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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

On Aging and Invisibility

Dear Reader,

As we age, we begin to relinquish the power and foundation we spent a lifetime building. The network of friends, family, and community that once anchored us starts to loosen. The lives we touched, and that touched us, continue on-but often without us in the same role. In the fourth quarter of life, we find ourselves gradually diminished, both in presence and influence.

Retirement marks a turning point. Once the initial transition settles, the mutual accord of separation sets in—we are no longer integral to the rhythm of daily work. We search for ways to fill our days, to occupy time, and to maintain purpose.

Yet as life plods on, our involvement begins to wane. At family gatherings, meals, or community events, our voices may not carry the same weight. Fewer people ask for our

thoughts or lean in to listen. The slow fade of relevance

takes hold. And then one day, it happens. You walk into a room—crowded or quiet—and feel unseen. You have become invisible.



But this need not be the end of the story. While aging can bring invisibility, it can also bring clarity. Freed from the need to prove ourselves or chase accolades, we can rediscover what truly matters. We can focus on what is eternal-love, kindness, and

wisdom—sharing it in ways that go beyond words.

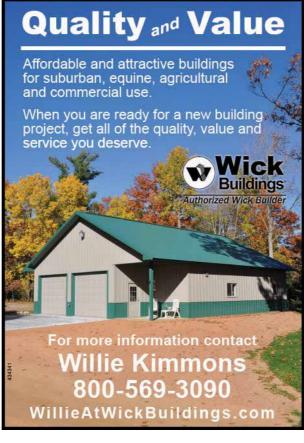
Invisibility is also a kind of freedom. It gives us the space to observe, reflect, and create without the distractions of being in the spotlight. We can use this time to mentor others, pass on our stories, and nurture relationships that bring depth rather than breadth to our lives. Our wisdom, experience, and quiet presence can still be a source of strength and guidance for those who choose to notice.

The fourth quarter of life does not have to be about fading into the background; instead, it can offer new ways to shine. It can be a time to embrace the joy of being, rather than doing, and to show the world-and ourselves-that the gifts we offer do not have to diminish with age.

PATRICK J. WOOD

Publisher

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







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Antigo Visual Arts (AVA) Celebrates New Collaboration with Antigo Community Theater's Open Mic Night







FOR MMC

Antigo Visual Arts (AVA) hosted a successful opening reception for their Winter Open Gallery Art Sale on Jan. 18, 25 at the Langlade County Historical Society (LCHS) Museum. Located on the second floor of the museum, the gallery featured a diverse collection of local art, creating a lively atmosphere for the event.

The Winter Open Gallery Art Sale will be on display until Mar. 8, 25 and the gallery is open to visitors during the regular hours of the LCHS Museum.

In a unique collaboration, the event was paired with Antigo Community Theater's (ACT) Open Mic Night with Rebecca and Friends, a new entertainment feature by ACT. While guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres created by AVA artists, they were serenaded by Rebecca's captivating solo performance, which included big band, blues, and jazz music from the 1940s. Throughout the

evening, discussions centered on ways to further integrate and grow the arts community in Antigo.

Moira Scupien, from ACT, commented, "It is vital for a community to attend and support the lively arts. It is not only good for the soul but brings people together to share and support the gifts and talents of their friends and neighbors."

During the reception, attendees were invited to vote on their favorite artwork. The winners of the evening included:

Viewer's Choice: Night Visitor by Joanne March

Artist's Choice: Friendship by Ember Jesperson

A highlight of the event was the special touch provided by AVA Gallery Director, Vicki Eldridge, who created large nameplates for each artist and displayed their work in a visually striking layout. "Vicki's passion for showcasing our

artists is evident, and the gallery layout really highlighted the talent within our community," said Danna Gabriel, President of AVA. "We are incredibly fortunate to have her as our Gallery Director.'

This exhibition was not a judged show like other AVA events but instead offered an opportunity for attendees to engage directly with the art and vote for their favorites.

ACT's Open Mic Night with Rebecca and Friends debuted at BB Jack's Antigo location on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025. During this event, an AVA artist presented a piece of art, discussing its inspiration and emotional impact, while inviting the audience to connect with the work. This new collaboration between AVA and ACT aims to expand the presence of the arts in Antigo and foster greater community engagement.

AVA would like to extend its sincere

gratitude to its 2024 sponsors, whose generous support made this event and the gallery possible. Our 2024 sponsors included: the City of Antigo, Association of Wisconsin Artists, Wisconsin Arts Board, Elwyn Remington Foundation, Johnson Electric Coil Company, Inc., Elks Club of Antigo, CoVantage Credit Union, Kretz Lumber, Bolen Realty, Strasser Roller Funeral Home, Quinlan's Equipment, Volm Companies, Dairy Queen, Winter Law Office, Bradley Olsen Funeral Home, Tree Solutions, Parson's of Antigo, Steve's Warehouse, Fleet Farm, Antigo Arborists, and Great Northwoods Campsite.

As a nonprofit organization, AVA provides local artists with opportunities to showcase their work through exhibitions at the LCHS Museum gallery, a smaller space within the Aspen Village Apartment Complex, and public art projects.

Wisconsinites Invited To Participate In Wisconsin Conservation Congress Resolution Process

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) invites all Wisconsinites to take part in its annual spring hearing process.

The WCC is an independent organization of residents that advises the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on how to responsibly manage Wisconsin's natural resources.

Each year residents have an opportunity to submit ideas as resolutions to the WCC.

Wisconsinites can submit proposed resolutions via the online process now through Feb. 24, 2025. Resolutions must meet the following criteria:

The concern must be of statewide impact.

concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.

The concern must be within the mission and vision of the Wisconsin Conservation

An individual citizen may submit no more than two resolutions per year. Those interested in submitting a resolution are encouraged to reach out to the resolution review committee or their WCC County Chair for guidance in drafting a resolution.



Additional tips on preparing a resolution are available on the WCC and DNR's Spring Hearings webpage.

Resolutions will be accepted until Feb. 24, 2025. At the close of the submission process, the resolutions will be reviewed by a committee of WCC delegates to ensure they meet the criteria for inclusion and will be prepared for the spring hearing agenda and online input, which kicks off on April 14 and will close on April 16.

For further information or questions, contact Terri Roehrig, Executive Committee Member of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, at 920-540-2775.

DHS Launches Campaign Highlighting Health Risks of Menthol Tobacco Products

Working to reach populations most targeted by tobacco marketing and menthol use

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has launched a digital education and outreach campaign Wisconsinites," said State Health Officer highlighting the dangers of menthol in commercial tobacco products and focused on the impact that targeted marketing these products has on certain communities.

"Over generations, menthol in tobacco has had a catastrophic health impact on



Paula Tran. "Each year 7,900 Wisconsinites die from tobacco use. National studies have shown that if menthol cigarettes were no longer available in Wisconsin, an estimated 17,200 adults in the state would quit smoking.'

See TOBACCO page 6

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OBITUARIES

Carol F. Crandall



Carol F. Crandall, age 90 of Antigo, passed away on January 16, 2025 at Eastview Nursing Home and Rehabilitation.

Carol was born on June 18, 1934 in Duff, Indiana. She married Forrest Crandall in Iron Mountain, MI on September 22, 1983. He survives. She attended Antigo Bible Church.

In accordance with Carol's wishes, no services will be held.

Marie Reif



Marie J. Reif, age 99, of Antigo, died on January 16, 2025 at Evergreen Terrace. She was born on April 30, 1925 in Antigo, a daughter of Joseph and Josephine (Fronek) Koudelka. She married Robert Reif on August 10, 1946 at St Mary Catholic Church in Antigo. He preceded her in death on December 25, 2000.

Marie attended Clover Leaf Grade School and was a 1944 graduate of Antigo High School. In her early years she

worked at Sarris's Candy Shop in Antigo. She moved to Milwaukee and was employed by Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Company. She returned to Antigo and worked alongside her husband at Reif Construction from 1957 to 1991.

