Details:** Trout Unlimited is seeking bids to complete a crossing replacement on County Highway A in Vilas County, WI (near Phelps) over Elvov Creek. Bids are due to Chris Collier at the email address listed in the notice by 5 pm central time on Thursday, February 6th.

**Project Information and to Submit a Bid:** If you would like to submit a bid and/or review project details please contact Chris Collier at [chris.collier@tu.org](mailto:chris.collier@tu.org). All project information and bid materials are available upon request.

There is a required pre-bid meeting on Wednesday, January 29th at 11 am central time at the Vilas County Highway Commission offices located at 2104 N Railroad St, Eagle River, WI 54521. Please contact Chris Collier at [chris.collier@tu.org](mailto:chris.collier@tu.org) to RSVP for this meeting.

439724

WNAXLP

### NOTICE OF REFERENDUM

Northland Pines School District  
February 18, 2025

#### Referendum Details

At an election in the Northland Pines School District, on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, the following question will be submitted to a vote of the people:

Shall the Northland Pines School District be authorized to exceed state revenue limits by \$5,600,000 each year for a period of three years on a non-recurring basis for each of the 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 school years, in order to maintain School District programs and operations?

YES  NO

A copy of the entire text of the resolution directing the submission of the question can be obtained from the office of the school district clerk.

#### Additional Information

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote in this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Done in the City of Eagle River,  
on January 6, 2025.  
*/s/ Erica Lane*  
School District Clerk

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET TO EXCEED THE REVENUE LIMIT FOR NONRECURRING PURPOSES AND PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM ELECTION

WHEREAS, the School Board of the Northland Pines School District, Vilas and Oneida Counties, Wisconsin, (the "District"), hereby adopts a resolution entitled: "Resolution Authorizing The School District Budget To Exceed The Revenue Limit For Nonrecurring Purposes And Providing For A Referendum Election" ("Revenue Limit Resolution") in order to authorize the District budget to exceed the revenue limit by \$5,600,000.00 in each of three (3) consecutive years, including the 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 school years, (the "Revenue Limit Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain School District programs and operations, the School Board deems it to be desirable and in the best interest of the District to direct the District Clerk to submit the Revenue Limit Resolution to the electors for approval or rejection at the regularly scheduled primary election to be held on February 18, 2025; and

WHEREAS, this Revenue Limit Resolution must be approved by the electors for the District to be authorized to include the additional revenue in the School District budget for the 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 school years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Northland Pines School District as follows:

- Board Resolution.** The School Board for the Northland Pines School District supports including \$5,600,000.00 in excess of the revenue limit set forth in Section 121.91, Wis. Stats., on a non-recurring basis, in the final School District budget for each of the 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 school years, such excess to be used to maintain School District programs and operations.
- Referendum Election Date.** The District Clerk is hereby directed to call a referendum election to be held in the District at the regularly scheduled primary election to be held on February 18, 2025, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the District the proposition of whether this Revenue Limit Resolution shall be approved or rejected. Further the School District Clerk shall prepare the requisite notices and provide election officials with all necessary election supplies, including ballots, if and to the extent required by Section 121.91(3)(c), Wis. Stats.
- DPL Notice.** Pursuant to the provisions of Section 121.91(3)(a), Wis. Stats., the District Clerk shall notify the Department of Public Instruction of the date of the referendum election, shall provide the Department with a copy of this Revenue Limit Resolution within ten (10) days after its adoption, and shall certify the results of the referendum to the Department within ten (10) days following the election.
- Filing of Resolution.** The District Clerk is directed to file the Revenue Limit Resolution, ballots, and any other necessary election supplies with the official or agency responsible for preparing the ballots for the election no later than seventy (70) days prior to the primary election on February 18, 2025, as required by Section 121.91(3)(a) and (c), and 8.37, Wis. Stats.

Adopted and recorded on November 18, 2024.

*/s/ Jennifer Payne*  
School District President

ATTEST:

*/s/ Erica Lane*  
School District Clerk

439630

WNAXLP



# NEWS

## WPS provides tips to fight against bitter cold temps

Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) recently released some tips and tricks to help people stay safe and warm during winter's cold temperatures, including heating safety and how to prevent carbon monoxide-related dangers.

WPS recommends doing the following:

- Let the sun in – Open curtains or blinds when the sun is out to help warm a home. Close them at night to help retain heat and cut down on drafts.

- Prevent carbon monoxide dangers – Make sure carbon monoxide detectors are working properly and learn the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Oven safety – Never use a stove or oven to

heat a home. Not only is it inefficient, it could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Keep meters clear – Safely brush away snow and ice from a home's natural gas meter and vents. The extra weight can stress or crack meter piping, causing a natural gas leak. It also can clog appliance vents, trapping carbon monoxide indoors.

- Space heater safety – Only use newer models with safety features like automatic shut-off. Keep space heaters at least 6 feet away from flammable materials like drapes or blankets. Plug heaters directly into the wall, not into extension cords or power strips. Place the heater on a flat surface

away from children and pets.

- Safe sleeping – Turn off electric blankets when they are not being used. Keep pets away from electric blankets, as their teeth and claws can puncture wire insulation and cause damage.

- Heat a home efficiently – A few simple steps — such as sealing gaps around windows and doors, adjusting the thermostat, and changing furnace filters — can keep homes cozy and energy bills down. Check out tips to manage costs.

- Energy assistance – WPS offers numerous resources for customers — including budget billing, payment plans and heating assistance.

## DOT to hold public hearing discussing US 51 bridge project in Manitowish Waters next week

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is holding a public involvement meeting to share details about the proposed replacement of the bridge that carries U.S. 51 over the Manitowish River northwest of Minocqua in Manitowish Waters on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

The public is encouraged to attend the meeting to listen to the discussion, ask questions of project staff, and provide input.

The Jan. 22 meeting will start at 5 p.m., with a short presentation planned for 5:15 p.m. The remainder of the meeting will follow an open-house format.

The meeting will be held at Manitowish Waters Town Hall at 5733 Airport Road.

Built in 1956, the bridge is approaching the end of its service life. WisDOT is proposing to:

- Replace the bridge
- Replace the approach slabs and roadway on either side of the structure
- Replace guardrail and pavement markings

Construction currently is scheduled for 2027.

During construction, the bridge will be closed to traffic. Through traffic will be detoured via U.S. 51, WIS 47 and U.S. 51, and local traffic can use County W and Tower Road as an alternate route.

In addition, a portion of the shared-use trail in the vicinity of the project will be closed for up to two weeks during construction operations, and public recreation lands along the river will be impacted, too.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. Hard-of-hearing, deaf, deaf-blind, or those with a speech disability needing accommodations should contact the Wisconsin Telecommunication Relay Service via 711 at least three days before the meeting.

Comments on the proposed project are being accepted through Jan. 31 via email at [marijejan.hoppe@dot.wi.gov](mailto:marijejan.hoppe@dot.wi.gov) and mail at:

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
510 Hanson Lake Road  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
Attn.: Marijean Hoppe

For more information about the project, visit its design website at <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/by-region/nc/us51manitowishriverbridge/default.aspx>.

## Aspirus Health welcomes Chris Blair as new Vice President for North WI Division

Chris Blair has joined Aspirus Health as the new Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the North Wisconsin Division.

In this role, he will serve as a senior executive at Aspirus Rhineland Hospital and Aspirus Tomahawk Hospital.

Blair is a Navy veteran with more than 30 years of experience in the health care field. A Hospital Corpsman and registered nurse by training, Chris most recently served as the Chief Executive Officer for Northwest Medical Center in Bentonville, Arkansas, and was a CAO for Siloam Springs Regional Hospital in Arkansas. He also spent five years with Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in Grapevine, Texas, where he served as the Progressive Care Unit/Inpatient Rehab Director (2017-21) and as the Director of Business Development (2021-22).

Blair earned his Bachelor of Science in



Chris Blair,  
North Division VP and CAO

Nursing from Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y., and a Master of Business Administration from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas.

With a deep understanding of patient care and health care management, Blair is eager to contribute to Aspirus Health's mission.

"I'm excited to join Aspirus Health and serve in this role to provide executive leadership to our dedicated team of

clinicians and staff who deliver essential services to our rural communities," he stated. "I look forward to building relationships with staff and members of the Rhineland and Tomahawk communities."

"We're thrilled that Chris brings extensive experience in rural health care operations, financial management, and provider relations, which will be instrumental in driving our continued growth," added Teri Theiler, Aspirus North WI Division President. "Having a strong, visible leader in our communities is crucial, and I'm excited that he has joined our dedicated team."

In addition to his experience in health care operations and leadership, Blair has served on the Board of Directors for three Chambers of Commerce, the American Heart Association, and the Northwest Arkansas Council - Health care Transformation Division.

## Tree clearing to close highway shoulders, lanes in Vilas; eight other counties

Motorists might encounter shoulder closures and lane closures controlled by flagging as roadway tree clearing is completed in advance of upcoming construction projects in nine counties, including Vilas County.

Clearing was slated to begin Monday, Jan. 13, along highways in the following:

- Vilas County, where work is planned on WIS 17 between U.S. 45 north of Eagle River and the Wisconsin-Michigan border.

- Forest County, where work is planned on U.S. 8 from WIS 55 South in Crandon to WIS 32 South in Laona.

- Green Lake County, where work is planned on WIS 44 from the Grand River Bridge in Markesan and the Fond du Lac County line.

- Lincoln County, where work is planned on U.S. 8 between North McCord

Road at the north county line and County L southeast of Lake Nokomis.

- Marathon County, where work is planned on WIS 29 from Purple Martin Lane west of Marathon City, east to the Little Rib River in Wausau.

- Menominee County, where work is planned on two segments of WIS 47 between the Langlade County line and WIS 55, and on WIS 55 between WIS 47 and the Langlade County line.

- Shawano County, where work is planned on WIS 29 from Shawano exit 227 to Rose Brook Road west of Shawano, and on WIS 156 from WIS 47 south of Bonduel east to WIS 55.

- Shawano and Waupaca counties, where work is planned on U.S. 45 from Gollnow Road in Marion to County C in Clintonville.

- Waupaca County, where work is planned on WIS 54 from the Portage County line east to Foxfire

Drive in Waupaca.

- Wood County, where work is planned on WIS 173 from WIS 80 North in Babcock to the Cranberry Bridge west of Nekoosa.

Tree clearing operations must be completed by March 15, and removal of downed trees and site restoration work must be completed by April 15.

For more information regarding traffic impacts, transportation news, and improvement project updates in Wisconsin's North Central Region, follow the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on Twitter @WisDOTnorthcent.

Motorists are reminded that using handheld cell phones in Wisconsin work zones is illegal. Alerts and updates provided via these sites are not intended for use while driving. When driving, focus should always be on driving.

## Aspirus Rhineland Hospital to unveil time capsule from 1981

A time capsule was discovered behind the cornerstone of the former St. Mary's Hospital on Kabel Avenue, and Aspirus Rhineland Hospital will unveil its contents on Monday, Feb. 3, at noon.

The hospital is located at 2251 N. Shore Drive.

The capsule was sealed over 40 years ago, in 1981, and is a symbol of the hospital's rich history.

The contents could offer a snapshot of life for the Rhineland community, showcasing not just health care artifacts, but also items that reflect the culture and

spirit of the time.

The event is open to the public and will take place in the Aspirus Rhineland Hospital Galleria, near the cafeteria.

For more information about Aspirus Rhineland Hospital, please visit [aspirus.org](http://aspirus.org).

## Real Estate

FROM PAGE 5

### Jan. 7, 2025

Robbi L. Hurckes to Mike A. Kuzniewicz and Doreen F. Kuzniewicz, gov lots 1-2 in 28-40-8, and gov lot 2 in 29-40-8, \$3,600.

Pieces of eight LLC to Sauey Family 1998 Trust and FBO Todd L. Sauey, lot 11 of plat 77 in Duner, \$2,250.

James D. Ayers and Carole J. Ayers to Northern Secure Storage LLC, NW SW in 21-40-10, \$1,650.

Craig Jackson and Melissa Jackson to Derrick McIntire, Patricia McIntire, Derrick Mc Intire and Patricia Mc Intire, NW SE in 22-40-8, \$375.

Daniel Howard and Genise Howard to Michelle Howard, Adrienne Howard and Matthew Howard, lot 1 of plat CSM5878, and SE SW and gov lot 6 in 16-40-9, \$102.90.

Mary Ann L. Debilzen Revocable Trust and Trustee Mary Ann L. Debilzen to Bell Inn Properties LLC, SE SW in 25-41-7, \$135.

Pinnacle Vacation Rentals LLC to Thomas A. Klinkhammer, lot 2 of plat CSM5313 and gov lot 4 in 17-40-8, \$5,400.

Adam Gohlke to Thomas Schlimm, lot 4 of plat CSM5841 and gov lots 2-3 in 8-42-9, \$840.

Peter Keller and Gisela G. Keller to Albert Keller and Cynthia Keller, gov lot 5 in 16-40-9, \$804.

Adam Gohlke to

Thomas L. and Barbara A. Brochtrup, lot 3 of plat CSM5841, gov lot 2-3 in 8-42-9, and lot 5 of plat CSM5842, \$2,055.

Adam Gohlke to Michelle Lonergan and Kenneth Lonergan, lot 1 of plat CSM5841 and gov lots 2-3 in 8-42-9, \$900.

Adam Gohlke to Jeffrey L. Muellner Trust and Michelle I. Muellner Trust, lot 9 of plat CSM5843, and gov lot 2-4 in 8-42-9, \$1,050.


### Jan. 8, 2025

Adam Gohlke to Paul and Kelly O' Brien Family Trust, lot 7 of plat CSM5842, and gov lots 2-3 in 8-42-9, \$1,200.

Timothy L. Johnson to Jenni L. Hanson, gov lot 4 in 36-40-9, \$579.60.

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# NEWS



**HOAR FROST** — Hoar frost is a unique kind of frost that forms when water vapor in the air freezes on solid surfaces that are below freezing. Heavy overcast and humid conditions over the holidays proved to be perfect conditions for the formation of hoar frost, like is seen in this photo taken on the Three Lakes chain. —Photos By Kurt Krueger

## Rep. Swearingen sworn in for seventh term

Representative Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland) has been sworn in for his seventh term as the 34th Assembly District representative in the Wisconsin State Assembly.

Rep. Swearingen released the following statement after being sworn in:

“It is an honor to begin my seventh term serving the residents of the North Woods. During this new session, I remain committed to continuing tax cuts, expanding broadband access, promoting tourism, and focusing on other issues affecting the 34th Assembly District,” Swearingen stated.

“I look forward to the opportunity to once again represent North Woods values in Madison and



Rep. Ron Swearingen

make our area a better place to live, work, and raise a family. My staff and I are here to help assist you with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding state government. Please feel free to contact my office at any time,” he concluded.

Rep. Swearingen has been reappointed to serve as the

chairman of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs. In addition, Rep. Swearingen will serve as Vice-Chair on the Assembly Committee on Tourism and the State Building Commission.

Rep. Swearingen is one of 54 Assembly Republicans in the 2025-2026 legislative session.

The representative’s office is located at 123 West at the Wisconsin State Capitol. He can be reached at (608) 266-7141 or by email at [Rep.Swearingen@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Rep.Swearingen@legis.wisconsin.gov). His legislative website can be found at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/34/swearingen>.

The 34th Assembly District represents the North Woods counties of Oneida and Vilas.

## Nicolet College invites art lovers to visit London

Registration is open for an educational art trip to London hosted by Nicolet College.

The trip will be May 7-18 and activities are focused on the evolution and history of art, as experienced through exhibits at London museums, galleries, and historic sites.

A Nicolet College art instructor will guide participants through their experiences at museums and galleries, to build knowledge of and appreciation for art. Participants will also visit Stonehenge and Salisbury Cathedral.

