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Section A

VILAS COUNTY

NEWS-REVIEW



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025

One dead after Sayner snowmobile accident

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

A snowmobile accident over the weekend has resulted in one fatality after the snowmobiler struck a tree along the shoreline of Star Lake in the Town of Plum Lake.

Vilas County 911 Center received the report of a snowmobile accident after 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25. First responders arrived on scene and transported the individual to a helicopter landing zone staging area. Life-saving measures were unsuccessful and the snowmobiler was pronounced deceased before further transport to a hospital.

The name of the deceased has not yet been released. The incident is being investigated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Additional units responding were the Vilas County Sheriff's Office, Eagle River Ambulance, MED 5, Plum Lake EMS, Plum Lake Fire, the Vilas County Medical Examiner, and the DNR.

Great Headwaters Trails Foundation names new president, four directors

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH
CORRESPONDENT

The Great Headwaters Trails (GHT) Foundation named four new board members and a new president at its board meeting earlier this month.

Cheryl Todea, Cheryl Adams and Diane Gunderson are new directors at-large and John Gustavson will be serving as the organization's treasurer. The board members will serve three-year terms.

In other executive team changes, Laura VanValkenberg was named GHT president for a three-year term and Mike Robillard will serve as secretary until September. The vice president position is currently open.

Robillard was one of GHT's founding board members and is the proposed River Trail project manager. He has ties to other trails in the North Woods, as he is the project manager for Tara Lila, LLC., and the president of the Three Eagle Trail Foundation.

In addition to the new board members, Mark Olson and Gary Meister have agreed to serve another three-year term on the board. Other board members through 2026 include Joe Panci, Neal Adams and Nancy Schuller.

New leadership

VanValkenberg was born and raised in Cambridge, Wis., and she and her husband, Gary Meister, moved to the Eagle River area in 2008. She enjoys biking, hiking, traveling, gardening, baking and quilting. She has served as the volunteer ride director for the Ride With Leinie since 2022.

VanValkenberg said she has enjoyed bicycling since she was a youth.

"My oldest brother, Phil, was one of the founders of Yellow Jersey Bike Co-op in Madison in the early 1970s and supplied me with a sweet 10-speed Italian bike when I was about 10 years old," she said. "I would often go along with him on bike camping trips around the state while he did research for books he was writing on cycling in Wisconsin."

VanValkenberg said

bicycling allows her to get out in nature, whether it is in the North Woods, or somewhere else in the state or country.

"I have always loved being out in nature and being on a bicycle, traveling from point A to B on a bike trail, is pure enjoyment," she said. "Despite riding bikes all my life, I'm not a fast biker. I love riding at an easy pace which gives me time to look around and enjoy the scenery. To me, it's not about speed; it's about enjoying my surroundings, breathing the fresh air, and getting in some good exercise."

As the new GHT president, VanValkenberg said she would like to see more volunteers join the organization.

"It's certainly a team effort to keep the ball rolling. I'm also hopeful that over the next few years we will see good progress on the River Trail, connecting Eagle River to St. Germain, and an extension for the Conover-Phelps Trail that will go to the Torch Lake Campground," she said.

VanValkenberg said it can be very rewarding to see conceptual plans come to fruition, especially for something that can help area communities.

"Everyone has different skills they bring to the table and an all-volunteer organization like Great Headwaters Trails Foundation needs support in so many ways," she said. "Developing trails for biking and walking, that provide residents and visitors with safer routes and connect our communities, is important for our local economy and the health and well being of our area residents."

The new directors

All of the new board members said they have a passion for the outdoors, including biking, and improving the North Woods lifestyle by serving their communities.

Todea has lived in Eagle River since the fall of 2000 and enjoys exploring the North Woods with friends, family and her dogs. She currently serves as the executive director at Trees For Tomorrow, an environmental education

To TRAILS Pg. 3

Lofty 1,000-deer study indicates significant CWD impacts on populations

BY MICHELLE DREW
CORRESPONDENT

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has become a big topic in recent years as the disease has spread among the white-tailed deer population across the state and into the North Woods.

A new, in-depth study was recently released by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that looks at a large sample size of more than 1,000 captured adult deer and fawns as part of its Southwest Wisconsin CWD, Deer and Predator study.

While the study was performed in the southwestern part of the state, the information gathered will have significant importance for any portion of the state where CWD is found, both now and into the future. First discovered in 2001, CWD is now found in wild deer populations of at least 48 of the state's 72 counties, including Vilas and Oneida. CWD is a prion disease that affects the brain and central nervous systems of deer, elk, moose and reindeer. It is a very contagious disease that is passed through saliva,



Data was gathered from more than 1,000 white-tailed deer to learn the effects of CWD on populations. DNR staff used drop nets to capture, collar and test deer for CWD before releasing them.

—Photos Courtesy of Wisconsin DNR

feces, urine, and other deer-to-deer contact.

Staff at the DNR has been collecting data for the study since 2017. So far, that data has been analyzed in order to learn the estimated survival rates as a function

of time, CWD infection status, age and sex, as well as document the breakdown of causes of mortality (i.e. starvation, disease, predation and hunting) and how those differ by CWD infection and status.

According to the DNR's analysis of the study, the sheer size of the study has been unprecedented in size. It involved collaborations between the

To CWD Pg. 2



RADAR RUN — The Phelps Snowmobile Club held a Radar Run atop a frozen North Twin Lake outside the Great Escape Bar in Phelps. Racing started at 11 a.m. before ending with the Beachwear Fun Run that ran from 3 - 4 p.m. on a 1,000-foot groomed race track. People were treated to food, drinks, raffles, bonfires and live entertainment while enjoying a day of snowmobile races.

—Staff Photo By JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN

Northwoods Share celebrates 20 years of free community dinners

BY JOSEPHINE
HINDERMAN
NEWS EDITOR

Northwoods Share (NWS), a nonprofit service organization based in Eagle River, is celebrating 20 years of providing free dinners to the local community.

Pam Zaugg, NWS board member and chairperson

of the committee that provides the free community dinners, said that she was inspired to start these dinners back in 2005 when she was working as the Vilas Food Pantry Director. She noticed that those visiting the pantry needed a place to keep warm during the winter months as they waited their turns for food

distribution, and asked the Kalmar Community Center for help.

"When the weather turned cold, I approached the Kalmar Center. They were closed at the time of our Tuesday afternoon distribution, so I asked if it would be okay if our guests used their facility to stay warm while waiting their turns," she said. "This led

to asking if it would be possible for us to offer a dinner for these folks to share after they received their food from the pantry."

The goal of these dinners, from when they first started to now, has been to provide both a warm meal and a safe place for pantry recipients and

To DINNERS Pg. 4



WINTER RETURNS — Following recent seasonal snowfalls and frigid temps, "normal" winter activities have seemingly returned to the North Woods, such as snowmobiling, skiing and snowshoeing. Pictured here are snowmobilers cruising across the frozen surface of North Twin Lake in Phelps during the Radar Run last Saturday.

—Staff Photo By JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN

WEATHER

CORNER

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

LAST SEVEN DAYS

	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Tues., Jan. 21.....	-2	-28	none
Wed., Jan. 22.....	17	-2	0.4" S
Thurs., Jan. 23.....	9	-7	2.5" S
Fri., Jan. 24.....	14	-8	none
Sat., Jan. 25.....	26	12	Tr. S
Sun., Jan. 26.....	24	-3	2" S
Mon., Jan. 27.....	29	9	Tr. S

ONE YEAR AGO

	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Sun., Jan. 21.....	21	0	none
Mon., Jan. 22.....	25	6	none
Tues., Jan. 23.....	29	23	none
Wed., Jan. 24.....	34	26	none
Thurs., Jan. 25.....	36	32	Tr. S
Fri., Jan. 26.....	37	33	0.01" R
Sat., Jan. 27.....	34	31	none

LAST YEAR

The average daily high at this time last year for the next seven days was 31, while the average overnight low was 22. The average precipitation amounts were 0.

Comparison

Days of precipitation recorded since Oct. 1, 2024, 74 days; 2024, 72 days. Average high of past 30 days, 2025, 20; 2024, 24. Average low of past 30 days, 2025, 4; 2024, 14.

SNOW DEPTH

Snow measured around 2" in depth at noon on Monday, Jan. 27.

ICE CONDITIONS

Following a week of frigid temperatures, area lakes are seeing 18" - 20" inches of ice.

5-DAY OUTLOOK

Wednesday: Clouds giving way to sun.	Hi:23	Lo:17
Thursday: Mainly sunny.	Hi:43	Lo:22
Friday: Times of sun and clouds.	Hi:31	Lo:11
Saturday: Mostly cloudy.	Hi:28	Lo:24
Sunday: Morning snow showers.	Hi:33	Lo:5

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

Those traveling abroad require Electronic Travel Authorization

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

Starting Wednesday, Jan. 8, all U.S. citizens traveling to the United Kingdom for short stays, tourism, business or transit need to obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) before arrival.

An ETA is a digital pre-clearance to enter the country. Those who already hold a UK visa do not require an ETA. This applies to all ages and is similar to the U.S. ESTA system.

Travelers do not need an ETA to transit through the United Kingdom if they do not need to pass through border control.

Key points

Those who will need an ETA include most non-European passport holders traveling to the UK for short stays, such as U.S. citizens, Canadians, and others.

Applications can be done online through the Gov.uk website, providing passport details, a photo and answering security questions.

The application fee is £10.

An ETA is valid for two years or until a passport expires, whichever is shorter. During this time, a traveler can visit the UK as many times as they want.

If a traveler gets a new

passport, they must get a new ETA.

Normally, a notification email will be sent within three working days if an application is approved. The ETA is then linked to a passport so all a traveler will need to do upon entry to the UK is to present their passport.

The following cannot be done with an ETA:

- Stay in the UK for longer than 6 months
- Do paid or unpaid work for a UK company or as a self-employed person, unless you are doing a permitted paid engagement or event or work on the Creative Worker visa concession
- Claim public funds (benefits)
- Live in the UK through frequent or successive visits
- Marry or register a civil partnership, or give notice of marriage or civil partnership

The following is needed to apply for an ETA:

- The passport you will travel with - not a photocopy or digital passport
- Access to your emails
- A credit card, debit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay
- Users will need to upload or take photos of the passport, face of the person applying



DNR staff and scientists expect the data gathered from the study in the southwestern part of the state will provide intel going forward on how to handle CWD in the north.

CWD

FROM PAGE 1

Wisconsin DNR’s Office of Applied Science, the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, the Wisconsin Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit, the UW-Madison Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology, and the Montana Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit.

The sample size of this project is notable as well. While there have been previous research projects to estimate deer survival, relatively few have ever focused specifically on how CWD might affect it. Those that have were focused in the Western U.S. and had sample sizes ranging from 136 to 217 collared cervids. To put that into perspective, Wisconsin’s study deployed 1,089 collars on white-tailed deer, as well as additional coyote and bobcat capture.

“The model used to estimate survival is novel in that it can account for an animal’s changing disease status, such as deer that were CWD-negative at capture but later acquired the disease. It must also consider how survival differed over time and among sex and age groups,” the DNR’s analysis said. “Before this study, survival models had never before incorporated all of these elements of disease, and to do so here required tremendous patience and innovation.”

Survival results

For this study, staff collared 766 deer with GPS collars, as well as 323 newborn fawns. Deer capture began in January, 2017, and concluded in March of 2020, with monitoring occurring since that time. While no new collars are being added, there are still deer with functional collars today, noted Daniel Storm, DNR Deer Research scientist.

With samples captured at the time of collaring and then at the time of death, Storm said combining that information with advanced statistical modeling, they are able to compare the annual survival rate of deer that did have CWD versus those that did not.

“We can take that information — the survival rate of our infected female versus uninfected females,

then the prevalence of CWD in the population and recruitment, and we can put that into a population model which allows us to show how population growth changes with changing chronic wasting disease prevalence.”

Results showed the survival rate for uninfected does was about 83%, and for bucks it was 69%. In contrast, does that were infected with CWD had a 41% survival rate, and bucks had only a 17% survival rate.

“The primary point of interest with regards to how CWD is going to affect deer populations is going to be the extent to which CWD reduces the survival of adult female deer, because adult female deer survival is mostly what drives population. There are other factors that you must consider as well — which we did — such as recruitment and harvest,” Storm said.

Fawn survival in the study area was high enough to help sustain the population. Coyote predation was the highest source of mortality, followed by disease (pneumonia or enterocolitis), hunter harvest, and human-related causes (car collisions, haying equipment, domestic dogs).

“It is important to note that researchers do not expect CWD-affected deer herds to become extirpated (locally extinct). Deer populations have a strong ability to increase reproduction when deer abundance is lower, due to less competition for food and space,” the analysis notes.

Mortality effects on population

Storm said CWD indeed has a drastic effect on deer survival. “Infected female survival is half the survival of uninfected deer, and male survival is lower still. What we see is that CWD, through its mortality effect on females, immediately chips away at population growth potential of a deer herd, but at low prevalences we still have really robust growth potential.”

In short, CWD does substantially reduce deer survival and suppresses deer population growth rate. Where CWD prevalence is high, populations are likely declining.

“If prevalence continues to grow, the impacts of the disease are going to spread as well,” Storm said.

The southern landscape obviously has some differences between the northern portion of the state, and Storm was reluctant to speculate what these numbers mean, specifically for deer herds here. But one thing he was certain about is what happens with CWD — it grows. “So that’s today, but in the future, if you don’t do anything different where we have CWD, it’s going to get established and increase its prevalence, which is what always happens.”

Learning from CWD deaths

According to Storm, in order to learn what they could, the DNR collared a large number of deer, then tested them for CWD at capture and death in order to monitor how, when and where they died.

One of the ways the DNR was able to capture the deer was by using drop nets, Storm said.

Food was put out to attract deer to the net, then the net was dropped. Staff were then able to physically restrain them and chemically immobilize them to study and put on a GPS collar. Live tests were then done by rectal biopsy, which allows staff to get the CWD test before the deer is dead.

The collars also alert staff via email or text when the deer dies so they can have a veterinarian perform a mortality investigation. “We get a lot of information on those deaths,” Storm noted.

CWD can take down a healthy adult deer in as little as 18 months from infection to death.

“Deer can then very quickly lose tremendous amounts of condition in a very short time. They essentially die of starvation. You see it (starvation) in June, July, August, when there are no nutritional limitations — the disease itself causes that,” Storm said. “It’s a neurological disease that has all these cascading effects on the physiology of deer going down.”

According to the DNR’s analysis, CWD substantially reduces their survival rate and is closely associated with severe starvation and loss of bone marrow fat. Additionally,

51% of necropsied deer in the study had pneumonia, with bronchopneumonia more commonly found in CWD-positive deer.

More intel to come

The results released by the DNR are only the primary findings of the Southwest Wisconsin CWD, Deer and Predator Study, and staff expects there to be more information gleaned as they work through the data collected to learn more about the deer herd and CWD’s impact on it.

Some areas of analysis are still underway, including the bobcat and coyote movement and habitat use, that will inform scientists which areas each species favors or avoids, as well as provide a better understanding of how predators fit into the bigger picture of deer survival.

Additionally, seasonal deer movement and habitat use studies will tell researchers how deer respond to seasonal changes in the environment and where there are likely to be higher rates of CWD transmission. The impact of CWD on deer movement will shed light on how deer movement changes once they are infected with CWD. The analysis will also look for sex, age, and seasonal patterns.

Finally, studies of deer contact rates will look for contact networks among deer and how CWD is likely being spread between them.

“These results will inform population management in currently infected areas and the agency’s future CWD management decisions,” the analysis says. “For areas currently seeing low or undetected CWD, this research may provide a glimpse of the future should CWD continue to spread as it has over the past 20-plus years.”

According to Jasmine Batten, DNR Wildlife Health supervisor, one of the biggest challenges with CWD is that it’s a very long-term game.

“With CWD, there are no easy answers and there is not just one answer. One thing we do know is that to affect CWD spread over time, it takes a multifaceted solution. There is not one silver bullet that can change the future of prevalence over time,” Batten said.

Oneida snowmobile trails remain closed

The Oneida County Snowmobile Council and the Oneida County Forestry Department have made the difficult decision to keep the Oneida County Snowmobile Trail System closed until further notice.

The decision to legally open snowmobile trails each year is often a difficult one and not taken lightly, per the council. As members of the communities they serve, the council is well aware of how critical snowmobile season is to the Northwoods and how trail closures can adversely affect businesses and tourism dollars.

Additionally, organizers have to equally consider rider safety and the

negative impacts on public and private lands that many of our trails utilize. At this time, they feel that most areas throughout our county’s snowmobile trail system do not have adequate snow to be able to ride safely, and damages to public and private lands may occur in many areas if trails were to open under current snow conditions.

They ask that riders stay off the closed trails. Failure to do so could result in fines or penalties.

Any questions or comments can be directed to OCSC President – Jim Wendt at 715-891-1610 or to the Oneida County Forestry Department at 715-369-6140.

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OBITUARIES

Nila Foley

Nila Irene Foley (née Martinson), age 76, of Wausau, WI, passed away peacefully on November 28, 2024. Born on January 3, 1948, and raised in Conover, WI, Nila lived a life full of love, dedication, and passion.

Nila was an avid sports enthusiast, especially loyal to her beloved Milwaukee Brewers. Above all, she cherished her family. Her daughter, Rebecca Woller (Foley), and grandson, Bradyn Woller, were the center of her world, bringing her immense joy and pride.

Nila is preceded in death by her husband, William Foley, who she now joins in heaven along with other loved ones who have gone before her.

She leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and devotion to her family and friends and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

A burial and celebration of Nila's life will be held this summer, with details to be announced at a later date.

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

Barbara Marvin

Barbara F. Marvin, age, 84 of Three Lakes, WI formerly of Harvard, IL passed away Thursday Jan. 23, 2025.

She was born Oct. 11, 1940, to Thurman and Lovina Jones.

Barb loved the Northwoods, nature, and bird watching. Most of all Barb loved spending time with her family, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Barb is survived by her sons, Larry (Terry) of Three Lakes, and Michael of Harvard, IL; brothers, Jack (Bea) Jones of Rockford, IL, Tony (Dee) Jones of Clinton, WI; sister, Rita Firlick of Sharon, WI; grandchildren, Susan (Dean) Kitto, Daniel (Christy) Marvin, Craig (Kristi) Burns, Charles Marvin and Jacob Marvin; great-grandchildren, Kyra Kitto, Sophia Marvin, Jaxson Marvin, Conner Marvin, Dwane Burns and numerous nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years Ted and her parents.

Known as “Grandma Barbie” she was loved deeply and will always be in our hearts.

Private family services will be held.

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

Patricia Wheeler

Patricia “Pat” Davidson Roland Wheeler was born Aug. 8, 1950, in Lake Placid, NY.

She passed away on Jan. 17, 2025, after a long courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Patricia was 74 years of age.

