

**Index**

OPINION ..... 8-9B  
SPORTS .....9A  
OUTDOORS ..... 7B  
LIFESTYLE ..... 1B  
OBITUARIES .... 4A



**Inside**

**Lady Jays split week**

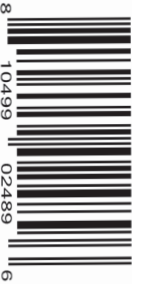
■ Read full story on page 10A



\$2.00

**Section A**

# VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW



VOL. 139, NO. 48

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

## Vilas board OKs ATV/UTV traffic on county roads

**BY JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN NEWS EDITOR**

In a nail-biting 10-9 vote, the Vilas County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance amendment that will allow all-terrain and utility task vehicles (ATVs/UTVs) year-round access on all county roads, except Lac du Flambeau.

The amendment, brought to the board by the Vilas County Highway Committee, was passed before a packed meeting room on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 28.

During the time for public comments, County Chairman Jerry Burkett had those in attendance get into two groups comprised of those in favor and those who were opposed to the ordinance amendment, and had them elect a representative to speak on the group's behalf during 15-minute intervals.

The first side to present their points were those who favored ATV/UTVs using county roads, as was decided by a coin toss.

The first to speak to the board was Lisa Penner, secretary for the Vilas County ATV/UTV Alliance, as well as the St. Germain ATV Club.

Penner said she was speaking on behalf of the Alliance's members, representing about 953 general members and 332 business members. Her points primarily reflected the economic benefits of the sport, the benefits law enforcement and tourists could get from standardized rules, and increased growth in the sport.

She also combated concerns that have been raised over the potential dangers ATV/UTVs may pose to local environments and nature trails, saying that the damage that does happen on these trails occurs due to trails "not being properly designed or maintained."

"The clubs in Vilas County work very hard with the DNR and the county to make sure these impacts do not occur," Penner explained.

Those in attendance

who voiced opposition to the ordinance amendment brought up a perceived loss of control from town boards, especially in towns whose constituents were repeatedly opposed to ATV/UTV traffic on their roads.

"Don't take away control from local town governments," said Boulder Junction Town Chairman Dennie Ruess. "We know our people, we work there, we live there, we know what people are expecting. I'm asking you (the board) to let towns govern towns."

Ruess was one of three town chairmen — alongside John Hanson of Manitowish Waters and Joseph Discianno of Winchester — to speak against the ordinance amendment based on opposition voiced by their constituents.

This sentiment was also shared among board supervisors, including Supervisor Richard Hanson.

"What I really think I need to address is local control," he said. "We had promised these towns that we would not open county

roads within their towns, without a request from the town. And we now are being asked to go back on that promise. I'm not ready to give up my credibility with the towns."

Burkett concluded the discussion with his own opposition to the amendment, saying, "I believe in local control... It's called respect. We all represent the area that we live in — it's called respect."

The 10-9 vote was passed after over two hours of public comment and board discussion.

According to the Vilas County Highway Commissioner, Troy Schalinske, changes won't go into effect until signage is installed on all county trunk highways. A press release will follow upon the project's completion. There is no timeline available for the project.

Those who may be interested in viewing the ordinance can do so by contacting the Vilas County Clerk's office at 715-479-

To TRAFFIC Pg. 2



**ICY SUN** — Still standing after being up for nearly a month, the Eagle River ice castle was alight with early afternoon rays last Thursday. At night, multi-colored lights illuminate the castle for passerby, visitors and locals to enjoy. —Photo By Tim Schreiber

## Pond hockey returning to Eagle River this weekend

**BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF**

The 2025 National Pond Hockey Championships will be returning to Eagle River this weekend Feb. 7 - 9 on Dollar Lake after unseasonably warm temperatures in 2024 led to its cancellation for the year.

Across 24 specially marked rinks created by the Eagle River Fire Department, spectators can come and watch teams compete for the championship title in over 180 scheduled games.

First started in 2006, over 300 teams from across the country have come to compete on the ice of Dollar Lake in a familiar, "low-tech" four-on-four style of hockey. Games will be played in two 15-minute halves.

For more information, visit the USA Hockey website at <https://www.usahockey.com/pondhockey>.

### Spectator information

Spectators are welcome, and are encouraged to check schedules at the USA Hockey website for game times.

The Chanticleer Inn will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Concessions on the lake will be presented by the Sno-Eagles Snowmobile Club, and will be open to both players and fans.

Spectators are asked to keep parking in mind, as parking at the inn and along Dollar Lake Road will be limited, and there will be no parking available at or on Dollar Lake.

Parking is also available at the Eagle River Ice Arena. Buses will be running from the arena to the Chanticleer Inn from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Friday, and 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. on Saturday. There will be no buses available on Sunday.



Hockey teams from across the country will be battling for the title of pond hockey champions at the Pond Hockey National Championships on Dollar Lake Feb. 7 - 9. —STAFF PHOTO

## Lions clubs partner with FORK to "Stick it to Hunger"

The Phelps-Land O' Lakes Lions Club will be partnering with Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) in an effort to combat food insecurity in the North Woods as a part of their "Stick It to Hunger" campaign.

Part of providing aid to local families experiencing food insecurity involves spreading information on services the program offers, which can be an expensive and time-consuming endeavor for the volunteer organization. This is where partnering with local organizations, stepping up to offer their services to FORK, comes in.

In 2022, FORK collaborated with the Vilas and Oneida County Departments of Human Services to create FORK's Family Food Helpline — a toll-free, confidential source of information related to free and reduced-cost food support programming in the area.

To FORK Pg. 3



**WINTRY FLUFF** — A whitetail deer wanders through the woods, its shape softened by its dense, seasonal winter coat. Whitetail deer typically maintain a winter coat before shedding them during spring and growing in their sleeker summer coats. —Photo By Kurt Krueger

## Social emotional learning modules show early signs of support at Pines

**BY BILL ZUELKE CORRESPONDENT**

Staff and parent feedback about a new social emotional learning (SEL) program in the Northland Pines School District shows early signs of support based on survey results shared by district officials at the regular monthly board meeting held last week in Eagle River.

Emily Rhode, Director of Special Education & Pupil Services, led a team of presenters offering a first glimpse of the acceptance of Character Strong and Purposeful People learning modules which focus on student engagement in instruction and developing character traits beyond lessons in the classroom such as respect, empathy, responsibility, gratitude and honesty.

To SUPPORT Pg. 2

# WEATHER CORNER

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

LAST SEVEN DAYS			ONE YEAR AGO				
	Hi	Lo	Prec.	Hi	Lo	Prec.	
Tues., Jan. 28	38	2	0.2" S	Sun., Jan. 28	35	23	Tr. S
Wed., Jan. 29	28	9	1.2" S	Mon., Jan. 29	37	25	None
Thurs., Jan. 30	40	17	None	Tues., Jan. 30	33	31	Tr. S
Fri., Jan. 31	28	4	None	Wed., Jan. 31	42	27	Tr. S
Sat., Feb. 1	20	-1	None	Thurs., Feb. 25	37	26	None
Sun., Feb. 2	32	20	1.5" S	Fri., Feb. 26	42	20	Tr. R+S
Mon., Feb. 3	25	0	Tr. S	Sat., Feb. 27	46	14	None

**LAST YEAR**  
The average daily high at this time last year for the next seven days was 39, while the average overnight low was 24. The average precipitation amounts were 0.

**Comparison**  
Days of precipitation recorded since Oct. 1, 2024, 78 days; 2024, 76 days. Average high of past 30 days, 2025, 20; 2024, 26. Average low of past 30 days, 2025, 1; 2024, 15.

**SNOW DEPTH**  
Snow measured around 2" in depth at noon on Monday, Feb. 3.

**ICE CONDITIONS**  
Most bodies of water in the area have between 18 to 24" of ice.

**5-DAY OUTLOOK**

<b>Wednesday:</b> Mix of sun and clouds.	Hi:24	Lo:18	
<b>Thursday:</b> More clouds than sun.	Hi:23	Lo:-3	
<b>Friday:</b> Partly cloudy.	Hi:20	Lo:9	
<b>Saturday:</b> Snow likely.	Hi:21	Lo:9	
<b>Sunday:</b> A mix of sun and clouds.	Hi:19,	Hi:19	Lo:-3

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

# NEWS



Despite being an ATV owner himself and having a personal love for the sport, Supervisor Marv Anderson (left) also voiced his opposition to the amendment in favor more control being given to town governments.

—Staff Photos By JOSEPHINE HINDERMAN

## Traffic

FROM PAGE 1

3600 or by visiting [www.vilascountywi.gov](http://www.vilascountywi.gov).

### Broadband

Following the discussion on the ATV/UTV ordinance, the board unanimously decided to endorse Charter, Norvado and Brightspeed in applying for the Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Grant.

Funds from this grant will be used to further expand broadband access in Vilas County.

"The Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) has been pleased to lead broadband expansion on behalf of Vilas County since the spring of 2020 with our 'Vilas First' strategy," said VCEDC Executive Director Kathy Schmitz. "At that time, only 5% of

Vilas County was covered by high-speed broadband. Today, 86% of Vilas County has or will soon have high-speed broadband as a result of previously funded projects that we have played a major role in achieving."

Schmitz added that the BEAD program goal for Vilas County is to bring high-speed broadband to the remaining 14% of county residents and businesses.

Visit <https://www.vilascountyedc.org/broadband/> for more information about the VCEDC's broadband efforts.

### Lemonades 4 Helo

Vilas County Sheriff Joe Fath and Chief Deputy Patrick Schmidt were in attendance to recognize the fundraising efforts of 11-year-old Jackson Favorite, who raised over \$1,000 for K-9 deputy, Zach Stern, and his canine, Helo, in his Lemonades 4 Helo



Boulder Junction resident Steve Halverson was one of the few community members to have spoken in opposition to the ATV/UTV ordinance amendment.

campaign over the summer.

Favorite, who would like to become a K-9 officer when he grows up, was presented with a special plaque in appreciation from

Deputy Stern and Helo. He also received a Citizen Commendation award from Sheriff Fath and Chief Deputy Schmidt.

## ADRC brain health discussion set Feb. 11

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Vilas County will be holding a brain health discussion at the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library on Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 1 - 2:30 p.m.

The discussion will include ways to keep the brain sharp by looking at socialization, mental stimulation, physical activity, spirituality and nutrition.

To RSVP, call the ADRC at 715-479-3625 or email [lebaug@vilascountywi.gov](mailto:lebaug@vilascountywi.gov).

## DMV offers information on obtaining an ID for voting

Ahead of the Wisconsin Spring Primary Election on Tuesday, Feb. 18, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) reminds citizens how to obtain identification, free of charge, that is valid for voting.

Valid identification for voting purposes includes a driver license, identification card, military or student ID card, etc. There is no separate "voter ID." A federally compliant REAL ID card is not required for voting purposes. Anyone unsure if their identification meets the requirements should visit the Wisconsin Elections Commission website at <https://bringit.wi.gov/> to check.