Registration information is available on the Nicolet College website and the deadline is Saturday, Feb. 1.

“If you love art, you should go, because it was truly an amazing trip” said Mira King, a Nicolet College graduate, who participated in the 2023 London study abroad trip.

The student trip fee is \$2,763 plus tuition for enrollment in a Nicolet College art course. The non-student trip fee is \$3,450. Non-students do not need to enroll in a class to participate.

The student cost of the trip has been made more affordable through donations to the Nicolet College foundation.

Included in the cost is round-trip airfare, transportation, hotel, museum and excursion fees, and some meals.

Nicolet College students earn course credit during

the trip, making progress toward their degree while immersed in this life-changing experience.

“I got to go on an art trip of a lifetime to London, England, through Nicolet to embrace my creative side,” said Kayla Fraley, another past participant in 2023. “Nicolet College gave me experiences that I never would have thought possible.”

Current Nicolet College students who need help paying for the trip may be able to use financial aid or apply for a scholarship.

For more information about the program, visit Nicolet College’s website or contact Karen GriesRoehrich, global education coordinator.



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call 800.847.4707



# Sports



Ryker Schingeck (L) of Rebel Jays earns major decision win last week against Parker Boomsma of Lena High School. —Photo By William Zuelke

## Roy and Schingeck lead brackets at Cutler Classic; go 14-0 for Rebel Jays

BY WILLIAM ZUELKE  
CORRESPONDENT

During another busy week for the Wabeno-Laona-Three Lakes varsity wrestling team, Reegan Roy and Ryker Schingeck led the squad with a combined 14-0 match record covering two competitions, including top placements in their respective weight brackets at the Cutler Classic invitational last week at New London High School.

The event included more than 200 varsity wrestlers from 18 schools, where Roy at 106 pounds, and Schingeck at 120 pounds, captured championships through 4-0 records. Roy is now the top wrestler in the state in his weight class with a 30-1 match record for the season. Schingeck carries a 19-3 record into his next match and joined Roy with a perfect 7-0 record in two events last week.

“Reegan and Ryker had another great wrestling week,” said Rebel Jays head coach Seth Senter

following the Cutler Classic on Saturday. “They both entered this tournament fresh from placements in Oshkosh two weeks ago and are enjoying high levels of success. Reegan has wrestled in so many major tournaments that he never gets rattled on the mat, and Ryker keeps getting better and better as he grows with experience.”

Roy’s first-place match victory was against Zander Mueller of Brillion High School. Mueller has a match record of 27-3 and the two have each shared time this season as the highest-ranking wrestler in the 106-pound weight class. Just two weeks ago, Roy defeated Mueller by a 4-0 decision in the semifinal round of the Lourdes on the Water Wrestling Classic in Oshkosh and may be paired again in postseason competition.

Max Clark (113 lbs.) placed third in the Cutler Classic with a 4-1 record while earning his 21st overall win of the year, and

was joined with a podium spot by teammate Brody Hoffman (175 lbs.) who placed fourth. Hoffman was 3-2 in the tournament and is now 22-10 during the season.

The only other varsity wrestlers who qualified to participate in New London were Three Lakes High School senior Noah Kincaid (165 lbs.) and Wabeno High School junior Levi Newman (215 lbs.). Kincaid had two pin victories in this event and finished the week with three pins while Newman, who has been fighting some respiratory issues, finished the week with a neutral 3-3 match record.

Prior to the Cutler Classic last Saturday, the Rebel Jays participated in a quad meet in Lena High School on Thursday, competing against the Wildcats and wrestlers from Antigo High School and Florence High School. Standout performances included perfect 3-0 match records from Roy, Schingeck, Newman and another freshman wrestler,

Cameron Tilton, who at 120 pounds earned two of his three victories by pin.

According to Senter, Tilton has shown great promise for the Rebel Jays and feels he can positively impact the team moving forward.

“Cameron has performed well to this point,” he said, “and, as he matures in the sport, opportunities for success will be even greater.”

Other Rebel Jay grapplers who participated in Lena were Naaman Stanley, Sawyer Jameson, Levi Shepard, Nolan Milham and Michael Milligan. Each had some strong moments on the mat, including a major decision victory for Shepard against Caleb Vandenlangenberg of Antigo High School.

Next up for the varsity squad will be a quad event at Wabeno High School early this week, followed by a previously unscheduled event beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 18, at Peshtigo High School.



## Sideline Scoop

BY JACOB HEID

### World Championship Derby is a great experience

The running of the World Championship Snowmobile Derby is something that everyone should experience, no matter if you live in Eagle River or not. Thousands of fans flock to the North Woods for this weekend of racing and the Vintage World Championships usually the weekend prior.

Ice oval racing, where professional drivers hit the front and back stretch at a high speed and throw their sleds into the corners at nearly 100 miles per hour, is more exciting than any other racing I’ve experienced.

My experience with the Derby probably started when I was still in high school down in the Milwaukee area. It was a blast watching the neon yellow sled of Cardell Potter winning a World Championship in 2015, along with Polaris rider Nick Van Strydonk taking it in 2017.

While balancing school and after-school activities, my family and I would make the four-hour trek up to Eagle River on Friday nights pretty much every weekend, especially for Derby Weekend.

Between my dad, my sister and I, we would make sure we would be in attendance for Friday Night Thunder, along with part of the Saturday festivities and again for Championship Sunday. Starting in the winter of 2018 we were able to witness over the next three years a run for the history books. Blaine Stephenson and his 102 Polaris ride began a string of dominance only he has accomplished at the derby track. The Minnesota native was the first champ rider to accomplish three consecutive world championships in Eagle River, which he did in 2020.

He followed that up with a fourth consecutive in 2021, which again made him the only rider to do so at the half-mile Eagle River track.

After moving to Stevens Point for a few years after graduating college in 2022, I missed out on the last few years, but I am glad to be back.

Ski-Doo riders have dominated the Derby over the years, with 28 wins in the 61 runnings of the event. From 1985, that specific manufacturer won 17 straight World Championships, which finally ended in 2001 when a Polaris led the field.

Most recently, Ski-Doo rider Matt Goede, of New Germany, Minn., has consecutive wins in Eagle River heading into the 2025 championship and has a chance to make history.

If he was able to lead the pack Sunday afternoon, he would collect his third-straight World Title and become just the second rider (along with Stephenson) at Eagle River to win for three straight years.

Action at the World Championship Derby Complex starts tomorrow, with practice and World Championship FIII time trials to kick off racing Friday at 10:30 a.m.

## STANDINGS

### EAGLE RIVER POOL LEAGUE

Results of 1/9/25

Results: Eagle Lanes 13, Club 45 13; Uncle Kent's 19, Uncle Kent's II 7; Brew's Pub 10, Denoyer's II 6; Northern Exposure 11, Lumpy's 5; Denoyer's I 15, Club 45 II 1; Club 45 III 9, Log Cabin 7  
Eight Ball Runs: Cal Wick, Frank Sarkauskas, Steph Snyder

STANDINGS	W	L
EAGLE LANES	152	56
CLUB 45 III	135	73
BREW'S PUB	123	85
NORTHERN EXPOSURE	113	95
DENOYER'S I	108	100
UNCLE KENTS I	108	100
CLUB 45 I	97	111
LUMPY'S	88	120
UNCLE KENTS II	88	120
DENOYER'S II	85	123
CLUB 45 II	76	132
LOG CABIN	75	133

### EAGLE RIVER DARTBALL

Results of 1/8/25

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

Top female shooters: Taylor Healy 8/22, Mabel Ernst 6/25, Sarah Winter 5/19, Beth Radowicz 4/23, Theresa Ternig 2/25

Top men shooters: Brian Arnoldussen 12/22, John Ariola 11/19, Joe Romdenne 9/19, Pete Aiello 8/23, Dan

Welzien 7/18, Bill Ernst 6/22, Don Scharf 5/24, Joe Struck 5/25, Ricardo Freye 4/14, Scott eschenbach 3/13

Home runs: Bonnie Omerick, Tina Aiello, Ricky Freye

Standings	W	L
Eagle Lanes	18	9
Club 45	17	9
	(one tie)	
Shotskis	17	10
Sweetwater II	17	10
Sweetwater I	14	13
Club Denoyer	12	15
Thunderbird	13	14
Veteran Center	11	15
	(one tie)	
Mud Creek II	10	17
Mud creek I	5	22

### THREE LAKES DARTBALL

Results of 1/8/25

Team Results: Oneida Village II 1, Legion Newbies 1 (one tie); Village People 2, Wildcats 1

Top women shooters: Cathie Collins 2/7, LuAnne Leimbacher 2/10, Jill Phiefer 3/11, Sue Schultz 2/11

Top men shooters: Brent Zanzinger 3/6, Reg Videgar 3/11, Paul Kaiser 3/13, Terry Kloehn 5/10

Home Runs: Brent Zanzinger, LuAnne Leimbacher, Jill Phiefer

Standings	W	L
Wildcats	16	5
Legion Newbies	10	10
Village People	8	13
Oneida Village II	7	13

## Lady Eagles drop two GNC games; Pines confident entering new week

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

After some close calls, the Northland Pines girls' basketball team was searching for its first win in nine games, but came up short in a road loss, 28-62, to Mosinee Jan. 7 and dropping a 26-64 home game to Medford Jan. 9.

The Eagles took the trip down to Central Wisconsin last Tuesday to face one of the premier teams in the Great Northern Conference.

It was a tough break as the Eagles quickly fell behind and took a 12-48 game into halftime.

“Mosinee was honestly our biggest struggle of the year,” said Pines head coach Jaclyn Halsey. “Twenty-two turnovers and two rebounds in the first half may be a new record we never want to break again. This group of girls is known for their fight. They play hard, no matter what the circumstances, and that’s why I love to coach this team. Tuesday, though, got the best of us.”

Despite the lop-sided score, Halsey said the Mosinee press didn’t really make the team flustered,

it was the self-inflicted wounds that caused the Eagles to fall behind.

“Their press wasn’t a major issue for us. The only time their press truly was working is when we made our own mistakes by losing the ball,” she said. “However, we cut, reserved, and found the gaps in the press with ease. We just needed to clean up our personal passing and ball handling.”

Senior guard Vienna Klemett led the team offensively, as she showed her shooting range by going 4-for-7 from behind the 3-point line. She finished with a team-high 14 points.

“Vienna took a major leadership role in this game. We had a scary amount of turnovers, and she only contributed 2 to that tally while playing a majority of the game,” Halsey said about her senior guard. “When I asked for more energy and accountability to make things happen, I saw a conscious effort from her to do so in the second half.”

Eden Smith also tallied her first varsity points of her career in the game.

### Medford loss

Entering a game inside its own fieldhouse, Northland Pines had a refreshed mindset heading into a contest with the Raiders.

“We came into this game with a much better mentality. Energy was up, we were getting rebounds, less turnovers, and finally getting to the line for some free throw,” explained Halsey.

Defensively, a main focus was to control the offensive production of Medford’s Kayla Baumgartner, who is averaging just about 14 points per game for the Raiders. The Eagles held her to just nine points despite Medford pouring it on and ultimately dominating the scoreboard.

“We talked about being aware of Medford’s Baumgartner on our defense, and making some small changes in our half-court trap when she was on the floor,” stated Halsey. “We executed that well, holding her to nine points all game, and doing our best to attack her on the offensive end to draw fouls. Unfortunately, the flip side of that was we didn’t

do as well with Medford’s Klingbell, who dropped 25 points on us.”

The Eagles had plenty of opportunity on offense, putting up 48 shots, with most of them coming inside the 3-point line. Pines only made six field goals and 2-for-6 from distance. With an aggressive attack, the Eagles also attempted 16 free throws in the loss. Halsey mentioned that she liked most of the shot-attempts, but now they need to be converted.

“Most of them were all good shots to take, but we failed to knock them down. Going into this week’s practice we will be focusing more on our offensive game, working on how to create opportunities to score, and cleaning up our shots so that we can benefit from our efforts,” she said.

The Eagles are back in action this week with a busy slate of home games, which started with a home game versus Antigo on Tuesday.

Pine will face Bowler at home Thursday at 7:30 p.m. before waiting until Saturday afternoon to face Gillett in a girls/boys doubleheader starting at 2:30 p.m.

## Falcons continue to roll

The Eagle River Falcons continued its dominance in the Great Lakes Hockey League this past weekend with a 7-2 win over the Calumet Wolverines last Saturday in Eagle River. Seven different skaters scored, including Alex Racino, Alex Hauswirth, Lucas Otto, Bryan Kronberger, Todd Kowitzinsky, Joe Roach and Mach Maillette. The Falcons are now 5-1 and sit in fourth place with 10 points this season. Next up for the team is a home game versus the DePere Deacons Saturday, Jan. 25, after having a weekend off of hockey.





# SPORTS



Northland Pines sophomore Sam Shrock battles with a Hayward player in their own defensive zone in a 4-2 loss Jan. 7 inside the Eagle River Ice Arena. —Staff Photos By JACOB HEID

## Eagles top Ashland in dominant fashion

BY CHRIS OATMAN  
CORRESPONDENT

It was all Eagles during a 6-1 rout of the Ashland Oredockers at the Eagle River Sports Arena Jan. 11, which was a bounce back from a 4-2 loss to Hayward Jan. 7 inside the same building.

The Eagles came into the Ashland game with a 5-8 record before completing business.

Pines started strong and led 2-0 after one period on goals by Michael Schmidt, assisted by Sam Shrock and Cooper Saari, and by Morgan DePuydt with helpers from Peter Anderson and Saari.

“Michael Schmidt is an

unbelievable hockey player and teammate. He’s been really great for us this year,” stated Pines head coach Zach Otto. “He has a lot of heart, and you know every time he steps on the ice you’re going to get 100%.”

Ashland finally answered in the second period to make it a one-goal game, but DePuydt assisted on a goal by Jazek Jantzen and the Eagles were back up by two at 3-1 going into the third.

Pines owned the third with three unanswered goals, one by Nicholas Hahn with an assist from Easton Otto. Saari scored unassisted and Schmidt went solo for the 6-1 victory.

Schmidt’s two-goal performance came about a year after he previously suffered a scary concussion in a home game.

The Eagles also had a home game with Hayward Jan. 7 and lost to the Hurricanes, 4-2.

Pines could not get much of anything going in the first two periods and trailed 2-0 as Hayward tallied both goals in the middle frame.

Things got interesting when Anderson scored from Cooper Saari early in the third period to get the Eagles within a goal.

Hayward found the net with 11 minutes left, but an unassisted tally by Michael Schmidt made it a one-goal game again with nine minutes to go.

The Eagles scrambled to tie it, but Hayward scored into an empty net with a minute left and held on for the 4-2 win.

“This team needs to consistently play three solid periods,” said Otto. “We can’t have letdowns for an entire period. The goal keeping (by Evrett Leslie) was good as usual, but we have to keep more pressure on in the offensive zone,” he said.

The Northland Pines boys hockey team has a current record of 6-8 and 1-2 in the Great Northern Conference (GNC).

The Eagles were scheduled to play Rhinelander in a GNC game Tuesday at 7 p.m. That game was set to be played in Eagle River.

Pines will travel to Antigo for a GNC game on Thursday at 7 p.m. and will go to Medford for another GNC contest on Tuesday, January 21, at 7 p.m.

## Three Lakes nearly beats Rebels, drops second of back-to-back

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a busy second half of the week for the Three Lakes boys basketball team as the Jays faced a back-to-back road trip at Laona-Wabeno and Hurley last Thursday and Friday.

It turned out that the Jays couldn’t hold on in a 62-52 loss to the Rebels and followed that up with a 56-45 loss at Hurley.

