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VILAS COUNTY
News-Review

\$2.00
Section A



VOL. 140, NO. 2 EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521 | 715-479-4421 | vcnewsreview.com WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025

Vilas County
board to vote on
attorney, county
court support

Gov. Evers’s
budget aims
to remedy
shortage
“crisis”

BY JOSEPHINE
HINDERMAN
NEWS EDITOR

The Vilas County
Finance and Budget

Committee will soon present a resolution to the Vilas County Board of Supervisors to join the Wisconsin Clerks of Court Association (WCCA) and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) in their efforts to increase the Circuit Court Cost Appropriation by \$70 million, payable to Wisconsin counties in the 2025-2027 state budget.

To CRISIS Pg. 8



NOT FIT FOR DRIVING — A rare sight of an empty Wall Street in the downtown area of Eagle River during the snow storm that hit the region late last week. —Photo By Bill Zuelke



The best of the best in SnoCross racing is set to return to Eagle River this weekend, Friday and Saturday, March 14-15. —Staff Photo

Hayes Brakes
Snocross National
set this weekend
in Eagle River

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The best of the best in Snocross racing is set to hit its biggest track of the year when teams and fans converge on the World Championship Derby Complex in Eagle River this Friday and Saturday, March 14-15, for the Hayes Brakes Snocross National tour stop. This will be the first time since 2020 that snocross racing will hit Eagle River. Fans will surely be amazed by two days of high-flying action. Organizers have spent endless hours preparing for the event, using six snow guns to create what they say will be the largest track these racers will ride on this season. WCDC CEO Tom Anderson gave an update on where the track stands and

how it will be laid out. He said they are confident that their crew will offer a great track as they try to battle the warm temperatures that came this past week. “We’re using both the interior and exterior of the track. Some stutter bumps, big jumps, tight turns, and the big table top jump to show off their jumping skills,” he said about the track layout. Things kick off Friday at 10 a.m. with various practice sessions and heat races for certain classes. The pro class will practice at roughly 4:30 p.m. Friday between finals for the sport lite and sport classes. The evening will feature the showcase of pro riders with three rounds of triple

To HAYES Pg. 2

Economic Development Corporation
continues to spearhead
broadband efforts in Vilas

BY JOSEPHINE
HINDERMAN
NEWS EDITOR

The Vilas County Economic Development Corporation (VCEDC) is continuing to lead a broadband expansion initiative that aims to bring high-speed internet to over 90% of the population in Vilas County by the end of 2026. The group has since gone from 5% to 86% coverage since the effort first started in the spring of 2020. “It has truly been remarkable,” said VCEDC Executive Director Kathy Schmitz. “However, it’s not just implementing broadband that’s important, it’s what you do with it that will strengthen our economy.” Since 2020, a key component of the VCEDC’s strategy in expansion

was the creation of the “Broadband Buddy” program. The program is developed and led by the organization, where members of the VCEDC work in collaboration with representatives from each town in Vilas County and the Lac du Flambeau Tribe to lead broadband development programs and efforts in their respective communities, and serve as a one-stop-shop liaison for community leaders and internet service providers (ISPs) alike to work with. The VCEDC Broadband workgroup also aids in providing education, grant writing support, surveys and survey data, communication, and tracking for communities. The VCEDC Broadband Workgroup leading the broadband initiative consists of VCEDC Board Chairman Jim Tuckwell, Broadband Workgroup

Chairperson & Research Scientist at UW Trout Lake Station, Noah Lottig, and VCEDC Executive Director Kathy Schmitz. Each of these individuals is assigned as a “Broadband Buddy” to towns and the Lac du Flambeau Tribe, to ensure ongoing two-way communication and support for the towns as they collaborate in the development of strategic plans to bring broadband internet to their communities. “We’ve made it easy to do business, to implement broadband in Vilas County,” Schmitz said. According to the latest data from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, 51% of Vilas County addresses now have or will have access to high-speed fiber broadband service, and

To EFFORTS Pg. 6

News-Review takes in
nine awards for editorial,
photos in BNC contest

BY JOSEPHINE
HINDERMAN
NEWS EDITOR

The Vilas County News-Review has been recognized with nine awards in the state’s Better Newspaper Contest (BNC), including first-place recognition for investigative reporting, rookie reporting, and sports action photos. At the awards ceremony put on last Friday in Madison by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association (WNA), staff from the News-Review tallied three first-place wins, three second-place wins, one third-place win in advertising, and two honorable mentions. Former Editor Doug Etten was recognized for his investigative reporting that

broke news of the Judge Daniel Overbey affair that rocked the Vilas County Courthouse last summer, with judges saying, “Good job bringing facts to prove deniers are lying.” Assistant Audrey Lehman was recognized as Rookie Reporter of the Year for her story on summer swim lessons at Silver Lake Beach in Eagle River. “I feel this writer can handle any type of story from hard news to features to sports,” judges said. “(She has) good insights on subjects. (Her) writing style wants the reader to keep on reading. Very good entry.” Correspondent Bill Zuelke was recognized in first place for Sports Action Photo. Editor Josephine

Hinderman congratulated the paper on the fact it was able to bring home awards despite all the changes that seem to have constantly rocked the paper in the past year. “I think it’s amazing that we were able to be recognized with these awards, especially the first-place ones,” she commented. “I’m glad that despite everything the paper has been facing this past year, all those behind the scene changes we constantly need to work around, we were still able to do what we could to cover local news — we will continue to evolve and grow as we enter this new era of the News-Review.

To AWARDS Pg. 3



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WEATHERCORNER

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

LAST SEVEN DAYS

	Hi	Lo	Prec.	
Tues., Mar. 4	40	33	0.08" R	
Wed., Mar. 5	32	19	5.5" R+S	
Thurs., Mar. 6	32	11	4.2" S	
Fri., Mar. 7	32	2	None	
Sat., Mar. 8	41	-4	None	
Sun., Mar. 9	52	21	Tr. S	
Mon., Mar. 10	58	22	None	

ONE YEAR AGO

	Hi	Lo	Prec.	
Mon., Mar. 4	43	27	Tr. R	
Tues., Mar. 5	44	21	0.7" R	
Wed., Mar. 6	48	16	None	
Thurs., Mar. 7	51	29	None	
Fri., Mar. 8	40	24	None	
Sat., Mar. 9	29	22	None	
Sun., Mar. 10	42	16	None	

LAST YEAR

The average daily high at this time last year for the next seven days was 50, while the average overnight low was 22. There was precipitation one day, measuring 0.02" of snow.

Comparison

Days of precipitation recorded since Jan. 1, 2025, 47 days; 2024, 32 days. Average high of past 30 days, 2025, 29; 2024, 39. Average low of past 30 days, 2025, 5; 2024, 15.

SNOW DEPTH

Snow measured around 5-6" in depth at 8 a.m. on Monday, Mar. 10.

ICE CONDITIONS

Despite some warmer temperatures creeping in, the ice base is holding strong at 20" to 28" across the area. Conditions are still safe for now, but it's always important to check shoreline ice and areas with current, such as the Chain.

5-DAY OUTLOOK

Wednesday:	More clouds than sun.	Hi:46	Lo:24
Thursday:	Considerable cloudiness.	Hi:52	Lo:36
Friday:	Mostly cloudy.	Hi:61	Lo:44
Saturday:	Cloudy, periods of rain.	Hi:54	Lo:22
Sunday:	More clouds than sun.	Hi:28	Lo:12

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

CORRECTION

Nichole Bach of Wildwood Outdoor Adventures & Campground is the organizer for the FORK on the River Charity Paddle Event set for June 7. To register for a preferred launch time, call 715-477-3333.

Hayes

FROM PAGE 1

crown racing, with opening ceremonies starting at 6 p.m. and racing to start directly after with round one of the triple crown.

Pro Lite, Stock 200, Pro Am Women, and Pro Am Plus 30 are other classes that will run during the evening. The Pro Am Plus 30 and Sport Lite will run finals directly before the final round of the triple crown in the pro class, which is the night's final race and is set for 8:45 p.m.

Saturday morning and afternoon are much of the same, with practice sessions and heat races running throughout the majority of the day. A few junior class finals are set to run in the late morning, around 11 a.m., while the sport and sport lite classes will again close out the day session with two finals.

The evening session will open at 6 p.m. again with the same classes as Friday night, but will also add the 120 champ final to the schedule.

Outside of the racing action, fans can get an up-close look at the pro riders during an autograph session from 2:30-3:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, along with other family-friendly activities.

"We have Polaris bringing in their 2026 units for a sneak peak in the expo hall," stated Anderson.

Ticket sales will be \$40 each for general admission on Friday or Saturday only, or fans can buy a super ticket for \$70 that will get you admission to both days of racing. Kids ages 12 and under are free.

Hot seat tickets are also still available for purchase for \$150 which includes indoor seating plus general admission for both days. All ages, except for babies and toddlers on laps, will need to have their own seat purchased.

"We probably have about a third of the hot seats available. People can go to our website and choose their own seats. We also have a few corporate suites available on the south end," explained Anderson.

The season points leaderboard is stacked up with the top five within roughly 60 points of each other with just two races left this season. Polaris Rider Emil Harr of Sorsele, AB, leads the pro circuit with 203 points, with Chicoutimi, QC, Ski-Doo rider Jordan Lebel right behind with 173 points. Medford native Adam Peterson sits in third with 143 points, while Jacob Yurk and Elias Ishoel round out the top five with 141 and 128 points, respectively.

For more information on the event, including scheduling, racer info and more, visit Snocross.com. Hot seat information can be found at <https://derbycomplex.com/>.

BY MICHELLE DREW
CORRESPONDENT

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) unanimously voted to change the white-tail deer management units in the northern and central portions of the state during its Feb. 26 meeting.

This affects the Northern Forest Zone deer management units which would go back to being habitat-based rather than county-based. The rule also changes the language from County Deer Advisory Councils to Citizen Deer Advisory Councils (CDAC) and removes a requirement that these bodies are organized on a county basis.

According to a DNR memorandum regarding the proposed changes, this provides the department the flexibility to modify the geographical area CDACs may represent. These changes would not require the department to adjust the structure of the deer advisory councils, but rather leaves the option open to do so in the future.

The memorandum also says, "The department intends to work closely with the Wisconsin Conservation Congress to

consider the geographic extent and corresponding recommendation process for each CDAC based on the proposed unit boundaries. The emergency rule does not propose this change, so the 2025 deer advisory councils will remain organized by county."

Process questioned

CDAC chairs, as well as members of the public, have expressed concerns about the deer hunting numbers in the northern portion of the state for years. While there was strong public support for the changes voiced, some in opposition wanted the NRB to bring the rule changes through the proper channels as opposed to an emergency rule change.

Jeff Pritzl, Deer Program specialist for the DNR, began gathering public and tribal input last August. He, along with other DNR staff members, developed a map based on historical habitat-based units which had been used prior to 2014 when the state shifted to county-based units.

Pritzl noted that they received strong support for the boundary changes shifting from county-based to habitat-based in an online survey in October,

and went on to hold four open houses in November, including one in Woodruff, to gather public input.

According to Pritzl, support received specifically regarding the Northern Forest Zone was nearly 80% in favor of the changes.

Republican State Rep. Chanz Green, who represents most of the Northern Forest Zone, attended the meeting to express his support for the new maps and changes, based on what he has heard from his constituents.

"The map change is something necessary for northern Wisconsin deer hunting," Green said. "It's been on a decline for the last half-dozen years or so. People here are looking for a change."

Green noted he did not specifically request any expedited process for the rule-making procedure.

"I would like to see this vetted and properly gone through the channels, and everyone gets the chance to see it and learn about it better," he said.

Rob Bohmann, chair of the CDAC Oversight Committee, asked "What's the emergency?"

"Our CDAC Oversight Committee supported

the rule; however, we have concerns about the emergency rule. We have a process here; let's utilize the process," Bohmann said. "Our citizens haven't had an opportunity to weigh in on these changes that are made."

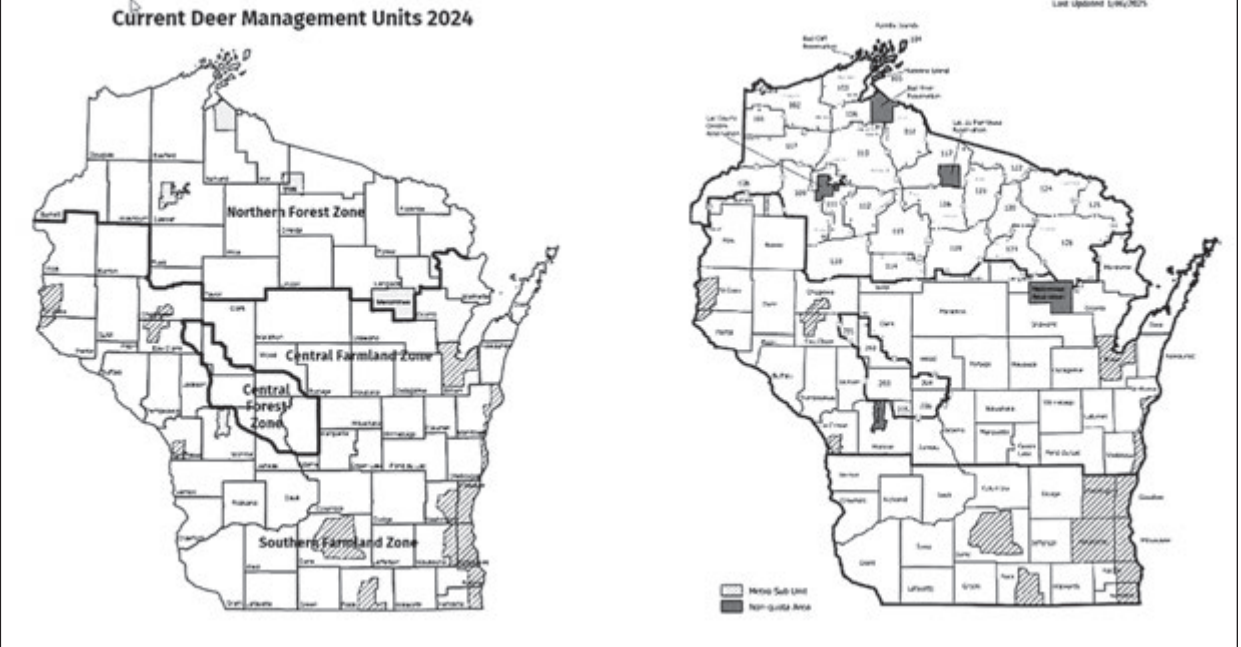
He advocated for the DNR to roll out their proposed rule during the upcoming Wisconsin Conservation Congress which takes place in about seven weeks.

"We're working off information that was brought in by roughly 200 people. Last time I checked, there are over half a million people that deer hunt in the state of Wisconsin. If we're gonna make changes, let's do it right the first time," Bohmann said.

Others who spoke at the meeting brought up reducing the number of antlerless tags on public lands as an important way to manage the deer herd.

"If you want more deer, you have to stop killing the mamas," said Greg Kazmierski, former chair of the NRB, who spoke in opposition to the rule.

Gov. Tony Evers and the Legislature will still have final say on the regulations.



These maps indicate what the current county-based deer management units are (left) and what the habitat-based maps will look like going forward (right). — Images Courtesy of Wisconsin DNR

Natural Resources Board moves forward with habitat-based deer management units

Groom to Ride Raffle drawing set Saturday

The raffle drawing for Groom to Ride, a major fundraiser for local snowmobile clubs, will be held on Saturday, March 15, at Track Side in Eagle River, located at 1651 Highway 45 N. in Eagle River. The event is sponsored by Track Side of Eagle River.

The grand prize is a 2025 Ski-Doo MXZ 600 snowmobile donated by Track Side.

Second prize is 2026 World Championship Snowmobile Derby tickets for 4, reserved indoor Hot Seats including admission and parking, donated by the World Championship Derby Complex.

Third prize is breakfast at Sorsele's Daybreak Diner, snowmobile rental at The

Boathouse, a two-night stay at SpiritView Lakeside, dinner at Clayton's and \$100 cash.

Fourth prize is a two-night stay at Peaceful Pines Resort, UTV or snowmobile rental from Track Side, and a \$100 gift card from Buckshot's North.

Fifth prize is a two-night winter stay at Phelps Lakeside Resort/Phelps Lakeview Lodge and \$100 for fuel from Phelps Convenience Center.

Sixth prize is a two-night stay at Bauer's Dam Resort and \$100 for use at Bauer's Dam Resort.

The event is co-sponsored by four area snowmobile clubs — Sno-Eagles of Eagle River, Sno-Buddies of Conover, Northern Lights Snowmobile Club

of Three Lakes and Phelps Snowmobile Club.

The event will kick off at 1 p.m. with raffle baskets and complimentary brats, hot dogs and beverages. Raffle basket drawings will begin at 4 p.m.

The main Groom to Ride raffle drawing will take place at 5 p.m.

Having well maintained snowmobile trails is critical to the local economy. Not all snowmobile trails receive state funding, and state funds do not cover all the costs of maintaining the funded trails. The four snowmobile clubs will use the funds raised to support the many aspects of providing quality snowmobile trails in the area.

This event would not

be possible without the support from Track Side, the World Championship Derby Complex, Sorsele's Daybreak Diner, the Boathouse, SpiritView Lakeside, Clayton's, Peaceful Pines, Buckshot's North, Phelps Lakeside Resort/Phelps Lakeview Lodge, Phelps Convenience Center, Bauer's Dam Resort, and the local businesses that are promoting and selling the raffle tickets.

Winners need not be present.

Raffle tickets can be purchased at local restaurants/taverns and at snowmobile dealerships. Tickets can be purchased at Track Side any time up until the drawing.

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Applications now open for ATV supplemental grant

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that recipients of the ATV Enhancement Grant Program may apply now through Saturday, March 15 for the new supplemental grant as provided in the state budget.

The funding for the mapping and communications grant was approved last year by the Wisconsin State Legislature and Gov. Evers in 2023 Wisconsin Act 67. The grant was allotted \$160,000 for the

initial period.

As the state crafts the next two-year budget, the allotment for the main grant will be \$80,000 annually and is supported through segregated DNR funds dedicated to the activity. Funds are awarded biennially with the state budget, for a two-year project period.

