



The Three Lakes News

VOL. 92, NO. 9

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025



SHOW DOWN — Eagle River saw the return of the 2025 Pond Hockey National Championships last weekend. Over the course of 350 games spanning across 20 rinks crafted atop the frozen surface of Dollar Lake, over 200 teams from across 14 states showed down for the title of pond hockey champion. —Photo By Gary Ridderbusch

Northwoods EMS District launches ‘life-saving’ services for 4 local towns

BY MICHELLE DREW
CORRESPONDENT

A new emergency medical services (EMS) district that launched in mid-January has already brought big improvements to emergency health care for people in four North Woods towns. After years of planning, the towns of Boulder Junction, Manitowish Waters, Presque Isle and Winchester have banded together to create the Northwoods Emergency Medical Services District (NEMSD), which officially launched at 8 a.m. on Jan. 16. Currently, it deploys one ambulance from Boulder Junction and one from Winchester when emergency calls come in.

Although NEMSD has been operational for less than a month, administrators said they could not be more pleased by the performance of the district’s leadership and crews in these first few weeks of service. Previously relying on volunteer fire and EMS departments to provide emergency care, this new district “ensures that everyone suffering from a medical emergency receives a prompt response by highly qualified, well-trained, properly equipped and compassionate emergency medical responders,” according to Steve Herzberg, vice president, operations liaison and

To SERVICES Pg. 2

Vilas skating community mourns D.C. crash victim

BY JOSEPHINE
HINDERMAN
NEWS EDITOR

The North Woods skating community has been mourning the loss of skating coach, peer and friend Alexandr Kirsanov, known better as “Sasha,” one of the 67 victims killed after a plane collided with a Blackhawk helicopter over the Potomac River last month. Kirsanov, who had competed for the U.S., Russia and Azerbaijan before his retirement in 2004, had been helping

coach camps for the Eagle River Figure Skating Club since 2013. “He was super bubbly and drove kids to get the best out of them; he had a knack for making them have fun and also to learn,” Jacqui Monge, a director with the Eagle River Figure Skating Club, said. “He was a peer and a mentor... Sasha would coach kids regardless of skill level, some of which have become skating coaches themselves. Many coaches (with the Eagle River

To SKATING Pg. 3



The Eagle River Figure Skating Club gathered at the Dome last week to honor the memory of Alexandr “Sasha” Kirsanov, a beloved coach and one of the 67 victims killed in the D.C. airplane crash. —Photos Courtesy of the Eagle River Figure Skating Club

Oneida snowmobile trails open

All trails in the Oneida County Funded Snowmobile Trail System (as administered by the Oneida County Forestry, Land, & Recreation Department) officially opened for the winter season on Friday, Feb. 7, at 8 a.m. All lake and river trails in Oneida County are considered unsafe and should not be utilized until they have been clearly marked by a local snowmobile club. As always, the Oneida County Forestry, Land, & Recreation Department reminds riders to stay on marked trails. Off-trail riding is trespassing and could result in closure or loss of trails, and citations and fines for those who participate. Always exercise caution when riding a snowmobile. The trails are in rough, early season condition. For questions regarding specific trail conditions contact local snowmobile clubs or visit their social media pages. For more detailed information on Oneida County Snowmobile trail riding opportunities, contact local snowmobile clubs in the area of the desired ride, the Oneida County Chamber of Commerce at info@oneidacountywi.com, or the Oneida County Forestry, Land, & Recreation Department at 715-369-6140.



Trails in Oneida County opened last Friday morning, and more snow will be needed to further improve upon already “fair” conditions. —Photo By Kurt Krueger

Blizzard Blast set this weekend

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

Northwoods Blizzard Blast is set to take place Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Conover Community Park to support local fire and emergency medical services (EMS) departments. Headlined as “winter fun for everyone,” activities on the community park grounds will kick off Saturday morning at 10 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m., alongside an artisan bazaar from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Conover Community Center adjacent to the park. Recliner races, ice bowling, and slap hockey events, along with open skating, will be held on the ice rink in the center of the park. The adjacent baseball diamond will be home to the Firefighter Expo, as well as the Candy Flurry that happens when fire engine sirens sound off. The Giant Ski Challenge crosses the outfield, while teams of four challenge one another to ski together in sync and stay upright on one pair of

18-foot-long custom-made skis. On the south end of the park, Chilly Charlie’s Children’s Carnival area will feature winter-themed games with prizes awarded. Children may try their luck at snowman pong, ring toss, Find My Buttons, Pin the Nose on the Snowman, and Chilly Charlie’s Challenge. There will also be face painting and colorful snow art fun. Event participants will find open sledding on the sledding hill with loaner sleds available on-site. Loading near the park pavilion, horse-drawn sleigh rides depart from the park every 15 minutes and travel through the scenic North Woods. Pony rides will happen during 45-minute windows beginning at the top of each hour. In the center of the park, featuring a winter twist on a summertime favorite, area firefighters take their turn in the dunk tank while demonstrating

To BLAST Pg. 2

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WEATHER

CORNER

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

LAST SEVEN DAYS

	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Tues., Feb. 4	13	1	Tr. S
Wed., Feb. 5	25	-6	Tr. S
Thurs., Feb. 6	22	2	0.3" S
Fri., Feb. 7	23	0	Tr. S
Sat., Feb. 8	20	11	1.5" S
Sun., Feb. 9	15	1	2.1" S
Mon., Feb. 10	17	-12	None

ONE YEAR AGO

	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Sun., Feb. 4	51	13	None
Mon., Feb. 5	42	23	None
Tues., Feb. 6	48	24	None
Wed., Feb. 7	46	27	None
Thurs., Feb. 8	49	35	None
Fri., Feb. 9	36	24	0.8"S+R
Sat., Feb. 10	26	19	0.2" S

LAST YEAR

The average daily high at this time last year for the next seven days was 43, while the average overnight low was 24. The average precipitation amounts were 0.04".

Comparison

Days of precipitation recorded since Oct. 1, 2024, 84 days; 2024, 78 days. Average high of past 30 days, 2025, 20; 024, 29. Average low of past 30 days, 2025, -2; 2024, 16.

SNOW DEPTH

Snow measured around 4.5" in depth at noon on Monday, Feb. 10.

ICE CONDITIONS

Mostly normal winter weather lately has led to great ice on area lakes, with most bodies of water seeing between 20-26" of thickness.

5-DAY OUTLOOK

Wednesday:	Cloudy.	Hi:14	Lo:-2
Thursday:	Mix of sun and clouds.	Hi:13	Lo:-8
Friday:	Afternoon snow showers.	Hi:21	Lo:12
Saturday:	Cloudy.	Hi:22	Lo:-3
Sunday:	More clouds than sun.	Hi:7	Lo:-15

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



SOME CREEKS OPEN — Snow and ice covered portions of Rainbow Creek that runs between Tamarack Lake and Birch Lake in northwest Vilas County. Sections of the creek remain open due to the mild winter that included temperatures in the mid-30s on Sunday when this photo was taken. —Photo By Gary Ridderbusch

Services

FROM PAGE 1

Winchester representative for NEMSD.

Using paid staff, this new system is available 24 hours a day and has already saved lives by getting help out the door rapidly to answer the calls of the injured or sick.

“Recognizing that many of our calls involve serious medical issues, we set a goal of bringing a higher level of care to the people we serve,” Herzberg explained.

The district moved from a basic life support (BLS) system with EMT responders, which is often used by volunteer services, to an advanced life support (ALS) system with paramedic responders.

“Our response patterns show that we are achieving our goals. In more than 90% of our cases, we are getting

an ambulance on the road in less than 90 seconds; on the other calls, we were slightly delayed by communication issues we are having with dispatch. We are working together to solve them.”

Herzberg noted that a “very high percentage” of patients have benefitted from ALS interventions from Paramedic/EMT teams — interventions that in some cases saved lives.

Volunteer shortages

In Wisconsin, EMS is a function of local government, meaning each town, village and city is required to provide ambulance service. Many smaller areas rely on volunteer departments to provide that service. The problem arises when there are not enough volunteers to cover 24-hour-a-day service to residents.

A study completed by the Wisconsin Office of Rural

Health looked at a year’s worth of data to indicate if departments were able to respond to calls, whether calls went unanswered in their communities, and if other services have to come in under mutual aid to help answer these calls. The results were alarming, showing there is a shortage in EMS staffing across the state, in both rural and urban areas.

According to James Small, Rural EMS Outreach director for the office, they found that 41% of the services reported they were not staffed 24/7/365 as they are required to be, while other data indicated that number was closer to 49% in some areas that were relying on neighboring services to respond to calls.

That issue was occurring here in northern Wisconsin, where the number of available volunteers were not always able to keep up with the constant demand.

“Before forming the district, each of the four towns had a small, dedicated group of volunteer responders. However, we were finding it difficult to cover all of our calls on our own. So, we formed the district,” Herzberg said. “Nationally, it has become harder and harder for small towns to rely solely on volunteers to respond to and transport emergency medical calls. This has nothing to do with the North Woods or our four small towns. It is far more complex than that and the challenges are universal.”

The change to NEMSD’s paid staff district versus the volunteer departments came as a way to both provide better service to



Staff on hand for the first day of service were, from left, Paramedic Jessica Lease, Paramedic Nathan Bates, Chief Jason Joling, Deputy Chief Jessica Mabie, and EMT Laura Schuenemann. Service launched Jan. 16 at 8 a.m. and NEMSD received its first call at 8:46 a.m. Staff was out the door by 8:48 a.m. —Contributed Photos

area residents, as well as give some relief to the hard-working volunteers within the departments. Herzberg noted the district has not displaced those dedicated volunteers, but instead relies on them to respond to calls alongside the full time crews.

Years of preparation

Several years ago, volunteers from the four towns met to seek a common solution to the staffing issues they were facing. Those initial meetings resulted in most of the volunteers, who were individual town volunteers, getting credentials to allow them to run calls on all four towns’ ambulances, Herzberg explained.

“In the years that

followed, we did our best to cover each other’s calls. But as our number of volunteers diminished, and as more of our EMTs had outside responsibilities like jobs and families, it became more difficult to do so. Recognizing that things were not going to get better, we started serious discussions about forming one district to be served by paid staff. And, that brought us to where we are today.”

And today, things are going well, Herzberg said. He has been surprised by the quickness that local leaders were able to get this project off the ground, and the ability to build a culture that attracts the experienced, committed

employees necessary to serve these sometimes challenging North Woods calls.

Splitting his time between Winchester and Bodega Bay, Calif., has given Herzberg a unique perspective on how stations and districts operate in different regions.

“Back home in California, I have been a part of setting up and running ambulance systems in both urban and wilderness areas. When I tell my friends that, in the North Woods, we hired our leadership team in July, and went operational in January, they cannot believe it,” he said. “This is a testament to

To SERVICES Pg. 6



NEMSD Chief Jason Joling leads a CPR class for Winchester Fire Department Jan. 28. He also provided a CPR refresher course for the Presque Isle Fire Department prior to this course.

44519

Northwoods

BLIZZARD BLAST

Sat. February 15

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9-4	Artisan Bazaar	Community Center
10-4	Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides	Park-South
10-3	Raffle Tent	Park-Center
10-4	Ice Bowling	Ice Rink
10-4	Slap Shot Hockey	Ice Rink
10-4	Children’s Carnival	Park-South
10-4	Face Painting	Rec Center
10-4	Snow Art Fun for Kids	Park-South
10-4	Pony Rides	Park-South
10-3	Dunk a Firefighter!	Park-Center
10-4	Giant Ski Challenge	Baseball Field
Aft.	Candy Flurry (listen for sirens)	Baseball Field
10-4	Hot Laps/Recliner Races	Ice Rink
2:30	Recliner Race Finals	Ice Rink
10-2	Firefighter Expo	Baseball Field
10-4	Archery Demo	Park-South
10-4	Snowshoe Demo	Baseball Field
10-4	Winter Survival Demo	Park-Center
10-1	K9 Search/Rescue Demo	Throughout Park
10-4	Food, Snow Bar & Music	Park-Center

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NEWS



POND HOCKEY — After its cancellation for the 2024 season, Dollar Lake got to see some pond hockey action with the 2025 Pond Hockey Championships this past weekend. Players and spectators alike descended upon Eagle River as games were played Friday through Sunday, with divisions for both men’s and women’s players. —Photos By Gary Ridderbusch



World Series of Snowmobile Racing returning to WCDC

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The World Series of Snowmobile Racing is set to return to Eagle River Friday through Sunday, Feb. 21-23, with plenty of racing for fans to enjoy throughout the weekend.

Two different sanctions, the Pro Vintage Racing (PVR) and The United States Snowmobile Association (USSA), will have different classes hit the ice that range from vintage to late model to ProChamp sleds.

WCDC CEO Tom Anderson said that it’s been a great year of racing throughout the winter, and the lingering cold weather has allowed track officials to continually make more ice after the running of the 62nd World Championship Snowmobile Derby in January.

“We’ve been blessed by cold weather. We’ve been building more and more ice every day,” said Anderson. “Turns one and three are the turns that take the most damage because that’s where they brake and accelerate in one or two seconds. We have two different sanctions coming in. We’re going to intermix them throughout the days. One race, you’ll see vintage sleds, and the next you could see a late model.”

The USSA ProStar Series and ProStar Cup Series will both have points races through the weekend, with it being the last weekend for the ProStar Series racers to accumulate points this season in their respective classes.

Polaris rider Blaine Stephenson leads the standings for the Formula III class with 89 and 64 points, with Matt Goede sitting right behind in second at 83 and 62 for both Saturday and Sunday standings.

In the Pro Champ division for the ProStar Cup, Stephenson also

leads the standings with 2,145 points as of Feb. 6, and leads Gunner Sterne, who has 2,027.

Stephenson took the win in the final last time the Series was in Eagle River during Friday Night Thunder in January. The Outlaw 600 class will also be racing for points.

Racers can expect some hard racing throughout the weekend with the USSA nearing the end of its season.

“It’s a points race for the USSA, so all the big names will be there as it’s towards the end of the season,” explained Anderson.

Some of those names include Sterne, Stephenson, Goede, and many more of the top Pro Champ and Formula III racers.

Anderson said registration is pretty similar to last year but, like always, racers tend to wait until the week of the event to put their names in the hat.

“The weekend will be a blast,” says WCDC Race Director, Craig Marchbank. “Fans will see five decades of racing sleds fighting it out on the ice oval during the three days of action.”

After the weekend concludes, the ice oval season ends in Eagle River and the focus will be preparations for the Hayes Brakes National Snocross event Friday and Saturday, March 14-15.

Officials say the whole infield and oval will be covered in deep snow to make a track that will have a variety of stutter bumps, hairpin turns and big air jumps. Two large snow guns are producing the snow.

For more information on upcoming WCDC events, visit <https://derbycomplex.com/> or the WCDC Facebook Page. For up-to-date information on points standings for the USSA, visit <https://ussaprostar.com/>

Skating

FROM PAGE 1

Recreation Association) were kids that he coached — he coached kids who became coaches.”

Despite visiting only a few camps every year, Monge said that the impact he had on students, coaches, and the skating community alike had been great.

“This was a great loss and will be felt for years to come,” she said.

The Eagle River Figure Skating Club held their own little memorial service for Kirsanov last week at the Dome in Eagle River, where skaters

dedicated an evening to paying tribute to those affected by the fatal collision and reflecting on memories of Kirsanov as a coach and skater.

“The memories he left are profound and we will be forever grateful for the opportunity we had to be part of his skating journey,” said a Facebook post written by the organization.

Kirsanov was on a flight carrying athletes and coaches from the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Wichita, Kansas. The tragedy is one of the deadliest American aircraft disasters in over 20 years.

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OBITUARIES

Officials urge safety on frozen waters

Four fatalities reported so far in state

BY MICHELLE DREW
CORRESPONDENT

Tom Quandt Jr., owner of Bulldog Off-Road Recovery Services based in Rhinelander, has seen his share of ice-related disasters in his 40-plus years of serving the North Woods.

With snowmobile trails now fully open in Vilas, Oneida and Forest counties, those venturing out on sleds, ATVs and UTVs, and in their vehicles are reminded that no ice is considered 100% safe.

This year, Quandt has already been called out to recover a number of snowmobiles, trucks, and side-by-side vehicles that have gone through the ice in the northern portion of the state. Just since the start of 2025, these recoveries have included a four-wheeler that went through at Red Cloud Landing in Tomahawk on Jan. 1, a UTV that went through on Lake Nokomis due to a pressure ridge on Jan. 4, and a Chevy Silverado that went through 5 inches of ice on Upper Buckatabon Lake in Conover on Jan. 8.

Quandt noted that near the boat landing on Upper Buckatabon, the lake meets a bog area which can affect ice thickness. "When you see a lake and swamp combined, stay away from that edge," he said, because bogs don't freeze due to the fact that they hold onto more heat.

Although ice thickness is currently close to 2 feet thick on many area lakes, there are certain scenarios that can weaken that ice and create dangerous situations. Quandt said even when ice is at full thickness, riders should still be very cautious of pressure ridges,



Staff at Bulldog Off-Road Recover Service uses cold water suits when necessary to remove vehicles from the icy waters. It's a dangerous job, and owner Tom Quandt Jr. said he and his crew have gone through the ice themselves when performing these recoveries.

—Photos Courtesy of Bulldog Off-Service Recovery Service

ice heaves, and underneath bridges where currents create weakened ice.

He has also recovered a snowmobile that went into the water beneath the bridge on Highway 32 in Three Lakes, as well as a UTV that went into Swamp Lake in Oneida County while searching for a boy on a snowmobile. Nobody was harmed and the boy was found safe, Quandt noted. He also has pulled a few ice shanties — sometimes with UTVs still attached — out of the water.

Utilizing machinery, drones, remote-operated vehicles, cameras, cold-water suits, and, in some cases, diving crews, Bulldog Off-Road Recovery Service specializes in off-road recovery of all vehicles. In the winter, much of that is

ice recovery, but he works year-round to respond to stuck ATVs/UTVs, snowmobiles that have broken down or gotten into accidents on trails, and boat recoveries.

Although these types of recoveries can be expensive — ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars depending on the situation — Quandt said it's not about the money for him. "It's about helping people," he said. He recommends that people fully insure their recreational vehicles in case something like this should happen.

Quandt and his recovery team see more ATVs during the early ice season, and as ice progresses, that transitions to people bringing out heavier vehicles such as UTVs and

trucks. "We have good ice this year, so we see more cars and trucks," Quandt said.

The Wisconsin DNR reminds people that UTVs are heavy. They are the heaviest recreational vehicle out on the ice, often being close to 3,000 pounds. This is similar to a car or truck.

As no ice is considered 100% safe, riders should have a plan in case they go through the ice. "Roll your window down when traveling on the ice and make sure you can easily open your door — drive slow and turn the radio down so that you can use eyes and ears to watch and hear for potential issues coming up," the DNR said.