Three Lakes turned up the heat defensively in the first half on the road at Northern Lakes Conference favorite Laona-Wabeno. It turned out to be a tale of two halves after Three Lakes held the Rebels, who average 58 points per game, to just 17 at halftime and led 20-17.

From there, the Jays were outscored 45-32 in the second half after the team played well for most of the game, according to Head Coach George Lurvey.

“We played our best basketball in ¾ of this game; we held Laona Wabeno to just 17 points at halftime. We again just couldn’t put a full game together, which is what has been plaguing us this season. We have glimpses of playing fantastic basketball and as we get tired, we make mistakes and teams tend to pull away from us,” he said. “The loss of 10 in this

game is a little deceiving as the game was really a back-and-forth four-to-five point game most of the game. We had to foul down the stretch to try to get the ball back and Laona-Wabeno made all of their free throws.”

Energy stuck out to the coaching staff, which helped in the effort to keep the Jays in the game, until they were forced to foul as the time continued to wind down.

“I was really proud of the guys with the energy they brought to this game and their effort throughout the game,” explained Lurvey. “If we limit some crucial turnovers in the second half and aren’t forced to foul at the end, this game could have gone either way.”

Easton Lurvey (15) and Peyton Pitlik (12) led the scoring, while there was also a balanced scoring effort with Eli Erickson scoring nine, and Levi Lurvey and Owen Liebscher each pitching in six.

### Hurley game

After a tough loss the night before, the drainage seemed to drip into a game against a gritty Hurley team, who picked up the nonconference win.

Like the last game, Three Lakes used its defense in the first half and kept Hurley uncomfortable

offensively.

“We did not play well at all in this game. I think it was the product of an emotional game the day before at Laona and almost pulling off an upset there, and then the next day traveling to Hurley to play a very fast scrappy team,” said Lurvey. “We were banged up with some injuries from the game the day before and it showed in this game. Again, we played phenomenal defense in the first half, holding Hurley to 20 points at halftime, but we didn’t have enough gas in the tank to stay with them for a full game.”

Pitlik stepped up in the game and broke through offensively despite losing the game. He finished the night with 22 points and used his size to collect 20 rebounds.

“Peyton kept us in this game with a 22 point, 20 rebound game,” stated Lurvey. “He really played well in this one where his teammates were all struggling shooting; he picked up the slack with a great performance and aggressive play.”

Three Lakes (3-7,1-2) faced NLC foe Florence at home this past Tuesday, before hosting a nonconference game with Mellen on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7:15 p.m.

## Eagles co-op loses three in five-day stretch

BY CHRIS OATMAN  
CORRESPONDENT

The Northland Pines girls hockey co-op hit a bumpy stretch of its schedule after the holiday break, getting handed losses to the Central Wisconsin Storm (8-0) Jan. 7, the Icebergs (2-1) Jan. 10, and the Eau Claire Area Stars (5-0) Jan. 11.

The Eagles went on the road to visit the Storm, a perennial power currently ranked third in the state, and had no luck finding the back of the net. Pines fired eight shots on goal to the Storms’ 50.

Pines bounced back with a more competitive game last Friday in Eagle River, where there were plenty of chances on the net to score some goals. The Eagles fired 25 shots compared to the 39 from Stoughton, as neither side capitalized on opportunities in the first

two periods.

It was Ava Carillo who broke the scoreless tie with a powerplay goal at 11:43 of the third period, which held for just over a minute before the Icebergs tied things up to force overtime.

Nearly three minutes into the OT period, the visiting Icebergs lit the lamp to steal a competitive win.

The Eagles played inside their barn again Saturday, but failed to score after piling on just nine shots.

“I would rather be playing teams like this who force our girls to pick up the pace of the game and elevate their play,” noted Pines head coach Jeff Stebbeds. “I don’t want to use our youth as an excuse all the time, but that experience will come and we’ll be putting the puck in the net better, too.”

Coach Stebbeds also

highlighted the play of freshman goalie, Lucy Nowak, who has a 3-9 record through 13 games.

The Eagles don’t score many goals, but Nowak’s play gives them a chance in most games. She has stopped 438 of 483 shots on goal or 90.7%.

“Lucy is so solid and she’s always ready to play. She keeps throwing 50 saves out there and keeps us in about every game,” said Stebbeds.

The Northland girls hockey team has a 3-10 record and was scheduled to play at Medford Tuesday night.

The Eagles travel to Sun Prairie to meet the Cap City Cougars Friday, Jan. 17, starting at 5:30 p.m.

They then play the Badger Lightning Saturday, Jan. 18, in Baraboo. Puck drop is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. there.



Northland Pines senior Julian Merschdorf controls the puck as he heads into the offensive zone.

**Upcoming** WINTER 2024-'25

## High School Varsity Hoops Schedules

Jan. 16 - Jan. 22, 2025

<p><b>Northland Pines Eagles</b></p> <p><b>Boys Basketball</b></p> <p>Thurs., Jan. 16 vs Rib Lake - 6:00pm Sat., Jan. 18 vs Gillett - 4:00pm Tues., Jan. 21 vs Wausau East - 7:15pm</p> <p><b>Girls Basketball</b></p> <p>Thurs., Jan. 16 vs Bowler - 7:30pm Sat., Jan. 18 vs Gillett - 2:30pm</p>	<p><b>Three Lakes Blue Jays</b></p> <p><b>Boys Basketball</b></p> <p>Thurs., Jan. 16 vs Mellon - 7:15pm Tues., Jan. 21 at Elcho - 5:30pm</p> <p><b>Girls Basketball</b></p> <p>Sat., Jan. 18 vs Sturgeon Bay - 1:00pm Tues., Jan. 21 at Elcho - 7:15pm</p>
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<p><b>EAGLE RIVER CABINETS, INC.</b></p> <p>Two locations to serve you 5234 Hwy. 70 West, Eagle River, WI 54521 Phone: (715) 479-7479 1419 Lincoln St., Rhinelander, WI 54501 Phone: (715) 362-3400</p>	<p><b>Eagle River Animal Hospital</b></p> <p>715-479-7090 1720 Hwy. 45 N., Eagle River, WI 54521 www.EAGLERIVERVET.com</p>	<p><b>Eliason Realty</b></p> <p>Eagle River Office 715-479-4431   Land O' Lakes 715-547-3341   St. Germain Office 715-542-3223</p>	<p><b>Nelson's ACE Hardware</b></p> <p>606 E. Wall, Eagle River • 715-479-4496</p>
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# Hockey Schedules

2024-'25

**Jan. 16 - Jan. 22, 2025**

<p><b>Eagle River Falcons</b></p> <p>No Games</p>	<p><b>Northland Pines Eagles</b></p> <p><b>Boys</b></p> <p>Thurs., Jan. 16 at Antigo - 7:00pm Tues., Jan. 21 at Medford - 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Girls</b></p> <p>Fri., Jan. 17 at Sun Prairie - 5:30pm Sat., Jan. 18 at Baraboo - 1:00pm Tues., Jan. 21 vs Stevens Point - 6:00pm</p>
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## SPORTS

## Lady Jays can't solve Hodags in conference crossover battle

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Three Lakes-Phelps girls basketball team couldn't take advantage of Rhinelander's full-court pressure last Tuesday in the Great Northern Conference-Northern Lakes crossover game in Three Lakes, where the Hodags came away with a 64-37 win.

Back on the road, the Lady Jays finished the week with a win/loss at Phillips Friday.

Head coach Rich Javenkoski talked about Rhinelander's defensive presence and how the dominos didn't fall the right way with some of the mistakes throughout the game.

"They were relentless on their press. We made one too many mistakes for sure," said Javenkoski. "Our goal was to be competitive and keep the scoring low. We did that in the first half, but it got away a little bit in the second half."

The TLP defense started strong, coming away with



Three Lakes-Phelps freshman Malia Szews drives through two Rhinelander defenders in the second half of a 64-37 loss to the Hodags in Three Lakes Jan. 3. —Staff Photos By JACOB HEID

roughly three steals in the first four minutes of the game. Junior Libby Eppler had two of those, which sparked another decent game for her.

"Libby Eppler had another good game. She stood out; played great defense and scored 10 points," stated Javenkoski. "Everybody on defense hustled. Our defense held us in the game in the half-court. However, turnovers killed us."

In a tight game, about halfway through the first half, Rhinelander put on the afterburners and went on a long run, which put the game at 25-9 with less than a minute to go in the half.

TLP junior Kaylee Wilson grabbed some momentum before the buzzer as she jumped a Rhinelander pass and went coast-to-coast to make it a 25-11 game at halftime.

With a low-scoring half, which bled into the second half, missed close shots and free throws were also a factor.

"We probably left 16 points on the table because we didn't finish at the basket," explained Javenkoski. "Free throws,

9-of-19, not going to do it."

TLP shot 33% from the floor, while Rhinelander was 45% from the field. The Lady Jays couldn't convert on a 3-point shot in the game, but the Hodags hit 45% of theirs.

Outside of Eppler's 10 points, junior Haylee Barnekow had six points, and freshman Malia Szews finished with five points

The battle on the boards proved to be pretty even, even without the presence of six-foot-two junior Paige Bradford, who is a key piece on the interior for the Jays. She is out with an injury, but the team is hopeful to get her back on the court as soon as possible.

The Jays were back on the road Jan. 10 for a game at Phillips, in which TLP dropped the game 63-46.

Back in NLC play, the lady Jays were on the road at Crandon this past Monday, and they will host Sturgeon Bay this Saturday, Jan. 18, at 1 p.m.



Junior Haylee Barnekow goes for strong drive to the hoop in the loss.

Nicolet  
NATIONAL BANK  
PRESENTS  
Senior  
Spotlight

Mia Tulowitzky,  
Northland Pines  
co-op girls hockey

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, Mia Tulowitzky of the Northland Pines girls hockey co-op is in the spotlight. She attends Rhinelander High School, as does the one other senior on the team. Tulowitzky's favorite sport is hockey and she plans on attending UW-Milwaukee after graduation. Here's more on the Pines hockey co-op senior.

How long have you played hockey?

"I have been playing hockey since sixth grade, but was hurt two of the years. My older brother got me into playing hockey because I would remember going to his games and thinking that it would be so much fun to play, and I loved the environment surrounding hockey."

If you could time travel to the future or back in time, which would you choose?

"I'd rather go back in time to correct past mistakes and relive happy

moments with loved ones who have passed away."

Do you prefer watching movies or TV shows?

"I prefer TV shows rather than movies because they are longer and I think there is more going on than watching a movie. My favorite show at the moment is New Girl."

What is your favorite thing about hockey?

"My favorite thing about hockey is the long-lasting friendships that I have made along the way."

What other sports do you play in?

"I also play soccer in the spring, but my favorite sport is hockey."

Do you have plans for after high school?

"After high school, I plan to attend UW-Milwaukee in the fall for radiology and a minor in Spanish."

Eagle boys edge Mosinee, but lose battle at Medford

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH  
CORRESPONDENT

I'm happy for our team. They deserved that win."

Medford loss

The Northland Pines boys basketball team pulled out a tough Great Northern Conference (GNC) game against rival Mosinee 53-49 in the fieldhouse last Tuesday.

The Eagles came out of the gate fast, building a 9-2 lead before the visitors went on a 22-3 run to take a 24-12 advantage. Pines did not panic, however, and came roaring back to tie the score at 28-28 at the break.

"We put together a nice half," said Pines coach Terry Klemett. "The guys started off well and then there was a lid on the rim. But we stayed aggressive on both sides of the ball and that helped us close the gap."

The second half saw the Eagles and Mosinee battle back and forth, with Pines taking a five-point lead with four (4) minutes remaining in the contest. Mosinee went on a run of their own to take a six-point lead with two (2) minutes remaining before the Eagles made a final push to take the lead by five points and eventually secure the 53-49 victory.

Mylo Albrecht led Pines with 23 points, followed by Jonathan Miller with 10 points. Jack Albrecht and Ethan Miller each contributed seven points. Miller (Jonathan) grabbed eight rebounds, while Miller (Ethan) had six boards and A.J. Muench had five. Muench also had four assists to aid the offense.

"We played a great basketball game and we ran our game plan perfectly," said Klemett. "It was a huge win for us and

The Eagles traveled to Medford Friday for another GNC game and lost at Raider Hall 67-52. The home team shot well throughout the first half, taking a 10-point lead into the break at 35-25.

"We did not shoot the ball that well, but we were playing hard," said Klemett.

Medford came out fast in the second and shot the lights out in the first 5 minutes to take a 20-point lead to secure the 15-point win.

"We shot poorly and they shot the lights out," said Klemett. "It's tough to win here, and when you combine cold shooting to the mix, it will not end up in your favor."

Pines made just 7 of 31 three-point shots in the game for 23%. The Eagles made 15 of 38 two-point shots for 39%. Medford, on the other hand, dropped 10 of 26 three-point shots for 38% and 13 of 26 two-point shots for 50%.

Mylo Albrecht led Pines with 13 points, followed by Jack Albrecht with 11, Ethan Miller with 10, and Muench and Jonathan Miller with seven points apiece. Muench and Jonathan Miller each had seven rebounds, and Jack Albrecht dished out five assists.

Pines, 7-5 overall and 2-3 in the GNC, was scheduled to play at Antigo on Tuesday of this week in a GNC game and will host Rib Lake in a nonconference game this Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6 p.m. The Eagles will then host Gillett in a nonconference game Saturday, Jan. 18, at 4 p.m.



The Super Stock 340 Liquid class final held Sunday was led by the No. 404 rode by Ryan Lisowe as he leads the pack out of turn four onto the straightaway at the World Championship Derby Complex in Eagle River.

—Staff Photo By JACOB HEID

Windigo gets bumped out of first place with weekend split

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wisconsin Windigo welcomed the Minnesota Wilderness to the Historic Eagle River Dome this past week, and with a two-game split, the Anchorage Wolverines took over first place in the Midwest Division of the North American Hockey League's Midwest Division.

Wisconsin struggled to keep up Thursday night as it fell 5-3 to the Wilderness and bounced back with a 4-0 win Friday night.

"I was disappointed with Thursday's loss. We failed to clear

rebounds and let guys get behind our defensemen. We made it too easy for them to score," said Windigo head coach John Mitchell.

Windigo 3,  
Wilderness 5

Jakeb Lynch got the visitors on the board first with a power play goal just over nine minutes into the game. Windigo

captain Logan Nickolaus tied it up with four minutes remaining in the opening frame when he tucked in a rebound of a shot off the stick of Felix Haibock. The first period ended with the Wilderness holding a slight advantage with 12 shots on net to the Windigo's 11.

The Wilderness really took control of the game in the second period, where the visitors scored three consecutive goals to open the score to 4-1 with about five minutes left in the frame. Within that short time, the Windigo exploded for two goals, one Windigo defenseman Declan Burns scored his fourth goal of the season 16:05 into the second period. Burns carried the puck into the offensive zone and passed the puck off. Nickolaus,

whose shot hit the toe of the Wilderness' goaltender, got that followed by Burns tapping the rebound into a gaping net.

Nickolaus continued his hot hand and scored his

fifth goal in the last three games to bring the Windigo to within one. Nickolaus' second goal of the night came with a minute left in the second period when he tipped in a shot off the stick of Riley Joslin.

An aggressive offensive period for Wisconsin saw it outshoot Minnesota 16-9 but failed to capitalize on the scoreboard as Minnesota put itself up by two early in the period.

Windigo 4,  
Wilderness 0

It was a much different story Friday night as the home team came away victorious in a big way.

The Windigo outshot Minnesota 14 to 6 in the first period. Ben Aucion put the Windigo on the board six minutes into the contest as a 1-0 stayed that way until the first intermission.

Beau Kralovec's shorthanded goal put the Windigo up 2 to 0 midway through the second period. Kralovec picked up a loose

puck in the neutral zone and headed up ice on a breakaway. His shot beat the Wilderness netminder low to the short side.