Availability

The application period for the program's supplemental grant is also open. However,

To GRANT Pg. 5

NEWS



GOOFY SPONSORS — Pictured, from left to right, are the sponsors for the Goofy Olympics hosted by Timber’s Bar & Grill in St. Germain on Feb. 1: Rich Miech from Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK), Phil and Bobbie Hams from The Timber’s Bar & Grill, Tim Kiesow from Murmuring Waters, John Bojta from St. Germain Fire and Rescue, Greg and Sue Slominski from Slo’s Pub. Sponsors not pictured are Fibbers American Roofing, Step Away Vacation Rentals, Rocks Rental, Sayner Pub, Maplewood Resort and Hahn Printing/North Star Marketing. A total of \$1,590 was donated to the St. Germain Fire Department and FORK, respectively. —Contributed Photo

Asprius Health provides tips to maintaining healthy sleep during Daylight Saving Time

As time “sprung forward” on Sunday, March 9, Asprius Health says it’s a great time to highlight the importance of healthy sleep habits — not just for adjusting to Daylight Saving Time (DST), but for overall well-being. Losing even one hour of sleep can disrupt a person’s internal clock, leaving them feeling sluggish, irritable and unfocused. Research shows that people tend to lose about 40 minutes of sleep in the transition from standard time to DST, especially on the Monday following the change. Sleep Awareness Week,

which runs March 9 - 15, serves as a reminder that consistent, high-quality sleep is essential for physical and mental health. While the time change can be disruptive, there are ways to minimize its effects. “Practice good sleep hygiene,” says Rebecca Wagner, Asprius Polysomnographic Technologist. “Don’t try to take naps to make up for the sleep loss, avoid rigorous activity before bed, and limit your screen time before bed.” For those who struggle with persistent sleep difficulties, a professional To SLEEP Pg. 8



Staff members Doug Etten, Jacob Heid and Josephine Hinderman display the winning plaques earned at the 2024 Better Newspaper Contest. —Photo By Tim Schrieber

Awards

FROM PAGE 1

“This couldn’t be done without the help of all of our local and town correspondents, local community leaders,

business owners and our subscribers. Thank you, all, for helping make this paper what it is!” she concluded. Three editorial second-place wins brought home by the News-Review include Local Outdoor Column, Kurt Krueger; Best Use of Local Photography,

Doug Etten and Kurt Krueger; and Photo Essay, Kurt Krueger, Gary Ridderbusch, Doug Etten, and Al West. Placing third for an advertising win were Best Large Ad, Doug Etten, Kurt Krueger, and Al West. Honorable Mentions were

awarded for Photo Essay, Kurt Krueger; and the Bill Payne Award Doug Etten, Kurt Krueger, and Al West. This year’s BNC saw 2,134 entries from 105 newspapers across the state which were judged by members of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association.

News-Review

Consolidation of the Vilas County News, the Eagle River Review and The Three Lakes News Published weekly by Multi Media Channels LLC. P.O. Box 1929, 425 W. Mill St. at Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521 newsreview@mmclocal.com vcnewsreview.com Publication #659480

Member of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association Entered as periodical mail matter at the post office, Eagle River, WI 54521, under act of March 3, 1879. Published every Wednesday. Subscription price for a year: Vilas and Oneida counties only, \$60; rest of Wisconsin, \$72; out of state, \$72. Mail subscription to: Vilas County News-Review, P.O. Box 1929, Eagle River, WI 54521. Payable in advance.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes, form 3579, to the Vilas County News-Review, P.O. Box 1929, Eagle River, WI 54521, phone 715-479-4421, fax 715-479-6242.

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OBITUARIES

Bernice Nowak



Bernice Nowak of Woodruff died on Feb. 26, 2025, at Aspirus Hospital in Wausau, Wis. She was 90.

She was born on March 22, 1934, in Milwaukee, Wis. to John and Clara (nee Ullman) Bartaczewicz.

Mrs. Nowak married Dave “Whitey” Nowak on Nov. 9, 1957.

Mrs. Nowak moved from Milwaukee to Land o Lakes in 1977.

Mrs. Nowak lived at One Penny Place for the past several years, where she made many wonderful friends and enjoyed her “CHIT CHAT” sessions.

Mrs. Nowak worked for Vilas County Zoning for many years and owned and operated Whiteys Bait & Tackle with her husband.

She enjoyed trap shooting, bowling, bingo, casino enthusiast, fishing, hunting, and cheering on the Brewers and Packers.

Mrs. Nowak is survived by her son, Robert (Amy) Nowak; and two grandchildren; and her grand dog; and many nieces; and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dave “Whitey” Nowak; her parents; and siblings, John, Stan, Wally, Herbie, Pete and Ann Bartaczewicz; and numerous four-legged friends.

Upon her wishes, cremation took place and private family services were held. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Vilas County Humane Society, PO Box 904, Eagle River, WI 54521 Nimsger Funeral & Cremation Services is serving the family.

David Hapka



David John Hapka, age 77, of Three Lakes passed away on Feb. 26, 2025, at Azure Memory Care in Oconomowoc, Wis. while struggling with dementia and rapid cognitive decline.

Born Aug. 30, 1947, the son of Max and Lorayne (Miller) Hapka, David grew up in the Milwaukee area with

brothers Paul, Michael, and Mark.

David graduated high school in Milwaukee in 1965 and then attended UW-Madison where he graduated in 1971 with a degree in Pharmacy.

David married Judith Sobralske on Aug. 30, 1969, and had four children: David, Carey, Mark, and Andrew.

Early in his career as a pharmacist, David owned and operated several pharmacies in the Milwaukee area with several partners resulting in friendships that lasted him throughout his life. Though living in the Milwaukee area, David found his true passion in the outdoors and loved hunting and fishing and visiting his parent's cabin in Conover. This love of northern Wisconsin prompted him to change his life forever and move his family to Three Lakes in 1980.

Initially, David worked for the Eagle River Memorial Hospital operating the pharmacy in Three Lakes but quickly purchased the pharmacy and became a small business owner operating the Three Lakes Pharmacy. In 1985, David built the pharmacy as it stands today and operated the Three Lakes Pharmacy for over 35 years.

David's true passion in Three Lakes was giving back to his community and spending time outdoors with friends and family. David was involved for many years in the community; most notably as a Town of Three Lakes Supervisor and a member of the Three Lakes Lions club. David also supported many community organizations thru donations from the pharmacy.

David always proudly stated that his favorite way to give back was talking to high school students about careers in health care and becoming a pharmacist. David embraced the outdoors lifestyle and taught his children to hunt and fish as well as many outdoor sports, such as cross-country skiing and water skiing. Every weekend was a seasonal outdoor adventure and could involve trout or musky fishing, duck or deer hunting, ice fishing, or mastering Devil's run at the Anvil Lake ski trail.

David formed many bonds and friendships in Three Lakes and spent time with friends and family at his cabin in Alvin, WI as well as many fishing trips to Canada with "the group". The group may have changed over time, but the "core group" did not. These lifelong friends were so important to David. He dreaded driving to Canada or South Dakota every year, but he would always make the trips; often making the group wait to leave until he closed the store so he could make sure his customers had what they needed.

David enjoyed golf and played many years in the Three Lakes summer league at the golf course for over 30 years. Golf league friendships were very important to David, and he would never miss a Wednesday night match, unless he was fishing in Canada.

David was preceded in death by his parents Max (Lorayne) Hapka; brother, Mark Hapka; and his favorite Uncle Casey and Aunt Irene. David also recently lost his companion, Joan Gehrke who gave him joy and companionship later in life; allowing him to live for as long as possible on Sevenmile Lake in the home he truly loved.

David is survived by his children, David (Reagon), Carey (Dan), Mark, and Andrew; as well as 11 grandchildren, Madison, Lakken, Alison, Nolan, Hunter, Ashlyn, Havoc, Matthew, Samuel, Elizabeth, and Hannah.

The family will hold a Celebration of Life in Three Lakes on May 31, 2025, at The Reiter Center from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Three Lakes Fish and Wildlife Improvement Association. Pagenkopf Funeral Home is serving the family.

PAID OBITUARY

Dale Johnson



Dale Robert Johnson, age 65, of Three Lakes, died on Feb. 19, 2025, at his home.

He was born on Sep. 24, 1959, in Chicago, Ill. the son of Donald and Diane (Seehafer) Johnson.

He attended the UW Stout where he received his Bachelor's degree and then St. Mary's University in Minnesota, where he received his Master's degree. Dale worked in Project Management and then pursued his passion by teaching woodworking at Andover High School.

Dale married the former Vickie Luckow on March 30, 1985, in Fridley, Minn. God blessed them with nearly 40 years of marriage.

Dale had many interests outside of his work that included hunting, fishing and playing hockey, where he got his nickname "Puck". He coached youth baseball and hockey including his son Aaron. He was a member and the "on call fix it guy" for the Faith Lutheran Church in Three Lakes. He also enjoyed woodworking outside his teaching, winning awards for his unique style. Dale had a big circle of family and friends who enjoyed their gatherings with good food, fish fries and campfires.

Dale is survived by his wife of 40 years, Vickie; his children, Hannah (Ryan) Foley, Aaron (Christine) Johnson; his grandchildren, Eleanor and Levi Johnson; his mother, Diane Johnson; his siblings, Kurt (Amy) Johnson, Mark (Sharon) Johnson, Donna (Dan) McNichols and Chris Johnson; his sisters-in-law, Myrna (Jim) Stroschein and Lenore Flugum; nieces; nephews; other family; and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald Johnson; his nephew, Noah Johnson; and his brother-in-law, Leslie Flugum.

Visitation for Dale will be held on Friday, April 4, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Carlson Funeral Home with memorial services on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Three Lakes. You may leave your private condolences for the Johnson family at www.carlsonfh.com.

The Carlson Funeral Home (715-369-1414) is serving the Johnson family. PAID OBITUARY

Kevin Niggemann



Kevin Niggemann, 68, passed away on Jan. 26, 2025, in Golden Valley, Minn.

Born on July 4, 1956, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Kevin lived a life filled with passion, adventure, and deep connections with those he loved.

He was a devoted husband to his wife of 45 years, Jane (Schaus); and a cherished brother to, Allen (Linda) Niggemann, Karl (Regina) Niggemann, and Joann (Keith) Olson. He also leaves behind 14 nieces and nephews, as well as beloved great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Karl and Loraine Niggemann; and his brother-in-law, Mark Schaus.

Kevin had an undeniable love for cars, motorcycles, and motorsports—he was happiest with a wrench in his hand. His enthusiasm for mechanics and the open road was more than just a hobby; it was a lifelong passion that brought him joy and camaraderie with fellow enthusiasts.

Beyond his love for machines, Kevin had a deep appreciation for nature. Upon retiring to St. Germain in the Northwoods, he embraced the beauty of the outdoors without hesitation or regret. The tranquility of the woods became his sanctuary, where he found peace and fulfillment in all that nature had to offer.

Kevin's kindness extended not only to people but also to animals. A devoted dog owner, he and Jane were known for providing such loving care that friends would often joke that if they could come back as a dog, they would want to be theirs. His warmth and generosity touched many lives—both human and canine alike.

A wonderful husband and beloved companion, Kevin will be deeply missed by all who knew him. May his memory bring comfort to those who loved him. Per Kevin's wishes, no funeral will be held. A family gathering will be held graveside.

PAID OBITUARY

David Van Boxel



David Albert Van Boxel died on Sunday March 2, 2025, with his family by his side. He was 79.

Mr. Van Boxel loved his family and his church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, and going for rides. He found great peace and solitude in the outdoors.

Mr. Van Boxel is survived by his wife, Sandra Lea Van Boxel; four children, Sarah Van Boxel, Leigh (Daniel) Schisel, Beth (Eric) Svoboda, and Josh (Amber) Van Boxel; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one sister, Mickey (Don) LaFortune; two sisters-in-law; along with many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Gladys (Hendrickson) Van Boxel; three sisters, Carol Hathaway, Joan Orde, and Jean Pokorny; four brothers, Ronald, William, Bernard, and Daniel; two nieces; two nephews; one brother-in-law; and one sister-in-law.

Services were held Saturday, March 8, 2025, at Abundant Life Church in Eagle River. Visitation was one hour prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in David's name to Abundant Life Church, who partners with Going Global, to support missionaries serving in an orphanage in the Andaman Islands. Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home is serving the family.

NOTICE: Obituary policy

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

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Ross Ray

Ross Alfred Ray died Feb. 20, 2025, at Howard Young Medical Center. He was 70.

Mr. Ray was born in Phelps on June 10, 1954, to Alfred Ray Sr. and Eleanore “Blondie” Litkey.

Mr. Ray enjoyed the outdoors, rock picking, fishing, camping, and the shoreline of Lake Superior. He also enjoyed hanging out with his three cats. Mr. Ray is survived by one son, Shane; and one brother, Donald.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Gaffney-Busha Funeral Home is serving the family.



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NEWS



SPECIAL DELIVERY — Although open for business, a major snowstorm delivered a punch to the area last week, leaving the Eagle River Post Office with plenty of parking along Wall Street. —Photo By Bill Zuelke

Vilas County court report

Cash bond reduced for Eagle River man in reckless injury case

Wilhelm Lemmons, 37, of Eagle River, had his cash bond reduced to \$75,000 from \$100,000 on one felony charge of first-degree reckless injury. A judicial pretrial was set for April 1 at 9 a.m. He also had his cash bond amended to \$1,000 from \$7,500 on one felony charge of manufacturing/delivery of fentanyl.

Ashlynn Thoms, 23, of Lac du Flambeau, had an arraignment hearing scheduled for April 23 on one felony charge of manufacture/delivery of fentanyl, with a conspiracy to commit modifier attached. Detective Nickolas Weber from the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Police Department testified and identified Thoms during the hearing.

Jesus Montes, 37, of Milwaukee, waived his preliminary hearing on one felony count of possession with intent of fentanyl at a hearing last week. The court found probable cause and an arraignment hearing is set for April 1 at 11:45 a.m.

Walter Linklater, 47, of Lac du Flambeau, did not appear for an adjourned initial appearance on one felony charge of bail jumping and one other misdemeanor. Another case involving methamphetamine possession was involved.

Judge Martha Milanowski authorized a body-only warrant for the nonappearance.

Alden Bauman, 37, of Lac du Flambeau, pleaded guilty to one count of felony possession with intent of amphetamine/methamphetamine and one felony count of bail jumping. State prosecutor Dennis Brown dismissed a felony charge of manufacture/delivery of fentanyl. A sentencing hearing is set for April 11 at 3:30 p.m.

Clanci St. Germain, 30, of Lac du Flambeau, had a plea/sentencing hearing scheduled for April 2 on one felony charge of maintaining a drug trafficking place and one misdemeanor. The defense was in agreement with an offer before the hearing was scheduled. The hearing is set for April 2, at 3:30 p.m.

MADD advocates safe St. Patrick’s Day Celebrations

As Wisconsin prepares for parades, parties, and pub crawls, Mothers Against Drunk Driving® (MADD) urges responsible St. Patrick’s Day celebrations. With alcohol consumption increasing, and impaired driving crashes on the rise, getting home safely requires planning before the first toast.

With St. Patrick’s Day falling on a Monday this year, celebrations are expected to extend through the weekend—bringing four nights of festivities and a heightened risk of impaired driving crashes.

St. Patrick’s Day remains one of the most anticipated drinking days in the U.S., making impaired driving a critical concern.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 290 lives were lost in alcohol-related crashes during the St. Patrick’s Day holiday period between 2018 and 2022.

In 2022 alone, 74 people were killed, with the risk escalating at night—38% of drivers involved in fatal crashes between 6 p.m. and 5:59 a.m. on St. Patrick’s Day were intoxicated.

MADD’s St. Patrick’s Day Safety Tips:

Make a Plan and Stick to It: Those consuming alcohol should decide in advance how to get home safely. Options include rideshare services, designated drivers, or public transportation to avoid dangerous last-

minute decisions.

Be a Proactive Host: Those hosting St. Patrick’s Day gatherings can take steps to ensure guests get home safely. Providing a designated driver, arranging rideshares, or offering a place to stay can prevent impaired driving crashes and save lives.

Stay Alert Behind the Wheel: Even sober drivers face risks from impaired motorists. Wearing a seatbelt, obeying speed limits, and remaining extra vigilant can help avoid dangerous situations.

Talk to Kids About Making Safe Choices: Parents play a crucial role in preventing underage drinking and impaired driving. MADD’s Power

of Parents Handbook offers proven strategies for meaningful conversations about responsible decision-making.

Report Impaired Drivers: Law enforcement should be contacted immediately if an impaired driver is suspected. One call could save a life.

Law Enforcement Will Be on High Alert: With celebrations ramping up, increased patrols and sobriety checkpoints will be in place across Wisconsin and the nation. A DUI arrest can result in thousands of dollars in fines, a suspended license, jail time, or worse—irreversible consequences if someone is injured or killed.

POLICE REPORT

Vilas County Sheriff

The Vilas County Sheriff’s Office reported a total of 168 incidents last week, which includes 13 911 hang-up calls, six car versus deer accidents, one hit and run traffic accident, two personal injuries, eight nonreportable traffic accidents, eight property damages, two agency assists, five burglary alarms, one fire alarm, four ambulance requests, two dog bites, four animal problems, one all points broadcast, two attempts to locate, 10 conditions of bond, six citizen assists, one communications problem, one death investigation, one disorderly conduct, one dispatch deer in roadway, three domestic violence complaints, one drug problem, seven sick leaves, one emergency response team call, two vehicle fires, one fireworks complaint, one found property, one fraud, one internet fraud, three warrant confirmations, 15 information reports, two restraining violations, one employee injury on duty, one failure to report to jail, two juvenile problems, one power line down, one vacation check, one repossession, two officer requests, one search warrant, three lewd and lascivious reports, one snowmobile accident, one snowmobile violation, two suicide attempts, five suspicious circumstances, one property theft, one fraud, 13 hazards, one traffic violation, one juvenile transport, one transport warrant, two

tresspasses to property, two weapon offenses, and seven welfare checks.

A total of 10 people were taken into custody and booked into the Vilas County Jail.

Eagle River Police

The Eagle River Police Department reported a total of 33 incidents last week, which included two alarms, three ambulance requests, two animal problems, one citizen dispute, five citizen assists, one false alarm, one fraud, one fireworks report, one information report, three lost or found property reports, three parking problems, two suspicious persons, one nonreportable traffic accident, two property damages, two traffic offenses, and three welfare checks.

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

Three Lakes Police

The Three Lakes Police Department reported a total of 47 incidents last week, which includes one 911 call, one accident, three alarms, two ambulance requests, one animal incident, four citizen assists, three motorist assists, one agency assist, nine business checks, two extra patrols, four hazards, one information report, one background check, one scam, two storm reports, one traffic complaint, seven traffic stops, one trespassing, and two vehicles in ditch.

Grant

FROM PAGE 2

only holders of the main ATV Safety Enhancement Funding grants are eligible to apply for the supplemental grant funds. These grant project awards are to be used for improving the safety and accessibility of ATV and UTV riding opportunities in Wisconsin. Eligible projects will include

communications equipment such as radios, and maps and software that provide safety, regulatory and riding opportunity information on a statewide basis.