Marie was a member of SS Mary & Hyacinth Catholic Church and the Rosary Society, having been a past president. She was also a girl scout leader.

She loved to crochet and needlepoint Christmas stockings for her grandchildren. She enjoyed flower and vegetable gardening, canning, preserving produce and baking.

Survivors include a daughter, Carol (Michael) Diercks of Coloma; a son, Jerry (Michelle) Reif of Antigo; six grand-children, Michelle (Joel) Johnson of Adams Friendship, Barbara (Paul) Gransee of Adams Friendship, Charissa (Nate) Healy of Oshkosh, Corinna (Dan) Wagner of Duluth, MN, Jacob (Rachel) Reif of Antigo, and Josephine Rae Reif of Antigo; great-grandchildren, Dalton Pollex, Molly Johnson, Gwen, Beau and Diercks Gransee, Cade, Chase, Cameron, Cannon and Cormac Healy, Eleanor and Evelyn Wagner, Ava and Lila Reif. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by two sons in infancy, Joseph and Anthony; a daughter in infancy, Mary Ann; two brothers, George (Violet) Koudelka and Joseph Koudelka; and three sisters, Clara (Fred) Pagel, Blanche Fischer and Mildred (Nicholas) Prins.

A funeral Mass was held on Saturday, January 25, at 11 a.m. at SS Mary & Hyacinth Catholic Church with the Very Reverend Joel Sember officiating. Burial will take place in Queen of Peace Cemetery.

Visitation was held on Saturday, January 25 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Bradley Funeral Home.

A special thank you to Gary and Sarah and the staff at Evergreen Terrace for their loving and wonderful care.

Online condolences at www.bradleyfh.com.



Aspirus Health Offers Practical Tips for Achieving and Maintaining a Healthy Weight



Weight loss is not always a linear process. Setbacks are normal. Just take them in stride and get back on with your weight loss journey when you can

ASPIRUS HEALTH

More than 40 percent of Americans grapple with obesity, putting them at a higher risk for serious health issues such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, and certain types of cancer, as highlighted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Aspirus Health is offering practical tips to empower individuals in their journey toward a healthier weight during Healthy Weight Week, January 19-25.

"A healthy weight is not just a number. It's a dynamic balance unique to each person," says Madeline Oestreich, MD, Aspirus Family Medicine Physician. Dr. Oestreich provides actionable steps to help individuals improve their overall health and maintain a healthy weight:

Make Informed Food Choices: Dr. Oestreich suggests using a food tracking app to understand calorie intake. "By tracking what you eat, you'll make better decisions about the foods you choose," she explains. She also advises adjusting your diet as your activity levels change.

Move Your Body, Simply: Dr. Oestreich encourages simple activities, like a daily walk or basic home exercises, instead of extreme workout plans. "You don't need to follow the latest fitness craze to be healthy," she notes.

Consistency is Key: Dr. Oestreich advises engaging in at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise five days a week. "Consistency is key," she says.

Prioritize Sleep: Getting seven to eight hours of sleep each night is crucial for metabolism and weight management, according to Dr. Oestreich.

Be Kind to Yourself: Acknowledging that family history can play a role in weight management, Dr. Oestreich reassures patients that setbacks are part of the journey. "Weight loss isn't always a linear process. Just stay on track and keep moving forward when you can," she says.

Speak with your primary care clinician for personalized guidance tailored to your health needs. They're ready to help you on your path to achieving and maintaining a healthy weight.



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A Guide to Dining Out as a Family

Dining out with family can be an enjoyable way to spend time together

FOR MMC

Families enjoy meals out at restaurants in celebration of various milestones, including birthdays, retirements, holidays, and other special occasions. Sometimes families choose to dine out for no specific reason other than to enjoy a change of pace and scenery.

Restaurant dining has increased in recent years and in some areas has reached or even eclipsed prepandemic levels. According to Statistics Canada, in the first quarter of 2023, Canadians spent 39 percent of their food budgets at restaurants. A report from Nielsen indicated the total amount of money spent on food away from home in the United States has risen 94 percent since 2003.

When planning meals out with family members, these guidelines can make the process go smoothly and make for an enjoyable night.

Prioritize proximity

When looking for a restaurant for a family dinner, take convenience into consideration. Try to choose a restaurant that is close to everyone's home. If that is not possible, solicit recommendations from all who plan to attend.

Keep cost in consideration

While some family members will not bat an eye at menu prices, others may have to be more discretionary with their spending. Putting out feelers to see what everyone feels comfortable spending might be a good idea. Then select a restaurant that fits those needs. Some restaurants will work with larger parties and put together a limited price-fixed menu, which can ensure no one is surprised when the bill arrives.

Check for food allergies/restrictions

Nowadays it is essential to be mindful of people's diets, including foods that they may have to avoid. Individuals will want to alert the restaurant staff of any special needs well in advance to ensure their needs are accommodated.

Bring cash along

If one person in the family is covering the tab, then payment method may not matter. However, if a few different people are contributing to the bill, it may be easiest to have everyone bring cash so that the money can be divided easily. However, money sharing apps like Zelle, Paypal or Venmo may enable those who do not want to use cash to simply send funds to another person so that this individual will pay the bill.

Avoid peak hours

Book a reservation before peak hours so everyone can relax and take their time. Also, choosing a day of the week other than Friday, Saturday or Sunday also may mean smaller crowds and less wait time to receive food.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Antigo Area Community Food Pantry Wednesdays 11am-1pm & Fridays 1-3pm. 2120 Progress Blvd., Antigo. All the time needs include: Low sodium canned vegetables, Low sodium canned beans, Low sodium condensed soups such as chicken noodle, tomato or cream of mushroom, Whole grain cereals, Canned fruit in 100% juice or sugarfree, Plain Oatmeal, Peanut butter, Brown rice/whole grain pasta. Personal Hygiene: Laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, toothpaste (these are not purchased by the pantry unless we are given a grant specifically for these items). For more information, go to AntigoFoodPantry.com or call 715-623-1103. For emergency food assistance needs after hours call 715-627-1818.

Elcho Area Community Food Pantry Mondays 2:30-4:30pm. Wednesdays 4-6pm, 11224 Antigo St., Elcho. Food will be distributed based on availability and # of family members. Note that the pantry is not open on holidays, or on days when the schools are closed because of snow. 715-275-5010. In accordance with federal civil rights laws and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Community Closet Open Mondays 10am-Noon, Wednesdays 4-6pm & Saturdays 9-10am, N9570 Hwy. B, Summit Lake (across from the Summit Lake Post Office) Free Clothing and Jackets (Baby to XXL). Clothing donations are welcome. Everyone is welcome!

Senior Cribbage Group Mondays 1pm. Summit Lake Town Hall N 9575, County Rd B, Summit Lake. CURRENTLY ON HOLD DUE TO LOW PARTICIPATION- PLZ CALL IF INTERESTED: Judy Beecher 715-219-4333

Group Dance Class & Social Tuesdays 6pm. Northstar Lanes 400 Prosser Pl., Antigo. learn to dance in a fun, social setting! Each week the lesson rotates to another style of Latin or Ballroom dance (Salsa, Bachata, Cha Cha, Waltz, Rumba, Foxtrot, Swing, etc.) NO PARTNER (OR EXPERIENCE) REQUIRED! Doors open by 5:45pm. The 45-minute class begins at 6pm and afterwards we'll play a variety of music so everyone can dance and have fun!

Line Dancing Jan. 27th 1-2:30pm. Senior Center of Langlade County 623 Edison St., Antigo. Line Dancing-Instructions and handouts are provided for every dance. No prior knowledge of line dance is necessary. The goal of the class is to have fun while getting to know others and learning steps to dance.

StrongBodies Program (Virtual) Jan. 28th 9-10:15am. This will be a virtual program via Zoom that you can follow along with at home. Sign up online at https://go.wisc.edu/j9468d

Brain Health Basics (Presentation) Jan. 21st 3-4pm. Antigo ADRC Office 1225 Langlade Rd., Antigo. Join the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin for a presentation about options and choices that can lead to a healthier brain.