"I think Kralovec's shorthanded goal on Saturday demoralized them a bit. It was

great to see him get rewarded for his effort. He works hard game in and game out," said Mitchell.

Jordan Brothers scored his fourth of the season five minutes into the third period to increase the Windigo lead to 3 to 0.

Windigo defenseman Harper Frey closed out the scoring with an empty netter with 3:28 remaining in the game.

Lucas Szyszka bounced back in a big way and stopped all 25 shots he faced Friday.

Wisconsin continues its six-game homestand with the Springfield Jr. Blues as they come to town this weekend, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 17-18, starting at 7 p.m.



# Lifestyle

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EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521

vcnewsreview.com

Wednesday, January 15, 2025



**GAME ON** — Racers were in the zone as they moved towards the starting line throughout the running of the 24th Vintage World Championships last weekend.

**Top left:** Champ riders sit lined up ready to go during the last chance qualifier for the WC race Sunday.

**Top right:** Flagman Todd Persha gives a thumbs up as he stayed busy with finals races all day Sunday.

**Bottom:** Champ riders Nathan Faucht, left, and Joseph Burns, right, focus in on the task at hand before the WC.

—Staff Photos By JACOB HEID



## Olson Library to host bake-off fundraiser this weekend

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.

## Free community dinner set Jan. 21

Northwoods Share is having its first free community dinner of 2025 on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Parsons of Eagle River is sponsoring this meal and LP's Pizza and Pasta, formerly BuckShots, is catering the meal. They are serving a lasagna dinner with salad and garlic bread, and NWS will provide desserts.

The dinner will be at The Rock Mission Center 1019 E.

Wall Street in Eagle River.

Appetizers will be served at 4:30 p.m., when doors open, followed by dinner served at 5:30 p.m.

There will be an opportunity to give a free will offering if anyone wants to.

Anyone from the community is invited to sit down at a table and share a meal with others as they deepen relationships.

Northwoods Share Inc.

is a nonprofit organization with a Needs Ministry which provides a pantry with free paper products and soaps, along with personal care items and clothing, to assist families here in this community. This is open every Wednesday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and is located just behind The Rock Mission Center, across from Tone Zone in Eagle River.

They also have a program called ICHELP that helps financially and assists families in budgeting with spending journals. There is a 24 hour phone for emergencies at (715) 891-8966.

Lastly, NWS has opened their first Esther's House as a transitional home for moms and their children.

For more information on any of these visit [www.NorthwoodsShare.org](http://www.NorthwoodsShare.org)

## Pines' charter school meetings start Monday

Informational meetings are beginning this week for parents and students to tour charter school options within the Northland Pines School District.

The 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 **To MEETINGS, Pg. 5**



## Not that you asked, but ...

BY ERIC JOHNSON

### Splitting hairs

"We're all born bald, baby."  
— American actor Telly Savalas (1922-1994)

Pay no attention to the picture.

Like a lot of men, I've been dealing with a hairy situation. Or, truth be told, I've been dealing with a less-than-hairy situation. Less hairs by the year, month, week and day that is.

Yes, genetics has caught up with me and is busy logging the hairs on my head. Male pattern baldness clearly cut a wide swath of the back of my head, and is now busy selectively logging the top of my head. When I look in the mirror, I increasingly see more skin and less hair; my scalp increasingly reflecting the lumens from the vanity lights above.

As the 1986 Timbuck 3 song goes, "The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades." Or at least get dimmer light bulbs for the bathroom. Maybe just perpetually use the nightlight.

Those in the know at healthline.com say that the average human head has about 100,000 hairs, with a similar number of hair follicles, which translates to around 800-1,290 hairs per square inch. For my color hair, it's around 110,000 — or at least it was. Nowadays, not so much.

Cracking open the Holy Bible, it's noted in Matthew 10 that "even the very hairs of your head are all numbered."

Which, when the Lord gets to ciphering the hairs

To JOHNSON, Pg. 5

## Traditional ice castle returns to Eagle River

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH  
CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in four

years, the Eagle River Ice Castle has returned to the community for thousands to view the next two months.

The Eagle River Fire Department and dozens of volunteers constructed the traditional ice castle last

Thursday through Sunday, first cutting blocks of ice from Silver Lake and then constructing the castle at the historic railroad depot near downtown Eagle River.

Eagle River Fire Chief Michael Anderson said the ice castle is a winter tradition in the city and has become an annual tourist attraction. The first ice castle was constructed in Eagle River in the late 1920s.

"It is good to build it again this year, as we missed two years since the last one was constructed," said Anderson. "Before that one we had missed three years. So it is only the second one in five years."

The ice castle, which rises nearly 30 feet above ground level, features 2,000 blocks of ice, each weighing about 90 pounds.

To CASTLE, Pg. 2



The Eagle River Fire Department used heavy equipment and scaffolding to construct the ice castle towers Friday afternoon.

—Photos By Gary Ridderbusch



# LIFESTYLE

## Doll club to meet Thursday

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.

## Easy Eagles meeting scheduled Jan. 22

The Easy Eagles men's luncheon group will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at Chef Rene's, located in the Eagle River Inn.

The group has a speaker at each luncheon to share timely and interesting (noncontroversial) subjects.

The group welcomes new members so, if interested, attend a meeting or contact Mike at 262-287-2654 for more information.

## Northwoods Children's Museum to hold dino dig adventures Jan. 26

Tickets are now on sale for Dinosaur Dig Adventure Experiences at the Northwoods Children's Museum on Sunday, Jan. 26.

Children should eat lunch before their session, and an adult must stay in the museum the entire time.

Children will have a chance to learn about dinosaurs, paleontology and fossils. They will receive a hat, bag and snack to take with them on their adventure.

The experience is designed for ages five to ten, but all ages are welcome.

Free-play in the museum will not be available as the museum will be transformed into a desert for a more immersive experience.

There are two sessions available for the Sunday, Jan. 26 experience: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 per child and on sale now. Call 715-479-4623 to reserve a spot.

## Badger Bridge details winners

- 1st place - Bob Dow and Jerry Baerenwald.
- 2nd place - Marie Andersen and Ginny Arvey.
- 3rd place - Mary Stockmal and Ed Stoever.
- 4th place - Shele Fawcett and Linda Wise.

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



Former Eagle River Fire Department Fire Chief Pat Weber (right) and volunteers guided 13-inch blocks of crystal clear ice through a shaver to make them a uniform size prior to construction of the Eagle River Ice Castle near the railroad depot.

## Castle

FROM PAGE 1

The 13-inch thick ice was cut with a special machine last week on Silver Lake, just a mile from downtown Eagle River. Firefighters and volunteers then moved the ice via a conveyor from the icy lake to waiting pickup trucks. The ice was hauled to the depot parking lot where more volunteers used a special shaver to trim the ice blocks to 13 inches.

"We were pretty lucky this year as most of the ice came out of Silver Lake between 13 and 13 1/2 inches, so there wasn't much shaving to do," said Anderson. "And an added bonus is the ice is really clear this year."

Crews began erecting the ice castle early Friday morning, using power hoists and scaffolding to aid in reaching the high points of the three towers. Water is poured over the blocks of ice to freeze them in place and colored lights are installed inside the castle to illuminate the unique structure at night.

"Building the ice castle is a great community project and it builds a lot of camaraderie within the department," said Anderson, noting the castle was completed in just four days and finished Sunday afternoon.

Over the years, the ice castle has become a winter tourism masterpiece in Eagle River, being photographed by thousands of travelers, snowmobilers and visitors to the area for the World Championship



Eagle River Fire Department personnel and volunteers used hook poles to guide blocks of ice from Silver Lake to a conveyor and then to awaiting pickup trucks for the Eagle River Ice Castle.

Snowmobile Derby and Pond Hockey National Championships. Depending on the weather and temperatures, the castle usually lasts until late February, when warmer sun rays result in the weakening of the joints between

the blocks of ice and it is brought down for public safety.

In the meantime, the ice castle located just south of the Eagle River bridge on the east side of Highway 45, will be viewed and photographed by thousands of

North Woods visitors. That's a good thing, according to Anderson, who noted it has been a second straight non-snow year for the area.

"Anything we can do for the community is good at this point," said Anderson.

# 2024 Kids Design An Ad Winners

	<b>Inez Rideout</b> NPES Eagle River	<b>Ty Verkuilen</b> NPES Land O'Lakes	<b>Kinsie Brandner</b> NPES St. Germain	
	<b>Cammie Karvonen</b> Phelps Elementary School	<b>Lucia Pavlik</b> Sugar Camp Elementary School	<b>Caroline Rigby</b> Three Lakes Elementary School	

Thank you to the area businesses for participating in this year's 3rd-, 4th- & 5th-grade Kids Design An Ad educational program!

## Libraries in Northern Waters Library Network to host free virtual 80s music trivia Jan. 28

Public libraries in the Northern Waters Library Network will be hosting a free 80s Music Trivia Night on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

From synth-pop to hard rock, the music of the 1980s had something for everyone. Participants can test their knowledge of 80s music at a free virtual trivia contest hosted by libraries in the Northern Waters Library Network. Participants will compete against other fans of 80s music for bragging rights as they answer questions about 80s movie tunes, one-hit-wonders, chart-toppers

and more. This event will be held virtually via Zoom so those interested can participate from wherever they are, on their favorite device. Click the link on the Boulder Junction Library website at the scheduled time to participate at <https://www.boulderjunctionlibrary.org/event/free-virtual-80s-music-trivia-contest/>.

For further information, call the Boulder Junction Public Library at 715-385-2050 or visit the library website at <https://www.boulderjunctionlibrary.org/event/free-virtual-80s-music-trivia-contest/>.

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VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW



# LIFESTYLE

## Steely Dane to bring tribute performance to the Campanile stage

Steely Dane, the Ultimate Steely Dan Tribute Band, will take to the stage at the Campanile on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m.

This 14-member ensemble, celebrated for its renditions of Steely Dan's iconic music, promises an unforgettable evening filled with classic hits and deep cuts that defined a generation.

Steely Dane has earned accolades and a loyal following for their attention to detail and musical prowess, bringing the sounds of Steely Dan to life.

From "Reelin' in the Years" to "Peg," fans can expect a performance that captures the magic and complexity of the original band's work.

Executive Director Sandy Madden shared her excitement, stating, "We are honored to welcome Steely Dane to the Campanile stage. Their

dedication to authenticity, and their extraordinary musicianship, make them a perfect fit for our community. This performance is not just a concert; it's an experience that will resonate with audiences of all ages."

Tickets for Steely Dane are on sale now and can be purchased online at [campanilecenter.org](http://campanilecenter.org), by calling 715.356.9700, or at the Campanile Center box office on the night of the show. Advance prices for adults are \$35 for general admission and \$42 for premium seating. Student rates range from \$15 - \$25.

The Campanile Center for the Arts, located in downtown Minocqua at the corner of Milwaukee and Flambeau Streets, is a nonprofit 501-C (3) organization committed to developing, promoting and supporting the arts in the Lakeland community.



Steely Dan tribute band Steely Dane will be performing at the Campanile on Thursday, Jan. 25.

—Contributed Photo

## Pines seeks nominations for 2025 Alumni Hall of Fame

The Northland Pines School District Alumni Hall of Fame Committee is seeking nominations for the 2025 induction.

The Alumni Hall of Fame was created with two thoughts in mind. The first is to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Northland Pines and/or Eagle River Union High School alumni. The second is to bring to the forefront outstanding role models for our current and future student bodies.

The Northland Pines Alumni Hall of Fame Committee is asking community members to submit a nomination form if they know an outstanding alumnus who has been out

of high school for at least 20 years. They are also accepting nominations for individuals who have contributed to the school district's success in ways other than being a student. Nominees may also include teachers, secretarial or custodial personnel, etc.

The deadline for the 2025 class nominations is Jan. 31. The nomination forms are available at Northland Pines High School and online at the school district's website at <https://www.npsd.k12.wi.us/schools/ms-hs/about/alumni-hall-of-fame.cfm>.

The Northland Pines Alumni Hall of Fame Committee was founded in 2007 and inducted their

first group of individuals in the spring of 2008. There are currently 51 outstanding members from all parts of the United States who have been inducted thus far. Anyone interested in the Alumni Hall of Fame can visit the designated Alumni Hall of Fame area located just inside the main entrance of the Northland Pines High School.

Each inductee plaque includes his/her picture and a list of his/her contributions to society.

For more information, contact Scott Foster, Northland Pines School District Administrator, at 715-479-6487, extension 0100, or email at [sfoster@npsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:sfoster@npsd.k12.wi.us).

## Pines opens 4K registration

Registration for 4K at Eagle River, Land O' Lakes, and St. Germain Elementary Schools is now open.

These schools offer 4K five days a week, Monday through Friday.

Parents may also choose half days for their child; however, they would also need to supply transportation as there will not be midday busing provided.

If living in the Northland Pines School District, the registration process may begin online at [npsd.k12.wi.us/district/enroll4k.cfm](http://npsd.k12.wi.us/district/enroll4k.cfm), and then plan on attending the following Registration Event:

- Thursday, Feb. 6, from 4 - 7 p.m. at Eagle River Elementary School
  - Friday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Eagle River Elementary School
  - Friday, Feb. 21, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at St. Germain Elementary School and Montessori Learning Center, and Land O' Lakes Elementary School
- Students become eligible for 4K if they were born on or before Sept. 1, 2021.

For any questions, or if unable to attend any of the registration and screening events, contact Enrollment Secretary, Stacy Swenson, at (715) 479-4123 or via email [enroll@npsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:enroll@npsd.k12.wi.us).

If a person does not currently live in the Northland Pines School District, but wishes to take advantage of the 4K program, they may open enroll their child into the district during the Open Enrollment period.

### Open enrollment

Parents and guardians have the opportunity to send their children to any public school in Wisconsin through the Public School Open Enrollment program. The online open enrollment application period for the 2025-26 school year is Feb. 3 through April 30. Application materials and additional information is available on the Northland Pines School District website.

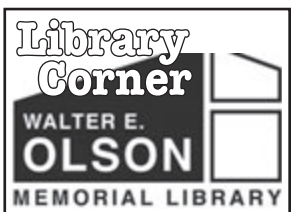
Traditionally, children in Wisconsin are assigned to public school districts based on the location of their parents' or guardians' residence. In operation since the 1998-99 school year, open enrollment is

a tuition-free opportunity for parents or guardians to apply for their children to attend a public school in a school district other than the one in which they live.

Applications must be submitted during the Feb. 3 - April 30 application period. Early and late applications will not be accepted. The open enrollment application window closes at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30. Districts will notify applicants in June of the status of their open enrollment application. There is also an Alternative Open Enrollment application, in which applications may be submitted outside of the three-month open enrollment period, but additional restrictions and criteria apply.

For any questions on open enrollment, contact Open Enrollment Coordinator Mary Mulleady at (715) 337-2527 Ext. 2, or via email at [mmulleady@npsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:mmulleady@npsd.k12.wi.us).

More information on open enrollment can be found at <https://www.npsd.k12.wi.us/district/join-us.cfm>



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

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

- Saturday, Jan. 18, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cookie Bake Off fundraiser. For \$5, come and enjoy a cookie feast! Attendees will also be taste testers who vote on the winners of this competition. Interested in entering your baking creations? Sign up at [tinyurl.com/5avk33f8](http://tinyurl.com/5avk33f8) or at the Library.
- The Library will be closed on Monday, January 20, in honor of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. Don't forget, our digital library never closes — Access Libby, CreativeBug, Kanopy and more at [olsonlibrary.org/digital\\_resources](http://olsonlibrary.org/digital_resources).
- 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.