Visit the ATV Enhancement Funding webpage at dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/atvEnhancement for more about the program and information on how to apply by May 1 to be considered for the main and supplemental grants for future cycles.



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Aspirus Health addresses importance of seeking addiction treatment

With substance abuse continuing to be a concern across North Woods communities, Aspirus health care professionals emphasize that addiction is a medical condition, not a “moral failing,” and that effective treatment options are available to help individuals regain control of their lives.

Dr. Adam Clements, Medical Director of the Office of Medical Education at Aspirus and director of the Family Practice Residency Program, believes that shifting how people view addiction is crucial.

“People look at addictions like it’s a character flaw, when really it’s a chronic relapsing disease that there are very good treatments for,” Clements said. “Addiction is no different than any other medical condition, like diabetes or high blood pressure. People deserve compassionate care and effective treatment.”

Despite the availability of treatment, many individuals delay seeking

help due to stigma, denial, or uncertainty about where to turn.

“A significant barrier is that people often don’t know they have a problem or that resources are available,” Clements added. “It’s vital to recognize the early signs of addiction before serious health complications occur.”

Treatment options are diverse and tailored to individual needs. These include inpatient programs, outpatient services, medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and counseling. Telehealth options also provide greater accessibility, allowing patients to receive care from the comfort of their homes. MAT has proven to be a life-saving resource, reducing cravings and lowering the risk of overdose.

“Addiction care, like many aspects of health care, is a team effort,” said Tiara Bonilla, Recovery Case Manager at North Central Health Care. “Seeking treatment is

a brave first step. Many people don’t realize help is available or how to access it. Our goal is to walk alongside individuals through the recovery process, ensuring they’re connected to the right support services.”

Bonilla also emphasized that recovery looks different for everyone, saying, “Complete abstinence may not be everyone’s goal, and that’s okay. Harm reduction strategies can improve safety, stability, and overall well-being. We focus on helping people maintain their jobs, family lives, and personal responsibilities.”

Healthcare professionals recommend starting with a conversation with a primary care provider.

“Having a trusted doctor who listens and can provide referrals to specialized services can make all the difference,” Clements explained. “Addiction treatment is accessible, and, with the right support, recovery is possible.”

For those seeking support, many organizations offer services to guide individuals on their journey toward recovery. Resources range from counseling and behavioral therapies to peer support groups and medication-assisted treatments. The key message from experts: you are not alone, and help is available.

For more information about substance use treatment options, visit www.norcen.org/Recovery.

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NEWS

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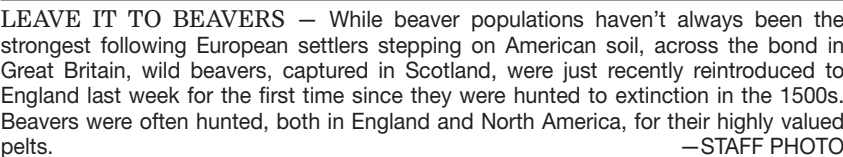
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FROM PAGE 1

Most recently, the VCEDC received a

The VCEDC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to build a strong, diverse, North Woods economy. Key initiatives include broadband, one-on-one business support, support for the Vilas County business community at large, and promoting Vilas County as an ideal and welcoming location to live and work year-round.

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NEWS

Northwoods Children Museum opens free personal hygiene pantry

The Northwoods Children's Museum (NCM) is expanding its commitment to supporting local families by adding a personal hygiene pantry, now open to the community.

Made possible through the generosity of an anonymous donor and the FDI Smile Grant, this new resource provides essential hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant and shampoo — available to those in need, no questions asked.

This addition builds upon NCM's existing partnership with Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK), which brought a supplemental food pantry inside the museum in 2024. The pantry offers convenient access to nutritious food for families in need, available during museum hours.

"The addition of a personal hygiene pantry was a natural next step after implementing the FORK pantry," says NCM Executive Director Danielle Larsen. "When families

are facing food insecurity, every dollar is prioritized for essentials like rent and utilities — often leaving personal care items out of reach. Unlike clothing or household goods that can be borrowed or thrifted, hygiene products must be purchased, making them an overlooked but critical need. By providing these items alongside food, we hope to ease some of the financial strain and ensure families have access to both nourishment and basic self-care necessities."

Both pantries are available during museum hours, Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

To keep the hygiene pantry stocked, NCM is seeking donations from the community. Items must be new and unopened and can be dropped off at the museum, located at 346 W. Division St. in Eagle River.

For more information, contact Danielle Larsen at director@northwoodschildrensmuseum.com or 715-479-4623, ext. 0101.



The Northwoods Children Museum recently opened a free personal hygiene pantry. New items are being accepted as donations. —Contributed Photo

State budget debate begins

Evers' ambitious budget includes major initiatives, but at sizable cost

BY WISCONSIN POLICY FORUM

As Wisconsin's next state budget debate begins, state finances appear stronger than at most points in the 21st century, buoyed by low unemployment and a balance in its main fund of more than \$4 billion.

Yet the near-term outlook suggests state finances may be nearing an inflection point, the Wisconsin Policy Forum's new state budget brief finds. The state's main fund is now spending more than it takes in, and its budget reserves, while sizable, are shrinking. Meanwhile, the Democratic governor and GOP Legislature are eying the state's reserves and offering tax and spending plans that would deplete it and potentially leave the state with future budget gaps.

Our budget brief focuses primarily on Evers' state budget proposal, which if enacted, would represent the largest percentage increase on record in state spending. It would boost state aid for K-12 schools and local governments, make the largest infusion of state dollars into the Universities of Wisconsin in a generation, provide state support for private child care, and address priorities such as broadband expansion and lead remediation.

To cover these commitments, the plan would spend down the state's general fund balance from nearly \$4.3

billion to \$646 million, though it would also leave roughly \$2 billion in the state's rainy day fund. The bill would also raise state taxes on net by more than \$2 billion over two years, while also including \$1 billion in measures to hold down local property taxes.

If adopted, Evers' plan would leave the state with a two-year structural deficit of roughly \$4 billion.

This would make it difficult to balance the 2027-29 budget, even if the economy remains strong and does not succumb to recent drops in the stock market and consumer sentiment.

"Some further use of the state's massive surplus is expected and welcome given the state's many challenges," the brief finds. "But taxpayers have good reason to watch both sides in this process carefully to ensure the final budget does not erode too many of the state's hard-won financial gains."

Record spending

Evers' budget proposal would increase spending — both in the state's main fund and across all funds — by the largest percentage on record. Appropriations from general purpose revenue (GPR), the state's primary and most flexible form of revenue, would total \$25.49 billion in the 12-month fiscal year ending in June 2026, a 19.2% jump over the prior year base budget.

To HEARING Pg. 8

To DEBATES Pg. 9

DNR to host walleye regulation hearing for Crescent Lake in Oneida County

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host a public meeting to discuss a proposed walleye regulation change for Crescent Lake in Oneida County on Tuesday, March 18.

This meeting was requested in response to a public notice published on Feb. 18.

The DNR proposes to change fishing regulations for walleye on Crescent Lake in Oneida County to match the standard Ceded Territory walleye regulation of a minimum length of 15 inches, but walleye from 20 inches to 24 inches may not be kept, with a daily bag limit of three fish with only one fish over 24 inches.

This proposed regulation change comes

after the Crescent Lake rehabilitation partner group detected a strong year class of age-1 walleye in the fall of 2024. Under the current regulation, juvenile walleye are more likely to be exploited. The goal of this regulation is to minimize the harvest of juvenile walleye and protect the current spawning adult population.

If the public is in favor,

the proposed regulation would take effect on Saturday, May 3.

Interested parties are invited to attend the meeting to learn more about the Crescent Lake walleye population and ask about the proposed walleye regulation change on Crescent Lake.

This meeting will be

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NEWS

Crisis

FROM PAGE 1

While Governor Tony Evers’s proposed budget, unveiled on Tuesday, Feb. 18, details goals of lowering costs for child care and taxes for working families, another part of the budget aims to address the shortage of attorneys and public defenders faced statewide and is considered a “crisis” by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

According to the Wisconsin State Bar, out of the 25,755 State Bar members, or professional associations that allow lawyers to practice in the state, only 432 are available to State Bar District 16, which includes Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Langlade and Marathon counties. Sixty percent of Wisconsin lawyers are located in the state’s three most urban counties, with nonurban communities often not even having 10 lawyers each, or counties having fewer than 20 lawyers. Vilas County Clerk of Circuit Court Beth Soltow says that Vilas and Oneida county courts often share attorneys when needed.

Evers’s budget seeks to provide more than \$24.4 million in 2025-2026 and \$70 million in 2026-2027 to county courts. However, in order for a county to be eligible to receive these support payments, they must offer a treatment, alternative, or diversion (TAD) program, which provides individuals facing criminal charges opportunities to seek substance treatment and other rehabilitation programs.

“In Vilas County, we do have a diversion program. However, I think that attaching strings to the dollar amount in that budget is not ideal,” commented Soltow, who was in Madison to meet with local legislators about the crisis as the budget

was being discussed in late February. “This is a statewide push to help all of our counties and our circuit courts with court support payments, and there are plenty of situations in other counties where they’re just not able to have a diversion program...It’s not going to help everybody. I think that it needs to be available, fully, throughout the state, because it really is impacting every single county.”

Soltow was in Madison speaking with Rep. Rob Swearingen and Sen. Mary Felzkowski’s staff on the subject, hoping to highlight how much the crisis has hit close to home and how the funds from Evers’s proposed budget could benefit counties and court systems in the North Woods.

“In my observation, I think meeting with them was important because there was a lot of education from me to them as to all of the costs that go on in the county versus the state,” Soltow said. “We have two judges, and court reporters who are state employees, but everything else is funded by the county...I think it was a great educational experience for them. From where I was sitting, they seemed kind of shocked at how much it was impacting county budgets.”

Additional proposals in Evers’s budget to combat this crisis include providing more than \$2.1 million in 2025-2026 and more than \$4.3 million in 2026-2027 for market-based salary adjustments for assistant state public defenders, to attempt to increase retention of experienced attorneys; and providing more than \$1.4 million in 2025-2027 to establish a new private bar reimbursement rate for serious cases, to improve the State Public Defender’s ability to recruit and retain private attorneys.

Soltow, who initially brought the resolution to support the WCCA and WCA to the Vilas County

Finance and Budget Committee, says that while there is an effect on those who are awaiting trial with this shortage, the crisis can be costly for the counties themselves.

“In 2024, we went over our budget by three times just to afford court-appointed counsel for cases,” she explained. “That is about a 330% increase just to afford court-appointed attorneys.”

Soltow said that court-appointed attorneys are often paid approximately \$100 per hour, amounting to about \$2,000 per case, an expense that the county covers.

“We can’t make someone sit out on a bond or sit in jail on a bond, just kind of waiting and waiting and waiting, so that’s why it gets to a point where we have to do a court-appointed counsel situation,” she said. “It’s going to cost the county money, but they can’t just sit there and wait. (Going over budget by 330%), that’s a big number, especially for Vilas County, so you can imagine what some of the bigger counties are running into with all of this.”

According to the WCCA, Wisconsin circuit courts took in more than 757,000 cases in 2023, with the total cost to counties for running these courts being around \$237 million, while direct support to counties from the state was only \$28 million (approximately 14% of the actual cost). In the last 10 years, direct support from the state has increased by only \$6 million, while the total cost to counties increased by nearly \$38 million. According to the resolution that will be presented to the Vilas County Board, the increase in the county portion of the cost to run the courts is nearly six times higher than the increase in Circuit Court Cost Appropriation provided to cover these costs, and counties now pay almost \$150 million more than the state in unbalanced Circuit Court Costs.



Vilas County Clerk of Courts Beth Soltow traveled to Madison recently to discuss the county’s legislative priorities for the upcoming congressional session with Rep. Rob Swearingen.

—Contributed Photo

With court-appointed attorneys, counties pay 100% of the cost in the event that the State Defender’s Office is unable to provide one for a case, a problem which, according to the WCCA, has “increased dramatically” within the past 5 years.

“Without more support, counties will be forced to make cuts and would affect security and safety,” Soltow said.

The state is responsible for covering the costs of judges, court reporters, Consolidated Court Automation Program (CCAP) equipment, and the Circuit Court Cost Appropriation, while the counties are fiscally responsible for a majority of other functions in the court, including: bailiffs and court security officers, courthouse building maintenance, phones and utilities, Clerk of Court and Register in Probate, staff salaries and benefits, jury costs, psychological exams, guardians ad litem and court-appointed attorneys, expert witnesses, interpreters and translation fees, court commissioners, law libraries, corporation counsel, courtroom technology and audiovisuals, copying machines and other non-CCAP office technology, office supplies, furniture, recruitment and training, financial collection efforts, mail feeds, printing costs, exhibit and file storage, access to state data, insurance, service of court documents, judicial staff and attorneys, and equipment repair.

“It’s just a push of making the governor, and the counties and legislators, aware of what the budget hits we’re taking at a county level,” Soltow said. “I think that there would be a fiscal benefit to the county if this budget were approved...I don’t know that it will create a situation where it will entice attorneys or people to become attorneys so that

we have more to choose from. However, from a fiscal perspective, it would assist us as a county in our budget and it would assist the Vilas County citizens where that comes out of their taxpayer dollars.”

The resolution will be discussed at the Vilas County Board meeting on Tuesday, March 25.

Statewide crisis

While the attorney shortage isn’t an issue reserved solely for rural counties like in the North Woods, where it often takes anywhere from three to six months to assign attorneys to a case, according to Soltow this described crisis is something felt statewide.

Across the state, courts are being held up and congested due to the lack of public defenders able to take cases, stalling them and causing resolutions to take longer, with the issue being amplified in rural communities.

In an article released by the Wisconsin Law Journal in June 2024, Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Annette Ziegler said that there was a 7% decrease in active attorneys in rural parts of Wisconsin and fewer students enrolling in state law schools over the past five years, attributing this to the crisis currently being experienced in the state.

“I’ve seen the impact of the shortage,” comments Brynlei Kuhn, a student studying law in Madison who has shadowed legal professionals in Oneida County, including Circuit Court Branch II Judge Mary Sowinski. “It causes anxiety. Attorneys feel like they can’t retire because people still call and need legal help and can’t find other places to go.”

According to the State Bar, most attorneys who live and practice in rural areas are over the age of 60, and they are not being replaced when they retire.

“The lawyer shortage not only impacts the

constitutional rights of defendants — it also affects victims and our communities,” Ziegler stated in the Wisconsin Law Journal article.

While there are financial losses to not having attorneys, there are losses for those who are waiting for trial, including losing rights to a speedy trial and the potential loss of evidence as memories fade; there is also burnout suffered by attorneys and the accumulation of student loan debt being a deterrent for attorneys from joining the field.

To help combat the shortage, Ziegler helped establish an attorney recruitment and retention committee, which has been seeking possibilities to help draw attorneys, and graduating law students, to practice in Wisconsin.

The committee is currently considering incentives such as student loan debt forgiveness, pay enhancement for attorneys based on their location of residence, improving recruitment methods for students who could potentially start rural Wisconsin law practices, and extending diploma privilege, which allows Wisconsin law students to practice law without needing to take the State Bar exam, to out of state graduates to help draw lawyers to crisis-affected areas.

The committee has also been developing the Rural Clerkship Program, which places law students from Wisconsin and Minnesota into paid summer jobs in rural communities. The State Bar said that it plans to continue the program into 2025.

As the attorney shortage isn’t limited to just Wisconsin, the committee continues looking to programs and incentives offered in other states.

—Parts of this story were contributed and researched by Brynlei Kuhn.

Sleep

FROM PAGE 3

sleep study might provide answers. Sleep studies at Aspirus monitor vital signs, oxygen levels, and sleep patterns to diagnose conditions like sleep apnea, restless leg syndrome, REM

sleep behavior disorders, insomnia and narcolepsy.

“Sleep is foundational to our physical, mental and emotional well-being,” says Wagner. “Insufficient sleep can lead to memory problems, increased anxiety and depression, and additional strain on bodily functions.”

Aspirus Health

encourages individuals to take proactive steps in maintaining healthy sleep habits to ensure a smooth transition into DST and to support long-term sleep health.

For more information about sleep health and services available at Aspirus, visit aspirus.org/sleep-medicine.

Hearing

FROM PAGE 7

held on March 18 at 6 p.m., both in person at the Rhinelander DNR Service Center at 107 Sutliff

Avenue, and virtually via Teams. To ensure that there is adequate capacity for all individuals interested in attending in person, members of the public are strongly encouraged to RSVP to Nathan Lederman at Nathaniel.Lederman@

wisconsin.gov.

Find more information about this meeting, including the Microsoft Teams meeting link, on the DNR’s Meetings and Hearings calendar at dnr.wisconsin.gov/calendar/meeting/104486.

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Sports

Eagles edge Oconto Falls in Regional semi, but lose to top-seeded Freedom in final

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH
CORRESPONDENT

The Northland Pines boys' basketball team advanced to the WIAA Division 3 Regional final for the fifth time in six years, but the Eagles fell short against top-seeded Freedom.

The fourth-seeded Eagles defeated fifth-seeded Oconto Falls 64-60 in the Regional semifinal on Friday at the fieldhouse, but lost at Freedom 86-61 Saturday night in the Regional final.

"We played well in stretches, and they are a very good basketball team," said Pines coach Terry Klemett.

Freedom took a 22-9 lead at the 11:23 mark of the first half and led 48-32 at the half.

"Their half-court trap was very effective and we handled it well at times," said Klemett.

Freedom controlled the second half, despite some good 3-point shooting by the Eagles. Freedom led 70-45 midway through the second half and cruised to the victory.



Pines senior Cody Vojta goes up for a tough shot in the second half of the regional semifinal victory.



Northland Pines guard Jack Albrecht fights for a loose ball as Oconto Falls plays tight defense during the regional semifinal game at Northland Pines Friday evening. Pines won the game 66-60 after trailing in the second half.

—Staff Photos By JACOB HEID

"We made 17 three-pointers and still lost, which normally doesn't happen," said Klemett. Pines made 17 of 28 3-pointers for 61%. Mylo Albrecht led Pines with

20 points, followed by A.J. Muench with 12 points and Jonathan Miller with 10. Miller and Jack Albrecht had five rebounds each.

Klemett said he was impressed with Freedom as a whole.

"They are one of the best in the state, regardless of division, for a reason," said Klemett. "I'm very proud of our guys and the season they had. I'm happy for our seniors who led us to another Regional championship game. We return a good portion of our team for next season and that's a good problem to have."

Pines finished the season with a 14-11 overall record.

Semifinal win

The Eagles opened the WIAA tournament with a 64-60 win over Oconto Falls on the Eagles' home court.

Oconto Falls led 10-8 at the midway point of the first half and 34-24 at the intermission, with some good first-half shooting.