Begin online to see a list of the required documents that are needed to present at a DMV Customer Service

Center in order to obtain identification to show at the polls at [wisconsinidmv.gov/idcards](http://wisconsinidmv.gov/idcards). A process is available to U.S. citizens, free of charge, to obtain a receipt valid to take to the polls for voting if the ID card is not available in time.

Anyone with questions related to obtaining an ID that can be used to vote should call DMV's toll-free hotline at (844) 588-1069. Questions regarding voter eligibility, poll locations, voter registration information, or other election information can be directed to the Wisconsin Elections Commission at [elections.wi.gov](http://elections.wi.gov).

Start the application now at [wisconsinidmv.gov](http://wisconsinidmv.gov) or at a local DMV Customer Service Center.

To find a DMV, or to check hours, services and wait times, visit [wisconsinidmv.gov](http://wisconsinidmv.gov) centers.

## Support

FROM PAGE 1

Survey results included responses by teachers indicating high levels of support as reflected in majority approval ratings in categories ranging from personal comfort in presenting the new curriculum to the fact that the programs offer regular opportunities for student reflection and feedback. From the perspective of parents, nearly 75% of the survey responses indicated a belief that the programs will help children succeed in school and beyond.

There were also some elements that were identified as needing improvement.

For many teachers, survey feedback indicated that the program is so new that additional time is needed to fully understand the features, and there was concern expressed about not having enough time for meaningful classroom discussions. In addition, the survey indicated that many parents were unaware of

the program or the specific activities included.

According to Rhode, these concerns will be addressed in the months ahead as the district adjusts to the new programs.

"We will be looking at ways where we can modify content or instructional strategies," she said. "While taking a step back to look at the overall district implementation plan and make sure we make appropriate revisions when needed, it is also important that we look at family engagement to bring the best communication and information that is useful for parents and students."

The SEL program was approved by the board of education last year to be implemented into the standard course of study for all district students in a three-year commitment period beginning with the current school year. Rhode said that the ultimate success of the program will be measured through academic growth, college and career readiness, and overall life satisfaction.

### Phone policy

In other agenda items addressed in the monthly meeting, the board acknowledged recent feedback it received related to current restrictions on student cell phone use, and the restricted use of select

electronic devices during school hours.

Several students in a late December board meeting asked for reconsideration about the restrictions, especially for students in the higher grade levels, and shared a petition signed by fellow students throughout the district.

The board addressed this topic at the January policy committee meeting where members stated that they were impressed with the student presentation, but that since the cell phone restrictions have only been in place for a few months, it is too soon to fairly evaluate the policy for change.

As part of the review process, District Administrator Scott Foster looked at the academic achievement of students during the first trimester of the new policy and shared results at the policy meeting, indicating a 27% reduction in the number of failing grades compared to the same period last year.

"The academic improvement is a solid indicator," he said, "but we need to look at this entire policy for at least a full school year before it would be appropriate to consider changes."

School board president Jennifer Payne agreed and said the recent student feedback impressed her.

"I really appreciated hearing from these students as they shared sincere comments and concerns," she said. "Their voices were respectfully heard by this board and it was nice to see their participation in the governing process."

Similar comments were expressed by other committee members.

### Referendum update

Before the regular meeting adjourned, Foster gave a brief update on activity related to the upcoming operational referendum vote scheduled on Tuesday, Feb. 18, when the district will ask property taxpayers for funds to maintain and support operations of the Northland Pines School District.

Foster completed the last session early this week in a series of community informational meetings and says he is happy with the public engagement on this topic.

Referendum details, including a copy of the presentation used at the public information meetings, can be found at [www.npsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.npsd.k12.wi.us) through links on the district's home website page.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m.

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# NEWS

## Eagle River teen one of four cadets representing Civil Air Patrol in nation's capitol

This month, four cadets from the Wisconsin Wing of the Civil Air Patrol will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with government officials and elected representatives, including one cadet from Eagle River.

"National Legislative Day is important for Civil Air Patrol to reinforce the understanding of our mission to nonmembers through representatives," says Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Kaeden Saunders. "At the same time, it allows the selected (cadet) representatives a unique opportunity to experience how our government really works."

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a Congressionally chartered nonprofit organization that functions as the auxiliary of the Air Force. CAP performs a variety of emergency and operational missions on demand for the federal government. Additionally, CAP offers youth programs and provides support to schools and students in thousands of communities.

The Wisconsin Wing has more than 600 adult members and 400 youth members. The youth chosen to represent the state are Cadet Second Lieutenant Brisha



Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Kristiana Clay of the Eagle River Composite Squadron, WI Wing, is pictured during the Air Force Academy Summer Seminar in Colorado Springs, Colo.

—Contributed Photo

Briseno, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Kristiana Clay, Cadet Second Lieutenant Hayden Elwood, and Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Kaeden Saunders. These cadets represent La Crosse, Eagle River, Stevens Point and the Milwaukee area, respectively.

The team will be led by Lieutenant Colonel Todd Mandel, the Wing Deputy Commander, and Lieutenant Colonel Geoff Biedermann, the Wisconsin Government Relations Officer.

"The intent is to highlight some of the great

accomplishments of CAP's operations and impact on our communities and state, and to discuss our annual budget request," says Lieutenant Colonel Biedermann. "It also serves as an opportunity to give some of our best and brightest cadets the opportunity to speak to their elected leaders."

Cadet perspective is a unique highlight for government officials — an opportunity to hear first-hand the impact Civil Air Patrol has in the lives of their constituents, and how those involved are giving back.

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Kristiana Clay of Eagle River has been in Civil Air Patrol for five years, and has applied to both the U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy. She says CAP has provided "experiences to grow myself and my leadership capabilities," and wants to share what CAP is doing in Wisconsin. Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Saunders, who also hopes to attend a service academy, says the cadet program "provides the figurative laboratory" for practicing and learning leadership skills.

## St. Germain seeks town clerk candidates

The Town of St. Germain is seeking write-in candidates for town clerk for the upcoming spring general election to be held on Tuesday, April 1. Candidate paperwork was turned in for expiring terms for other open positions of chairman, two supervisor positions, and town treasurer.

A town clerk plays a crucial role in local government by maintaining official records, overseeing elections, and supporting town functions.

Dedicated and detail-oriented individuals are encouraged to submit their names. Other qualifications include being a qualified elector of St. Germain, having the ability to work with

the public, having the knowledge of town government procedures, along with experience in public administration or a similar role.

The key responsibilities of the town clerk will include, but are not limited to, being the official keeper of town records and documents, overseeing elections and managing voter registration, maintaining the town budget, issuing various licenses and permits, recording minutes for town board meetings, and assisting residents on town services and other information.

For more information, contact the St. Germain Town Clerk at 715-542-8024 and select option 1.

## FORK

FROM PAGE 1

The goal, both then and now, is to help Vilas and Oneida County residents struggling with food insecurity find the nutritional support they need.

"The greatest challenge for the helpline will always be finding creative and cost-effective ways to keep 888-479-FORK (3675) 'top-of-mind' with area residents," explained FORK President Perry Pokrandt. "To date, FORK has funded television, radio, newspaper, and Facebook ads to do just that, and it's working! But the cost of this type of advertising over the long run is overwhelming, despite our media partners' generous in-kind support."

It was from FORK's long-range focus on message efficiency that "Stick It to Hunger" was created.

"Cost-effective communication is essential," explained Vilas County Human Services Director Valerie Wielhouwer. "Our hope is that we can create a network of local partners across both counties, who will help us to place Family Food Helpline stickers on bathroom mirrors in area businesses, schools, government buildings, and other public buildings."

The idea is to place the sticker onto thousands of bathrooms across the two counties that, in the years to come, will have reached all area residents before they may need help.

"We are excited to announce one of those

local partnerships is in place, with the Phelps-Land O' Lakes Lions Club already offering their support," said Stick It to Hunger Chairperson Lynn Kenning. "Community groups, like the Lions, are the heart of our communities and this partnership with groups like the Phelps-Land O' Lakes Lions will be the key to this effort's success in the future."

Helpline stickers will begin being placed in Phelps and Land O' Lakes starting in February.

"No one really knows which of our friends, family members, or neighbors is experiencing food insecurity," said Lions representative Brian Blank. "By placing these informational stickers around our community, we will be providing necessary information to those in need. Help is just a call away."

FORK is inviting local businesses in the area to be part of the Stick It to Hunger initiative. Any businesses located in Vilas or Oneida County can call project Chairperson Lynn Kenning at 312-543-1801

FORK will be coordinating the regional effort of community partners to ensure an organized and efficient effort, Pokrandt added.

"If you represent an organization in Vilas or Oneida County and are interested in learning more, or helping out, please reach out to Stick It at info@feedourruralkids.org.," he said.

"We cannot do this alone," concluded Kenning. "Join us in this effort to 'Stick It to Hunger' in 2025."

## Howard Young Medical Center named 'Top Recommended Hospital'

Howard Young Medical Center has been named a "Top Recommended Hospital" by Becker's Hospital Review, recognized for its high level of patient satisfaction based on patients' likelihood to recommend the facility to others.

Becker's compiled this list of hospitals across the nation, utilizing data from the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey, which is managed by The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The survey measures various aspects

of the patient experience, including the question, "Would you recommend this hospital to your friends and family?"

"This achievement reflects the compassionate care and dedication of our entire team," said Lori Knitt, VP - Patient Care and Chief Nursing Officer, Aspirus WI North Division. "Every day, our staff, nurses and providers work tirelessly to ensure patients feel heard, supported and valued. Being named a top recommended hospital is a proud moment for our team and reinforces the high standards of care we

strive to provide to our community."

The HCAHPS star rating system, which uses patient feedback from surveys completed in 2023, takes into account responses from hospitals with at least 100 completed surveys in a fourth-quarter period. The ranking is based on patients' satisfaction with the care they received and their likelihood of recommending the hospital to others.

"We are incredibly proud of the recognition from Becker's Hospital Review," said Teri Theiler, President, Aspirus WI

North Division. "Our team is committed to delivering outstanding care to every patient, and this honor is a testament to their efforts to ensure that each patient's experience is positive and supportive."

The HCAHPS survey, developed by CMS and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), is a standardized instrument used to assess patient experiences in hospitals nationwide.

For more information about Howard Young Medical Center, visit aspirus.org.

## Local rotary clubs promote ethics and civility to 9th graders

Rotary Clubs in communities throughout northeast Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula are sponsoring local Rotary Four Way Test Speaking contests, with students able to win up to \$1,500.

The Rotary Four Way Test was developed more than one hundred years ago to teach ethics to Rotary members and the business community.

It states, "In all the things we think, say and do, is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build goodwill and better friendship, and will it be beneficial to all concerned."

Ninth grade students are

invited to write a five minute speech on how to apply the Four Way test to social media and how people are treated. Detailed information about contest rules and how to enter is available at redistricting6220org.

Local winners will be awarded a cash prize of \$500 and will then enter the competition on the Rotary district level, where first place will be \$1,000. Second and third place prizes will also be awarded locally and by the district.

Rotary District 6220 comprises 41 clubs throughout Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Rotary International is one of the world's largest service clubs with more than 1,400,000 members in more than 200 countries.