- NEW - Tuesdays, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Seated Yoga, a low-impact activity designed to increase strength and flexibility. Our instructor is Caryn Alexander. Come as you are! Chairs will be provided.
- Saturday, Jan. 25, 1:15 - 2:30 p.m.: Check out our 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 our latest puzzle competition! You'll have up to 90 minutes to complete a 500-piece puzzle. Background vibes and snacks provided!

### Weekly offerings

- Mondays and Wednesdays - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Nicolet Academic Success Center. Get help with GED and college prep, computer skills, academic support, and more.
- 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.) - Feb. 6 (March 6)
  - Free Mending Day (1st Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.) - Feb. 1 (March 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.) - Feb. 10 (March 10)
  - Growing Together Family Support Group (2nd Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.) - Feb. 13 (March 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.

## Girl Scouts gear up for cookie season

Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes (GSNWGL) are gearing up for the 2025 Girl Scout Cookie season, running Wednesday, Jan. 22, through March 31.

The 2025 cookie lineup consists of Thin Mints®, Caramel deLites®, Peanut Butter Patties® and more.

All packages of Girl Scout Cookies, including the gluten-free Caramel Chocolate Chip, will be \$6 each. At the close of the 2025 Cookie Season, the beloved cookie flavor, Toast-yay!®, will be

retired. Toast-yay!® enthusiasts can get their hands on the last of these sweet treats by reaching out to a Girl Scout they know for their individual Digital Cookie® online sales link.

Watch for cookie booths from March 7 through 30,

and visit [girlscoutcookies.org](http://girlscoutcookies.org) on Feb. 21 to have cookies shipped directly.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program at GSNWGL runs Jan. 22 through March 31. To learn more, visit [gsnwgl.org/cookies](http://gsnwgl.org/cookies) to learn more.

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It's up! Nice to have the Ice Castle back this year.

A big "thank you" to members of the Eagle River Area Volunteer Fire Dept. and all other volunteers who worked so hard to make this year's castle so AWESOME!

**Grandma's Toy Box - Eagle Craft & Hobby**  
 Downtown Eagle River (715)-477-2227 Open every day at 10:00 a.m.  
 Ice castle snow globes and jigsaw puzzles available in both stores.

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## Union Congregational Church to sponsor interfaith prayer Friday

A community-wide interfaith Evening of Prayer for the government, before the onset of a new administration, is being sponsored by Three Lakes Union Congregational Church on Friday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m.

The one-hour program will consist of Biblical, nonpartisan prayers for the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government based on the Scripture, Timothy 2:1-6, 8. Participants are urged to make petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving for all those in

authority so that "we may live peaceful, quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" stated Valeri Snedden, one of the organizers of the event.

"This is a very divisive time in our nation's history and we thought it appropriate, as did our founding fathers, to gather together for a time of confession, repentance and intercession for all who serve as elected and appointed officials," said Snedden.

The community, churches and prayer groups in Three Lakes and

the greater North Woods area are invited to attend this public Concert of Prayer event.

Concerts of Prayer is a movement that originated in Scotland in 1744. Its name was coined by Jonathan Edwards, one of America's preeminent Christian philosophers whose preaching helped spark the First Great Awakening.

For more information, contact Snedden at vsnedden@yahoo.com.



DEMME LIBRARY  
EXPLORE · LEARN · CREATE · SHARE  
Three Lakes, Wis. (715) 546-3391

The Library is looking for volunteers! Interested? Send an email to: Friends@demmerlibrary@gmail.com.

Do you write poetry, short stories, novels or children's stories? Join fellow writers on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 1 p.m. in the Demmer Maple Room. The Demmer Writing Group is for writers to share their works with each other, receive feedback, and encourage one another. No previous writing experience is necessary.

Want to get into roleplaying games and just not sure it's for you? Join the library

in person in the Tamarack Room, or virtually as we use Roll20 and Twitch, on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 6 p.m. to play D&D. No experience is required! Email librarian@demmerlibrary.org for more information and invitations to the game.

### Weekly Offerings

- Story Hour is a free program for young children and their caregivers. Join us on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Demmer Maple Room. Children will listen to stories, engage in music and movement, explore different art mediums, and more.
- Have you started looking at your family tree and don't know where to go next? Let the Three Lakes Genealogical Society help you. The group loves to assist new, novice, and expert family sleuths find more records and more answers to questions. They

are offering active "office hours" in the local history room of the library, where you can drop in and ask your questions on Thursdays, 2 - 4 p.m. Call the library for more details.

### Monthly Offerings

- In-Person and Virtual D&D (1st & 3rd Sundays)
- Harry Potter Club (1st Monday)
- Lego Club (2nd Monday)
- Crafternoon (2nd Tuesday)
- Drop-in Scrabble (2nd & 4th Thursdays)
- Oneida County Veterans Service Open Office Hours (3rd Wednesday)
- Writers Group (3rd Thursday)
- Teen Hosted Book Club (4th Monday)

For more information, call the library at 715-546-3391.

## Lions Scrappers Club to sponsor free screening of award-winning documentary 'The Need To Grow'

The Three Lakes Lions Scrappers Club announced that a special screening of the award-winning documentary, "The Need To Grow," will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 6 p.m. at The Three Lakes Center for the Arts.

"The Need To Grow" is an inspiring and critically acclaimed documentary that delves into the urgent need for sustainable food systems and innovative

solutions to protect and regenerate our planet's soil. The film follows pioneers in the fields of agriculture, food production, and environmental science as they work to create a healthier and more sustainable future for generations to come.

This event is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend.

Admission is free, but donations are welcome

to support the ongoing environmental initiatives of the Three Lakes Lions Scrappers Club. The screening will be followed by a discussion panel featuring local experts in sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation.

For more information, contact Lion Don Meeder at donald.meeder@gmail.com or 715-360-1235.

## Demmer Library reflects on 2024

As the year 2025 starts, the Demmer Library in Three Lakes wants to take a moment and reflect on 2024 and the 75 years of service it celebrated.

The vision for a public library in the town of Three Lakes formed out of the establishment of the local Women's Club. After creating the club in 1946, its members made organizing a community library their first priority. For three years the women collected books donated by residents and vacationers, and in June of 1949 the Free Library officially opened to the public. The library was set up in the first-grade room at the Three Lakes School and was open Fridays from 2 to 5 p.m. with all members of the Women's Club expected to take turns to run it. However, as the coming school year approached, a new location had to be found. The Congregational Church invited the library to use the free space in the church's basement. In 1950, the first acting librarian, Francis Waite, was appointed, and it was voted on to pay her \$20 per month.

In the winter of 1958, the Town of Three Lakes finished constructing a new civic building and welcomed the library inside its walls. Shortly after, the management of the library transferred to the town. For

nine years, while inside the civic building, the library's impact within the community grew. Notably, in 1964, the popular Children's Story Hour began, a proud tradition that remains a part of the library to this day. By 1970 the library's collection had once again outgrown its space. As the library board searched for a new location, a Vilas County News article featured the cramped conditions of the library. That article captured the attention of the Edward U. Demmer Foundation and the Demmer family who arranged a meeting with the library board for a tour of Three Lakes and its library. After touring the community, the Demmer family decided to build a two-level library for the community, determining the lot next to the civic building to be the best location. Construction happened quickly, and in 1971 the Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library opened its doors to the public.

Since the construction of the original building, the library has seen two major upgrades. In 1987 an addition was added to the northwest side of the building to accommodate collection growth and to create office spaces for staff. In 2009, a gift from the estate of Lawrence Demmer, the son of Edward U. Demmer, kicked off a building renovation and expansion project. This

project finished in 2019, adding two large meeting rooms, three study rooms, a "Library" interactive room, a Local History room with a connected Historical Museum visitor center, and an expanded children's section. To this day, Story Hour is a staple of Demmer Library programming.

Since 1949, and continuing today, the Three Lakes Women's Club has given support and donations to the library and the library continues to be extremely grateful to the club.

On Friday, Oct. 25, 2024, the library celebrated its anniversary with an open house, a slideshow, a new logo, cookies, and memories. The Women's Club graciously provided historical photos of the library through the years and highlighted the many ways the library has supported the community.

The year 2024 also welcomed a new director who brings with her fresh ideas while also honoring what the Demmer Library has always been, a welcoming space.

"The Demmer has grown to be so much more than a library," says Director Jill Roth. "It's a community center, a classroom, a technology support desk, and so much more."

For more information or questions, call the library at 715-546-3391.

## Backward Glances

Compiled by Josephine Hinderman



As seen in this News-Review archive photo, the best ice oval racers from the United States and Canada battled it out in the 52nd running of the World Championship Derby.

### 10 Years Ago - 2015

After winning a second-straight world championship last year on a Ski-Doo, 26-year-old Malcolm Chartier of Fair Haven, Mich., will face the daunting task of attempting to win a third consecutive title at Eagle River.

The return of the Sweet 16 Pole Position race, and a World Championship Sno-Cross feature, will headline this year's Friday Night Thunder program at the 52nd annual AMSOIL World Championship Snowmobile Derby.

### 20 Years Ago - 2005

The grandest snowmobile event of them all will return Thursday through Sunday, as the 42nd World Championship Derby will be held in Eagle River.

The ultimate hurdle in the quest for a World Championship victory at Eagle River these days is finding a way to beat Arctic Cat, which has dominated the title event for three straight years.

### 30 Years Ago - 1995

Engine work may separate the winners from the losers more than ever in the 1995 World Championship race, as Formula 1 twin-track racers scramble to get the bugs out of larger engines that will be allowed for the first time in more than 10 years.

Protect Americans' Rights and Resources is

considering seeking intervenor status as a defendant in the treaty rights suit filed Friday.

### 40 Years Ago - 1985

Experts in the field of snowmobile racing generally view the 1985 Eagle River Lions Club's World Championship 25-lap feature race as a three-way battle.

The main snowmobile route that goes through downtown Three Lakes no longer passes the high school, but instead turns west down Huron Street by the library.

### 50 Years Ago - 1975

Top racing teams from across the country are already filing into the sprawling race grounds at Eagle River, site of the 12th annual World Championship Snowmobile Derby this weekend.

The world title race at the Lions Club-sponsored Eagle River derby, the feature which is probably the key to the tremendous turn-out of racing fans and nationwide publicity, offers a record purse and will again attract the finest competitors.

### 60 Years Ago - 1965

A budget of approximately \$4,000 was approved at a special meeting of the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce board of directors. The board reviewed promotional programs and special events for the

coming year and the costs of each.

A resolution that establishes fees and payment schedules for sub-dealers in the state of hunting and fishing licenses in Vilas county sets up a system permitting licenses to be sold to sub-dealers on a credit basis.

70 Years Ago - 1955

At a meeting of the Vilas County Historical Society here, by-laws suggested by the state society were adapted, and the group selected the months of November, January, March and May for permanent meeting months.

Though there had been some question about whether extensive work on large portions of Highway 45 would actually get underway this spring, it now seems certain extensive and expensive changes will be made.

### 80 Years Ago - 1945

The Eagle River Red and Blue avenged a previous defeat at the hands of the Watersmeet five by soundly trouncing them, 37-14. The game was close only in the first quarter.

Baptism of fire is an experience few soldiers ever forget and the 398th Infantry regiment of the 100th division has special reason never to forget theirs, for they went into action for the first time in one of the toughest sectors of the long Sixth Army Group front in eastern France.

## Senior Citizen Menus

January 20-24  
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 20**  
Seasoned baked fish, parsley buttered potatoes, tartar sauce, carrots, rye bread, banana.

**Tuesday, January 21**  
Seasoned baked chicken, sweet potato, gravy, Pacific veggie blend, whole wheat bread, strawberries and yogurt.

**Wednesday, January 22**  
Italian rigatoni casserole, green beans, dark greens salad, dressing, garlic breadstick, chocolate cake. National Chocolate Cake Day.

**Thursday, January 23**  
Ham on marble rye with romaine leaf and tomato slice, mayo, navy bean soup, crackers, peach slices.

**Friday, January 24**  
Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, diced squash, multigrain bread, pineapple.

### 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 Cirra 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 22**  
Italian rigatoni casserole, green beans, dark greens salad, dressing, garlic breadstick, chocolate cake. National Chocolate Cake Day.

### Thursday, January 23

Ham on marble rye with romaine leaf and tomato slice, mayo, navy bean soup, crackers, peach slices.

### Friday, January 24

Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, diced squash, multigrain bread, pineapple.

### 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 Heikkinen at 715-545-3697 to reserve or cancel a meal.

**Monday, January 20**  
Baked fish sandwich on whole wheat bun with lettuce and tomato, baked fries, baked beans, Halos.

**Wednesday, January 22**  
Spaghetti with meat sauce, mixed dark greens salad with tomato, garlic bread, fruit cocktail.

**Friday, January 24**  
Dave's homemade chili, corn bread, onion slice, and apple dumpling cake.

### 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 21**  
Liver and onions, BBQ beans, sweet potato, whole wheat bread, banana split.

### Wednesday, January 22

Lasagna, dark greens salad, corn, garlic bread, ½ apple, and cake.

### 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 21**  
Hot ham and cheese on a whole grain bun, garden fresh salad, cinnamon apples, and dessert.

**Wednesday, January 22**  
Chicken alfredo with pasta, steamed broccoli, breadstick, mandarin oranges, dessert.

**Thursday, January 23**  
Egg salad sandwich on whole grain bread, chicken noodle soup, dark greens salad, carrots, pears, 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 20**  
Seasoned baked fish, parsley buttered potatoes, tartar sauce, carrots, rye bread, banana.

**Tuesday, January 21**  
Seasoned baked chicken, sweet potato, gravy, Pacific veggie blend, whole wheat bread, strawberries and yogurt.

**Wednesday, January 22**  
Rigatoni casserole, green beans, dark greens salad with dressing, garlic breadstick, and chocolate cake.

**Thursday, January 23**  
Ham on marble rye with romaine leaf and tomato slice, mayo, navy bean soup, crackers, peach slices.



BOB HUGHES

# LAND O' LAKES

715-547-3343  
bob.cheri59@yahoo.com



There are some great events happening at the library in January! 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 The Sawbuck, Sunrise Lodge, The Bear Trap and Bent's Camp.

Registration is required as the contest is limited to 8 teams. Call the library, email kwmendham@lol.wislib.org or text 715-891-4706

January's movie will be "It Ends With Us" starring Blake Lively. Based on the bestselling book by Colleen Hoover, please note that this film has depictions of domestic violence. Movie Night will be on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m. Please use the back parking lot door for evening programs.

Why should kids have all the fun? The Northwoods Wildlife Center will be at the library to present "Birds of Prey" for adults! The program will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 1 p.m. in the library's downstairs community room.

Friends of Land O' Lakes Library will be holding their Winter "Mini" Used Book Sale on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. All proceeds directly benefit the library!

Save the date for the Land O' Lakes Library's Second Annual Community Soup and Bread Gathering on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 4:30 p.m. Join your neighbors at the library for an evening of soup, bread, and conversation, all free of charge. If you are interested in making soup to share, contact the library prior to the event.

Most library users head directly to fiction when browsing for a new read, but how about checking out all that the nonfiction section has to offer? The New Year is a great time to start fresh and learn something new. The Land O' Lakes Library has books with everything from watercolor painting or knitting lessons, to lessons on meditation or spirituality. There are books that teach how and where to explore nature, and books following someone else's epic adventures through different wildernesses. Whether

learning happens in a step-by-step lesson format, or through the stories of historical figures and everyday heroes, the library has a book to fit every interest.