"They shot the ball extremely well in the first half and we felt good at the break only being down 10,"

said Klemett.

Pines closed the gap to 40-34 at the 12:11 mark and got within one point at 49-48 with 5:20 to play in the game. Pines finally tied the game at 49-49 with 4:20 to play.

"In the second half we defended much better and I felt we controlled the game on both sides," said Klemett.

The game remained close for the next three minutes as Pines took a 61-60 lead with one minute to play.

"Our guys made the plays down the stretch to secure that win," said Klemett. "Senior Jon Miller willed us to a victory with his energy and rebounding. He was the game MVP."

Miller had 16 points and nine rebounds, and made 5 of 5 free throws to secure the win. Mylo Albrecht led Pines with 25 points. Muench had 13 points.

The Eagles made 12 of 23 field goals for 52% and dropped 8 of 26 3-point shots for 35%. Pines won the game at the free-throw line, making 15 of 18 for 83%. Oconto Falls was just 4 of 6 for 67%.



Sideline Scoop

BY JACOB HEID

High-flying action returns to WCDC

Don't forget to head out to the World Championship Derby Complex this Friday and Saturday as the best of Sno-Cross racing is making its way to Eagle River for two days of action for the Hayes Brakes SnoCross National tour stop in Eagle River.

Everything kicks off Friday, March 14, at 11 a.m. for practice runs and heat races in classes like the Jr. 14-15, sport lite, sport and many more. Some finals races will take place early in the evening in the sport lite and sport classes.

The pro class will have multiple practice sessions throughout the afternoon before taking on triple-crown action in the evening.

The night's festivities will begin Friday at 6 p.m. with a round of triple crown action kicking off at 6:20 p.m. The pros will have three different rounds spread out throughout the night, with the final race scheduled for 8:45 p.m.

Saturday is much of the same with practice sessions and heat races taking place all morning while being mixed in with some junior class finals. Opening ceremonies for the evening will kick off once again at 6 p.m. with the first of three rounds of triple crown racing in the pro class starting at roughly 6:20 p.m. The final race is scheduled for 8:40 p.m., with the final leg of the triple crown Saturday night.

Riders will be racing both days for season point totals, which is currently held by Polaris rider Emil Harr of Sorsele, Sweden, who has 203 points. Ski-Doo's Jordan Lebel of Chicoutimi, QC, follows in second place with 173 points.

Wisconsin native and Polaris rider Adam Peterson of Medford sits in third on the pro circuit with 143 points. Jacob Yurk of Rochester Hills, Mich., and Elias Ishoel, of Oppdal, Norway, round out the top five with 142 and 141 points, respectively.

For more information and a complete list of scheduled events for both days, visit <https://snocross.com/hayes-brakes-snocross-national/>.

Falcons move to top of GLHL standings after two weekend wins

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Eagle River Falcons now sit at the top of the Great Lakes Hockey League standings with 29 points after 20-0 and 7-3 wins over the Sun Prairie Killer Bees and the Dane County Dairy Kings last Friday and Saturday on the road.

Eagle River sits ahead of the Portage Lake Pioneers, who sit at 27 points, as the regular season heads for the final two weekends.

The Falcons got the weekend rolling Friday night in Sun Prairie as they got out to an early lead and never looked back. Eagle River scored twice within the first six minutes as it scored seven first-period goals. All seven goals came from a different skater.

Another eight goals came in the second as the Falcons held a 15-0 lead after two periods. Todd Koritzinsky scored three of his five goals in the second and finished the night with seven points. Travis Rayala finished the night with five points, which included four goals.

Alex Racino scored three goals in the win and

added an assist.

The Falcons notched the weekend sweep on Saturday as they came away with a four-goal win against the Dairy Kings.

Lucas Otto got the Falcons out to an early 2-0 lead with goals, with 18:24 and 13:27 left in the first period. The Dairy Kings got back within one before Eagle River extended its lead to 4-2 with two goals from Koritzinsky before the period ended.

The two teams skated scoreless for nearly the first half of the second period before Dane County made it a 4-3 contest with 13:17 left in the period. Racino and Jacob Robinson answered with two consecutive goals to regain a 6-3 advantage after two.

Dane County was held scoreless in the third as Eagle River outshot the home team 61-39.

The Falcons will end the regular season on the road at the Fox Cities Ice Dogs on Saturday, March 22, with a 7:30 p.m. faceoff. Eagle River will then host the league tournament in Eagle River from March 27-30, to be held at the Eagle River Dome.

Busha named finalist for Adam Burish Hockey Award

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

Northland Pines senior hockey player Tyler Busha was recently named one of the four finalists for the Adam Burish Hockey Award, which is given to a player who fights through adversity with grit and determination to make their program better.

Busha would join Alex Sternhagen, who won this award during the 2019-20 season, as Northland Pines athletes who won if he were to be selected.

The award isn't generally given to a player who lights up the stat book with goals and assists, but rather to the unsung hero on the team.

"Tyler is one of the best teammates anyone could ask for. The way he

supports everyone on his team is unmatched. You would be hard-pressed to find another kid as unselfish as Tyler," said Northland Pines boys hockey coach. "He is all about what's best for the team, even when it's not what's best for himself individually."

Otto best described Busha as a glue guy on the team.

"Tyler is a glue kind of guy and knows how to bring everyone together," he explained. "If you feel like you need to put a smile on your face, just go talk to him. He will be greatly missed in our locker room moving forward."

Drew Heil of Notre Dame Academy, Jake Hane of Wausau West, and Owen Dernovsek of Spooner were other award finalists.



Tyler Busha

—Contributed Photo

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SPORTS

Barnekow tabbed first-team all-NLC; two others named to all-con team



Paige Brafford



Malia Szews



Haylee Barnekow

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Three Lakes/Phelps girls basketball team had three Northern Lakes all-conference selections this season, led by junior leading scorer Haylee Barnekow, a first-team all-NLC selection.

Teammates Paige Brafford and Malia Szews were voted onto the second and honorable mention teams, respectively.

TL/P finished the season with a 10-14 overall record and 2-6 inside the NLC.

Barnekow led the team in scoring by averaging double-digit points for the Bluejays as she was at the controls in most games. In the available stats, Barnekow averaged nearly nine points in NLC play in three games of available stats.

The junior guard led the team in field goal attempts.

“As time went on, she became our leading scorer. She became our

floor leader in getting our offense set and it was very encouraging,” said TL/P head coach Rich Javenkoski.

He said her 22-point second-half performance at nonconference Mellen, after scoring no points in the first, was the highlight of her season, in his opinion. She was also tasked with defending some of the leading scorers on opposing conference teams throughout the season.

As much success Barnekow had shooting the basketball this year, the Lady Jays also focused on getting inside the paint. Brafford was a big piece of that, using her six-foot-two frame to score on the block and collect rebounds. Even battling through injury this year, Brafford averaged nearly five rebounds per game from available stats.

“Her physical presence inside brings a lot of attention. As time went on, she adjusted to that

and either shot the ball quicker or kicked it out,” said Javenkoski about her offensive presence. Her season-high in rebounds was 13 in a nonconference game against Niagara.

Lastly, in her first high school season, Szews picked up NLC honorable mention honors.

She scored a season-high 15 points in a road game at Edgar on Dec. 3 and worked defensively.

“Defensively, she has great length. She was second on the team in scoring, first in steals (overall), and showed maturity above the freshman age.”

Javenkoski said that he hopes to develop Szews into a dominant scorer and said that the best thing about all three of them is that they will all be back next season to try and fight for a conference championship.

All stats provided are from three conference games of the season based on online submissions.



DONATION — Parsons of Eagle River and Antigo each presented a check of \$136 to Avery Renkes and Bella Nowak of the Pines Girls High School Co-op Hockey team for their locker room fund. It was part of giving \$1 for every oil change in the month of February.

—Contributed Photo

Jays defense sets tone in quarterfinal; Three Lakes loses rematch at Pacelli

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Three Lakes boys basketball team used first-half defense to help them in a 62-35 home playoff win against 10-seeded Tri-County last Tuesday, leading into a tight 62-59 loss at 2-seeded Pacelli Friday in the regional semifinal.

The Bluejays and Cardinals faced each other last year in the regional finals, where the Bluejays hosted and won the game.

Three Lakes showed its toughness for the full 36 minutes, as a tough regular season schedule helped prepare the Jays for the playoffs.

The Jays fell behind 9-0 early on, but got momentum rolling a few minutes later. They went on a 13-4 run to tie things up at 13-13 with 10:30 to play in the half.

Three Lakes controlled most of the remainder of the half as it held a 22-15 lead and eventually a 35-29 lead at halftime. Senior Peyton Pitlik dominated offensively for the Jays in the first half, playing nearly unstoppable for much of the first half.

The Jays kept a 41-35 lead early in the second before Pacelli made a push to close the gap to one, 41-40, and took the lead with 11 minutes to play.

“We had a lead at halftime, and we had a seven-point lead in the second half, but Pacelli made some nice adjustments defensively that got us flustered, and their athleticism and depth just caught up to us,” said Three Lakes head coach George Lurvey.

It was back and forth from that point, with Three Lakes holding a lead as big as three points before Pacelli took the lead again with about two minutes to play. Some missed shots and

turnovers hurt the Jays in the late stages as Pacelli tried to close the game at the free-throw line.

In a 60-56 game with about 20 seconds left, the Jays rushed down the floor, and Sam Koshuta nailed a wing 3-pointer to get within one, 60-59. Two free throws by Pacelli allowed one more chance for the Jays. Freshman Easton Lurvey made his move and created space with a nice crossover, and had a good look at it, but the shot did not fall.

“We played really well in this game. I think we shocked a lot of people who thought we didn’t have a chance in this game and we were going to be blown out,” said Lurvey. “We have played in seven games this year as a heavy underdog, and we competed down to the wire in every single one of them. Defensively, I have to acknowledge Charlie Liebscher, Levi Lurvey, Owen Liebscher, Eli Erickson and Zach Weavers. These kids aren’t getting the glory of scoring, but they are the deciding factors on defense. They unselfishly do what’s best for the team.”

Pitlik finished his high school basketball career with 27 points and 13 rebounds. Lurvey finished with 24 points.

Quarterfinal win

The quarterfinal started in favor of the Bluejays, as they collected a few steals that ended in easy transition buckets at the other end. Three Lakes held an 11-2 advantage with 12 minutes to play in the first half, and extended that out to 25-6 with six minutes to play behind the 3-point shooting of the Jays.

“I was very proud of the kids for coming out and playing with the energy and aggressiveness they

played with. Our last two games have been complete games we can be proud of,” said Lurvey. “We started off very aggressive on defense, and we were able to get some steals and fast break layups to gain a healthy lead right from the beginning. Our defense set the tone for the game for us, and our offense followed suit.” Three Lakes led Tri-County 34-9 at halftime before pushing the lead ahead to 50-16 with 11 minutes to play in the game. That allowed Lurvey to use his bench for much of the second half to rest some of his players.

“We held Tri-County to just 9 points at halftime, so we were able to play most everyone in the second half and get some of the younger players some varsity action in preparation for next season,” explained Lurvey.

Pitlik kept his scoring production up by leading Three Lakes with 22 points. It was his fifth game with 20-plus points this season. Fellow senior Eli Erickson finished with 15 points, while sophomore Owen Liebscher had 10.

Erickson pulled down a team-high seven rebounds and Liebscher collected six boards. Three Lakes ended the season with an 11-15 record overall.

Three Lady Eagles get all-GNC nods



Vienna Klemett



Rylee Darr



Kaydence Brost

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

The Great Northern Conference recently announced all-conference awards for girls basketball, which included Northland Pines senior Vienna Klemett, and sophomores Rylee Darr and Kaydence Brost.

Klemett finishes her high school career with second-team all-GNC honors as Pines’ leading scorer this season.

Darr and Brost were each honorable mention selections for the Eagles.

Klemett spent the last two seasons as the Eagles’ leading scorer, with an average of nearly 12 points per game this season, which was an improvement from her eight points as a junior.

She scored 256 points this season and held 35-35-percent shooting splits from the field and 3-point line, which is a strong suit of her game, according to her head coach, Jaclyn Halsey. Her season-high 27 points came against Watersmeet back on Feb. 3. She ranked 12th in league scoring with 121 points (10.1 PPG).

“This was a very deserving recognition that she has worked very hard for. Every point she had

this season was fought for on her end,” stated Halsey. “I have said this so many times this season that I may seem like a broken record, but as outstanding of a shooter this girl is, her legacy left here will be her leadership. She was a class act all season, giving 110% in all 25 games she played.”

For Darr, it is her first all-conference selection as she was the team’s second leading scorer overall. It wasn’t just her offense that landed her on the all-conference honorable mention team, it was also the work on the defensive end. She had a trio of five-steal games this season, including averaging two steals per game in GNC play.

“Rylee truly is one of the toughest defenders out there. She led our team in steals (57), and assists (39),” explained Halsey. “We gave Rylee some of the toughest assignments when it comes to guarding our opponents. She forces teams to choose other options besides their normal offensive stars. Never stops pushing herself. Her speed with the ball has increasingly gotten faster, and I cannot wait to see where she takes that in the next two years.”

Brost was a jack of all trades for Pines this season,

according to the coaching staff. She had five different games in double figures, while also collecting four double-doubles with her rebounding. She had a season-high 26 points against Bowler on Jan. 16 and a season-high 15 rebounds on Feb. 21 against Antigo.

“Kaydence has had to fill many roles on our team. Her defense down low has made a big difference this second half of the season, holding many tough post opponents to single digits under her watch. We have always counted on her to do her part offensively as well,” said Halsey. “This is another sophomore who is just getting started, with huge jumps in her confidence this year. She will make an impact in our conference for the next couple years to come.”

Offensively, she scored just under seven points per game in 12 conference games. She totaled 80 points in those games.

Kristina Ouimette of Lakeland won player of the year in the conference, the new GNC single-season and career all-time leading scorer.

Mosinee’s Joshua Hau got coach of the year honors in the GNC for 2024-25.

STANDINGS

EAGLE RIVER
POOL LEAGUE

Results of 3/6/25
Results: Brew's Pub 13, Denoyer's 13; Denoyer's II 13, Log Cabin 3; Uncle Kent's I 9, Lumpy's 7; Eagle Lanes 8, Club 45 II 8; Northern Exposure 11, Club 45 I 5; Club 45 III 10, Uncle Kent's II 6
Eight Ball Runs: Frank Sarkauskas, Danko Hazen
STANDINGS W L

Eagle Lanes	225	111
Brew's Pub	204	132
Northern Exposure	196	140
Club 45 III	187	149
Uncle Kent's I	182	154
Denoyer's I	178	158
Lumpy's	169	167
Club 45 I	151	185
Denoyer's II	148	188
Uncle Kent's II	140	196
Log Cabin	119	217
Club 45 II	117	219

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SPORTS

Windigo scores 12 goals against Steel in series split

BY JACOB HEID
SPORTS EDITOR

It was all about the offense this weekend for the Wisconsin Windigo, as it scored 12 goals in the two-game series split against the Chippewa Steel in Eagle River, March 7-8.

Nine of the 12 came on Friday night in a 9-3 rout of the Steel, before the visitors returned for a 6-3 win Saturday to even the series at one a piece.

On top of it, the puck got moved around nicely as nine different Wisconsin skaters tallied a goal on the weekend.

“Of course I was happy with the dominating win on Friday. After jumping out to a two-goal lead on Saturday, we took our foot off the gas and lost our composure,” said Windigo head coach John Mitchell.



John Halverson had a goal and an assist in Friday night's win.

“The Steel are well coached and a team on the rise.”

Steel 3, Windigo 9

Coming off a one-goal performance in the game prior, the Windigo made sure the game wasn't in jeopardy early in the series opener. Alexios Georgaklis drew first blood as he scored his first of two goals of the period at 4:29 of the first. Rio Treharne made it a 2-0 Windigo lead at 5:19, before Georgaklis netted his second at the 11-minute mark to put Wisconsin ahead 3-0 after one period.

A five-goal second period put the Windigo up for good. It was a 5-0 score before Chippewa got on the board at 7:39 of the middle period.

“Getting out to a fast start.”

Goals by Ronnie Hill and Hunter Hayes in the middle

portion of the second made it 7-1, and it was eventually an 8-1 contest after period two was complete.

Chippewa scored twice in the third to limit the damage, but the game was all but over at that point. Hayes secured the hat trick with a tally at 8:45 of the third. Hayes, who was sent to the Windigo in early February, is second on the team in goals with 22. He has nine goals in eight games in a Windigo jersey.

“Hunter Hayes was phenomenal on Friday and deserved the hat trick. He's been a great addition for us,” stated Mitchell.

Lucas Szyszka finished the night with 21 saves on his 24 shots faced for his 24th win of the season.

Steel 6, Windigo 3

Chippewa's special teams were the highlight of the second game as the visiting Steel got a hold on the Windigo's offense.

“We told the guys to be prepared for a big push from the Steel on Saturday. That is exactly what we saw, and our guys didn't respond appropriately,” explained Mitchell.

Braydon Beahm got Wisconsin on the board early with his team-leading 27th goal of the year, which ended his eight-game scoring drought. Luke Baker made it a 2-0 game at 11:03 of the first. Chippewa answered with just over 60 seconds left in the period to make it a 2-1 contest after one. The Steel outshot the Windigo 8-6 in the period.

The final two periods were the difference maker as the Steel outscored Wisconsin 5-1 in the final 40 minutes. A power play tally at 1:43 of the second tied



Windigo forward Hunter Hayes scored a hat trick on Friday night's win against the Chippewa Steel.

–Contributed Photos

things at 2-2 before the Steel gained a 3-2 advantage near the middle of the period and held that lead at the second intermission.

Ben Aucoin knotted the game back up at 3-3 at the early stages of the third (4:11), before another power play score and a short-handed goal by the Steel pushed them ahead, 5-3.

“Aucoin's production (8g and 11a in 23 games) has been a bonus for us,” said Mitchell about his performance. “He was held off the scoresheet the first two games after we acquired him, but once he got comfortable in our system, he became very productive.”

An empty-netter at 18:02 put the game away despite the Windigo outshooting the Steel 27-19.

Wisconsin is in Eagle River for the final time this regular season. The team will play the Minnesota Wilderness on Friday and Saturday, March 14 and 15, at 7 p.m.

The team will cap off the regular season with eight consecutive road games, which run through early April.