Pat graduated from Lake Placid High School (NY) in 1968, attended Hartwick College (NY) and earned a degree in Sociology in 1972.

After graduating from college, she worked several years in Colorado and Montana where she enjoyed downhill skiing. She returned to Lake Placid to help her father manage a new hotel built to host guests for the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY. It was there where she met her husband, David Wheeler.

Pat and David were married in Lake Placid, NY on Sept. 12, 1981. After their marriage, they moved to Peoria, IL, where they raised two sons, Daniel and Michael. Patricia was employed by the Illinois Eye Center for 36 years.

Pat retired in 2017, and she and David moved to Three Lakes, WI. Pat enjoyed volunteering at the library, reading, knitting, outdoor activities, friends and family.

Patricia is survived by her loving husband, David Wheeler; two sons, Michael and Daniel; daughter-in-law, Alicia; two grandchildren, Owen and Wyatt; two sisters, Ashley Roland, Helen (Jerry) Freilich; and a brother, Peter (Heidi) Roland.

Patricia was predeceased by her mother, Ashley (Davidson) Roland, her father, Peter Frederick Roland.

There will be a celebration of life to remember Pat in late spring/early summer. More information will be posted when it's available. Donations can be made to Trees For Tomorrow, 519 East Sheridan Street, PO Box 609, Eagle River Wisconsin 54521 or Three Lakes Waterfront Association, PO Box 145, Three Lakes, WI 54562.

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

NEWS

Individual income tax season starts this week

The individual income tax filing season began on Monday, Jan. 27, and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) is ready to help taxpayers with their tax preparation and filing needs.

The following are several options available to Wisconsin taxpayers for filing their taxes:

Wisconsin taxpayers have several options for filing their taxes:

- Direct File – This new, free online service allows eligible taxpayers to file their federal income taxes directly with the IRS. Direct File integrates seamlessly with WisTax, allowing taxpayers to easily file their Wisconsin state return.
- Tax Filing Software – Numerous software options are available, ranging from basic to advanced, offering varying levels of guidance and support.
- Tax Preparer – Enlisting the help of a qualified tax professional can be beneficial for those with complex tax situations or who prefer personalized assistance.
- VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) – Free tax preparation assistance is available to eligible taxpayers through the VITA program, offered by community organizations and IRS-certified volunteers. To locate a local site, use the VITA/TCE Locator Tool or the AARP Site Locator Tool.

Expanded child and dependent care credit

Taxpayers should check to see if they qualify for the expanded Wisconsin Child and Dependent Care credit (Schedule WI-2441). The qualifying expenses and maximum allowable credit amount have been increased for the 2024 tax year.

Refund tool

DOR's Where's My Refund tool is the quickest way to check refund status, as it gives taxpayers instant access to the same information call center agents provide.

Call center hours

To further assist taxpayers during this busy time, DOR's Customer Service Call Center is extending hours in the weeks leading up to the filing deadline.

Tax specialists will be available from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 1 - 3, April 7 - 10, and April 14 - 15 to accommodate taxpayers' schedules.

More resources

Individual tax filers are encouraged to visit the DOR website's Individuals page at <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/Individuals/home.aspx> where they will find answers to common questions, forms and instructions, tax credit information, payment options, instructional videos and other resources.

www.vcnewsreview.com

Dinners

FROM PAGE 1

community members alike, which, Zaugg explained, led to further community involvement and requests to share short devotionals and prayers before meals.

“In the beginning, these dinners were for pantry recipients, but that soon expanded to welcoming anyone from the greater Eagle River area,” Zaugg said. “They have become a fantastic connection with all different financial groups, and are a means to cross those lines, for everyone comes to share their lives as they enjoy a meal together.”

Since then, dinners have moved from the Kalmar Center to the Lincoln town hall, and are now hosted at the Rock Mission Center at 1019 E. Wall St. in Eagle River.

Food distribution hours at the Vilas Food Pantry, located at 1013 N. Railroad St., are Wednesdays 8:30 - 11 a.m. and the first and third Thursdays of each month from 3 - 5 p.m.

More information about the pantry can be found by visiting <http://www.vilasfoodpantry.net/>.

About Northwoods Share

Northwoods Share was one of the products of these community dinners, according to Zaugg, as the dinners became more involved in helping beyond providing a warm meal.

“I simply asked different

churches and community groups to provide food, and Kalmar provided the place. We kept it very simple,” she explained. “Folks mix with the sponsoring church/business, the catering business and guests, for we are all neighbors sharing a common life and having common interests to share with each other. Eagle River provides a dinner where anyone is welcome and this makes a stronger community.”

As time went on, speakers from local groups and organizations, including from what was then known as the Vilas County Social Services Department, were invited to provide information on local resources to those attending these dinners who may have been in need.

There are a variety of local businesses, restaurants and churches that have been sponsoring these dinners, some of which are open to catering the dinner themselves.

“I go to a variety of churches and businesses that have shown they are interested in supporting our community,” Zaugg said. “If the sponsor can do the cooking, that works great! However, if they know someone who wants to do it, that is up to them.”

Neither NWS nor Zaugg receive any profit from these dinners, though there are opportunities to leave gifts of free will to those who are interested.

“We have a place where folks can give a free-will

offering so that no one feels like they are taking advantage of a free meal if they're able to pay,” Zaugg said.

Donations received from these offerings are used for paper products, appetizers, beverages and whatever else sponsors may not provide for meals.

Those interested in being involved with NWS or the free community dinners can stop by the Needs Ministry, which is open every Wednesday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 119 E. Wall St. in Eagle River. More information can also be found on their website at www.NorthwoodsShare.org.

“Again and again, I hear folks thanking NWS for the opportunity to provide a place folks can gather and share a meal together. We encourage everyone to find a seat at a table where they can meet new folks!,” Zaugg said. “We hope to mix folks of varying economic status and build relationships between them, offering suggestions and help in various ways. Our regular guests look forward to these dinners as a place for social interaction, and many of our seniors and those who live alone need these ‘dinner dates!’”

Free dinners are just a sliver of what NWS offers to those in need in the North Woods community.

Through the NWS Needs Ministry, a personal care pantry, NWS provides paper products, soap and free clothing. This led to the eventual creation of their benevolence ministry, IC HELP, which offers financial assistance to families through the

use of spending journals or budgeting. There is also a 24-hour emergency line that can be contacted at 715-891-8966.

One of NWS' newest additions is Esther's House, a transitional home for moms and their children who may be fleeing dangerous situations, that opened this past summer.

“NWS believes it is better to teach a friend to fish than to give them a fish,” Zaugg explained. “We have found that our original goal to provide a meal has become secondary to providing hope and purpose. Everyone needs to see that he or she has a purpose and is of value. We believe that Jesus shows us the best way to really love others, and our faith provides a hope that then leads others to lives of purpose and responsibility.”

“The people who need help already know about NWS; however, those who are independent and busy with other clubs or activities do not. The more we can share NWS' mission to ‘share the love of Jesus in tangible ways’ with all different groups of people, the more we can involve different groups to strengthen the community and help one another. We are open to different ideas and we have a huge need here in this area. We need to be aware of how to help those in need!”

Upcoming dinners

NWS will be holding several dinners in February and March, with the next dinner being Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The meal will be sponsored and cooked by Three Lakes Evangelical Free Church, with a menu of chicken alfredo, salad, rolls, and a cookie for dessert. Appetizers will be served at 4:30 p.m. when doors open, followed by dinner being served at 5 p.m.

The other dinners will be held on Feb. 18, March 4, and March 18. More information about the menus will be available closer to those dates.

More information about NWS can be found by contacting northwoodsshare@gmail.com or by visiting their website at <http://www.northwoodshare.org/>



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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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418833

NEWS

Tony Brown to pay restitution; amount remains undecided

BY JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN NEWS EDITOR

A restitution hearing for former Eagle River Recreation Association (ERRA) Treasurer Tony Brown was held on Thursday, Jan. 23, and now attorneys are writing briefs supporting their view on the restitution amount due. Brown was charged with theft from a business setting, between \$10,000 and \$100,000 last November, after allegedly using ERRA debit cards to make purchases totaling over \$71,000 at Eagle River businesses, restaurants, and gas stations, and to pay personal utility and Internet bills between 2015 and 2022.

Concerns over missing funds were raised when Marion Janssen of Balanced Books of the Northwoods was hired by the ERRA board to do a reconciliation audit of the group's bank accounts. Janssen was also present at the hearing to provide testimony that went over details of the ERRA's QuickBooks account and bank statements that led to the investigation into Brown's spending. Brown was charged with a class G felony punishable by up to ten years in prison and a fine of up to \$50,000. Brown had requested furlough, an authorized temporary release granted to a prison inmate for a job search, but Judge

Martha Milanowski denied the request, saying that to grant furlough would "frustrate objectives of the court." "The point of jail is punishment, and I've already delayed that," Milanowski said. "We've already given (Brown) 60 days to line everything up." Brown was also ordered to write an apology letter to the ERRA and its Board of Directors, to be published by Friday, Jan. 17. "I take full responsibility for engaging in fraudulent behavior and acknowledge the impact it has had on the ERRA," he wrote in his apology. "My actions were morally wrong and unlawful, and I deeply regret the consequences

that have resulted from them(...). I am fully committed to making amends for these actions and continue to reflect on the poor choices I have made. I am prepared to face the consequences of my actions, including jail time and the restitution determined by the court. I hope this sincere apology can serve as a demonstration of my remorse and commitment to being a responsible member of society." A restitution amount is yet to be decided, and Judge Milanowski will be deciding on an amount once parties have submitted final written arguments on restitution amounts by the end of the month.

Arbor Vitae fire sparks \$30,000 in damages

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

A mobile home structure fire in Arbor Vitae on the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 21, resulted in \$30,000 in damages. Arbor Vitae Fire Rescue was dispatched to a mobile home on 1195 Maple Lane in Arbor Vitae Tuesday evening where it was reported that a man and his pet dog were still inside the burning building.

First to arrive on scene was Arbor Vitae Car 1 who reported fire and smoke showing from beneath the mobile home. Woodruff Engine 2, responding on automatic aid, fought the fire from the exterior, with Arbor Vitae crews conducting a search of the interior and checking for fire extension. Crews extinguished the fire without any extension to the interior. Search crews were able

to reunite the dog with the owner, who suffered minor burns to his hands while attempting to extinguish the fire. The dog suffered no injuries. The fire caused an estimated \$30,000 in damage, primarily to the underside of the mobile home, with moderate to heavy smoke damage to the interior. The cause of the fire is unknown, but is not considered suspicious in

nature. Arbor Vitae Fire Rescue urges anyone who smells smoke or suspects a fire to immediately exit the building and call 911. Arbor Vitae Fire and Rescue received assistance from the Woodruff Fire Department, Oneida Ambulance, Vilas County Sheriff's Office, Vilas County Dispatch, and Wisconsin Public Service (WPS).

Vilas County court report

Oneida woman pleads no contest on drug charges

Chauncy White, 40, of Oneida, pleaded no contest on one felony charge of possession with intent of amphetamine/methamphetamine (>10-50g) at a plea hearing last week. White was found guilty, and Branch 2 Judge Daniel Overbey ordered a presentence investigation before the sentencing hearing April 7, at 2 p.m. Salena Chapman, 33, of Lac du Flambeau, requested to have a plea/sentencing hearing by her defense attorney at a judicial pretrial on one felony charge of child neglect. The hearing was scheduled for March 10, at 1:30 p.m. Bond was continued in the case.

Raymond Vallier, 59, of Lac du Flambeau, appeared for a judicial pretrial on one felony charge of a fifth offense OWI and one misdemeanor. A plea/sentencing hearing was requested by Vallier's defense, which was calendared for May 14, at 10:30 a.m. Brian Cross, 43, of Woodruff, waived his preliminary hearing on one felony charge of manufacturing/delivery of amphetamine and one felony count of possession with intent of amphetamine/methamphetamine. The court found probable cause and Cross was bound over for arraignment. A not-

guilty plea was entered by the court. A judicial pretrial was set for March 18, at 8:30 a.m. The alleged offenses took place June 3 and 20, 2024, respectively. Michael Mortag, 51, of Sayner, had a not guilty plea entered at a preliminary hearing on one felony charge of firearm possession - convicted of a felony. Officer Jordan Brault from the Eagle River Police Department provided testimony during the hearing. Probable cause was found and bond was continued. A judicial pretrial was set for March 12, at 9:30 a.m. Rachael Fancher, 30, of Phelps, was found guilty and given an 18-month

probation sentence on one felony charge of methamphetamine possession last week at her plea and sentencing hearing after pleading guilty to the charge. That is after Branch 2 judge Daniel Overbey stayed a nine-month sentence in Vilas Jail. Conditions of the probation include court costs payable to the Clerk of Court's Office within 30 days, AODA assessment/follow through, mental health assessment/follow through, gainful employment, and other programming deemed appropriate by agent. In the case of violation, Fancher would serve the nine months.

POLICE REPORT

Vilas County Sheriff
The Vilas County Sheriff's Office failed to submit an incident report before the press deadline for this week's publication.

and booked into the Vilas County Jail.

Eagle River Police
The Eagle River Police Department reported a total of 20 incidents last week, which included two medical assists, three citizen assists, one information report, one lost or found property, two suspicious circumstances, two traffic accidents, two traffic offenses, three thefts, one utility problem and three welfare checks. A total of one person was taken into custody

Three Lakes Police
The Three Lakes Police Department reported a total of 50 incidents last week, which included two 911 calls, one alarm, three ambulance requests, one citizen assist, three motorist assists, one agency assist, 18 business checks, four extra patrols, one fire alarm, one fraud, one welfare check, one information report, one paper service, two parking violations, one warrant pickup, two background checks, one recreational report, one scam and five traffic stops.

REAL ESTATE

Jan. 16, 2025
BankUnited and POA Carrington Mortgage Services LLC to Kylie Rutta, SW NW in 27-40-6, \$314.40.

Inter City Oil Co INC to Deerfield Real Estate Adventures, lots 16-17 of plat 285 in Sanborn Co and gov lot 5 in 32-40-10, \$735.

Kurt R. Begalke to David R. Begalke, gov lot 1 in 13-40-8, \$600.

Jan. 17, 2025
Terry R. Miller to Rily Brooks and Catalyna Brooks, NW NE and gov lot 2 in 34-40-9, \$808.50.

Virginia A. Charles to Trevor Jenkins and Meghan Jenkins, lot 1 of plat CSM5726, and NE NW in 12-41-10, \$825.

Sharon K. Jordan to

Terry A. Dunlap, gov lot 1 in 24-43-8, \$525.

Jan. 20, 2025
James L. Bacon and Deborah L. Bacon to Anne Nowak Moros, gov lot 9 in 36-40-9, \$1,215.

Peter Treants and Nicolette Flessas to Kevin W. Deckard, gov lots 1-2 in 4-42-7, \$360.

Jan. 22, 2025
Dorothy C. Sitkiewicz, Mary E. Laszczkowski and Edward L. Sitkiewicz Jr. to Andrew Miskell, lots 14-15 of plat 43 in Capich Park Subdivision, \$630.

Edward A. and Ann M. Sturzl 2016 Revocable Trust, Trustee Edward A. Sturzl and Trustee Ann M. Sturzl to Setter Sisters LLC, gov lot 1 in 11-40-8, \$273.90.

CLASSIFIEDS

Dogs	7272	Lots and Acreage For Sale	7466
8 WEEK THERAPY DOG CGC CLASSES: February 4-March 25, Tuesday nights, 6:30p.m.-8p.m. https://purrfectdog.com/classes . html Location: 7841 Kriek Ct., St. Germain, WI. 715-542-1044			
LAND FOR SALE: 76 acres, woods, fields, wetlands. 20 miles from West Bend. Middle of section. Seller may divide, \$693,000. Scharl Realty, 920-564-3226. ted-scharl@gmail.com			

Homes for Rent	7409	Professional and Technical	7135
Tyson Road House: Newly renovated 1400 sq ft. 3 bed 2 bath home with attached 2 car garage, full unfinished clean basement, out building, nice acreage. Located one mile from Eagle River, private wooded setting. \$1750 per month plus utilities, first year. Please call Dave at 715-891-7007 for a showing and information. 715-891-7007			
Multiple Listing Service Coordinator: Northwoods Association of REALTORS is accepting applications through 2/10/25 for a full-time MLS Coordinator position. Candidates should be motivated, self-directed, technically skilled and comfortable working in a fast-paced environment; real estate experience a plus. Visit NWAR website for details at: northwoodsrealtors.org			

EMPLOYMENT



We are looking for a bright, energetic Team Player! Project Administrator

Primary responsibilities include assisting project manager, office management, building and maintaining subcontractor/supplier relationships, document formatting and project bookkeeping. Applicants must have previous experience in administrative assistance, office management and be proficient in current computer systems. This position provides competitive wage & benefits. Should this be a position of interest, we look forward to hearing from you. Please contact jeffvisner@gmail.com

Hearing

FROM PAGE 3

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.

POSITION AVAILABLE
LAKELAND UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAYROLL & PAYABLES SPECIALIST (FULL-TIME)

The Lakeland Union High School District is currently seeking a full-time, 12-month, Payroll & Payables Specialist. This position is available beginning May 5, 2025 to allow for an overlap during the transition of duties and responsibilities. Competitive salary plus benefits available.

Individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences are encouraged to apply.

- Education (preferred but not required):
 - Minimum of an Associate's Degree in Accounting, Human Resources, Business Management, or a related field.
 - Training on state and federal financial reporting requirements.
 - Proficiency in Microsoft Office suite, Google Suite, Skyward, and related software.

- Experience (preferred but not required):
 - Knowledge of state and federal reporting requirements, particularly W-2's, 1099's, WT-7, ACA, and WRS
 - Using tact and diplomacy in dealing with people.
 - Compiling, organizing, preparing and maintaining an assortment of records, reports and information in an effective and efficient manner.
 - Performing work with a high degree of accuracy and promptness.
 - Designing and implementing office practices and procedures.
 - Experience at a school district or CESA using the WUFAR accounting code system
 - Experience using Skyward software.

Application deadline is February 14, 2025. Please apply on WECAN at <https://wecan.education.wisc.edu/h/> (I.D. #226132)

For questions about this position, please contact:
Mr. Edward Then, Business Manager
Lakeland Union High School,
9573 State Hwy 70, Minocqua, WI 54548
Or email: then@lakelandunion.org
715-356-5252, ext. 1663

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1691 Superior St., Three Lakes, WI

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Call 715-479-2565 or stop by 118 Airport Rd, Eagle River.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Legals7700

VILAS COUNTY

(One week 1/29/25)
NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED FUNDS
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE That Vilas County Treasurer, Paulette M. Sarnicki, pursuant to Section 59.66(2) Wis. Stat., shall publish a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, a listing of the names and last-known addresses of the owners for whom Vilas County is holding unclaimed money or security and is following that with a class 2 notice, under ch. 985, stating that the full listing that was noticed in the class 1 notice may be viewed at: www.vilascountywi.gov or www.wisconsinpublicnotices.org or at the Office of the Vilas County Treasurer, Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court Street, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

The statute further provides that unless the owners request and prove ownership of such money or security within 6 months from the time of the completed publication on February 12, 2025, the County Treasurer will take possession or control of such money or security.

