Board members question actions
Two school board members question board president’s handling of issues  Page 13

BRUTALLY BEAUTIFUL

This river scene near Grantsburg, taken in the still of a brutally cold day last week, reminds us how Mother Nature’s beauty sometimes comes at a cost. - Photo by Priscilla Bauer

New Polk administrator begins
Outdoor rec plan, supervisor reimbursement, lime quarry discussions  Page 9

New manager for North Land
Nicole Gullickson new manager of ambulance association  Page 3

Man faces reckless homicide charges
Stemming from crash in Town of Siren that resulted in death of his uncle  Page 6

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Features about your neighbor and you!
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Early deadline
Due to the holidays the deadline for all news and advertising has been moved up to Friday, Dec. 20, at 4 p.m. Our offices will be closing Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 1 p.m. and remain closed Christmas Day. We will reopen Thursday, Dec. 26.
Dr. John Ingalls arrived at Violet on Cedar in Webster last Saturday evening, Dec. 14, in full holiday dress mode. His version of the Santa suit drew some second glances from diners, who no doubt appreciated the doctor’s being all wrapped up in the holiday spirit.

- Photo by Priscilla Bauer

#DONTMESSWITHSTRYKER

Chicago County K-9 Stryker was called upon to assist the Cambridge Police Department in Minnesota with a burglary in progress at the construction site of Cambridge’s new library last week. A suspect had forced his way into a fenced-in area and then forced his way into the building itself. A perimeter was established around the building and it was thought that the suspect was hiding inside. Stryker arrived on-scene and searched the interior of the building and was not able to locate the suspect. Deputy Chad Stenson then decided he and Stryker should work around the exterior of the building to see if they could locate a track. Stryker was able to pick up a track and began to track north. Along the track Stryker located and was not able to locate the suspect. Deputy Chad Stenson then decided he and Stryker should work around the exterior of the building to see if they could locate a track.

Stryker was yelled and the suspect decided it would be in his best interest to come out from one of the toilets with his hands up. The suspect had forced his way into a fenced-in area and then forced his way into the building itself. A perimeter was established around the building and it was thought that the suspect was hiding inside. Stryker arrived on-scene and searched the interior of the building and was not able to locate the suspect. Deputy Chad Stenson then decided he and Stryker should work around the exterior of the building to see if they could locate a track. Stryker was able to pick up a track and began to track north. Along the track Stryker located the suspect’s cellphone, a very short time later Stryker tracked to two portable toilets that were within the fenced area. A K-9 warning was yelled and the suspect decided it would be in his best interest to come out from one of the toilets with his hands up.

- Photo from Chicago County Sheriff’s Dept.
**It’s local election season**

**Overview of Polk County officials up for election**

**POLK COUNTY** – The approach of the holidays means the approach of election season, with a chance to cast your ballot for county, city, village and school representatives on April 7. Also on the ballot in St. Croix Falls, Luck and possibly Osceola will be school referendums.

Circulation of nomination papers for a number of positions began Dec. 1, with a filing deadline of Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 5 p.m. Many villages nominate candidates via caucus held in early January.

**County board**

All 15 members of the Polk County Board of Supervisors will be up for election in April. Members are elected to two-year terms.

A map of supervisory districts and current supervisors representing those districts can be found on the county website or at the county clerk’s office.

Any incumbent seeking another term and any newcomer wishing to run for the board of supervisors must have their nomination papers filed by 5 p.m. Jan. 7. For information, contact the Polk County Clerk’s Office at 715-485-9226.

**Cities and villages**

Each village in Polk County with the exception of Dresser, Clear Lake and Turtle Lake nominate candidates by caucus. Caucus dates are decided by individual boards but must be held no later than Jan. 21, 2020, and terms are two years.

Dresser uses nomination papers, which must be filed by candidates by 5 p.m. Jan. 7.

All incumbents have until Friday, Dec. 27, to file candidacy papers indicating they are not seeking re-election.

Amery and St. Croix Falls, the two cities in Polk County, require nomination papers that must be filed by the end of the business day Jan. 7.