Cardio and Strength Training Jan. 29th 4:30-5:30pm. Senior Center of Langlade County, 623 Edison St., Antigo. Cardio and strength training at the senior center with Dawn. This is designed for all levels of fitness. There is no charge.

Open Skate at Langlade County Multipurpose Building Jan. 31st 6-8pm. Langlade County Fairgrounds - Multi-Purpose Building 1635 Neva Rd., Antigo. Come enjoy an Open Skate! Rent Skates for \$2

White Lake Fishing Derby Feb. 1st 7am-4pm. Joe Edelman Pavilion 812 Lake St., White Lake. Cash prizes for the longest game &/or panfish caught that day in White Lake. There will be a paddle wheel, raffles, and 50/50 drawing all day long along with food and drinks. The big raffle drawing will be at 4 pm (need not be present to win) for the top cash prize and other prizes.

Ice Cream for Breakfast Feb. 1st 8am-10am. Harper's Mercantile 824 5th Ave., Antigo. Join Spud City Creamer and Harper's Mercantile for a morning of sweet treats and good company as we celebrate National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day. Merging your favorite breakfast foods with our artisan ice cream.

Classic Cruise Antique & Vintage Snowmobile Ride Feb. 1st 10am-4pm. Quinn's Bar N5298 County Road A, Deerbrook. The event will take place even though the Langlade County Snowmobile Trail System is currently closed. Fun for the entire family with registration at 10 am & riding at noon. Food, Drawings, Prizes & Karaoke after the ride.

Benefit Event for Steven Cameron Feb. 1st 5-9pm. Northstar Lanes 400 Prosser Pl., Antigo. Live music by Halfstack Alice goes from 6pm-10pm. There will be raffles, food, and drinks, and free bowling for kids under 12. All money raised will help the family with medical bills and expenses. For more information or to make a donation, please call or text Skylar at 715-903-0224.

Inspire To Shine Yoga Classes Feb. 2nd 8:30-9:30am. PLIA Community Center W8684 County Road K, Elcho. The class costs \$10 to attend. Email Stephanie at stephanie@inspiring2shine.com for more information.

MEETINGS

Economic Development Committee - Regular Meeting Feb. 3rd 6pm. City Hall, 700 Edison St., Antigo.

GROUPS

AA Support Group (Open) Wednesdays 7pm. 1005 Fifth Ave., Antigo.

AA Meetings Tuesdays at 7pm at the Elcho UCC Church N11291 Dorr St., Elcho.

AA Meetings Sundays 10am. White Lake Community Center 615 School St., White Lake. Any questions call 715-219-0305

Alanon/Nornon Group Mondays 1:30pm. Antigo Community Church School (old St. Mary's), 723 Deleglise St., Antigo. Enter in the back please. For more information including other meeting times and locations call (715-623-4904)

Alzheimer's Support Group Second Monday of the month 5-6pm. Rolalia Gardens Door #3 519 Flight Rd., Antigo. 715-610-6681

Alzheimer's Association Virtual Support Groups Coffee for Family Caregivers, 2nd Monday of the month 5:30pm-6:30pm. For Persons Living with Mild Cognitive Impairment, 2nd Wednesday of the month 10-11:30am. Family Caregivers for a loved one with Frontotemporal Degeneration 3rd Wednesday of the month 6-7:30pm. Family Caregivers for a loved one with Dementia in the early stages 4th Tuesday of the month 10-11:30am. Family Caregivers for a loved one with dementia living at a facility every other Friday 10-11:30am. Phone In Caregiver Support Group the last Tuesday of every month 10-11:30am. To register for any of the support groups contact the 24/7 helpline. 800.272.3900

AVAIL Support Group Meetings on Mondays, 5:30pm-7pm, Wednesdays 10:30am-12pm, Thursdays, 10:30am-12pm and again at 5:30pm-7pm, Fridays 3-6pm. AVAIL Inc. 1410 N. Superior St., Antigo.

Baby & Me Support Group Wednesdays from 1-2pm in the Langlade Birthing Center 112 E 5th Ave, Antigo, second floor. Facilitator: RN/International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. For more information please call 715-623-9280. No fee.

Broken Arrow Christian Recovery Meeting Thursdays 7pm. 1005 Fifth Avenue, Antigo.

Community Recovery Bible Study Fridays 6pm. Aspirus Langlade Hospital 112 E. Fifth Ave., Antigo- in the large conference room.

Life Recovery Group & Christian Recovery Meetings Wednesdays 8:30am. Church of the Nazarine 230 Elm St., Antigo. This group is for anyone struggling with addiction, anxiety, food, depression, relationships, etc. There will also be Christian Recovery meetings at the same place and time.

Narcotics Anonymous Mondays 8am, Tuesdays, Fridays & Saturdays 7pm. 1005 Fifth Ave., Antigo.

Overeaters Anonymous Mondays 7-8pm. SS. Mary & Hyacinth Parish Center, 819 3rd Ave., Antigo. Room #4 Contact: Rose Marie, 715-623-2128.

Stroke & Neurological Support Group (2nd Friday of the Month) Langlade Co. Senior Center 623 Edison St., Antigo.

If you have an upcoming event or ongoing group activity that you would like to include, please email the information to nwinkler@mmclocal.com

DHS Confirms First Pediatric Influenza-Associated Death in Wisconsin

Encourages everyone 6 months and older to get vaccinated against respiratory viruses to avoid serious illness

DHS

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has confirmed the first pediatric influenza-associated death in our state for the 2024-2025 season. Nationwide, 16 pediatric influenza-associated deaths have been reported.

"We are saddened to announce the season's first death of a child from flu in Wisconsin, and our deepest sympathy goes out to this child's family," said State Health Officer Paula Tran. "Respiratory viruses remain a significant health concern, especially in children. If you or your loved ones have not received your flu or COVID-19 vaccine yet this season, it's not too late. Vaccines are safe, effective, and save lives."

Respiratory illness activity is currently high in Wisconsin. Emergency department visits due to flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) have also increased, especially in infants and young children. While getting vaccinated against respiratory viruses is important for everyone, it is especially important for young children, older adults, people with chronic health conditions, and those who are pregnant. Getting vaccinated can help prevent illness or reduce the severity of symptoms and serious complications if someone does get sick.

DHS encourages everyone 6 months and older to get vaccinated against flu and COVID-19. Infants 8 months or younger and those 9-19 months with an increased risk of RSV can receive the RSV vaccine. Parents and caregivers can get information about which vaccines are right for their children from their health care provider. It's recommended those who are between 32 weeks and 36 weeks pregnant get one dose of the maternal RSV vaccine, Abrysvo, administered September through January. Adults 75 and older and those 60-74 who have an increased risk of RSV are also eligible to get vaccinated against RSV.

People can help stop the spread of germs and increase protection against respiratory viruses by:

Washing their hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.

Avoiding touching their nose, eyes, and mouth.

Staying home and away from others if they feel sick.

Avoiding being around others who are sick or have flu symptoms.

Covering their nose and mouth when they cough or sneeze and encouraging children to do the same.

Wearing a high-quality mask around others to prevent

the spread of respiratory illness.

Wisconsinites can get vaccinated to protect themselves and their families by contacting their primary care

provider, local or Tribal health department, community clinic, or visiting vaccines.gov. They can also dial 211

See INFLUENZA page 6



www.bsielcho.com



TOBACCO from page 3

Today, menthol remains widely in use, with menthol sales increasing over the last decade. During this time. menthol tobacco advertisements have disproportionately been promoted to African and American other communities of color. As a result of these advertising methods, menthol is now used by nine in 10 African Americans in Wisconsin who smoke and smoking contributes to the three

leading causes of death among this community: heath disease, cancer, and stroke. Additionally, the adult smoking prevalence for African Americans in Wisconsin is much higher, in some cases nearly twice as high, compared to other communities across the state.