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- DAY BY DAY: PORTS**
- DAY 1 (Nov 3): USA – Geneva*
- Depart the USA for Switzerland on an overnight flight with in-flight meals.
- Day 2 (Nov 4): Geneva, Switzerland*
- Day 3 (Nov 5): Geneva - Lyon*
- Day 4 (Nov 6): Macon*
- Day 5 (Nov 7): Chalon sur Saône - Tournus*
- Day 6 (Nov 8): Lyon*
- Day 7 (Nov 9): Avignon*
- Day 8 (Nov 10): Arles*
- Day 9 (Nov 11): Châteauneuf-Du-Rhône - Le Pouzin*
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Applications now open for Young Entrepreneur Market

The Eagle River Revitalization Program (ERRP) announced that applications are now open for the 2025 Young Entrepreneur Market (YEM!) program.

YEM! is a hands-on program designed to empower youth ages 10-17 by helping them turn their ideas into successful businesses through mentorship, education, and real-world market experiences.

To prepare young entrepreneurs for success, YEM! is offering a series of interactive training workshops leading up to the 2025 market season. These sessions will provide guidance on business planning, marketing, pricing, and sales, as well as hands-on practice with booth setup and customer engagement.

Upcoming training events:

- Friday, March 14 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at City Hall (525 E. Maple St., Eagle River). Incredible Bank will be sponsoring lunch. Meet YEM! mentors, explore

ideas, and start developing a business plan.

- Friday, April 11 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at City Hall. Deep dive into key business skills — marketing, pricing, sales tracking and storytelling — while refining plans with expert support.

- Friday, May 9 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Veterans Resource Center (418 W. Pine St., Eagle River). Get ready for market day — practice setting up booths, perfect pitches, and receive feedback from mentors and community members.

Each workshop includes lunch, hands-on activities, and personal mentorship to help young entrepreneurs build confidence and launch their businesses successfully.

The 2025 Young Entrepreneur Market season kicks off in June, with monthly market dates through October.

Youth interested in participating in YEM! can apply now at YEM!EagleRiver.com. For questions, contact Karen Margelofsky at 715-477-0645.

Northland Pines Community Foundation continues to uplift Pines’ district community

The Northland Pines Community Foundation, a local 501(c)(3) charity, is continuing to support and uplift the community that surrounds the Northland Pines School District.

The organization is driven by a commitment to enhance educational experiences and provide resources that empower students and residents alike.

According to Scott Foster, District Administrator, “This foundation is a very important addition to the Northland Pines School District that has been missing and is long overdue. It is creating positive energy and culture in the community.”

The Board directing these efforts is composed of five Northland Pines alumni, including Dr. Scott Preisler, president; Sue Govier, vice president; Larry Snedden, secretary; Dr. Jack Stoskopf, treasurer; and Jackie Weight.

Preisler explains, “It’s about creating opportunities that inspire academic excellence, spark creativity, and strengthen our community bonds.”

The Foundation aims to bridge gaps in resources and provide additional support that enhances both academic and co-curricular programs, as well as partner with other local groups who are raising funds for needed community projects.

One recent example is procurement of \$25,000 in funding from a private donor to assist with building a girls’ hockey locker room at the sports dome. Other recent efforts have included scholarships for graduating students to continue their educational endeavors, educational enrichment grants for teachers (beginning this fall), participation in the annual “Mad Money” day on March 11 at the high school, which provided sophomores the opportunity to give to a charity of their choice as part

of their monthly budget, and partnering with the Dolly Parton “Imagination Library” program in our local area to donate books every month to children from birth to age 5 in order to create lifelong readers.

Future projects may include an indoor learning classroom at the school forest, lighting for the soccer field, and other needs identified within the community.

Donation funds

The Foundation has different types of funds to consider, depending on charitable giving needs, with the donor’s objective being of primary concern. There can be donor advised funds, field of interest funds, a designated project fund, an organizational fund or an unrestricted fund.

The community has many unmet needs and the Foundation can also act as a conduit for groups or individuals to utilize the tax deductible status to raise funds that are tax deductible to the donors.

As the Northland Pines

Community Foundation grows, so does its vision.

With plans to expand programs and deepen its impact, the organization is calling on donors and volunteers to join the effort.

“Together, we can shape the leaders of tomorrow,” Preisler urges. “Every contribution, big or small, helps us build a stronger future. Local support is crucial in providing enhanced learning, expanding opportunities, and fostering growth for the students.”

There are multiple levels of giving including one-time or monthly donations. There are also many ways in which people can become involved. Donations, volunteering, or just spreading the word about the Foundation to family, friends, and acquaintances is important in building a brighter future for students in a stronger, more connected community.

For more information, visit the Foundation’s website at www.northlandpinescommunityfoundation.com.

Lakeland Pantry provides resources, combating hunger in the North Woods

Established in the early 1970s, Lakeland Pantry has grown into a vital resource for individuals facing food insecurity in Wisconsin’s North Woods.

In the 1990s, it became an independent committee of the Howard Young Foundation, a role it continues to fulfill today. The Pantry is managed by a part-time director, and supported by a dedicated team of 150 volunteers who contribute over 2,600 hours each month. In 2024 alone, they provided 543,185 meals using the USDA pound-to-meal equivalent.

Centrally located in Arbor Vitae, Lakeland

Pantry primarily serves Oneida and Vilas counties, offering support to thousands of individuals each year. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, they operate solely on community donations and grants.

Beyond supplemental food distribution every Tuesday from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays 3:30 - 6 p.m., the Pantry offers additional support services including clothing, books, and a medical screening room staffed by volunteer nurses providing basic health screenings and referrals for follow up care.

The Pantry’s outreach programs focus on

children and individuals with urgent needs through community hub locations such as police stations, churches, and hospitals. School-based initiatives include:

- Hope in a Backpack – A partnership with Ascension Lutheran and Calvary Lutheran Churches, that provides weekend food backpacks for families in need in all elementary schools and Lakeland Union High School
- Snack program for local schools
- Preschool lunch program at Foundation Church
- Grocery gift cards for Lakeland Sharing recipients
- Thanksgiving and Christmas Meal Kits for families in the Lakeland Area School District provide support for programs at the LDF Nation.

Annual fundraising events like the Bear Cupboard Run and Wine, and Women & Winter, are crucial in sustaining the Pantry. The Pantry also receives support from local businesses and community-organized fundraisers that demonstrate a collective commitment to addressing food insecurity.

With the region’s seasonal tourism economy, many families experience financial strain due to underemployment. The Pantry serves as a bridge, ensuring no family goes without support during difficult times.

The Pantry is always accepting donations and welcomes volunteers. For more information, or to volunteer, visit www.lakelandpantry.com or email lakelandpantry@hyfinc.org.

Three Lakes Fire Department sponsors fund-raising benefit for chief fighting cancer

The Three Lakes Fire department announced that they will be sponsoring a fund-raising benefit for Three Lakes Fire Department Assistant Chief Lee “Chopper” Tauer who is battling stage 4 soft tissue sarcoma.

“After an impressive 24 years of dedicated service, Assistant Chief Tauer has devoted his life to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community,” stated a release from the Three Lakes Fire Department. “Holding the distinction of being the first full-time firefighter in our department, Tauer has consistently shown compassion and dedication to his mission.”

The “Together for Tauer” event will be held on Saturday, March 29, at the Reiter Center in Three

Lakes from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

There will be food and 50/50 raffles, with drawings starting at 4 p.m.

Physical donations can be made at the Reiter Center, located at 1858 S. Michigan St. in Three Lakes, from Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Additionally, monetary donations can be deposited directly into a checking account created with Forward Bank under the name Lee Tauer, at any Forward Bank location. The fire department also says that they would be happy to travel to collect donations, as long as they’re contacted, so a pickup time can be coordinated.

For questions or more information, contact Kelly Keating at kkeating7194@yahoo.com or call 715-617-0883.



Not that you asked, but ...

BY ERIC JOHNSON

A study in contrasts

“Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness.”
– Canadian-American architect and designer Frank Gehry (1929-)

It’s good to get out and about, leaving the everyday routine and life rhythms for a spell and embracing the adventures awaiting on the open road.

And so it was that I found myself at the Wisconsin state capitol in Madison last week Friday, reconnecting with old colleagues, visiting with current ones, and making new acquaintances at the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation’s annual Better Newspaper Contest awards banquet.

Even after 36 years in the business, it’s still gratifying and humbling to be recognized by professional peers for your work, in this case receiving two first place and two third place honors for reporting and photography.

I’ve been to Madison any number of times over the years and it’s always a bit like coming home, and, truth be told, it’s always a bit of an adventure as well.

After first stumbling across one while visiting San Francisco, always on my list of stops on any Mad City visit is the paradoxically upscale and yet counter-culturally Bohemian California-based grocery chain known as Trader Joe’s, tucked into a parking garage on Monroe Street underneath a residential high rise.

Walking in the door to fill an eclectic grocery list running the gamut from gnocchi, organic raspberry and strawberry preserves, and organic vodka sauce (who knew?), to aioli garlic mustard sauce, cave aged raw milk bleu cheese and chocolate coffee granola

To JOHNSON, Pg. 6



THIRD TIME’S A CHARM — A trio of deer, donning winter coats, watch on from the edge of a snowy treeline.

—STAFF PHOTO

LIFESTYLE



The 2025 Northland Pines Ice Fishing team.

Sayner-St. Germain wildlife presentation set March 19

The Sayner-St. Germain Fish and Wildlife Club will host the Northland Pines Ice Fishing and Bass Fishing Team Coaches, Marc Groth and Kevin Schweer, for a presentation about the student fishing teams on Wednesday, March 19, at the St. Germain Community Center at 7 p.m.

Groth and Schweer are both volunteer coaches, along with Coach Hunter Foster, supporting and working with the student members of the teams. The coaches will present the history of the fishing teams, how the two teams differ, and the winter ice fishing season competitions versus the summer bass fishing season tournaments. An overview of the tournaments entered, and the direction the different teams hope to go in the future will be shared, as well as pictures of the teams competing.

The Northland Pines fishing team is a member of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Fishing Association (WIFA), which is a nonprofit organization with 120+ high schools and growing. The ice fishing



The 2024 bass fishing team included 16 student anglers. They were Trevor Barber, Caden Bass, Tommy Burr, Noah Duffek, Ben Duffek, Alan Edwards, Kaden Halsey, Luke Hamblen, Hunter Hoffman, Everett Meacham, Augie Nordine, Carson Saari, Michael Schmidt, Olin Weinand, Fred Wiedenbauer, and Ethan Wirth.

— Contributed Photos

team competed in four WIFA tournaments this last ice fishing season, three of which were virtual tournaments, and the last tournament was held on Saturday, May 2, 2024, on Lake Minocqua, competing against other Wisconsin state high school teams. The team won the WIFA Catch Em All! Altoona Fishing Tournament on Jan. 11.

The 2024/2025 ice fishing

team includes 16 student anglers and three coaches. The student anglers are Griffin Beyer, Tommy Burr, Jayden Crown, Alan Edwards, Nolan Haas, Joey Hermosillo, Zach Hodgson, Hunter Hoffman, Caleb Madl, Keaton Maulson, Everett Meacham, Camdyn Passow, Jackson Spiotto, Travis Strong, Ethan Wirth and Landon Zielke.

The 2024 bass fishing team included 16 student anglers.

They were Trevor Barber, Caden Bass, Tommy Burr, Noah Duffek, Ben Duffek, Alan Edwards, Kaden Halsey, Luke Hamblen, Hunter Hoffman, Everett Meacham, Augie Nordine, Carson Saari, Michael Schmidt, Olin Weinand, Fred Wiedenbauer and Ethan Wirth. The 2025 bass fishing team is yet to be determined.

The program is free and open to the public, and all

ages are welcome. The presentation will last about an hour, with plenty of opportunity for questions. The club will host more presentations the third Wednesday of every month, including the upcoming: Snowy owls by Licia Johnson (April), A Lake's Ring of Life by Ted Rulseh (May), Hiking the 2200 mile Appalachian Trail - Anne Small (June), Preserving Lakes & Rivers in Northern

Wisconsin by Len Larsen (July), Author John Bates (August), Moosewatch research on Isle Royale by Cindy Wills (Sept.), and Bats in Wisconsin by Licia Johnson (Oct).

The St. Germain Community Center is located at 545 S. Highway 155 in St. Germain. The presentation will be in Room 6. For more information, contact Kelly McGill at 715-542-1614.19

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Spencer and Haley Duncan of Eagle River announce the birth of their son, Sonny Jordan Duncan, born March 5, at Marchfield Medical Center in Minocqua.

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Trees for Tomorrow, Northwoods Land Trust to host free birding class

Trees for Tomorrow (TFT) is excited to offer the second event in its 2025 Outdoor Adventure at Tara Lila series this April: a free beginner birding class on Saturday, April 26, from 7 - 10:30 a.m.

The class will be led by Frank Schroyer, Land Conservation Associate for the Northwoods Land Trust and an expert birder. This program is free to the public.

"This program truly highlights the strength of our Northwoods community," says program coordinator Bethany Heft. "Three organizations are coming together with a shared goal — to get people outdoors and enjoy nature in new ways."

The program will begin at Trees For Tomorrow with an introduction to identifying common birds and their habitats. Participants will then drive to the Tara Lila trails to apply their new birding skills in the field.

"Birdwatching is a great way to connect with nature, reduce stress, and learn more about local ecosystems. This beginner-friendly class will teach participants how to spot and identify birds, recognize calls, and understand their behaviors," continued Heft. "It's a perfect opportunity to develop a deeper appreciation for the natural world while exploring the beauty of Wisconsin's Northwoods."

The following is what participants may expect from the event:

- A 1.5-hour guided hike, stopping frequently to identify birds along the trail.
- Indoor amenities



Birding expert Frank Schroyer from the Northwoods Land Trust peers through binoculars on the hunt for interesting birds to share with attendees during Outdoor Adventures at Tara Lila.

—Contributed Photo

(bathrooms and water fountain) available before heading to the trails.

- No restrooms at Tara

Lila — plan accordingly. Participants may have the chance to spot and identify a variety of birds,

including black-capped chickadees, pileated

LIFESTYLE

Family FunFest
set March 29
in Sayner

Families and adventure seekers of all ages are invited to the 2025 Family FunFest on Saturday, March 29, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Plum Lake Event & Equestrian Center in Sayner.

This event features a full day of indoor and outdoor activities, games, contests and a silent auction — all in support of the Plum Lake EMS and Fire Department.

With activities designed for ages 3 to 99, there's something for everyone at Family FunFest. Indoor activities include carnival games with prizes, kid's axe throwing, bowling, corn-hole, dartball, football and basketball, kid's bounce houses, a petting zoo, hula hoop competitions, Big Foot races, and spoon and egg races.

Outdoor activities include a zipline adventure, pony rides, Maple Sugar Shack tours, ice skating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and fat tire biking on groomed trails (bring gear from home).

A \$10 wristband grants access to all activities for the entire day, available for purchase at the door. Children age 3 and under are free.

There will be food and refreshments provided by the Milky Way Coffee Co. and the Rail Bar.

For event updates and more information, visit <https://plumlakeequestriancenter.com/>



Fat tire biking is just one of several activities that can be done at the Family FunFest on March 29 in Sayner. —Contributed Photo

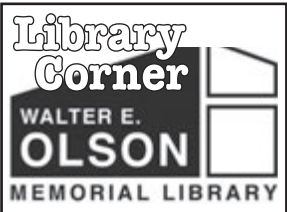
Wild Rivers Quilt Guild
to meet March 25

The Wild Rivers Quilt Guild would like to invite all area quilters to join them for their upcoming meeting on Tuesday, March 25 at 5:30 p.m., at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 900 Central Ave. in Florence, Wis.

The club will welcome Sue Snow and colleagues from Plum Lakes Quilts in Sayner. Her specialty is wool applique quilts. They will be hosting a workshop demonstrating wool applique on March 25 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The fee for the hands-on workshop is \$45 and includes a kit to make a small project. Check the Wild River's Quilt Guild's website for the supply list that will need to be brought for the workshop. Snow will have other kits available to purchase at the workshop and the meeting following.

At 5:30 p.m., Snow will provide a 30-45 minute presentation during the monthly meeting centering around her specialty of wool applique quilts. There is no charge for the presentation at the monthly meeting.

More information about the Wild Rivers Quilt Guild can be found on their website at www.wildrivers-quiltguild.org. Guests and new members are always welcome.



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:

- Thursday, March 13, 2 p.m.: Microgreens. Looking forward to the spring growing season? Learn how to grow your own tiny harvest indoors! This program will immediately follow the 1 p.m. Roots & Shoots Northwoods Gardening Club meeting — all are welcome!
- Monday, March 17, 5 - 6:30 p.m.: Wee Weaving. Learn the basics of weaving on a small scale! Experiment with color, texture and pattern on our hand-held Hello Looms.
- Tuesday, March 18, 6 p.m.: Trivia Night – Wizard of Oz Cinematic Universe. Join us for an in person trivia night on The Wizard of Oz movie adaptations! Bring your team

- or compete solo to show off your smarts and win bragging rights. This event will be held online and in person — contact the Library to join online.
- Monday, March 24, 5:30 p.m.: Movie Screening – Wicked (2 hr. 40 min.). Join us for a movie and popcorn.
- Tuesday, March 25, 2 - 3 p.m.: Read to a Dog. Bring a favorite book — or find one at the library — and share a story with our Therapy Dog friend, Parker, who is making his Library debut! The Read to a Dog program encourages children to practice their reading skills with a furry friend and build reading confidence.
- Save the date! The Library's next Book Sale is scheduled for March 20 - 22. Find books, puzzles, movies and more! A reminder that W.O.L.F. has ongoing book sales in the Library lobby. For information or to join W.O.L.F., contact the Library.

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. 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

- Compassus Grief Support Group (1st Thursdays, 1 - 2 p.m.) – April 3 (May 1)
- Free Mending Day (1st Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.) – April 5 (May 3)
- Eagle River Genealogical Society (1st Mondays, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.) – April 7 (May 5)
- Growing Together Family Support Group (2nd Thursdays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.) – March 13 (April 10)
- Memory Café (2nd Mondays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.) – April 14 (May 12)

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.

Pints and Politics
event set March 17

The Vilas County Republicans (VCR) are hosting a Pints and Politics event on Monday, March 17, from 4 - 5:30 p.m. at the Mud Creek Saloon at 5267 Highway 70 West in Eagle River.

Participants will have a chance to speak with Representative Tom Tiffany. Tiffany will be discussing the stakes of the Wisconsin Supreme Court and Superintendent of Public Instruction April 1 Spring Election races.

This event is free to attend.

For more information, text Carol at 715-892-4677.

Senior Citizen Menus

March 17-21
Sponsored by ADRC of Vilas & Oneida Counties

Eagle River

More Than a Meal Café at the Rock Mission Center
Serving at noon.
Lighter substitute available in place of main entrée: Grilled chicken salad. Reservations or cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance. Call Jennie Johnson (715) 891-1221 to reserve or cancel a meal.

Monday, March 17
Pulled pork on a bun, scalloped potatoes, broccoli, and honey bee fruit salad.