To claim these funds, the owner must appear in person, with valid photo identification, at the Office of the County Treasurer, Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court Street, Eagle River, Wisconsin, M-F, 8AM-4:00PM.

ADVERTISEMENTS
UNCLAIMED FUNDS
Pursuant to Section 59.66(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes, I, Paulette M. Sarnicki, Vilas County Treasurer, hereby advertise the following unclaimed funds held by the named officers or department heads of Vilas County, Wisconsin.

Furthermore, unless the owners call for and prove their ownership within six (6) months from the time of completed publication, the Vilas County Treasurer will take possession of these funds.

By Vilas County Clerk of Circuit Court
Aaron J. Amador \$37.80, 205 S Logan Ave, Oakland NE 68045;
Brad Andeson \$21.00, 907 Main St, Gay MI 49945;
Michael J. Arndt \$135.50, 3509 Old 70 E, Eagle River WI 54521;

Jeffery Bauman \$300.00, 2180 Wildcat Cir, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Timothy Bialas \$23.75, Unknown;
Timothy Bialas \$60.90, 13309 Big Crooked Lake Ln, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Jared Bickford \$150.00, 306 Cree Rd, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
William Bohn \$263.50, Unknown;
Sarah A Bonack \$36.40, 1306 White Pine Dr, Eagle River WI 54521;
Chuck Bonson \$230.00, PO Box 1179, Eagle River WI 54521;
Regina Call \$150.00, 5776 CTY RD M, Boulder Junction WI 54512;
Craig Ross Cameron \$125.49, PO BOX 1692, Woodruff WI 54568;
Bradson Sinclair Carlson \$30.00, 2332 108th Ave Se, Bellevue WA 98004;
Douglas M Casey \$92.50, 104 W Washington St Apt 2, Bloomington IL 61701;
Nick Chapman \$200.00, 14840 W River Rd, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
William A Conner \$232.88, 108 N 3rd St, Eagle River WI 54521;
William A Conner \$ 267.12, 308 N Third St, Eagle River WI 54521;
Cassandra Dehn \$160.00, 204 W Fredrick St, Rhinelander WI 54501;
Dawn Diver \$250.00, 13535 Sugarbush Trl, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Tiana Diver \$500.00, 14455 Wayman Ln, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Winnifred Diver \$100.00, 2823 Little Pines Rd, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
John M Dombrowski \$250.00, PO BOX 64, Waupaca WI 54981;
John Jonas Edwards III \$83.00, 2802 Little Pines RD, PO BOX 411, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Eric J Engstrom \$150.00, 3618 Pinecrest Rd, Rockford IL 61107;
Estate of Wade R Willey \$145.66, Unknown;
Loni Eyer \$300.00, 1237 Donald Dr, Woodruff WI 54568;
Tashina Frank \$131.00, PO BOX 492, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Jasna Frontz \$175.30, 9733 14th St, Kenosha WI 53144;
Austin Garberek \$150.00, 393 Hwy 51, Arbor Vitae WI 54568;
Carlos Garcia \$78.00, 2477 S 22 St, Milwaukee WI 53215;

VILAS COUNTY

PRIMARY ELECTION
FEBRUARY 18, 2025
VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may submit a request to vote an absentee ballot to their municipal clerk. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

You must make a request for an absentee ballot in writing or online at MyVote.wi.gov.

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary or election or both. You may also submit a written request in the form of a letter or you may apply for an absentee ballot online at MyVote.wi.gov. Your written request must include your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, your signature and a copy of your photo identification*. You may make application to your municipal clerk for an absentee ballot in person, by mail, by fax, by email or at MyVote.wi.gov.

Making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail
The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is: 5 pm on Thursday, February 13, 2025**

*Voters who are indefinitely confined due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability may not be required to provide photo ID. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

**Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Note: Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Voting an absentee ballot in person
You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MUNICIPAL CLERK
FOR HOURS OR APPOINTMENT
The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office:
Tuesday, February 4, 2025
The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office:
Friday, February 14, 2025

TOWN/CITY CLERKS		
<u>Town of Arbor Vitae</u> Emily Biertzer 10675 Big Arbor Vitae Drive Arbor Vitae, WI 54568 715-356-3120 Monday-Friday 9am-3pm 02/14/2025 9am-5pm	<u>Town of Land O'Lakes</u> Lynn Jolin PO Box 660 4331 HWY B Land O'Lakes, WI 54540 715-547-3255 Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	<u>Town of Presque Isle</u> Kim Prott 8306 School Loop Road Presque Isle, WI 54557 715-686-2473 Monday-Thursday 10am-noon 02/14/2025 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
<u>Town of Boulder Junction</u> Daniel Driscoll PO Box 616 5392 Park Street Boulder Junction, WI 54512 715-385-2220 Monday-Thursday 9:30am-3:30pm 02/14/2025 9:30am-5pm	<u>Town of Lincoln</u> Shelly Sauvola PO Box 9 1205 Sundstein Road Eagle River, WI 54521 715-479-7000 Monday - Friday 9am-3pm 02/14/2025 9am -5pm	<u>Town of St. Germain</u> June Vogel PO Box 7 St Germain Community Center 545 Hwy 155 Room 5 St. Germain, WI 54558 715-542-8024 Ext 1 BY APPOINTMENT
<u>Town of Cloverland</u> Tracy Schilling PO Box 1565 5860 Perch Lake Road Eagle River, WI 54521 715-479-3434 Monday-Thursday 8:30am-11:30am 02/14/2025 BY APPT ONLY	<u>Town of Manitowish Waters</u> Dana Hilbert PO Box 267 5733 Airport Road Manitowish Waters, WI 54545 715-543-8400 Monday- Friday 10am-1pm 02/14/2025 1-5pm BY APPT ONLY	<u>Town of Washington</u> Nancy Sobralski 2301 Town Hall Road Eagle River, WI 54521 715-479-8886 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
<u>Town of Conover</u> Kendra Lederer PO Box 115 4665 HWY K East Conover, WI 54519 715-479-8688 Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm 02/14/2025 BY APPOINTMENT	<u>Town of Phelps</u> Sheryl Ward PO Box 157 4495 Town Hall Road Phelps, WI 54554 715-545-2270 Tuesday & Thursday noon-5pm 02/14/2025 9am-5pm	<u>Town of Winchester</u> Joan Wainio 7228 CTH W Winchester, WI 54557 715-686-2123 OR 715-543-2110 Monday-Friday BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
<u>Town of Lac du Flambeau</u> Sue Schoonover PO Box 68 109 Old Abe Road Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538 715-588-3358 Monday & Wednesday 9am-noon Tuesday & Thursday noon-3pm 02/14/2025 9am-5pm	<u>Town of Plum Lake</u> Jane Rosewicz PO Box 280 8755 Lake Street Sayner, WI 54560 715-542-4531 Monday-Thursday 10am-2pm 02/14/2025 BY APPOINTMENT ONLY	<u>City of Eagle River</u> Becky Bolte PO Box 1269 525 East Maple Street Eagle River, WI 54521 715-479-8682 Monday - Friday 8am-4:30pm 02/14/2025 8:30am - 5pm

No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election. The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on FEBRUARY 18, 2025. Any ballots received after the polls close will NOT be counted.

KIMBERLY OLKOWSKI - VILAS COUNTY CLERK

Legals7700

VILAS COUNTY

(One week 1/29/25)
STATE OF WISCONSIN,
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY
Publication Summons and Notice (Small Claims)
Case No. 24 SC 283
Capital One, N.A.,
c/o Blitt and Gaines
731 N Jackson St. Suite 660
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Plaintiff(s)
-vs-
Cole G Poupart
2858 Little Pines Rd
Lac Du Flambeau, WI 54538-9392
Defendant(s)
Publication Summons and Notice of Filing TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S):
You are being sued by the person(s) named above as Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above.
The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims Court: Vilas County Courthouse
Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: 715-479-3632
Address: 330 Court Street Eagle River, WI 54521
on the following date and time: Date: February 11, 2025 Time: 9:00 A.M.
If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you.
A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.
You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.
If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-479-3632 prior to the scheduled court date.
Please note that the court does not provide transportation.
Filed 01-23-2025
Clerk of Circuit Court
Vilas County

1/22/2025
David Olefsky
Law Firm and Address
Blitt and Gaines, P.C.
731 N Jackson St. Suite 660
Milwaukee, WI 53202
847-403-4900
Attorney's State Bar Number 1080471
2724
WVAXLP
(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 VILLAGE (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 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 re-

David Garner \$150.00, 6208 Junction Ln, Boulder Junction WI 54512;
Jacqueline Gatling \$1630.66, 548 US Hwy 45 S, Eagle River WI 54521;
Margaret Gomez \$232.00, 223 Makwa Trl, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Korey Griffin \$1130.00, 334 Swift St, Santa Cruz CA 95060-6228;
Trina Grothe \$80.00, 416 Hatten Ave, Rice Lake WI 54868;
Jordan Hagamon \$500.00, PO Box 712, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Lynda Hagen \$78.00, PO Box 1142, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Thomas J Harvey \$200.00, 209 W Lincoln Ave, Barrington IL 60010;
Robin Hess \$48.20, Unknown;
Brit Hoefferle \$135.50, 16387 Hwy 45, Bruce Crossing MI 49912;
Robert Holland \$200.00, Unknown;
Dale A Hollis \$300.00, 1421 White Horse Ln, St Germain WI 54558;
Phillip Royce Hunt \$74.30, 5210 ST HWY 70 W, Eagle River WI 54521;
Anthony J Jack \$150.00, 119 Clinic Ln Apt 10, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
James Jerzak Jr \$51.79, 3426 Hummingbird Rd, Wausau WI 54403;
Kathleen A Johnson \$46.89, PO BOX 1181, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Mathew Joles \$50.00, 320 Mobile Ave, Wausau WI 54401;
Darius Jones \$500.00, 793 Lion, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Charles Knox Jr \$263.50, 9798 Fish-trap Lake Rd, Eagle River WI 54521;
Maureen J Labine \$257.00, 57240 6th St, Calumet MI 49913-1046;
Angelina Lamere \$150.00, 798 Eagle Ln, Wabeno WI 54566;
Brandon LaPalm \$250.00, 5708 Hwy 45 S, Three Lakes WI 54562;
Leah LaRock \$3000.00, 1776 Forest Ave, Wabeno WI 54566;
J Lehmann \$482.00, 713 N 7th St, Wausau WI 54403;
Wayne Link \$146.80, 1525 N Railroad Ave, Crandon WI 54520;
Lyle Mann \$250.00, 1161 Haskell Lake LD Rd, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Kenny Alvin Martin \$126.19, 102 Richmond Cir, Martinsville VA 24112;
Roberta Martin \$500.00, 11541 Back Bay Rd, Minocqua WI 54548;
Alice Maulson \$250.00, Unknown;
Timothy A Miesbauer \$150.00, 8315 Elm Ave, Machesney Park IL 61115;
Laurie Olds \$6342.00, 3081 ST HWY 55, Crandon WI 54520;
Theresa Phillips \$935.50, 1512 Tri Park Way #2, Appleton WI 54914;
Joseph E Poupart \$22.00, PO BOX 83, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Robert Poupart \$150.00, 1714 Thunderbird Ln, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Roxanne Poupart \$110.50, 5420 S 15th S, Phoenix AZ 85040;
Chase Dalton Powles \$30.00, N15164 Thorofare Rd, Park Falls WI 54552;
Raymond A Rubin \$150.00, 707 Silver Lake Rd, Eagle River WI 54521;
Alanna J Sanchez \$48.50, 13809 Sugarbush Trl, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Sara Marie Schmeling \$40.00, 16535 W Bluemound Rd Suite 333, Brookfield WI 53005;
Robert Shoberg \$250.00, 916 E Wall St, Eagle River WI 54521;
Robert St Germaine \$150.00, 15564 Indian Village Rd, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Nancy Stowe \$150.00, 1869 Hwy 47, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Elvira Sunn \$233.02, 3104 N Newhall St, Milwaukee WI 53211;
Keanna L Thompson \$500.00, 13487 Sugarbush Ct, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Estate of Donald E Sokup \$100.00, 3405 Bernard Ave, Mosinee WI 54455;
Amanda Vazquez \$250.00, 2828 A Wazhask Tr, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Skye Vore \$263.50, Unknown;
Skye Vore \$263.50, Unknown;
James Walters \$500.00, 602 State St, Merrill WI 54452;
Courtney R Wewasson \$610.00, 206 Makoons Trl, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Amanda Williams \$36.50, PO BOX 1051, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Tashina Williams \$350.00, PO BOX 562, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Herbert E Wolff \$500.00, 207 Dewitt St, Sayner WI 54560;
Taliccia Wusterbarth \$200.00, 836 Hwy 45 N Room 21, Eagle River WI 54521;
Nicholas J Young \$227.91, 14176 Longs Point Ln, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Kimberly Lyn Zernone \$411.07, 130 Cora Ave Unit D, Fox Lake IL 60020;
Kimberly Lyn Zernone \$21.38, 130 Cora Ave Unit D, Fox Lake IL 60020;
Alan Zynowski \$173.00, 1586 USH 45 N, Eagle River WI 54521;
By Vilas County Jail
Chance D Mann \$59.50, 4068 Elliot Rd, Wabeno WI 54566;
Brooke A Modjewski \$66.98, 1729 Spring Meadows Ln, Eagle River WI 54521;
Luke C Novak \$56.00, 27 S Clear Lake Ave, Milton WI 53563;
Robert F Roberts \$40.38, W6659 State Rd 86, Tomahawk WI 54487;
Brandon C Almsback \$100.00, N2070 Wright Rd, Watersmeet MI 49969;
Shawn P Barker \$21.50, 30740 Wild Goose Ln, Burlington WI 53105;
Robert C Burgess \$97.00, 808 Old Abe Rd, Lac du Flambeau WI 54538;
Kyle E Monteith \$21.00, 8130 Bayview Rd, Presque Isle WI 54557;
Miguel A Palaoito Lucas \$48.50, 7336 5th Ave S, Richfield MN 55423;
Emanuel Pettigree \$23.78, 2031 Vine St, Green Bay WI 54311;
By Town of Arbor Vitae
Amber Kazlousky \$100.00, 1296 Old Hwy 51S, Arbor Vitae WI 54568;
Cathy M Bodin \$325.53, 350 Imm St, Wausau WI 54401;
I, Paulette M. Sarnicki, Treasurer of Vilas County, hereby certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
State of Wisconsin
County of Vilas
s/s Paulette M. Sarnicki
Vilas County Treasurer
Dated this 17th day of January 2025
Subscribed and sworn to (affirmed) before me this 17th day of January 2025
s/s Cherie Adler

1/22/2025
David Olefsky
Law Firm and Address
Blitt and Gaines, P.C.
731 N Jackson St. Suite 660
Milwaukee, WI 53202
847-403-4900
Attorney's State Bar Number 1080471
2724
WVAXLP
(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 VILLAGE (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 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 re-

ceived 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
WVAXLP
(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 61.36 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 0o 41' 300 FEET TO AN IRON PIPE; THENCE NORTH 89o 56' 00 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.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
(414) 715-7700
50-24-00484
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.
2709
WVAXLP
Bids and Request for Proposals 7705
ADVERTISEMENTS
FOR BIDS
(Two weeks 1/22-1/29/25)
PHELPS SANITARY DISTRICT
Phelps, WI
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE
General Notice:
PHELPS SANITARY DISTRICT is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project: PHELPS SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE
Project # 00097003
The PHELPS SANITARY DISTRICT will receive and accept bids ONLY through QuestCDN.com via the on-line electronic bid service (QuestvBid) for the construction of PHELPS SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE until 10 AM on February 19, 2025. All bids will be downloaded and publicly read aloud during a virtual public bid opening that will be held at the day and time of the bid closing. All plan holders will receive information via Quest on how to join the virtual meeting prior to the bid opening.
The Project includes the following Work: construction of new chemical building; chemical feed system; soda ash slurry feed system; ultraviolet disinfection structure and system; effluent reaeration; manhole modifications for chemical dosing; yard piping; and associated site grading, site lighting improvements, erosion control, valves, piping, plumbing, HVAC, electrical, instrumentation & controls, and SCADA as shown in the Bid Documents.
The anticipated substantial completion date is July 1, 2026, and final completion date is August 15, 2026. Obtaining the Bidding Documents Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website: www.questcdn.com. Bidding Documents are available for download from QuestCDN at www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$45 by inputting Quest eBidDoc #9495670 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN at 952-233-1632 or contact by email at info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with the digital project information. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with QuestCDN as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. QuestCDN requires the bidding documents to be downloaded from the site in order to submit a bid in the Vbid system. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through QuestCDN. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than QuestCDN.
Pre-bid Conference
A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held on February 5, 2025 at 10:30 am at the Phelps Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Facility, 2171 Tower Road, Phelps, WI 54554. Attendance at the pre-bid conference is encouraged but not required.
Instructions to Bidders.
No proposal will be accepted unless accompanied by a certified check or bid bond equal to at least 5% of the amount bid, payable to the Owner as a guarantee that, if the bid is accepted, the bidder will execute and file the proper contract and bond within 15 days after the award of the contract. The certified check or bid bond will be returned to the bidder as soon as the contract is signed, and if after 15 days the bidder shall fail to do so, the certified check or bid bond shall be forfeited to the Owner as liquidated damages.
No bidder may withdraw their bid within 60 days after the actual date of

ACCEPTING PROPOSALS

The Vilas County Highway Department will be accepting proposals for the following road work on County Trunk Highways (CTH):

CTH W: Beginning at CTH K and proceeding 9.7 Miles to CTH P. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A LRIP-CHIS PROJECT.

CTH W: Add Paved Shoulders in Various Locations
Road Striping on Various CTH's

Specifications may be obtained at The Bid Express® service at www.bidexpress.com. Proposals must be received on or before 9:00 a.m., February 18, 2025, on The Bid Express® service at www.bidexpress.com. Vilas County reserves the right to reject, in whole or in part, any and all quotes, waive any formality, request resubmission of proposals, and accept the proposal determined to be in the County's best interest.

Troy Schalinske, Commissioner
Vilas County Highway Department
P.O. Box 1568, 2104 N. Railroad St.
Eagle River, WI. 54521

441958 WVAXLP

Legals7700

VILAS COUNTY

(One week 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:
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Tax Key No. 024-986
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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

NEWS



YA GOTTA REGATTA — The third annual Pitlik’s Winter Regatta provided two days of winter entertainment for visitors to Sugar Camp, which included a cornhole tournament, adult and children’s activities, raffles and goods for sale from local vendors.
— Staff Photos By JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN

Ice Age snowshoe hike set this weekend

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

The Northwoods Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance will host a guided snowshoe hike in the Underdown area of the Lincoln County Forest on Saturday, Feb. 1, starting at 10 a.m.