DHS and other health officials are raising the alarm that the commercial tobacco industry is using the same tactics-highdensity advertising, sponsorship of events and music festivals, retail promotions, and the sale

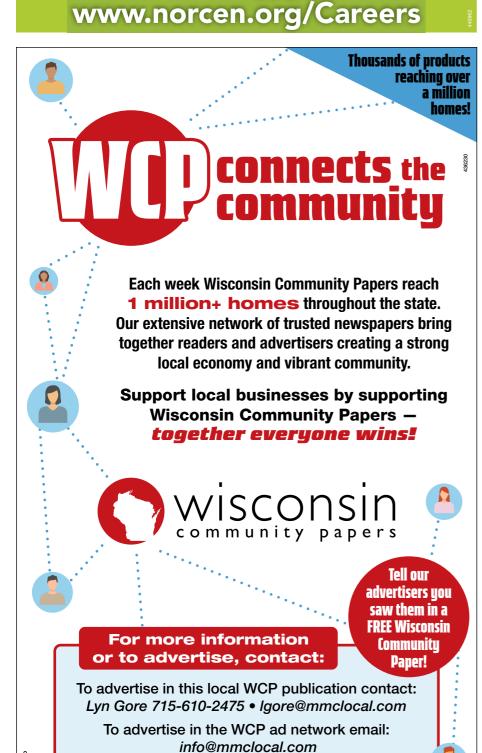
of flavored products—to similarly target other populations, such as youth, young adults, and the LGBTQ+ community. In Wisconsin, 9,300 young people under age 18 will try cigarettes for the first time every year, and half with start with menthol.

"The result will be that we will continue to see generations of people dying smoking-related illnesses or suffering addictions," long-term said Vicki Huntington, section manager with the DHS Commercial Tobacco Prevention and Treatment Program. "Through this awareness campaign, we want to inform people about the harm that comes from menthol tobacco use and call attention to the tactics that the industry is using to get people addicted."

This digital marketing campaign is one part of the DHS' broad public awareness efforts that provide the facts and treatment resources to youth, parents, and adults about the health impacts of tobacco and nicotine across all ages. Alongside these campaigns, DHS continues to raise awareness among retailers regarding 21 being the legal age of sale for tobacco and nicotine products.

The Wisconsin Tobacco Quitline provides personalized support for people who are interested in learning about reducing or quitting tobacco. The Quit Line also offers extra coaching support for those who use menthol cigarettes. Learn more by texting READY to 34191, 800-QUIT-NOW calling (800-784-8669), or visit wiquitline.org

North Central Health Care **YOUR NEW CAREER** NCHC is hiring for a variety of positions in Wausau, Merrill & Antigo! ✓ Competitive Wages √ Health, Dental & Vision ✓ New State-of-the-Art Facilities **√** Fun, Supportive Workplace Learn More! Apply Online!



Tax Season **Make A Donation**

DNR

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages nature lovers to give to the Endangered Resources Fund on their Wisconsin income tax form. The fund has helped the DNR conserve hundreds of species in Wisconsin.

On Your Tax Form

Give To

Wisconsin's

Endangered

Resources

Fund This

Reasons To Give

The Best of the Best: Wisconsin is home to some of the largest populations in the world of endangered species like the Karner blue butterfly and rusty patched bumble bee, along with important populations of many other species, like wood turtles.

Preservation in Place: Funds support the care of the country's largest system of state natural areas. These sites protect some of the nation's oldest forests, undeveloped lakes, diverse wetlands and unique geologic and archeological features. Nearly 75% of Wisconsin's endangered and threatened wildlife species and 90% of endangered and threatened plant species are found in these areas. Just one site may be home to more than 70 species of native plants.

Your Gift is Multiplied: Each dollar donated to the Endangered Resources Fund through the tax checkoff is doubled by state funding and can be used to successfully apply for grants that require fund matching. This allows us to turn \$1 into \$4 or \$25 into \$100.

"When you support the Endangered Resources Fund, it supports our team's on-the-ground conservation efforts and helps us collaborate with volunteers and partners to prevent the loss of species across our state," said Drew Feldkirchner, DNR Natural Heritage Conservation

See RESOURCES page 8

INFLUENZA from page 5

77-947-2211 for help scheduling vaccine appointment. People without health insurance whose insurance doesn't cover vaccines may be able to get help through the Vaccines for Children program and Vaccines for Adults program.

Up-to-date information about the current respiratory season can be found in the DHS Weekly Respiratory Report or on the Respiratory Illness Activity webpage.

Better than ever!

We know how valuable the classifieds are to you, and we want to make sure you can use them with ease. That's why we've revamped our classified website, making many improvements, including self-service ad placement.

classifieds MMC.com

Making your Dream of Owning Your Own Business a Reality! ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAINING PROGRAM **How To Write A Business Plan** Class Dates: Tuesdays, February 18th to April 15th • 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.



Register Here

Entrepreneurship Training Program Orientation

Learn more about the upcoming Entrepreneurship Training Course at a **FREE** virtual orientation or Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 6:00 PM via Zoom.
Pre-registration required:

In-Person Training

Langlade County Economic Development Corporation Northcentral Technical College-Antigo Campus 312 Forrest Avenue • Antigo, WI 54409

Registration Required: http://langladecountyedc.org/events
Call or email Angie Close at 715-623-5123 or aclose@co.langlade.wi.us with questions Class Fee: \$250.00 (Scholarships available for Langlade County residents upon successful completion)

Registration is required

Grant Funding for Langlade County Residents is made possible by The Suick Family Foundation!!







WISCANSIN

Graduating Class of Spring 2024 ETP Program Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Contact the SBDC at UW-Stevens Point at 715-346-3838.



National Catholic Schools Week All Saints Catholic School Jan. 27th - Feb. 2nd, 2025

419 6th Ave, (715) 623-4835

www.ascscrusaders.org

Father Joel Sember, Father George Daniel and Deacon Andy Bures,

St. John, SS. Mary and Hyacinth, and St. Wencel



Mission Statement: All Saints Catholic School, in partnership with the Catholic community, will provide the students with the best possible Catholic environment for their spiritual, intellectual, and personal growth. Together, through excellent academic and religious instruction, we will guide them to be future leaders of the Catholic community.

CORE **VALUES**

- Catholic Identity
 - Respect
 - Knowledge
 - Leadership
 - Achievement

We at All Saints Catholic School fully understand that these core values will identify, support, and inspire us in all that we are, as well as all we do.









CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK **EVENTS**

January 27th - January 31st, 2025

Open House, Book Fair & 4K Pre-Registration - ASCS 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

JAN. 27: MISMATCH DAY

Briaht Star Theatre

4K - 4TH-GRADE 12:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. 5TH - 8TH-GRADE 1:45 P.M. - 2:45 P.M.

JAN. 28: <u>HAT DAY</u>

Bowling - Northstar Lanes

5K-2 10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M. • 3-5 11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

6-8 1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

JAN. 29: SUNDAY BEST OR ASCS

All School Mass

St. John 8:15 A.M.

Community Equipment Show & Tell Fire,

Police, Sheriff, Highway Department

1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M

FAMILY NIGHT- DINNER, DANCE & BOOK FAIR

ASCS FROM 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

JAN. 30: DRESS FOR THE JOB OR VOCATION

LUNCH WITH THE PRIESTS & DEACONS

RELIGION BEE & ASSEMBLY 1:30 P.M - 2:30 P.M.

JAN. 31: PAJAMA DAY

Movie Day







This National Catholic Schools Week message is sponsored by these community businesses.







715-627-COOL (2665)

Winter Law Office 835 5th Avenue, Antigo, WI 715-623-2905 Good Luck Antigo Red Robins!









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VISION **STATEMENT**

Inspired by our **CORE VALUES**, All Saints Catholic School envisions a system where all individuals will consistently demonstrate Catholic Identity, conscious commitment to Respect and **Leadership**, and continuous striving for **Knowledge** and for the **Achievements** that knowledge inspires.