Tuesday, March 18
Sloppy joe on a bun, roasted potatoes, baked beans, and grape salad.

Wednesday, March 19
Chicken breast, mushroom and bacon sauce, brown and wild rice blend, Brussels sprouts, apple slices, and carrot cake.

Thursday, March 20
Kielbasa with sauerkraut, twice baked mashed potatoes, peas, rye bread, and apricots.

Friday, March 21
Tuna salad on whole wheat bread, lettuce leaf and tomato slice, creamy coleslaw, and vanilla yogurt with berries.

St. Germain

St. Germain Community Center
Serving at 10:30 a.m.
Home-delivered meals only. Home-delivered meals are available based on eligibility. For reservations or cancellations, please call Pam Cira at (715) 891-5453 (must call 24 hours in advance). Lighter substitute available in place of main entrée: Grilled chicken salad (or healthy salad).

Wednesday, March 19
Chicken breast, mushroom and bacon sauce, brown and wild rice blend, Brussels sprouts, apple slices, and carrot cake.

Thursday, March 20
Kielbasa with sauerkraut, twice baked mashed potatoes, peas, rye bread, and apricots.

Friday, March 21
Tuna salad on whole wheat bread, lettuce and tomato slice, creamy coleslaw, and vanilla yogurt with berries.

Phelps

Northern Exposure Restaurant
Serving at noon
Lighter substitute available in place of main entrée: Healthy salad. All meals are served with fat-free milk, whole grain rolls/bread with margarine. Meals are served Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon. Reservations or cancellations must be made 24 hours in advance. Call Judi Heikkinen at 715-545-3697 to reserve or cancel a meal.

Monday, March 17
Italian pasta casserole, mixed dark greens salad with tomato, garlic bread, and pistachio fluff.

Wednesday, March 19
Liver and onions, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread, and pudding with berries.

Friday, March 21
Tuna noodle casserole with peas topped with potato chips, whole wheat bread, and grapes.

Land O' Lakes

Love of Life Café
Gateway Lodge
Serving at 11:30 a.m.
Butter and margarine offered. Coffee and fat-free milk served with each meal. Lighter substitute in place of main entrée: Grilled chicken salad. Place reservations and choice with Anna Moore (715) 547-6076 at least 24 hours in advance.

Tuesday, March 18
Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, dark greens salad, whole wheat bread, melon, and pudding.

Wednesday, March 19
Ham and scalloped potatoes, carrots and celery sticks, whole wheat bread, ½ orange, and a cookie.

North Lakeland Elementary School (NLES)

Manners Café
Serving at 11:15 a.m.
Butter and margarine offered. Coffee and fat-free milk served with each meal. For reservations, contact Mary Ellen Duranso at (715) 904-0065 at least 24 hours in advance.

Tuesday, March 18
Spring Break - no senior meals

Wednesday, March 19
Spring Break - no senior meals

Thursday, March 20
Spring Break - no senior meals

Three Lakes

The Reiter Center
Serving at 11:30 a.m.
Contact 715-499-3738 at least one day in advance to make or cancel a reservation.

Monday, March 17
Pulled pork on a bun, scalloped potatoes, broccoli, and honey bee fruit salad.

Tuesday, March 18
Sloppy joe on a bun, roasted potatoes, baked beans, and grape salad.

Wednesday, March 19
Chicken breast, mushroom and bacon sauce, brown and wild rice, Brussels sprouts, apple slices, and carrot cake.

Thursday, March 20
Kielbasa with sauerkraut, twice baked mashed potatoes, peas, rye bread, and apricots.

Community news online.

VILAS COUNTY
NEWS-REVIEW

vcnewsreview.com
facebook.com/vcnews

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Roots and Shoots gardening club to meet Thursday

The Roots and Shoots Northwoods Garden Club, formerly known as Vilas County Master Gardeners, will meet on Thursday, March 13, at 1 p.m. at the W.E. Olson Memorial Library in Eagle River.

Following the meeting at 2 p.m., Master Gardeners Joyce Sealander and Mary Ann Lambrecht will introduce attendees to the world of microgreens. They will answer questions like

“What are microgreens, and why and how should I grow them?” and “What is the difference between microgreens and sprouts?” All these questions and more will be addressed. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and presentation.

For additional information, contact Lori Miller at 715-617-1031.

Easy Eagles meeting scheduled March 19

The Easy Eagles men's luncheon group will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19, at Chef Rene's, located in the Eagle River Inn.

This week's speaker will be Joel Gebhard from the Soil Science Division of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The Easy Eagles is a group of predominantly retired men who meet twice

a month, on Wednesdays, to socialize and share lunch. The group has a speaker at each luncheon to share timely and interesting (noncontroversial) subjects.

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

Doll Club sets March meeting

The Enchanted Doll Club of the Northwoods will hold a meeting on Thursday, March 20, at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the Kalmar Senior Center located at 1100 N. Railroad St. in Eagle River.

The theme of the meeting will be to celebrate March with dolls. Members and guests will share dolls dressed for St. Patrick's

Day, Mardi Gras, spring sports, or any other attire associated with March.

The doll club welcomes guests who would like to learn more about dolls or wish to share their dolls. For more information about the program or the doll club, contact Judy Wainwright at 715-482-9804.

Breakfast meeting set for Women's Club

The Three Lakes Women's Club will welcome spring with a breakfast meeting, set for Wednesday, March 19, at 9:30 a.m., being held at Sorg's Daybreak Diner.

Reservations and payment for the meeting's breakfast selection are required by Friday, March 14, as space is limited.

Members must contact hostess Nancy Z. with their reservation, breakfast choice and payment. Nancy's contact information can be found in the club handbook.

Breakfast choices are as follows: Sunrise breakfast casserole with cheesy hashbrowns, \$17.75; Bacon, spinach and Swiss cheese

omelet with cheesy hashbrowns, \$16.75; or cream cheese stuffed French toast with bacon, \$17.75. All selections include coffee, tea or milk, tax and tip.

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 threelakes-women@gmail.com.

Genealogical Society sets March 24 meeting

The Three Lakes Genealogical Society (TLGS) will meet next on Monday, March 24, at 1 p.m. in the lower level of the Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library in Three Lakes.

The meeting can also be viewed on Zoom, courtesy of the Demmer Library. To attend the meeting virtually, email the library at demmer@demmerlibrary.org.

org to get the link. The program for this meeting is Google Tools for Genealogy, Google 101 video. The presentation is by Thomas MacEntee to build skills and enhance research.

Google is more than just a search engine — it is a wealth of information, much of which goes unnoticed by the average genealogist. Google allows them to access maps, books,

journals, abstracts, patents and much more. These components may be what is needed to make advances in one's genealogy research. In this interactive session, participants will try out some of these tools, so it is encouraged to bring a laptop from home. Anyone interested in genealogy, discovering family roots, or learning about family history is welcome to attend

all meetings. For more information, contact Mari Lynn at (715) 891-1146.

Every Thursday from 2 - 4 p.m., in the Local History Room within the library, there is a TLGS member present to help anyone with investigating their family history. Everyone is welcome to come in and have a little one-on-one time with someone who could help. No scheduling is required.

Lions Club Seed Swap set March 26

The Three Lakes Lions Scrappers Club Branch will be hosting a Seed Swap on Wednesday, March 26, at 5 p.m. at the Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library.

A seed starting presentation will follow the swap at 6 p.m.

The Three Lakes community is invited to swap and acquire seeds for their vegetable and flower gardens.

Individuals with viable surplus seeds are encouraged to donate by dropping them off at the library beginning in March. Jenny

Tuckey of Evergood Farms will share her expertise on seed starting techniques.

The Lions Scrappers are a consortium of like-minded community members passionate about sustainable and regenerative gardening, as well as healthy foods.

This Seed Swap event marks the beginning of several collaborative projects planned with the Demmer Library.

For more information, interested parties can contact the club president, Don Meeder, at 715-360-1235.

Library board to host candidate meet-and-greet

The Demmer Library Board invites Three Lakes electors to come and individually chat with local candidates for the April 1

election on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Three Lakes Brew Station.

Electors are encouraged to bring questions and concerns, and get to know those seeking elected positions. This format is in place of the Candidate Forum as previously presented. Drinks will be available for purchase.

Please contact us at 715-546-3391 or demmer@demmerlibrary.org with questions.



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Three Lakes, Wis. (715) 546-3391

Want to keep your brain sharp this year? The Demmer is offering Scrabble drop-in play Thursday, March 13, at 1 p.m. Come down to the Demmer Fireplace Area and play Scrabble with other community members.

Want to get into roleplaying games and just not sure it's for you? Join the library in person in the Tamarack Room, or virtually, as we use Roll20 and Twitch on Sunday, March 16, at 6 p.m. to play D&D. No experience required. Drop-in play is

encouraged! Email librarian@demmerlibrary.org for more information and invitations to the game.

Family staying at home for Spring Break? Stop by the Demmer Library March 17 - 21 during the hours of 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. to use the library button maker. Miss April will be in the library helping make personal buttons for anyone that stops by.

The Oneida County Veterans Service Office will offer outreach to veterans and their family members at the Demmer Library on Wednesday, March 19, from 12 - 4 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but you can also make an appointment by calling their office in advance at (715) 369-6127.

Been cooped up this winter? Do you want a reason to leave the house? The Demmer Library is hosting Soup and Social Hour Wednesday, March 18, from 5 - 6 p.m. Bring a pot of soup, some bread or just yourself and have a nice chat with community members.

BID NOTICE

PROJECT: **2025 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**
OWNER: Town of Three Lakes
P.O. Box 565, 6965 West School Street
Three Lakes, WI 54562

CONTRACTS AND BID DEADLINE:

Sealed bids are being requested for road improvements in the Town of Three Lakes that will be received until 2:00 p.m. local time, March 26, 2025, at the office of the Town Clerk. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately thereafter in the Town Board of Supervisors meeting room.

This is a single contract for crack filling, patching, application of a single layer of chip seal surface and fog seal on approximately 2.8 miles of roads and pulverizing, addition of base course, shaping to produce acceptable drainage and asphalt pavement construction with spot Carlson screed asphalt curb, tree removal and ditching on approximately 2.9 miles of roads. This contract consists of the following approximate quantities:

Single Layer of Chip Seal	33,100 square yards
Fog Seal	33,100 square yards
¾-inch CABC Placement	6,620 tons
Hot-mix Asphalt Pavement	4,810 tons

The quantities are subject to change without notice prior to document distribution.

CONTRACT DOCUMENTS:

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Instructions to Bidders, Bidder's Proof of Responsibility, Bid Proposal Form, Affidavit of Organization and Authority, Bid Bond (in the amount of 5% of the maximum amount of the bid), Notice of Award Form, Agreement Form, Notice to Proceed Form, Performance/ Payment Bond (100%), Certificate of Insurance, General Conditions, Supplementary Conditions, Technical Specifications, Drawings and Addenda (if any) may be examined at the following locations:

Town of Three Lakes
P.O. Box 565, 6965 West School Street
Three Lakes, WI 54562

Town & Country Engineering, Inc.
6264 Nesbitt Road
Madison, WI 53719

Copies of the Contract Documents and the Construction Plans may be obtained at the office of Town & Country Engineering, Inc., 6264 Nesbitt Road, Madison, WI 53719 via appointment only. There is a **\$75 non-refundable** copying and distribution charge for these documents. Electronic bidding documents are available on-line at Questcdn.com, Project No. 9583148 for \$42. This fee includes access to submit a bid on-line via Questcdn.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Bidders must be pre-qualified with the Town of Three Lakes within the last year or must be pre-qualified for this work 5 days prior to the bid deadline in accordance with Section 66.0901 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Each bidder must deposit, with his bid, security in the amount of 5% of the maximum bid amount. Bidders must be experienced in municipal road construction.

RIGHTS RESERVED:

The Town of Three Lakes reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities in any bid.

Published by the authority of:

Roger Brisk
Town Chairman

450377

MARCH MANIA

Saturday March 15

BE SURE TO VISIT THESE *Three Lakes* BUSINESSES

1 Free bottle of Cherry or Peach moscato w/proof of purchase from any Three Lakes business on 03.15

2 \$1 off any sandwich

3 15% off Avalanche Snow Removal Products

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8 30% off candles

9 15% off REGIONAL books

10 50% off select specialty beverages

1 We're pouring Guinness, Black & Tans and our traditional Irish Coffee service from noon-4pm

2 Free 50ml bottle with every \$20 spent

3 \$3 Cranberry Vodka special

4 \$5 glasses of house red or white wine

5 In Shop Raffle! 10% off Hunter Douglas blinds & shades when a home visit is scheduled

6 \$10 small reuben pizza 11:30a-4p Reubens, Rachels & Potato soup 4-9 pm Corned beef & cabbage dinner

7 \$5 cheese curds & block cheese specials

8 15% off all ice fishing supplies

9 Buy two drinks get 1/2 off appetizers or \$3 off a pizza

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THE SUPPLY STATION

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Diversions

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March 15

BOB HUGHES

LAND O’ LAKES

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

Youth Art Month showcases student art

Families gathered at the Land O’ Lakes Arts Gallery (LOLA) last Saturday for the annual Youth Art Month Open House, where students exhibited their artwork.

This year’s theme, “Healing Through Color,” brought vibrant displays to the gallery. Visitors enjoyed refreshments while students proudly shared their creations.

Later in the morning, children participated in a drop-in art activity - decorating large glazed cookies with food coloring.

The exhibition was made possible by the Green Bay Packers Foundation, the Council for Art Education, and generous donors to LOLA.



Young Hazel Reed proudly showing her artwork.



The drawing for the Grand Cash Raffle took place last week to benefit the Frosty Snowmobile Club of Land O’ Lakes.
—Photo By Bob Hughes

Frosty Snowmobile Club holds Grand Cash Raffle

The Frosty Snowmobile Club of Land O’ Lakes held its annual Grand Cash Raffle drawing last week, raising funds to support the club’s efforts in maintaining local snowmobile trails.

Young RJ Spiotto had the honor of drawing the winning tickets under the supervision of Frosty Club President Phil Mendham. The top prize of \$3,000 went to John M. Downs, while John Miller won the second-place prize of \$1,000.

The full list of winners includes:

- \$3,000 – John M. Downs
- \$1,000 – John Miller
- \$750 – Mary De
- \$500 – RJ Spiotto
- \$250 – Robert Hardwick
- \$100 – Cathy Zeihen
- \$100 – Jon Weber
- \$100 – Painless Pete
- \$100 – Tracy Schmidt
- \$100 – John Paul

The club extends its congratulations to all the winners, and gratitude to everyone who participated by purchasing tickets. Proceeds from the raffle will go toward maintaining and improving the area’s extensive snowmobile trail system.



Emma McGeshick brought her whole family to see her art.

—Photos By Bob Hughes

Birding

FROM PAGE 2

woodpeckers and great blue herons. Participants should also bring a water bottle, binoculars and field guides, if possible, as there are limited amounts to borrow.

Frank Schroyer is the Land Conservation Associate for the Northwoods Land Trust and a dedicated birder

with years of experience. His passion for conservation and education makes him the perfect guide to introduce participants to the exciting world of birdwatching.

Although the class is free to attend, pre-registration is required as space is limited. Sign up online at <https://treesfortomorrow.com/Current-Activities/> or call Trees for Tomorrow at 715-479-6456 for assistance.

vcnewsreview.com

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*Kantar Millward Brown, Feb. 2018



Local Legends of Brass features five musicians, from left: Paul Saltzgiver (trumpet), Director of Music Larry Chamberlain (trumpet), John Brenholt (tuba), Manson Morris (trombone) and Robin Peterson (French horn).
—Photo by Bob Hughes

Local Legends of Brass perform at Ely Church

Ely UCC Memorial Church hosted a performance by Local Legends of Brass on Saturday afternoon as part of the Land O’ Lakes Arts (LOLA) Winter Mini Concert Series.

The brass ensemble played a selection of pieces, each met with applause from the

audience. Jennifer Anderson introduced the group, which opened with the national anthem. One of the selections featured the signature tunes of all branches of the Armed Forces, which appeared to be well received by those in attendance.

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March 14-15, 2025

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Exclusive Swag + Special Gift for SnowCheckers

Discover new parts, gear, and accessories



Judging winners from last year's Maple Syrup Fest in Phelps.

—Contributed Photo

14th Annual Phelps Maple Syrup Fest set for April 5

The 14th Annual Phelps Maple Syrup Fest will take place on April 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Phelps School, located at 4451 Old School Road.

The event features self-guided Sugarbush Tours at four local sugarbushes, where visitors can observe

maple syrup production and learn from local producers.

Festivalgoers can enjoy maple treats at the Maple Café, a full breakfast from Sunrise Lodge, and lunch from the Lions Club. Family-friendly activities include hands-on tree

tapping, making maple taffy on snow, and presentations on maple syrup, honey and beekeeping, and cooking with maple syrup by The Tippy Housewife.

An Arts and Crafts Fair will also be held, offering unique handmade items and face painting.

The popular Maple Syrup Judging Contest, with local celebrity judges including NBC Meteorologist Devin Biggs, will crown the “Maple Syrup of the Year.”

Syrup produced in Phelps, the Maple Syrup Capital of Wisconsin, will be sold, with \$1 from

each bottle benefiting the Phelps Maple Syrup Fest Scholarship Fund. Completed tour punch cards will be entered into a prize drawing.

The event continues to grow, celebrating the rich history of maple syrup production in the area.

The Phelps Chamber of Commerce invites local businesses to sponsor, and is also seeking volunteers to help. For more information, visit www.phelpswi.us/maple-syrup-fest or contact the Chamber at chamber-office@phelpswi.us or 715-545-3800.

CONOVER

JACKI HILDEBRANDT | conoverjacki@gmail.com

Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner benefits trail system

Club 45 in Conover will serve corned beef and cabbage with all the trimmings on St. Patrick’s Day, Monday, March 17, starting at 4 p.m. while supplies last.

The \$20 meal includes dessert, with the regular menu also available. Proceeds support the Conover trail system.

BID NOTICE

The Town of Conover is accepting sealed bids for the widening and graveling of approximately 1 to 1.7 miles of road in the Town of Conover for fiscal year 2025. Schedule of Prices are available on the Town’s website: townofconover.com/. Any questions on navigation of the website please contact the clerk’s office at (715)479-8688. Bids must be received by 5:00 PM on March 26th, 2025, all bids will be opened at the Town Board Meeting that evening of March 26th, 2025 at 5:30 pm. If you have questions, please contact the Town Foreman John Barnekow at 715-479-5420 or conoverhwyforeman@gmail.com.

The Town of Conover reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the town.

Please mail all bids to: Town of Conover
P.O. Box 115
Conover, WI 54519

Posted this 5th day of March, 2025.