Participants should plan to meet at the Underdown Recreation Area parking lot on Copper Lake Road.

A UW geology and geophysics professor described the Underdown, shaped by the Great Wisconsin Glacier about ten thousand years ago, as a “world class hummocky feature” of glacial topography. In other words, the area possesses an abundance of lakes, bogs and hills.

The trail is marked and

packed. Hikers can choose between distances of one to four hours depending on ability, experience, and endurance. The trail is “moderately difficult.”

Plan on bringing snowshoes, a drink, and weather-appropriate clothing. If there isn’t enough snow for snowshoes, there will still be a hike. It’s suggested to bring cleats.

Hot cider, hot chocolate, cookies and a bonfire will await hikers after their adventure. There is no charge to participate in this event. However, any donations to the chapter will be accepted.

For more information, contact Ruby Jaecks at 715-551-1118 or brjaecks@outlook.com.

Next phase in fundraising for hockey locker room project announced

The “Friends of Eagle River Girls Hockey” committee announced an update to the community-driven campaign to raise funds for a much-needed addition to the Eagle River Recreation Association (ERRA) facility: a dedicated Girls Hockey Locker Room.

This project, led entirely by volunteers, operates independently from the ERRA and its Board of Directors, with all funds raised exclusively allocated for this initiative.

The goal of this effort is to provide a space where the community’s female hockey players can prepare for games.

The committee has made significant progress, but still needs approximately \$225,000 to assist in funding the project. Donations will directly cover critical components, including excavation, permits, plumbing, electrical work and finishing touches such as insulation, drywall and flooring.

“We’re not just seeking monetary donations,” said co-chair Jenni Renkes. “We’re looking for contributions of materials like rubber mat flooring, shingles, concrete, insulation or drywall. Additionally, tradespeople can donate their time and skills! Whether installing flooring, doing trim work or other tasks, all would be impactful. No contribution is too small, and every bit helps bring this project to life.”

Donation Levels with Recognition Plaques:

- Goal Diggers: \$2,500
- Playmakers: \$5,000
- Team Powerhouse: \$7,500–\$10,000
- Legends: \$15,000–\$20,000
- Game Changers: Contractors donating labor and/or materials

Power Play update

As part of the overall fundraising effort, Power Play: 100 Amazing Women continues to gain momentum.

With over 25 official donors and additional pledges in the queue, this initiative has been a proven success out the gate. The roster of donors includes community members, local businesses, and former athletes who are passionate about supporting this project.

Nicole Ray, co-chair of Friends of Eagle River Girls Hockey, shared, “We are full steam ahead with this initiative, and one thing is certain: Eagle River and its surrounding community know how to unite and get things done. But to cross the finish line, we need support from others. Whether you’re a business or an individual, we welcome you to join our team. Even if hockey isn’t your focus, this effort is about more than just the game. It’s about a small community coming together to make sure its athletes have a fair chance and the facilities they deserve!”

To donate or learn more about the Eagle River Girls Locker Room Project, visit ERRA.com or email 100powerplay@gmail.com

State sees highest health insurance enrollment of all time

More Wisconsinites signed up for health insurance on the individual marketplace offered through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) this year than ever before.

Data released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services showed that a record 306,470 residents enrolled in the state, surpassing last year’s record by more than 40,000 enrollees.

“Since Day One, we’ve been working to ensure Wisconsinites have affordable health care, and I’m proud of our efforts to help more Wisconsinites across our state get covered,” said Gov. Tony Evers. “The ACA has never been more important, with a record number of Wisconsinites now signed up for affordable, high-quality health insurance through the federal marketplace, ensuring they can access preventive care, vaccinations, life-saving prescriptions, and more.”

Wisconsin also has one of the most competitive individual health insurance markets in the nation, with 13 insurers participating for plan year 2025. An interactive map of health insurers available by county can be found at oci.wi.gov/Pages/Consumers/FindHealthInsurer.aspx.

In Vilas County, health care is available through Aspirus Health Plan, Inc. at 866-631-5404; Compcare dba Anthem BCBS at 855-879-6183; and Security Health Plan of Wisconsin, Inc. at 844-293-9624. Aspirus and Security are also available in Oneida County, along with Molina Healthcare of Wisconsin, which can be reached at 817-964-5243.

“All Wisconsinites deserve high-quality, affordable health care and the ability to choose the most appropriate insurance plan for themselves and their families,” said Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary Kirsten Johnson. “We are

grateful for our strong community partnerships that connect people and families to the health care coverage they need, so they can access medical care when and where they need it.”

The Wisconsin Healthcare Stability Plan (WIHSP) has also held down rates on the individual marketplace. WIHSP was created by 2017 Wisconsin Act 138, a bipartisan bill signed into law in 2018 and implemented under Gov. Evers. WIHSP has helped keep health insurance rates low while increasing choices for consumers every year it has been in operation. Due to support from Evers and the Wisconsin State Legislature, WIHSP has been fully funded in each of the last three state biennial budgets. This program was most recently extended through Dec. 31, 2028.

In 2022, health insurance rates were 14.5% lower, and in 2023, rates were 13.7% lower than they would have

been without WIHSP. Rates on healthcare.gov would have increased by 19.5% for the 2025 plan year, based on a weighted average. Thanks to WIHSP, rates on the individual health insurance market in Wisconsin will instead increase by a weighted average of 8.2% for the 2025 plan year.

“With the support of Gov. Evers’ administration, we have sustained one of the most competitive health insurance markets in the country, and every Wisconsin consumer has a number of high-quality, ACA-compliant plans to choose from,” said Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) Commissioner Nathan Houdek.

Wisconsinites can explore their coverage options at any time at healthcare.gov. To get connected to free, expert help and explore cost-saving options, Wisconsinites are encouraged to visit wiscovered.com.

Grant helps develop Rhinelander motel into ‘critical’ low-income apartment complex

A former motel in Rhinelander will be turned into an apartment building for veterans and low-income residents thanks to grant money provided by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

In order to address communities struggling to meet housing needs, WEDC is providing \$228,000 to convert a former Rodeway Inn into a 31-unit apartment building. The refurbished property’s target tenants are veterans, fixed-income seniors, and seasonal workers with limited access to affordable housing.

“These apartments are critical,” said Patrick Reagan, Rhinelander city administrator. “We have a housing shortage just like everybody else, and bringing more housing into the market is great. It’s important that we have housing that meets the

needs of everyone in the community, not just those with deep pockets.”

The former Rodeway Inn, purchased and renovated by Wisconsin-based developer Tim Jewell, also provides a five-room office for potential new business. The business space is perfect for entrepreneurs because the building is located along a road with a new roundabout, Veterans’ Affairs center, and an existing hotel, Jewell said.

“This project will help economic growth big time,” Jewell said. “If you don’t have a place to live, you can’t open up the business and can’t advance the community.”

Missy Hughes, secretary and CEO of WEDC, said that affordable, quality housing is essential for the growth and sustainability of communities across Wisconsin.

“Housing projects

directly support a community’s economic health by bringing in residents, creating jobs, and strengthening local businesses. Public-private partnerships are key to overcoming funding

hurdles for these projects, and WEDC is proud to provide a solution,” Hughes added.

WEDC is the state’s leading economic development organization.

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

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

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

Applications received later than Monday, March 3, 2025, will not be considered. Appointment of any applicant by the Vilas County Board Chairman is subject to Vilas County Board ratification.

Kimberly A. Olkowski
Vilas County Clerk

440748

ADVERTISE HERE

Call 715-479-4421 TODAY!

BID NOTICE

The Town of Lincoln will be accepting bids for the asphalt pavement of the below listed roads in the Town of Lincoln for the fiscal year 2025.

Site: Rangeview Drive – Off STH 70 Near Mud Creek
Total Length: 520' X 14' Wide
Site: Bloom Road – Fire #529 to #527
Total Length: 850' X 20' Wide
Site: Tamarack Drive – Off Bloom Road
Total Length: 1,440' X 18' Wide
Site: Spring Lake Road – Off Hwy 45 S Across From Accent Auto Body
Total Length: 2,020' X 18' Wide
Site: Raven Lane – Off Spring Lake Road
Total Length: 1,300' X 18' Wide
Site: Barrish Road – End of Evergreen Road South 1,195'
Total Length: 1,195' X 20' Wide
Site: Gaffney Drive – Off Meta Lake Road
Total Length: 2,355' X 18' Wide
Site: Bolte Road – Off Illinois Road
Total Length: 875' X 20' Wide
Site: Boot Lake Road – Off CTH G
Total Length: 2,695' X 20' Wide

Project specifications are available at the Lincoln Town Hall Office during regular business hours or by emailing townoflincoln@hotmail.com to request them. Sealed bids are to be returned to the office of the Town Clerk, Shelly Sauvola, P.O. Box 9, 1205 Sundstein Road, Eagle River, WI 54521, by 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 for the Town Board Meeting, they will be opened at that time.

The Town Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts of bids and accept the bid most advantageous to the town. Completion date of the projects shall be no later than October 1, 2025.

By Order of the Town Board, Bill Hassey, Town Chairman
439246

WNAXLP

Sports



Northland Pines forward Nicholas Boxrucker fights for a puck near the corner in a dominating win over Hayward Friday night in the Pines Classic. —Staff Photos By JACOB HEID

Pines finishes second at Pines Classic

Falls to USM in championship

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northland Pines boys' hockey team was comfortable on home ice last weekend. They hosted the Pines Classic and started the weekend with a 7-1 win against Hayward on Jan. 24. However, they lost 3-1 in a hard battle in the championship game against the University School of Milwaukee on Jan. 25.

The offense clicked for all 51 minutes Friday, scoring six goals in the first two periods.

"Friday night we played our most complete game of hockey so far this year. The effort level was high by everyone," said head coach Zach Otto. "Fun game to coach when everything is clicking against a good Hayward team."

The scoring was started by the youngster Jazek Jantzen as he lit the lamp first for the Eagles. They held the lead for a few minutes before Hayward

answered the goal at 8:50 of the first period.

Senior defenseman Josh Graves took over the late portion of the period after the two teams skated hard.

Graves got tallies at 15:50 and 16:13 of the first to give Northland Pines a 3-1 advantage after one.

Sophomore Sam Shrock got in the scoring frenzy in the second with two goals at 11:22 and 16:07, respectively.

Graves collected the hat trick a few minutes after Shrock's first goal, as the defense kept Hayward scoreless in the middle frame. Pines held a commanding 6-1 lead after two periods.

Cooper Saari finished the scoring for the Eagles with one more tally in the third at 3:53 on the powerplay.

Goaltender Evrett Leslie made 16 saves throughout the night in the win for Northland Pines.

USM loss

Less than 24 hours later, the Eagles faced a tough University School of Milwaukee squad, who kept Pines in check offensively by only allowing 12 shots.

"We were outshot by quite a bit and weren't able to capitalize on a good

handful of great scoring opportunities," said Otto. "We had a couple of mental breakdowns and USM was able to take advantage of them. With great goaltending and effort, the boys showed they can compete with anyone."

The Eagles held on in the first period as USM registered 15 shots to Pines' five, but neither team found the back of the net as Leslie made all 15 saves.

All of the scoring happened in the middle frame as USM blitzed the Eagles early and often in the second. With goals at 5:31, 7:03 and 10:06, USM worked up to a 3-0 lead before the Eagles finally found twine. Less than a minute after the last USM goal, Pines' Julian Merschdorf had the lone goal at 10:59 of the second.

The Eagles only fired off two shots after the second period, and Leslie made 13 more saves in the third period to finish off the game.

"It's been a long time since Pines has been in the Pines Classic championship game, and the first time for any player currently on the team. It was a great experience for all of us," stated Otto.

Northland Pines, 7-10 overall and 2-3 in the Great Northern Conference, recently welcomed Tomahawk, the top-ranked D2 team in the state, to the dome this past Tuesday.

Next up after the Hatchets game, the Eagles will also host Stevens Point Pacelli Tuesday, Feb. 4, and at Medford Thursday, Feb. 6.



Senior defenseman Morgan DePuydt controls the puck on clean ice in the second period of the game versus Hayward.

WVU shuts down Pines Co-op in Eagle River

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northland Pines girls co-op hockey team (3-14) welcomed the Wisconsin Valley Union to the historic Eagle River Dome Jan. 23. The visiting Eagles dominated the shot department and the scoreboard in a 6-0 game that favored WVU.

WVU outshot Pines 47-11 and got revenge for a 3-2 opening-round loss to the Eagles in last year's playoffs inside their barn.

It took part of the first period for the two sides to get a feel for each other, as both Eagles teams traded possessions in their respective offensive zones.

It wasn't until Waupaca senior defenseman Caitlin Ryan found the back of the net for the game's first tally at 11:29 of the first. It didn't take long for her to get the puck back on her stick, as 11 seconds later she made it a 2-0 game.

"We have struggled to find the net all season. When these teams score one here and one there, they maintain momentum the entire time," said Pines head coach Jeff Stebbeds.

Pines had a few chances deep in WVU's zone on the forecheck, including Pines junior Ava Carillo grabbing a puck right in front of the net off a turnover, and the Eagles' best opportunity of the first was denied by



Reese Retallick, left and captain Mia Tulowitsky skate towards the corner of their own zone to fight for a puck. —Staff Photo By JACOB HEID

WVU's Kaylin Wright.

The first-period buzzer blared and Pines went into the locker room down two scores and trailing 14-1 in the shot department.

In what was the Eagles' best offensive period of the night, Pines registered eight shots on Wright in the middle frame. Another good look developed for Pines as Larken Paff galloped through the right side of the neutral zone on the rush and fired a wrister from the near circle that

was deflected by Wright.

If we could put a couple in the net, we could get the momentum going," explained Stebbeds. "We will keep working hard as a team to improve."

The score remained 2-0 almost midway through the period and could've been 3-0 on a breakaway chance for the visitors, but great stick play by Pines broke up the play.

About a half-minute later, at 8:13, WVU's Brynn Baneck lit the lamp to

make it a three-goal game, which stood at the second intermission.

WVU added three more goals in the third period to make it a 6-0 game.

The Eagles were recently back home for youth hockey night against Houghton-Hancock Monday of this week, before traveling to Black River Falls Friday, Jan. 31, for a 6 p.m. faceoff. Pines will be back home against the Fox Cities Stars Monday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m.



Sideline Scoop

BY JACOB HEID

Packers season ends in disappointment

As many football fans this time of year get their hopes up for a playoff push from their favorite team, it can all come crashing down in a matter of 60 minutes. That's what I felt earlier this month when the Green Bay Packers played well enough on one side of the ball to win the game, but the offense couldn't find a consistent rhythm to keep the pressure up, and lost to the Philadelphia Eagles 22-10 in an NFC Wild Card playoff game. The Eagles also handed the Packers their first loss of the year in the Brazil game in week one.

Coming into the season, I, along with many other Green Bay fans, had high expectations for the offense and defense, with fresh faces both on the field and in the coaching booth.

As much as the NFC North was a gauntlet of a division this year with three 11+ win teams, the Packers finished 1-5 against division opponents. Despite that blemish on their season, and what other overreacting fans thought, I still believed the Packers had a decent shot of making some noise no matter the seeding. In my mind, it was either the Rams or the Eagles they were going to face, but with all the changes in week 18, if all the cards had fallen right and the Packers won and Washington lost, a warm trip down to Florida against the Buccaneers would've been on tap. Instead, a trip to Philly ended in defeat when, in all honesty, there were plenty of chances to win that game.

Starting out with the initial kickoff fumble by Green Bay, which can be disputed as a bad call even after a review, led to an Eagles touchdown and right away the momentum was in the home team's hand.

After that initial score, the Packers' defense held Philly to just three points before halftime, but never saw the end zone and trailed 10-0 at the break.

The Packers went punt, punt, turnover and missed field goal in their first-half possessions, which in playoff football is not good enough.

The defense only held Jalen Hurts to 131 passing yards, while star RB Saquon Barkley carried the ball 25 times for 129 yards.

Offensively for Green Bay, the performance was not up to par, with Jordan Love turning the ball over three times, while the injury bug also hit the offensive line and wide receivers during the game.

It got to a point where Green Bay was down 19-10, with a chance to keep itself in the game, but a failed 4th and 3 attempt gave the ball back to the Eagles with about five minutes left.

Many players voiced their opinions after the game and at locker cleanout day back in Green Bay.

Heading into the offseason, the Packers should look at the free agent market (projected over \$60 million in cap space) and the upcoming draft in Green Bay for a cornerback (Jaire Alexander might not be back) and a wide receiver, along with a few others. For some reason, Bengals WR Tee Higgins is on my radar as a potential target, which I've said since the Packers could've drafted him in the 2020 first round and Love later in that same draft to have a key playmaker on the outside.

Cornerback can be attacked in the draft, with Benjamin Morrison of Notre Dame and Jahdae Barron of Texas both on my radar in the first round.

The rollercoaster ride will continue as the optimism will ooze before the start of the 2025-26 season and hopefully, the cries of disappointment or joy will last later into the playoffs next year.

Cold start haunts Lady Jays in loss to Dons

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

It wasn't the start the Three Lakes-Phelps girls basketball team was looking for as it made just one field goal and six free throws in the first half of a 49-37 loss at Columbus Catholic Jan. 25.

The Lady Jays shot the ball drastically better in the second half as they made a handful of 3-pointers and outscored the Dons 29-21.

"Came out in the first half and was as cold as we could be," said head coach Rich Javenkoski. "They had a half-court triangle press, but that wasn't really the problem. We had the shots, just the coldest shooting half of the year."

Javenkoski also said turnovers weren't a factor as TLP trailed 28-8 at halftime.

"I'd like to give Columbus Catholic credit. Their game is on working the ball on the

perimeter and they hit eight 3-pointers, primarily in the first half."

Javenkoski said the team isn't playing a full game and is not putting all the phases together at the same time.

It was a different story offensively for the Lady Jays in the second half as Javenkoski switched the lineup to play some freshman players.

Freshman Cora Johnson played about 15 minutes in the game. She was the team's second-leading scorer on the night with eight points, including connecting on two 3-pointers in the second half.

Junior Kailyn Fogerty led TLP with 10 points on the night.

TLP looked to get back on track in Northern Conference play Monday of this week at Laona-Wabeno, before hosting Wakefield-Marenisco in a nonconference game this Friday, Jan. 31, at 7:15 p.m.