There should also be a life jacket or other flotation device for every occupant of the UTV

"Recovery for the UTV or other vehicle is the responsibility of the owner/operator. After 30 days, the owner can be fined each day after 30 days," the DNR said. "Recovery rates for the machine can also be very expensive."

Dangerous spring ice

As spring ice approaches, Quandt expects there will

To SAFETY Pg. 7

REAL ESTATE

Jan. 30, 2025

Northern Lights LLC to Hustle and Grit LLC, SE SE in 23-40-6, \$270.

Shauna R. Moscherosch to Hodag Property Holdings LLC, SE NW in 9-41-10, \$285.

Mark A. Coron to Michael J. Scanlon and Edward J. Scanlon, gov lot 7 in 8-40-5, \$1,125.

Estate of Rhine Renner, Estate of Adam R. Renner, Personal Representative Stephanie K. Renner and Personal Representative Stefanie Renner to Chubby's Family Restaurant LLC, NE NW in 34-40-10, \$825.

Feb. 3, 2025

Edwin V. Burtness and Patricia L. Burtness to Courtne Vanderhei, lot 20 and OUT lot 1 of plat 324 in Sunrise Hills, \$675.

John Slack and Patricia Slack to James O. Davis Trust and Trustee James O'Neill Davis, gov lot 1 in 8-41-12, \$1,320.

David A. Thorpe to CRT Income Trust 12/12/23, Trustee Robert C. Thorpe and Trustee Cynthia J. Thorpe, gov lot 7 in 17-41-11, and gov lot 4 in 18-41-11, \$249.30.

Lakeland Investments LLC to Brent Steven Gwidt and Amanda Gwidt, gov lot

4 in 36-40-6, \$1,214.40.

Michael J. Neville to Coach House Crossing LLC, gov lot 4 in 35-40-9, \$630.

Feb. 4, 2025

Ira L. Bowles and Linda A. Bowles to Dimitar Arabadzhdzhev, lot 3 of plat 117 in Goldenview, \$405.

Chris and Rayna Klessig Living Trust, Trustee Chris Klessig and Trustee Rayna Klessig to Tatum Campbell, lot 4 of plat CSM5838 and lots 3-4 of plat 964 in Mill Creek Highlands Plat, \$79.50.

Aaron Nowak to Tatum Campbell, lot 4 of plat CSM5838 and lots 3-4 of plat

964 in Mill Creek Highlands Plat, \$79.50.

Edward R. Swanson and Kathleen M. Swanson to Christine J. Welcenbach, SW NE in 33-40-10, \$285.

Jeanne Marie Warfel and David Lester Warfel Jr. to John P. Jarvis and Cynthia L. Jarvis, gov lot 5 in 35-40-5, \$1,170.

Feb. 5, 2025

Basile 2012 Dynasty Trust 12/27/12 and Trustee Joan Basile to NicPaul LLC, gov lot 3 in 14-40-5, \$3,600.

Fluffy Investments LLC to Christopher C. Holperin and Amanda L. Holperin, gov lot 6 in 18-39-10, \$2,025.

Donna Cogar



Donna Mae Cogar of Sugar Camp died on Feb. 6, 2025, at Compassus and Friendly Village with her family by her side. She was 80.

Mrs. Cogar was born in Orange County, CA on Nov. 25, 1944, to the late Gilbert and Ruby June (Dollarhide) Shilts. They moved to Delavan, WI. She graduated from Delavan High School in 1962.

Mrs. Cogar worked at the ice cream shop in Darien after graduation where she met her husband, Kenneth Cogar. They were married June 6, 1964.

Mrs. Cogar and Kenneth moved to Sugar Camp in the late 70's where they raised their family together.

Mrs. Cogar worked many years at Taylor Park before finishing out her working hands at Bonson's Pick N' Save where she retired after over 20 years.

Mrs. Cogar enjoyed her family, scratch offs, bingo, casino trips, bowling league, her daily survival of black coffee and watching her grandchildren play sports. She also enjoyed reading, cross-words, and all the extra sweets she knew she shouldn't have, the Packers of course, and the Chiefs.

Mrs. Cogar was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Cogar; parents, Gilbert and Ruby Shilts; brothers, Leonard and Gil Shilts; sister, Carol Barrett; brother-in-law, Todd Gimmel; grandson, Logan Cogar.

She is survived by three children, Kris (Bill) Scheffler, Kevin (Sarah) Cogar and Steve Cogar; 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren, step grandchildren and step great-grandchildren; she is also survived by four siblings, Debbie Gimmel, Dennis (Dawn) Shilts, Albert Shilts, Marlene Shilts; two sisters-in-law; family friend Melanie as well as many nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday Feb. 12, 2025, 11 a.m. with visitation one hour prior to service at the Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home in Eagle River, WI. Burial will be in Sugar Camp Memorial Cemetery.

Gaffney-Busha funeral home in Eagle River is serving the family.

Sharon "Sherry" Frey



Sharon Clara Frey "Sherry" left this world on Monday, Jan. 27, 2025. She was at home surrounded by her beloved cats, Monkey, Tinker Bell, Franny & Smokey.

Sherry's days were filled with reading, crafting, crocheting & knitting, horseback riding and traveling to her summer home in the Northwoods where she loved being with her animals, working outside and taking photos of nature.

After college Sherry worked at Moebius Printing as a customer service representative/secretary. She then went on to continue serving customers at Sentry Foods and in summers at the Trading Post in Eagle River, where she met many lifetime friends.

Sherry is survived by her nephews, Thomas (Shelly), Richard (Diane), Gary (Lisa); great-nieces, nephews and special cousins, Sandy & Linda.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold & Helen. Her only brother, Donald; and his spouse June. Her treasured grandparents Emil & Clara Frey and Frederick and Lydia Schneeberg.

Memorial was held on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, at CHURCH AND CHAPEL FUNERAL HOME, 15250 W National Ave, New Berlin 53151. Sharon was laid to rest immediately following at Pine Lawn Memorial Park 10700 W Capitol Dr, Milwaukee 53222.

In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations to MADACC madacc.org No Kill Animal Shelter 3839 W Burnham St. West Milwaukee WI 53215.

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Jesus alone is the source of peace.

"You will keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on You,
because he trusts in You."

Isaiah 26:3

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Gathering
Place

A Bible Believing Church

Everyone is welcome!
Sundays 9:30 am
1695 Hwy 45N, Eagle River
www.godsgatheringplace.net

NOTICE: Obituary policy

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

NEWS



LIONS DONATION — The Phelps-Land O’ Lakes Lions Club recently donated \$1,000 to the Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) program. Pictured in back, from left to right, are Lion Steve Chandler, Lion Rollie Alger, Lion Pete Schindelholz, FORK representative Lynn Kenning, FORK President Perry Pokrandt and Lion Brain Blank. Pictured in front, left to right, are Lion John Huza, Lion Bill Reckling, Lion Robert Weber and Lion Brett Miller. The club is always looking for new members. Call Alger at 715-545-2711 for information. —Photo By Sharon Gifford

Vilas County court report

Woodruff man found guilty of reckless homicide at jury trial

A Woodruff man was found guilty of a first-degree reckless homicide/deliver drugs charge last week at a jury trial in Vilas County Circuit Court.

Jeremy LaPalm was handed down a guilty verdict after four days of testimony in court and about four hours of deliberation by the jury.

The offense took place in Eagle River on August 14, 2020, where, according to the criminal complaint, LaPalm allegedly caused the death of “K.R.H.” by the delivery or manufacture of a schedule I or II controlled substance, heroin or fentanyl — a Class C felony.

LaPalm could receive up to 40 years in prison, up to \$100,000 in fines, or both at sentencing, which is scheduled for April 3 at 3 p.m. A presentence investigation will be conducted. LaPalm’s bond was revoked and he was remanded to Vilas Jail.

Rylee Kresl, 34, of Conover, had her jury trial scheduled for this month on one felony count of armed burglary and one misdemeanor bail jumping taken off the schedule after the parties addressed Judge Milanowski by saying a resolution was near. A plea hearing for Kresl was scheduled for this past Monday after the deadline for this paper.

Michael Kiss, 55, of Eagle River, was found guilty and sentenced to three years of probation at a plea/sentencing hearing on one OWI (4th offense) felony charge. Conditions of probation include 60 days in Vilas County Jail, fines and costs totaling \$3,464.00 payable to the Clerk of Court’s Office within 30 days or set up a payment plan, 36-month revocation, and 32-month IID, AODA assessment and a driver safety plan. Huber privileges were granted. He was also found guilty of a felony bail-jumping charge that will have \$518 of court costs attached to it.

Glen Barth, 66, of Eagle River, pleaded guilty and was found guilty at his plea/sentencing hearing on two felony charges of child pornography possession. Three other counts of the same charge were dismissed, but read into the record for sentencing.

Judge Martha Milanowski sentenced Barth to three years of confinement in the Wisconsin Prison System, with three years of extended supervision. Conditions of extended supervision include registering as a sex offender for life, \$518 in court costs and another surcharge. There were 238 days of presentence credit.

Francis Schuman, 57, of Lac du Flambeau, had a plea/sentencing hearing set for two separate cases involving a seventh, eighth or ninth offense OWI, two felony bail jumping charges, and one felony narcotics possession charge. His plea/sentencing date is set for March 5, at 11 a.m.

Jonelle Allen, 33, of Lac du Flambeau, was handed a three-year probation period at a sentencing hearing on one felony count of methamphetamine possession. Judge Milanowski stayed the nine-month prison sentence for probation with conditions of having AODA assessment/following counseling, treatment, gainful employment, and other programming deemed appropriate by an agent.

POLICE REPORT

Vilas County Sheriff

The Vilas County Sheriff’s Office reported a total of 314 incidents last week, which include 16 911 hang-ups, one car versus deer accident, one hit and run accident, three personal injury reports, six traffic accidents, seven property damage reports, eight agency assists, six burglary alarms, three fire alarms, 35 ambulance requests, one child abduction alert, six animal problems, one ATV complaint, one violation of bond, one battery to prisoner, two conditions of bond, one warrant cancellation, 18 citizen assists, one carbon monoxide poisoning, two criminal damages to property, one death investigation, one message delivery, one disorderly conduct, seven disturbances, two domestic violence complaints, eight drug problems, one emergency detention, 15 sick leaves, one structure fire, two frauds, two drive offs, one natural gas fumes, one harassment, six warrant confirmations, 23 information reports, seven juvenile problems, four lifeline alarms, two noise complaints, three OWI reports, three parking problems, one protection order, two vacation checks, one repossession, four officer requests, one road conditions report, two search warrants, six snowmobile accidents, four snowmobile violations, seven subject removals, three suicide attempts, seven suspicious circumstances, five property thefts, one medication theft, one snowmobile theft, one identity theft, two threats, 16 hazards, 11 traffic violations, two court transports, one property trespass, one arrest warrant and 24 welfare checks.

A total of 33 people were taken into custody and booked into the Vilas County Jail.

Eagle River Police

The Eagle River Police Department failed to provide an incident report before the press deadline for this week’s publication.

Three Lakes Police

The Three Lakes Police Department reported a total of 48 incidents last week, which include two animal incidents, two citizen assists, one motorist assist, two agency assists, 10 business checks, six extra patrols, two fire reports, one hazard, one information report, two parking violations, six recreational reports, one replevin, two services, one storm report, two suspicious circumstances, one theft, one traffic complaint and five traffic stops.



HEALTHY HERD — It’s been a relatively mild winter for wildlife like these white-tail deer despite some cold snaps of below-zero temperatures. Local deer are maintaining a hardy winter coat and foraging enough food to stay healthy. —Photo By Michelle Drew

CLASSIFIEDS

Announcements	7005	Wanted to Buy	7524
TWO GREAT BIKE RIDE EVENTS: by GHTF in 2025. Ride with Leinie (7/26/25) and SepTimber Ride (9/13/25). Register now while space is available at gh-Trails.org.		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.	

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Legals

7700

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 2/12-2/26/25)

NOTICE OF CLAIMS DEADLINE

IN THE MATTER OF THE

MOONEY SURVIVOR'S TRUST CREA-

TED UNDER ARTICLE IV OF THE

JAMES AND ALLISON MOONEY

JOINT REVOCABLE TRUST DATED

DECEMBER 18, 2001, AS AMENDED

AND RESTATED

ALLISON A. MOONEY, whose date of

birth was January 21, 1959, died on

June 18, 2024. Pursuant to § 701.0508

of the Wisconsin Statutes, notice is

hereby given that the deadline for

filing claims for payment of the debts

of Allison A. Mooney with the trustee

of the above trust is on or before

June 10, 2025. The name and address

of the trustee is:

David W. Reinecke

c/o Foley & Lardner LLP

P.O. Box 1497

Madison, WI 53701-1497

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2025.

/s/ David W. Reinecke, Trustee

WNAXLP

VILAS COUNTY

(Two weeks 2/12-2/19/25)

NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF

REDEMPTION FOR UNPAID

TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2021

OFFICE OF VILAS COUNTY

TREASURER

STATE OF WISCONSIN

COUNTY OF VILAS (SS)

Notice is hereby given that the fol-

lowing tracts and bits of land situated

in the County of Vilas, sold to tax cer-

tificate by the County Treasurer of

Vilas County on the 1st day of Sep-

tember 2022 for taxes due and unpaid

for the year 2021, remain unre-

deemed in the office of the County

Treasurer of Vilas County, Wisconsin.

Opposite the description of each

parcel of land or part thereof, is the

amount of taxes, interest, and fees

calculated to the 29th of August,

2025; the redemption due on each

parcel.

Therefore, unless the said lands are

redeemed on or before the 29th day

of August, 2025, the land will be con-

veyed to Vilas County pursuant to

statute 75.07 of the Wisconsin

Statutes.

Dated at the office of the Vilas County

Treasurer, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

WNAXLP

Legals	7700
This 12th day of February, 2025. /s/ Paulette M. Sarnicki County Treasurer Vilas County, Wisconsin	
Owner Names	2021
Parcel#	Amt Due
Description	
JACOB J GUKICH	
2-484	\$914.55
PRT NE SE	
WILLIAM H BOSSHARD	
2-2012	\$524.56
PRT NE SE LNG E OF OLD RR	
AFF 802-635 EXC WHISTLING PINES	
ESTATES	
TOWN OF CLOVERLAND	2021
Owner Names	
Parcel#	Amt Due
Description	
MARK A CLURE	
6-309-03	\$1,322.20
PRT SE NW AFF 599740	
MARILYN PICMAN	
DAVID E GROSS	
CHRISTINA MAJTHOUB TRT	
6-1191	\$2,178.90
PRT SE SW AFF 521259	
TOWN OF LAC DU FLAMBEAU	2021
Owner Names	
Parcel#	Amt Due
Description	
SAMUEL P STONE	
10-886-01	\$1,640.77
PRT LOT 8 BLK 3 GAUTHIERS	
TRACK SUB OF GOVT LOT 3	
TOWN OF LAND O LAKES	2021
Owner Names	
Parcel#	Amt Due
Description	
HAROLD M TRACY JR	
12-600	\$542.72
PRT NE NE & PRT GOVT LOT 7 S36-	
43-9	
AMY A CAREY	
12-1028-13	\$524.34
PRT NW SE A/K/A OL 2 3CS64	
JAMES A HOOK	
CHRISTINE L MILLER	
12-1967	\$1,946.51
E 300' OF W 630' NE NW F/K/A 5-4 &	
PRT G5-4 S9	
CATHY A NORDINE	
12-2425	\$1,804.58
PRT GOVT LOT 2 LNG N RD	
CATHY A NORDINE	

Legals	7700
12-2459	\$5,794.90
PRT GOVT LOT 3	
TOWN OF LINCLON	2021
Owner Names	
Parcel#	Amt Due
Description	
KIM M BELLIVEAU	
14-165-01	\$1,456.45
PRT NE NW	
LEE DUANE CLURE	
ELAINE M CLURE	
14-203	\$942.18
N 354' NW NE LNG E RR	
NOTICE 482864 AFF 483420	
CHARLES L POLACEK	
14-443	\$1,689.27
PRT LOT 8 PLAT PINECREST AGRMT	
569-183 ASSMT INC CN 445-01	
NANCY J TRIPOLI TRUST	
14-1945-04	\$7,649.59
PRT GOVT LOT 1 PCL 8	
TOWN OF PHELPS	2021
Owner Names	
Parcel#	Amt Due
Description	
DOUGLAS G HORSTMAN	
18-67	\$5,922.32
PRT GOVT LOT 2	
MARK G NASCISZEWSKI	
URSULA D NASCISZEWSKI	
18-218-04	\$5,438.48
LOT 3 MAPLE RIDGE SUB	
JOYCE A WIELICHOWSKI	
18-925-2	\$823.00
LOTS 3,4,11 & 12 BLK 22 PLAT	
RACINE COMMUNITY BEACH AFF	
474165	
TIMOTHY J WAGNER	
18-951-01	\$1,296.82
LOTS 8 THRU 11 & 21 THRU 24 BLK	
27 PLAT RACINE COMMUNITY	
BEACH	
TOWN OF PRESQUE ISLE	2021
Owner Names	
Parcel#	Amt Due
Description	
ARIZONA PROPERTIES LTD	
DAVID A GOFF	
22-1506-04	\$5,679.68
PRT SE NW & SW NW PCL 1 F/K/A 8-	
9,7-1	
PABLO GUARDIOLA JR	
TAMMY GUARDIOLA	
22-1753	\$1,046.97
PRT GOVT LOT 8 PCL 21 RED FOX	
ASSMT INC CN 1754	
SHEILA M WIXTED	
22-2013-05	\$896.63
LOT 5 14CS44 PRT NW NE, SW NE &	
GOVT LOT 1 & 1/15 INT OL 1	
TOWN OF WASHINGTON	2021
Owner Names	
Parcel#	Amt Due
Description	
LADD B WILDESON	
26-2694	\$859.98
PRT SW NE LOT 5	
LADD B WILDESON	
26-2696-04	\$1,974.71
PRT SW NE LOT 3	
LADD B WILDESON	
26-2696-05	\$827.03
PRT SW NE LOT 4	

Legals

7700

TOWN OF WINCHESTER

2021

Owner Names

Parcel#

Amt Due

Description

DARYLL A BEHNKE

28-1697

\$1,980.73

PRT GOVT LOT 3 EXC 375-145,718-

281

DARYLL A BEHNKE

28-1721

\$1,959.78

PRT NE SE EXC 399-026,907-238

NOTE: (Contact the County Treasurer

for complete description)

WNAXLP

VILAS COUNTY

(Two weeks 2/5-2/12/25)

NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED FUNDS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Vilas

County Treasurer, Paulette M. Sar-

nicki, pursuant to Section 59.66(2)

Wis. Stat., published a class 1 notice

January 29, under ch. 985, which

contained a listing of the names and

last-known addresses of the owners

of unclaimed money or security in

the possession of the Vilas County

Treasurer and is following that ad

with a class 2 notice, under ch. 985,

stating that the full listing that was

noticed in the class 1 notice may be

viewed at: www.vilascountywi.gov or

www.wisconsinpublicnotices.org or

at the Office of the Vilas County Treas-

urer, Vilas County Courthouse, 330

Court Street, Eagle River, Wisconsin.