There are some new nonfiction books to help with a fresh start in the New Year: "How to Winter: Harness Your Mindset to Thrive on Cold, Dark, or Difficult Days" by Kari Leibowitz, "Herbal Medicine for Modern Life: Traditional Folk Remedies for Everyday Health and Well-Being" by Ruth Blanding, "Meditations for Mortals: Four Weeks to Embrace Your Limitations and Make Time for What Counts" by Oliver Burkeman, "Overcoming Anxiety and Depression: Practical Strategies for Managing Symptoms, Embracing Well-Being, Achieving Long-Term Holistic Health" by Lillyin Love, and "Be BOLD Today: Unleash Your Potential, Master Your Mindset, and Achieve Success" by Leigh Burgess.

Qigong and Balance classes, taught by Dottie Reeder, are offered on Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m. 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 invited to play.

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.

The next Lego Club will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 22, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

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. You need not be present to win. The quilt, made by a local fiber artist, is on display at the library.

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

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



**SNOWFLAKE ICE RINK** — 3rd and 4th grade students from Land O' Lakes Elementary School get some exercise and have some fun at the Snowflake Ice Rink. The naturally frozen rink has retained favorable conditions due to recent frigid temperatures. —Photo By Bob Hughes



**LUMINOUS WINNERS** — For the fifth year running the Bel-Air Motel and Land O' Lakes Connections have sponsored the Light Up Land O' Lakes competition between businesses to light up the town during the festive season. Three Motel guests were asked to tour the town and select a winner. The Adam LaFriske Construction building was, again, unanimously chosen as the winner. Judges were asked for any other recommendations, and they chose Town Hall as a runner-up, not knowing that the light decorations had also been carried out by LaFriske Property Management, who received over \$200 in gift certificates for local businesses and an engraved plaque. It was also decided this year to award a gas voucher to the best-lit-up private residence, which went to the home of Forest and Jackie Paukert. Pictured are Bob Hughes, of Bel-Air Motel & Land O' Lakes Connections presenting the plaque and gift certificates to, from left to right, Natalie, Shana and Carol from LaFriske Property Management. —Contributed Photo



**LAKE BANNER MAINTENANCE** — Every year, numerous lake banners can be seen hanging around Land O' Lakes in the spring and summer. After removal by town crews, the Land O' Lakes Planning and Beautification Committee volunteers are tasked with cleaning and maintaining the banners. They clean them and inspect them for repairs, re-stitching, replacing lettering or, at the end of their usability, replacing them. After banners are replaced, the old ones are offered to local lake associations. Pictured from left to right are Debbie Hintz and Cheri Hughes cleaning and inspecting a banner for any needed repairs. —Photo By Bob Hughes

## Meetings

FROM PAGE 1

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.

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 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.

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.

## Johnson

FROM PAGE 1

on my head, it's getting to be pretty simple math these days. Not down to the Jethro Bodine "naughts" yet, but it's getting close.

That being said, I'm not alone. By age fifty, it's reported that 85% of men will experience male pattern baldness.

Genetics has not been in my favor on either side of the family tree. Bald men abound. My DNA-hardwired journey toward baldness has been a couple decades in the making.

Once living in blissful ignorance, I first became aware of the growing male pattern baldness on the back of my head back in my community theater acting days when I lived in Ohio.

I was playing the lead in

a murder mystery comedy whodunnit, and while I was lying still on the stage as the murder victim, the back of my head to the audience, the Columbo-esque police detective character was kneeling beside me making verbal notes of observations as he wrote them in his notebook, when he went hilariously off-script improv on opening night and referenced my male pattern baldness, bringing down the house in peals of laughter. All of which made the corpse laugh, which is bad form, except in a fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants comedy. Needless to say, the male pattern baldness reference reappeared nightly for the run of the show, with the corpse laughing every night.

Thespian pursuits of entertaining audiences

aside, admittedly I was personally self-conscious for years about my growing baldness and made a procession of headgear a perpetual personal trademark, alternating between baseball hats, Stormy Kromers, and fire helmets, depending on the situation at hand.

Eventually, along came COVID to speed up the process and throw any remaining self-consciousness out the door. Evidently, I'm one of the 20% of those who gets COVID hair shedding, telogen effluvium, every time Miz 'Rona signs my dance card. Only mine isn't temporary — it's the gift that keeps on giving.

The only place hair seems to grow well at all now, like weeds, is my ears. And well, also my eyebrows, where the unruly hairs grow in wild twists and turns and

eventually have me looking like a big-browed hoot owl.

And that's when I know it's time to go in for a trim.

Going to the barber over the last several years, I always walk in wondering if this is the trip where I have the last remaining remnants of my hair shaved off en masse, taking a no muss, no fuss page from my dad, father-in-law and brother-in-law, who have all taken the plunge.

As one T-shirt I saw recently read, "Bald is beautiful. God only made so many perfect heads. The others are covered with hair."

So inspired, maybe this next trip to the barber is the one where I finally take the plunge.

Eric Johnson can be reached at eric@fyinorthwoods.com.

## DEADLINES FOR SECTIONS

**OBITUARIES**  
MONDAY 10 AM

**NEWS**  
MONDAY 10 AM

**LIFESTYLE**  
FRIDAY 10 AM

**TOWN PAGES**  
THURSDAY 4 PM



## PHELPS

SHARON GIFFORD | 715-617-0308 | gifford.se3@gmail.com



**ELEANOR  
ELLIS  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY**  
PHELPS, WI 54554

Story Time with Mrs. Laura will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Join the Library to read a few books with their favorite storyteller! Everyone is welcome!

New Releases in Adult Fiction this month: "Knife Skills for Beginners" by Orlando Murrin, "The Stolen Queen" by Fiona Davis, and the latest Alex Cross Thriller: "The House of Cross" by James Patterson. New Young Adult Fiction: "After Life" by Gayle Forman.

February's Writer's Workshop is slated for Feb. 12 at 12:30 p.m. This free group meets monthly and is open to adults at any stage of writing. The meetings offer structured support, encouragement, feedback and responses, as well as help with goal setting and more. Call the library for more information.

Next Chapter Book Club will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 10 a.m. The book choice this month is "Tailspin" by John Armbruster.

Book copies for meetings are available for pickup at the library or call to reserve. For more information about the current book, upcoming book choices, and meeting

dates and times, visit the Library website under the Adult Programming tab at <https://phelpspubliibrary.org/adult-programs/>. Call the library for more information on how to join this group.

Don't have time to stop by during operating hours? Call and ask about the Library's outside lockers so you can pick up books and other items at your convenience!

Free puzzle and magazine exchange is in the Library entryway. New materials are added often. The Phelps-Land O' Lakes Lion's Club's used glasses receptacle is located in the entryway as well. Donations of used glasses and hearing aids are greatly appreciated.

Library hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Wednesday 2 - 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. WiFi and digital services are available 24/7 and can be accessed either inside during business hours or anywhere in the parking lot.

Find the Library online at [phelpspubliibrary.org](http://phelpspubliibrary.org) or on Facebook at Eleanor Ellis Public Library. Contact them by phone at 715-545-2887 or email [director@phelps.wislib.org](mailto:director@phelps.wislib.org).

## ST. GERMAIN/SAYNER

JACKI GOEBEL | 715-891-8028 | jackigoebel@gmail.com

### Bo-Boen Snowmobile Club to host Trailside Cookout this weekend

St. Germain Bo-Boen Snowmobile Club will be hosting a Trailside Cookout fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Due to trail conditions, the event has been moved to Premier Powersports, 7792 STH 70E, St. Germain.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. The proceeds will benefit

trail grooming and equipment maintenance.

The club also announced a scavenger hunt, brat fry, and bonfire on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 11 a.m. at the St. Germain Community Park. This family event welcomes all to join in the fun, enjoy games and food, and learn more about the Bo-Boen club.

The club is sponsoring

their annual cash raffle. Tickets are \$100 and there will be ten cash prizes awarded. Only 250 tickets will be sold, and are available until March 13 unless sold out. Winners will be decided at the March membership meeting; winners do not need to be present.

This year winning tickets will be re-entered for additional chances to win.

Tickets are available from club members and area businesses. Tickets may also be reserved by contacting Francine at [rottie-mom59@msn.com](mailto:rottie-mom59@msn.com).

For trail conditions, information about the club, and other upcoming events, visit [www.boboens.com](http://www.boboens.com) or the club's Facebook page.

### Plum Lake library sponsors Cookbook Club

The Plum Lake Public Library is sponsoring a Cookbook Club for culinary enthusiasts and foodies seeking a like-minded community.

The club introduces members to a new cookbook and/or theme each month.

The fourth Thursday of the month the club holds their monthly meeting which consists of tasting each other's fares with

a potluck dinner. Cooks relate how they prepared the recipe, what they would change, and their opinion. Diners are welcome to ask questions and make comments.

When the cookbook or theme of the month is announced, members choose recipes they would like to prepare. The theme for January is a chili cook-off. Cooks are welcome to make and bring a chili

made with their favorite recipe. Instead of chili, members could bring a topping, side dish or dessert.

The club will meet at Plum Lake Library, Thursday, Jan. 30, at 6 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring a dish prepared from the chosen recipes, personal beverages, and table setting including plate, utensils and napkins, and an appetite.

For more information on the club, email Emilie Braunel, library director, at [ebraunel@sayner.wislib.org](mailto:ebraunel@sayner.wislib.org) or visit the library.

The Plum Lake Public Library, 8789 Peterson St. in Sayner, is open Monday through Saturday.

Visit [plumlakelibrary.org](http://plumlakelibrary.org) for hours, library catalog, book clubs and other resources.

## LIFESTYLE

### Trees For Tomorrow accepting applications for environmental education internships

Trees For Tomorrow (TFT), an environmental education center in Eagle River, is now accepting applications for its two summer 2025 Environmental Education Internship positions.

The deadline for submitting applications for this 10-week opportunity is Friday, April 4. This year's internship program begins June 2 and ends Aug. 8.

TFT provides an opportunity for interns to gain invaluable hands-on experience while making a tangible impact on learners of all ages, from preschoolers

to adults. This program is designed to cultivate future leaders in environmental education by blending professional development, mentorship, and a supportive community.

#### Why TFT

Many of TFT's professional educators, including Bethany Heft and Kim Feller, began their careers as interns.

"I didn't set out in college to be a teacher," Heft says. "Finding a love of education was a happy accident for me. I originally took an internship at TFT to build my public speaking skills and confidence working with groups of all ages. My college professors stressed having a resumé that showed versatility, and these skills seemed invaluable to offer any future employer."

Both Bethany and Kim also highlight the sense of

adventure and the unique experience of living in a new place that this internship provided.

Interns at TFT play a vital role in delivering high-quality environmental education. During the program, interns will:

- Assist TFT's staff in facilitating environmental education programs tailored to diverse audiences ranging from 3-year-olds to adults.
- Work hands-on with animal artifacts such as skulls, pelts, and live education animals, gaining skills in proper care and handling.
- Build confidence in creating lesson plans and leading programs independently with minimal guidance.
- Develop a capstone project that showcases their growth and learning during the internship.

By the end of the internship, participants will have a robust foundation in environmental education—a valuable asset for any career in education, natural resources, or public service.

#### Requirements

Applicants for this position should be 18 years of age or older, possess a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and the ability to work collaboratively with others.

To apply, visit Trees For Tomorrow's website at <https://www.treesfortomorrow.com/Jobs/Internships/>.

Applications must include a cover letter, resumé, and at least two letters of reference.

For questions or additional information, contact Jenny Sadak at [jenny@treesfortomorrow.com](mailto:jenny@treesfortomorrow.com) or (715) 479-6456.

### YMCA of the Northwoods opens Teen Character Awards Nominations

Nominations are open for the YMCA of the Northwoods' Teen Character Awards, which will be hosted on Sunday, April 6.

The Rhinelander Rotary Club is returning as the presenting sponsor of the YMCA Teen Character Awards. The Awards recognize teens that demonstrate the Y's core values of caring, honesty, respect

and responsibility, aligning with Rhinelander Rotary's dedication to service, fellowship, diversity, integrity and leadership.

The awards are a way to recognize teens who have made positive changes in their lives and communities. Nominees can highlight this achievement on their college and job applications. Nominations can be submitted via mail, fax,

email, or through their website at [www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.com](http://www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.com), with a submission deadline of Wednesday, Feb. 12.

The Y is also accepting sponsorships for the Y Teen Character Awards.

Teens and businesses throughout the North Woods are able to participate, including those from Price, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas counties.

If interested in sponsoring the event, or nominating a teen, visit [www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.org](http://www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.org) or contact Tammy Zellmer at [tzellmer@ymcanw.org](mailto:tzellmer@ymcanw.org) or 715.362.9622, ext. 102.

## Read, Reuse, Recycle

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The North and South Twin Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District (the District) proposes to manage 7.8 acres of North Twin Lake and 33.4 acres of South Twin Lake to control excessive growth of the exotic invasive aquatic plant, Eurasian watermilfoil. TIGRIS Aquatic Services, LLC will conduct an application of the aquatic herbicide ProcellaCOR EC (florpyrauxifen-benzyli) to infestations. It is anticipated that the application will occur sometime in June, 2025 and will proceed only after the District obtains a permit for the treatment from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

The water use restrictions for ProcellaCOR EC are as follows: Do not use water from application areas for non-turf irrigation purposes for 5 days (turf can be irrigated immediately).

The District will hold a public informational meeting on the proposed project if five or more individuals, organizations, special units of government, or local units of government request one in writing. The person or entity requesting the meeting shall state a specific agenda of topics including problems and alternatives to be discussed.

The request for a public informational meeting must be sent in writing to: North and South Twin Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District, PO Box 152, Conover, WI 54519 and to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 107 Sulliff Ave, Rhinelander, WI 54501 within 5 days after the publication of this notice.

439780

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# Outdoors

## The turkey hunt starts with a little yellow card

**THE PROMISE** of adventure in Wisconsin's great outdoors often starts with something very simple, like receiving a yellow card in the mail from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

This particular card, says the scribbler, will be authorized to chase tom turkeys in central Wisconsin starting on Wednesday, April 23, the second of six week-long seasons that occur in seven different hunting zones — ending on the Tuesday after Memorial Day weekend.

It is that authorization, which used to be called a tag, that sets in motion all sorts of thoughts and plans and dreams about that first spring morning in the turkey woods, which starts when there's barely light in the eastern sky.

That's when we get to really appreciate, after a long winter, the sounds of a woods coming alive before dawn. The song starts with songbirds and the verses are added by honking geese, whistling wood ducks, cawing crows and the ancient echoes of the sandhill cranes.

And then comes the most glorious sound of all, tom turkeys gobbling from their treetops roosts, answering the soft yelps of hens in nearby trees — not to mention the shock gobbles



### In the Outdoors

BY KURT KRUEGER

prompted by other toms.

If you're really lucky on a given morning, downwind of a particular ridge filled with toms, the gobblers start on one end of the ridge and move like a wave, not much different than football fans doing the wave at Lambeau Field.

For those unfortunate hunters who have yet to experience a morning chasing spring turkeys, they can only imagine how those sounds get the heart pumping with anticipation.

And for the tens of thousands who have, and who know how special this spring hunt can be, they long for the next adventure and the memories it will bring.

To be clear, spring turkey hunting is not the ambush-style meat hunt of the fall season, when toms aren't courting hens and they aren't generally gobbling.

In fact, the state allows the taking of hens in the fall hunt.

The spring hunt is all about calling toms away from their hens, which they always seem to keep close at hand. That's the challenge and it can be very frustrating at times.

Decoys, whether just a hen or some combination of a jake and hen, or tom and hen, can sometimes make the difference in getting a tom to close the last yardage needed to get them into gun or bow range.

But there are also times when toms are intimidated by the decoys, or spooked even, and you never learn that until they turn and just walk off — back to their hens.

**It's all about the chase, and the fun here is trying to convince a tom that you are the best deal in the woods, something worth leaving hens to check out.**

Once in a great while the sport seems too easy, especially when a tom flies from its roost and marches right over to your calls and decoys without much hesitation. That's akin to a deer hunter shooting a trophy buck at 6:30 a.m. on opening day. It doesn't happen very often.