SPORTS



Three Lakes senior Noah Kincaid, right, earns one of his three pines on the day at the Lumberjack Invitational at Wausau East this past Saturday. –Photo By William Zuelke

Rebel Jays have mixed results at Lumberjack Invite

BY WILLIAM ZUELKE
CORRESPONDENT

After a frenetic schedule with multiple tournaments this month, the Wabeno-Laona-Three Lakes varsity wrestling team slowed the pace last week with a single event as the team competed at the Wausau East Lumberjack Invitational on Saturday. Results were mixed for the first time all season. The Rebel Jays did not top any of the brackets individually and finished mid-pack in 11th as a team in a field of 20 high schools.

However, there were still many highlights in the tournament for the local grapplers, such as Three Lakes High School senior, Noah Kincaid, earning three pin victories in his 165-pound weight class on his way to another 20-win season. Sophomore Reagan Roy (106 lbs.) and junior Max Clark (120 lbs.) replicated the 3-1 record of Kincaid, and each has already eclipsed the 30-win mark for the year with a combined 71-12 overall match record.

According to head coach Seth Senter, the formula for the recent winning results of Kincaid has to do with a more relaxed demeanor.

“Noah is a good wrestler and he has improved his focus in recent weeks, while also having fun on the mat as he nears the end of his senior year,” he said. “Instead of overthinking at this point, he is just

wrestling, which is good for Noah and for our team.”

As for Roy and Clark, Senter says they are all about the business of winning.

“Reegan never gets rattled and has stayed laser focused in each tournament. Even with an isolated match loss, he will almost certainly rebound in the next match and during the next tournament. And while Max may have periods of ups or downs, this kid is a real gamer with unlimited potential.”

Another member of the 30-win club is Ryker Schingeck, who placed fourth in his 120-pound weight class with two pin victories in four matches on the way to improving his record to 32-5 in his freshman season with the club.

“Ryker had some tough bracket assignments today,” Senter said, “but right now coach (Colin) Schubert and I are happy with difficult matchups as we sharpen our skills and leave the best chance for postseason success.”

Hayden Demerath, Jayse Demerath, and Naaman Stanley each won multiple matches on Saturday, while nearly everyone on the team chalked up a victory leading to 226.5 points as the Rebel Jays finished just a single point behind Antigo High School and well behind the eventual winning team from Mineral Point.

Other team highlights included a pin victory each for Sawyer Jameson and Sawyer Christianson, while Levi Shepard and Levi Newman earned victories through a major decision and a decision. “Everyone contributed something on the mat here today,” Senter added. “These guys are starting to pick up the pace, and the long season of learning from the coaching staff is manifesting into wins that will serve us well in the future.”

At the same time the varsity team was competing at Wausau East High School, freshman Cameron Tilton was competing at the Wisconsin Wrestling Association JV State Finals at Wausau West High School where he placed fourth for the Rebel Jays, winning four matches. Hundreds of wrestlers representing more than 125 schools participated at this prestigious event.

Following a varsity quad event scheduled early this week at Laona High School, the Rebel Jays will make their only appearance at Three Lakes High School this Thursday, January 30, to close out the regular wrestling season. The triangular event begins at 5 p.m. and will take place under a special spotlight donated by the family of Travis Larson, a former Three Lakes wrestler who passed away four years ago.

Windigo takes fourth straight against Jr. Blues

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

In two back-to-back weekend series against the Springfield Jr. Blues, the Wisconsin Windigo won all four games, which included 3-1 and 5-1 victories in Springfield, Ill. this past weekend.

The Windigo kept their first-place position in the Midwest division with the weekend sweep.

“We got the job done on the road. With the standings as close as they are, we need every point we can get. We had 8 different goal-scorers this weekend, which is a testament to our depth,” said head coach John Mitchell. “Half of those goals came from our defensemen. Coach Reddick is doing an excellent job with our defensemen.”

Friday night’s game took

nearly a full first period for either side to beat the opponent’s goaltender. Windigo forward Alexios Georgaklis scored his ninth goal of the year, with 58 seconds remaining in the opening frame, as Wisconsin took a 1-0 lead into the locker room.

“Georgaklis showed why he can be a threat on any given night,” said Mitchell about his forward.

Windigo defenseman Harper Frey tallied his third of the year, midway through the second period, to put the Windigo up by two. He found the puck near the blue line and dropped to the faceoff circle before firing the shot into the net.

Luke Baker would make it 3 to 0 in favor of the Windigo a few minutes later.

The Windigo finally gave up their first goal of the

game early in the third period.

Beau Altman finished the game with 30 saves to earn his fifth win of the year. Wisconsin fired 30 shots on Springfield’s netminder in the win.

Saturday was much of the same defensively as Wisconsin allowed just one goal on the night.

The only difference was that the Windigo started the scoring early in the 5-1 win. Logan Nickolaus wasted little time in getting things started for the Windigo, scoring just 18 seconds into the contest.

It was the only tally of the first period as Wisconsin went ahead 2-0 after Windigo defenseman Declan Burns went high glove side.

With three minutes

To WINDIGO Pg. 10

Pines girls fall to GNC foe Tomahawk

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northland Pines girls basketball team fell in a Great Northern Conference battle 52-39 at Tomahawk on Jan. 24 despite two girls finishing the game in double figures.

The Eagles dropped to 1-6 in the conference with the loss.

Senior guard Vienna Klemett finished with a team-high 15 points, along

with Ryley Darr who had 11 for the Eagles.

Pines jumped out to an early lead after an impressive start to the game, as they held the Lady Hatchets to six points in the opening 10 or so minutes, and led 16-6.

Tomahawk’s offense came to life with five or six minutes left in the half and went on a furious 19-2 run in the final five minutes to lead 25-18 at halftime.

The Lady Eagles fell

behind by double digits during the second half, and got within six or seven points a few times, before Tomahawk went ahead for good to close the game.

The girls recently played another road game at Crandon this past Monday, and will get right back into GNC play against Rhinelander on Friday, Jan. 31, at 7:15 p.m. The Hodags beat Pines in Rhinelander earlier this year, 70-22.

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PRESENTS

Senior Spotlight

Eliana Smith, Northland Pines girls basketball

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Senior Spotlight series will highlight the senior athletes in the area around the communities of Eagle River, Three Lakes, and Phelps. This week, Eliana Smith, a Northland Pines girls basketball player, gets the spotlight.

Smith’s favorite thing about basketball is not only about offense and driving the ball, but being able to play defense. If she could have an unlimited amount of anything, it would be time because of how fast it goes. Here is more about the Pines senior.



Do you have a nickname that people call you?

“My nickname is Ellie. I’ve always been called that since I was little, and I think most people call me that because it’s just the shorter version of Eliana.”

What’s been your favorite thing about playing basketball?

“My favorite thing about basketball is defense or driving to the hoop. I love the physical aspect of the sport and being aggressive.”

If you could have an unlimited amount of something, what would it be?

“If I could have an unlimited amount of something it would be time because it goes so fast. There are so many things I want to do and people I want to spend time with.”

What’s a season goal you’ve been working on?

“A season goal I’ve been working on is getting enough sleep, properly fueling my body, and staying positive to encourage the team.”

What is your favorite TV show to watch? Why?

“My favorite TV show is The Office, because I always watch it with my parents, and it never gets old because it’s funny.”

Where’s a place you’d love to visit on vacation?

“I’d love to visit Switzerland on vacation because it’s so pretty there and I’d love to go hiking or snowboarding.”

Do you have plans for after high school? College?

“My plans for after high school aren’t set in stone yet, but I’ll probably attend college and get a teaching degree in elementary education.”

Jays go toe-to-toe with Columbus Catholic

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Three Lakes boys basketball team went into a heavy-weight fight with Columbus Catholic, the defending D5 champions, as the Bluejays came away with a 62-57 loss after a second-half push where they outscored the Dons 31-24.

Freshman Easton Lurvey came up big offensively with a team-high 19 points, while senior Peyton Pitlik finished with 16 points. Owen Liebscher was the last double-digit scorer with 11 points.

Pitlik finished the night with a double-double with 10 rebounds as well.

“I feel like we played one of our better games; we had very few turnovers against a team that values their press to get wins, and we were nearly

even in the rebounding statistics as well, even though Columbus Catholic towered over us in height,” said head coach George Lurvey about the game.

Columbus Catholic started the game on the 8-0 run before Pitlik got the Jays on the board with 10:22 left in the first half.

The Dons extended the lead to double digits a few minutes later before senior Eli Erickson drilled a corner 3-pointer to get within eight. Three Lakes continued to push as they got the deficit down to four, 16-12, after Lurvey hit a tough runner against the baseline with about seven minutes left in the half.

“Easton really played a great game; he was face-guarded the entire game by several players and Easton handles the pressure so well, especially considering he’s

a freshman,” explained Lurvey. “He worked his tail off to even get the ball in his hands as the defense continued to smother him.”

The Jays stayed with the Dons for most of the first half before the home team started to pull away late and led Three Lakes 38-26 at the half. Three Lakes was held to two points over the last two minutes.

Levi Lurvey opened the second half with a triple, and that sparked the Jays offense for the final 18 minutes.

Lurvey (Easton) hit an in-rhythm 3-pointer to make it a 43-36 game with about 12 minutes to go. The Jays to that point held Columbus Catholic to just two points over four minutes.

The Dons maintained a

To JAYS Pg. 10

Hockey Schedules

2024-‘25

Jan. 30 - Feb. 5, 2025

Eagle River Falcons

Sat, Feb. 1 vs Dane County Dairy Kings - 7:00pm

Subject to change please check team websites

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Northland Pines Eagles

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Girls
Fri., Jan. 31 at Black River Falls - 6:00pm
Tues., Feb. 4 at Hayward - 5:00pm





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SPORTS



Northland Pines senior Jonathan Miller goes up strong for a rebound during a GNC win over Tomahawk last Friday night.
—Staff Photos By JACOB HEID

Pines boys pull away from Tomahawk

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a tight first half of a Great Northern Conference showdown between the Northland Pines Eagles and Tomahawk Hatchets last Friday inside the Pines fieldhouse.

The Eagles used second-half shooting and intensity to pull away from the visiting Hatchets in a 74-37 win.

The win comes after the Eagles had five different players with 10-plus points, including senior Cody Vojta leading the way with 18 points on 7-for-11 shooting from the floor. Vojta also buried four 3-pointers, with most coming early in the second half.

Mylo Albrecht followed that up with 17 points of his own on 8-for-13 shooting.

A.J. Muench finished with 11 points and three triples, while Jonathan Miller and Jacob Beer each had 10 points with a pair of 3-pointers.

It was a pretty back-and-forth first half as the Eagles took an early lead, but Tomahawk used its post-play to keep stride with Pines early.

The Hatchets continued to go down low as the Eagles started connecting from downtown. A late push in the half had Pines back up by double figures, 33-23, at halftime.

An offensive explosion



Senior Cody Vojta releases a 3-pointer in the second half as the Eagles ran way from Tomahawk in the final 18 minutes.

out of the locker room began what ended up being 41 points in the second half by the Eagles. Vojta caught a hot hand early, with a few other buckets falling, which forced a Tomahawk timeout early to stop the bleeding. From there, Pines caused havoc defensively and only allowed 14 second-

half points in the blowout win.

The Eagles look to keep the momentum rolling in the GNC as they will face Rhinelander on the road this Friday, Jan. 31, at 7:15 p.m. The Eagles also faced Wittenberg- Birnamwood this past Monday in a nonconference tilt.

Windigo’s Herres inks D1 commitment

First-year Wisconsin Windigo defenseman Wyatt Herres recently committed to play Division 1 hockey at UMass Lowell of the Hockey East Association. The Kaukauna native is one of the youngest players in the league at 17. He has played in 29 games with Wisconsin and has produced five assists in that time.

“I am greatly honored and excited to announce my commitment to play Division I hockey and further my education at UMass Lowell. I want to give a huge thanks to my family for all of the support and sacrifices along the way,” said Herres.

He joins teammate Teddy Richardson as one of two commitments to D1 colleges this season. Richardson committed to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

Before playing for the Windigo, Herres played in nine games for Team Wisconsin in the Upper Midwest High School Elite Hockey League, where he scored one goal and two assists.

Bryce Reddick, an assistant coach for



Wisconsin Windigo's Wyatt Herres recently committed to play Division 1 hockey at UMass Lowell.
—Contributed Photo

Wisconsin, said the 6-foot-2 right-hander is a hard worker and his hockey future is bright.

“As an organization, we are ecstatic for Wyatt. He is a workhorse who shows up to the rink every day to work on his craft. UMass-Lowell is not only getting a

good hockey player, but an exceptional human being,” said Reddick. “I am beyond excited to see where his hockey career takes him.”

The team is back in action this weekend on the road at the Chippewa Steel this Friday and Saturday, Jan. 31-Feb.1.

Pines ski team finishes well in first three meets this year

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northland Pines/Rhinelanders boys and girls alpine ski teams recently placed well at meets at Christie Mountain, Granite Peak, and Black River Basin this month.

For the girls, the team scored 128 points for second place behind Northern conference-leading Wausau/D.C. Everest, while the boys scored 134 as a third-place finisher to Wausau and Ashwabay at Christie Mountain. At Granite Peak, the girls and boys had similar results as they finished behind Wausau again in the standings.

In the third meet on Jan. 24, the girls team finished second, while the boys took third place again.

Christie Mountain

Some top performers at the Christie meet were Northland Pines athlete Jessica Linn with a three-race time of 89.45 seconds, which ranked seventh for varsity girls. Her best time was the giant slalom at 26.21, which ranked sixth.

Northland Pines’ Eliana Conrad took 13th in the meet with an overall time

of 99.32.

On the boys side, the team had some top finishes from Rhinelander athletes, who took ninth and 10th, respectively, while Northland Pines athlete Jason Linn led the team with an eighth-place finish. He ranked in the top 10 in all three runs. Eli Repenshek had a combined 98 seconds flat in his three races to finish 18th overall.

Granite Peak

At Granite Peak Jan. 13, the team saw similar results as the girls team took five top-15 spots. Linn (Jessica) finished in the middle of that pack with a 13th overall rank. Conrad finished right behind her in 14th overall.

On the boys team, Linn (Jason) followed up an eighth-place finish with a seventh-place overall finish to lead Northland Pines athletes.

His best run was a 41.33 in the slalom, which ranked seventh in the field. Repenshek finished his runs with a 16th overall finish out of 34 racers.

At Snow River Resort Jan. 24, the alpine team took to the slopes again.

The girls team had their best finish of the season

points-wise with 102.

Linn again led the charge with a three-run time of 115.93, which ranked fifth in the girls division. Her runs of 37.68 in the slalom and 40.50 in the super slalom ranked fifth in each race. Conrad followed that up with an 11th-place finish with an overall time of 132.70. Her best run of the day was in the giant slalom with a 45.73 time, which ranked 12th.

For the boys, Linn and Wyler Koput finished consecutively inside the top 10 at 8th and 9th, respectively.

Linn flew through the slalom course, just three seconds off the leader’s time of 30.42. His 33.87 time ranked sixth in the boys field. Koput finished right behind him at 34.22, which ranked 10th, while also finishing 9th in the super giant slalom with a time of 36.53.

Repenshek rounded out the varsity racers with a 22nd overall finish. On the JV team, Calvin Margelofsky and Will Johnson took 8th and 11th overall, respectively.

The fourth conference race of the season was set for Tuesday of this week.

Jays

FROM PAGE 9

10 or 11-point lead for over 10 minutes before the Jays made one final push with about five minutes to go.

Pitlik got the ball in his hands and grabbed his own shot after he missed for an easy lay-in. That made it 56-49 with 5:04 remaining, as Three Lakes got it within four with 42 seconds left, before free throws iced the game.

Three Lakes, 5-8 overall, and 2-2 in the Northern Lakes Conference, got back into NLC play Tuesday of this week at Goodman-Pembine before another noncon game against Rib Lake this Friday, Jan. 31, at 7:15 p.m.

Windigo

FROM PAGE 9

remaining in the middle frame, Springfield took advantage of a Windigo turnover inside their zone to cut the Windigo lead in

half. With 45 seconds left in the second, Wisconsin restored its lead to two, 3-1, before the second-period horn.

The Windigo kept the pace high in the third with 25 of their 54 shots occurring in the final period. Two late third-

period goals iced the game to complete the sweep.

Next up for Wisconsin is another road trip to face the Chippewa Steel this Friday and Saturday, Jan. 31-Feb. 1, with puck drop slated for 7 p.m. for both nights.

STANDINGS

Three Lakes Dartball			Forest 9, Spiritview I 7			Winter 4/19, Mabel Ernst 4/22, Billie Jo Ernst 4/22		
Results of 1/22/25			Eight Ball Runs: Spencer Bolte, Richard Wilson, Ted Jewell, Brian Johnson, Sara Jewell (1st)			Top men shooters: John Ariola 16/28, Bob Wise 11/27, Warner Russell 11/28, Joe Romdenne 10/28, Pete Aiello 8/21, Aaron Jones 7/19, Bill Lutzke 7/21, Brian Handeland 6/21, John Nelson 5/14, Keith Popp 4/17, James Schmitt 5/17, Derric Ternig 5/17, Bill Ernst 4/19, Tom Kortendeck 4/19		
Team Results: Village People 3, Legion Newbies 0; Wildcats 3, Oneida Village II 0			Standings			Home runs: Tina Aiello, Cheri Lindquist, Don Scharf		
Top women shooters: Bev Beyer 5/15, Diane Hoffman 2/9, Maggie Kasten 2/10, Catie Ford 2/6			Rendezvous 147 61			Standings		
Top men shooters: Bob Borek 4/15, Art Martinez 2/9, Chico Tarvis 7/11, Ronald Swanson 3/5			Racks and Rods 131 77			W		
Home Runs: Bruce Carlson, Ronald Swanson			Pine Isle II 123 85			L		
Standings			Spiritview II 118 90					
Wildcats			Black Forest 107 101					
Legion Newbies			Legion OV 103 105					
Village People			TOL II 103 105					
Oneida Village II			Spiritview I 103 105					
			Spiritview Eagles 101 107					
			TOL I 98 110					
			Pine Isle I 68 140					
			Hideaway 46 162					
Eagle River Dartball								
Results of 1/22/25								
Team results: Eagle Lanes 3, Sweetwater II 0; Mud Creek I 3, Veterans Center 0; Mud Creek II 2, Club Denoyer 1; Sweetwater I 2, Club 45 1; Thunderbird 2, Shotskis 1								
Top female shooters: Jenn Linn 5/11, Teresa Ternig 5/17, Sarah								
						Sweetwater II 20 13		
						Shotskis 19 14		
						Sweetwater I 19 14		
						Thunderbird 17 16		
						Club Denoyer 13 20		
						Mud Creek II 13 20		
						Veterans Center 11 21		
						(one tie)		
						Mud Creek I 10 23		

Rhinelanders Curling Club to host learn-to-curl opportunity

The Rhinelanders Curling Club is set to host learn-to-curl opportunities at the Rhinelanders Ice Arena every Sunday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. and Monday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. through February.