Rotary District Governor Roger Utneher, a member of the Rotary Club of Wausau, invites parents, grandparents, teachers, friends and relatives to encourage ninth grade students to participate

"The next pandemic in America may very well be teen mental health. A speaking contest that encourages students to think about their social media activity, and how they treat others, may be one way to deal with the

rising problem of teen anxiety and depression," Utneher said.

The thoughts shared by students in these five minute speeches can be very helpful in assisting adults to relate more effectively to young people, according to Utneher.

The deadline for local competitions is Tuesday, April 1, with the district competition scheduled for Saturday, April 12.

Local competitions may be online or in person. District competition will be online only.

All details on how to enter is available at redistrict6220.org.

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# NEWS

# POLICE REPORT



**GOOFY FUNDS** — The “MLB Boys” as they’re affectionately known were part of the fundraiser events hosted by Timbers Bar & Restaurant in St. Germain. The Goofy Olympics helped raise over \$3,000 for Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) as well as other North Woods charities. From left, Mike Vacik, owner Bobbie Hams, Bob Palm and Lou Perna enjoy some warmth after competing in events. —Photo By Doug Etten

## Vilas County court report

### Ashland woman receives probation for multiple drug charges

An Ashland woman pleaded guilty to two felony drug charges last week in Vilas County Circuit Court, which included one felony narcotic drug possession charge and one felony methamphetamine possession charge.

Eva Plucinski, 20, had her sentence stayed by Branch 1 Judge Martha Milanowski for four years of probation with conditions. Both counts are concurrent with one another and consecutive with any other case. If there is a violation, Plucinski will serve 18 months of confinement and two years

of extended supervision.

Jaeden Tucker, 19, of Woodruff, was given two years of probation at a plea/sentencing hearing on one felony charge of business setting theft. Conditions of probation include \$7,750.40 restitution, court costs, any other programs deemed appropriate by the agent, and to write an apology letter to Kwik Trip. Expungement will be granted at the end of probation. Tucker will get nine months in Vilas Jail in the case of revocation.

Justin Taddey, 39, of Eagle River, did not appear

for an adjourned initial appearance on one felony charge of theft by contractor (>\$10,000-\$100,000). Judge Milanowski ordered a body-only bench warrant for the non-appearance.

Jameson Thoms-Bent, 23, of Lac du Flambeau, had his cash bond amended down to \$200 with conditions, from \$350 cash with conditions, and to have no contact with specific people and residences.

Thoms-Bent had an adjourned initial appearance hearing Feb. 3.

Destiny Deverney, 19, of

Lac du Flambeau, had her bond modified to a \$1,500 signature bond after the court granted the motion on three felony charges of driving or operating a vehicle without consent, methamphetamine possession, and bail jumping.

Conditions of the signature bond include providing proof she is enrolled at Nicolet Technical College and not having contact with specific individuals.

An adjourned initial appearance was scheduled for Feb. 6, at 3:30 p.m.

**Vilas County Sheriff**  
The Vilas County Sheriff's Office reported a total of 331 incidents last week, which included 18 911 hang-ups, five car versus deer accidents, one hit-and-run accident, two personal injuries, five traffic accidents, 10 property damages, three agency assists, 13 burglary alarms, two fire alarms, one fake ID, 33 ambulance requests, one ambulance staging request, one dog bite, eight animal problems, two attempts to locate, two ATV complaints, one bond conditions violation, two batteries, one prisoner battery, four conditions of bond, one warrant cancellation, one child neglect report, 11 citizen assists, one citizen problem, one civil process execution, one communications problem, two criminal property damages, one custodial interference, one death investigation, one deer in roadway, six disturbances, two domestic violence complaints, five drug problems, one emergency detention, 13 sick leaves, one vehicle fire, three found properties, two frauds, two internet frauds, five drive-offs, one natural gas leak, four harassments, six warrant confirmations, one dumping, 27 information reports, one restraining violation, one employee injury, five jail medical incidents, 12 juveline

problems, one lifeline alarm, two lost properties, one DOC offender release, one drug overdose, one OWI, one parking problem, one protection order, one parole violation, four vacation checks, eight officer requests, one highway and road conditions report, one runaway juvenile, one search warrant, one lewd and lascivious report, one sexual assault report, five snowmobile accidents, one snowmobile violation, three subject removals, two suicide attempts, 11 suspicious circumstances, three property thefts, one theft from vehicle, one theft of medication, two threats, four hazards, 11 traffic violations, one road rage, three prisoner transports, two court transports, one juvenile transport, three trespasses, one arrest warrant, one weapon offense and 14 welfare checks.

A total of 29 people were taken into custody and booked into the Vilas County Jail.

**Eagle River Police**  
The Eagle River Police Department failed to submit a report before the press deadline for this week's publication.

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

### 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, landowners 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 SAFETY Pg. 7

### Aspirus Health provides tips for finding light in winter months

Aspirus Health is providing tips for those who may suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), a form of depression common during the year's darker months, as seasonal changes continue to blow through the area.

"SAD can deplete our energy and affect our mood, leading to a cycle where we engage less in activities we enjoy, skip routines, and withdraw socially," says Jessica Schaefer, a licensed clinical therapist with Aspirus Health. "This can

make winter feel even more difficult to navigate."

To combat the effects of SAD, Schaefer recommends small, intentional changes that can make a big difference. Examples include setting achievable goals, such as taking more steps during the day, meeting a friend for a simple outing, or trying a new activity. These small actions can boost energy, increase feel-good chemicals in the brain, and help individuals reconnect with positive emotions.

Schaefer also suggests creating moments to look forward to, such as planning a weekly movie night or experimenting with new recipes.

"Even small, manageable steps can help us find moments of joy and connection," she notes.

For those experiencing persistent feelings of hopelessness, Schaefer advises seeking professional help.

"If these feelings last for more than a couple of weeks, or if someone

experiences suicidal thoughts, reaching out to a health care provider is critical," she explains. "A primary care provider can guide individuals to the resources they need."

Aspirus Health encourages anyone struggling with Seasonal Affective Disorder to take the first step toward brighter days by reaching out for support.

To find a primary care provider, visit [www.aspirus.org/find-a-provider](http://www.aspirus.org/find-a-provider).

### New IRS Direct File program now available to taxpayers

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) announced that Direct File, the new free option for filing federal taxes, is available for Wisconsin taxpayers.

The individual income tax filing season began on Monday, Jan. 27.

Direct File is a free IRS program that offers a safe and secure way for eligible Wisconsin taxpayers to file their federal income tax returns electronically. Direct File integrates seamlessly with WisTax, DOR's free online tax preparation software for filing Wisconsin state taxes. Both platforms are

fast, secure, easy to use and mobile-friendly. Direct File automatically imports the verified information from your federal return to WisTax, eliminating the need to complete W-2s, 1099s and additional forms twice.

Direct File is available to many taxpayers but it's important to check eligibility and register first. Visit the IRS's Direct File page at <https://www.irs.gov/filing/irs-direct-file-for-free> for detailed information, including eligibility requirements, filing instructions, and helpful resources.

Taxpayers can also learn more about WisTax

by visiting DOR's website at <https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/WisTax/home.aspx> or contacting DOR Customer Service for assistance.

Video and audio clips of Direct File questions and answers are available to download and use at <https://dor.wi.gov/downloads>.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Homes for Rent 7409**

**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

**Wanted to Buy 7524**

**WANTED TO BUY:** Military items from World War II or older, U.S., German, Japanese; such as helmets, headgear, edged weapons, pistols, rifles, military collections, etc. All calls welcome, if no answer leave message with area code, 920-627-5333.

**Professional and Technical 7135**

**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](http://NWAR) website for details at: [northwoodsrealtors.org](http://northwoodsrealtors.org)

**To Advertise Call 715-479-4421**

#### 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/#/> (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](mailto:then@lakelandunion.org)  
715-356-5252, ext. 1663

441928



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440966



# NEWS

## Little Rice Fire Department hosts ice rescue training

The Little Rice Fire Department, in partnership with Nicolet College, held an intensive Cold Water/Ice Rescue training class on Saturday, Jan. 25.

The training provided education and hands-on experience for 25 participants from the Little Rice, Pine Lake, Minocqua and Fence (Florence County) fire departments.

The day began with a three-hour classroom session at the Little Rice Fire Department, where participants learned the principles of ice rescue, practiced knot-tying techniques, and familiarized themselves with specialized rescue equipment. Following this, the group headed on to the ice at Lake Killarney to put their training into action, conducting realistic ice rescue drills.

“This training is crucial for our firefighters and rescue personnel. With so many lakes and streams in our coverage area, ice/water rescues are a real possibility every year,” said Fire Chief Larry Mathein. “It’s important to stay prepared, both for our safety and for the safety of our community.”

Statistics underscore the importance of ice rescue training. According to recent reports, Wisconsin experienced seven ice rescues just this past weekend, highlighting the dangers of unpredictable



The training session at Lake Killarney highlight the dedication and teamwork of the participants as they worked together in cold and challenging conditions to master ice rescue techniques.

—Contributed Photo

ice conditions.

Little Rice Fire Department’s jurisdiction covers approximately 150 square miles of the townships of Little Rice and Lynne, including numerous lakes and streams. Last year, the department successfully assisted in the rescue of a father and son who fell through the ice while fishing on the Willow Reservoir. That rescue was made possible thanks to training, specialized equipment, including ice rescue suits and the

department’s rescue sled, which can traverse both ice and open water.

Participants in the training were enthusiastic about the hands-on nature of the exercises. One attendee remarked, “The opportunity to practice in real conditions is invaluable. Knowing we have the skills and the tools to make a difference gives us the confidence to respond effectively.”

Another participant added, “It’s great to train alongside neighboring

departments. Teamwork is critical during these types of emergencies.”

The Little Rice Fire Department is a volunteer organization comprised of 30 members.

Fire Chief Larry Mathein emphasized the importance of ongoing training. “Our goal is to be as prepared as possible for any scenario, and this class is a big part of that continuing preparation,” he said.

## Nicolet College accepting Board of Trustees applications

The Nicolet College District Board Appointment Committee is accepting applications for four positions on the Nicolet College Board of Trustees.

Three of the successful candidates will serve a three-year term, ending June 2028, and the interim employer vacancy until June 2027.

The open positions include one member who is an employer, one member who is an employee, one additional member and one to fill an interim employer

vacancy.

Per state guidelines, all candidates must meet a number of requirements in order to be eligible for Wisconsin Technical College System district board membership. Candidates must be residents of the technical college district, must submit an application/affidavit with a completed questionnaire and at least two written references, and must attend a district board appointment committee public hearing in person to

be interviewed. The hearing is scheduled for 3 p.m., Tuesday, March 25 at Nicolet College in Rhinelander. A second hearing is scheduled for 3 p.m. Thursday, March 27, at Nicolet College in Rhinelander. If all candidates are able to attend the March 25 hearing, the Thursday, March 27 hearing will be canceled.

Additional information about the appointment process, applicant requirements, and online applications are available at [www.nicoletcollege.edu/about/board-trustees/board-appointment-process](http://www.nicoletcollege.edu/about/board-trustees/board-appointment-process).