Wisconsin Joins \$80 Million Enforcement Action Against Block, Inc., Cash App for Bank Secrecy Act & Anti-Money Laundering Violations

DFI

The Wisconsin Department of of Financial Bl Financial Institutions (DFI) today announced Wisconsin and 47 other state financial regulatory agencies have taken coordinated action against Block, Inc., for violations of Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) laws that safeguard the financial system from illicit use.

More than 50 million consumers in the United States use Cash App, Block's mobile payment service, to spend, send, store, and invest money.

In the multistate settlement signed this week, Block agreed to pay an \$80 million penalty to the state agencies, hire an independent consultant to review the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of its BSA/AML program, and submit a report

to the states within nine months. Block then will have 12 months to correct any deficiencies

found in the review after the report is filed.

multistate "This enforcement action and settlement is a testament to how states can work together and effectively protect consumers," said DFI Secretary Cheryll Olson-Collins. "Compliance with the

Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering laws is extremely important in the fight against criminal activity. The passage of the Money Transmission Modernization Act in Wisconsin and the coordination among states enabled us to participate in this swift, effective action."

State regulators in Arkansas, California, Massachusetts, Florida, Maine, Texas, and Washington State led the multistate enforcement effort. Block cooperated with the states in the settlement.

Under BSA/AML rules. financial services firms are required to perform due diligence on customers, including verifying customer identities, reporting suspicious activity, and applying appropriate controls for high-risk accounts. State regulators found Block was not in compliance with certain requirements, creating the potential that its services could be used to support money laundering, terrorism financing, or other illegal activities.

Through a strong, nationwide regulatory framework, state financial regulators license and serve as the primary supervisor of money transmitters. States license more than 700 money transmitters, and 99% of transmission activity through those firms is governed by the state-developed Money Transmission Modernization Act. To protect consumers and enforce safety and soundness requirements, state regulators regularly coordinate supervision of multistate firms and, when necessary, initiate enforcement actions. coordination - Networked Supervision supports consistency and collaboration, while preserving the authority of individual states to take direct action. Additional information on the state regulatory framework for money transmission can be found in this Conference of State Bank Supervisors (CSBS) article.

Wisconsin residents who have questions about this enforcement action should contact the DFI's Licensed Financial Services Bureau by calling (608) 261-7578 or emailing DFI_LFS@dfi.wisconsin.gov. Residents can also visit NMLS® Consumer Access to verify that a company is licensed to do business in Wisconsin, and they may also view past enforcement actions.

State financial regulators license and supervise more than 34,000 nonbank financial services companies through the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System (NMLS®), including mortgage companies. money services businesses, consumer finance providers, and debt collectors.



RESOURCES

from page 6

Bureau Director. "In the past year, we've seen the rediscovery of a rare plant not seen for over 100 years, conducted prescribed burns on thousands of acres of natural areas and our biologists documented encouraging signs of recovery among little brown bat populations decimated by whitenose syndrome. Every donation, no matter how small, helps us do the work needed to keep rare wildlife in Wisconsin."

How To Donate

To make a donation, look for "endangered resources" in the "donations" section of your Wisconsin income tax form. For tax year 2024, the Endangered Resources donation is found on Form 1, line 24a. For part-year/nonresidents filing Form 1NPR, it is on line 54a.

You can also look for the donations section in your tax program or let your tax preparer know you want to donate to the Endangered Resources Fund, Donations to the Endangered Resources Fund are taxdeductible and matched dollar for dollar.

More About Wisconsin **Endangered Resources**

The Endangered Resources Fund supports much of the work of the DNR's Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation. Read about how the Endangered Resources Fund has helped support species recovery and Wisconsin state natural area management or sign up for email updates on the Natural Heritage Conservation Field Notes webpage.

Photo Caption: Trumpeter swans were removed from the Wisconsin endangered species list due to recovery in 2009, thanks in part to contributions to the Endangered Resources Fund. / Photo Credit: Brian Collins

Bethany Lutheran Church 174071 Church Rd., Aniwa Sunday Worship 10:30am

Church of Christ on Village Road

P4805 Village Rd., Aniwa Sunday Bible Class 9:30am Worship 10:30am & 6:00pm Wednesday Bible Class 6:30pm

St. Boniface Catholic Church W19104 Church Aniwa

Saturday 4:00pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church W18995 1st St., Aniwa

Sunday Service 8:30am Sunday School 9:30am

ANTIGO

Antigo Church of the Nazarene 230 Elm St., Antigo

715-489-3405 Sunday 9:00am Worship

Antigo Church of Christ 1427 5th Ave., Antigo

715-627-4588 Sunday 9:30am Bible Class 10:30am Worship

723 Deleglise St., Antigo

www.antigocommunitychurch.org Todd Stensberg - Executive Pastor Steve Sanford - Teaching Pastor

Sunday 9:30am

Antigo Seventh-Day

Adventist Church

1515 3rd Ave., Antigo 715-623-4168 www.antigo22.adventistchurchconnect.org Saturday Worship Service 9:00am

Antigo United Methodist Church

2034 W. 5th Ave., Antigo www.antigoumc.org

715-623-3802 Sunday 10:00am

Ascension Lutheran Church 1412 Neva Rd, Antigo

715-627-2232

Calvary Lutheran Church ELCA

310 S. Superior St., Antigo 715-623-3102 www.calvarylutheranantigo.com

Sunday Worship 8:30am (September-December)

630 Superior St., Antigo PO Box 482, Antigo, WI 54409 715-350-4242, 715-610-1787, 715-610-1788

Sunday 10:00am **Christ Gospel Church**

840 7th Ave., Antigo 715-623-6367 Sunday School 10:00am Sunday Morning 11:00am Wednesday 7:00pm, Friday 7:00pm

Church of Jesus Christ of **Latter Day Saints**

717 Sunset Dr., Antigo 715-212-3188

N2142 Hwy 45 S, Antigo 715-627-7200 Wednesday 7:00pm Sunday 10:30am

Faith Center Church of God

Faith United Church of Christ

628 Clermont St., Antigo 715-623-5717 Sunday 10:30am

First Baptist Church 414 Eckart St., Antigo

715-610-0774 Wednesday 6:00pm Prayer Meeting Sunday 10:00am

Homestead Church

715-623-5093 Sunday 10:00am

Liberty Baptist Church

Sunday 10:30am Kid's Club Wed. Evenings 6:30pm

Peace Lutheran Church

715-623-2200 www.peaceantigo.org Saturday 6:00pm

SS Mary & Hyacinth Parish

715-623-4938 Saturday 4:00pm, Sunday 7:00am

St. Ambrose Episcopal Church Sixth Ave. & Clermont St.