The statute further provides that un-

less the owners request and prove

ownership of such money or security

within 6 months from the time of the

completed publication on February

12, 2025, the County Treasurer will

take possession or control of such

money or security.

To claim these funds, the owner

must appear in person, with valid

photo identification, at the Office of

the County Treasurer, Vilas County

Courthouse, 330 Court Street, Eagle

River, Wisconsin, M-F, 8AM-4:00PM.

WNAXLP

Name Change

7730

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 2/5-2/19/25)

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY

Case No. 25CV7

IN THE MATTER OF THE

NAME CHANGE OF

Amanda Marie Thompson

Notice and Order for

Name Change Hearing

By (Petitioner)

Amanda Marie Thompson

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to

change the name of the person listed

above:

From: Amanda Marie Thompson

To: Amanda Marie Walker

Birth Certificate:

Amanda Marie Walker

IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the

Circuit Court of Vilas County, State of

Wisconsin:

Judge's Name: Martha J. Milanowski

Place: Vilas County Courthouse,

Courtroom 1

330 Court Street,

Eagle River, WI 54521

Date: February 27, 2025

Time: 11:30 am

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given

by publication as a Class 3 notice for

three (3) weeks in a row prior to the

date of the hearing in the Vilas

County News-Review, a newspaper

published in Vilas County, State of

Wisconsin.

/s/ Martha J. Milanowski

Circuit Court Judge/

Court Commissioner

January 14, 2025

WNAXLP

Notice To Creditors

7735

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 1/29-2/12/25)

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY

-PROBATE-

Notice Setting Time

to Hear Application and

Deadline for Filing Claims

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 25 PR02

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

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

Notice To Creditors

7735

Jacquelyn G. Jossart

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal admin-

istration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth

January 9, 1950 and date of death

March 24, 2024 was domiciled in Vilas

County, State of Wisconsin, with a

mailing address of 1705 Buckhorn

Road, Arbor Vitae, WI 54568.

3. The application will be heard at

the Vilas County Courthouse, Eagle

River, Wisconsin, Room Probate

Office, before Dawn Halverson,

Probate Registrar, on February 19,

2025 at 9:00.

You do not need to appear unless

you object. The application may be

granted if there is no objection.

4. The deadline for filing a claim

against the decedent's estate is April

25, 2025.

5. A claim may be filed at the Vilas

County Courthouse, 330 Court Street,

Eagle River, 54521, Wisconsin, Room

Probate Office.

6. This publication is notice to any

persons whose names or address are

unknown.

If you require reasonable accommo-

modations due to a disability to partici-

pate in the court process, please call

715-479-3642 prior to the scheduled

court date. Please note that the court

does not provide transportation.

/s/ Dawn Halverson

Probate Registrar

January 17, 2025

Thomas E. Lawrence II

Lawrence & Tyler, S.C.

8617 Hwy. 51 North,

Minocqua, WI 54548

715-356-9403

Bar Number

1002941

WNAXLP

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 2/12-2/26/25)

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY

-PROBATE-

Amended

Order and Notice of Hearing Petition

On Summary Assignment

(Formal Administration)

Case No. 2025PR03

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

BARRY K. JOHNSON

A Petition for Summary Assignment

was filed.

THE COURT FINDS:

1. The decedent, with date of birth

09-12-1962 and date of death 03-03-

2024 was domiciled in VILAS County,

State of WISCONSIN with an address

of 1712 MAPLE LANE, ARBOR VITAE,

WI. 545568.

2. Creditors may bring an action by

A. filing a claim in the VILAS

County Circuit Court before the

petition is assigned.

B. bringing a suit against the as-

signee(s) after the petition is as-

signed. The right of a creditor to

bring an action

terminates three months after the

date of publication of this order.

3. The property may be assigned to

the creditors and interested persons

after 30 days have elapsed following

the first publication of this notice.

THE COURT ORDERS:

1. The Petition be heard and heir-

ship be determined at the VILAS

County Courthouse, EAGLE RIVER,

Wisconsin, Room Branch II, before

Hon. Daniel L. Overbey, Court Of-

ficial, on March 20, 2025, at 8:30 A.M.

2. Publication of this notice is no-

tice to any persons whose names or

addresses are unknown.

/s/ Daniel L. Overbey

Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2

February 4, 2025

John E Danner

P O Box 1148

Minocqua WI 54548

715-356-9591

Bar Number

1005567

WNAXLP

Notice To Creditors

7735

VILAS COUNTY

(Three weeks 2/5-2/19/25)

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY

-PROBATE-

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 25 PR 01

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal admin-

istration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth

September 1, 1950 and date of death

September 23, 2019, was domiciled in

Notice To Creditors

7735

Vilas County, State of Wisconsin,

with a mailing address of 6230 Knuth

Lane, Eagle River, WI 54521.

3. All interested persons waived

notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim

against the decedent's estate is May

2, 2025.

5. A claim may be filed at the Vilas

County Courthouse, 330 Court Street,

Eagle River 54521, Wisconsin, Room

Probate Office.

/s/ Dawn Halverson

Probate Registrar

January 23, 2025

Thomas E. Lawrence II

Lawrence & Tyler, S.C.

8617 Hwy. 51 North,

Minocqua, WI 54548

715-356-9403

Bar Number

1002941

WNAXLP

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 hear-

ing on Wednesday, February 19, 2025

at 6:00 pm in the St Germain Commu-

nity Center Room #4, pursuant to

Section 1.608 (c) of Chapter 1- Zon-

ing, Town of St Germain Code of Or-

dinances, to consider the variance

application submitted by Robert Mc-

Dermott with regard to the denial of

issuance of St Germain building per-

mit 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

and discuss the variance application

request and will deliberate the dispo-

sition of the application following the

public hearing. Public observation

and participation will be enabled vir-

tually via Zoom.us using:

Meeting ID 84695377812

and Passcode [002946](https://84695377812)

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 Written comments

must be received by the Clerk no

later than 5:00 pm, Monday, February

17, 2025 to be considered at the pub-

lic hearing.

WNAXLP

Services

FROM PAGE 2

the very hard work, over the years, of many people, from our original volunteers to our town leaders and to the citizens of the area, who turned out over and over to vote to spend their hard-earned dollars to provide this essential service.”

Herzberg noted that the new district is funded by a combination of a tax levied on the landowners of the four towns in the district and the revenues received for responding to emergency medical calls.

“Our leadership team is committed to paying their hard work forward to ensure the well being of all who live and visit the towns in our district.”

About NEMSD
NEMSD covers approximately 250 square miles and operates two staffed ambulances 24/7/365.

In addition to providing emergency medical services, the district also offers classes such as basic CPR and first aid courses to the community as well as local fire and EMS departments.

For more information on the district, medical training, or job opportunities, visit northwoodsems.org/nemsd.

STAND OUT from the crowd!

Advertise your business to thousands of potential customers each week in the

VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW

715-479-4421

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the official public test of the automatic tabulating equipment to be used in the February 18, 2025, Primary Election for Town of Lincoln will be conducted at the Lincoln Town Hall, 1205 Sundstein Road, Eagle River, WI 54521, at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 14, 2025.

Shelly Sauvola, Town Clerk

Notice of Spring Primary and Sample Ballots

February 18, 2025

Office of the Vilas County Clerk

To the voters of Vilas County

Notice is hereby given of a spring primary election to be held in Vilas County on February 18, 2025, at which the officers named below shall be chosen. The names of the candidates for each office, whose nominations have been certified to or filed in this office, are given under the title of the office, each in its proper column, together with the questions submitted to a vote, for a referendum, if any, in the sample ballot below.

Information to Voters

Upon entering the polling place and before being permitted to vote, a voter shall:

state their name and address

show an acceptable form of photo identification*

sign the poll book**

*If a voter does not have acceptable photo identification, the voter may obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

**If the voter is unable to sign the poll book due to disability, a poll worker may write the word “exempt.”

If a voter is not registered to vote, they may register to vote at the polling place serving their residence if the voter provides proof of residence.

Where ballots are distributed to voters, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot.

Upon being permitted to vote, the voter shall enter a voting booth or go to a machine and cast their ballot. The vote should not be cast in any manner other than specified here. Sample ballots or other materials to assist the voter in marking their ballot may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

A voter who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the voter's minor child or minor ward.

An election official may inform the voter of the proper manner for casting a vote but the official may not advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

Assistance for Voting

A voter may select an individual to assist in casting their vote if the voter declares to the presiding official that they are unable to read, have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English, or that due to disability are unable to cast their ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the voter's employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the voter.

Where Optical Scan Voting is Used

The voter shall fill in the oval next to the name of the candidate of their choice for each office for which he or she intends to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the voter shall write in the name of the person of their choice in the space provided for a write-in vote and fill in the oval next to the write-in line. On referendum questions, the voter shall fill in the oval next to “yes” if in favor of the question, or the voter shall fill in the oval next to “no” if opposed to the question.

Spoiled Ballots

If a voter spoils an optical scan ballot, they shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one voter. If the ballot has not been initiated by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the voter shall return it to the election official, who shall issue a proper ballot in its place.

After Voting the Ballot

After an official optical scan ballot is marked, it may be inserted in the security sleeve, so the marks do not show. The voter shall insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. The voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

The following is a sample of the official ballot:

s/ Kimberly A. Olkowski
Vilas County Clerk

VILAS COUNTY

Official Primary Ballot

Nonpartisan Office and Referendum

February 18, 2025

Notice to voters: If you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initiated by two (2) election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initiated by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials (see end of ballot for initials).

General Instructions

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To vote for a name on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●

To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked “write-in” and fill in the oval next to the name like this: ●

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

State Superintendent

Vote for 1

Jeff Wright

Brittany Kinser

Jill Underly

write-in:

Referendum

To vote in favor of a question, fill in the oval next to “Yes,” like this: ●

To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to “No,” like this: ●

NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT ONLY

REFERENDUM TO EXCEED STATE REVENUE LIMITS ON A NON-RECURRING BASIS

NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Yes

No

Continue voting at top of next column.

Official Primary Ballot

Nonpartisan Office and Referendum February 18, 2025

for

VILAS COUNTY

Ballot issued by

Initials of election inspectors

Absentee ballot issued by

Initials of Municipal Clerk or Deputy Clerk

If issued by SVDs, both must initial

Certification of Voter Assistance

(I certify that I marked or read about this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.

Signature of assistor

For Official Use Only

Inspectors: Identify ballots required to be remade:

Overvoted

Damaged

Other

If this is the Original Ballot, write the serial number here:

If this is the Duplicate Ballot, write the serial number here:

Initials of inspectors who remade ballot

WNAXLP

NEWS



FINAL PUSH — With the Northland Pines referendum vote being just days away, District Administrator Scott Foster met with a group of citizens last week at the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library in Eagle River to discuss details of an upcoming referendum vote to ask property owners for additional funds to maintain and support operations of the district. This was the final session in a series of informational meetings hosted by Foster to engage with the public and share the purpose and reasons for the referendum vote. Copies of the material discussed, along with other referendum details, can be found through links on the Northland Pines School District website. The issue will be on the ballot in Eagle River and other district areas next Tuesday, Feb. 18, during the 2025 Spring Primary Election.

— Photos By Bill Zuelke



Spring Primary set next Tuesday; Pines referendum on ballots

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

There isn't much for local elections on the upcoming primary ballot next Tuesday, Feb. 18, but voters will be asked to vote for an operational referendum on whether or not the Northland Pines School District can raise \$5.6 million in additional funds to support maintenance and operational costs within the district that aren't covered by state funds. The referendum question asks "Shall the Northland Pines School District be authorized to exceed state revenue limits by \$5,600,000 each year for a period of three years, on a non-recurring basis for each of the 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years, in order to maintain School district programs and operations?"

If approved, the new referendum would replace the current referendum set to expire at the end of this school year and replace it with \$5.6 million per year for the next three

years. More information about the referendum can be found by visiting <https://www.npsd.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2025.cfm>.

State Superintendent The other vote on some local ballots is for the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Incumbent Dr. Jill Underly is being challenged for the position by candidates Jeff Wright and Brittany Kinser.

Underly has held the role since 2021, but has been involved in public education since 1999. She has experience in both teaching and administration on the college, state and district levels.

For more information about voting in Vilas County and to view sample ballots, visit <https://www.vilascountywi.gov/residents/elections/index.php> or contact the Vilas County Clerk's office at 715-479-3600.

Safety FROM PAGE 4

be more recoveries to come. "Spring ice is the most dangerous ice you can ever have," Quandt said, due to ice thawing from both the top and bottom on warmer days.

People heading out on the ice are urged to contact local bait shops to learn about any known hazardous areas.

Eric Piepenburg, owner of Fisherman's Outpost in Conover, is one local bait shop that provides weekly ice reports during the early

and late winter season. He said while most lakes in the northern portion of the county currently have more than 20 or 24 inches of ice, he will begin updating on ice conditions again in mid-March or so when ice begins to melt.

Piepenburg noted that ice goes out on the shorelines first once warmer springtime temperatures arrive. He uses a drone to look for cracks and open water, and provides these updates on Fisherman's Outpost Facebook page at facebook.com/thefishermansoutpost.

2025 incidents

The DNR has reported

a number of incidents of recreational vehicles going through the ice throughout the state, including six fatal off-highway vehicle incidents so far in 2025. Four of those six incidents involved UTVs going through the ice, as well as one ice-related snowmobile fatality in Ashland County.

There also has been one speed-related fatality which occurred on Plum Lake in Sayner on Jan. 25. The 58-year-old female operator of the snowmobile was traveling at a high rate of speed when she passed several other sleds in the group to take the lead.

According to eye witnesses, the victim missed the boat landing exit and crashed into a tree on shore. The DNR believes alcohol was a factor in the death and is still investigating the crash.

The DNR reminds those going out on the ice to keep these safety tips in mind when operating recreational vehicles during winter.

— This may not be the year to explore new locations; stick to known areas that typically have better ice conditions.

— The DNR does not monitor ice conditions. Local fishing clubs,

outfitters and bait shops are the best sources for local current ice conditions.

— Never consume alcohol or drugs before or during your ride.

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

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

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

Notice of Referendum and Sample Ballots February 18, 2025

OFFICE OF NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK
TO THE VOTERS OF NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Notice is hereby given of a referendum election to be held in the Northland Pines School District, on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at which the question, to be submitted to a vote for a referendum, is shown in the sample ballot below.

Information to Voters

Upon entering the polling place and before being permitted to vote, a voter shall:

- state their name and address
- show an acceptable form of photo identification*
- sign the poll book**

*If a voter does not have acceptable photo identification, the voter may obtain a free photo ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

**If the voter is unable to sign the poll book due to disability, a poll worker may write the word "exempt."

If a voter is not registered to vote, they may register to vote at the polling place serving their residence if the voter provides proof of residence.

Where ballots are distributed to voters, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot.

Upon being permitted to vote, the voter shall enter a voting booth or go to a machine and cast their ballot. The vote should not be cast in any manner other than specified here. Sample ballots or other materials to assist the voter in marking their ballot may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

A voter who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the voter's minor child or minor ward.

An election official may inform the voter of the proper manner for casting a vote but the official may not advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

Assistance for Voting

A voter may select an individual to assist in casting their vote if the voter declares to the presiding official that they are unable to read, have difficulty reading, writing, or understanding English, or that due to disability are unable to cast their ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the voter's employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the voter.

Where Optical Scan Voting is Used

The voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to "yes" if in favor of the question, or the voter shall fill in the oval or connect the arrow next to "no" if opposed to the question.

When using an electronic ballot marking device ("Automark," "ExpressVote," "Clear Access" or "ImageCast Evolution-ICE") to mark an optical scan ballot, the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select "yes" if in favor of the question, or the voter shall touch the screen or use the tactile pad to select "no" if opposed to the question.

Spoiling Ballots

If a voter spoils a paper or optical scan ballot, they shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one voter. If the ballot has not been initialed by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the voter shall return it to the election official, who shall issue a proper ballot in its place.

After Marking the Ballot

After an official optical scan ballot is marked, it may be inserted in the security sleeve so the marks do not show. The voter shall then insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. If a central count system is used, the voter shall insert the ballot in the ballot box and discard the sleeve or deliver the ballot to an inspector for deposit. The voter shall leave the polling place promptly.

The following is a sample of the official ballot:

/s/ Erica Lane
Clerk, Northland Pines School District

Oneida County

Town of Newbold Ward 1

Vilas County

Town of Cloverland, Town of Conover, Town of Land O'Lakes, Town of Lincoln, Town of Phelps, Town of Plum Lake, Town of St. Germain, Town of Washington, City of Eagle River.

Ballot ID: 1110 Town of Newbold, Ward 1

Official Primary Ballot
Nonpartisan Office and Referendum
February 18, 2025

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General Instructions	Referendum
If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help (absentee voters: contact your municipal clerk).	To vote in favor of a question, fill in the oval next to "Yes," like this: <input type="radio"/> To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to "No," like this: <input type="radio"/>
To vote for a name on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the name like this: <input type="radio"/>	School District REFERENDUM TO EXCEED STATE REVENUE LIMITS ON A NON-RECURRING BASIS NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT Shall the Northland Pines School District be authorized to exceed state revenue limits by \$5,600,000 each year for a period of three years on a non-recurring basis for each of the 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 school years, in order to maintain School District programs and operations? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write-in" and fill in the oval next to the name like this: <input type="radio"/>	
State Superintendent of Public Instruction	
State Superintendent Vote for 1	
<input type="radio"/> Jeff Wright	
<input type="radio"/> Brittany Kinser	
<input type="radio"/> Jill Underly	
<input type="radio"/> write-in:	

Continue voting at top of next column.

Official Primary Ballot Nonpartisan Office and Referendum February 18, 2025 for	Ballot issued by	For Official Use Only
Town of Newbold, Ward 1 Oneida County Ballot ID: 1110	Initials of election inspectors	Inspectors: Identify ballots required to be remade: <input type="checkbox"/> Overvoted <input type="checkbox"/> Damaged <input type="checkbox"/> Other
	Absentee ballot issued by	
	Initials of Municipal Clerk or Deputy Clerk	
	If issued by SVDs, both must initial	
Certification of Voter Assistance I certify that I marked or read aloud this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.	If this is the Original Ballot, write the serial number here: _____ If this is the Duplicate Ballot, write the serial number here: _____	
	Signature of assistor	Initials of inspectors who remade ballot

Ballot ID: 4703 Town of Cloverland, Ward 1-2

Official Primary Ballot
Nonpartisan Office and Referendum
February 18, 2025

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General Instructions	Referendum
If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help (absentee voters: contact your municipal clerk).	To vote in favor of a question, fill in the oval next to "Yes," like this: <input type="radio"/> To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to "No," like this: <input type="radio"/>
To vote for a name on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the name like this: <input type="radio"/>	NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT ONLY REFERENDUM TO EXCEED STATE REVENUE LIMITS ON A NON-RECURRING BASIS NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT Shall the Northland Pines School District be authorized to exceed state revenue limits by \$5,600,000 each year for a period of three years on a non-recurring basis for each of the 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 school years, in order to maintain School District programs and operations? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write-in" and fill in the oval next to the name like this: <input type="radio"/>	
State Superintendent of Public Instruction	
State Superintendent Vote for 1	
<input type="radio"/> Jeff Wright	
<input type="radio"/> Brittany Kinser	
<input type="radio"/> Jill Underly	
<input type="radio"/> write-in:	

Continue voting at top of next column.