Applications are due to Kris Peeters, Nicolet College, PO Box 518, Rhinelander, WI 54501, by 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 24. Any questions call Kris at 715-365-4416.

Nicolet College is governed by a nine-member District Board appointed by the Iron, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida and Vilas County Board Chairs.

## Three Lakes Fire Department names Firefighter of the Year

The Three Lakes Fire Department recently presented the Firefighter of the Year Award to Travis Wood.

Wood’s nomination was the result of his hard work and dedication to both the fire department and his fellow firefighters, according to Assistant Fire

Chief Lee Tauer.

“Travis has shown leadership qualities and inspires those that are around him,” he said. “He has gone through and exceeded all training required for the department, plus is a first responder for the fire department. He also shows great all-around

firefighting skills, that come from his hard work and commitment to training to be a better firefighter.”

The fire department will also begin the process of voting for a new Fire Chief this week.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Ordinances 7740

**SAINT GERMAIN**  
(Two weeks 2/5-2/12/25)  
**NOTICE TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN BOARD OF APPEALS**  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Appeals of the Town of St Germain will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the St Germain Community Center Room #4, pursuant to Section 1.608 (c) of Chapter 1- Zoning, Town of St Germain Code of Ordinances, to consider the variance application submitted by Robert McDermott with regard to the denial of issuance of St Germain building permit due to setback requirements, Section 1.308 (E(3) and H) of Chapter 1 – Zoning, Town of St Germain Code of Ordinances for:  
Robert McDermott  
Vilas County land parcel 24-149  
8109 Lost Lake Drive N  
St Germain, WI 54558  
The Board of Appeals will review

Ordinances 7740

and discuss the variance application request and will deliberate the disposition of the application following the public hearing. Public observation and participation will be enabled virtually via Zoom.us using:  
Meeting ID 84695377812  
and Passcode 002946  
In lieu of attending live or virtually, persons wishing to submit written comments to the Town Clerk may do so by letter to P.O. Box 7, St Germain, WI 54558 or by email to [june.vogel@stgermainwi.gov](mailto:june.vogel@stgermainwi.gov). Written comments must be received by the Clerk no later than 5:00 pm, Monday, February 17, 2025 to be considered at the public hearing.  
2730 WNAJLP

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**CITY OF EAGLE RIVER NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that the official public test of the automatic tabulating equipment to be used at the **FEBRUARY 18, 2025 SPRING PRIMARY** in the City of Eagle River will be conducted at City Hall, 525 E. Maple Street, Eagle River WI  
**Monday, February 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.**  
Becky J Bolte  
Clerk – City of Eagle River 442531

**TOWN OF PLUM LAKE NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Sec. 5.84, the Public Test of the voting equipment, to be used at the Spring Primary Election to be held on February 18, 2025, in the Town of Plum Lake will be conducted in the Town Hall, 8755 Lake Street, Sayner, WI, at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.  
Jane Rosewicz  
Town of Plum Lake Interim Clerk  
443493 WNAJLP

**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



DAISY Award recipient Holli Denton. —Contributed Photo

## Rhineland nurse earns DAISY Award

Aspirus Rhinelander Hospital recently honored Holli Denton, RN, with the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses in recognition of her commitment and patient-centered approach to care.

The award is part of the Disease Attacking the Immune System (DAISY) Foundation’s program to recognize the efforts nurses perform every day.

Aspirus Rhinelander Hospital DAISY Award recipients are nurses recognized for going above and beyond patient expectations by providing service with respect, compassion and integrity.

Denton works in the Aspirus Rhinelander Hospital Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) and was nominated for the DAISY Award by a patient.

The nomination reads: “Holli went above and beyond the call of duty and gave me a ride home, not wanting or allowing me to walk home under the influence of anesthesia after an outpatient procedure. A true angel of mercy! Thank you, Holli.”

Denton and her co-workers were treated to cinnamon rolls, which honor the memory of the late Patrick Barnes, who once ate his father’s

cinnamon roll when he was in the hospital without an appetite for food. Additionally, Denton received an honoree pin, certificate, a bouquet of daisies donated by Nature’s Riches, and a sculpture called A Healer’s Touch, hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Africa.

Established in 1999, the family of J. Patrick Barnes created the DAISY Award to honor his memory with a tribute to the skillful and compassionate care he received from his nurses during his hospitalization. Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, visitors and colleagues, and they are chosen by a multi-disciplinary team to receive the DAISY Award.

The DAISY Award recognizes the outstanding and extraordinary care nurses provide every day. Aspirus DAISY Award winners and nominees exceed the needs and expectations of patients and families by displaying the Aspirus core values of: Compassion, Accountability, Collaboration, Foresight and Joy.

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

## Safety FROM PAGE 5

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.rhineland.k12.wi.us/community/community-education-classes.cfm>.

Call Mike Cheslock at 715-365-9745 or email him at [chesmik@rhinelander.k12.wi.us](mailto:chesmik@rhinelander.k12.wi.us) for questions.

**TOWN OF CLOVERLAND**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, the official public test of the automatic tabulating equipment to be used in the February 18, 2025, Spring Primary Election for the Town of Cloverland will be conducted at the Cloverland Town Hall, 5860 Perch Lake Rd, Eagle River, WI 54521 at 10:00 AM on Thursday, February 13, 2025.  
Town Clerk/Treasurer: Tracy Schilling 442536

**NOTICE TOWN OF WASHINGTON**  
Notice is hereby given that the public test of the automatic tabulating equipment, to be used in the February 18, 2025 Primary Election in the Town of Washington, will be conducted at 4:00 pm, on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at the Washington Town Hall, 2301 Town Hall Road, Eagle River, WI. 54521.  
Nancy Sobralski, Town Clerk  
Town of Washington 443756

**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](http://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](http://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 WNAJLP



**FREE ADMISSION**  
For Fans/Spectators

**FREE PARKING**  
Parking at the Chanticleer Inn and along Dollar Lake Road is extremely limited. *There will be NO parking available at or on Dollar Lake.*

**CONCESSIONS**

- Concessions on the lake will be presented by the Sno Eagles Snowmobile Club.
- The Chanticleer Inn will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Concessions are open to players as well as fans.

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# Sports



Klemett



Lurvey

## Area athletes sit on 3-point shootout leaderboard

### Pines' Klemett leads eligible D3 players

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

Northland Pines senior Vienna Klemett and Three Lakes freshman Easton Lurvey have landed on the WIAA-sponsored 3-point shootout, which is an end-of-season 3-point contest at the respective State Tournaments in Green Bay and Madison.

Klemett leads all eligible D3 girl players in 3-point percentage this season with a 38.9% 3-point percentage as of Jan. 27. Lurvey, who was in seventh in the Jan. 20 update, would have been fifth, but the stats deadline passed for the weekly update Jan. 27.

To be considered, a player must make the minimum amount of attempts (100) throughout the regular season and shooting stats need to be available from every game of the season. The deadline for the girls

is Monday of the week of regional games (Feb. 24) and March 3 for the boys. The top four players by the deadline will be notified, but only the top two players in each division will participate.

Klemett is shooting at a 39.6% clip on 96 attempts as of Jan. 27.

She said it was just recently that she began to notice that she was the leader in Division 3 athletes.

"It started to be on my radar on Jan. 6 because that's when I realized I was one of the top people. I am proud of myself for leading this category in Division 3, but it's not done yet and hope to end the season at the top," said Klemett. "Coach Halsey allows for my confidence and fire to keep going up, and being the top person in my division reflects this."

The 3-point shot has always seemed to be in her arsenal, but Klemett said that her growth and basketball IQ have helped her gain more confidence from a distance.

"This year it has shown, from my confidence and hard work, that I can shoot the ball and have a deep range. I can read my shot and I know how to fix it if I can't make a couple of shots at the beginning (of a game)," explained Klemett. "This is the biggest weapon I have in my bag."

With Klemett being a senior, she said making it as one of the top two players would be a great experience to end her high school career.

"I'm really hoping that I can finish as one of the top two players; it would be such a great experience, especially my senior year," she stated. "Just being able to compete at the Resch Center on the UW-GB court would be a dream."

For Lurvey, the 3-point shot didn't come to him until a few years ago before he started to get a feel for it. Since then, time and effort have become a huge key to shooting nearly 40% from distance on the varsity level his freshman year.

"I didn't start shooting 3's until seventh grade, when I

could shoot at that distance and maintain proper form, but since then it has come with that of reps and time in the gym," he said.

Being just a freshman, Lurvey sits near the top of eligible players in 3-point percentage, something he says feels like a compliment to how he is performing.

"It feels really good; it's a great compliment to have an impact at the state level. I am honored to be up in the ranks," he explained.

As only two players are selected per division, Lurvey has some work left to do to claim a top-two spot, but was in the top spot when the leaderboard first came out.

"I would be honored to represent my team and my school in this event. It would be such a great experience to be able to compete with some of the best 3-point shooters in the state," he said about the potential opportunity.

Both players have around a month or under left before the numbers are finalized and the players are selected.



## Sideline Scoop

BY JACOB HEID

### Matching physicality with Tomahawk is key

When facing the Tomahawk boys hockey team, the top-ranked D2 team in the state, matching the Hatchets' physicality is key to keeping pace with them.

Last week, Northland Pines hosted Tomahawk in a Great Northern Conference showdown inside the Dome in Eagle River. As Tomahawk sat undefeated in the GNC, and only held three losses before the matchup, the Eagles were in for a tough game.

As I sat in the far corner during the first period, early energy by the Eagles helped them skate with Tomahawk throughout the opening 17 minutes. Despite being outshot 17-8 in the opening frame, Pines had quality looks at the net in a physical start.

As the two teams took the ice for the second period, Tomahawk started to show why they were and are the team to beat in Division 2 hockey. They were tight defensively and had snipers always looking for a shot, which includes Jonah Dickens, who now has 37 goals on the year after a hat trick against the Eagles. Pines defenseman Josh Graves took many pucks on the rush, and got caught up by the Tomahawk defense after the Hatchets seemed to always have two sticks at the puck at all times. The hitting started to change the complexion of the game as Pines couldn't keep up on the boards as the game moved along.

Tomahawk netted three in the second period, with the third coming off an easy turnover, and Dickens went forehand-backhand and flipped one into an open net.

The goals kept piling on in the third as the Hatchets buried three more goals to put the game to rest.

All in all, it seemed that a team must match Tomahawk's physicality for all three periods, along with also being able to get past a disciplined defense to put some points on the board.

## Slow start doesn't deter Jays in NLC road win

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Three Lakes boys basketball team had two shots at road wins this past week, and the Jays opened the week with a 63-48 Northern Lakes Conference road win at Goodman-Pembine Jan. 28 despite a slow start.

A late-week nonconference game for Three Lakes at Rib Lake ended in a 52-42 loss for the Jays as well.

"We started extremely slow in this contest, mostly due to effort and focus. The kids were not zoned in for this game in the first nine minutes, but they ended up straightening things out and getting a win," said head coach George Lurvey after the Goodman- Pembine win. "We are a team that takes a lot of pride in defense, and in this game our defense was just atrocious at the start, with a lack of communication leading to the breakdowns defensively."