715-551-6796 Wednesday Mass 10:00am

St. John Catholic Parish 415 Sixth Ave., Antigo

715-623-2024 www.stjohnantigo.com Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 9:00am

BIRNAMWOOD

First Congregational Church 417 Elm St., Birnamwood 715-524-5724 Sunday 10:30am

St. John Lutheran

Church - ELCA Sunday Service 10:30am (September-December)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

N9035 US Hwy 45, Birnamwood 715-449-2101 Thursday 7:00pm Sunday 10:30am

St. Philomena Church

432 State Rd., Birnamwood 715-449-2104 Sunday 8:00am

Trinity Lutheran Church

407 Birch St., Birnamwood 715-449-3778

DEERBROOK

Church (Miss. Synod)

N5674 Cty Rd E, Deerbrook 715-627-7989 Sunday 9:00am

ELCHO Holy Family Parish

W10524 Cole St., Elcho 715-275-3750

5893 Brook Trail, Eagle River Thursday 10:15am Sunday 10:30am

St. Luke Lutheran Church (Miss. Synod)

N11341 Antigo St. (Hwy 45), Elcho 715-275-3152 Sunday 10:45am

United Church of Christ N11291 Dorr St., Elcho

715-275-3031

Sunday 10:30am **Upper Room Family Church**

W10285 County Rd K, Elcho 715-275-3255 Wednesday Bible Study 7:00pm Sunday Service 10:00am

HATLEY St. Florian Parish

500 Church Ln., Hatley 715-446-3085 www.stflos.org Saturday 4:00pm

Sunday 10:30am

St. Ladislaus Parish (Bevent)

6455 St. Hwy 153, Hatley 715-446-3060 www.stladislaur.org Saturday 4:00pm, Sunday 10:10am

KEMPSTER

United Church of Christ N7234 Keen Rd, Kempster 715-275-3031

Sunday 8:45am **MATTOON**

Church - LCMS

304 Flint Ave., Mattoon 715-489-3471 Sunday 9:00am

Sunday School 10:00am MOUNTAIN

Risen Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church

13825 State Hwy 32, Mountain

NEVA

St. Wenceslaus Parish

N5340 Church Road, Deerbrook 715-627-2126 Tuesday 8:00am

Sunday 10:30am **PEARSON**

Arbutus Lutheran Church - ELCA

N6607 Church Lane, Pearson (Just North of Cty T on Hwy 55) 715-219-6363

PELICAN LAKE

Sunday 9:45am

St. John Evangelical **Lutheran Church**

4 Miles West of Hwy 45 on Cty Rd G, Pelican 715-487-5484

PHLOX

Sunday 11:00am

St. Joseph Holy Family **Catholic Church** W7365 Hwy 47, Phlox

715-489-3330 Father Edmundo Siguenza www.sihf-phlox.org Saturday 6:00pm,

PICKEREL St. John's Luthera

Church - LCMS N8934 State Rd 55, Pickerel 715-484-3382

Mondays 10:30am

St. Mary's Catholic Church

N9155 State Rd 55, Pickerel 715-484-4300 www.hfstm.org Thursday 9:00am

Saturday 4:00pm **POLAR**

N3480 County Rd. S Antigo, WI 54409

Contact: Mervin Brubaker 715-921-2638 Sunday Morning 10:00am 3rd & 4th Sunday Evenings 7:00pm Everyone Welcome

St. Peter Lutheran Church

N2891 Cty Rd S, Antigo 715-623-6921 Sunday 9:00am

WHITE LAKE Four Corners Assembly of God

N3891 County Rd. P, White Lake Corner of Hwy 64 and P 715-882-3021 Sunday 10:30am

Wednesday (Youth) 6:00pm SS James & Stanislaus **Catholic Parish**

235 Bissell St., White Lake 715-882-2551 stjames2551@frontier.com St. James - White Lake Thursday 9:00am Saturday 4:00pm (May 29-Sept. 4) Sundays 8:00am Mass

St. Matthew Lutheran Church 138 Bissell Street, White Lake 715-882-3111

Sunday 10:00am Worship; 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Class

> List your services here by calling 715-350-6867.

National Lutheran Schools Week



January 27th - February 2nd, 2025 Peace Lutheran School - Antigo, WI



"...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God..."

Pastor Dave Karolus, Lead Pastor, Pastor Jarod Fenske, Associate Pastor, Ms. Jenny Weyker, Childcare Director, Mr. Paul Thompson, School Administrator

Peace Lutheran School

300 Lincoln Street, Antigo, WI 54409
(715) 623-2200 • www.peaceantigo.org
Peace Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, or national origin.

National Lutheran Schools' Week Planned Activities:

- Monday (Jan. 27): Opening Chapel 8:30 a.m.
 Dress up Day: Career Day; Declaration of Scrip War
 Activity Service Projects: 4K: Postal Service workers cards,
 5K: Fire/EMT cards & treats, 1st: Birthday Boxes for Food Pantry,
 2nd: Local Farms, 3rd: Goodie Bag for seminary students,
 4th: Law Enforcement cards, 5th: Shut in Letters, 6th: Clean up in church & make Bible bookmarks, 7th: Humane Society,
 8th: Clean with Jay
- Tuesday (Jan. 28): Dress up Day: Team Day (wear sports jerseys or attire); Field trip: Students will go to the Langlade County multipurpose building to go ice skating. If your student has ice skates, please have them bring them to school this day. Field trip permission slip must be turned in no later than 1/22/2025. Chaperones needed.

Student Led Devotion: 5K, 3rd, & 6th

- Wednesday (Jan. 29): Dress Up Day: Favorite Holiday 5th – 8th Grade will participate in a Spelling Bee 4th Grade will watch and cheer on the Spelling Bee 4K – 3rd Grade will make Salvation Story Bracelets Student Led Devotion: 1st, 4th, 7th, & 8th
- Thursday (Jan. 30) Dress up Day: Dress by Chapel Family Color – Your student's teacher will let you know which color your student should wear

Team Challenge: Students will go through different stations with their chapel families

Student Led Devotion: 4K, 2nd, & 5th

- Friday (Jan. 31): Dress up Day: Crazy Hair & Clothes Pancake Breakfast 7:00-7:50am: Parents are welcome to eat breakfast with their students in the fellowship hall. Park in the west parking lot and come in through west church doors 7th & 8th Grade Ice Cream Eating Contest 1:30 p.m. (parents are welcome to watch). One Student will eat the ice cream with their hands behind their back. One student will make the Sundae and feed it to the other student while blindfolded. Permission is needed to participate in the event; Closing Chapel 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday (Feb. 2): All Students Sing at 10:30am Service. Students will sit with their parents until called up and return to their parents upon completion of the children's message.

Mission Project

The students will be completing various service projects with local organizations & community groups.



The 2025/2026 Registration will be conducted in 3 different timelines:

January 17th: This registration is for Members of Peace Lutheran Church with a student that is currently enrolled in the school or childcare. At this time the members will be able to register their currently enrolled student as well as siblings.

January 24th: This registration is for all non member families that have a student that is currently enrolled in the school, 3K or childcare that or Peace Lutheran Church families without a student currently enrolled. At this time the families will be able to register their currently enrolled students as well as siblings.

February 7th: This registration is open to anyone that would like to register a child for Peace Lutheran School.

This National Lutheran Schools Week message is sponsored by these community businesses.

National Lutheran Schools Week provides more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families.

National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve. Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.





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Preparing for the 2024 Tax Season

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

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tax assistance to anyone, *free* of charge, with a focus on taxpayers who have low to moderate income, with emphasis on the elderly. You don't need to be an AARP member to use the service during February and March 2025.

Services will be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays by Appointment Only

Call 715-627-6580 after January 20th to schedule your appointment. Remember to answer your phone to confirm!

Visit us and let tax Aide make filing your taxes stress-Free! Located in the Senior Center of Langlade County 623 Edison Street Antigo, WI 54409

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Money Smart Wisconsin Scholarship Contest Now Open

DFI

Wisconsin The Department of Financial Institutions (DFI), partnership with Edvest Wisconsin's directsold 529 college savings plan, and the Wisconsin Student Coalition on Coalition), (the today announced the Money Smart Wisconsin Scholarship Contest is now accepting essay submissions from

graduating Wisconsin high school seniors until midnight on March 7, 2025.

"We are very excited to once again invite our Wisconsin high school seniors to submit an essay explaining how they plan to fund their college education and career training for a chance to receive an Edvest 529 scholarship," said DFI Secretary Cheryll Olson-Collins. "This contest not only supports students in achieving their academic dreams but also promotes financial literacy, helping them build essential skills for future success."

All Wisconsin high school seniors, who are graduating from high school this spring and planning to attend a Wisconsin college or university this fall, are encouraged to participate

Wisconsin in the scholarship contest. Students must complete an application and write an essay answering this year's money smart questions for a chance to receive a scholarship, in the form of a \$1,000 contribution to a new or existing Edvest 529 account.