The dates include Jan. 26-27, Feb. 2-3, Feb. 9-10, Feb. 16-17 and lastly, Feb. 23-24.

The club invites anyone interested to try out the sport, and equipment will be provided for everyone.

Participants are asked to wear warm, comfortable clothing and clean tennis shoes with good footing for activity on the ice.

For anyone who wants to continue playing in a group setting, a \$20 learn-to-curl fee can go towards a membership for league play.

For any questions, please contact letsgocurling@rhinelandercurling.org or visit the Club’s website at rhinelandercurling.org.

Upcoming

High School Varsity Hoops Schedules

Jan. 30 - Feb. 5, 2025

Northland Pines Eagles

Boys Basketball

Fri., Jan. 31 at Rhinelander - 7:15pm

Girls Basketball

Fri., Jan. 31 vs Rhinelander - 7:15pm

Mon., Feb. 3 vs Watersmeet - 7:15pm

Three Lakes Blue Jays

Boys Basketball

Fri., Jan. 31 at Rib Lake - 7:15pm

Tues., Feb. 4 at Crandon - 7:15pm

Girls Basketball

Fri., Jan. 31 vs Wakefield/Marenisco - 7:15pm

Subject to change please check team websites

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vcnewsreview.com

Wednesday, January 29, 2025



RADAR RUN — Snowmobilers and snowmobile enthusiasts alike gathered on the frozen surface of North Twin Lake in Phelps for the Radar Run hosted by the Phelps Snowmobile Club on Saturday, Jan. 25. Despite falling snow, blustering winds and chilly temps, races were held alongside hot food and drinks, raffles and live entertainment. The day ended with the themed Beachwear Fun Run where participants could dress in swimsuits, Hawaiian shirts and other beach-themed gear.

—Staff Photos By JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN



Not that you asked, but ...

BY ERIC JOHNSON

“Look dad — no hands!”

“People are so bad at driving cars that computers don’t have to be that good to be much better. Any time you stand in line at the D.M.V. and look around, you’re like, ‘Oh, my God, I wish all these people were replaced by computer drivers.’”

— American businessman and computer scientist Marc Andreessen (1971-)

Peering into the ol’ crystal ball over my lifetime, prognostications about the future of transportation — in everything from Saturday morning cartoons to elementary school classroom deep dives into the pages of the educational children’s magazine ‘Weekly Reader,’ to the latest Hollywood TV and film productions — produced tantalizing grand visions of the technological world to come.

I dreamt of the adult future to come as I watched Saturday morning cartoons of George Jetson reading

To JOHNSON, Pg. 9

Easy Eagles meeting scheduled Feb. 5

The Easy Eagles men’s luncheon group will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at Chef Rene’s, located in the Eagle River Inn.

The Easy Eagles is a group of predominantly retired men who meet twice a month, on Wednesdays, to socialize and share lunch. 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.

Genealogical Society to meet Feb. 3

The Eagle River Genealogical Society is holding its next meeting Monday, Feb. 3, from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library in the large community room.

The topic is MyHeritage.com’s free resources. Bring a tablet or a laptop. The library has extra equipment for those who do not have a personal device.

All levels of experience are welcome, from beginners to experts.

This meeting is hybrid, so is also available via Zoom. If interested in attending via Zoom or have any questions, call Barb at (708) 805-3374.

Pond hockey to return to Eagle River Feb. 7-9

The 2025 USA Hockey Pond Hockey National Championships will take place in Eagle River, Wis., on Friday, Feb. 7 through Sunday, Feb. 9.

Following the 2024 event cancellation, teams who elected to roll their ‘24 registration into ‘25 are already confirmed into their ‘24

division. Those teams who elected to refund their registration are able to register in the 2025 event.

Registration for the 2025 event is open at <https://www.usahockey.com/pondhockey>.

Because of last year’s cancellation, and with some teams electing to roll

their spot into this year’s event, there is limited availability in each division. Registration is on a first come, first served basis.

Fifty three percent of the teams from 2024 rolled their registration into 2025. This means the event is filled already at 53% before registration even opens.

The full rule policy can be found here: <https://www.usahockey.com/tournamentrules>.

For more information on lodging, and the Eagle River area, contact the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center at 800-359-6315.

LIFESTYLE

‘I Love Eagle River’ discount wristbands and shopping perk cards back for 12th year

The “I Love Eagle River” wristband/perk card program is back for its 12th year.

The wristbands and perk cards provide instant savings while shopping in Downtown Eagle River at participating businesses.

“This is a great opportunity for customers to save when shopping locally,” said Kim Emerson, Executive Director, Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce. “This is the 12th year for this fundraiser, which assists the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce in funding special events for local residents and visitors.”

Each business offers a different deal for those who show their wristband or perk card. Most deals involve a certain percentage discount off purchases. New this year — wristband/perk card program is available all year — January through December.

The wristbands and perk card discounts are available and can be used until the end of this year — through Dec. 31, 2025.

Wristbands and perk cards can be purchased for \$5 at Aiello’s on Wall Street, LP’s Pizza & Pasta, Eagle River Pet Company, Grandma’s Toy Box, the Hiker Box, The Salon &

Spa on Railroad Street and at the Wednesday Farmers Market. In addition to these locations, discounts can be found at 18 more Eagle River businesses. Watch for the wristband and perks card poster in business windows, or pick up a list of participating businesses when you purchase your wristband or perk card.

For more information, visit one of the above businesses or call the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce at (715) 479-6400.



PANTRY DONATION — Tony Mustacci the Community Development Officer for Ripco Credit Union presented a \$1,000 check to the Lakeland Pantry on Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Lakeland Pantry. Pictured are Tony Mustacci of Ripco Credit Union, Lorna Springate the Lakeland Pantry Director and Lisa Knuth a Lakeland Pantry Board member. —Contributed Photo

Northwoods gardening club seed class set Feb. 13

The Roots and Shoots Northwoods Gardening Club will be hosting a free presentation on Seed Starting on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 1 p.m. at the Olson Library in Eagle River.

The class will be presented by master gardener, Kitty Sookochoff, following a club meeting.

The presentation will answer questions like “When should I start my seeds? What seeds are the best to start? What growing medium should I use? And how do I transplant them?” Anyone interested in gardening is welcome to attend.

The Roots and Shoots

Northwoods Garden Club meets once a month all year round. The mission is to provide educational, social, and civic forums related to horticulture to the public of Vilas County. For additional information, contact Lori Miller at 715-617-1031

YMCA to host annual father-daughter dance

The YMCA of the Northwoods will be hosting its annual father-daughter dance for Valentine’s Day on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The evening will be filled with food, dancing, games and photo opportunities.

Each daughter will receive a corsage, and the dress code is semi-formal.

If a father cannot attend, girls are welcome to bring their favorite role model.

Register by Jan. 31 to take advantage of the early bird price of \$55 per couple, with an additional \$20 per extra daughter.

After Jan. 31, prices will increase by \$5. The Y will stop accepting registrations after Feb. 7.

For more information, call the YMCA of the Northwoods at 715-362-9622 or visit our website at www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.org.

12th annual Himanaji Winter Challenge set this weekend

Tara Lila will be hosting its annual Himanaji Winter Challenge 5k snowshoe race on Saturday, Feb. 1, starting at 10 a.m.

The race will be held at Tara Lila’s Ripco Road park location in Eagle River. The cost to register is \$20. For more information, or to register, visit <https://www.taralila.org/events> or contact Race Director Chris Nafziger at himanajirace@gmail.com.

There will also be a free guided naturalist tour departing from the parking lot at 3 p.m. The trails will be groomed and open for snowshoeing all evening, with a campfire, free hot cocoa and s’mores. The evening will conclude with a luminary walk along the Kushmanda Trail. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

YMCA offers Mahjong classes

Mahjong sessions will be held on Wednesdays from 12 - 2:30 p.m., starting Jan. 29, at the Beck Family Center YMCA.

Mahjong (or Mah Jongg) is a traditional Chinese tile-based game that masterfully blends skill, strategy and a bit of luck. The goal is to form a complete set of tiles, known as a “Mahjong,” which requires specific combinations of tile groups.

“We are thrilled to have

Debbie and Deanna as our instructors. They are both incredibly patient and knowledgeable,” says Marilyn Duschl.

Registration is required. Classes are free for Y members and \$25 for the general public.

To register, call 715-362-9622. The sessions will be held for five weeks.

For more information, contact Marilyn Duschl at mduschl@ymcanw.org.

Badger Bridge details results

1st place tie – Dan Del Ponte and Bob Dow.
1st place tie – Bob Busakowski and Ed Stoever.
3rd place – LaNora Kleerup and Joy Vanden Heuvel.

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*Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018

CNA

Backward Glances

Compiled by Josephine Hinderman



FRIDAY NIGHT THUNDER, 1995 — From the explosive fireworks display to the thunderous competition between Formula racers, the Friday night racing show was everything the Deckers had promised. More than 8,000 fans watched scenes such as this, twin-trackers cornering hard with a photographer’s flash lighting them up from the infield. In the background are six of the newest suites constructed for indoor viewing at the world’s only race track built just for snowmobiles. —Staff Photo By KURT KRUEGER

One Year Ago - 2024

In what feels like an endless string of cancellations to hit the North Woods this winter, the latest event on the chopping block is USA Hockey’s 18th annual Pond Hockey National Championships...The outdoor competition will not return to Eagle River this year due to what has been an unseasonably warm winter, along with recent balmy temperatures affecting ice conditions on Dollar Lake. There were already 250 teams signed up to compete in the event...A statement released last week by USA Hockey stated, “Player safety is our top priority, and the unseasonably warm weather has prevented us from being able to ensure safe playing conditions on both Dollar Lake or an alternate location.”

10 Years Ago - 2015

Several members of Congress, including U.S. Reps. Reid Ribble and Sean Duffy, have introduced legislation to take gray wolves in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Wyoming off the endangered list in an attempt to undo court decisions that have blocked the states from allowing wolf hunting and trapping for sport and predator control...The legislation is in response to a ruling by a federal judge in Washington D.C. last month that threw out an Obama administration decision to “delist” wolves in the western Great Lakes region, where the combined wolf population is estimated at around 3,700. The preliminary 2014 Wisconsin late-winter wolf count indicates there are a minimum of 658 to 687 wolves distributed across the state, according to

Department of Natural Resources officials.

20 Years Ago - 2005

One man was killed and another injured when two snowmobiles collided in Forest County last Wednesday, according to authorities...That crash, along with a weekend snowmobile death in Price County, brings the total number of snowmobile-related deaths to at least 16 this season...According to DNR statistics, the leading cause of snowmobile deaths in the state is striking a fixed object. The second most common cause of snowmobile deaths is striking another snowmobile or being struck by a snowmobile...The DNR warns all operators to watch their speed and avoid consuming alcohol before and during snowmobiling.

30 Years Ago - 1995

Rain in January, less than 6 inches of snow up north, and snowstorms staying south of the state have made this an unusual winter in northern and central Wisconsin, according to Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC), Wausau, which manages 21 headwaters reservoirs to regulate a uniform flow in the Wisconsin River...The rain last week didn’t amount to much in volume, but the coating of ice it left on roads forced early closings of schools and contributed to vehicle mishaps.

40 Years Ago - 1985

At least three snowmobile accidents occurred in Vilas County last week, one which resulted in the death of a 23-year-old woman... She was dead on arrival at Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff after

receiving massive head injuries. She was, however, wearing a helmet... Howard Young Medical Center said they had a total of four snowmobile accidents during the past week, only one in which a patient was admitted to the hospital. The woman admitted has minor head injuries, a hospital official said.

50 Years Ago - 1975

Unemployment in Vilas county this month reached a new high of about 13.7% based on preliminary figures submitted by Eugene Voss, employment secretary director for the Department of Industry, Labor, and Human Relations office in Rhinelander...The jobless rate in Vilas county falls about halfway between the lowest and highest unemployment in the five northeastern counties in this district. In Oneida county, unemployment is 9.1%; Langlade, 10%; Forest, 17.9%; and in Florence 18.5%.

60 Years Ago - 1965

Husky sled dogs are expected to be in Eagle River for the Snowmobile derby...According to Vilas county resource agent Herman Smith, a pair of pure bred Siberian Husky teams will be available. Handling them, dressed in Eskimo parkas, will be a man, woman and two youngsters. The teams are national champion sled dogs from Minnesota.

70 Years Ago - 1955

A proposal to prohibit the issuance of hunting licenses to persons between 12 and 21 years of age, until they have been qualified in the safe use of firearms, was among a

host of new bills brought before the Wisconsin senate and assembly last week...The bill, which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Conservation, is to become effective beginning July 1, 1956, if adopted. It will require all applicants to qualify in the safe use and handling of firearms before certificates will be issued...The bill authorizes the commission to designate instructors or cooperating agencies to assist in giving instructions and making of certifications. It will not apply to those who previously had hunting licenses issued to them.

80 Years Ago - 1945

Who’s afraid of the big, bad wolf? Not Lee Clure, town clerk of the Town of Cloverland. Sunday afternoon, when the ground was just covered with snow, he saw tracks that interested him. Thinking they might be fox tracks, he decided on Monday to backtrack to see if the tracks would lead to the animal’s hideout...He found the den and at its entrance saw a female brush wolf, which he managed to club to death. He then dug into the den and found seven pups over 10 days old. The little wolves growled at him, but he cleaned out the nest of these enemies of all North Woods wildlife...Clure brought in the wolf and seven pups to the county clerk, and collected a bounty of \$20 for the female and \$10 each for the pups.

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

LIFESTYLE

Registration opens for Oneida Sheriff’s hunter safety course

The School District of Rhinelander Community Education Program and the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office are co-sponsoring a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-certified Hunter Safety Course running March 3, 4, 6, 10, 11 and 13 from 4 to 7 p.m.

All classes will be held at the Oneida County Law Enforcement Center at 2000 E. Winnebago St. in Rhinelander.

Course objectives include: Reducing the potential for accidents, injuries and fatalities; reducing

the potential for conflict between participants, land-owners and other resource users; and promoting safe, responsible and ethical use of the environment and natural resources.

The class is predominately designed for ages 12 and older, but all ages are welcome.

The instructor will be Michael Baran from the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office. The fee for the class is \$10 per person and should be paid with cash or check at the first class.

Students are required to obtain a DNR customer ID number for this class.

If the student does not already have one, contact the DNR at 1-888-936-7463 to obtain this number prior to registering.

Preregistration is required and space is limited. Registration can also be found online at the ‘Community Education Classes’ section of the School District of Rhinelander website at <https://www.rhinelander.k12.wi.us/community/community-education-classes.cfm>.

Call Mike Cheslock at 715-365-9745 or email him at cheslmik@rhinelander.k12.wi.us for questions.



Northwoods Land Trust will be hosting a snowshoe hike at Holmboe Conifer Forest State Area on Thursday, Feb. 20 from 1 - 2:30 p.m. —Photo Provided By Northwoods Land Trust

Northwoods Land Trust to host free snowshoe hike Feb. 20

Join Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTL) for a free guided snowshoe walk on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 1 - 2:30 p.m. at the Holmboe Conifer Forest State Natural Area located in Rhinelander.

According to Troy Walters, NWLTL Outreach Coordinator, “This 38-acre property along the Pelican River has been welcoming

the public since it became a conservation area in 1965, and later a designated State Natural Area. It is a great venue to snowshoe among old-growth hemlocks, and see what animal signs we can find along the way.”

Participants will be snowshoeing on the trail for about a mile, stopping numerous times to talk about the old-growth forest

and other features of the area. Participants need to bring their own snowshoes. To register for the event, register online at www.northwoodslandtrust.org and click on News & Events, contact the NWLTL office at 715-479-2490, or email troy@northwoodslandtrust.org by Monday, Feb. 17. Space is limited.

Equine wellness faire set Feb. 8 in Sayner

Horse enthusiasts and equine professionals are invited for a day of education and connection at the Equine Health & Wellness Faire, hosted by Plum Lake Event & Equestrian Center on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The event will be held at 8177 Plum Lake Station Road in Sayner.

This event offers an opportunity to learn from leading equine experts through interactive demonstrations and presentations. With topics ranging from equine nutrition and dental care, to alternative therapies and saddle fitting, attendees will leave with practical knowledge and inspiration to enhance their horse’s health and

well-being.

Event highlights Include:

- 9 a.m. – Equine Reiki & Energy Work with Borealis Holistics
- 9:30 a.m. – Saddle Fitting with Julia Cyra of West 20 Ranch & Saddle Co.
- 10:15 a.m. – Hoof Health with Farrier Steve Packard
- 11 a.m. – Clicker Training with Dr. Katie Hom
- 11:45 a.m. – Lunch & Learn: Equine Nutrition with Craig Sandmire from Doctor’s Choice
- 12:30 p.m. – Keynote Presentation: Breeding Healthy Horses with Dr. Mike Graper, DVM
- 1:30 p.m. – Equine Dental Care with Drs. Molly Rice and Jessica Hunt, Midwest Veterinary Dental Services
- 2:30 p.m. – Equine Acupuncture with Dr.

Alison French, Homestead Veterinary Care

Admission is \$7 at the door, with \$2 donated to the Best Friends Sanctuary for aid of animal victims of the California fires.

Attendees will also have a chance to explore vendor booths featuring equine-focused products and services from Borealis Holistics, Marathon Feed, Midwest Eco Pavers and more. Plus, Milky Way Coffee Co. will be on site with specialty coffee drinks, bakery items, and lunch options available for purchase.

For more information, email PlumLakeEquineCtr@gmail.com or visit www.plumlakeequestriancenter.com.

Winter wellness series continues at Boulder Junction Library

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

Join the library on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 10:30 a.m. to noon for “Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body” with Julie St. Pierre, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Alzheimer’s Association, Wisconsin Chapter.

Participants will have a chance to learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement, and use hands-on tools

to help with incorporating these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging.

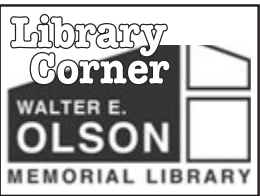
This program offers science-based recommendations about taking care of brains and bodies. While there are currently no proven methods to prevent cognitive decline or dementia, research has shown that action can be taken to reduce risks of developing it and help maintain, or potentially improve, overall health.

Julie will share stories and offer tips on how to make small changes to build healthier habits. Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body is designed for individuals of any age who are looking for information on

ways to live well.

Julie St. Pierre is a Community Outreach Coordinator for the Alzheimer’s Association, Wisconsin Chapter. She has been with the organization for more than 19 years and has more than 25 years of experience in working with individuals and families affected by Alzheimer’s and other types of dementia. In addition to her time with the Association, she has worked in adult day services, assisted living centers, and skilled nursing facilities.

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



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 and contact the Library at 715-479-8070 or olsonlibrary@gmail.com.