Official Primary Ballot Nonpartisan Office and Referendum February 18, 2025 for	Ballot issued by	For Official Use Only
Town of Cloverland, W1-2 Vilas County Ballot ID: 4703	Initials of election inspectors	Inspectors: Identify ballots required to be remade: <input type="checkbox"/> Overvoted <input type="checkbox"/> Damaged <input type="checkbox"/> Other
	Absentee ballot issued by	
	Initials of Municipal Clerk or Deputy Clerk	
	If issued by SVDs, both must initial	
Certification of Voter Assistance I certify that I marked or read aloud this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.	If this is the Original Ballot, write the serial number here: _____ If this is the Duplicate Ballot, write the serial number here: _____	
	Signature of assistor	Initials of inspectors who remade ballot

Sports



Reegan Roy of the Rebel Jays in the process of pinning his opponent during the conference meet in Elcho last week. It was Roy's 46th win of the season. —Photos By William Zuelke

Rebel Jays head to regionals with confidence

BY WILLIAM ZUELKE
CORRESPONDENT

Following a period in the past two weeks when the Wabeno-Laona-Three Lakes varsity wrestling team dominated opponents by winning seven of eight duals, the squad now heads to the WIAA Division 3 Regional Championship tournament this Saturday. The squad is confident it will be well represented, with wrestlers advancing to the sectional tournament the following week.

“This is it,” head coach Seth Senter said after the Rebel Jays took two of three team victories at the Northern Lakes Conference meet last Friday. “This is everybody’s favorite time of the season. This is go time. Every wrestler and every team will start new at 0-0 and we all have to work hard to reach for championship-level success. We also have opportunities to re-write the script on difficult matches early in the season and take the necessary corrective actions to change the results in our favor.”

Co-head coach Colin Schubert will join Senter to lead the team through “strategic practice sessions” scheduled this week to carry momentum of recent events, when wrestlers such as Reegan Roy, Max Clark, Ryker Schingeck and Jayse Demerath have put up significant match victories, including each having undefeated matches in the conference meet last Friday night at Elcho High School.

While the team has had



Freshman wrestler Ryker Schingeck (top) got to the 40th win milestone against a wrestler from Crandon at the conference championships last week.

great success in recent weeks with consecutive dual wins against seven different high schools, they ended the streak Friday in an intense matchup with Crandon High School where the Rebel Jays struggled and lost the dual by a score of 54-21. Earlier in the night, the team easily defeated wrestlers from Elcho and Florence by scores of 66-12 and 60-23. Roy, at 106 pounds, was 3-0 at the event with a pin victory in his first match. He is now 46-2 this year and will likely reach the milestone 100-win mark before the season concludes. If so, he would be one of only a small number of wrestlers to ever reach the mark as a sophomore.

Clark (113 lbs.), Demerath (120 lbs.), and Schingeck

(126 lbs.) each had matching 3-0 records, including a pin victory for Demerath against Wyatt Houle of Crandon early in the first period of his match, which lifted the team after a streak of match losses. Clark picked up his 38th win of the season, while Schingeck picked up win number 40, even though he started the season late due to an international tournament where he competed during the same period.

Brody Hoffman also had a nice conference meet with a 2-1 record, despite a tough 7-5 loss at 190 pounds by decision to Cruz Palubicki of Crandon that went down to the wire. Hoffman was trailing 3-0 after the first period, but battled back in the match.

“Brody is a good, tough

wrestler,” Senter added. “He has proven that he is a true competitor. The best is still to come for this kid.”

Next up for the Rebel Jays is the WIAA Regional Championship tournament this Saturday, February 15, at Crandon High School, with times on the mat beginning at 9:30 a.m. There will be 15 schools competing to advance to the sectional round of postseason action. The top two teams and the top four wrestlers in each weight class will advance. There is also a separate girls regional event this Friday, February 14, at Wausau West High School where Kira Bieber will represent the Rebel Jays in the 145-silver weight class.

Rhineland/Pines ski teams place second in conference

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Rhineland/Pines alpine ski and snowboarding team had a pretty consistent season, with both the girls and boys taking second in the Northern Conference standings after five events. The entire team qualified for the state meet at Mt. La Crosse this weekend.

The team finished the conference season at its home hill at Ski Brule this past weekend.

It was another second-place finish on the boys side as they accumulated 109 points, which was behind Wausau/D.C. Everest’s score of 46.

On the girls side, Rhineland/Pines had their best score of the season with 101 points and took first place.

Senior Jason Linn led Pines boys athletes with a 10th-place overall finish after a three-race time of 106.92. He finished 10th

best overall throughout the conference season after gaining 22 place points in the five events.

Sophomore Eli Repenshek finished a few spots below Linn in the final conference meet, taking 13th overall with a time of 108.38. He took a top-10 spot with his giant slalom run time of 32.91, but had a hiccup in the super giant where he ranked 22nd out of 37 competitors.

For the girls, freshman Jessica Linn helped pace the girls division for Northland Pines athletes with a sixth-place finish. She ranked inside the top six in two of her runs with times of 44.09 in the slalom and 34.38 in the giant slalom. Linn used that performance to finish the NC season ranked in the top 10 in all three categories in her first varsity season. Eliana Conrad, the other girls Northland Pines athlete, ended her final conference race with a combined time of 123.39, which was good



The Rhineland/Northland Pines alpine ski and snowboarding team qualified for the state tournament in LaCrosse this weekend after taking second in the Northern Conference this season. —Contributed Photo

for 13th place.

The state meet is set for

Sunday and Monday, Feb. 14-17, at Mt. La Crosse.



Sideline Scoop

BY JACOB HEID

Area hockey teams prepare for playoffs

As the WIAA boys and girls hockey regular seasons quickly approach the end, the Northland Pines girls and boys hockey teams found out this past weekend where they stand for the upcoming playoffs.

For the Pines boys team, a current 10-11 (4-4) record had them seeded as a No. 4 seed in the D2 hockey playoffs. With that, the Eagles will host No. 5-seeded Antigo/ Wittenberg-Birnamwood inside the Eagle River Ice Arena Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. The two teams faced each other twice this season, with the season series being knotted at 1-1 with both teams finding the win column.

The winner of that regional contest will face top-seeded Tomahawk or No. 8-seeded Rhineland on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Pines is led by junior Josh Graves, who has 24 points this season. Freshman Cooper Saari and sophomore Sam Shrock each have 18 apiece to follow.

The Eagles will finish the regular season out this week before the playoffs begin next week.

On the girls side, a tough offensive year has haunted the Pines co-op in multiple games. The Eagles have the No. 5 seed for the playoffs and will travel down to Stevens Point to face Wisconsin Valley Union, who is the No. 4 seed for the playoffs. It is a rematch from last year’s opening-round game where the Eagles stole the road playoff victory in overtime. The rematch is set for Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. The winner will travel to face the top-seeded Central Wisconsin Storm on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Pines sits at 4-18 on the year and has two games this week to finish the regular season. The final game is set for Friday, Feb. 14, against the Badger Lightning. Puck drop is slated for 7 p.m.

Jays fall in two crucial NLC games

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

Last week was a chance for the Three Lakes boys basketball team to make a jump in the Northern Lakes Conference standings with games against the top two teams, Crandon on Feb. 4 and Laona-Wabeno Feb. 7. The Jays fell in both contests, 68-60 and 64-49, respectively.

The Jays fell to 3-4 in the conference and sit in third place while Crandon and Laona-Wabeno improved to 8-1 and 6-1, respectively.

“We didn’t play our best game, but not our worst in this contest. Crandon is a very good team; they tower over us in height, they have the best point guard in the conference, and they shot lights out in this game,” coach George Lurvey said about the Crandon loss.

Despite two offensively dominant performances by freshman Easton Lurvey (23 points) and senior Peyton Pitlik (26 points), rebounding became the leading factor in the loss. Three different Crandon players finished with 10 or more rebounds while outrebounding the Jays in the game 47-34. THL stayed in the game for the most part, despite the Cardinals controlling the glass, which was a battle all night long. Pitlik did battle through that adversity and grabbed 13 boards of his own to lead the Bluejays.

“The biggest difference in this game was the rebounding; sometimes, no matter how well you box out, 6’5” just out rebounds 5’7,” stated Lurvey.

Laona-Wabeno loss

The start to a home NLC game against the Rebels was a mixture of

events for the Jays, who could’ve controlled the early part of the contest, but instead trailed 8-2 before Pitlik drilled a straight-away 3-pointer to make it an 8-5 game.

“Laona-Wabeno’s pressure defense got us out of rhythm on offense and we shot extremely poorly,” stated Lurvey. “At the beginning of the game, we got seven consecutive stops defensively and we had a 2-0 lead. Getting defensive stops is a huge goal, but if we can’t score on offense it obviously isn’t nearly as effective.”

Three Lakes continued to trail for the remaining part of the half, where it was a 23-11 score at one point before Lurvey got a triple to get back within single digits.

A relatively close game at halftime started to get away from the Bluejays as they lacked a balanced scoring attack, which has helped them to win games previously this season.

A 33-23 game got down to seven points before the visiting Rebels extended the lead back to 15 with about six minutes to play.

“We continue to lack balanced scoring, which has been our Achilles heel all season,” explained Lurvey.

Lurvey followed up his 23-point performance with another 20 points in the loss and also 11 rebounds. Pitlik finished with 19 and 10 rebounds. The team shot 33% from the floor compared to 48% from Laona-Wabeno.

The Jays, 6-11 overall and 3-4 in the NLC, were back in action at home Monday against Prentice before traveling to Florence on Thursday, Feb. 13, and returning back home for a game versus Phillips Monday, Feb. 17. All games are set for 7:15 p.m.

SPORTS

Eagles improve to 5-4 in GNC with 55-44 win over Lakeland

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH
CORRESPONDENT

The Northland Pines basketball team outscored Lakeland 21-10 in the final 7 minutes of the game to get a big 55-44 Great Northern Conference (GNC) victory on the Eagles' home court last Friday night.

"This was a battle from start to finish," said Pines coach Terry Klemett. "Our guys really played well on both sides of the ball and we played for each other. It was a playoff-like atmosphere and felt like a tournament game."

The first half was a defensive battle as the Eagles took a 6-0 lead before Lakeland closed the gap to 15-12 with 6:54 remaining. Pines took a 19-14 lead with 4:15 to go, but Lakeland battled back to knot the game at 19-19 at the half.

Lakeland went on a 9-3 run early in the second half to take a 28-22 lead, but the Eagles stormed back to tie the game at 34-34 with 7:15 remaining in the game. That's when Pines finally took control.

The Eagles went on an 11-3 run that resulted in a Lakeland timeout with 5:31 to play and Pines leading 45-37. The Eagles built a 54-40 lead with 1:20 remaining and cruised to the 11-point victory.

"We had such a good week of practice and made some changes defensively and offensively that really made the difference in

the outcome for us," said Klemett. "I am very pleased with the way we focused in practice and in the game."

Junior Mylo Albrecht led the Eagles with 24 points and six rebounds. Senior Cody Vojta had 10 points and 11 rebounds. Jonathan Miller and A.J. Muench had eight points apiece. The Eagles played solid on offense, committing just eight turnovers. Pines shot 56% from the field and 28% from beyond the arc.

Pines, 11-8 overall and 5-4 in the GNC, was scheduled to play at Mosinee on Tuesday of this week and will host Medford this Friday, Feb. 14. Both are GNC games starting at 7:15 p.m. Rhinelander leads the GNC at 7-2, followed by Medford at 6-2, Mosinee at 5-2, Pines at 5-4, Antigo at 3-5, Lakeland at 3-6 and Tomahawk at 0-8.

Next Tuesday, Feb. 18, the Eagles will host Crandon in a nonconference game. The final game of the regular season will be against Antigo Friday, Feb. 21, with Senior Night at the fieldhouse.

"We are playing great basketball at the right time as we head into another tough week of conference games and finish out the regular season," said Klemett. "We are trying to make a strong push in the Regionals and these games should prepare us for those opponents."

Windigo cruise past Jets in weekend sweep

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wisconsin Windigo pleased fans from around the state and country as it came away with 4-1 and 4-0 victories to sweep the Janesville Jets during USA Hockey's Pond Hockey weekend in Eagle River.

Hunter Hayes, a Wisconsin Windigo newcomer who was recently acquired by the Minnesota Mallards, scored early in the game Friday to make his presence known with two first-period goals.

"I was incredibly pleased with our effort this weekend. Janesville is a talented team with

several players committed to D-1 college teams. We played much more disciplined hockey than we have recently," said head coach John Mitchell. "The guys maintained the structure we were looking for and picked up defensive assignments pretty well for the most part."

Friday was a quick start with the new face making an impact in his first shift on the ice. Hayes gave Wisconsin a 1-0 lead at 1:54 of the first period before the visiting Jets answered just over a minute later to make it a 1-1 game early.

At 16:41 of the first, Hayes stripped a Janesville player of the puck in the neutral zone and passed it over to Ben Aucoin.

Aucoin drew the defenseman and a Janesville back checker



The Wisconsin Windigo remain in first place of the Midwest Division of the North American Hockey League after a sweep of the Janesville Jets this past weekend in Eagle River.

—Contributed Photo

to him, which left Hayes alone. He slid the puck over to Hayes and he buried his second inside the near post to make it a 2-1 game after one period.

The Windigo outshot the Jets 21-6 in the second and came away with one goal to put the game at 3-1 heading into the third period. Zach Cline had the lone goal as he redirected one into the net at 9:31 of the second.

Cashen Naeve got a tally early in the third as the

final goal of the night in the 4-1 victory. Wisconsin came away with the 49-21 shot advantage, while Beau Altman denied 20 of the 21 shots he faced in the win.

Saturday was much of the same for the Windigo as they completed a shutout. Cline continued his nice weekend with two of the four goals on Saturday to help the offense roll.

It took a little longer into the first, but Ronnie Hill got the opening tally for

the Windigo after a shot from the mid-slot off the forecheck gave the home team a 1-0 advantage.

That score held before Cline and Michael Ryan made it a 3-0 game midway through and late in the second period.

A penalty kill from the Windigo, which was perfect all weekend, led to Cline collecting his third of the weekend just over halfway through the third on a breakaway that fooled the Jets' netminder.

"Zach Cline's shorthanded goal was the exclamation point for our PK unit. Cline had a great weekend with three goals and one assist," stated Mitchell.

Lucas Szyszka got the start in net for the Windigo and made 13 saves en route to his fourth shutout and 21st win of the season.

"Our goaltending has really solidified. It was great to see Lucas Szyszka get another shutout and Beau Altman pick up another win," explained Mitchell. "It's nice to have two guys we can rely on back there."

Wisconsin is off this weekend for the Top Prospects Tournament, where Mitchell and seven of the Windigo players will be participating. The team will be back in action in Eagle River against the Springfield Jr. Blues Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21-22, with both games at 7 p.m.

Pines baseball set to play at AmFam Field in May

BY NEWS-REVIEW STAFF

The Northland Pines baseball team has the chance to play at American Family Field Memorial Day weekend, Saturday, May 24, at 2 p.m. The game is scheduled to be against Mosinee.

Fans are encouraged to buy \$25 Brewer game ticket vouchers, which can be redeemable for roughly 70 Brewer games this year in the field and

loge level outfield box sections.

"The game is set, but to make sure we play - we need to sell 500 total vouchers," said Pines Athletic and Activities Director A.J. Zayia.

Vouchers can be purchased and redeemed starting on Friday, Feb. 14.

"The sales should be completed by May 12, but the links and voucher codes will still be active for the whole season," the

Brewers told Jeff Janssen, a Pines assistant baseball coach. "The vouchers must be redeemed for a game by Sept 11. Any vouchers that are not redeemed by that date will be automatically redeemed for one of the remaining games in 2025."

Visit www.brewers.com/amateurbaseball, scroll down to the 'buy group vouchers tab' and use coupon code 25ABNORTHLAND.



NORTHLAND PINES GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM PLAYERS - Front Row Left to Right: Lilah Converse, Ava Carrillo, Jalyn Zadnik, Lucy Nowak, Ellie Martens, Emalee Detienne, Mia Tulowitzky, Larken Paff. **Second Row:** Managers Juliette Ellenberger and Ava Hamblin, Lily Pequet, Ally Fuller, Ceci Cortazar, Ella Koca, Bella Nowak, Giada Bass, Lilly Beittler, Olivia Peterson, Reese Retallick, Coach Heleniak, Manager Belle Renkes. **Back Row:** Coach Stebbeds, Ella Hahn, Sarah Nordine, Avery Renkes, Taylor Maillette, Jess Gries, Ruby Kasper, Coach Nesbitt.

#1 D.C. Everest Co-op

@Greenheck
Tue, Feb 25
7:00 PM

Sectional
Champion

#5 Northland Pines Co-op

Thu, Feb 20 7:00 PM
@Ice Hawks Arena
#4 Stevens Point Area Senior High

#3 Hayward Co-op

Thu, Feb 20 7:00 PM
@Hayward Sports Center

#6 Medford/Rib Lake

Tue, Feb 25 7:00 PM
@Superior Ice Arena

Wessman Ice Arena
11:00 AM
Sat, Mar 1

#2 Superior/Northwestern

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Feb. 13 - Feb. 19, 2025

WINTER 2024-'25

Northland Pines Eagles

Boys Basketball
Fri, Feb. 14 vs Medford - 7:15pm
Tues., Feb. 18 vs Crandon - 7:15pm

Girls Basketball
Fri, Feb. 14 at Medford - 7:00pm
Mon, Feb. 17 vs Wittenberg-Biramwood - 7:00pm

Three Lakes Blue Jays

Boys Basketball
Thurs., Feb. 13 at Florence - 7:15pm
Mon., Feb. 17 vs Phillips - 7:15pm
Tues., Feb. 18 vs Elcho - 7:15pm

Girls Basketball
Thurs., Feb. 13 at Mellen - 5:45pm
Tues., Feb. 18 vs Elcho - 5:45pm

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SPORTS

Lady Jays keep offense hot in win against Clippers

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

It was another high-scoring offensive night for the Three Lakes-Phelps girls basketball team as it beat Sturgeon Bay at home 66-47 Feb. 3 as a tune-up before falling again, 50-39, inside the Northern Lakes Conference against Florence Feb. 6.