It's more likely that the hens will fly down first and



Receiving an authorization to hunt turkeys can stir all sorts of memories, including the anticipation of calling a strutting gobble into the decoys — one of the most exciting moments in the chase. —Photo By The Author

coax the tom or toms to follow in the opposite direction of your calling, for you see, the hunter and his or her calls are competition to those hens.

It is sometimes laughable to hear hens step up their calling game, with louder yelps and angry cuts and clucks, to draw a tom's attention to them.

How aggressive do these hens get, you ask?

I can answer that because I've watched, with my own eyes, as a hen charged and crashed into the back end of a tom that was paying too much attention to my calls. And when the hen turned and ran in the opposite

direction, he was right behind her.

There have been times when a group of hens came my way, leading a tom within shooting range. But you better be in the perfect position to take off a safety and pull a trigger, because with all those eyes around you, there's a good chance the hens will bust you.

Of course the odds are in your favor if you are hunting from one of those camo tents or from some elevated deer stand, but I've always chosen to hunt in the open — with my back to a tree.

I think that roaming attitude came in the early days, when I started chasing

gobblers with friends in Sparta who had 500 acres of fields and ridges. That was long before there were turkey seasons in central and northern Wisconsin.

Besides that little yellow card for the second season, I'm hoping to buy a couple of other tags for Zone 3 Waupaca County in order to do some hunting in May.

Every winter and every spring is just a little different, so you never know when the peak weeks will occur in any given year.

**Authorizations mean opportunity, and without them, there's no legal way to chase those May turkeys.**

## Annual pred hunt opens Friday 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.

## DNR reminds public to be 'extra careful' on frozen waterways

As snow is predicted over the next week in much of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) urges the public to be extra careful when traversing any frozen waterbody.

Ice is still forming, and ice thickness will vary. Ice hazards could be covered by light snowfall.

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions, but they are monitored locally. Local fishing clubs, outfitters and bait shops are the best sources for local current ice conditions.

If a winter outing involves travel over a

waterbody, remember that every waterbody has its own characteristics. Check if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows, is spring-fed or has currents, which can thin the ice.

Some smaller lakes can have aerators that run throughout the winter, either covering a large area towards the center of the lake, or smaller aerators placed by private property landowners adjacent to their shore and/or piers.

Equally as important is to stay alert for pressure ridges or ice heaves. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and open water

**To CAUTION, Pg. 9**



### Fishing with the guides

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

## Ice conditions improve; Ice Castle returns

It's been a good week up here, with ice conditions getting better and no huge changes in weather. So far, this winter has been pretty uneventful and while we would like to see some more snow, the ice is great. With the lack of snow, spikes are a necessity out there! We're seeing 12 to 15" throughout the area, and snowmobiles and UTVs out in many locations.

While we're now seeing some vehicles on some lakes, we're also seeing some of them going through the ice. As always, no matter how you get out there, be careful and check the ice from location to location, even day to day.

Walleye fishing is holding up very well throughout the area. We have had daily reports of decent fishing on the Chain and some fish are good size. The basic patterns are the same: evening and late afternoon success pretty consistently, in the 10 to 15" range, with tip-ups baited with shiners or sucker minnows. We've heard from a number of anglers that after dark was the best time in the last week, so plan to stay a little later than you may be used to. Find some green weeds at the edge of a drop-off to set up for the earlier fishing, and then make a move to shallower water in the evening. The fish are moving back and forth daily for feeding, spending days deep, then moving shallow to hunt. We've seen jigging for walleye starting to be really effective. Vertical jigs with a minnow head seems to be the ticket for these anglers.

Northerns have been hitting well on tip-ups fished in the weeds — and the deeper the better

for the weeds. Large Shiners are working great, and the anglers using them for walleye are also getting a lot of Northerns, too. These fish will also move shallower in the evenings, right along with the walleye.

Panfish action has been very good for crappies and perch, in particular. The crappies are in deeper water right along with the walleyes, but you'll be best served searching vertically for these fish right from the start as they will suspend anywhere in the water column close to the structure. We're seeing great action with large rosie reds under tip-downs or at the end of a jigging rod. The perch are hanging in the mud flats next to weeds. Bouncing a waxie-tipped jig or spoon off the bottom can be an effective way to get their attention. If you're not finding panfish while jigging, don't be afraid to try a dead-stick presentation with a small spoon and a minnow hooked through the back.

We've had some interesting conditions on the ice this year, as it's been fantastic for skating on many lakes up here — something that isn't possible with a lot of snow. But now that we've had our fun with that, we're ready for some big snow. We got a bit this last weekend, but you'd be hard-pressed to find anyone up here who would complain about another 6 inches or more in the near future.

The Ice Castle is back this year, too, and we're so grateful to our Fire Department and all of the many volunteers who put in countless hours to make it possible. If you've not seen it yet, a trip to Railroad Street in downtown Eagle River is worth it. It's a fun winter tradition to see returned after a couple of years of absence, where the ice didn't get thick enough to harvest and the weather didn't cooperate. Check it out while you can!

Good luck and good fishin'!

## Headwaters Chapter of DU plans 50th annual banquet

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH  
CORRESPONDENT

The Headwaters Chapter of Ducks Unlimited (DU) will host its 50th annual fundraising banquet for waterfowl and wildlife conservation on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at Eagle Waters Resort in Eagle River.

The banquet will include a buffet dinner, traditional DU raffles, and a silent

auction, according to Jim Kauzlaric of the banquet committee. Tickets are \$65 per person.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner will be at 7 p.m., followed by raffle drawings for guns, wildlife art, sporting gear and DU collectibles.

"Join us for an evening of fun, a great buffet, friendship and fundraising for Ducks Unlimited,

the world's largest wetland and waterfowl conservation organization," said Kauzlaric. "The Headwaters Chapter is celebrating its 50th anniversary and DU is celebrating its 88th year as a leader in wetlands conservation."

Kauzlaric said the chapter is one of the biggest in northeastern Wisconsin and anticipates the banquet will be sold out as it will be

limited to 100 attendees. He says DU is popular because the organization works hard to conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats.

"Out of every dollar, Ducks Unlimited spends 84 cents for this purpose," said Kauzlaric. "DU has conserved over 158,000 acres in Wisconsin and invested over \$66 million in the state."

Kauzlaric said there will be several special raffles, including a sponsors raffle for those who attended the September sponsor banquet; a recruiters raffle for \$50 in Duck Bucks for referring a new person to the banquet; and a pre-dinner raffle for a chance to win \$250 in Duck Bucks which can be used on most raffles. Pre-dinner raffle tickets are one for \$10, three for \$20, 10 for \$50 or 25 for \$100.

The \$65 dinner ticket includes a \$25 membership to DU. Kauzlaric said a couple can get two tickets for \$120 and a table with eight tickets can be reserved for \$900.

For more information about the banquet, contact Kauzlaric at (715) 617-9385 or Ron Patterson at (715) 337-2424.



**PANNED TRAILS** — Following about 4-5 inches of snow Sunday, the Sno-Eagles Snowmobile Club panned a trail north of Eagle River Monday morning.

—Photo By Gary Ridderbusch



# Our View

## Historic Derby continues with 62nd event this week

At long last, it's finally here. Amidst a winter of frigid temperatures — cold enough for the construction of the iconic Eagle River ice castle for the first time in years — and little snow, the 62nd running of the oldest, grandest event in snowmobile racing history, with the World Championship Snowmobile Derby returning to Eagle River with races set to run this Thursday through Sunday, Jan. 16-19.

The top racers from the U.S. and Canada will go head-to-head on the famed oval, trying to win the title of World Champion — which can only happen here. But there will also be the Outlaw 600 championship and a premier Pro Champ 440 circuit final in the Pro-Star Series during Friday Night Thunder.

The Derby Complex includes a large heated show hall, concessions, indoor spectator seating, generous parking areas, and one of the most unique, banked half-mile ovals in the country.

We refuse to take for granted an event that pumps millions of dollars into the economy and puts Eagle River on the map. History shows many of those race fans will return here to vacation, purchase property, maybe run a business, and eventually retire.

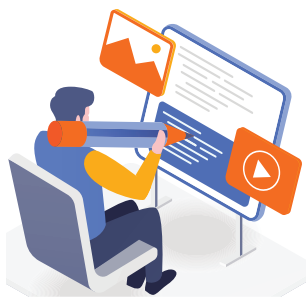
If you don't believe that, consider the economics of this scenario: If 8,000 visitors come here because it is Derby Weekend and they spend an average of \$400 per person, actual expenditures would total about \$3.2 million.

What a show thousands of fans will see this weekend, kicked off by the always-popular Friday Night Thunder show and its 32-race schedule under the lights — including the Sweet Sixteen pole position race.

Come and see the best racers on the globe compete for a top 10 ring and the World Championship of oval racing. Good luck, racers!

### Behind the editorial 'we'

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



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUBMIT LETTERS TO: News-Review Editor P.O. Box 1929, Eagle River, WI 54521 or newsreview@mmclocal.com See Letters Policy for guidelines

# EDITORIAL

## OPINION/COMMENTARY



JUDGED WISCONSIN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



## Making lemons into lemonade

When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. An old, trite bit of advice, but at the same time a bit of solid gold advice.

Put another way, when your usual way of life is taken away, make some new and equally good way of life part of your life.

For the second straight non-winter, I have had to improvise, have had to cobble together something different to continue making my life as enjoyable as it can be in the outdoors.

Last winter, as the days and weeks passed by with no appreciable snow, I had to adjust what I did, to forget about skiing what would have been a 21st American Birkebeiner ski race, to find a way to enjoy our outdoors without ski poles in my hands and skis attached to my feet.

I could have gone ice fishing, but for two reasons I

did not. First, the ice on many lakes was not safe to be on for a good part of the ice fishing season. At my age I no longer spit in the face of danger, and when there is any element of bucking the odds of safety, I opt to play it safe.

Secondly, since cross-country skiing took over my winter life some 43 years ago, ice fishing has for the most part faded away from my itinerary. Skiing in 10 below temperatures at times — well — that seems highly appropriate to me, as long as I cover my face with Vaseline and let my whiskers grow long enough to keep my face warm no matter what.



### Trails & Tails

BY WILL MAINES

Sitting out on a frozen lake, wind blowing at 20 per, no heated shack to bask in, often forlornly hopping for a flag to go up or a tiny bobber to jiggle from a bluegill hit down below somehow fell out of favor.

Last winter, in an effort to make the best out of a bad situation, I turned to the oldest exercise

known to man, and no, that exercise was not that of chasing a fair maiden, my wife, around and around the house in an attempt to maintain some modicum of physical good shape.

I turned to walking. Brisk walking, at least brisk in my estimation of what a 17-minute average per mile

result is, an average I regularly attained.

I started out by walking a mile to two miles about three days per week. That grew to include two to four miles at least five days a week, and finally, as the months turned from winter to spring, anywhere from three to six miles at least five days a week.

As I found out, many were the benefits of walking. For starters, it was good for my overall health and good in getting rid of about 15 pounds of excess weight I was carrying around.

Even better was the opportunity to walk and hike through much of the outdoors I would never have enjoyed had average snow blanketed the ground.

I walked unused snowmobile trails, deserted ski trails, little used town roads, two-track logging roads and sometimes, just at random, wherever I wanted to roam in the north Wisconsin woods I have been roaming for my entire life.

I got to see wild critters going about their daily business each time I walked through the woods of the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.

I saw where pileated woodpeckers had stabbed out large slivers and chunks of dead and decaying tree trunks as they found grubs to feast on.

I had my breath taken away, and my heart rate instantly raised about 50 beats a minute, each time a ruffed grouse blasted out of a low cover a scant few yards away from me.



Cal Thomas

## Dumbing down New Jersey schools

Among the many laws that took effect at the beginning of this new year is one in New Jersey that will astound and should anger people with children in the state's public schools. It's called Act 1669 and it removes a requirement that teachers pass a basic reading, writing and math test to be eligible to teach. The law was signed by Gov. Phil Murphy (D-NJ) last June.

The rationale, if one can call it rational, is that New Jersey is not attracting enough teachers to the profession and so standards must be lowered so more will apply. This reminds me of what the Army has done for physical fitness requirements. In 2022, the Army lowered the physical fitness standards for women and older troops in its annual physical fitness exam to attract more enlistees. Where did the idea come from that lowering standards might produce higher achievement?

The Pew Research Center notes "U.S. students ranked 28th out of 37 OECD member countries in math and 12th in science." In both subjects, Japanese students scored the highest. It isn't a matter of money, as some Democrats like to claim when they campaign

To THOMAS, Pg. 9

## Republicans still control new Legislature, but with narrower margins as 37 new legislators take seats

Another two-year session of the Wisconsin Legislature has begun — this time with 37 new legislators.

Not a recent record — 38 newbies started the 2011-12 legislative session.

But it's a lot of turnover due to the new legislative maps resulting from a redistricting forced by a liberal state Supreme Court.

In all, there are six new state senators in the 33-member chamber, thanks to a Dem sweep in November of top seats. The six new Democratic members narrow the GOP advantage to 18-15.

And in the 99-member Assembly, 31 new members — 23 of them Dems as the minority party, narrows

the GOP margin to 54-45. But some of those new Assembly members have been state representatives before:

• Dan Knodl, R-Germantown, served in the chamber from 2009-23 and is now going back, after less than two years in the

Senate, after he was drawn into a district with fellow GOP state Sen. Ducey Stroebel, who lost on Nov. 5.

• Former GOP Rep. Dean Kaufert served 14 years in the Assembly before leaving in 2015 following his election as Neenah mayor, only to be wooed back for a run in a Dem-leaning seat.

• Rob Kreibich, R-New Richmond, who served 1993-2007, is back after leading the new Richmond

Chamber of Commerce as executive director.

Back in 2011, the freshman class played a role in a big political drama — remember Act 10? Since then, because of GOP-dominated redistricting, Republicans have held the power in the Legislature. The new maps are changing that.

Legislative experience is greater now in the Assembly than it was a decade ago.

In all, just 15 members of the Assembly walked in the doors in early January, 2015, with at least a decade of experience in the chamber. This time around, it's about a quarter of the members.

Over in the Senate, meanwhile, the story is different. There will be seven members who first won a Senate race by 2014, compared to

14 who'd been there at least a decade when the 2015-16 session started.

That includes former state Sen. Fred Risser, D-Madison, who first started serving in the chamber after a 1962 election and would go on to be the longest-serving state legislator in U.S. history.

Former state Sen. Rob Cowles, of Green Bay, who was the longest-serving member of the Senate, decided to retire after fellow Republican Eric Wimberger opted to run in the new 2nd Senate District that the veteran lawmaker had held since a 1987 special election. His departure

means Sen. Bob Wirsch, D-Pleasant Prairie, is now the longest-serving senator, marking his 28th year in the chamber.

For more, go to www.wispolitics.com/2024/wisconsin-legislature-new-members-departures/

*The Capitol Report is written by editorial staff at WisPolitics.com, a nonpartisan, Madison-based news service that specializes in coverage of government and politics, and is distributed for publication by members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association.*

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• Letters should be no more than 500 words and may appear in our weekly print issue.

• Letters may be edited by our staff for length, clarity and facts.

• The Vilas County News-Review/The Three Lakes News will only print letters that address a specific issue or article that may be of interest to the bulk of our readers.

• Submit Letter to the Editor Here: (kkruieger@mmclocal.com, 715-479-4421, P.O. Box 1929, Eagle River, WI 54521).

**We will not print letters that:**

• Contain potentially libelous material. Libel is any malicious, unsubstantiated or untrue statement about someone that damages their reputation. Submissions must have facts to back up all claims.