"We are eager to learn how students are planning to finance their college education and career training," said Carole Trone, interim executive director for the Coalition. "Through their essays, we are looking for students to demonstrate their ability to think critically, plan realistically, and show how they are preparing for the financial responsibilities of college and beyond."

Members of the Coalition will review and

Valentine's DINNER

February 14th, 2025

SHEPHERD'S WATCH COMMUNITY CENTER GYM 507 Stone Ave., Mattoon WI 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm Beef Tenderloin or Baked Cod with

Sides & Dessert

Carry-Outs Available

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score the students' essay submissions based on how well the students have estimated their higher education costs, identified funding sources for paying for those costs, including explaining how financial aid process works, and formulated plans for managing their finances, schoolwork, and any job responsibilities staying focused on their academic and career goals.

Scholarship recipients will be notified during Money Smart Wisconsin Week, a financial literacy awareness and education campaign, taking place April 5-12, 2025.

Sponsors the scholarship contest include: Ascendium Education Group, the Coalition, the DFI, Educators Credit Union, Edvest 529, SecureFutures, Summit Credit Union, and UW Credit Union.

For more information, review the 2025 Money Smart Wisconsin Scholarship Contest webpage or send an email to MoneySmart@debtsmarts.









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Your special contribution has allowed us to make a difference in our athletes life. With love and appreciation, Your donation means so much to us and we thank you for

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happiness to all who see it because of you.



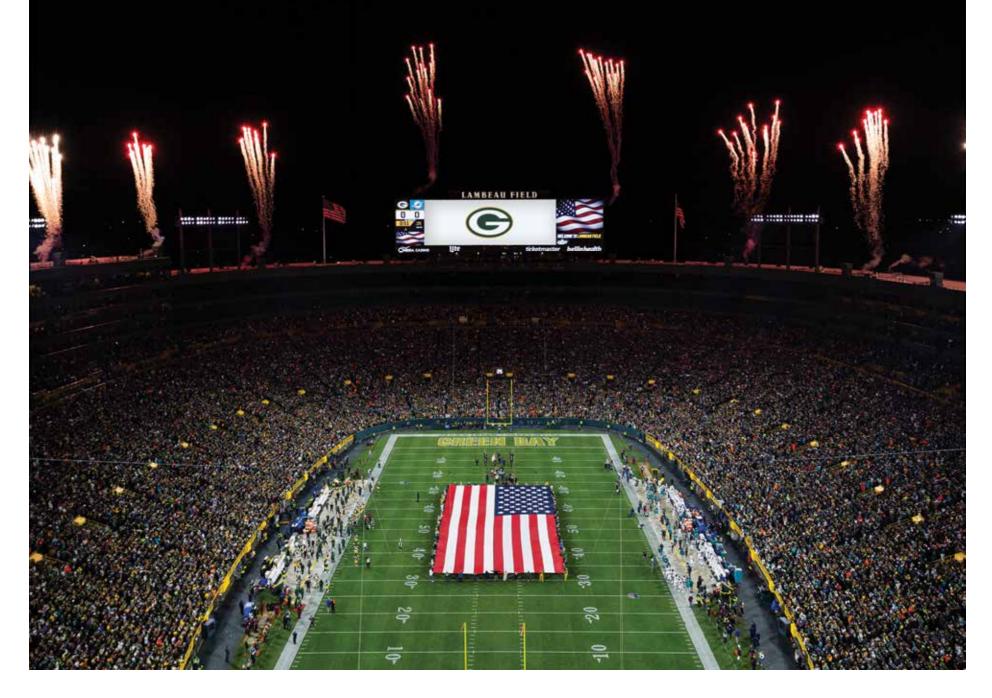
THANK YOU FOR A GREAT SEASON.

While we hoped for a different ending to the 2024 season, we'd like to express our gratitude to you – the best fans in the NFL – for your continued support.

You were by our side for countless memorable moments this year. Your unwavering passion and unmatched enthusiasm for the green and gold inspires us every day.

We look forward to creating more memories with you next season as we pursue our 14th world championship.

Sincerely, The Green Bay Packers



A Monthly Page Dedicated to Animal Care, **Services & Supplies** To Advertise Call 715-350-6866

Protect pets both inside and outside the home

FOR MMC

Newly adopted pets waste little time becoming beloved members of a household. But much like young children, pets are a significant responsibility, and they rely on their human caretakers to ensure their safety.

Pets are susceptible to illness and injury just like their human companions. The Pet Poison Hotline reported a 51 percent increase in the volume of calls between 2020 and 2021. Banfield Pet Hospitals also saw about half a million more pet visits in 2020 than in 2019. Furthermore, Dogster reports that 47 percent of pet owners had to deal with a serious medical issue or took their pets to emergency care

Keeping cherished pets safe in and around a home is no small task. But with some diligence, it is possible to ensure health and happiness for companion animals. Follow these tips, courtesy of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Old Farm Veterinary Hospital and Security.

- · Consider an indoor and outdoor security camera system. Having eyes on pets while you're away from home enables a quick response should something happen.
- · Avoid leaving pet food outdoors overnight. Dog and cat foods can attract other animals, such as bears, raccoons, foxes, and opossums, depending on where you live. Wild animals grow accustomed to receiving easy meals and this could decrease their trepidation about being around a home or yard. Run-ins between your pets and wild animals should be avoided at all costs.





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humanesociety.org

- · Skip the retractable leash. Walking a pet on a nonretractable leash allows better control of the pet in the event of an encounter with a person or another animal.
- · Be cautious with chemicals. Carefully consider any chemicals you use in your yard, including pesticides and weed killers, as well as any cleaning products used indoors. Pets can ingest or inhale these products and get sick.
- Pick up potential choking hazards. String, small pieces of toys, rawhide bone fragments, and other items can be choking hazards to pets. Be diligent about removing these items from the floor so that pets will not swallow them.
- Tap on your car hood. Families who allow their cats outdoor access should thump on the car hood when it is cold outside, as sometimes cats take shelter near a warm engine block. Cats can become injured if you start the car

while they are under the hood.

- · Stay up-to-date on vaccinations. Whether pets never step outdoors or have free rein, always vaccinate companion animals against common parasites and other pests.
- Microchip your pets. Microchips not only protect pets should they get lost, but they also can help track down animals that may have been stolen. Remember to keep microchip data current to ensure a swift recovery.
- Keep foods and medicines out of reach. Many human foods can be toxic to pets, as can medications that are kept in a home. Pets can be curious and easy access to these items may make them quite ill.

Pets need their owners to take key steps to safeguard their well-being.



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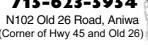
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High Sodium Levels Found in Wisconsin **Public Wells Raise Health Concerns**

Over-salting can lead to chloride buildup in lakes, streams and groundwater

NATASHA WINKLER

More than one-third of public wells in Wisconsin tested for sodium over the past decade exceeded the recommended limit for individuals on low-sodium diets, according to newly analyzed data from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The findings highlight a potential health risk in a state where more than a million adults live with high blood pressure, a condition closely linked to excessive sodium intake.

Between 2014 and 2024, the DNR tested 1,762 public wells, including those serving cities, towns, apartment buildings, and other shared water systems. Of those, 626 wells—or 36%—had sodium levels above 20 milligrams per liter (mg/L), the threshold recommended by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for people following lowsodium diets. While sodium is an essential mineral for human health, consuming it in excess can elevate blood pressure and exacerbate conditions like kidney disease or heart problems.

Sources of Sodium in Water

Sodium can enter drinking water from various sources, including naturally occurring rock formations, water softeners, and road salt. While the data does not pinpoint the specific contribution of each source, DNR experts believe road salt plays a significant role.

Carla Romano, the DNR's groundwater section manager, noted that road salt is a controllable contributor to sodium in water. Road salt, widely used in Wisconsin's snowy winters, poses risks not only to human health but also to freshwater ecosystems.