Freshman Rylee Glembin drives to the basket before being fouled in the first half.

The Sturgeon Bay win comes after the Jays scored 70 points in a nonconference win against Wakefield-Marenisco Jan. 31.

“The first half and second half were night and day,” said TLP head coach Rich Javenkoski. “We couldn’t get anything to fall right away, but the second half was much better. It was a really balanced effort on offense.”

It was a tight contest early between the Jays, and the Clippers led 7-6 a handful of minutes into the game.

Freshman guard Malia Szews finally buried a 3-pointer from the left wing to grab a small 9-7 lead, before junior Kailyn Fogerty sparked a 6-0 run with a 3-pointer and fast break lay-in to make it a six-point game, 19-13, before Sturgeon Bay went on a run of its own to get back within a possession.

TLP held the lead into halftime as Kaylee Wilson made a 3-pointer with just under a minute and a half to go before the break to make it an eight-point game.

Junior Haylee Barnekow broke loose in the second half as she connected on multiple 3-pointers and scored all 17 of her points in the final half that helped the Jays extend its lead to double digits, 54-41, with about seven minutes left in the game.

“Haylee hit two or three 3s to get us going and we started pulling away,” said Javenkoski.

TLP also dominated the glass as it outrebounded Sturgeon Bay 60-38 in the contest.

The Jays shot 31% from



Three Lakes freshman Malia Szews tries to find a way to work around a Florence defender during a 50-39 conference loss Thursday night in Three Lakes.

–Photos By William Zuelke

some of the freshmen played some minutes and didn’t score, but impacted the game on the glass.

A few days later, the Lady Jays, 0-5 inside the NLC, and 6-11 overall, were in a tight game against the Bobcats for 24 minutes. A tight first half saw TLP lead 11-10 with under eight to play in the first half, which led to a 21-21 game at the break.

The Jays held a 35-29 lead with roughly nine minutes to play, but the visiting Bobcats stormed back to

Eagles drop three games; regular season will come to close

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Northland Pines girls hockey co-op (4-17) had a busy week last week with three games on the schedule as the playoffs near. Starting the week with a few road losses, the Eagles returned closer to home to face the Badger Lightning before closing the regular season this week with two games.

Early-week losses

In a makeup game at Rhinelander Ice Arena, where it was senior night for the two seniors on the team, the Eagles struggled to find any offense in an 11-0 loss.

The Fox Cities Stars found the back of the net early and often in all three periods.

The visitors fired 24 shots on Rhinelander junior goaltender Jayln Zadnik, who made her

third start of the season. Four of those shots snuck past Zadnik, with three of them coming in the first 10 minutes of the game.

Fox Cities had three more goals in the second on 22 shots, with early tallies at 2:20 and 5:20 of the period.

The Eagles combined for two shots on net during the first 34 minutes of the game as they trailed 7-0 heading into the third. Fox Cities wasn’t finished, as four more pucks found the back of the net, with three of them coming within three and a half minutes.

It was a quick turnaround for the Eagles as they took the long drive to Ashland to face the Hayward co-op on Feb. 4.

The performance of freshman netminder Lucy Nowak kept Pines in the game for the first two periods as the Hurricanes led 2-0 heading into the third. Nowak denied 47 of



THIRD PLACE — The Eagle Lanes dartball team recently entered a five-man tournament in Hurley with Wisconsin and Upper Peninsula teams participating. The team came away with a top-three finish in the double elimination tournament. Team members include, from left to right, Mike Ariola, Warner Russell, Joe Romdenne, John Ariola and Bob Wise.

–Contributed Photo

Pines girls dominate Watersmeet; fall at Lakeland late in the week

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

It was an all-around team effort for the Northland Pines girls basketball team as it opened the week with a nonconference win against Watersmeet, 65-30, at home Feb. 4.

The Eagles followed that up with a 100-31 Great Northern Conference loss to a tough Lakeland squad Friday night.

“We were able to get some good runs on our offense, especially in the second half with running our five-out motion. Great cuts and high-speed ball movement provided opportunities,” said Pines coach Jaclyn Halsey after the Watersmeet win. “As a team, we also crashed the boards hard, with a season team high of 45 rebounds.”

The Eagles had two quality offensive performers, while all 12 players on the team suited up for the game. Senior Vienna Klemett finished the home win with 27 points, seven rebounds, two assists and five steals. She finished the night by shooting 9-of-16 from the floor. Natalie Kohn followed that up with 20 points of her own, along with nine rebounds and three steals.

“I have been noticing Natalie really taking what

we are working on in practice and trying to add this to her game,” noted Halsey. “I love watching her footwork as a post gets better and better.”

The Eagles fell to 1-8 in the GNC after the Friday night loss to the conference-leading T-Birds.

Pines returned to action inside the Northland Pines Fieldhouse Tuesday night against Mosinee, before making the trek down to Medford Friday, Feb. 14, for a 7:15 p.m. tipoff with the Raiders.

They will return home to play Wittenberg-Biramwood Monday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m.

STANDINGS

THREE LAKES DARTBALL							
Results of 2/5/25							
Team Results: Village People 2, Oneida Village II 1; Wildcats 1, Legion Newbies 1 (one tie)							
Top women shooters:							
Bev Beyer 4/11, Linda Swanson 2/6, Cindy Klopstein 3/9, Diane Hoffman 1/9							
Top men shooters:							
Paul Kaiser 4/11, Dale Johnson 2/5, Denny Klopstein 4/9, Dennis Hoffman 5/10							
Home Runs:							
Linda Swanson, Missy Zanzinger, Alex Swanson							
Standings							
				W	L	T	
Wildcats				22	10		
Village People				16	16		
Legion Newbies				14	17		
Oneida Village II				11	20		
EAGLE RIVER POOL LEAGUE							
Results of 2/6/25							
Results: Uncle Kent's I 9, Log Cabin 7; Club 45 III 10, Club 45 I 6; Brew's Pub 13, Uncle Kent's II 3; Northern Exposure 9, Denoyer's II 7; Eagle Lanes 9, Denoyer's I 7; Lumpy's 12, Club 45 II 4							
Eight Ball Runs: Rick Krus							
Standings				W	L		
Eagle Lanes				184	88		
Brew's Pub				169	103		
Club 45 III				161	111		
Northern Exposure				160	112		
						W	L
Denoyer's I				148	124		
Uncle Kent's I				146	126		
Lumpy's				130	142		
Club 45 I				124	148		
Denoyer's II				115	148		
Uncle Kent's II				103	157		
Log Cabin				96	176		
Club 45 II				93	179		
EAGLE RIVER DARTBALL							
Results of 2/5/25							
Team results: Thunderbird 3, Club 45 0; Veterans Center 3, Mud Creek II 0; Eagle Lanes 2, Sweetwater I 1; Shotskis 2, Club Denoyer 1; Sweetwater II 2, Mud Creek I 1							
Top women shooters:							
Tina Aiello 10/22, Kim Winter 6/26, Jane Klug 5/19, Jenni Linn 4/18, Annaly May 3/18							
Top men shooters:							
Joe Romdenne 16/30, John Ariola 14/30, Bob Wise 13/30, Dan Welzien 11/28, Derric Ternig 10/28, Dan Haggard 9/27, Brian Handeland 8/21, Bill Ernst 7/22, John Gabriel 6/28, Bob Kubrick 5/15, Tony LaChapelle 5/18, Keith Popp 4/20							
Home runs:							
Jean Rhyner, Annaly May, Frank Merkle							
Standings				W	L		
Eagle Lanes				26	13		
Sweetwater II				25	14		
						W	L
Shotskis				24	15		
Club 45				23	15		
					(one tie)		
Thunderbird				22	17		
Sweetwater I				20	19		
Veterans Center				15	23		
					(one tie)		
Club Denoyer				15	24		
Mud Creek II				13	26		
Mud Creek I				11	28		
THREE LAKES POOL LEAGUE							
Results of 2/5/25							
Results: Spiritview II 15, Hideaway 1; Rendezvous 14, Legion OV 2; Eagles 13, Black Forest 3; Racks and Rods 10, Spiritview I 6; Loop I 10, Pine Isle I 6; Pine Isle II 9, Loop II 7							
Eight Ball Runs: Justin Pollack, Richard Wilson, Greg Piasecki, Gary Vozka, Randy Jewell							
Eight Ball Breaks: None							
Standings				W	L		
Rendezvous				174	66		
Racks and Rods				154	86		
Spiritview II				141	99		
Pine Isle II				140	100		
Spiritview Eagles				126	114		
TOL II				122	118		
Legion OV				117	123		
Black Forest				113	127		
Spiritview I				113	127		
TOL I				112	128		
Pine Isle I				78	162		
Hideaway				50	190		

Eagles open GNC tourney with win

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

It was a good start to the Great Northern Conference tournament play for the No. 5-seed Northland Pines boys hockey team last week as they hit the road against No. 4-seeded Antigo and came away with a dominant 9-3 win.

It was the second-highest scoring output this season for the Eagles.

After giving up five goals to the Red Robins the first time, head coach Zach Otto said the team improved on that and it helped their offense.

“Our main goal was to play good defense and improve our goals against in our second game versus Antigo. We succeeded in that and it helped our offensive production,” he said.

The Red Robins responded quickly out of the intermission and used the first 1:30 of the second to score twice for a 2-1 lead. Pines then scored eight of the next nine goals that were scored, including three unanswered to end the middle frame.

Jazek Jantzen, Julian Merschdorf and Kieilty scored roughly two minutes from each other to grab a two-goal lead after two, 4-2.

Antigo got back within

The Eagles got out to a fast start on both sides of the ice, firing 14 shots to Antigo’s six in the first period and scoring the period’s only goal.

Senior Anthony Kieilty lit the lamp late into the first at the 15:23 mark to give the Eagles a slight advantage heading into the locker room.

It’s always good to capitalize on opportunities with the power play as well,” explained Otto. “That’s something we will need to continue to do to make a good run in the playoffs against very good teams.”

Pines recently played a makeup game at Medford Feb. 6, before it was back in GNC-tournament play this past Tuesday at top-seeded Tomahawk, before hosting Pacelli this Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m.

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Lifestyle

Section B

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Wednesday, February 12, 2025



GAME ON — Over 200 hockey teams from across 14 states battled on the ice of Dollar Lake in Eagle River at the 2025 Pond Hockey Championship last weekend. Over the course of 350 games, on rinks crafted by the Eagle River Fire Department, teams in men's and women's divisions fought for the title of pond hockey champs. This is the first time this event has been held since its cancellation last year due to unseasonably high temperatures melting ice on both lakes and alternate arenas.

—Photos By Jacob Heid and Ashley Heid



Northwoods Share's community dinner set for Feb. 18

Northwoods Share (NWS) will host its next community dinner on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the Rock Mission Center in Eagle River. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. for appetizers and dinner is served at 5:30 p.m. Our Savior Lutheran Church and Incredible Bank are sponsoring the meal, which Trigs will cater, and includes a menu of lasagna, salad, corn, garlic bread and cupcakes.

There will be an opportunity to give a free-will

offering for those interested. NWS is a nonprofit organization with a Needs Ministry which provides a pantry with free paper products and soaps, along with personal care items and clothing, to assist families in the community. This is open every Wednesday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. located just behind The Rock Mission Center, across from Tone Zone in Eagle River. NWS also has a program called ICHELP that helps

financially and assists families in budgeting with spending journals. There is a 24-hour phone number available for emergencies at (715) 891-8966. Most recently, NWS opened its first Esther's House as a transitional home for moms and their children. For more information on any of these services, visit www.NorthwoodsShare.org.

Artisan bazaar to be part of Blizzard Blast

The Northwoods Blizzard Blast will feature an artisan bazaar from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Conover Community Center adjacent to the park on Saturday, Feb. 15. Hand-crafted winter wear, seasonal crafts, and nature-inspired jewelry will be showcased. There will be samplings of honey, maple syrup, small batch toffee, and jams and jellies

available, along with other favorites and baked goods to take home. Authentic fur hats, muffs, headbands, gloves, sweater mittens and scarves will be showcased. Home décor, gnomes, birdhouses, yard games, ceramic and etched glass art, and more will be for sale. Offerings will also include goat milk lotions and soaps, as well as alpaca products. The Conover Community

Center is located at 4665 Highway K East, next to the Conover Post Office. Adjacent to the community center will be the Northwoods Blizzard Blast, with activities such as recliner races, ice bowling, slap hockey events, and kids' activities. For more information, visit northwoods-blizzardblast.com or find Northwoods Blizzard Blast on Facebook.



Not that you asked, but ...

BY ERIC JOHNSON

The price of love

"Love is not to be purchased, and affection has no price." — St. Jerome (347-420 A.D.)

The countdown is on to Valentine's Day this Friday, Feb. 14, in this bleak mid-winter season of love. The modern world being what it is, if St. Jerome were still around, much less third century courtly love patron saint and holiday namesake Valentine, they might be surprised — dismayed? — to find that, apparently, love does indeed have a price, this year a projected record \$27.5 billion in the U.S. alone. That comes out to \$188.81 per person by the time such things as candy, flowers, a Valentine's Day card and a romantic dinner for two are factored into the equation. That reality was driven home to me the other day as I was browsing the "For Her" selection of Valentine's Day greeting cards at our local "mart," each card sampled more costly than the next — \$6.99, \$7.99 and, my eyes popping out my head ala late British actor and comedian Marty Feldman and an audible "Jiminy H. Kroutz" (being a family newspaper) escaping my lips, \$9.99. I dared not open another card for fear the cost of that one and what I might say next.

Small wonder then that greeting cards are a \$5.7 billion industry in the U.S. Holy inflation, Batman! When did greeting cards get so expensive, anyway? I could walk over to the "Market" side of the store and get myself a 12-pack of PBR longnecks and still have a penny left for my thoughts. Or being in the spirit of the holiday, I could get my wife a Valentine's Day 6-pack of her favorite, Spaten Optimator, for \$9.79.

To JOHNSON, Pg. 12

Pines to present "Something Rotten" this weekend

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, Addison 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 Bresher and Benjamin Braudel 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



Owen Libby looks into the future as Nostradamus. Tickets are now on sale at the high school for public performances scheduled for Feb. 14, 15 and 16. —Photos By Michelle Drew 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

To MUSICAL, Pg. 12

LIFESTYLE



FORK DONATION—Ryan Kirby, of Eagle River, nominated Feed Our Rural Kids for Sysco's Nourishing Neighbors Program because, "I think it's such a great way to help those in need, with an estimated one in six children living in food-insecure homes." Sysco's Director of Business Specialists Jeff Creswell presented the \$1500 donation with Kirby to FORK President Perry Pokrandt (left). —Contributed Photo

Gerry and Laura Plank to headline Psalm 150 Project

Gerry and Laura Plank will headline the Tuesday, Feb. 18, Psalm 150 Project at Union Congregational Church in Three Lakes at 7 p.m. with a program of love songs from hymns to classic rock.

Gerry is a well-known musician in the area, having served as the band director for the Northland Pines High School and other North Woods communities. Laura served as a music educator for elementary, middle and high school groups in the NPHS district.

Together they have formed their own band and

play for area events and private parties.

Laura is a vocalist in the vein of Karen Carpenter and the principal keyboardist. For more information about the band, visit Gandl band.

Gerry is also the videographer for Christ Lutheran Church in Eagle River where he plays flute, clarinet, soprano, alto and tenor sax, baritone and trumpet. He has performed with the Oshkosh Symphony, Al Johnson of the Count Basie band, Keanu Reeves Summerfest opening, Kenny Rogers and many others. He can now be found

playing for the Northwoods Jazz Group, Flying Blind, and other music groups in the area.

The mission of Union Congregational Church, as it restructures, is threefold: to proclaim Christ; to promote community; and to provide support to Bible-based ministries in the town of Three Lakes and beyond. The Psalm 150 Project is an outreach ministry of Union church that seeks to provide a venue for local musicians to praise God in the sanctuary with a variety of musical instruments, dance, and genres.

"We are excited to have

Gerry and Laura bring their music to the community of Three Lakes," said event organizer, Valeri Snedden.

"One of the ways Union is working to achieve community is by sharing the love offerings we receive with local organizations within the community, and we have chosen the Three Lakes Fire Department to be the recipient of this event," stated newly elected moderator, Diane Geis.

For more information about the event, contact Snedden at 715-891-7910.

Weenie roast set Sunday in Three Lakes

Northern Snowmobile Club will hold its annual weenie roast on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Three Lakes.

The event will take place at SpiritView Lakeside Supper Club on Highway 32. The public is welcome to attend this free event.

There will be hot dogs

and marshmallows to toast over the open fire. Hot and cold beverages will also be available.

Northern Lights supports fundraising activities for Three Lakes-Brule River Trails, the local grooming organization. For the latest updates on activities and outings, follow the clubs on Facebook.

Scrappers Club branch meeting set Feb. 17

The Three Lakes Lions Scrappers Club Branch invites the community to their upcoming meeting at the Demmer Memorial Library on Monday, Feb. 17, at 5:30 p.m.

This event will kick-start the creation of a seed library, where local gardeners can donate and obtain flower and vegetable seeds.

The meeting will also feature a discussion on expanding the club's efforts to promote locally grown foods. The library's story hour will include a special

lesson and activity on starting seedlings, making it a perfect event for families and gardening enthusiasts alike.

Additionally, the club is in talks with the library and the adjacent historical society to establish raised bed demonstration gardens on-site, adding a hands-on educational element to the community.

The public is invited to attend and participate in this initiative. For more information, contact Lion Don Meeder at 715-360-1235.

Trees for Tomorrow continues annual tree seedling sales event

Trees For Tomorrow (TFT), an environmental education center located in Eagle River, announced its annual tree seedling sales event, offering community members the opportunity to contribute to environmental education while enhancing their own green space.

Since 1945, TFT has been selling tree seedlings to landowners to promote sustainability and help ensure natural resources for future generations. Originally, TFT

provided seedlings to landowners under its "2-for-1" program, which encouraged the planting of two trees to replace every one tree that was harvested in support of the war effort in the 1940s. That tradition continues into 2025 with several species of tree seedlings for sale. Proceeds from the annual seedling sale help TFT provide educational programs, which forwards the organization's mission of promoting sustainable use of our

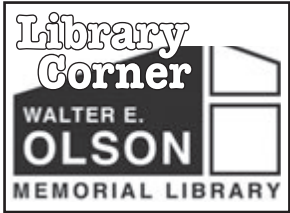
natural resources.

"As a new employee at TFT, I was very excited that this program was available," said Chris Lamon, Administrative Assistant at TFT. "My husband and I have purchased seedlings for the past 2 years to fill in our tree line, adding to our privacy and enhancing wildlife habitat."