The Jays fought through a slow start with the help of senior forward Peyton Pitlik, whose efficient night of 9-for-11 from the floor ended in 22 points. He also cleaned up the glass for the Jays and finished with 17 rebounds.

Three Lakes battled back to lead by a slight three-point margin at halftime and used the opening minutes of the second half to break the game open.

"At the start of the second half we pulled to a 14-18 point lead and held the entire time," Lurvey said about the second-half effort.

Freshman Easton Lurvey followed Pitlik's performance with 14 points, and senior Eli Erickson tallied nine. Four other players scored for the Bluejays in the win.

The Bluejays split the week 1-1 with the Rib Lake loss Friday. Lurvey said that the team hung around and led for much of the game, but offensive rebounding hurt them.

"We lost by 10, but we were actually leading a lot in this game, and it was much closer than 10 the entire game, but we hit an 8-minute scoring drought in the second half that we couldn't recover from," he said. "I think the biggest flaw in our team right now is our lack of offensive rebounding. We are 'one and done' on offense; we are really struggling."

Three Lakes has a huge week coming up in conference play. They faced off against Crandon on the road this past Tuesday and will host Laona-Wabeno this Friday, Feb. 7, at 7:15 p.m.

The Cardinals lead the NLC, while the Rebels are half a game behind them. Three Lakes is in third place, 1.5 games behind Laona-Wabeno and two behind Crandon.

"We need to sharpen things up to compete in the games ahead of us, but the good thing is the kids are aware that we need to improve and are willing to put in the work," said Lurvey.

Three Lakes has a chance to even the season series with both teams as it fell to Crandon 72-69 and Laona-Wabeno 62-52 earlier in the season.

## Eagle River figure skating team shines at Badger State Games

The Eagle River Figure Skating Competition team made its debut at the recent Badger State Games, showcasing the incredible talent of its young athletes.

With a total of 12 girls participating, the team displayed a range of skills, from basic moves to advanced jumps and spins, in front of supporters and judges. Even with the tough competition, the Eagle River team did stand out, bringing home a total of 21 medals: nine gold, seven silver, and five bronze. The achievement reflects the hard work and determination of the skaters, as well as the coaching staff who guided them throughout their training.

The highlight of the event was the qualification for the State Games of America, which will be held in Pennsylvania in July 2026. Skaters who secured a spot on the podium, earning first, second, or third place, have now qualified for this prestigious event, marking a significant milestone in their skating journeys.

The Eagle River Figure Skating team said it was proud of the accomplishments and looks forward to representing their community at the State Games of America.



The Eagle River Figure Skating Competition team includes from left to right, Front Row: Coach Heather Pattison Harsla, Olivia Trajonovich, Vienna Bornberg and Coach Kari Jo Bornberg. Second Row: Coach Montana Grabowski, Addyson Harlsa, Aubrey Lathrop, Carmen Kranz, Sophie Hoffman and Coach Trina Kazmarek. Back Row: Charlotte Frenz, Brianna Smith, Vayda Barger, Valarie Paquet, Karista Kaminski and Bristol Parling. —Contributed Photo

# SPORTS



PRESENTS

## Senior Spotlight

### Peyton Pitlik, Three Lakes 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, Three Lakes senior Peyton Pitlik is in the spotlight. Pitlik also plays soccer in the spring as a dual-sport athlete. He will continue his education at UW-Stevens Point upon graduation. Here is more on the Three Lakes senior:



**What makes this year's boys team fun to be a part of?**

"This year's team has been very fun so far. It has definitely been my favorite year. All these boys on the team are my best friends and my family. We have a fun time wherever we go, whether we have a two-hour ride to Marshfield or a home game, it's always a great time! I am super close with everyone on the team and we all do everything together; that's what makes this team so special."

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

"I have two main nicknames. Most people just call me Peyton, but most of my family calls me Peyto, and most of my friends on the team just call me P. My family calls me Peyto because back in fifth grade my aunt forgot to put the 'n' in my name."

**Do you play other sports besides basketball? What do you play?**

"The only other sport I play is soccer. I enjoy soccer a lot, but nothing compares to basketball. I'd wanted to try football, but I was too scared I was going to get hurt; I'll admit to that!"

**Would you rather live forever in a bigger city or a small town like Three Lakes?**

I would much rather live the rest of my life in a small town like Three Lakes than a big city. To me, everything in our little town means a lot more. What I mean is everyone around here knows each other, and everyone values the town a lot since it's so small. I'll admit when it snows around here a lot it does suck sometimes. When it snows enough though it's a great time because we can snowmobile, go sledding, go skiing, ice fishing, and so much more. If we make it through the winter, we then get to enjoy

an amazing summer. The weather is usually very nice in the summer. Almost every weekend I get to spend one of the days on a boat. I just feel that we value where we live a lot more when we live in a small town."

**If you had one superpower, what would it be?**

"If I had one superpower it would definitely be to fly! I feel like being able to fly whenever you want would be so cool. You could get to places a lot quicker. You could see everything. I think it would just help you out a lot with certain things, too."

**Who is your biggest sports role model?**

"My biggest sports role model is definitely Kobe Bryant. He is one of my favorite players to ever touch a basketball. I listen to everything he used to say, like his mamba podcasts and quotes that he said. Kobe worked every day and never took a day off. He trained to be the best and was always the first one in the gym working. Kobe has inspired so many people to help reach their full potential."

**Any plans for after high school? College?**

"After high school, I plan on attending college at the University of Stevens Point, where I will pursue a degree in physical therapy. I also am hoping to continue my basketball athletic career there, too! It is going to be very sad graduating high school, but I am also super excited to start living my own life and starting my career at UW Stevens Point."



Three Lakes junior Kailyn Fogerty drives to the hoop and throws up a layup during the 70-60 nonconference win versus Wakefield-Marenisco, Mich. last Friday night in Three Lakes. -Staff Photo By JACOB HEID

## Lady Jays split week with 1-1 record

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Three Lakes-Phelps girls basketball team got back into the win column late in the week last week with a 70-60 win over Wakefield-Marenisco in Three Lakes Jan. 31, but not before falling in a Northern Lakes Conference game Jan. 27 against Laona-Wabeno, 49-32.

TLP moved to 5-10 (0-4) on the season with the nonconference win Friday night.

Three Lakes-Phelps got out to a good start offensively to open the week and led Laona-Wabeno by two, 13-11, in the game's early stages.

The lead reached three before fouls became a factor, and the home Rebels shot in the double bonus for the final six minutes of the half.

The Lady Jays then went cold offensively, and scored only one field goal in roughly the last eight minutes, while Laona-Wabeno went on a 19-3 run to end the half and led by 13 at the break, 30-17.

The Rebels continued to press the issue early in the second by opening on a 6-0 run in the opening 1:30. That pushed the lead to 19, 36-17.

The first points from TLP came from Kylee Wilson at the free-throw line about 3:30 into the second half.

Later in the half, Haylee Barnekow got a friendly roll on a 3-pointer after a cross-court pass from her teammate to cut the lead down to 20 with 12:44 to go. Both teams went on a scoring drought for four minutes as the Lady Jays couldn't chip into the deficit. The lead increased to 21 after a free throw made by the Rebels with eight minutes left.

TLP got it as close as 15 after Kaylee Cornelius hit a left-wing 3-pointer to make it a 45-30 game late.

The team bounced back Friday with its best offensive performance with 70 points in the win. The Lady Jays held the lead in the first half by getting out on the fast break as the game started with a quick pace.

"They're a fast break team and we probably got more points off the fast break than they did," said head coach Rich Javenkoski. "For the most part, it was a good win."

Barnekow beat the first-half buzzer with a 3-pointer in a foul-heavy first half as TLP led 38-29 at the break.

The quick pace bled into the second half as chances at the rim led to aggressive drives that led to trips to the free-throw line.

A run by Wakefield-Marenisco deep in the second half put TLP in a tight spot but responded with some quality baskets late.

Offensively, junior Kailyn Fogerty led the team with 17 points as she found her spots on the floor throughout the game. Barnekow also had 17 points in the win.

TLP returned to the court this past Monday as it hosted Sturgeon Bay in a makeup game, before the Jays look for their NLC win in a game at home against Florence this Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7:15 p.m.

## Lady Eagles dropped two contests last week

The Northland Pines girls basketball team (4-14, 1-7) couldn't close the deal in either of their games last week on the road at Crandon Jan. 28 and Rhinelander at home Jan. 31.

The Eagles fell at Crandon, 64-29, in a nonconference game, before battling with Great Northern Conference foe

Rhinelander last Friday, but ultimately fell 40-34 in the contest.

Pines was back in action early this week with a home game versus Watersmeet, Mich., before traveling to Lakeland High School Friday in Minocqua, Feb. 7, for a 7:15 p.m. tip.



TIE-BREAKER — Michael Andrews of Eagle River won a three-way tiebreaker to take home the final \$200 cash prize for the 2024-25 News-Review Football Contest. Michael is shown receiving his winnings from News-Review Marketing Consultant, Bri Rivest. -STAFF PHOTO

# Hockey Schedules 2024-'25

Feb. 6 - Feb. 12, 2025

<p><b>Eagle River Falcons</b></p> <p>Fri., Feb. 7 vs Fox City Ice Dogs - 8:30pm</p> <p>Subject to change please check team websites</p> <p>BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE FOLLOWING AREA BUSINESSES</p> <p><b>715-479-8732</b> xicleaningpros.com</p> <p><b>CENTURY 21</b> Burkett &amp; Associates www.burkettrealty.com</p> <p><b>Nelson's ACE Hardware</b> 606 E. Wall, Eagle River • 715-479-4496</p> <p><b>andersonfamilyinsurance.com</b> INSURANCE 715-479-7431</p> <p><b>Ellison Realty</b> Eagle River Office 715-479-4431 Land O' Lakes 715-547-3341 St. Germain Office 715-542-3223</p>	<p><b>Northland Pines Eagles</b></p> <p><b>Boys</b> Thurs., Feb. 6 at Medford - 7:00pm Tues., Feb. 11 GNC meet at Rhinelander - 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Girls</b> Sat., Feb. 8 vs Beaver Dam (at Antigo) - 9:30am Tues., Feb. 11 vs Marshfield (at Rapids) - 12:30pm</p> <p><i>Two locations to serve you</i> <b>EAGLE RIVER CABINETS, INC.</b> 5234 Hwy. 70 West, Eagle River, WI 54521 Phone: (715) 479-7479 1419 Lincoln St., Rhinelander, WI 54501 Phone: (715) 362-3400 392387</p> <p><b>ROGERS CONTROL</b> Electrical • Refrigeration • Heating Ventilation • Air Conditioning 715-479-6919 www.rogerscontrol.com</p> <p><b>VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW</b> P.O. Box 1929, Eagle River • (715) 479-4421</p> <p><b>AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE</b> 322 East Wall St. 1202 Lincoln St. Eagle River, WI Rhinelander, WI</p> <p><b>DAVID G. MROCYNSKI INSURANCE AGENCY</b></p> <p><b>The Three Lakes News</b> P.O. Box 243, Three Lakes • 715-479-4421</p>
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## Pines ski teams finish second; home meet up next this week

BY JACOB HEID  
SPORTS EDITOR

It was another well-rounded performance for the Rhinelander/Northland Pines alpine skiing and snowboarding team last week at Mount Ashwabay in Bayfield as both the boys and girls teams took second place at the meet.