Kendra Lederer, Conover Clerk
449939

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Johnson

FROM PAGE 1

(again, who knew?), I still always feel like poor widowed hillbilly Jed Clampett, dropped into a Beverly Hills mansion with a see-ment pond from his rustic backwoods cabin in the Missouri Ozarks.

“Weeeeelllllll, doggies! I’m happier than an itchy pig rubbing against a rail fence.”

Needless to say, when I let go with that one in my North Woods rustic Stormy Kromer, employees and shoppers alike in the crowded store give me a wide Moses-parting-the-Red-Sea berth with a wary side-eye as I navigate my way around the aisles, filling up my cart with vittles.

“Once you’ve tasted turkey, you ain’t likely to settle for tripe.”

Driving around Madison is always an adventure, too, between the multitude of bike lanes everywhere and the myriad of bus lanes that appear here and then suddenly there, often out of nowhere - right lane, center lane. Sometimes it feels like I need a mobile Ouija board to figure out just which lane exactly am I supposed to be driving in.

And then there’s the state capitol in downtown Madison.

Between the politicians working within architect George B. Post’s 1906-1917 Neoclassic and Beaux Arts styled capitol building and the vast array of students and aging 1960’s hippies on the capitol grounds exercising their First Amendment rights, protesting a Heinz 57 Varieties litany of grievances, I can see where former Republican Gov. Lee Sherman Dreyfus came up with his famous 1978 jibe that Madison, a city known for its liberalism and quirkiness, “is 30 square miles surrounded by reality.”



The interior dome of architect George B. Post's 1906-1917 Neoclassic and Beaux Arts styled Wisconsin State Capitol Building.

—Photo By Eric A Johnson

There aren’t many cities that have pink plastic flamingos as its official bird, but then Mercer has Claire d’Loon, a 16-foot-high, 2,000 pound loon. Carpe diem!

But, in all seriousness, visiting the state capitol building is a lot like coming home in a quintessentially Wisconsin sort of way — just walk on in and make yourself at home. It’s downright mind-bendingly rare in this post-9/11 age where you can just stroll into a public building without running the security

gauntlet. Schools have security entrances and protocols. Places like the Vilas County Courthouse have metal detectors. TSA oversees security at U.S. airports running the gamut from Rhinelander to Chicago O’Hare. I even have to go through a metal detector for my side hustle gig selling 50/50 raffle tickets at hockey games.

But, refreshingly, I can just stroll into the state capitol through the old school wooden revolving door. And if you’re ever in Madison, it’s a stroll worth taking, walking into a building that’s very much, still, the people’s house.

And it’s more than a house, it’s a home, with a rich, enduring architectural legacy that warms the heart, stirs the soul and inspires the imagination, something that the angular, minimalist modern high rise brick and glass boxes ringing capitol square largely fail miserably at.

As New York-based designer, illustrator and author Frank Chimero once wisely noted, “People ignore design that ignores people.”

Architecture, as German

writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) famously said, is “frozen music.”

And, as English writer John Ruskin (1819-1900) once sagely advised, “When we build, let us think forever.”

As I toured the architecturally glorious Wisconsin State Capitol Building, and then walked the Capitol Square perimeter, ringed by minimalist and often almost brutalist architecture — save for the saving Gothic Revival grace of circa 1855-1858 Grace Episcopal Church, the oldest extant building on the square and the only remaining of four 19th century churches that once fronted Capitol Square — I was reminded of the old saying that “a thing of beauty is a joy forever.”

The Wisconsin State Capitol? Yes. Grace Episcopal Church? Yes. The circa-1974 International Style US Bank Plaza? Not so much.

But then, the “Glass Bank Building” does have its fans. Beauty, as they say, is in the eye of the beholder.

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

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Outdoors

Advocates of one-line trolling may get a victory

ABOUT the time a person gets firmly entrenched in the attitude that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) isn't listening to hunters and anglers, going rogue with its own agenda, along comes a rather shocking eye-opener.



In the Outdoors

BY KURT KRUEGER

As you might recall, the department came to the 2024 spring fish and game hearings with an advisory question that pushed for changing regulations to allow motor trolling with up to three hooks, baits or lures per angler on all inland waters.

They basically argued it's time that the eight counties where anglers can use only one line per angler, with a maximum of three lines per boat, join the other 64 counties where trolling is allowed at three lines per angler.

Historically, anglers in Vilas and Oneida counties — where the bulk of the best walleye and muskie lakes in Wisconsin are located — have been standoffish on trolling in general.

In fact, it took the DNR decades of zero trolling, back trolling and then just single-line trolling in 2018 to get anything reasonable for trollers in the two counties.

But last spring, what made it appear like the department was going for the slam dunk was information about evaluations the DNR has done since 2014, particularly on walleye and muskie, studies they claim "consistently show that trolling does not negatively impact walleye or muskelunge fisheries" based on angler catch and harvest rates, average size of harvested fish, and fishing pressure.

The rhetoric in that spring hearing info, including another conclusion that "there's no significant differences between using one line or three lines for trolling," made it appear the department had made up its mind on approving a single statewide regulation.

But lo and behold, there's a proposed fisheries management rule change on the 2025 spring hearing questionnaire that selects only four of the eight one-line trolling counties for a change to three hooks, baits or lures per angler.

Those four counties are Lincoln, Sawyer, Sheboygan and Waupaca. And not only does this plan propose to keep one-line trolling in Vilas, Oneida, Iron and Florence counties, but it would add Forest County to that list.

"Therefore, rather than requiring all 72 counties to follow the majority vote, the department proposes to further simplify this rule throughout the rest of the state, but to allow this contiguous block of five northeastern counties to retain the more restrictive one-line trolling rule," the spring hearing rule change explains.

It states that the reason Forest County was added to the block, after decades of open three-line trolling there, is a 2023 citizen resolution that asked to have Forest join with adjacent Florence, Oneida and Vilas in how trolling is regulated.

That county resolution prompted the DNR to ask a statewide advisory question in 2024 to establish a uniform statewide three-line trolling regulation. And while it passed 6,915 to 5,119 statewide, the question failed in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence and Iron counties.

So despite its desire to have a uniform regulation statewide, fisheries management is willing to compromise over what it calls "clearly persistent sociological concerns with three-line trolling within this contiguous block of five northeastern counties."

All I can say is, hallelujah, the DNR has once again proven its ability to listen to its constituents in northern Wisconsin despite the vote from other areas.

The reason for this "persistent



With DNR fisheries personnel favoring a compromise that would keep restrictive one-line trolling in a five-county block that includes Vilas, Oneida and even Forest counties, the rule change will be up for a vote starting April 14. —Contributed Photo

sociological concern" over three-line trolling goes back to the days of power trolling for muskies on Kentucky Lake, when trollers proved the technique could produce massive fish in numbers conventional angling were not producing.

Decades later, many anglers here still believe that motor trolling is too productive and that it targets larger fish, from muskies and walleyes to lake trout and northern pike, because trollers can keep the bait moving in the strike zone for literally miles.

Besides that, there's a concern that with the average smaller size of lakes here compared to Minnesota, there's a greater chance for user conflicts with

other anglers, boaters, skiers, tubers and the other water users.

So even in 2018, when back trolling was replaced with forward trolling statewide, the goal here was to restrict trollers as much as possible, to deter them from using those methods in Vilas and Oneida counties, while still allowing one line per angler and three lines per boat.

The only thing that doesn't feel good about the proposed rule change, and the restrictions on trollers in this five-county area, is when it pertains to anglers with disabilities and those who may have more difficulty, for whatever reason, fishing by traditional methods.

Hopefully those with

exceptional needs can get the relief they desire without a big hassle, for everyone does deserve equal opportunity to harvest fish from our resources.

This proposed rule change is a huge win for conventional anglers in the five-county block, but we still need a huge turnout with the online voting at the spring fish and game hearings.

The hearings start in every county at 7 p.m. Monday, April 14. Voting will be allowed for 48 hours from 6 p.m. Monday through 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 16.

Thank you to DNR fisheries personnel for listening to anglers in the North Woods.

Hydrologic Restoration general permit now available

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)'s Waterways Program now has a General Permit for Hydrologic Restoration (GP 22) available for the general public.

The Hydrologic Restoration General Permit (HR GP) authorizes stream

and wetland restoration activities that result in net improvement to hydrologic connections, conditions, and functions by restoring natural, self-regulating hydrologic conditions.

A general permit application may be submitted in the ePermitting system under Waterway and Wetland

Permits, Start General Permit Application, Hydrologic Restoration.

The application checklist can be found by visiting apps.dnr.wi.gov/doclink/forms/3500-006.pdf.

At this time, the DNR Waterways Program requests that project proponents interested in using

the HR GP please reach out to Tom Nedland or Crystal von Holdt before submitting any applications.

Nedland's contact information is Thomas.Nedland@wisconsin.gov or 920-286-3739 and Crystal's is Crystal.VonHoldt@wisconsin.gov or 920-410-3181.

DNR asks public to report black bear dens

The black bear den survey season is winding down, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages the public to submit any den locations they find across Wisconsin in order to help with ongoing black bear research.

The Black Bear Litter and Diet Survey aims to generate new estimates of black bear reproductive rates within each bear management zone, and improve the accuracy of the population models used to manage them. Additionally, researchers are investigating a connection between consumption of human food sources and bear reproduction, since diet can affect cub survival rates

To BEARS, Pg. 10

DNR seeks public input on duck hunting season zones and splits proposals

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is now accepting public input on the proposed 2026-2031 duck hunting season zones and splits.

Highlights from the proposed season structure include duck zone options and duck season split options.

Every five years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) gives states an opportunity to review and change the zones and splits for their duck hunting season structures.

The DNR will host a series of public meetings to present information on the proposed zones and splits structure for the 2026-2031 duck hunting seasons. The public is encouraged to attend or provide feedback using the DNR's Online Input Tool at research.net/r/2025_Waterfowl_Input. Comments may also be submitted through email or mail.

Feedback regarding the duck hunting season's

proposed zones and splits structure must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 30.

Written questions or comments should be submitted to:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
C/O Taylor Finger or Alissa Kakatsch – Bureau of Wildlife Management
101 S. Webster St.
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
Taylor.Finger@wisconsin.gov or Alissa.Kakatsch@wisconsin.gov

To learn more about waterfowl in Wisconsin and to view the 2026-2031 duck hunting season zones and splits options, visit the DNR's waterfowl hunting webpage at dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/waterfowl.

Event details:

What – Public hearing on the proposed 2026-2031 duck hunting seasons zones and splits structure (La Crosse).

When – March 17, 2025, 7 p.m.

Where – La Crosse

DNR Service Center, 3550 Mormon Coulee Road, La Crosse, WI 54601

What – Public hearing on the proposed 2026-2031 duck hunting seasons zones and splits structure (Rice Lake).

When – March 18, 2025, 7 p.m.

Where – AmeriVu Inn and Suites, 1710 S. Main St., Rice Lake, WI 54868

What – Public hearing on the proposed 2026-2031 duck hunting seasons zones and splits structure (virtual).

When – March 19, 2025, 7 p.m.

Where – Join the Virtual Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85219834693>

What – Public hearing on the proposed 2026-2031 duck hunting seasons zones and splits structure (Appleton).

When – March 20, 2025, 7 p.m.

Where – Fox Valley Technical College, 1825 N. Bluemound Drive, Appleton, WI 54914

Room – B124. Use entrance 12. Please park in the west lot.



Fishing with the guides

BY GEORGE LANGLEY

Ice continues to hold strong

With game fishing season officially wrapped up, the focus remains on panfish, and there's still plenty of great ice fishing left! Despite some warmer temperatures creeping in, the ice base is holding strong at 20" to 28"+ across the area. Conditions are still safe for now, but it's always important to check shoreline ice and areas with current, such as the Chain. As we move deeper into March, an auger extension is still useful, but we're starting to see some changes with the warming trend.

Crappies continue to be found along the weed edges in 6 - 9 feet of water on the Chain. The bite has been best during late afternoon and evening, with small vertical jigs tipped with waxies or crappie minnows producing solid numbers. If you can find a good school, you can have a very productive outing.

Bluegill action remains steady, with fish suspending a bit deeper. A 32nd ounce jig tipped with waxies or red spikes is the go-to presentation. Lighter lines and subtle movements are key to triggering bites as fish can get a bit finicky this time of year.

The perch bite is improving as they continue to hang out deeper, favoring the deep mud flats. If you're looking for larger perch, using crappie minnows or rosy reds will help weed out the smaller ones. The bite is a little inconsistent, but when they turn on, they're hitting hard.

The weather forecast suggests we've got some pretty warm days, and nights coming, with some chance of rain and snow in the mix, too. While morning ice remains firm, expect slush in the afternoons, particularly in areas that see a lot of sun exposure. Things are pretty sloppy out there now, with all the snow we got last week.

Ice fishing is still going strong, but with spring approaching, it's important to be mindful of changing conditions. The next couple of weeks should provide some great late-season panfish action if we can get past the sloppy days. Now's the time to enjoy the last stretch of winter fishing before we start dreaming of open water.

Good luck and good fishin'!

Our View

Kudos to News-Review Staff, past and present

Last Friday, the News-Review was able to return home with a total of nine awards from the Better Newspaper Contest (BNC) held in Madison by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. While the number of awards may seem small when compared to those of past years, it's still quite the feat that the News-Review was able to nab awards, including three first-place plaques to hang on its office walls, despite the seemingly neverending transitions going on behind the scenes.

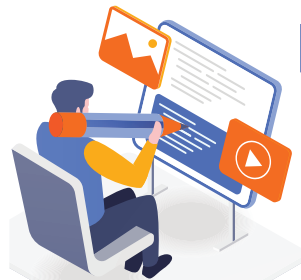
In particular, kudos to Doug Etten, Audrey Lehman and William Zuelke for their first-place awards in Investigative Reporting, Rookie Reporter of the Year, and Sports Action Photos, respectively. The BNC awards help highlight the greatness of newspapers across the state, and it's amazing that some of those awards could shine a light on the hard work done by reporters at this small-town newspaper.

Kudos to former Publisher Kurt Krueger, for his awards in Local Outdoor Column, Use of Local Photography, and Photo Essay, as well as offering wisdom to a team of young reporters before his retirement at the end of 2024. We are determined to continue growing and evolving in this ever-changing landscape, to maintain the quality news, photos, advertising and local reporting standards set forth by those who truly made this paper great.

We at the News-Review thank all of those who help make the newspaper what it is today: correspondents, business owners, community leaders, school districts, community members, subscribers, reporters, photographers, readers, and beyond. Thank you, all!

Behind the editorial 'we'

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUBMIT LETTERS TO:
News-Review Editor
P.O. Box 1929,
Eagle River, WI 54521
or newsreview@mmclocal.com
See Letters Policy for guidelines



Savvy Senior

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

When to Worry About Your Memory

DEAR SAVVY SENIOR,

At age 70, I've become more and more forgetful lately and am concerned it may be an early sign of dementia. Are there any memory screening tools or services that you can recommend to help me gauge my problem, without going to a neurologist?

—Forgetful Frank

DEAR FRANK,

Many older adults, like yourself, worry about memory lapses as they get older, fearing it may be the first signs of Alzheimer's disease or some other type of dementia. To get some insight on the seriousness of your problem, here are some tips and resources you can turn to.

Warning Signs

As we grow older, some memory difficulties — such as forgetting names or misplacing items from time to time — are associated with normal aging. But the symptoms of dementia are much more than simple memory lapses.

While symptoms can vary greatly, people with dementia may have problems with short-term memory, keeping track of a purse or wallet, paying bills, planning and preparing meals, remembering appointments, or traveling out of the neighborhood.

To help you recognize the difference between typical age-related memory loss and a more serious problem, the Alzheimer's Association provides a list of 10 warning signs that you can assess at [10signs.org](https://www.alz.org).

They also provide information including the signs and symptoms on other conditions that can cause dementia like vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, frontotemporal dementia, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, and others — see [ALZ.org/dementia](https://www.alz.org).

Memory Screening

A great resource and first step to help you get a handle on your memory problem is the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, which offers a National Memory Screening Program. This is a free, confidential, face-to-face memory screening done virtually in real-time that takes about 10 to 15 minutes to complete and consists of questions and/or tasks to evaluate your memory status. Once the screening is complete, the screener will review the results with you.

Available to everyone, these memory screenings are done daily Monday through Friday, and are given by doctors, nurse practitioners, psychologists, social workers, or other health care professionals across the country.

A smart phone, computer, tablet, or any other device

To SAVVY, Pg. 9

EDITORIAL

OPINION/COMMENTARY



JUDGED WISCONSIN'S
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
OF THE YEAR



NATIONAL GENERAL EXCELLENCE
THIRD PLACE, 2018
SECOND PLACE, 2020
FIRST PLACE, 2022

I've got friends in low places

Just like Garth Brooks, "I've got friends in low places." Also, like Garth Brooks, "Yeah, I'm not big on social graces." And I'm proud of both those things.

My wife will tell anyone and everyone I would always be a natural hermit when given the chance. Social graces, especially, are not one of my strengths. And I'm proud of being that way.

That said, having friends in low places isn't nearly as bad as it sounds. Yes, some of my friends are found in low places, like sleeping in the bottom of a boat when they're supposed to be taking a turn rowing it or bending their torso like a pretzel under low-hanging balsam boughs to try and make an unmakeable roll cast with a Royal Coachman on the end of their leader.

I don't know about you, but I couldn't think of better friends like that, especially friends who practically lay down low in a duck blind so you can get the first shot at mallards hovering over your decoys. Of course, I have yet to make a friend who would actually

do that for me.

I have been known to seek such a low position myself if it meant letting my duck blind partner have the first shot in exchange for him not blabbing to the rest of our party about me missing 42 shots in a row at ducks, geese and even coots.

As far as social graces go, I find it hard to believe anyone would find fault with a guy who goes to all the trouble of taking off his mud-covered boots just inside the front door of house filled with high mucky-mucks who have been waiting a mere hour-and-a-half past the announced dinner time for you. You think a high-class person would do that?

When it comes to people, I am very much comfortable with a low person, those who after hunting hours have closed, drink beer straight from a can followed by a chaser of Old Snorter

whiskey gurgled appreciatively from the very neck of the bottle.

I'd far rather be in the company of a lowly chap wearing a holey sweatshirt adorned with fish scales from a northern pike freshly fileted, than a self-proclaimed upper class cultured fake fisherman wearing the finest Abercrombie and Fitch trout fishing vest adorned with \$10 dollar hand-tied flies who thinks of himself as a person too high on the social scale to be actually caught in the same room as lowland fisherman like myself.

While I personally catch and release dozens, nay scores, of world record pike, bass, walleye and panfish, something only a person of the highest class would normally do, I do it with great pride in using a 40-year-old spinning rod with guides and tips attached with duct tape that only a person of

the lowest class would use.