By ordering and planting tree seedlings, participants help to sustainably manage property. Additionally,

participants join other landowners in helping Wisconsin reach the governor's pledge of 75 million trees planted by 2030. This year's selection of seedlings includes Red (Norway) Pine, White Pine, Northern White Cedar and White Spruce Hybrid. These species were selected because of their hardiness to grow well in northern regions

To TREES, Pg. 7



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

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

- The Library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17 for Presidents' Day. Don't forget — the digital library is open 24/7 at olsonlibrary.org/digital_resources.
- February is "Love Your Library Month", and there's a lot to love! Tell us your library love story for a chance to win a \$50 VISA gift card! Submit your story at the Library or online at tinyurl.com/3b5hjmt9.
- Thursday, Feb. 13, 2 p.m.: Seed Starting and Seed Swap. Learn how to successfully germinate seeds and establish healthy seedlings. Bring any extra seeds that you have to share and swap

with other gardeners.

- Back by popular demand! Saturday, Feb. 15, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Intro to Sourdough with Tom Dunphy. Learn the basics, plus some tricks, and enjoy a taste of Tom's baking. Bring your own two-cup container if you would like to take home some starter!
- Saturday, Feb. 22, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.: SOUP-er Bowl Party. Sign up to bring a pot of soup to share or just come enjoy a soup tasting party. Sign up at tinyurl.com/2epbjhd5 or by contacting the Library.
- Monday, Feb. 24, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.: Ice Block Blast. Kids, come design and build your own Lego ice castle! You'll also have the chance to experience being a penguin using virtual reality. Fun and snacks are guaranteed.
- Tuesday, Feb. 25, 6 p.m.: Hunger Games Trivia. Join the Library for an in-person trivia night on all things Hunger Games! Bring your team or compete solo to show off your smarts and win bragging rights.

Weekly offerings

- Mondays & Wednesdays, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.: Nicolet Academic Success Center. Get help with GED and

college prep, computer skills, academic support and more.

- Mondays, 2 - 3:30 p.m. – Hone your skills at Ukulele Practice. Don't play? Bring another instrument — or your voice — and join us!
- Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – Story Time with Ms. Tori. Bring your grown-up for stories, songs and fun!
- Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Seated Yoga. Come as you are! Chairs will be provided.
- Thursdays, 9 - 11 a.m. – Aunt Gracie's Sewing Circle
- Thursdays, 4:30 - 6 p.m. – Silent Book Club. Bring your current read (or find one here), then take some time for yourself.
- Fridays, 10 - 11 a.m. – Wiggle, Giggle & Shake music and movement program for kids 0-5.

Monthly offerings

- Free Mending Day (1st Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.) – March 1 (April 5)
- Eagle River Genealogical Society (1st Mondays, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.) – March 3 (April 7)
- Compassus Grief Support Group (1st Thursdays, 1 - 2 p.m.) – March 6 (April 3)
- Memory Café (2nd Mondays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.) – March 10 (April 7)

- Growing Together Family Support Group (2nd Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.) – March 13 (April 10)

Find books, puzzles, movies and more! A reminder that the Walter Olson Library Friends (W.O.L.F.) has ongoing book sales in the Library lobby. For information or to join W.O.L.F., contact the Library.

Women's Club 'Cabin Fever' luncheon set Feb. 19

The Three Lakes Women's Club will hold its annual "Cabin Fever" Luncheon on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at SpiritView Lakeside, located on Highway 32 in Three Lakes.

The meeting, designed to banish the winter blues by getting members out of the house, will begin with a social hour at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at 12 noon.

Reservations are required by Friday, Feb. 14, by contacting hostess Barb M. Contact information for Barb is listed in the club handbook. A payment of \$16, which includes tax and tip, must be sent to Joyce Nikolayko prior to the luncheon. Drink selections are not included in this price.

Luncheon selections include the following: Grilled chicken sandwich with potato salad; BLT

sandwich with potato salad; or Caesar salad (no meat). Menu choice must be made at time of reservation to the hostess. All luncheon choices are \$16 and checks should be made out to TLWC. Joyce's mailing address is also in the club handbook.

The Three Lakes Women's Club is always interested in welcoming new members. Organized in 1946, the Women's Club's mission is to provide annual scholarships to young women who graduate from Three Lakes High School. They also work to encourage, support, and sponsor activities that benefit the Three Lakes community.

More information about the Three Lakes Women's Club can be found by emailing threelakeswomen@gmail.com.



Northwoods

BLIZZARD BLAST

SAT. FEBRUARY 15 | 10AM – 4PM

WINTER ACTIVITIES | CARNIVAL FOR KIDS | SLEIGH RIDES

FLURRIES OF WINTER FUN FOR EVERYONE

CONOVER COMMUNITY PARK

northwoodsblizzardblast.com

Find us on Facebook

ARTISAN BAZAAR 9AM-4PM Conover Community Center



Proceeds benefit area Fire & EMS Departments

Don't forget to feed the birds!

(And come see the Audubon singing birds in our "jungle". Many species and authentic "songs" to choose. Only \$9.99!)

Grandma's Toy Box - Eagle Craft & Hobby

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

...come in this week and ask for a free plush Valentines Heart!



Retiring pastor Gary Albert wishing Pastor Mueller well.

Hope Lutheran Church welcomes new pastor

Last Saturday morning Hope Lutheran Church in Land O' Lakes welcomed their new pastor, Rev. Jeffrey Mueller, in a Rite of Installation service. Mueller, together with his wife Robin, have moved from Milwaukee to take up his post at Hope Lutheran Church. The presiding minister for this service was Rev. Benjamin Schimm who is a friend and pastor at Sherman Park Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. The day's sermon came from Rev. Thomas Kaul, who is Pastor Emeritus at Faith Lutheran Church in Germantown. The Installation Officiant was Rev. Dr. Dwayne Lueck, who is the North Wisconsin District President. For the day's service, Pastor Mueller was joined by retiring Pastor Gary

Albert, as well as his daughter Megan, her husband Chip Wylie, and their dog Emma. As the service came to a close, Pastor Mueller invited the whole congregation to join him, together with other Pastors, for a wonderful lunch of delicious broasted chicken.



Chip and Megan Wylie with Robin and Pastor Mueller.

—Photos By Bob Hughes



Robin and Jeffrey Mueller.



After the Installation of Jeffrey Mueller he was joined by other clergy.



Participants carving their own wooden bowls.

—Photos By Bob Hughes

LOLA hosts Erik Vevang

Master carver Erik Vevang returned to Land O' Lakes Arts (LOLA) last week to teach the art of carving wooden bowls during a two-day course. Those participating in the class included Norman, Meg, Debra, Bill and Mac as they all honed their new-found carving skills during the first class. On day two, participants were finishing and starting new bowls. They agreed that their new skills in carving were exciting despite the hard work, and that it was worthwhile learning new techniques from Vevang. LOLA's program for April will host Vevang once again to teach the art of spoon carving. For more information, visit <https://lolaartswi.com/>.



Master carver Erik Vevang inspecting the work of one of the class' participants.



SOUP & BREAD — Despite howling winds and drifting snow many soup lovers came to the Land O' Lakes Library last Thursday evening for the second Library Soup & Bread gathering. A total of ten soups were on offer, catering to all flavor palettes. To go with the soup there was freshly baked sourdough bread, corn bread and focaccia bread. This event was made possible by the soup makers who contributed their tasty soups, the library staff who arranged the event and the Sunrise Lodge who offered the use of soup bowls.

—Photo By Bob Hughes

TOWN OF LAND O' LAKES
NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the official public test of the automatic tabulating equipment to be used at the February 18th, 2025 Primary Election will be held on Thursday February 13th, 2025 at the Land O' Lakes Town Hall, 4331 County Rd B, starting at 10am.

Lynn Jolin,
Town Clerk-Treasurer

444167

BOB HUGHES

LAND O’ LAKES

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

Friends of Land O’ Lakes Library
host mini book sale

Without the running of the Three Bear Sled Dog Races, the library’s Mini Book Sale was much quieter last Saturday.

Just before 10 a.m., book hunters were waiting for the doors to open. As soon as the doors opened, there was a steady flow of book collectors, book lovers and hunters alike throughout the morning.

A Quilt Raffle was held at 1 p.m. and Kevin Konnow of Brews Pub was named the winner by Karen Weber-Mendham. Konnow will collect his quilt, which was made and donated by Sherrie McFarland, next week.

These book sales are organized and run by the many volunteers of the Friends of Land O’ Lakes Library, an event that many readers and book lovers look forward to three times a year. The Friends of the Library are always looking for more volunteers, so if interested in volunteering contact the library at 715-547-6006 for more information.



—Photos By Bob Hughes



A happy Library member leaves with a bag of books.



Karen Weber-Mendham of the Library drew the winning Quilt Raffle winner.

**DEADLINES
FOR SECTIONS**

TOWN PAGES

THURSDAY 4 PM

LIFESTYLE

FRIDAY 10 AM

NOTICE OF
REFERENDUM
Northland Pines School District
February 18, 2025

Referendum Election Details

At an election to be held in the Northland Pines School District on February 18, 2025, the following proposed Resolution of the School District Board of Education will be submitted to a vote of the people.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted and recorded on November 18, 2024.

/s/ Jennifer Payne
Jennifer Payne
School District President

ATTEST:

/s/ Erica Lane
Erica Lane
School District Clerk

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

REFERENDUM TO EXCEED STATE
REVENUE LIMITS ON A NON-RECURRING BASIS
NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

YES ☐

NO ☐

EXPLANATION

The referendum election ballot will ask District electors to vote "yes" or "no" on the referendum election question set forth above.

A "yes" vote on the referendum question would grant the Northland Pines School District authority to exceed the state's revenue limit by \$5,600,000 and include the revenue in the District's annual budget for each of the 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 school years. The District would be authorized to use such revenue to maintain District programs and operations.

A "no" vote on the referendum would deny the Northland Pines School District authority to exceed the state's revenue limit by \$5,600,000 and prevent the District from including the revenue in its annual budget to maintain District programs and operations.

In the event a majority of the electors voting on the referendum question vote "yes", the Northland Pines School District will be authorized to exceed the state's revenue limit by \$5,600,000 in the 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 school years; if a majority vote "no" on the referendum question, the Northland Pines School District will not be so authorized.

Done in the City of Eagle River
on November 19, 2024

/s/ Erica Lane
School District Clerk
Northland Pines School District

444837

WNAXLP

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LOCATION AND HOURS
OF POLLING PLACE

At the election to be held on February 18, 2025, in the Northland Pines School District, the following polling place locations will be used for the Municipalities indicated:

Municipality	Location
City of Eagle River.....	City Hall, 525 Maple St., Eagle River
Town of Cloverland.....	Town Hall, 5860 Perch Lake Rd., Eagle River
Town of Conover.....	Town Hall, 4665 County Highway K, Conover
Town of Land O' Lakes.....	Town Hall, 4331 Highway B, Land O' Lakes
Town of Lincoln.....	Town Hall, 1205 Sundstein Rd., Eagle River
Town of Newbold.....	Northlife Church, 6065 WI-70, St. Germain
Town of Phelps.....	Town Hall, 4495 Town Hall Rd. Phelps
Town of Plum Lake.....	Town Hall, 8755 Lake St., Sayner
Town of St. Germain.....	Community Center, 545 Highway 155, St. Germain
Town of Washington.....	Town Hall, 2301 Town Hall Rd., Eagle River

ALL POLLING PLACES WILL OPEN AT 7:00 A.M. AND WILL CLOSE AT 8:00 P.M. All polling places are accessible to elderly and disabled voters.

If you have any questions concerning your polling place, contact the municipal clerk below:

City of Eagle River

Becky Bolte
P.O. Box 1269
525 East Maple Street
Eagle River, WI 54521
(715) 479-8682
M-F 8:00am-4:30pm

Town of Cloverland

Tracy Schilling
P.O. Box 1704
Eagle River, WI, 54521
(715) 479-3434
By Appointment

Town of Conover

Kendra Lederer
P.O. Box 115
4665 Hwy K East
Conover, WI 54519
(715) 479-8688
By Appointment

Town of Land O'Lakes

Lynn Jolin
P.O. Box 660
4331 Highway B
Land O' Lakes, WI 54540
(715) 547-3255
By Appointment

Town of Lincoln

Shelly Sauvola
P.O. Box 9
1205 Sundstein Rd.
Eagle River, WI 54521
(715) 479-7000
By Appointment

Town of Newbold

Kim Gauthier
6103 Point Drive
Rhinelander, WI 54501
(715) 362-1092
By Appointment

Town of Phelps

Sheryl Ward
P.O. Box 157
4495 Town Hall Road
Phelps, WI 54554
715-545-2270
Monday-Thurs.
9:00am - 12:00pm &
1:00pm - 3:00pm

Town of Plum Lake

Jane Rosewicz
P.O. Box 280
8755 Lake Street
Sayner, WI 54560
(715) 542-4531
Monday-Thurs.
10:00am - 2:00pm

Town of St. Germain

June Vogel
PO Box 7
St. Germain, WI 54558
(715) 542-8024, Opt. 1
Days/Hours vary
By Appointment

Town of Washington

Nancy Sobralski
2301 Town Hall Road
Eagle River, WI 54521
(715) 479-8886
By Appointment

Notice of Meeting of the Local and Municipal Board of Canvassers (MBOC)

At the close of voting on Election Day, pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 19.84, the Election Inspectors will convene as a joint meeting of the Local Board of Canvassers and the MBOC for the purpose of conducting the local and municipal canvasses pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§7.51 and 7.53(1). This meeting will be open to the public pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.81-89.

Notice of Meeting of MBOC to Process Rehabilitated Provisional Ballots

If provisional ballots have been issued and are subsequently cured by the voter before 4:30 p.m. on the Friday after the election, the MBOC must meet no later than the following Monday at 9:00 a.m. to process the cured provisional ballots. This is a public meeting and requires applicable notice.

/s/ Erica Lane
District Clerk
Northland Pines School District

444839

WNAXLP



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, Feb. 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 the lodge. The corpse flower is available for viewing in the library's fireplace room and is already growing several inches per day.

The library will be screening the film "Wicked" at 1 p.m. and again at 6 p.m. on

Thursday, March 6. This event will feature themed treats and drinks.

The Land O' Lakes Library will host the 3rd Annual Bar Cookie Crawl baking contest on March 20. 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 - 10 a.m. Qigong is free of charge and all are welcome.

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

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

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

New large print books on the shelves: "Midnight Harbor" by Davis Bunn, "Murder Takes the Stage" by Colleen Cambridge, "The Burning" by Linda Castillo, "Ashes Never Lie" by Lee Goldberg, "An Insignificant Case" by Phillip Margolin, and "Aventurine on the Border" by Anne Oleson.

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

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

Open Mic
and Jam Session
set at LOLA Arts

LOLA Arts in Land O' Lakes will be hosting Bret Miller for an Open Mic and Jam Session on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. in the LOLA Coffee House.

The evening will start with a potluck at 5:30 p.m. and open mic performances start at 6 p.m.

Participants are invited to bring their own instruments or use those provided by LOLA (guitar, soprano ukelele, upright piano, cajon and small percussion instruments), and enjoy free coffee and tea. Here are the tunes that people can play along with:

- Take it Easy by the Eagles
- Sweet Caroline by Neil Diamond
- Wagon Wheel by Bob

Dylan/Ketch Secor of Old Crow Medicine Show/Darius Rucker

- Me and Bobby McGee by Kris Kristofferson/Janice Joplin
- Brown Eyed Girl by Van Morrison
- House of the Rising Sun by the Animals
- Who'll Stop the Rain by Creedence Clearwater Revival
- Stand by Me by Ben E. King
- Take Me Home, Country Roads by John Denver

There will be chord sheets for these songs available at the event.

For more information, contact Julia Cohen at lolaartswi.com@gmail.com, or call 715-547-3950.

CONOVER

JACKI HILDEBRANDT | conoverjacki@gmail.com

Conover Lions Club
to host blood drive

Conover Lions Club will host a community blood drive on Tuesday, Feb. 18, from noon to 5 p.m.

The blood drive will be held at the Conover Community Center, 4665 Highway K East. To schedule an appointment, call 800-280-4102, or visit communityblood.org/donor. It is recommended that donors register in advance.

Public Notice
TOWN OF CONOVER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the official public test of the automatic tabulating equipment to be used at the February 18th, 2025 Spring Primary Election will be held on Thursday, February 13th, 2025 at the Conover Town Center, 4665 County Rd K East at 10:00 am.

Kendra Lederer - Clerk

444877

THIS AD FOR SALE!

More than 50% of adults have a positive perception of ads in print newspapers.*

Want to be next to trusted content? Place your ad in this newspaper and a network of newspapers in the state!

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or 800-227-7636

www.cnaads.com

*Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018





SCIENCE FAIR — St. Germain Elementary School and Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center held their annual science fair Friday, Jan. 31. Students created projects at home and showcased them at the fair. Families and students took part in a variety of science activities that included an egg drop, coding, STEM activities and more. Attendees took part in a STEM challenge and each student received a science prize.

—Contributed Photos



WINTER BY CANDLELIGHT – Enjoy the beautiful Awassa Trails during an evening of fun and camaraderie. Saturday, Feb. 15, 6-8 p.m. the trails will be bordered by luminaries for families and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy. The event hosted by the St. Germain Non-motorized Trails Committee encourages cross-country skiers, fat-bike riders and snowshoers to join together for a bonfire and hot cocoa after enjoying an illuminated 1.4-mile loop. Parking will be available behind the St. Germain Elementary School. Visit the Awassa Trails Facebook page for updates and information.

—Contributed Photo

Artist

FROM PAGE 2

driven to start capturing those scenes.

The Warehouse Community Arts Center is a nonprofit organization that brings quality arts, education, and enrichment to all ages of locals and visitors to the Northwoods. Contact the Warehouse if looking to volunteer or teach, and visit their website at www.eagleriverart.com.

LOCAL NEWS ONLINE

vcnewsreview.com

NOTICE

The Lost Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District proposes to chemically treat approximately 18.3 acres of Lost Lake in Vilas County WI to control the exotic invasive aquatic plant, Eurasian water-milfoil.

The applicator will be treating the infestation with the aquatic herbicide ProcellaCOR EC. There are no swimming, fishing, or irrigation restrictions associated with ProcellaCOR EC. Water use restrictions will be posted in the designated treatment area. The treatments will be scheduled for June 2025, or when the WI Department of Natural Resources deems it appropriate.

Riparian property owners will be notified to online access of the permit application. The applicant will hold a public informational meeting on the proposed treatment if five or more individuals, organizations, special units of government, or local units of government request one. The person or entity requesting the meeting shall state a specific agenda of topics including problems and alternatives to be discussed.

The request for the public informational meeting must be emailed to:

Lost Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District,
ATTN John Eckerman, jieck@charter.net and a copy to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Northern Region Headquarters
107 Sutliff Ave., Rhinelander, WI 54501-3349
within five days after this public notice is published.

Trees

FROM PAGE 3

with sandy soil. Because each seedling comes in its own plug of soil, they can be planted as soon as they are received, or when the time is right. The seedlings also tend to have a better success rate than those with bare roots.