The team will host its last Northern Conference meet this year at Ski Brule in Iron River, Mich., this Saturday, Feb. 8.

It was the fourth consecutive runner-up finish for the girls, who finished behind a talented Wausau-D.C. Everest team.

For the boys, it was the second time in the four meets that they took

second place.

Northland Pines freshman athlete Jessica Linn led the girls team once again with a sixth-overall finish out of 26 racers. She ranked sixth in the slalom race at 39.39 seconds, seventh in the giant slalom (30.29), and eighth in the super giant (26.55).

Senior Pines teammate Eliana Conrad grabbed a top-15 finish on the day in 13th overall. She ranked 13th in two of her three runs, while she also took the 14th-best time in the giant slalom.

On the boys side, the team had three top-10 finishers out of over 30 competitors. Rhinelander's Ben Olson led the way with a second-place finish. Pines

athletes Wyler Koput and Jason Linn grabbed sixth and 10th, respectively.

Koput had a mishap in the slalom race and took 15th overall, but backed that up with a 26.70 time in the giant slalom (sixth-best), and ran his best race in the super giant with a tied runner-up time of 24.30. That was .8 seconds behind the eventual best time.

Linn ran his best time in the slalom race as he took sixth overall with a time of 35.79. He ranked just outside of the top 15 in the giant slalom and 14th in the supergiant.

The team will round out the conference competition this Saturday in the fifth meet of the season.







# Lifestyle



**GOOFY CHAMPION** — Matt Bykowski was the winner of the 1st Inaugural Timbers Goofy Olympics hosted by Timbers Bar & Restaurant in St. Germain. Competitors battled in a number of events, compiling points throughout the day. In the end Bykowski scored the most and was awarded a basket of prizes including merchandise and gift certificates from area sponsors. —Photo By Doug Etten

## Youngsters explore paleontology at children's museum dino dig

Children and families explored the world of paleontology held at the Northwoods Children's Museum's Dino Dig Adventure on Sunday, Jan. 26.

The Dino Dig Adventure began with dinosaur activities and an erupting volcano in the Discovery Toy Store. This was followed by an educational lesson in "paleontology school," a trip to the lab to examine fossils, and a stop at the oasis to have a snack before the trip to the desert dig site. Finally, the adventure concluded with a dig site exploration to uncover fossils and bones. Families participated in a fun craft after the dig. Each child took home a dino dig bag, a hat and a snack.

"This event would not have been possible without the help of volunteers from Nicolet National Bank, Ripco Credit Union and



Children and their adults at the Northwoods Children's Museum dig site to uncover fossils and bones. —Contributed Photo

Incredible Bank," said Executive Director Danielle Larsen. "A big 'thank you' to the staff, volunteers and attendees who all helped support the Power of Play!"

## Northland Pines to present 'Something Rotten'

Music and drama students at Northland Pines High School will perform the comedic musical "Something Rotten" for three upcoming performances.

Show times are Friday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. Performances will be held in the NPHS Auditorium.

This contemporary musical is set in 1596, when William Shakespeare was the rock star of the Renaissance. The story follows two brothers, Nick and Nigel Bottom, who aim to write something as good as Shakespeare. With the help of a fortune teller, they end up creating the world's first musical instead.

Over 50 NPHS students are involved in the cast, crew and pit orchestra for the musical.

Students playing major roles are: Owen Grassl as Nick Bottom, Davis Beyer as Nigel Bottom, Riley Moore as Shakespeare, Owen Libby

as Nostradamus, Malia Remme as Bea Bottom, Addisan Skarda as Portia, Ike McClelland as Brother Jeremiah, Madi Brock as the Minstrel, Stevie Brown as Lady Clapham and Wyatt Stebbeds as Shylock. The Bottom Brother's acting troupe is composed of Timmy Stoltman, Tyler Price, Dylan Kleffman, Nathan Miller and Calvin Margelofsky. Many other students will perform as tap dancers and Renaissance townspeople.

Many additional students are involved as tech crew including Miles Kirschbaum as Sound Designer, Grace Indermuehle as Lighting Designer, Izabella Breshner and Benjamin Braunel running Spotlights, Kira Sandberg as Stage Manager, and Aubrey Burns as Prop Manager, along with a student group of stage crew members.

The live pit orchestra, under the direction of Jennifer Anderson, includes NPHS students Chloe Tabbert, Matt Milanowski, Hudson Warner, Andrea Wiler, Eliza Brunton, and

Jackson Lane. The pit orchestra also includes adult players Rachel Strong, Bethany Puffer, Norma Yaeger, Linda Bender, Cindy Nelson, Sam Puffer, Laura Plank and Peter Aerts.

The NPHS Musical is directed by Kate Janssen, with assistant directing and choreography by Ann Perry, pit orchestra direction by Jennifer Anderson, acting/coaching by Jeffrey Libby, costuming by Judy Clure, hair and make-up design by Amy Price, technical direction by Jeff Janssen, set construction by Gary Schwenn of Shiloh Construction, set painting by Toni Swendson and Lou Deditz, and prop construction by Jean Haack and Cathy Palmer. Advertising, social media and graphic design were provided by Ashley Heid, Samantha Thompson, Laurie Edwards, Kristi Martin and Liquid Screen Design.

"The directing team was lucky enough to see Something Rotten in its original Broadway run in

To MUSICAL, Pg. 9

## Media inclusion deadline Feb. 5 for exhibitors in upcoming biz expo

Businesses or nonprofit groups looking to exhibit and take advantage of the media inclusion package must sign up by the end of today, Feb. 5, for the Up North Community Expo.

The Up North Community Expo, scheduled for Thursday, March 6, at the Hodag Dome in Rhinelander, is the premier multi-community expo in the North Woods, featuring a diverse lineup of businesses and organizations. It includes businesses and nonprofit groups from seven northern counties, including Vilas and Oneida. "It's an unmatched opportunity for exhibitors to showcase their products and services, with extensive marketing benefits and direct connections to potential clients and community members," said Rachel Boehlen, director of events

for the Rhinelander Area Chamber of Commerce. "Attendees can expect to meet businesses and nonprofits, network, apply for prize opportunities, and more. Whether you're a business looking to grow, or a community member seeking connections, this is the place to be."

The expo is open to any business or organization that is part of a North Woods chamber of commerce. Participating groups and businesses that sign up by the deadline will have their name mentioned in print advertising, radio ads, social media, television ads, and the event guide map.

"You will also have the opportunity to partake in all the activities at the expo including networking with many exhibitors and attendees, prizes and awards will be given for best

booth, 'Now Hiring' advertising, access to the exhibitor lounge, and includes tickets to the Expo After Hours event," Boehlen said.

### Expo After Hours

Due to the sensitive nature of the track and turf inside the dome, food or drink is not allowed at the event. Therefore, an alternate option for food and beverage vendors will take place directly after the expo ends across town at the Rouman Cinema.

This Expo After Hours event aims to provide a relaxing atmosphere where exhibitors and community members can gather, sample foods and beverages, and get a taste of the North Woods.

"We want to give vendors exposure at this event and provide an inviting space

To EXPO, Pg. 4



## Not that you asked, but ...

BY ERIC JOHNSON

### The big 6-0

*"It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone."* — American television writer Andy Rooney (1919-2011)

The 20th of this month marks a significant milestone — my 60th orbit around the sun. As they say, time flies.

Back when I was a kid, I remember famously sharing my birthday with such famous big names of the era as actresses Sandy Duncan and Cindy Crawford, 11-time NBA All-Star Charles Barkley, and the now-late 3-time Indianapolis 500 champion race car driver Bobby Unser.

I Googled my birthday and, illustrative of the passing decades since my youth, I looked at the top hits and scratched my head, wondering who the %@#! are all these people?

As a child, individual candles denoting each year's milestone dotted my birthday cake. Now, my cake sports large-print numeral candles as a concession to local fire codes and common sense. Still seared in my memory was my Grandma Johnson famously putting some 80-odd candles on my Great-Grandpa Langbecker's party-sized birthday Schaum Torte, the heat of the candles liquifying the meringue, which cast off the bowlines and set sail off the torte, onto the dining room table, and from there onto the floor in a massive, fast-moving fireball.

To JOHNSON, Pg. 4

## Northwoods Blizzard Blast set Feb. 15 Funds to support local fire/EMS departments

The annual Northwoods Blizzard Blast, a celebration of winter, will be held Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Conover Community Park.

For children's activities, there will be Chilly Charlie's Carnival, face painting and pony rides. Giant ski races, recliner races, ice bowling and slapshot hockey are just a few of the events for those of all ages. Horse-drawn

sleigh rides are a family favorite, along with open sledding and ice skating.

Held in the adjacent Community Center, the Artisan Bazaar will feature handcrafted items, jewelry and accessories, as well as tasty cheeses, dips and candy. The bazaar will be open from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The organization was formed in 2013 with the

promotion of tourism in mind. A secondary goal emerged and it was decided that the funds raised at the events would go back to support the surrounding communities.

Event organizer Kelly Kraetsch stated, "Since the first event in 2014, the Northwoods Blizzard Blast has awarded over \$270,000 to North Woods area Fire and

EMS Departments. Funds go toward helping these departments secure equipment not otherwise available to small town departments."

Conover's Fire Chief, Rob Martinson, spoke about the many things his department has been able to secure, thanks to the funding provided.

To BLAST, Pg. 9



Mike Lydon, Conover Lions Club President (middle) shown awarding \$1000 to the Northwoods Blizzard Blast organization. Receiving the donation are Fire & EMS representatives from the six departments that will receive proceeds from the upcoming event to be held at the Conover Community Park on Saturday Feb. 15. Pictured with Lydon, left to right, are Norm Mesun, Phelps Volunteer Fire Department Retired Chief; Rob Martinson, Conover Fire & Rescue Chief; Sig Baake, Land O' Lakes Ambulance Service Supervisor; Carol Selin, Phelps Area Emergency Medical Services Supervisor; Brad Knaack, Land O' Lakes Fire Department Asst. Fire Chief; Kendra Lederer, Conover Ambulance Service Chief. —Contributed Photo









BOB HUGHES

# LAND O' LAKES

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## Hope Lutheran Church bids farewell to Pastor Albert

Hope Lutheran Church hosted a farewell celebration for Pastor Gary and Jolene Albert Jan. 26 at a 9:30 a.m. Worship Service.

Pastor Albert has served Hope, on either a full or part-time basis, for the past 20 years and is now retiring after over 45 years in Ministry.

Members and friends of Hope contributed to a scholarship fund named the Albert Lutheran Education Assistance Program (A LEAP) which will be awarded to students who intend to attend a Lutheran college or seminary to pursue careers in church work.