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

- Winter Reading Challenge, now through March 3 – beat the winter blues with our all-ages Reading Challenge. Stop by to pick up a special reading-themed Bingo card and get sweet treats for every Bingo you complete.
- Saturday, Feb. 1, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Monthly Mending Day. Call or stop by to sign up! Bring your clean clothes (or a well-loved toy) to the Library for free mending by our wonderful volunteers. You can even check out a sewing machine if you want to do your own mending or crafting projects.
- Monday, Feb. 3, 4:30 p.m.: Eagle River Genealogical Society. Connect with others

doing family history work to build skills, find new resources, and tackle tricky questions. This month’s meeting will be devoted to learning about MyHeritage free resources. Don’t forget, you can access local history materials — including microfilm of the VCNR going back to the 1890s and Family Search Affiliate Library records — at OML.

- Thursday, Feb. 6, 1 p.m.: Compassus Grief Support Group. Are you grieving the loss of a loved one? Compassus offers a monthly support group that can help. Call 715-301-7210 to learn more.
- Monday, Feb. 10, 10 - 11:30 a.m.: Memory Café. Memory Café is an opportunity for people living with memory loss and dementia, and their care partners, to enjoy regular social interaction and refreshments with others to laugh, to learn, and create community. Questions? Contact Leah Baughman, Dementia Specialist for the Vilas County ADRC, at (715) 479-3625.

Weekly offerings

- Mondays & Wednesdays – 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Nicolet Academic Success Center. Get help with GED and college prep, computer skills, academic support and more.
- 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!
- Tuesdays – 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Seated Yoga. Come as you are! Chairs will be provided.
- Thursdays, 9 - 11 a.m. – Aunt Gracie’s Sewing Circle
- Thursdays, 4:30 - 6 p.m. – Silent Book Club. Bring your current read (or find one here), then take some time for yourself.
- Fridays, 10 - 11 a.m. – Wiggle, Giggle & Shake music and movement program for kids 0-5.

Monthly offerings

- 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.) – Feb. 3 (March 3)
- Compassus Grief Support Group (1st Thursdays, 1 - 2 p.m.) – Feb. 6 (March 6)
- Memory Café (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.

Senior Citizen Menus

February 3-7
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, February 3
Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, multi-grain bread, vanilla yogurt and berries.

Tuesday, February 4
Chicken breast, mushroom and bacon sauce, brown and wild rice blend, brussel sprouts, apple slices, banana cake.

Wednesday, February 5
Sloppy Joe on a bun, roasted potatoes, baked beans, and grape salad.

Thursday, February 6
Beef chop suey, whole grain rice, oriental blend veggies, pineapple, and carrot cake.

Friday, February 7
Kielbasa with sauerkraut, twice baked mashed potatoes, peas, rye bread, and apricots.

chicken salad (or healthy salad).

Wednesday, February 5
Sloppy joe on a bun, roasted potatoes, baked beans, and grape salad.

Thursday, February 6
Beef chop suey, whole grain rice, oriental blend veggies, pineapple, and carrot cake.

Friday, February 7
Kielbasa with sauerkraut, twice baked mashed potatoes, peas, rye bread, and apricots.

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, February 3
Pork roast, boiled potatoes, carrots, whole wheat bread, and applesauce.

Wednesday, February 5
Open face chicken breast sandwich on whole wheat bread, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, gelatin with fruit.

Friday, February 7
Sausage pizza, mixed dark greens salad with tomato, Halos.

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, February 4
Spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, mixed greens salad, ½ apple, and pie.

Wednesday, February 5
Beef taco with lettuce, tomato and onion, corn chips, refried beans, Mexican corn, pudding.

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, February 4
Cheese quesadilla, cheese stick, mixed greens salad with cucumbers, baby carrots, and applesauce.

Wednesday, February 5
Whole grain macaroni and cheese, steamed broccoli, carrots, and grapes.

Thursday, February 6
Shepherd’s pie, whole grain dinner roll, and pears.

Community news online.

VILAS COUNTY
NEWS-REVIEW

vcnewsreview.com
facebook.com/vcnews

At our stores...there’s something to celebrate every day!

*January 29th is “National Puzzle Day”

(...help us observe the day by browsing through our inventory of over 500 puzzles!)

*January 31st is “Inspire Your Heart With Art Day”

(...celebrate by trying a paint-by-number or other art kit!)

Grandma’s Toy Box - Eagle Craft & Hobby

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



WINTER FUNDRAISER — There was a wonderful night of entertainment with some well-dressed attendees at Land O’ Lakes Arts’ (LOLA) winter fundraiser. This sold-out event was called “A Night in Black and White” and many came dressed in black and white when they arrived at the decorated LOLA gallery. Entertainment consisted of fitting jazz numbers and food was provided by the Bear Trap Inn. Numerous objects were sold via an online auction. Fund raised will help LOLA replace aging computers for social media and programming. It was a fun, awesome night thanks to Jennifer Anderson and other LOLA members who helped transform their building for this event.
—Photos By Bob Hughes

Gateway Lodge hosts comedy night

On Sunday evening the Historic Gateway Lodge, thanks to the efforts of Lynn Forry, partnered with the Frosty Snowmobile Club to present to Land O’ Lakes the Annual Comedy Night. Approximately 75 fun-loving people gathered at the Lodge to hear this new pair of comedians.

Frosty Club president Phil Mendham introduced this year’s two comedians: Mike Brody from Minneapolis, and Aron Woldeslassie from St. Paul, Minn.

Woldeslassie was first on the floor and he warmed up the audience with some side-splitting humor. His performance was followed by Brody, who did the same.

Once again, this event benefitted the Frosty Snowmobile Club.



Comedians Brody and Woldeslassie.



Pictured from left to right are Mike Brody, Frosty Club Trail Boss Bob Spiotto, Aron Woldeslassie and Frosty Club President Phil Mendham.
—Photos By Bob Hughes

Library hosts jigsaw puzzle challenge

The Land O’ Lakes Library held its second Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge last Thursday. Seven teams of three or four entered and, after a quick study of the picture, the challenge had begun. It was most interesting to see the various ways the teams began. Some separated the differing colors on paper plates, while others had each team member sort out different colored pieces. The eventual winners were the team of Kathy Abrahamson, Sally Folgert, Stacey Adams and Jane Wright. Congratulations to all the teams and thanks to Charlie’s Northwoods Market for sponsoring this second event.



Winners of the Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge, from left to right, include Kathy Abrahamson, Sally Folgert, Stacey Adams and Jane Wright.
—Contributed Photo



The library is looking for soup-makers for the 2nd Annual Community Soup and Bread Gathering! The event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 4:30 p.m. and is open to all community members. If you are willing to make a soup to share, please contact the library prior to the event.

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. The winning ticket for the Quilt Raffle will be drawn at 1 p.m. the day of the book sale. Tickets for the Quilt Raffle are available at the library and are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. You need not be present to win. The quilt, made by a local fiber artist, is on display at the library. All proceeds from the book sale and the quilt raffle directly benefit the Land O’ Lakes Library.

Save the date for Chocolate Cinema at the library. Celebrate Valentine’s Day by indulging in delicious chocolate treats and home-made hot chocolate while watching the film “Like Water for Chocolate” on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 1 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m.

The Land O’ Lakes Library is looking for Scrabble players who might be interested in an afternoon of playing Scrabble. Interested parties may contact the library. Once enough players have signed up, a date and time that works

for the majority will be set. Call 715-547-6006, text 715-891-4706, or email kwmendham@lol.wis-lib.org if you’d like to be added to the player list.

Qigong and Balance classes, taught by Dottie Reeder, are offered on Fridays from 9 - 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.

Lego Club is held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Children may be dropped off or take the bus to the library. A release form must be signed before children can participate. Call the library with any questions.

New fiction books on the shelves: “The Lion Women of Tehran” by Marjan Kamali, “Desolation Code” by Clive Cussler, “Listen for the Lie” by Amy Tintera, “The Bullet Swallower” by Elizabeth Gonzalez, “The Paris Girl” by Francelle White, “Small Things Like These” by Claire Keegan, “Held” by Anne Michaels, and “The Book of Doors” by Gareth Brown.

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

CORRECTION

A portion of the story about the annual Flapjack Festival should have read as “thanks to Dawn Whitney and Jack Garbarek for slaving over a hot grill all morning.”

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WARM DONATION — The Phelps-Land O’Lakes Lions Club recently donated \$500 to the Warm the Children program. Monies were collected at numerous events throughout the year, scarecrow fest, music on the lake, Land O’Lakes music, and Vilas fair parking. Blank said, We’d like to thank everyone that supported us at these events. We couldn’t have done it without you.” Pictured left to right in back are Lion Steve Chandler, Lion Rollie Alger, Lion Pete Schindelholz, Lion Brett Miller and Lion Brian Blank. From left to right in front are John Huza, Lion Bill Reckling, Lion Gretchen Vespo, Amber Ardent-Johnson from the Vilas County News-Review and Lion Robert Weber. —Photo By Sharon Gifford



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://phelpspubliclibrary.org/adult-programs/>. Call the library for more information on how to join this group.

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

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

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

Find the Library online at phelpspubliclibrary.org or on Facebook at Eleanor Ellis Public Library. Contact them by phone at 715-545-2887 or email director@phelps.wislib.org



FUN RUN — The Phelps Radar Run this past Saturday, Jan. 25 was brought to a close by the Beachwear Fun Run that ran from 3 - 4 p.m. A themed dress-up run, participants could dress in swimsuits, Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts, coconut bras or anything beachy as they raced across the icy shores of North Twin Lake. One man and three women participated in the run. —Photo By Sharon Gifford



Pictured left to right is Robert Wenberg, Jodie Grasse, Aerowynn Marchant, Raelee Steeno, Eragon Wenberg and Addison Szuta. —Photo By Sharon Gifford

4K SCREENING FOR
FUTURE
PHELPS
KNIGHTS

The 4K screening will be held on Friday, Feb. 14, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Contact Phelps School if you would like to add your child for screening 715-545-2724 to schedule an appointment today!

441931

Six high school students participate
in Menominee River Conference Honors Band

Six Phelps High School students, under the direction of Lisa Duquaine, participated in the 2025 WSMA Menominee River Conference Honors Band at Niagara High School.

The local branch of the Wisconsin School Music Association, Menominee River Conference, is an association of 12 Wisconsin and Upper Michigan school districts, whose finest musicians converged for two days of rehearsal and performance under the baton of composer/conductor Dr. Quincy Hilliard. Dr. Hilliard currently holds the position of Composer in Residence and is the Heymann Endowed Professor of Music at the University of Louisiana - Lafayette. He has written numerous band and jazz arrangements, and has received multiple awards for his composition and work. His main theme for the honors band members, besides the musical pieces, included discussions about talent, but more importantly the hard work that must go into a successful life.

Phelps Fire to host a spaghetti dinner Feb. 7

The final Blast-Off event leading up to the Northwoods Blizzard will be held Friday, February 7, at the Phelps Fire Station. The Phelps Fire Department and Ambulance Service will host a spaghetti dinner from 4-7 p.m. The meal includes spaghetti and meatballs (optional), garlic bread, and your choice of soda, water, milk or coffee, and dessert. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$7 for children ages five through 12, and children four and younger are free. Beer and wine will be available at an additional cost. Raffle baskets will also be available. Proceeds from all Northwoods Blizzard Blast events benefit your area Fire and EMS Departments. The fire station is located at 4499 Town Hall Road. For more information, please contact Kathy Mesun at 715-891-1839.

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Outdoors

Habitat-based units for deer to finally return

I RECALL clearly a column written some 12 years ago about the Deer Trustee Report of 2012, a piece that outlined serious concerns about moving away from habitat-based deer management units (DMUs) in favor of county boundaries.

The big objections were throwing away decades of unit-based information, and the even more serious problem of distributing antlerless deer tags within county boundaries that have serious habitat diversity — the snowbelt of northern Vilas and Forest counties being a major one.

But of course, the so-called deer czar from Texas had the governor’s ear and the secretary of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is a gubernatorial appointee, so nobody was listening to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and the average North Woods hunter.

More than a decade later, today’s wildlife biologists are singing a different tune as they embrace a move back toward habitat-based management units.

Here’s what they wrote in the latest rule-making proposal, and the words echo what people have been telling the department for years.

“This rule will propose revised DMU boundaries, which will allow County Deer Advisory Councils (CDACs) to refine deer management recommendations provided to the department in order to best manage the deer resources in each DMU.”

And here’s the punchline, the message this department refused to hear previously:

“Not implementing these rules would result in the department failing to properly manage the deer herd and meet the requirements outlined in Chapter NR 10.104 (3), Wis. Admin. Code.”

So one point of this column is to ask why it took the DNR more than a decade to not only admit they screwed up while listening to the deer czar, but to finally change the improper management system?

Another thing I recall writing more than a decade ago is that the department was listening to a so-called expert who gained much of his knowledge and experience dealing with private property in Texas.

So not only did he fail to understand the nature of deer hunting in vast public forests in northern Wisconsin, he didn’t understand the habitat differences throughout the region and even those present within a single county.

Correct me if I’m wrong, but it’s unlikely that snowbelt issues and winter kill problems plagued anyone in Texas.

In fact, his report recommended doing a deer population estimate every three years in the 18 counties that comprise the Northern Region — a bone-headed suggestion that ignored the realities of harsh winters that fluctuate wildly from year to year.

Okay, enough of the I told you so’s.

The credit for this change goes to the many northern county CDACS that expressed a desire to return to habitat-based units through their annual meetings.

And the “new DNR” went a step further, developing larger habitat-based units than previously done to address criticism that the old units were too small to provide sufficient datasets for statistically sound population monitoring.

Let me just say that if it’s true that the old habitat-based units were too small, the problem would be twice as bad today — because in general, deer numbers and the buck harvest are about half of what they were in the good ol’ days between 1985 and 2005.

I’m no scientist, but I believe sample size is just as important as acreage when it comes to population models. And right now, the northern deer herd is in a world of hurt for a whole bunch of reasons that go far beyond deer mismanagement. I’m



In order to better manage the northern Wisconsin deer herd, including the appropriate issuance of antlerless deer harvest authorizations, the DNR plans to return to habitat-based management units in Vilas, Oneida, Forest and other counties in the fall of 2025. —Photo By The Author

using that word today because within this rule-making process, the department fully admits its past failure.

I applaud today’s biologists for using five years of data (2009-2013) from the old, smaller management units while drawing up the larger units, maximizing the amount of homogenous landscapes and climates while keeping a similar total number of units.

“The present review sought to develop larger units while still retaining the benefit of historical deer harvest and population data gathered over the decades,” they noted.

It’s important to note that the vast majority of the unit changes occurred in the northern forest region, pretty much

north of Marathon and Shawano counties when it comes to north central and north-eastern areas.

As you might expect, not much had to change in farm country units where habitats are similar and harsh winters virtually absent.

So there you have it, a change for the good when it comes to managing the North Woods deer herd that should be implemented by this fall.

Now if we can just get some headway on predator overpopulation, unaccountable deer registration, and habitat-driven logging, we might just get a deer herd back.

But don’t expect change to occur overnight — look at how long it took to correct the deer unit mistake.

DNR reminds riders about safe driving on lakes

Wisconsin DNR officials continue to remind snowmobile and ATV enthusiasts about the potential risks of dangerous winter conditions while riding or driving recreational vehicles, especially on lakes.

According to officials, there have already been two fatal UTV accidents and one fatal snowmobile accident in the state this year, with two being on frozen waterbodies.

Officials also say ice, snow and frost on winter roads can be a main factor

that causes trails to become potentially slippery.

If your winter outing involves traveling over a waterbody, remember that every waterbody has different conditions. Before heading out, check to see if the lake has inlets, outlets or narrows, is spring-fed or has currents, which can thin the ice.

Here are a few more safety tips to keep in mind when operating recreational vehicles during winter.

Remember that ice is never completely safe under any conditions.

The DNR does not monitor ice conditions. Local fishing clubs, outfitters and bait shops are the best sources for local current ice conditions.

Wear proper clothing and equipment, including a personal flotation device or a float coat to help you stay afloat and to help slow body heat loss.

Never consume alcohol or drugs before or during your ride.

Do not travel in unfamiliar areas.

Carry a cell phone, and let people know where you are going and when you’ll return home.

Slow down when traveling at night.

Watch for pressure ridges or ice buckling. These can be dangerous due to thin ice and open water.

Visit the DNR’s Ice Safety webpage for more information on staying safe on the ice.

DNR reminds trappers of season closing dates

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds trappers to prepare for the

closing of several seasons over the next few months.

Trapping seasons close on a number of different

days throughout the late winter and early spring, so trappers are encouraged to double-check season dates

and confirm when it is necessary to remove items from the field.

- Jan. 5 – Fisher (statewide)
- Jan. 31 – Bobcat (statewide)
- Feb. 15 – Coyote, fox and raccoon (statewide)
- March 9 – Mink and muskrat (Mississippi River Zone)
- March 15 – Beaver (Zone D), mink and muskrat (Southern Zone)
- March 22 – Mink and muskrat (Central Zone)
- March 31 – Beaver (Zone C) and otter (Southern Zone)
- April 15 – Mink and muskrat (Northern Zone)
- April 30 – Beaver (Zones A and B) and otter (Northern Zone)

The DNR also reminds hunters of mobile-friendly online resources, including regulations, season dates and more, available on the DNR’s Trapping webpage at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Trap>.

Trappers can find information on species population levels and trapping opportunities in the DNR’s fall furbearer forecast.



Remember to prepare for trapping season closures.

—Photo By USFWS



Fishing with the guides

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

Ice conditions continue to improve

Ice conditions have continued to improve and after the cold last week, we’re now looking at 18” to 20” throughout the area. We’ve also gotten just enough snow to make snowmobiling, skiing and snowshoeing happen this winter. That’s more than we can say for last year, and we’re glad for it. Fishing has been a bit of a rollercoaster with the weather, but the general conditions in our area couldn’t be better.

Walleye fishing has been really good. The evening bite has been very consistent, with last light and after being really productive. If you’re just out for a few hours, plan on being set up by 4 and staying until after dark. Medium shiners or sucker minnows under tip-ups are working great. Look to set up in about 10 to 15” of water right off any structure. Weed edges are a super place to look for, as you’ll be intercepting the fish coming out of deeper water to feed in the evenings.

Northern action continues to be good, with fish being caught all day in the weeds using large shiners under a tip-up. If you’re fishing on weed edges for walleye, you’ll probably get some of these guys interested in what you’ve got to offer. Fishing for Northern can be a great way to warm up for the walleye fishing later in the day.