Each year, Lake Michigan receives an estimated 2.2 billion pounds of chloride, a component of road salt. Chloride concentrations in the upper Mississippi River rose by 35% between 1989 and 2018, and smaller waterways like Milwaukee's Kinnickinnic River have experienced chloride levels toxic to aquatic life. Unlike other pollutants, chloride does not break down over time, leading to longterm environmental impacts.



Photo credit: iStock/Steven White

Addressing Over-Salting Practices

In efforts to prevent slippery pavements, many people unknowingly use excessive amounts of road salt. However, experts recommend just a coffee mug's worth of salt for 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway. Salt becomes ineffective at melting ice when temperatures fall below

While public awareness of road salt's environmental impact has grown, DNR stormwater section manager Shannon Haydin remains concerned that the potential health consequences are less understood.

See **SODIUM** page 15

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SODIUM

from page 14

Next Steps

The DNR plans to conduct further analysis to determine which areas of the state have disproportionately high sodium levels in their drinking water. Investigations will also focus on wells that have repeatedly tested above the recommended limit and identify sources contributing to elevated sodium levels.

Wisconsin State Senator André Jacque, who previously introduced legislation to reduce over-salting on private property, described the findings as alarming. "Even unconsciously, people are seeing the effects of salt as a contaminant—not just in terms of taste, but in its broader impacts," Jacque said.

Recommendations for Residents

Individuals on low-sodium diets who are concerned about their drinking water quality should consult with their doctor, contact their local water utility, or test their private wells if applicable. The issue

underscores the need for ongoing efforts to balance winter safety with public health and environmental protection.

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 @wisaltwise1739



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- Strong organization and multi-tasking skills are necessary as well as the ability to prioritize accordingly.

Please submit your resume, two references, and a letter of interest to: Village of Birnamwood

Village of Birnamwood PO Box M, Birnamwood, WI 54414 OR, email to: lkclerk@aol.com

Any questions may be directed to: Mike Sprague at (715) 219-2889

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10am Antigo Gymnastics Invitational vs Multiple 1:30pm Antigo (Co-op) Boys Hockey @ Milton HS

Feb. 3

5:30pm Elcho Girls Basketball @ Pembine HS 5:30pm Witt-Birn Girls Basketball vs Pacelli 7:15pm Elcho Boys Basketball @ Pembine HS 7pm Antigo Girls Hockey @ Rhinelander Ice Arena 7pm Witt-Birn Boys Basketball vs Pacelli

Feb. 4

5pm Antigo Girls Hockey @ Bay Area Civic Center
5:45pm Antigo Gymnastics Meet @ YMCA of the Northwoods
6pm Elcho Girls Basketball @ Marion Elementary
6pm White Lake Boys Basketball vs Northland Lutheran
6pm Antigo Girls Basketball @ Ashland HS
7pm Antigo Boys Hockey vs Multiple
7pm Antigo Boys Wrestling vs Rhinelander HS
7pm Elcho Boys Basketball @ Laona HS
7pm Witt-Birn Boys Basketball vs Weyauwega-Fremont

Feb. 6

6pm Elcho Boys Basketball @ White Lake HS 6pm White Lake Boys Basketball vs Elcho HS 7pm Witt-Birn Boys Basketball vs Amherst

Feb. 7

5pm Antigo Boys Swimming & Diving Meet @ Rhinelander HS

6pm Elcho Boys Wrestling Championship vs Multiple 7pm Witt-Birn Boys Basketball @ Amherst 7:15pm Antigo Boys Basketball vs Mosinee 7:15pm Antigo Girls Basketball @ Mosinee

Feb. 8

9:30am Witt-Birn Boys Wrestling Tournament @ Weyauwega-Fremont HS

10am Antigo Gymnastics Invitational @ Marshfield HS 10am Antigo Boys Wrestling GNC Meet @ Lakeland Union HS 1pm Antigo Girls Hockey vs Beaver Dam @ Langlade Co Mlp

4pm Antigo Boys Hockey (Co-op) vs Viroqua @ Langlade Co Mlp Bldg

Feb. 10

7pm White Lake Boys Basketball vs Saint Thomas Aquinas Academy



7pm Witt-Birn Girls Basketball vs Oconto 7:15pm Witt-Birn Boys Basketball @ Edgar HS

Feb. 11

5pm Antigo Girls Hockey vs Marshfield @ S. Wood Rec. Center

5:45pm Antigo Gymnastics @ Ashland HS 6pm Elcho Boys Basketball @ Tri-County HS 6:30pm Elcho Girls Basketball @ Wabeno HS 7pm Antigo Boys Hockey (Co-op) GNC Meet vs Multiple 7pm Witt-Birn Boys Basketball vs Wausau West 7pm Witt-Birn Girls Basketball @ Amherst HS 7:15pm Antigo Boys Basketball @ Medford HS 7:15pm Antigo Girls Basketball vs Medford

Feb. 13

7pm White Lake Boys Basketball vs Tigerton 7pm Witt-Birn Boys Basketball vs Bonduel 7:15pm Antigo Girls Basketball @ Crandon HS

Feb. 14

TBD Antigo Gymnastics Invitational @ Ashland HS
5pm Antigo Girls Wrestling Regionals @ Wausau West HS
5pm Witt-Birn Girls Wrestling Regionals @ Wausau West HS
6pm Elcho Boys Basketball @ Florence HS
6pm Elcho Girls Basketball @ Stockbridge HS
7pm Antigo Girls Hockey vs Baraboo @ Eagle River Sports

Arena
7pm Witt-Birn Girls Basketball @ Bonduel

7pm Witt-Birn Girls Basketball @ Bonduel 7:15pm Antigo Boys Basketball vs Laona-Wabeno

Feb. 15

10am Antigo Gymnastics Invitational @ Ashland HS 10am Antigo Boys Hockey (Co-op) GNC Meet @ Rhinelander Ice Arena

10am Antigo Boys Wrestling Regionals @ New London HS 10am Witt-Birn Boys Wrestling Regionals @ New London HS

Feb. 17

7:15pm Witt-Birn Girls Basketball @ Northland Pines HS

Feb. 18

TBD Witt-Birn Girls & Boys Wrestling Sectionals @ TBD 5:45pm Elcho Girls Basketball@ Three Lakes HS





7pm Antigo Boys Basketball @ Green Bay East HS 7pm Witt-Birn Girls Basketball @ Wabeno HS 7:15pm Witt-Birn Boys Basketball @ Marathon HS 7:15pm Antigo Girls Basketball vs Green Bay East 7:15pm Elcho Boys Basketball @ Three Lakes HS

Feb. 20

7pm Witt-Birn Girls Basketball vs Iola-Scandinavia 7:15pm Elcho Girls Basketball vs Three Lakes/Phelps

Feb. 21

6pm Witt-Birn Girls Wrestling Sectionals @ Shawano Comm.

6pm Antigo Girls Wrestling Sectionals @ Shawano Comm. HS 6pm White Lake Boys Basketball @ Gresham 7:15pm Antigo Boys Basketball @ Northland Pines HS 7:15pm Antigo Girls Basketball vs Northland Pines

Feb. 22

TBD Witt-Birn Boys Wrestling Sectional @ TBD 10am Antigo Gymnastics GNC @ Stevens Point Area HS

Feb. 24

6pm Elcho Boys Basketball vs Three Lakes 7pm Witt-Birn Boys Basketball @ Shawano Comm. HS

Feb. 25

TBD Witt-Birn Girls Basketball Regional @ TBD 7pm Antigo Girls Basketball Regionals @ TBD

Feb. 27

TBD Witt-Birn Boys & Girls Wrestling State Meet @ TBD 6pm White Lake Boys Basketball vs Bowler 7pm Witt-Birn Boys Basketball vs Manawa 7:15pm Antigo Boys Basketball vs Tomahawk

Feb. 28

TBD Witt-Birn Girls Basketball Regional @ TBD
TBD Witt-Birn Boys & Girls Wrestling State Meet @ TBD
5pm Antigo Gymnastics Sectionals vs Multiple
7pm Antigo Girls Basketball Regionals @ TBD







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