Jim Holbrook, Chairman of the Congregation, presented an engraved plaque to the Alberts to recognize Pastor and Jolene's ongoing

commitment to Lutheran Ministry throughout their careers.

As an additional surprise to Pastor and Jolene, the choir sang two anthems dedicated to them.

After the service, Pastor and Jolene personally greeted over 75 people who came to wish them well.

A catered luncheon held in the church's Fellowship Hall followed the service complete with a decorated cake that read "Retirement...A LEAP of Faith."

Hope Lutheran will be installing Pastor Jeffery Mueller on Saturday, Feb. 8. Pastor Mueller and his wife Robin are relocating from Milwaukee and will live in the church parsonage on the property.



The Alberts bid a fond farewell to parishioners.



Gary Albert and Jolene received a plaque from Congregation Chairman Jim Holbrook. —Photos By Bob Hughes

BELOW: The Choir surprised the Alberts at the end of the service with a special performance.



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

It's almost time for the 2nd Annual Community Soup and Bread Gathering! Join your neighbors at the library for an evening of soup, bread, and conversation. This event will be held on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 4:30 p.m. There is no charge for this gathering and all are welcome to attend.

If you are willing to make a soup to share, please contact the library prior to the event.

Celebrate Valentine's Day with Chocolate Cinema at the library. Indulge in delicious chocolate treats and homemade hot chocolate while watching the classic film "Like Water for Chocolate." Chocolate Cinema will be held on Wednesday, February 12, at 1 p.m. and again on 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.wislib.

org if you'd like to be added to the player list.

Stop into the library to see a Corpse Flower! These rare and endangered plants grow up to 6 inches per day and may reach heights of 12 feet. Native to Indonesia, the corpse flower gets its name from the rotten stench that is released once the plant blooms. During its flower stage, the plant requires no water and will flourish with nothing but sunlight. This plant was donated to the library by Dick Mendham of Sunrise Lodge, who has been cultivating corpse flowers for many years at Sunrise Lodge. The corpse flower is available for viewing in the library's fireplace room.

The Land O' Lakes Library will once again host the Bar Cookie Crawl baking contest in March. This is a bar cookie baking competition open to all. Start getting your recipes perfected! Qigong and Balance classes, taught by Dottie Reeder, are offered on Fridays from 9 to 10 a.m. Qigong is free of charge and all are welcome.

Mahjong games are held Tuesdays at 1 p.m. in the downstairs community room. Beginning and experienced players are invited to play.

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

Lego Club is held on

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

New nonfiction books on the shelves: "Sisters In Science: How Four Women Physicists Escaped Nazi Germany and Made Scientific History" by Olivia Campbell, "Cher: Part One: The Memoir" by Cher, "Half Baked Harvest Quick & Cozy: A Cookbook" by Tieghan Gerard, "The Bookshop: A History of the American Bookstore" by Evan Friss, "The Third Gilmore Girl: A Memoir" by Kelly Bishop, "Planta Sapiens: The New Science of Plant Intelligence" by Paco Calvo, and "Never Saw Me Coming: How I Outsmarted the FBI and the Entire Banking System — and Pocketed \$40 Million" by Tanya Smith.

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

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



Careful aim was needed to get the ball on the way to the pins. —Photos By Bob Hughes

## Candlelight bowling benefits Frosty Snowmobile Club

Alley Lanes and Tavern, together with the Frosty Snowmobile Club, invited the public to another one of their Candlelight Bowling Nights on Saturday, Jan. 25, which raised a total of \$5,365 for the Frosty Snowmobile Club.

Raffle basket items and prizes were donated by local businesses, and rewards for bowling were raised by the 50/50 raffles.

Bowling began at 7 p.m., starting with a more serious game, before introducing a more fun game filled with 10 frames of unique bowling styles:

Frame One - Partner stands at the foul line, facing their partner, and rolls the ball through their legs.

Frame Two - Bowl with the opposite hand.

Frame Three - Bowl "granny style" by setting the ball on the floor and pushing it down the lane.

Frame Four - Stand at the foul line and throw the ball like normal.

Frame Five - The bowler sits on the floor and bowls by pushing the ball forward using their feet.

Frame Six - Spin around three times before throwing the ball down the lane.

Frame Seven - Bowl in slow motion.

Frame Eight - Roll the ball with two hands without using finger holes.

Frame Nine - Bowler bowls backward by backing up to the pins and throwing the ball between their legs, like throwing a football.

Frame Ten - Bowling and seeing how much talent is left.



Candlelight Bowling Nights allowed for some wacky ways to bowl, that was after a more serious game of bowling to kick off the night.



Even if your bowling is bad, you have a go with your feet

At the end of this wacky laughter, although there were also some crazy evidence of tears of scores.



Kotarba with Tommi was introduced to everyone by Library Director Shelly Knaack. —Photo By Bob Hughes

## Library hosts Birds of Prey presentation

Forty-one people visited the Land O' Lakes Library to learn about birds through their Birds of Prey presentation on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Library Director Shelly Knaack introduced the program, which was led by renowned wildlife educator Bart Kotarba from the Northwoods Wildlife Center

in Minocqua.

Kotarba had visited the library on several occasions to present Birds of Prey at the kids' summer garden program; this program was for adults.

He covered a vast amount of knowledge on birds such as eagles, hawks and owls. After a

question-and-answer session, Kotarba presented a well-behaved red-tailed hawk named Tommi, who has helped with presentations in front of crowds before.

Those who attended the presentation said they found it enjoyable and informative.

**DEADLINES FOR SECTIONS TOWN PAGES THURSDAY 4 PM**

# PHELPS

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

SHARON GIFFORD



**BACKPACK DONATION** — The Phelps-Land O Lakes Lions Club recently donated \$500 to the Backpack Program. Lion Brian Blank said, “Our children in our area are so very precious. The club volunteers wherever we can for our kids — the Lions Vision screening at the Phelps School and serving food at the school Halloween party.” Proceeds were raised at the Music on the Lake, Scarecrow Fest and Vilas County Fair parking. For information on the club, call Alger at 715-545-2711. Pictured, from left to right, in the back are Lion Steve Chandler, Lion Rollie Alger, Lion Pete Schindelholz, Lion Brett Miller and Lion Brian Blank. In front, left to right, are Lion John Huza, Lion Bill Reckling, Lion Gretchen Vespo, Mike Bishop, a representative from the backpack program and Lion Robert Weber.  
—Photo By Sharon Gifford



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

Story Time with Mrs. Laura will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Join the Library to read a few books with their favorite storyteller! Everyone is welcome! New Releases in Adult Fiction this month: “Knife Skills for Beginners” by Orlando Murrin, “The Stolen Queen” by Fiona Davis, and the latest Alex Cross thriller: “The House of Cross” by James Patterson. New Young Adult Fiction: “After Life” by Gayle Forman.

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

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



**STUDENT RECOGNITION** — Phelps Elementary students celebrated the end of the second quarter by recognizing a student from each classroom who had shown leadership, honesty and integrity within the school. Each student was awarded a \$20 gift certificate to Grandma's Toy Box in Eagle River. Pictured, from left to right, are the winning students Claire Smith, Josie Spink, Gunner Marak and Scarlett Smith.  
—Photo By Sharon Gifford

**SPOTLIGHT KNIGHTS**

— Pictured are the Phelps school spotlight knights of January: 9th grader Ayden Ekdahl (left) and 8th grader Cody Anders (right). Mrs. Smith said, “Ayden is a hard-working student who consistently completes quality work. He is kind to teachers and peers and is a valuable member of the Phelps Knights JV basketball team.” Mr. Crownhart added, “Cody listens and pays attention to the details of my lessons, understands what needs to be done for assignments, and uses class time to complete as much as possible of assigned work. I appreciate his positive attitude and curiosity.”  
—Photo By Sharon Gifford



## ST. GERMAIN/SAYNER

JACKI GOEBEL | 715-891-8028 | [jackigoebel@gmail.com](mailto:jackigoebel@gmail.com)

### Candlelight walk set for Feb. 15

The Awassa Trails by Candlelight returns on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 6 - 8 p.m., starting at the trailhead behind the St. Germain Elementary School.

Hundreds of ice luminaries will line the 1.4 mile loop as it winds through the snow covered forest. The trail is groomed for snowshoeing, fat biking, and classic cross-country skiing. The trail is

currently well-packed.

Participants can warm up by the bonfire with hot chocolate and cookies. This free, family-friendly event is sponsored by the St. Germain Non-Motorized Trail Committee. For more information, contact Anne at 715-614-3711 or go to the Awassa Trails Facebook page.

**ADVERTISE HERE**  
Call 715-479-4421 TODAY!  
VILAS COUNTY  
**NEWS-REVIEW**

**TOWN OF ST GERMAIN NOTICE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the public test of the ImageCast Evolution (ICE) voting machine to be used at the February 18, 2025 General Election will be held on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 9:00 am in room 5 of the St Germain Community Center, 545 Hwy 155, St Germain WI 54558.  
June Vogel  
Town Clerk

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## Backward Glances

Compiled by Josephine Hinderman

**One Year Ago - 2024**

Amidst cancellations of big events, snowmobile trails remaining closed and poor ice conditions on area lakes, this winter has proven to be a challenge for many local businesses that are reporting 75% to 80% year-over-year losses in the first few months of the season...Businesses and lodging properties rely on the snow to bring snowmobilers and other silent sports enthusiasts to the area, who in turn support the communities by staying in hotels and resorts, dine in local restaurants and bars, and make purchases from area stores and gas stations.

**10 Years Ago - 2015**

The Eagle River City Council will hold a public hearing next Tuesday, Feb. 10, on a proposed all-terrain vehicle (ATV) ordinance that would allow the machines on some city streets. According to the ordinance, nearly all municipal roads, alleyways and transportation corridors within the city of Eagle River would be designated as ATV and UTV trails/routes. The city of Eagle River would reserve the right to close or modify routes and trails at any time...It was agreed that the ATV route should avoid the bicycle trail south of Dairy Queen by using Sundstein and Look Lake roads to reach Tamarack Street and use Tamarack to get to the signal lights at Railroad Street. The proposed route would then go north on Railroad Street from the intersection of highways

45 and 70. It would connect with the current snowmobile trail north of Division Street and cross highway 45. The snowmobile trail going north along Riverview Park would be used to cross the river on the 12-foot recreational lane of the bridge.

**20 Years Ago - 2005**

A Monico woman charged with causing the death of a one-week-old baby Dec. 1 pleaded not guilty and asked for a trial within 90 days when she appeared recently in Oneida County Circuit Court...A Milwaukee County medical examiner testified at the Dec. 15 hearing that the child died of a traumatic head injury, consistent with shaken baby syndrome.

**30 Years Ago - 1995**

An Eagle River man died early Friday when his vehicle overturned onto a highway in northern Oconto County and was struck by a car, authorities said...The deaths of (Donald Klokow) and five other people in snowmobile accidents this past weekend brought the total this season to 22, one more than the number killed in such incidents all last winter...Authorities say poor trail and lake conditions, in some cases, may have attributed to the increase in snowmobile accidents this year.