Panfish activity has been good, although there have been some variations due to changes in the weather. Perch are still being caught on the deeper edge of weeds using crappie minnows under tip-ups. You’ll find the crappie about as deep as you can go, and they’re best targeted with a tip-down and a rosie red. If that’s not working, jigging is often a great way to rattle some of these fish into hitting. It also makes it easy to search horizontally through the water column. Try tipping a 1/16 oz jig or spoon with a minnow head and jigging high in the column for crappie or dead sticking about 6” from the bottom for bluegill and perch. While the general advice is to look deep, we are still seeing some panfish in water of 10” or less, so that’s always worth a shot, too!

We’re seeing all the “normal” winter activity on the ice now, like vehicles and marked and traveled snowmobile trails. It’s a welcome change from the last couple of years!

The fishing this season has been great, and while we’d love to see some more snow and a little less wind, the weather has been cooperative. Looks like we’ve got some warmer weather coming this week, so be sure to get out and enjoy it!

Good Luck and Good Fishin’!

Our View

“Normal” winter returns to the North Woods

Recent cold snaps and snowfall have been bringing more familiar seasonal weather and winter recreation to the North Woods.

In Vilas County, snowmobile trails have been open for almost a week and have seen a great deal of action as tourists and locals alike were eager to hit the trails; the World Championship Snowmobile Derby saw the best ice oval it’s ever seen; and the Phelps Snowmobile Club was able to host its Radar Run atop the icy shores of North Twin Lake this past weekend — hopefully helping make everything feel more like normal for local snowmobilers and we hope to expect more snowmobiling fun with upcoming races at the World Championship Derby Complex (WCDC).

Snowmobiling, skiing, ice fishing and snowshoeing, all of these activities are welcomed sights in the area. Following an unseasonably warm year that led to millions of dollars in lost revenue, seeing the recently erected ice castle south of the Highway 45 bridge in Eagle River for the first time since 2022 feels like a beacon of wintry hope. Ice remains thick on local lakes, snow remains on trails, and winter events seem like they are here to stay for the 2025 winter season.

We hope that winter can maintain its chilly, snow-laden momentum, especially with events such as the 2025 Pond Hockey Championship running Feb. 7 - Feb. 9, which we saw canceled last year due to warm temps, making it too dangerous to play on Dollar Lake, and even more racing events scheduled at the WCDC, such as the 3rd annual Legend Laps Feb. 13, World Series of Snowmobile Racing Feb. 21 - 23, and the Hayes Brakes Snocross National in March.

Even though warmer temps are in the forecast, we are crossing our fingers that a “normal” winter remains and continues to provide a boost to Vilas economies.

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:
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See Letters Policy for guidelines



Savvy Senior
YOU ASK THE SENIOR QUESTION – WE FIND THE SAVVY ANSWER.
SYNDICATED COLUMN

How seniors can get help lowering their grocery bills

DEAR SAVVY SENIOR,

I would like to find out if my 72-year-old mother is eligible for food stamps or any other type of assistance program. When my stepfather died last year, mom’s income dropped in half and is having a hard time paying her grocery bills. What can you tell us?
Searching Son

DEAR SEARCHING,

There are actually several different food assistance programs that can help lower income seniors with their grocery costs, but what’s available to your mom will depend on her income level. Here’s what you should know.

SNAP Benefits

The largest hunger safety program in the U.S. is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps), but your state may use a different name. While there are millions of seniors who are eligible for SNAP, only around 40% (about 4.8 million seniors) actually take advantage of this benefit.

For older adults to get SNAP, their net income must be under the 100% federal poverty guidelines. So, households that have at least one person aged 60 and older, or who are disabled, their net monthly income must be less than \$1,255 per month for an individual or \$1,704 for a family of two. These amounts are higher in Alaska and Hawaii. Households receiving TANF or SSI are also eligible.

Net income is figured by taking gross income minus allowable deductions including a standard monthly deduction, medical expenses that exceed \$35 per month out-of-pocket, rent or mortgage payments, utility costs, taxes and more.

In addition to the net income requirement, some states also require that a senior’s assets be below \$4,500, not counting the home, personal property, retirement savings and most vehicles. Most states, however, have much higher asset limits or they don’t count assets at all when determining eligibility.

To apply, you or your mom will need to fill out a state application form, which can be done by mail, by phone, or online, depending on your mom’s state of residence.

If eligible, her benefits will be provided on a

To SAVVY, Pg. 9

EDITORIAL

OPINION/COMMENTARY



JUDGED WISCONSIN’S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



What do we do? Where do we go?

What to do? Where to go? Tough decisions to make over the next couple of months.

This dilemma presents itself to me every winter. I am in the early stages of debate with myself about this summer’s campouts as we speak.

Each year my lovely wife and I do as much camping as we can. Each year I go through the chore of deciding how many times we can go, for how long we can go, and where we go.

This camping thing for the two of us began in 1975 when I convinced her to try sleeping in a tent at a wilderness campground for the first time in her life.

I spent a good part of that winter deciding on exactly where to go, with Canada on my mind. I eventually decided on Mississagi Provincial Park north of Elliot Lake, Ontario.

We made the long drive to the park, and wouldn’t you know it, as we pulled up to the little registration shack, the first thing we saw was a large handwritten notice advising all campers to keep all foodstuffs in closed vehicles because of black bear problems.

That trip was the first ever camping outing for my wife, and you can imagine

her response to the sign. It took some talking, but I finally convinced her that no bear was going to bother us in our little 7x7” wall tent.

We wound up having a terrific time as we hiked trails and explored by road the vast surrounding wilderness that contains the park.

I caught lake trout, we actually did see a black bear while driving north of the campground, we had campfires every night, we hiked trails, with one that led to a 300-foot-high cliff edge overlooking a small lake below, and we did it all without a drop of rain falling on us for an entire week.

I returned there a few years later with a friend, and the two of us spent several days doing a 40-mile canoe and portage round trip paddling, portaging, camping, fishing and admiring unspoiled wilderness.

Like idiots, we paddled through waves nearly two feet high across a seven-mile-long lake coming out on our last day, pushing through on a wing and a

prayer that we would make it to the other end of the lake. Since you are reading this now, I’m guessing you know we made it.

Throughout the years my wife and I have camped all over Michigan’s U.P., as well as along the southern shore of Lake Huron in Lower Michigan. We camped for several years at all but one Ontario provincial park from Sault Ste. Marie to Thunder Bay.

We spooked a bull moose on a 14-mile round trip hike at the Sleeping Giant Park, and on one occasion watched in awe as a wild lightning storm came across Lake Superior toward our campground at Lake Superior Provincial Park.

We posed for a picture with the world’s largest Canada goose in Wawa, I caught trout in over a dozen Lake Superior tributary streams, and we looked out from the edge of another 300-plus-foot cliff to Old Woman Bay. I think we’ve seen just about every waterfall along the Circle Route

of Lake Superior.

After our years of Ontario camping, we moved on to northern Minnesota. So far, we’ve camped at every campground from Duluth to the Canada border with the exception of Tettegouche State Park, which is almost impossible to get a site at during the summer.

More waterfalls, especially those at Gooseberry, Judge Magney, Temperance River and Cascades parks are worth a lengthy trip just to see them.

My wife’s biggest desire on a future camping trip is to see another moose. Just twice has she ever seen one, so we keep hoping Minnesota might show us another sometime in the future.

Our only far western camping trip took us to the Bighorn Mountains in Wyoming. More beautiful country you couldn’t ask for. There I climbed about half the way up 13,175-foot Cloud Peak, caught trout from several streams, and looked in awe from a forest service lookout over land that had been devastated by a recent many-thousand-acre forest fire.

In recent years we have

To MAINES, Pg. 9



Wisconsin’s state and local tax burden hit another record low in 2024

State and local taxes fell once again as a share of Wisconsinites’ incomes in 2024, pushing this ratio — known as the state and local tax burden — to its lowest level since at least 1970.

This ratio between what Wisconsin residents pay in all state and local taxes, and what they receive in income from all sources, fell from 9.92% in 2023 to 9.62% in 2024. The decrease reflects continued growth in incomes in the state, plus aggressive efforts by the state to hold down local property taxes.

Each year, the Wisconsin Policy Forum examines every local and state tax paid, from the fees paid by dry cleaners (\$369,050 in 2024) to gross local property taxes (\$13.09 billion). To these fiscal year 2024 figures, we compare state personal income data from the prior calendar year, in this case 2023, to calculate the tax burden.

Overall, state and local

tax revenues grew by 1.9% in 2024, rising to \$36.9 billion from \$36.2 billion in 2023. That lagged the rate of inflation and was the smallest increase since 2017. Meanwhile, income growth easily outstripped growth in tax collections, as personal income in calendar year 2023 grew by 5.2% — double the increase seen the previous year. However, as it has in every year since 2009, personal income growth in Wisconsin lagged the national average, which this year was 5.9%.

Combined local government tax revenues, those collected by municipalities, counties, school districts, and technical college and special districts, grew 2.7% in 2024, to \$12.28 billion. Revenue from gross local property taxes — the largest single tax in Wisconsin — grew by 4.6% in 2024, the most since 2008. The increase reflected referendum approved by voters

and the end to the state’s freeze on school district revenue limits.

Total state tax collections grew to \$24.65 billion in fiscal year 2024 from \$24.27 billion in the prior year. This 1.6% annual increase was the smallest since 2020. Most of these revenues come from individual income tax collections, which rose by 3.2%, from \$9.42 billion in 2023 to \$9.72 billion in 2024. Growth in income tax collections has been restrained by tax cuts included in the 2021-23 and 2023-25 state budgets.

Corporate income tax collections fell, dropping 1.7% from \$2.75 billion in 2023 to \$2.70 billion in 2024. Sales tax collections climbed 1.8% in 2024 to \$7.59 billion — the slowest year-over-year growth rate since 2010. This came as inflation is now receding after several straight years in which it drove up sales tax revenues rapidly.

It is worth noting that elected leaders in Wisconsin in recent years have focused on holding down the property tax, individual income tax, and

motor fuel tax, but there have been fewer major cuts or decreases to sales taxes, and some increases. As a result, sales taxes have made up a larger share of total state and local tax collections over time, from just under 12% in 1970 to 22.4% in 2024.

Overall, the state and local tax burden in Wisconsin has fallen to a record low. Since 2000, no other state has seen a comparable decline in state and local taxes as a share of income. Going forward, some combination of economic expansion and more efficient government will likely be needed to maintain good quality public services while keeping state and local taxes affordable.

This information is provided to Wisconsin Newspaper Association members as a service of the Wisconsin Policy Forum, the state’s leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government research and civic education. Learn more at wispolicyforum.org.

OPINION/COMMENTARY



WINTER SERENITY — Saturday was a day of gloom, chilly winds and snowfall as several events happened throughout the North Woods, including the Phelps Radar Run and Pitlik’s Winter Regatta in Sugar Camp. Pictured here is a brief glimpse of hazy sunlight through some trees along County Highway D in Sugar Camp. —Staff Photo By JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN

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.

Savvy

FROM PAGE 8

plastic Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card that’s used like a debit card and accepted at most grocery stores. The average SNAP benefit for 60-and-older households is around \$105 per month.

To learn more or to apply, contact your local SNAP office — call 800-221-5689 or visit fns.usda.gov/snap/state-directory or call 800-221-5689.

Other Programs

In addition to SNAP, there are other food assistance programs that can help lower-income seniors like the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).

The CSFP is a program that provides supplemental food packages to seniors with income limits at or below the 150% poverty line. And the SFMNP offers coupons that can be exchanged for fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers’ markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture programs in select locations throughout

the U.S. To be eligible, your mother’s income must be below the 185% poverty level. To learn more about these programs, and to find out if they are available in your mom’s area, visit fns.usda.gov/programs.

There are also many Feeding America network food banks that host “Senior Grocery Programs” that provide free groceries to older adults, no strings attached. Contact your local food bank (see feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank) to find out if a program is available nearby.

In addition to the food assistance programs, there are also various financial assistance programs that may help your mom pay for medications, health care, utilities and more. To locate these programs, and learn how to apply for them, go to BenefitsCheckUp.org.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.

Johnson

FROM PAGE 1

the morning newspaper, feet kicked up on the dashboard, while his flying car auto-piloted him to work at Spacely Sprockets in 2062. Evidently, print edition newspapers are still around for at least another 37 years, but I’ll long since be retired by then.

I was filled with envy as eccentric inventor “Doc” Emmett Brown returned to 1985 from the then-futuristic world of 2015 in a flying, time-traveling 1981 DeLorean DMC-12 in the 1990 sequel sci-fi adventure comedy film “Back to the Future II.”

“Roads? Where we’re going we don’t need roads.” And, watching NBC’s “Must See TV” 1982-1986 American action crime drama “Knight Rider,” who didn’t want to be actor David Hasselhoff’s crime-fighting character Michael Knight, tooling around fighting the bad guys alongside the William Daniels-voiced KITT, a tricked out and largely autonomous cybernetic 1982 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am. I know at least I did.

Fast forward to today and, it seems, the future is now.

The future pulled up in my driveway recently when my daughter paid me a surprise visit in her new-to-her supervised full self-driving Tesla Model Y, which chauffeured us to a daddy-daughter lunch at an upscale local gourmet burger joint.

Autopilot and supervised full self-driving are intended for use with a fully attentive driver who has their hands on the wheel and is prepared to take over at any moment. Features include traffic-aware cruise control, autosteer, navigation, auto lane change, autopark, traffic and stop sign control, and “dumb summon,” which moves your vehicle in and out of a tight space.

Having cut my baby teeth in an old Plymouth that pre-dated the 1968 federal



It’s autopilot, supervised full-self driving excursion to breakfast last Saturday for News-Review columnist Eric Johnson and his wife as they rides as passengers in their daughter’s new-to-her Tesla Model Y. The car’s autopilot and supervised full self-driving features are intended for use with a fully-attentive driver who has their hands on the wheel and is prepared to take over at any moment. —Photo By Eric A. Johnson

requirement that all new passenger cars be outfitted with safety belts, the autopilot and full self-driving experience — even the Tesla just backing itself out of my driveway — was a mind-melting experience that left me simultaneously terrified and awestruck.

As University of Oxford professor Dave Waters said, “Once you trust a self-driving car with your life, you pretty much will trust Artificial Intelligence with anything.”

And here I suddenly was, putting my life in the hands of Artificial Intelligence for a General Tso’s Chicken Sandwich with a side of bacon-parmesan tots at Baker Street Burgers.

I don’t think I’ve been on edge that much in a vehicle since doing a few unintended white-knuckle winter drive 360-degree pirouettes on a snow-and-ice slicked Hwy. 51 in Arbor Vitae, headed south to Minocqua, and then ultimately finding myself aimed northbound back toward Boulder Junction.

Was I ready to trust a computer with my life as we turned, stopped, started and lane-changed through

traffic on the 4.2-mile route to the restaurant? My mind was awash in memories of infuriating idiotic conversations with Siri and Alexa, hilarious email and text voice mail auto-correct moments gone awry, 36 years of PC crashes and glitches, the infuriating spinning beach ball of doom on decades of newsroom Macs on deadline, and maddening, direction-challenged satellite navigation telling me to turn the BJVFD ambulance left into a solid wall of red pines and onto the non-existent “Snowmobile Trail Road.”

Sitting here at my MacBook Pro tapping out my column, obviously I lived to tell the tale, the Tesla deftly navigating the traffic all around us, including a six-lane stretch of the local urban sprawl commercial strip rife with Saturday afternoon traffic.

I was impressed with the Tesla’s round-trip performance. That the front of my daughter’s white Tesla Model Y bears a striking resemblance to a “Star Wars” Imperial Stormtrooper helmet face was icing on the cake for this sci-fi fan.

A week later, my wife was also impressed with the Tesla when my daughter returned for a weekend visit.

My wife, the proud owner of a long line of “Old Lady Van De Vort” Oldsmobile and Buick sedans, is now pinning for a self-driving Tesla, intrigued by the prospect of being AI-chauffered. Plus, she’s also enamored with the prospect to use Tesla’s humorously-named ASS feature, Actually Smart Summons, which allows your Tesla to drive to you or a nearby location of your choosing with your supervision.

As for me, driving for 43 years and currently 242,611 miles behind the wheel into my relationship with “Finn,” my trusty steed old school gas-powered 2015 Ford Escape compact SUV, I’m not ready to say goodbye and put Finn out to pasture quite yet.

But I can also hear the strains of John Williams’ score of “The Imperial March” in my head.

“Duh, duh, duh, DUN-DA-DUN, DUN-DA-DUN...”

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

Maines

FROM PAGE 8

centered our camping in Wisconsin campgrounds, including national forest, state forest and state parks. So far, we’ve camped at 11 of Wisconsin’s state parks. The Chequamegon National Forest has seen us camping several times, along with other favorite areas like the Brule River, Lost Lake over toward Florence, Madeline

Island, Door County, Drummond Lake and too many more to mention.

Before we head out this year with our trusty pop-up, hard-sided camper — we gave up tents seven years ago — there will be much discussion over where to go and how many times we can get away.

No matter where, no matter when, you will find us camping.

Letters Policy

- Letters to the Editor must include the writer’s full name, address, and other contact information (only your name and town will appear in print and online). We will not accept a letter from an unidentified source.
- 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@mmllocal.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.

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Annual snowmobile groomer show set Feb. 5

Arrowhead Groomers/Hamblen Equipment Inc. in St. Germain will be hosting the annual snowmobile trail groomer show Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursday, Feb. 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Entry is free. The show will feature vendors from Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, featuring the latest technology in snow grooming equipment. Located in the snowbelt, the groomer show is one of the largest events in the Midwest.

The St.Germain Bo-Boen Snowmobile club will offer food and beverages as a fundraiser. Proceeds help maintain and groom trails.

Arrowhead Groomers was established in 1976 as Charles Vogel Enterprises. Now owned by Hamblen, they manufacture groomer drags to keep high traffic snowmobile trails in top condition.

There will be a hospitality gathering at Whitetail Inn Wednesday evening starting at 5:30 for groomer show attendees with a pass.

For more information, visit arrowheadgroomers.com or Arrowhead Groomers on Facebook.



Arrowhead Groomers/Hamblen Equipment Inc. will be hosting thier annual snowmobile trail groomer show Wednesday, Feb. 5 and Thursday, Feb. 6 in St. Germain. —Photo By Jacki Goebel

United Church of Christ donates \$900 to food pantry

The United Church of Christ Thrift Store in St. Germain granted the Vilas Food Pantry with a check for \$900.

Present for the donation were Janlee Goska, pantry manager, and Daun Puetz and Debbie Henderson, store volunteers.

The pantry assists people in need to receive quality food in a caring environment. It is the mission of the Pantry to treat every-one who comes with dignity and respect. The pantry relies on donations and volunteers.

The pantry is located at 1013 N. Railroad St. in Eagle River. Distribution hours are Wednesdays, 8:30 - 10 a.m., and the first and third Tuesdays of the month, 3 - 5 p.m.

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



Janlee Goska, pantry manager (left) accepting a \$900 donation from store volunteers Daun Puetz and Debbie Henderson. —Photo By Jacki Goebel

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