Pre-orders will be available online in early February at www.treesfortomorrow.com. Those

who are interested in ordering seedlings should visit www.treesfortomorrow.com and select the 'tree seedlings' tab at the top — from there they can view additional information, place their order, and pay for their seedlings.

The seedlings will be available for pick up/shipping in mid-May, 2025. Seedlings are sold in sets of 10 for \$20.00/set plus processing fees. Advance orders are encouraged before supplies run out. When seedlings arrive

at TFT, an email will be sent out asking the recipient to contact TFT to set up a date to pick them up or have them shipped (note that shipping is only available to Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois). Shipping requires a minimum purchase of 3 sets of 10 seedlings, and shipping and handling charges will be added. This annual seedling sale tradition runs each year until inventory is sold out.

PLUM LAKE ICE FISHING

24TH Annual

TOURNAMENT

Don't miss the action!

Saturday, Feb. 15

6 am – 2 pm

\$30 per person entry fee

Age 12 & under Kids' Division \$10 (All Kids Win a Prize)

Awards and raffles - 3 p.m.

Plum Lake Recreational Building

\$4,000 of merchandise indoor prizes along with some outstanding raffle prizes!

Over \$700 in cash prizes for Largest Fish!

Tournament to be held on Plum Lake and registration is at the public pier.

Proceeds to benefit area lake improvement projects.

Tickets available in Sayner at Up North Traders, Sayner Mobil, Last Cast Bait Shop and Lions members.

For all other information, contact Will Maines at 715-542-3501.

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE AREA BUSINESSES THAT PAID FOR THIS AD:

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8075 Hwy. D, Eagle River, WI 715-479-7488

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DOWNTOWN SAYNER

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Ellason Realty

Eagle River Office 715-479-4431

Land O' Lakes 715-547-3341

St. Germain Office 715-542-3223

Hillside TAVERN & GRILL

Hwy. N, Sayner 715-542-2240

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SHARON GIFFORD

PHELPS

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



—Photos By Sharon Gifford



Spaghetti dinner
sees record numbers

One hundred eighty nine dinner tickets were sold at the fourth annual spaghetti dinner fundraiser sponsored by the Phelps Fire/EMS departments, with proceeds going to the Blizzard Blast event, which was reportedly a huge success.

Jeremy Ryan, Phelps fire chief, said, “The Phelps, Conover, and Land O’ Lakes Fire Departments would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and supported

our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. The generosity we witnessed was truly remarkable, and we are beyond grateful for the incredible community we serve. A special thank you to all the firefighters and EMTs who worked tirelessly to make this event possible—we couldn’t have done it without you. Your dedication and teamwork are what make our departments strong. Because of your support, we will be better equipped to serve


and protect. From all of us, thank you for standing with us.”

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SPELLING BEE — The Phelps School District recently held a Scripps Spelling Bee for grades five through eight. Nine students competed. A winner was declared after 17 rounds, spelling the word “exactly.” Winners include, in back, from left to right, seventh grader Brook Barnekow, 1st place; Joe Crownhart, local bee keeper/coordinator, and alternate Charlie Duquaine, eighth grade. In front, from left to right, is fifth grader Landon Gifford, 2nd place and sixth grader, Ashton Doss, 3rd place. The winners will move on to the regional spelling bee at Three Lakes Grade School on Thursday, Feb. 13. Pronouncer was June Franzen and the judges were Laura Myszka, Kaye Petts and Lori Ingalls. At the end of the bee, Crownhart announced that he would be retiring after 21 years as local bee keeper and turning his hive over to Queen Bee Abby Susor.

—Photo By Sharon Gifford



**ELEANOR
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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, “An honest, heart-breaking elegy to how memory makes relationships eternal.” - Jodi Picoult.

Story Time with Mrs. Laura at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11. Join us for the reading of a few books with our favorite storyteller! Everyone is welcome!

Writer’s Workshop is Wednesday, March 19, 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, March 19, at 10 a.m. The book choice this month is “The God of the Woods” by Liz Moore.

Book copies for meetings are available for pick up at the library or call to reserve. For more information about the current book, upcoming book choices, and meeting dates and times, visit the library website under the Adult Programming tab. Call the library for more information on how to join this group.

Don’t have time to stop by during our 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 our entryway. New materials are added often. The Phelps-Land O’ Lakes Lions Club’s used glasses receptacle is located in the entryway as well. Donations of used glasses and hearing aids are greatly appreciated.

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

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



Outdoors

Hard-mouthed retrievers just need ‘the table’

IF YOU’VE got a bird dog with a hard mouth, anything from putting too many bruises or tooth slashes in the breast meat, to breaking virtually every bone in their little bodies, don’t despair. There’s a solution to that, taught to me by the late and great springer spaniel trainer Wally Albrecht of Eagle River, that’s as easy as teaching a dog to heal.

This simple training trick, which Wally referred to as “putting them on the table,” is something the scribbler hasn’t yet accomplished with Maddie, our black Lab who’s now 22 months old.

That’s basically the reason why you haven’t seen any classic photos of her proudly holding a big grouse or pheasant in her mouth, for all to see, because she hasn’t been taught the basic “hold” command.

About the time that training was to start she came up with a limp due to a bone spur, so months passed with a surgery and recovery last fall when it just didn’t make any sense to put her through the process.

But she is recovering well and once decent weather arrives in spring, with no work schedule to get in the way for this retired sportsman, we’ll start the two-to-four-week process that takes no more than 15 minutes a day.

Consistency is the key ingredient if you really want a dog to get the message, which is, whatever I put into your mouth, you will hold without mouth movement until I ask that it be dropped.

There may be other



In the Outdoors

BY KURT KRUEGER

techniques and forms of this training that work just as well, but here’s exactly how Wally did it with my black Lab Katie some 27 years ago after she virtually destroyed a hen pheasant on a retrieve.

The “table” he used regularly was a long kitchen counter at just the right height, where a springer on that counter would be eye to eye with the trainer. And he ran a wire from end to end, neck and collar high, that was attached so there was no way a dog could lie down, jump off or otherwise leave.

He employed a choke collar that contained some dull metal points, something an unruly dog would feel if they pulled or fought the training.

Katie didn’t move, but she certainly didn’t want to open her mouth and accept the wooden dowel Wally was offering. So he pinched the end of an ear against just one metal point and her mouth opened.

Once accomplished, he simply looked Katie in the eye at point blank range and put a single finger in the little “V” on the underside of the jaw bone, pushing up slightly while repeating the command “hold.”

Let me tell you that 10 minutes of this



Hunters who want their crippled birds coming back alive, and in good shape for the dinner table, might want to consider putting their retrievers “on the table” to teach them the hold command. —Photo By The Author

every day for a couple of weeks has a lasting impact on a dog, and the word “hold” becomes magic for teaching a dog to lightly hold anything you want it to — birds included, whether dead or alive.

After a couple of weeks with Katie, who was taught on a round picnic table, we advanced to the process of having her transition from sitting to walking and back to sitting on the table. We did that until she did it flawlessly, with no mouth movement, all the while hearing the “hold” command.

Next, Wally told me to transition from dowel to a frozen whole grouse, again making sure she could go

through all the steps of accepting the bird, holding it without mouth movement and then dropping it on command into my hand. Repetition is the key here.

Once that worked for days on end, we transitioned to walking around the yard with her on heel, frozen grouse in mouth. We would walk 10 yards and then I’d step out in front, ask her to sit, and then tell her to drop.

We kept doing that routine until it was perfect with no hesitation about accepting the grouse or holding it without any chomping or chewing.

And that’s basically it. Katie retrieved hundreds of grouse and pheasants over

the next five years without hardly a tooth mark on the birds.

She slipped up once and chomped on a grouse at about age six. I put her on the tailgate for 10 minutes, eye to eye while she held that bird, forced to look me in the eye and hear “hold” for what probably seemed like an eternity.

She never did it again, and Katie hunted 12 full grouse seasons.

So thanks to professionals like Wally, I can share what it means to put a dog “on the table,” to teach the hold command, and train a dog to have a soft mouth.

I’m told that a work bench, countertop, garbage can, picnic table, tailgate or

any elevated platform will work as long as the dog is eye to eye with you during the training. I did not have any sort of neck-high wire to keep a dog in place.

Maddie will be learning the same, and you’ll know it next fall when you see her proudly holding big grouse and pheasant for all to see — instead of spitting them at my feet on the retrieve so she can quickly keep hunting.

Your retriever should not be killing the birds you wing, and they certainly shouldn’t be ruining your next wild meal.

If they are, take Wally’s advice, and just put them on the table. It works.

24th annual Plum Lake fishing contest set this weekend

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

Blessed by great ice conditions

We have been blessed with mostly normal winter weather lately and this has resulted in some great ice conditions out there. Looks like we’ve got some typical cold for February coming this week. Those going out will find 20 - 26” of ice on most bodies of water. People are driving out there with abandon — which is a very nice change from last year!

Walleye fishing is good for this time of year, with anglers still getting some fish in the late evenings using tip-ups, and the after-dark bit is still hot. Some of the lakes on the Chain have been productive for fish, especially in the holes and in deeper water. Thicker ice has meant that we can now get around better for those longer jaunts out to those better spots. On the larger lakes with more depth, daytime jigging with vertical jigs tipped with minnow heads is getting much better. Look for 20 - 35’ of water in some relation to rock bars and drop-offs.

Northern fishing has also been good. Look for the panfish spots to produce the best Northern fishing, generally in or near weeds. The greener the weeds the better. As we have mentioned many times, a great way for an afternoon of fishing is to set up for the evening — tip-ups for northerns with large shiners and then one jigging pole, fishing for bluegills or perch.

Panfish action has been pretty good for everything, with both bluegills and perch in those weeds, and crappie fishing in deeper water. Waxies or red spikes work very well for both of these fish. Vertical jigging with waxies on small, flashy jigs, along with tip-downs tipped with small minnows, work well. Crappie fishing remains the favorite now, right up until the ice-out comes in April.

It’s so nice to have a “normal” ice fishing year, and to be looking at what seems to be a normal weather pattern for this time of the year. Get out there and enjoy this ice and this weather. We’ve built it so deep that we’re sure to have a great late-season coming for that panfish bite. With this in mind, we should have a fantastic early spring fishing season, too!

Good luck and good fishin’!



FIRST-YEAR DEER — This fawn is still traveling with its mom in order to gain strength and experience. Thanks to what has been a pretty mild season with low snowfall levels, young deer are having no problems surviving their first winter.

—Photo By Michelle Drew

Hunter volunteers needed to instruct students

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is looking for hunters to volunteer to help others gather more information in different ways so they can enjoy safe and ethical hunts.

Officials say there are different interactive ways to share hunting experiences with people of all ages. Options include being a mentor, leading a learn-to-hunt outing, and plenty of other options.

Mentoring

Anyone interested in one-on-one opportunities can consider becoming a mentor. This specific program allows novice hunters to be close to qualified mentors without needing a hunter education course. Learn more about the Mentored Hunter Law on the DNR’s website.

Instructor

Another opportunity the DNR offers is to be Learn to Hunt instructors. With a combination of in-classroom and in-field work, the class will end with a hunt with an instructor. Officials say local groups usually host a program.

Workshops

Officials say that if a hunter has more than one thing to offer, being the lead of an outdoor skills workshop is probably the best option.

Different skills include deer processing skills, safe firearm handling techniques, and tips for cooking wild game.

Special youth hunts for turkey, white-tailed deer, and waterfowl also offer valuable experience and time to safely hunt. These are held outside of the normal hunting season, and anyone ages 15 and older is welcome to participate.

Our View

Vote ‘yes’ to Pines referendum

It’s time for voters in the Northland Pines School District to head out to the polls next Tuesday, Feb. 18, to consider a \$5.6 million increase in additional funds per year for the next three years in an operational referendum for the district.

It is a case of slight compromise, for if this referendum passes, property owners within the district will see an increase in their property tax bill. The estimated tax implementation on the value of a house within the passed referendum, according to the school district, would be:

- \$100,000 home - \$16
- \$200,000 home - \$32
- \$300,000 home - \$48

It’s a small price to pay for the district to ensure that students have a chance to learn and grow as students, young adults, and future members of society, whether that be in or away from the North Woods community.

Should this referendum not pass, the district could see significant cuts to its classes, programming, staffing, etc. which would limit what it could offer students in an attempt to help them grow as individuals. And not only does Northland Pines service the community with the care it gives to instructing its students, but it also provides support to the community by offering the use of buildings, its track for walking, free tech help, Fab Lab nights, concerts and the Pines Community Wellness center.

State funding for education has failed to keep up with inflation, and costs for instruction, safety, building maintenance, transportation and general operation have only continued to increase. Northland Pines, much like other schools in the state, has no choice but to go to a referendum if they wish to maintain curriculums that can properly foster an environment in which students can grow. For these reasons, voters within the Northland Pines district should consider voting ‘yes’ on the Feb. 18 referendum.

Voters have had a chance to further understand the nature of this operational referendum thanks to the several meetings hosted by District Administrator Scott Foster. There is still time for those who are still undecided on where they stand with this referendum to learn a bit more via resources on the district’s website and by communicating with Foster himself. Take the time to learn about how precious of a resource Northland Pines is to its surrounding communities — and what could be lost should this referendum fail to pass.

Consider voting ‘yes’ for not only the kids, but the community as well.

Behind the editorial ‘we’

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



Savvy Senior

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

How to Choose and Use a Home Blood Pressure Monitor

DEAR SAVVY SENIOR,

Can you offer me any tips on choosing and using a home blood pressure monitor? I just found out I have high blood pressure and my doctor recommended I get a home monitor so I can keep tabs on it.

Just Turned 63

DEAR 63,

Everyone with high blood pressure (130/80 or higher) should have a home blood pressure monitor. Home monitoring can help you keep tabs on your blood pressure in a comfortable setting. Plus, if you’re taking medication, it will make certain it’s working, and alert you to a health problem if it arises.

Here are some top-rated blood pressure monitors to consider, along with some tips to help ensure you take an accurate reading.

Best monitors

The most accurate and easiest to use home blood pressure monitors today are electric/battery powered automatic arm monitors, which are more reliable than wrist or fingertip monitors. With an automatic arm monitor, you simply wrap the cuff around your bicep and with the push of one button the cuff inflates and deflates automatically, giving you your blood pressure reading on the display window in a matter of seconds.

Many automatic monitors also come with additional features such as irregular heartbeat detection that checks for arrhythmias and other abnormalities; a risk category indicator that tells you whether your blood pressure is in the high range; a data-averaging function that allows you to take multiple readings and get an overall average; multiple user memory that allows two or more users to save their readings; and downloadable memory that lets you transmit your data to your smartphone or computer.

The top five automatic arm monitors, as recommended by Consumer Reports for 2025, are the Omron Platinum BP5450 (\$90), Omron 10 Series BP7450 (\$70), Omron Evolv BP7000 (\$70), A&D Medical UA767F (\$55), and Omron 3 Series BP7100 (\$55). The top wrist monitors are the Omron 7 Series BP6350 (\$55) and the Equate (Walmart) 4500 Series (\$40).

You can purchase these blood pressure monitors at pharmacies, medical supply stores or online, and you don’t need a prescription to buy one. Prices, however,

EDITORIAL

OPINION/COMMENTARY



JUDGED WISCONSIN’S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Birkie memories are made of this

Memories are made of this. So said Dean Martin as he hit No. 1 on the charts in 1956 with his song of that title.

At the age of 75 memories now make up a significant portion of my life. Some of my best memories are of the 20 American Birkebeiner ski races and the seven Kortelopet companion races of the Birkie I have completed.

With this year’s Birkebeiner set for Feb. 22, on what I well know to be a sometimes-tortuous slog over a rugged course, I can’t help but sit back in my recliner to think about and remember some of the best and some of the worst times I experienced in my Birkie days.

Naturally the first of my Birkebeiners, the 1984 event, remains firmly entrenched in my mind.

Conned into doing the race by what turned out to be a bunch of inveterate, bald-faced liars concerning the ease of which it could be skied, I joined almost 7,000 other skiers lined up at Duffy’s Field for the combined Birkie and Kortelopet starts.

I got to the Kortelopet finish at the 26K mark feeling good, astonished that I got there in a hair over 2-1/2 hours. I had planned on finishing the race around the six-hour mark, but spurred by my early success, pushed on with visions of grandeur

and a five-hour finish in my head.

The Birkie course taught me a great lesson in humility the rest of the way as I skied to a 6-1/2-hour finish while battling fatigue and muscle cramps like I’d never felt before.

When my son turned 14 it was his turn to ski his first Kortelopet. I started in my Birkie wave 10 minutes ahead of him, hoping to pass the Double-O crossing, which marked the end of the Kortelopet, before he could catch me.

It was not to be. About 20k in as I approached a steep climb, I heard this angelic voice behind me sing out, “Oh, Daddy, you are about to be passed.” As he arrogantly skated past, I regretted instantly that I didn’t reach out and whack him across his shins with my ski pole.

Twice during future Birkies, I was inspired by skiers one would never have envisioned completing the race. The first time I skied up behind a young lady striding in set tracks.

Immediately behind her was her companion and voice of encouragement. Her bib was one of those assigned to blind skiers,



Trails & Tails

BY WILL MAINES

and her companion was her navigation tool as she flew down steep hills and climbed others at a pace many sighted skiers would have wished for.

I followed along for a couple of kilometers, mesmerized by how amazingly well she navigated the twin obstacles of course difficulty and swarms of other skiers around her.

About a third of the way through another Birkie, I came up behind a young man and his escort climbing one of the toughest up-hills you could imagine. What amazed me most was that he was sitting in what I believe was called a Sitz ski, basically a box to which underneath were raised brackets attached to two skis.

From my vantage point I watched in disbelief at the power of his thrusts with ski poles to push ahead a few feet at a time up the hill. Behind him his companion skier would slide one of his legs up behind the box to brace it from sliding back while the paralyzed-from-the-waist-down skier planted his poles for another thrust. Simply incredible and awe-inspiring.

Without doubt the

funniest moment of my Birkie weekends occurred the year a co-worker of my wife at Howard Young Medical Center stopped at the condo our gang shared at Lakewoods near Cable after she finished her race.

As she entered the living room, we were treated to a story filled with words that would make a sailor blush concerning a run-in she had with a male skier somewhere along the course.