**40 Years Ago - 1985**

Although some snowmobile officials are still skeptical that all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) will benefit the tourism industry, in this area there are signs



**SLED DOGS, 1995**—Typical of the sled dog racing scheduled for Land O' Lakes this Saturday and Sunday is this scene of a musher and his team intense on the finish line ahead. The Land O' Lakes winter festival will also feature sled dog seminars, skijoring and mutt races.  
—Contributed Photo

that the red carpet may be rolled out to accommodate the residents and vacationers who want to use “three-wheelers”...Changes in the works include a proposal to license the machines and establish a program similar to what snowmobilers have. There's also talk of special events this summer involving ATVs, including races in Eagle River.

**50 Years Ago - 1975**

Home building in Vilas county last year dropped for the first time since 1969 according to a report by the zoning office, which showed 283 new single family dwellings built during 1974...The drop in permits granted was 29% from a high of 400 in 1973. This is the first year that home building has decreased since 1969 and the lowest total since 1971.

**60 Years Ago - 1965**

An afternoon of

pleasant outdoor activity is slated for the sixth annual Conover-Phelps Winter Frolic, planned for this Sunday at Pioneer Lake, just south of Conover. Not only will Frolic-goers find the program interesting, but all profits go to the Lions club summer camp for blind children in Rosholt, Wisconsin.

**70 Years Ago - 1955**

The resolution concerning the proposed county jail quotes a letter from R.A. Messmer and Brother. The letter advised the board members that the original two-story jail will not materialize to a reality, but was praised as a model by many competent advisors in this field of endeavor...Messmer stated that their firm would prepare plans and specifications for a one-story jail building, agreeing to waive any balance

To GLANCES, Pg. 7

# Outdoors

## Time for Tiffany's wolf bill to become law

**INEFFECTIVE** wolf management in Wisconsin last year led to the death of 25 hunting dogs, four pet dogs, at least 26 calves, 10 cows and steers, eight miniature horses, two quarter horses, three mustang horses, and more whitetail deer than the state can track — though they care little about the latter.

That's according to the Department of Natural Resources wolf depredation report for 2024, a comprehensive list of confirmed wolf "hits" that also includes confirmed wolf harassment and dozens of unconfirmed wolf depredation complaints.

Most of the livestock losses occurred in Bayfield, Douglas and Ashland counties, but hunters lost dogs in those three and many others.

You might remember that one of the pet losses occurred in a residential setting in Oneida County, near Woodruff, as the owner of a chihuahua watched the unthinkable in her yard — a wolf snatching and killing her dog just a few feet away.

The department received two human health and safety complaints involving wolves last year, in Washburn and Price counties, occurring in April and May respectively.

The DNR has yet to post on its website how much money was paid out for wolf depredation claims in 2024, but it does indicate that since 1985, they have paid out \$3.38 million in claims for livestock, hunting dogs and pets.

That's a big deal but the larger issue isn't about money, not when state residents are being forced to live in fear of losing well-trained hunting dogs, treasured pets, horses and whatever living things might be next — hopefully not a child playing in the back yard.

You can scoff at that possibility all you want, but keep in mind that the only comfort the DNR could give to Denise Coron of Woodruff after her dog was killed in front

of her, in her yard, was that she was "in the wrong place at the wrong time."



### In the Outdoors

BY KURT KRUEGER

Everything the DNR is doing today in the name of "adaptive wolf management" is reactive, meaning they have no system in place to keep wolf numbers in check as a proactive way to reduce such incidents.

**That's in sharp contrast to what we had under the previous management plan, when the state was managing for a specific population size to ensure there would be fewer conflicts with property owners, farmers, pet owners and hunters.**

Wolf advocates believe the solution to lost hunting dogs is a ban on running hounds, as most of the depredation incidents involve trailing dogs that are chasing bear, bobcats and coyotes. But the running of hounds is a sport that's older than this country, and in Wisconsin, it's an integral part of our hunting heritage. So their suggestion is no solution at all.

Likewise, the advocates keep spewing about all the great things wolves do to keep the deer herd in check, reducing over browsing in the forests and vehicle collisions on our roadways. But again, that's a wrench in the cog of a well-tuned deer management system that once put northern Wisconsin on the national map as a major destination for trophy whitetails on millions of acres of public forestlands.

Deer management in the North Woods now shares the limelight with bears, bobcats and wolves, because we've got near-record numbers of all three major predators. So much for the significance of our deer hunting traditions.

On the subject of hunting dogs, it pains me to read the 2019 story out of Ashland County where a grouse hunter lost his 10-year-old Brittany spaniel to a wolf attack.

Ted Koeler was simply checking out some deer stands in early November, with



Wolf depredation on hunting dogs, pets, deer and livestock are a major reason why hunters and farmers want Congress to end federal court interference with the right of Wisconsin and other states to manage these big predators. —Contributed Photo

dog and shotgun in tow, when gray wolves killed his companion some 80 yards away.

The shocking part is that Koeler shot a double on a grouse just minutes before the wolves killed his dog, and those shots did nothing to deter them from the attack.

The big issue with this incident, and the one in Woodruff last year, is that it appears wolves are becoming too acclimated to human contact. And that lack of fear is a bad sign for future encounters with humans.

I was going to wait to see what President Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress might do in the months ahead before writing this column, as U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-Wis.) has introduced a bill to remove wolves from the Endangered Species Act in the lower 48 states. But knowing Republicans had the same advantage in

2016, and didn't get the job done, prompted me to start getting the word out on the dire nature of the current wolf overpopulation in Wisconsin.

Our state currently has no authority to hunt wolves or use any lethal population controls, even on problem wolves, because of the 2022 federal court ruling that put wolves back on the endangered species list.

That was the fifth time that liberal federal courts intervened in national wolf management done by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, stripping states like Wisconsin of their right to manage the well-recovered wolf population here.

**We need the Tiffany bill, or something like it, in order to end the interference from federal courts that refuse to acknowledge that wolves are more than recovered here.**

## 24th annual Plum Lake fishing contest set Feb. 15

The ice is thick, and the Sayner-Star Lake Lions' 24th annual Plum Lake ice fishing contest is set for Saturday, Feb. 15.

This family-friendly event is competitive with prizes awarded for the largest fish in five species categories.

Tickets for the tourney are available from Sayner-Star Lake Lions members, as well as at Last Cast Sport Shop in St. Germain,

The Sayner Pub, Up North Traders in Sayner, and the Sayner Mobil Express.

The entry fee is \$30 for adults and \$10 for youths 12 and under. All children 12 and under will receive a prize, while adult fishermen will fish for \$700 in cash prizes, with the five longest northern pike and walleye, and the three longest perch, bluegill and crappies earning cash.

Major door prizes for

adults will be drawn at random and will include portable shelters, ice drills, and much more. Most, if not all, adults will receive other door prizes.

Over \$4,000 in merchandise will be given away to raffle winners at the awards ceremony.

Raffles will include a four-gun raffle, a freezer filled with food, as well as other sporting goods.

Fishing hours will be

from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., with all fishing confined to Plum Lake. Fish registration will be at the Plum Lake Public Pier on the south side of the lake. The awards ceremony and prize drawings will be held at the Sayner Rec Building beginning at 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Lion Will Maines at (715) 542-3501 or Lion Tom Reed at 715-617-3994.



### Fishing with the guides

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

## Enjoy fishing while you still can

We've got 18-24" of ice on most bodies of water now, and people are driving their vehicles out on many lakes. We seem to have a fairly normal winter pattern coming this week, but as has been the case all year, things can change quickly. It sure feels good out there on the days when the sun is shining — bring your sunscreen! That, along with the noticeably longer daylight, can make for a really nice day on the ice. With the little bit of snow we got last week, it sure is beautiful in the woods and on the lakes right now.

Walleye fishing has been decent, aside from the ups and downs that come with the extreme changes in temperature we've had for the last few weeks. We've had some good late afternoon runs on the Chain, and on some of the bigger lakes. The early morning and after-dark bites are the strongest. We're seeing these fish in or near the holes, and most action coming from tip-ups with medium-sized shiners. On some of the deeper lakes, anglers have been getting some good action jigging with minnow heads in deeper water, basically as deep as you can go. Deep, green weed edges are a great place to set up.

Northern have been the most consistent game fish for the last several weeks. Both jigging over deeper weeds and tip-up action has been good, and the best thing about this fish is that it's a daytime feeder. Try setting some tip-ups with large shiners in or near weeds mid-day, and do some pan fishing at the same time, in the same areas.

Panfishing slowed down a lot during the last cold front, though things seem to have recovered. We're seeing a lot more green weeds than normal for this time of the year, with the lack of snow cover — and those weeds are what you're looking for. We have heard of some decent crappie action in the holes on the Chain, as schools of crappie are roaming through those holes at different depths. Both tip-downs rigged with minnows, and jigging with waxies on vertical jigs about 5' off the bottom, have been productive. We'll see a lot more of this action as things move toward spring. The bluegill have been hitting on waxies or red spikes in the weeds. Perch are on the mud flats. Look for them to be near the bottom in softer areas where they'll hang out for the rest of the winter.

It looks like we've got a little more snow coming this week. We'll take it! The little bits we've had have made for just "ok" skiing and snowmobiling. No need for snowshoes yet this year — but there's still time. We've got a lot to look forward to as far as the fishing goes. This is one of those hardwater years that you'll remember for decades to come, with fantastic ice conditions and NO SLUSH! Get out there and enjoy it while you can.

Good luck and good fishin'!

## Two wolf harassment reports confirmed in Vilas County



Following recent reports of wolves harassing dogs in Vilas County, pet owners are reminded to stay vigilant when letting pets outside, especially at night. —Contributed Photo

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported two incidents of wolves harassing dogs in Vilas County last week.

The first was the confirmed harassment of a golden retriever in Conover on Saturday, Jan. 25. The dog was not injured.

The second was the verification that wolves posed a threat to pet dogs following an attack at a St. Germain residence in St. Germain on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Local pet owners have been encouraged to be extra vigilant when letting their animals outside.

The DNR partners with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services department to investigate reported conflicts with wolves. Interactive maps, past

reports, and damage payment information is available on the DNR's website at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/wolf/maps>.

For livestock and pet owners dealing with a potential wolf-involved conflict, swift reporting to USDA-Wildlife Services remains critical for the collection of evidence and the timely implementation of conflict resolution options. In northern Wisconsin, call 1-800-228-1368 (in state) or 715-369-5221. In southern Wisconsin, call 1-800-433-0663 (in state) or 920-324-4514.

More information for livestock, pet owners, and hunters is available on the wolf conflict guidance page at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/wolf/guidance.html>.

## Glances

FROM PAGE 6

fee due in connection with the two-story plans.

### 80 Years Ago - 1945

Several complaints have come to the sheriff's office

during the last few weeks regarding summer homes which have been broken into and entered, and, in some cases, where articles have been reported missing...Sheriff Peter Anderson is inclined to believe that the breaking and entering of the cottages

is the work of youngsters, because in practically every case the damage had been malicious and wanton. Screens have been cut and mattresses have been cut; windows have been broken and furniture was generally thrown around. In most cases, nothing has been

taken, but senseless and useless wreckage has been reported.

*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.*