• Support discrimination on any grounds. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, religion or culture.

• Are vulgar, profane, obscene, or otherwise offensive.

• Make explicit or implied threats. This includes personal attacks, intimidation, bullying or threat of harm against a person or organization.

• Contain copyrighted material or that have been printed in another publication. All letters must be an original writing by the signer and exclusive to the Vilas County News-Review/The Three Lakes News.

• Identifies another person, unless that person has given their explicit consent. We assume that any person identified in a letter has consented to be mentioned in the letter.

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All letters submitted as an endorsement for a political candidate, referendum or political agenda will carry the same guidelines as above; however, they will be charged \$40 for the first 250 words and an additional \$10 per additional 50 words. All political letters must be prepaid prior to printing. Some submissions may be referred to our advertising department to be run as ads.

## Honoring Jimmy Carter and the truth about hospice care

To the Editor;

The passing of President Jimmy Carter marks the end of an admirable life dedicated to service, compassion and humanity. While we mourn his loss, we can also reflect on the impact he made, even in his final chapter, by helping to shift the conversation around hospice care.

When President Carter entered hospice in February 2023, many assumed his time would be measured in days or weeks, a common misconception about what hospice means. In reality,

hospice is not about giving up. Instead, it's about living the remaining months of life with dignity and as much comfort as possible.

Hospice offers support for both patients and families, addressing physical, emotional and spiritual needs during one of life's most challenging times, free from the stress of unnecessary hospital visits or procedures. As a caregiver at Compassus, I have seen the impact our guidance and support have on patients and their families. It's a compassionate option

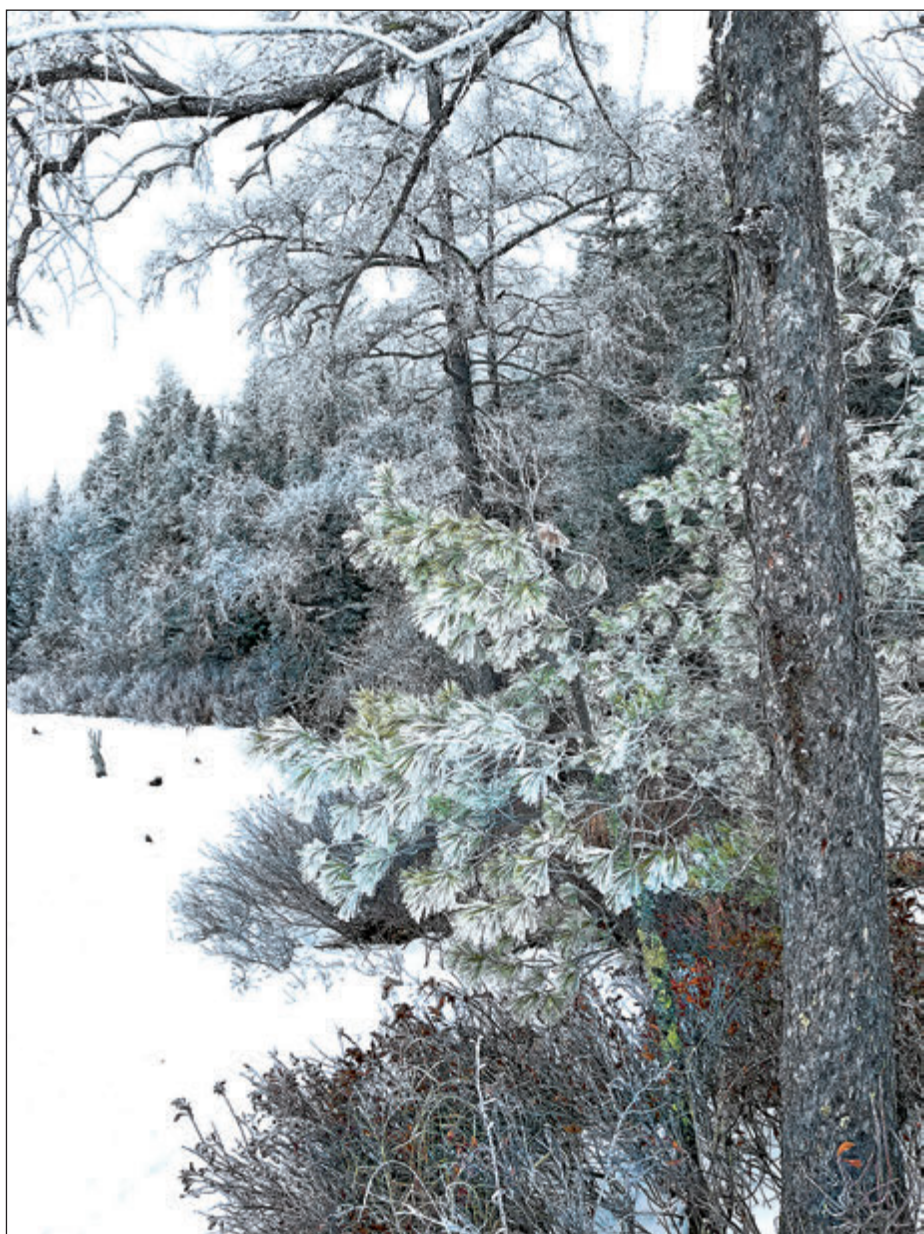
that should be embraced much earlier to improve quality of life.

As we honor Jimmy Carter's legacy, let's also remember the lesson his final journey taught us: that hospice is not about ending life, but about helping people live it fully, even at the end.

Amy Nowak  
Hospice Administrator  
Compassus Hospice  
— Arbor Vitae and  
Rhinelanders



# OPINION/COMMENTARY



WINTER SCENIC — An overcast day, high humidity and a light breeze created the perfect conditions for hoar frost as the new year rolled in, creating a picturesque winter scene on the Three Lakes Chain. — Photo By Kurt Krueger

## Balancing the ATV books

To the Editor;  
The Penn State study, “Economic impact of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on local economies: a literature review,” available online March 1, 2024, in the Journal “Review of Economic Assessment” states:

“The findings indicate that existing studies have assessed the economic impact of ATVs solely based on gross expenditures, lacking comprehensive inclusion of the costs associated with ATV damages to the environment, society, and human health.”

The studies claiming substantial benefits to the local economies associated with ATVs have only looked at the plus side (often using different terms that are equivalent to gross expenditures) and ignored the minus side of the ledger.

In order to understand if there is any benefit to local economies, it is necessary to balance the books to see if the pluses outweigh the minuses. Every business does this, but the Penn State study indicates that no studies of ATV economic effects on local economies so far

have done so. This means that the study paid for and executed by WATVA, in addition to other flaws, cannot make any conclusion about economic benefits to the state of Wisconsin, and certainly not to Vilas County or any town in Vilas County. The same flaw applies to the study from the Wisconsin Office of Outdoor Recreation and every other study that the Penn State researchers could find on the subject.

Incidentally, the Penn State study lists other and more specific costs associated with ATVs:

“Environmental impacts include damage to soil and vegetation on the landscape, air pollution from vehicle emissions, harm to water quality, trail surfaces, and wildlife, as well as noise pollution (Fonseca et al., 2005; Bissix and Medicraft, 2008; Khorsandi et al., 2023). ATVs can create conflicts with other recreational activities such as hiking and cross country skiing (Bissix and Medicraft, 2008). ATV related deaths and injuries are the most serious concern among stakeholders and users (Doud et al., 2017).”

Perhaps the most

disreputable reason for only quantifying the economic benefits, and none of the costs of ATV riding, is that those who pay for the studies (like WATVA) only want to report a positive image of ATVing. However, it is also true that it is sometimes difficult to place a dollar value on losses, like silent sports tourists driven away; loss in residential real estate value near ATV routes/trails; water pollution; deaths; etc. In a few instances, costs are mentioned without estimating the dollar value of those costs. Whatever the reason(s) for omitting it, cost data are essential to providing a true picture of the potential economic effects of ATVs on local economies. As the Penn State study concludes:

“This study advocates for the need for a more comprehensive consideration of both benefits and costs in the economic impact of ATVs to assist ATV business managers, policymakers, and researchers in making informed decisions and planning future programs.”

Steve Halverson  
Boulder Junction

## Unnecessary health care barriers

To the Editor;  
Did you know...There is a critical issue affecting health care access for residents in northern Wisconsin. My recent experience with Aspirus Healthcare highlights policies that prioritize corporate interests over patient care, creating unnecessary barriers for those who depend on their services.

As of January 1, 2025, my employer-sponsored health insurance transitioned to Network Health Medicare Advantage. This plan treats in-network and out-of-network claims the same, meaning I can see any doctor without incurring

higher costs. However, Aspirus has chosen not to bill out-of-network claims, leaving patients like me with two limited options: becoming self-pay or seeking care at a different facility.

Aspirus informed me that as a self-pay patient, I would need to pay 50% of the full, undiscounted cost up front, with the remainder due afterward. They explicitly stated that no discounts could be offered because I have insurance, even though Aspirus refuses to bill my insurance.

This policy forced me to transition my care to

Marshfield Healthcare, which, thankfully, is willing to bill out-of-network.

Aspirus’ refusal to bill out-of-network claims appears to be an attempt to monopolize health care in northern Wisconsin while dictating how patients can use their services. This approach leaves patients with fewer choices and creates unnecessary hardships for those with complex medical needs. It also highlights broader systemic issues:

- The lack of accessible providers accepting new patients in rural areas.
- The impact of corporate health care policies on

patient choice and continuity of care.

• The need for stronger regulations to ensure fair and equitable health care access, particularly for those with Medicare Advantage or other non-traditional insurance plans.

As a resident of northern Wisconsin, I am deeply concerned about how these policies are affecting the health and well-being of our community. This issue affects not only me but countless others in our region who depend on fair and accessible health care.

Debbie Ryan  
Phelps

## PUBLISHER’S LETTER

### We Are One

Dear Reader,

I am not just one; I am a unit of many—my ancestors who paved the way, the stages of my life shaped by community and friends, and the family of God’s creation to which we all belong.

Whatever I do is not just me; it is many. We are all in this together. No one deserves all the credit, and no one should bear all the blame. Our successes and failures are collective, reflecting the journey we share.

So, let’s make it worthwhile. Let’s journey together with love and compassion, setting aside denigration and hate. Our shared path is our greatest responsibility and our most profound opportunity.



PATRICK J. WOOD  
Publisher

Author of “Reflections” a new book now available on Amazon.

## Have a wonderful retirement, Krueger

To the Editor;  
Sometimes when you get the paper sent it shows up later than you expect and unfortunately, I got last week’s and this week’s paper together. So, I read about Kurt retiring and wanted so much to send a note to him wishing him a wonderful retirement and thank him for the many years he made our community great with excellent news reporting and community events.

We lived in Conover for over 30 years and then

had to move closer to Milwaukee for my husband’s cancer, but we still got our paper. We had even moved to Texas for 5 years and ordered our paper from Eagle River. Love the News-Review and so happy to keep up on everything going on in the North Woods.

Kurt always helped us in the community in many ways. I was a Rotarian with him, advertised with him, asked for donations for the REALTOR Association and he always said yes,

and absolutely loved his photographs. While he deserves to retire, I can be certain the newspaper may not be the same without his awesome photographs, reporting and community activity. Thank you, Kurt Krueger, for the many years of a great newspaper that I will always love, and may your retirement be filled with many years of happiness.

Cheryl Eskridge  
Iron Ridge, Wis.

## Caution

FROM PAGE 7

and often are created, move or grow with changes in high winds and temperatures. This can happen on Wisconsin’s largest lake — Winnebago, a popular home to sturgeon spearkers — and the Bay of Green Bay.

### Here are more safety tips:

- Carry a cell phone, and inform people of departure and return times.
- Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a personal flotation device or a float coat, to help stay afloat and to help slow body

heat loss.

- Take an extra pair of mittens or gloves so hands can remain dry and warm.
- Wear creepers attached to boots to prevent slipping on clear ice.
- Carry a spud bar to check the ice while walking to new areas.
- Do not travel in unfamiliar areas — or at night.
- Have a plan in place noting location and return times. Along with leaving a written note of plans, it is also recommended to keep a charged cell phone.

### If the worst happens and somebody falls in, here’s what to do:

- Carry a couple of

hand-held spikes and a length of light rope in an easily accessible pocket or inside sleeves — or others — out of the ice.

• If someone falls in, they should remain as calm as possible and, while attempting to assist themselves out of the water, call for help as soon as they can. Anyone who attempts to rescue them also is recommended to use a rope or something similar to avoid falling through as well.

For more information on staying safe on the ice, visit the DNR’s Ice Safety webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/IceSafety>.

## Thomas

FROM PAGE 8

for increased education spending for public schools. New Jersey is third in the nation in what it spends on public schools, amounting to \$25,099 per student, far exceeding the tuition cost for most private schools. More about that in a moment.

If spending on students (and teachers) were directly related to enhanced performance, New Jersey and the rest of the country would be at or near the top in positive education outcomes.

Since the 1960s, the U.S. appears to have been on a downward path, attacking wealth, success and people taking personal responsibility for their actions. We once promoted such things as examples of what one could be with the right attitude and practices that were thought to be universal and proven right by history. Too often in modern times, some politicians

and culture denigrate what used to produce desired outcomes, and would again if embraced. We say we don’t like the outcome of today’s practices, but appear unwilling to change direction in too many cases. The result is we get less of what we claim to want more of, and more of what we claim to want less of.

President-elect Donald Trump says he wants to change this way of thinking on many levels, especially when it comes to education. He has announced plans to eliminate the Department of Education and return education power to the states where it belongs. It is a worthy goal, one that Ronald Reagan sought to achieve, but failed. Entrenched interests in Washington are difficult to remove.

New Jersey has partial school choice options, but only for public schools that include charter and magnet schools. It also allows for parents who wish to instruct their children at

home. But parents who want their children to have an education with the moral values that a religious foundation brings are out of luck. They must pay twice — their high New Jersey taxes and private school tuition. Many can’t afford it and so especially poor and even middle-class students are trapped in a system that will now include teachers who wouldn’t qualify to teach under the previous standard.

Would a universal school choice program help attract more qualified teachers so the bar could be raised to the previous level, instead of lowered? It should be worth a try.

Readers may email Cal Thomas at [tcaditors@tribpub.com](mailto:tcaditors@tribpub.com). Look for Cal Thomas’ latest book “A Watchman in the Night: What I’ve Seen Over 50 Years Reporting on America” (HumanixBooks).

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**FRIDAY, JAN. 17**

- Racing begins at 10:30 am
  - WC Time Trials
  - USSA Prostar Cup Tour Race
  - Heat Races in F-500, Outlaw, Pro Lite
  - Pro Champ Heats afternoon and evening
- Friday Night Thunder 5:30 pm
  - Opening Ceremonies
- Friday Night Thunder Racing begins at 6:00 pm
  - Semi-Pro, Pro Champ, Jr. Div. Heats
  - Bikes Hot Laps, SWEET 16
  - Outlaw, F-500, Sportsman 600
  - Pole Position Race

**SATURDAY, JAN. 18**

- Racing Begins at 9:30 am
  - Semi-Pro, Pro Champ, Jr. Div. Heats
  - Sportsman 600, F-500, F-440
  - Pro Lite Final
- Afternoon Schedule
  - 62nd WC Qualifying Heats, Semis
  - 5th WC Enduro Time Trials and LCQ

**SUNDAY, JAN. 19**

- 11 am WC Last Chance Qualifier
  - Outlaw 600 Semis & Final
  - Pro Champ Final; Jr. Div.;
  - F-500; F-44, Sportsman 600 Final
- 1:30 pm - 25 Laps
  - World Championship Formula III
- 3:30 pm - 130 Laps
  - World Championship Enduro

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