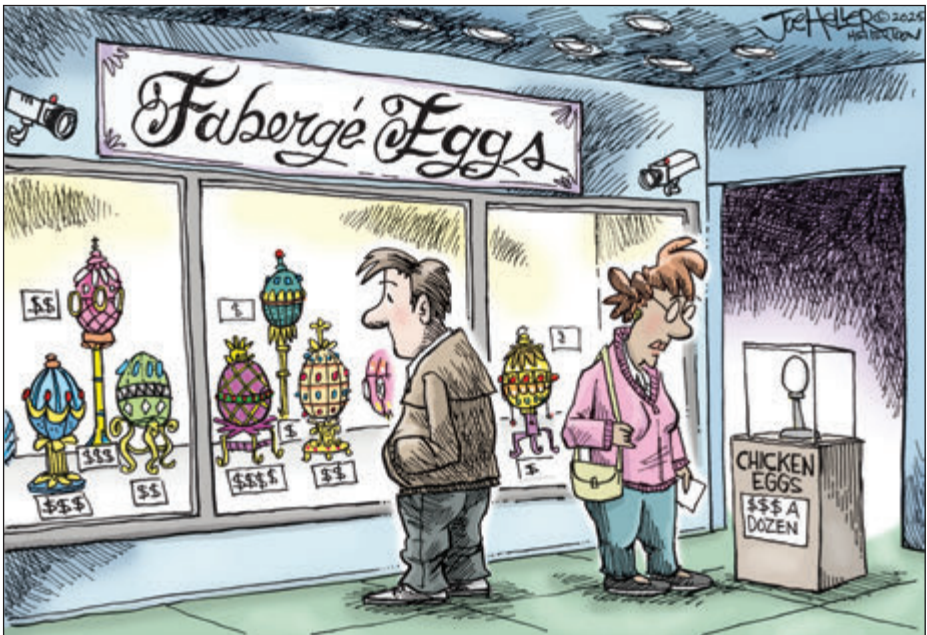
The fun began the moment when — as she was taking a shower, the brother of two of our regulars came in the door after completing his Birkie. Faster than a lightning strike he launched into a foul-mouthed story of a run-in with a B***h who tried to single-handedly ruin his race.

We all kept straight faces as he ranted and raved until my wife’s co-worker came out from her shower and walked into the living room. I’m guessing people miles away could have heard the roar of laughter from all of us as two suddenly silent antagonists met up once again.

Ah, but there is so much more I remember about the Birkie. The wonderful old lady who took our tickets each year at the Cable VFW Pre-Birkie spaghetti feed, until one year we found out she was then taking tickets at her new home in Heaven.

And there was an early year my wife and I and a friend of ours stayed at a woman’s mobile home near Cable. After finishing our races our friend and I took showers, me first. I had a companion in the shower. The lady’s cat slipped inside the curtain and made sure I washed behind my ears. She did the same when our friend took his. Strangest showers we had ever taken.

Finally, my last and maybe best Birkie memory will be that of the year I received my Birchleggings award in recognition of having completed 20 Birkies. Some of the best and often the most physically agonizing times of my life. I wouldn’t trade them for anything.



Evers pressing for PFAS action once again

PFAS, also known as “forever chemicals,” are a persistent problem for many in the state.

Politicians in the state Capitol keep trying to do something about it, but keep getting stuck over definitions and budgets.

Gov. Tony Evers is going to use his state budget plan on Feb. 18 to once again advance his position.

The Democrat governor recently announced a swath of measures to improve water quality in his budget proposal, including more than \$145 million to address PFAS contamination. That funding includes \$125 million set aside in the 2023-25 state budget to fight PFAS.

GOP Sen. Eric Wimberger, one of the Republican leaders on the PFAS issue, suggested in turn that Evers’ plan was a concession to Republican lawmakers. But the Green

Bay-area Republican said he still has concerns about language to protect innocent landowners.

Wimberger said Evers’ proposal is “an admission of what I’ve been saying for years: we can’t just write the DNR a check for \$125 million to fight this problem.”

Meanwhile, Midwest Environmental Advocates said it’s open to a narrow exemption to protect farmers.

Evers’ proposal also lists provisions aimed at helping those whose properties are contaminated through no fault of their own — a key sticking point in negotiations with the GOP-run Legislature over PFAS funding.

Wimberger co-authored SB 312 last session, which laid out how to spend the \$125 million. Republicans have argued it includes

important protections for innocent landowners, but Evers vetoed it last session over provisions limiting DNR’s authority to regulate PFAS. The Joint Finance Committee has rejected Evers’ calls to release the money directly to the DNR.

Evers’ announcement says his clean water proposal will include measures to protect innocent landowners, such as farmers who unknowingly spread PFAS-containing biosolids on their land, along with \$7 million to help innocent landowners and farmers clean up PFAS contamination.

Wimberger in a statement said Evers “has come around to my position and supports my bill that he vetoed last year.” But he expressed frustration with what he called a lack of clarity on Evers’ part about the definition of “innocent landowner.”

“I’ve been waiting for months for the Governor to clarify his definition of an ‘innocent landowner,’ and he has refused to respond to my requests,” Wimberger said. “This delay is holding up meaningful solutions to PFAS problems affecting communities across our state. I find myself sitting at the table waiting to have a meaningful conversation on how we can pass a bill

to fight PFAS in Wisconsin, and I hope the Governor will join us there soon.”

Meanwhile, Midwest Environmental Advocates attorney Rob Lee in a statement on the innocent landowner measures in Evers’ plan said: “In principle, we would support a narrow exemption that protects farmers, as long as it is paired with adequate funding to remediate contamination resulting from the spreading of contaminated biosolids.”

“Ideally, PFAS polluters would bear the costs of remediation, unlike previous proposals from the legislature, which would have let PFAS polluters off the hook,” Lee added.

The session has just begun, and Evers’ budget unveiling on Feb. 18 will get things rolling. Maybe a compromise on PFAS will be part of the ultimate state spending plan.

For more, visit WisPolitics.com

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CORRECTION

The opinion piece titled, “Let’s Not Forget Our Infants, Toddlers, and Preschoolers” was prepared by members of the Advocacy and Policy Workgroup of WI-AIMH; Lana Nenide, Executive Director, Golshan Motamedi, HMHC Consultant, and Kris Barnekow, Special Initiatives Coordinator.

OPINION/COMMENTARY



WINTER WONDERLAND—With 4-5 inches of new snow Saturday, the landscape was perfect for a snowshoe outing under sunny skies in the North Woods Sunday afternoon. —Photo By Gary Ridderbusch

Recognize and support veterans in our lives

To the Editor;
Behind every Veteran's story is a lifetime of courage, sacrifice and service — a legacy that deserves our deepest gratitude. As we celebrate National Salute to Veteran Patients Week, I invite our community to join us in recognizing and supporting the Veterans in our lives.
As the Administrator for Compassus Hospice in Arbor Vitae and Rhinelander, I've had the

privilege of witnessing firsthand the power of honoring Veterans, especially through our We Honor Veterans (WHV) program. Our team proudly holds a Level 3 WHV designation, reflecting our commitment to Veteran-centric care. Over the past year, we've welcomed nearly 100 Veterans into our care and held over 40 meaningful pinning ceremonies to honor their service. These ceremonies recognize our

Veterans with a lapel pin, a certificate, and a star cut from an actual flag, along with sincere appreciation from our team. Family and friends of the Veterans are often included in these special moments.
One of the most rewarding parts of the program is working with our volunteers to conduct these ceremonies. Their commitment inspires me every day and reminds me why this work matters so deeply.

So, I ask you to consider how you can do more for the Veterans in your life or your community. Even small gestures of kindness mean more than you know. Together, we can honor, serve and express gratitude to those who gave so much for us.
Amy Nowak
Hospice Administrator
Arbor Vitae

Sincerely,
Anthony W. Brown

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Fragility of Life

Dear Reader,
The other day, I had a close call that left me reflecting deeply on how fragile life truly is. I was a passenger in a car, riding along on a snowy day. The roads were slick, and we were descending a steep hill when we encountered a stationary car in the middle of the road. To avoid a collision, our driver veered into a snow-bank and a rock instead.
Shaken but unharmed, we got out to assess the damage. As I stood there, I saw other vehicles attempting to navigate the hill, at speeds too reckless for the conditions. I waved to warn them to stop and turn back, knowing the danger they faced. Thankfully, our car was still operational, and we managed to drive away carefully. Later that day, I learned that a massive pileup had occurred in that very spot. Numerous vehicles were involved, and I couldn't help but feel fortunate to have avoided the catastrophe.
This experience got me thinking. Life is unpredictable. You wake up in the morning with plans, but everything can change in an instant, with no warning whatsoever. Those 15 seconds as we swerved away from the stalled vehicle could have been our last moments. But it wasn't. For others, tragically, it was.
Life is so fragile. There are no guarantees, no flashing signals warning us when our time is up. One moment we're here, and the next, we're not. This realization isn't meant to instill fear but to inspire gratitude. Each day we're given is a gift—precious, fleeting, and worth cherishing.
Let's not take it for granted. Let's love fully, live purposefully, and appreciate the time we have. Because in the blink of an eye, everything can change. We can't control when or how the end comes, but we can make the moments we still have truly count.
PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher
Author of "Reflections" a new book now available on Amazon.



Backward Glances

Compiled by
Josephine Hindermann

One Year Ago - 2024

ATV/UTV clubs in Vilas County last week made a request at the Vilas County, Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee meeting to open trails shared between ATVs and snowmobiles for use in lieu of snowmobile trails. Gary Penner, president of the St. Germain ATV Club, called it "painful" to watch what's happening to local businesses and said it's part of the club's commitment to the Vilas County community to support the economy in an open letter posted on the club's Facebook page... Todd Bierman, Vilas County Parks and Rec supervisor, cited a number of reasons why these trails cannot simply be opened overnight, including ordinances, permission from property owners, and the machines being prohibited in some state and national forests.

10 Years Ago - 2015

A 29-year-old man who was reported missing since Feb. 3 was found dead in a wooded area near his home in Conover Saturday, according to a press release from the Vilas County Sheriff's Department. The body of Michael N. Larson was located after the Vilas County Sheriff's Department conducted a ground search...The cause of his death is under investigation pending autopsy results, but exposure to inclement weather appears to be a factor, according to authorities...Investigators were told Larson was last seen possibly under the influence of a controlled substance and unable to care for himself.

20 Years Ago - 2005

A federal judge has rejected the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's (FWS) attempt to downlist the gray wolf from endangered to threatened, a decision that makes it illegal for game managers to kill problem wolves in Wisconsin...(U.S. District Judge Robert Jones) essentially ruled that the agency



HERE WE GO, 1985 — If facial expressions could tell the whole story, it would appear these two youngsters were headed for trouble as they sledded down a small embankment in Cy Williams Park during the Three Lakes Lions Club's Fishing Jamboree Sunday. —Staff Photo By KURT KRUEGER

had wrongly lumped dozens of states into the downlisting process, though wolf recovery had only occurred in three states of the northern Rockies and three states west of the Great Lakes — including Wisconsin.

30 Years Ago - 1995

Up to nine Three Lakes juveniles are suspected of causing tens of thousands of dollars in damage to the main lodge of the Northernaire Resort Jan. 29, police confirmed Monday...Three Lakes Police Chief Bill Slizewski said statements and confessions have been taken from a majority of the youths, mostly 15- and 16-year-olds, after word got out at Three Lakes High School that students were involved...No adults are believed to have been involved in the Super Bowl Sunday vandalism, in which vandals broke every mirror, framed picture, light fixture and piece of light furniture in the lodge, police said.

40 Years Ago - 1985

A 19-year-old Boulder Junction man charged with stealing a snowmobile changed his plea from innocent to no contest last week in Vilas County Circuit Court and had sentencing set for March 21 at 1 p.m.... Robert I. Knox, charged

50 Years Ago - 1975

Quick thinking and expert training on the part of former policeman Jerry Augustine, now employed at McKeever's Food Store in Eagle River, may have saved the life of Mrs. Agnes Joyce when she suffered a convulsive seizure in the store January 23...Mrs. Joyce, 70, was shopping in the store when she began to feel strange...It was Augustine, a policeman for 10 years on the narcotic squad in Highland, Ind., who came to the rescue... Augustine got his training while in the police force and went through a paramedical course. He also served as a certified Red Cross instructor, something he had to go through 100 hours of training for.

60 Years Ago - 1965

New wintertime pageantry came to the north country in the form of the National Snowmobile Derby at Eagle River last weekend, Saturday and Sunday...The derby, which was billed as a top sports spectacle, caught the fancy of thousands who converged on this

vacation community, starting early Friday... Planes brought in visiting dignitaries, press, TV and radio personnel, and highway traffic swelled as derby day neared. Throngs, estimated in excess of 5,000, joined in the spirited weekend celebration.

70 Years Ago - 1955

A roll call vote during last week's County Board meeting resulted in a negative answer to Fred Wolter's resolution requesting that the Highway Committee be instructed to follow the Plat of Right of Way prepared by the State Highway Engineer in relocating County Trunk Highway W...The Board of Supervisors, which recently toured the area in question, decided in favor of the Highway Committee's recommendation that the remaining two-mile portion of W follow close to old W.

80 Years Ago - 1945

An effort to provide better distribution of the present short supply of meat is the aim of the new filing regulations and requirements concerning livestock slaughtering, the local war price and ration board announced this week... The OPA order became effective (recently), and is the first major step in the government program designed to ease the meat shortage. It has, for its purpose, increased the amount of livestock slaughtered in federally inspected plants and decreased the amount slaughtered in non-federally inspected plants... This increased slaughter, it is explained, will better protect the requirements of the Armed Forces and other government needs, at the same time making available for shipment across state lines a larger proportion of the civilian meat supply, it is expected.

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.

Tony Brown apologizes

Dear Eagle River Recreation Association:
I am writing this letter to express my remorse and sincerest apologies for my actions that led to the charges of theft in case number 23-CF-115. I fully understand the severity of my actions and the harm they have caused the Eagle River Recreation Association (ERRA), as well as the entire Eagle River Community.

I take full responsibility for engaging in fraudulent behavior and acknowledge the impact it has had on the ERRA. My actions were morally wrong and unlawful, and I deeply regret the consequences that have resulted from them.

While this was in no way a deliberate scheme to steal from the rink I grew to call home, I did knowingly use funds to cover personal expenses during a difficult time in my life. I understand that by doing so, I have violated the trust placed in me as Treasurer of the ERRA and the laws of this jurisdiction. I am truly sorry for the pain and distress I have caused, and for the damage I have inflicted.

Please know that at no

time did I feel that anything was "owed" to me for the time I dedicated to the success and advancement of the ERRA. I did, however, make terrible choices when life presented obstacles that I will forever regret. Instead of swallowing my pride and asking for help, I took from the organization I helped build into what it is today. There is no excuse for what I did, and I feel the damage it has done to my relationships with this community, my boys and my family. The effects of my choices will stay with me for the rest of my life, and there was no personal benefit to the decisions I made.

With that, I am fully committed to making amends for these actions and continue to reflect on the poor choices I have made. I am prepared to face the consequences of my actions including jail time and the restitution determined by the court. I hope that this sincere apology can serve as a demonstration of my remorse and commitment to being a responsible member of society.

Sincerely,
Anthony W. Brown

LIFESTYLE

Registration opens
for Northwoods Land Trust
guided winter outing

Advanced registration is now open for a guided cross-country ski or snowshoe hike hosted by the Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTL) on Thursday, March 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Minocqua Winter Park.

Participants will be snowshoeing 2 - 2.5 miles over uneven terrain, or cross-county skiing at least 5 miles, to explore the diversity of trails at this premier winter silent sports destination.

The land surrounding the chalet area at Winter Park is home to a 3,195-acre conservation easement that was donated to NWLT in 2011. The easement ensures the park land and the core trail system will remain natural, without threats of future development.

According to Troy Walters, NWLT Outreach Coordinator, "Exploring the trails by ski or snowshoe is a great way to observe some of the beautiful protected habitats in Oneida County. Winter Park is a great venue to get immersed in the outdoors and socialize as a community."

This event is open to the

public. Participants will need to purchase a trail pass upon arrival to Winter Park, and bring gear in good working order (snowshoes or classic cross-country ski set).

Gear rentals are available at the Winter Park Ski Shop. Visit www.minocquawinterpark.org for rental rates.

Advanced registration is required by going online to www.northwoodslandtrust.org and clicking on "News & Events", emailing Troy Walters at troy@northwoodslandtrust.org, or calling the office at (715) 479-2490.

The Northwoods Land Trust (NWLTL) permanently conserves natural shorelands, woodlands, and other natural resources to benefit present and future generations in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Iron, Price and Langlade Counties.

Visit www.northwoodslandtrust.org to learn more about NWLT's conservation services, protected lands, and future events.

Johnson

FROM PAGE 1

Given the choice, I know my wife would opt for the Optimator. I know that because I asked her, in the guise of doing scientific research for this column.

"Oh, definitely the beer," she said, not missing a beat.

So beer it is.

When our children were younger, we'd always give them the choice of receiving a greeting card or getting \$5 in cash. And cash, as they say, is "king," and so it was with our kids.

Besides balking at the sharply-rising costs of the cards, I also miss the simplicity of the Valentine's Day cards of yore — a few simple words of love and affection mixed with a nice simple graphic or two on the card cover.

Is it just me, or is it increasingly hard to find a Valentine's Day card with a message that resonates true? In years past, it seemed like I'd pluck a card or two or three from the rack and quickly find THE ONE that rang true and sang to my heart — and later hers. Nowadays, not so much. The messages now seem almost secondary to graphic designers blinging out the \$9.99 card — about as thick as a North Woods phone book with a gazillion

accordion page folds and enough craft tchotchke affixed to clear the shelves of a well-stocked Michael's, Hobby Lobby or Party City big-box store.

I once designed a blinged-out Christmas ornament like that, with a "Home Improvement" Tim Taylor "more power" excess of holiday craft tchotchke affixed, but then I was only four at the time.

All of which leads to a deeper philosophical question.

Why have we, as a culture, outsourced expressions of our love and affections to a \$50,519 writer in Kansas City, Cleveland or Los Angeles? Why do we hide behind generic platitudes penned by a third party, rather than bare our souls in our vulnerability to our soulmates, the forever and always love we said "I do" and promised "til death do us part" lo these many months, years and even decades ago?

This Valentine's Day, I'm taking a page from St. Jerome and going counter-cultural — eschewing the greeting card, putting pen to paper, and writing my own card to my beloved.

It'll go well with her Spaten Optimator.

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

Musical

FROM PAGE 1

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 2015 as part of a New York City theater educator's conference. We laughed throughout the entire show, so ten years later, we are thrilled to be able to bring this hilarious show to our stage," says Janssen. "Audiences will love the many Shakespearean references along with nods to a number of famous musicals throughout the 20th century. We have a wonderful group of Seniors who have been performing with us for four years and are excited for a fantastic production."

Tickets for the Feb.14, 15 and 16 performances are now on sale in the NPHS Main Office. Adult tickets are \$5, while Seniors (62+) and NPSD students are free. Seating is general admission. Remaining tickets will be sold at the door. Doors will open 30 minutes



Owen Grassl (left) and Davis Beyer (right) star as brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom, respectively, in the comedic musical "Something Rotten." The play also includes more than 50 students in the cast, crew and orchestra pit for the production.

prior to each performance. Patrons are recommended to purchase their tickets in advance as sell-outs are possible.

The production at Northland Pines will again

host three reviewers from the Jerry Awards program through the Overture Center in Madison, who will review the show and provide students with feedback on many aspects of

the production. If any students are recognized with nominations for outstanding work, they will be notified later this spring.

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