I strive very hard to remain in the company of low people, in part because they generally are meat getters, the men and women who hit what they shoot at and catch the fish they cast for, and who oftentimes spare me the embarrassment of returning to hearth and home emptyhanded after a day of missed shots and un-caught fish by gifting some to me.

When it comes to fish, I care naught about appearing in photos with trophy fish such as a six-foot sturgeon or a five-foot musky, fish of such stature that even the haughtiest of haughty high shelf fisherman would be thrilled to be seen with.

I much prefer, especially in my now geriatric, advanced years, those fish deemed the lowest of the low by the "high class" devotees who consider themselves on an equal plane with Izack Walton.

I'm talking bluegills, perch, crappies and other such species that may not belong in a high-class person's realm, but which offer more fun, sport and tastebud pleasure than any others.

Then there is the northern pike, denounced as nothing more than a sharp-toothed unsavory fish barely ranked above a common redhorse sucker by those anglers of the supposed upper class. I have news for those fakers. Northern pike, though thought of as being very low class by a bluenose dry fly angler, rank about as high as any fish can rank in my book for fighting fury and taste delight on a fisherman's plate.

When it comes to duck hunting, I look upon the lower-class ducks like gadwall and hooded merganser — so ordained as low class

To MAINES, Pg. 9



Let's celebrate long-term caregivers

To the Editor;

As we celebrate Long-Term Care Administrator's Week in March, I want to honor the invaluable partnership between home health agencies and long-term care facilities. Together, we strive to ensure that residents receive consistent, quality care that promotes their well-being and respects their individual needs.

Long-term care administrators are at the heart

of this collaboration, tirelessly managing their facilities to create safe, comfortable environments for residents. Their role requires both skill and compassion as they oversee daily operations, support their teams, and ensure the best care possible for each resident.

Working alongside these dedicated administrators, home health agencies bring additional expertise and specialized services to residents, helping them

maintain independence, manage chronic conditions, and enjoy a higher quality of life.

This partnership enhances residents' care by providing a continuity of services, whether it's skilled nursing, physical therapy, or personal care. It also gives families peace of mind, knowing their loved ones are receiving the best possible support in every aspect of their health.

Let's take this week to

celebrate and thank long-term care administrators for their dedication and their partnership with home health agencies, which together help create a supportive, compassionate environment for our community's most vulnerable individuals.

Amy Nowak
Hospice Administrator,
Compassus
Arbor Vitae

Tariff-ied?

What Others Say

BY LOUANN SCHULFER, AWMA®, AIF®
ACCREDITED WEALTH MANAGEMENT ADVISORS
ACCREDITED INVESTMENT FIDUCIARY®, PUBLISHED AUTHOR
[THEWEALTHINFORMATIONLADY.COM](https://www.thewealthinformationlady.com)

Ah, if only we had that crystal ball! Let's consider some of the many factors that play into our decision making.

Let's say that tariffs are imposed. If his purchases were U.S. made, or with parts already in our country, then the price increases may not be so out of the ordinary. However, if his merchandise were subject to tariffs, the producer, the importer, and the currency markets will likely absorb some of the hit. We've seen the shift that supply chains

can make, and likely would again in reaction to a new tariff. Therefore, if there was an imposition of a 25% tariff, the impact to the end consumer would not be as great: likely it would be a smaller percentage of that, maybe 5 - 10%. Then, there is also the supply-demand factor. If demand goes down, prices generally follow.

With the purchases, we'd be smart to factor in additional associated costs, such as the extra year of insurance, registration,

storage and other maintenance, as well as an added year of depreciation and potentially foregoing the new bells and whistles that come with a year-newer product. Allocating the money to the new purchases rather than his investment portfolio would also miss out on a year of investment performance.

I'm glad he asked the question, because when it comes to that potential scenario, the tariff may not be so terrifying.

LouAnn Schulfer can be reached at (715) 343-9600 or louann.schulfer@lpl.com. TheWealthInformationLady.com

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OPINION/COMMENTARY



HEAVY LOAD — A City of Eagle River truck was one of many making regular trips to an area behind City Hall to dump loads of snow during cleanup efforts following last week’s winter storm. —Photo By Bill Zuelke

Savvy

FROM PAGE 8

with a webcam and Internet capability is all that’s needed. Appointments can be requested online at ALZFDN.org/memory-screening or by calling 866-232-8484. It’s also important to know that this screening is not a diagnosis of any particular condition, but

can indicate whether you should see your doctor for a more extensive assessment.

See Your Doctor

If you find that you need further evaluation, make an appointment with your primary care doctor for a cognitive checkup and medical examination. Depending on what’s found, you may be referred to a geriatrician or neurologist

who specializes in diagnosing and treating memory loss or Alzheimer’s disease. Keep in mind that even if you are experiencing some memory problems, it doesn’t necessarily mean you have dementia. Many memory problems are brought on by other factors like stress, depression, thyroid disease, side effects of medications, sleep disorders, vitamin deficiencies

and other medical conditions. And by treating these conditions, one can reduce or eliminate the problem. Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of “The Savvy Senior” book.

PUBLISHER’S LETTER

Human Body Design

Dear Reader, When we stop to think about the design of the human body, we might find ourselves wondering if it could have been crafted more efficiently. Consider the everyday processes of hydration and nutrition: why must we spend so much of our lives urinating or expelling waste from our bodies? Couldn’t we have been designed to hydrate through the skin, or metabolize food directly into energy without the need for waste?



It’s a curious thought experiment—imagining a body that functions without the need to “offload” its excesses, freeing us from the sometimes inconvenient realities of biological maintenance. Wouldn’t it be wonderful to live unencumbered by these daily rituals, focusing solely on the higher pursuits of life? Yet, when we reflect more deeply, we realize that the human body as it is designed is nothing short of miraculous. It’s a complex, harmonious system where countless processes—digestion, circulation, respiration—work in synchrony to sustain us. These so-called inefficiencies might actually be part of the greater design, teaching us humility and grounding us in the rhythms of life. They remind us of our interconnectedness with nature and the delicate balance we inhabit. Could there have been a “better” design? Perhaps. But then, would we be the same creatures we are now—resilient, adaptable, and marvelously imperfect? Perhaps the true genius of the human design lies not in its flawlessness, but in its resilience and ability to grow through imperfection.

PATRICK J. WOOD
Publisher

Author of “Reflections” a new book now available on Amazon.

Backward Glances

Compiled by Josephine Hinderman

One Year Ago - 2024

Even during a normal winter, vehicles falling through the ice can be a regular occurrence as warming temperatures cause deterioration on lakes...These warmer temps led to disaster for two fishing groups on the north and south shores of Lac Vieux Desert, when not one but two UTVs plunged through the weakened frozen water body... The UTVs fell through the ice on March 5 and were recovered on a blustery cold day, March 9. With the wind blowing across the lake, the working temperatures hovered close to zero degrees.

10 Years Ago - 2015

After an extensive search and nationwide news alert from the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office, a double homicide suspect and her traveling companion were arrested Sunday in Boone County, Ind. Authorities in Oneida County first received a 911 call on Sunday at 10:43 a.m. from a residence at 1625 Highway C in the town of Piel. Upon arriving, officers found Thomas Ayers, 37, and Jennifer Ayers, 40, deceased from an apparent homicide. Officers received information from the children at the scene implicating Ashlee Martinson,17, in the death of her mother and stepfather...After hearing a local dispatch, Boone County Sheriff’s Deputy Ryan Musgrave located (the suspected vehicle) traveling southbound on Interstate Highway 65 near Lebanon. Musgrave — with help from the Whitestown Police Department, Lebanon Police Department, and Zionsville Police Department — made a felony traffic stop on Martinson and (Ryan D. Sisco, 22). Both suspects were detained without incident.

20 Years Ago - 2005

While an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail on the Northern Highland-American Legion (NHAL) State Forest has been controversial, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials are proposing an experimental ATV trail be incorporated into the next forest master plan...Forest superintendent Dennis Leith said a location for

the 8- to 10-mile loop-type system on the 226,000-acre forest in Vilas and Oneida counties has not been finalized...Leith said the goals of the latest plans are to demonstrate, evaluate, and promote safe and ethical motorized recreation and to integrate other recreational options.

30 Years Ago - 1995

The emergency room at Northwoods Hospital will close March 15 because of excessive operating costs, according to a hospital official. However, a hospital spokesperson noted the Northwoods Clinic will offer “urgent care service during its expanded hours of 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday through Friday...The hospital also announced that effective today, March 1, the emergency phone number for Phelps Ambulance, Phelps Fire Department, and Alvin Fire Department is 479-4441, the current Vilas County emergency service number.

40 Years Ago - 1985

Claims that an annual report from Trees for Tomorrow denies the existence of an acid rain problem in Wisconsin — and that the Center’s reports are swayed by utility companies — were refuted Monday by Center Director Henry Haskell... The report gave a positive report on the state’s environmental health. It listed soil erosion and ground-water contamination as the key concerns for environmental protection... The controversial statement in the report said, “As of now, no conclusive evidence exists that there is a lake acidity problem in Wisconsin.”...Haskell said the Rhinelander Daily News got DNR acid rain coordinator Tom Heffy to rebut the statement. The story also included allegations that the Center, which gets a small part (less than 30%) of its financial support from corporations, was siding with utility firms that claim acid rain isn’t a problem.

50 Years Ago - 1975

Although the unemployment rate in Vilas county has jumped from 13.3% in January to 16.5% in February, the number of people unemployed seems to have stabilized, according to Eugene Voss,



RARE VIEW, 2005 — While the barred owl is common in the northern forest, they are normally more wary than the owls of Canada that have little contact with humans. —Staff Photo By KURT KRUEGER

employment security director for the Department of Industry, Labor and Human relations office in Rhinelander...Voss said unemployment for the five counties of his district — Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence and Landlade, peaked the week of Feb. 22... Locally, the unemployment rate has been even more consistent the past few weeks, although still much higher than last year’s figures.

60 Years Ago - 1965

A color television program, which will run for 52 weeks to promote the northwoods, is being sponsored by the Evinrude Motor Company, said John Digert of the Vilas county board and Herman Smith, Vilas county resource agent. This was brought out at the Vilas County Chamber of Commerce meeting in St. Germain, Monday, March 8...The engineering layout of the format for the program will be done with WTMJ-TV of Milwaukee. This weekly program will be transmitted over a number of mid-western networks and will be beamed at a population of over 20 million people. It will run in 15 minute segments.

70 Years Ago - 1955

The job of stopping juvenile drinking is the problem of parents and seemed to be the general consensus of opinion in three reports given before the Eagle River Rotary Club Monday evening at the Chanticleer Inn...Law enforcement authorities in Vilas county have not tolerated abuse of selling liquor to minors, Robert Dickerson said. Usually action has been swift. Not too long ago, a tavern keeper who was found guilty of selling to minors sold its interests and is no longer in business.

80 Years Ago - 1945

The Western Union brought a sad message to Mrs. Greta Busch of Eagle River on Sunday morning. It was one of those messages sent out by the War department to tell of the death of her son, S/ Sgt. Heino F. Busch, in Germany on March 2. 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.

Maines

FROM PAGE 8

by the upper class snooty hunters — as royal as the most elegant pintail or greenhead mallard. Having killed and eaten hundreds of wild ducks of all kinds, I maintain they are all of a high class, just some more than others. More than that, I dearly love the low places where I find them. Be it a muck-bottomed lake covered with

wild rice, a boot-sucking muddy prairie pothole such as are found by the thousands in North Dakota or on the wildest of Arkansas flooded oak woods, all those low places are where I most want to be. Save the elegant shooting blinds of the vested aristocracy, I’ll take the low folks who you find in the low places any day of the week. I’m proud to be there as one of them.

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so you can enjoy your vacation

LIFESTYLE

Autism Acceptance Fundraiser set April 12 in Hazelhurst

Aurora’s Guiding Light Foundation will be hosting its 3rd annual Autism Acceptance Fundraiser on Saturday, April 12, in Hazelhurst.

From noon to 4 p.m.,

there will be door prizes, raffles, kid-friendly activities, and firetrucks from the Hazelhurst Fire Department for families to explore.

The fundraiser will be

held at the Hazelhurst Town Hall at 7020 US-51 in Hazelhurst.

For more information, visit lakelandstar.org.

Tiffany announces 2025 Congressional Art Competition

Congressman Tom Tiffany (WI-07) announced that his district office is accepting submissions for the 2025 Congressional Art Competition.

All students in the Seventh Congressional

District, 7th through 12th grade, are invited to participate.

“The Congressional Art Competition is a great opportunity for young artists in northern and western Wisconsin to have their

own work displayed in the U.S. Capitol,” said Tiffany. “I am looking forward to seeing how each student presents Wisconsin through their submission.”

The winning student from the Seventh District will have their piece hung in the United States Capitol Building for one year and will be able to attend a congressional reception in Washington, D.C. Other winners of the competition will have their artwork displayed in Congressman Tiffany’s Wausau and D.C. offices. Entries need to demonstrate a Wisconsin theme, and each submission must be mailed or hand-delivered to Congressman Tiffany’s Wausau Office (2620 Stewart Ave., Suite 312, Wausau, WI 54401) by Friday, April 18, at 5 p.m.

BID NOTICE

The Town of St. Germain is seeking bids for repairs to a portion of Sixteen Road by pulverizing, widening, and adding additional gravel to the road, with an option to chip seal and fog seal the gravel surface. Any questions may be directed to Tom Christensen by email at tom.christensen@stgermainwi.gov, or by phone at 715-891-5967. Your bid is due at the Clerk’s Office by 5:00PM on March 24, 2025. The Board will approve the winning bid and option during a meeting on Thursday March 27, starting at 6:30 PM.

450326

WNAXLP

BID NOTICE

The Town of St. Germain is seeking bids for repairs to a portion of Border Creek Road by pulverizing, widening, and adding additional gravel to the road, with an option to chip seal and fog seal the gravel surface. Bid specification requests and any questions may be directed to Tom Christensen by email at tom.christensen@stgermainwi.gov, or by phone at 715-891-5967. Your bid is due at the Clerk’s Office by 5:00PM on March 24, 2025. The Board will approve the winning bid and option during a meeting on Thursday March 27, starting at 6:30 PM.

450324

WNAXLP

DEADLINES FOR SECTIONS

TOWN PAGES

THURSDAY 4 PM

DEADLINES FOR SECTIONS

LIFESTYLE

FRIDAY 10 AM

DEADLINES FOR SECTIONS

OBITUARIES

MONDAY 10 AM

DISCOVER & EXPLORE

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NOVEMBER 2025



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- 7 nights aboard the 5-star Amadeus Provence Cruise Ship
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Includes air and a bonus night in Geneva, Switzerland!

Departing November 3, 2025

GO TO TOURSMMC.COM FOR MORE INFO OR TO SIGN UP

For more information and a full brochure, please contact Chris Brough at 949-253-9361 or email cbrough@adelmantravel.com

Oneida ADRC to host Dementia Conversations on March 18

The Oneida County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) will be hosting a Dementia Conversations program on Tuesday, March 18, from 1 - 2:30 p.m. at the ADRC of Oneida County in Rhinelander.

Alzheimer’s disease affects nearly seven million people in the United States. It is the most common form of dementia and causes memory, thinking, and behavior problems that interfere with daily living.

However, the earliest signs are often dismissed as part of “getting older,” and the conversation with family and friends about those changes can be challenging and uncomfortable.

The Alzheimer’s Association® developed the Dementia Conversations, an education program, to help family and friends become more comfortable with difficult topics such as:

- Why it is important to talk to one’s doctor about concerns regarding changes to memory, thinking and behavior as soon as they are noticed
- How to encourage someone who is reluctant to talk to their doctor about memory concerns to do so
- Strategies for how to talk to someone when there are concerns about their ability to drive safely, and to develop a plan for when

“retiring” from driving becomes necessary

- The importance of making legal and financial plans for the future
- The necessity of planning ahead, learning about community resources, and developing a supportive care team.

To learn more about this program, or to register (registration is requested), contact Julie St. Pierre at (715) 352-4091 or jstpierre@alz.org. Individuals can also register by reaching out to the Alzheimer’s Association 24/7 Helpline at 1-800-272-3900 or by visiting <https://bit.ly/DCONVORHI>.



Cubs cannot yet regulate their temperature and have delicate immune systems, so researchers wear protective gear and keep them warm while staff members fit a GPS collar on the mother bear during den surveys.

—Contributed Photo

Bears

FROM PAGE 7

and litter sizes.

After cubs are born, black bear dens get noisier. During this time of year especially, people might hear unusual small sounds such as squeaking, grunting, humming or sucking, which usually means the cubs are nursing.

After spotting a den, the public is encouraged to maintain a safe distance of approximately 30 yards and report the following information to the DNR:

- GPS coordinates
- A photo of the den, ideally showing it in relation to its surroundings
- Description of the site and surrounding area
- Any information on bear activity near the site, including whether cubs

were heard.

DNR staff will work with den reporters and landowners to visit the den before deciding to survey it, determining if the den is safe, accessible, and in use. The research team may be unable to visit every reported den location this season. Dens that are known to be currently occupied will be prioritized.

Data collection

DNR staff will collect biological data from these dens, including sex, weight, and body measurements.

Mother bears, or sows, will be outfitted with GPS collars, one of the most important pieces for collecting data. Collars help staff learn more about bear foraging behavior and locate the sows in the following years. Revisiting the sows will help staff determine

the reproductive success of each sow, such as her litter frequency, litter size, and the survival rates of the cubs. Data on sow weight, body measurements, and age are also collected.

While surveying, bear health and safety are a top priority. Designated staff monitor the sow’s breathing and heart rate, while the rest of the team quickly gathers the needed samples and measurements. Any cubs present at the den are carefully weighed and sexed. Cubs are tucked into staff’s coats to keep them warm because the cubs cannot yet regulate their own temperature. Once researchers are finished, the sow and cubs are put back into their den.

To report a known black bear den, visit the DNR’s black bear den submission form.

44862

Family FunFest

Saturday, 29 March 2025, 9am-3pm

At Plum Lake Event & Equestrian Center
8177 Plum Lake Station Rd. in Sayner
plumlakeequinectr@gmail.com; www.plumlakeequestriancenter.com

Games Contests Prizes
Bounce Houses Zipline

Outdoor Adventures

Explore the trails! Experience the thrill of ziplining. Enjoy activities like ice skating, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.



Indoor Activities

Enjoy bounce houses, visit the petting zoo, participate in games, contests, and win exciting prizes!





Milky Way Coffee Company

will be on-site offering delicious food and beverages!

You can enjoy soda, water, beer, and wine at the Rail Bar.

Don't miss the silent auction featuring some exciting items!

Something for everyone 3 years to 99!

All proceeds will support the Plum Lake EMS and Fire Departments