Incumbents not seeking re-election must file a notification of noncandidacy by Dec. 27.

**City of Amery**

Up for election are seats held by Mayor Paul Iaskan, District 1 Alderperson Rick Van Blaricom, District 2 Alderperson Tom Strobuse and Alderperson at Large Kris Vicker. Also up for election is the four-year term of municipal Judge Chelsea Whitley, shared with the village of Clear Lake.

**City of St. Croix Falls**

Up for election are seats held by Mayor Arnie Carlson, District 1 Alderperson Kirk Anderson and District 2 Alderperson Joy Zasadny. Anderson has filed noncandidacy papers for alderperson but has filed to run for mayor. Also up is the term of municipal Judge David Danielson. This position has a four-year term.

**Balsam Lake**

Balsam Lake’s village caucus will be Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m. at the fire hall.

Up for election are trustee seats held by Caroline Rediske and Corby Start, along with the trustee seat vacated by Eric Jorgensen.

**Centuria**

The caucus in the village of Centuria will be Wednesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m. at the village hall, immediately before the regular village board meeting. Seats up for election are those held by Trustees Katie Hamm, Kevin Kamish and Steve Sylvester. Sylvester had declined to seek another term.

**Clayton**

Clayton’s caucus will be Monday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m. at the village hall. Seats up for election are those held by Trustees Scott Donath, LuAnn Scharmer and Cassie Robinson. Also to be filled is the seat left vacant by Trustee Shawn Schradle.

The candidates receiving the most votes will be elected to three-year terms, with the fourth filling the remaining one year of Schradle’s term.

**Clear Lake**

Up for election at Clear Lake are Trustees Vern Engebretson, Lori Martin and Marie Bannink. Also up for election is the four-year term of municipal Judge Chelsea Whitley, shared with the city of Amery. Clear Lake does not hold a caucus.

**Dresser**

Dresser does not hold a caucus but seeks nominees through nomination papers. Up for election are those held by Trustees Karen Andrie, Jeff Gutzmer and Elina Kuusisto.

**Frederic**

Frederic’s caucus will be Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m. at the village hall. Trustee seats up for election are those held by Brad Harlander, Bob Jorgenson and Todd Miller.

**Luck**

The caucus in Luck will be Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 5:45, immediately followed by the regular monthly board meeting.

Up for election are the seats held by Trustees Ron Steen, Sonja Jensen and Mike Miller.

**Milltown**

Milltown’s caucus will be Monday, Jan. 13, 8 p.m. at the village hall immediately prior to the regular monthly board meeting.

Up for election are seats held by Trustees Joe Castellano, Larry Kuske and Les Soper.

**Osceola**

Seats up for election are those of Trustees Bruce Gilliland, Travis Murphy and Deb Rose. Osceola uses nomination papers, which are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 7.

**Turtle Lake**

Turtle Lake holds no caucus and individuals seeking a position on the board must file nomination papers by Jan. 7.

Up for election are seat held by Trustees Patrick McReady, Ruth Morton and Scott Strenke. Also up for election is the four-year term of municipal Judgeennis Zemke.

**School boards**

There are nine public school districts in Polk County, each governed by an elected board. Members serve three-year terms with about one-third elected each year. Each board elects its president and other officers. Nomination papers are due in the district office Tuesday, Jan. 7, at 5 p.m.

In addition to election of school board members, voters in the school districts of Luck and St. Croix Falls will also have a referendum question on the ballot. A referendum vote may also be on the ballot in Osceola, with the school board making a final decision in January.

The following list includes the seats up for election as well as any referendum question.

- **Amery:** Erin Hosking
  - Clayton: Jeff Young Jr. and Roger Olson
  - Clear Lake: Greg Friendshuh and Kevin “Skip” Consoer
  - Frederic: Emily Karl and Chuck Holkey
  - Luck: Jacob Jensen and a $9.85 million referendum vote pending approval by the school board on Dec. 19.
  - Osceola: Craig Brancik and Rosanne Anderson.
  - Clear Lake: Brent Hostrup, Brandon Owen, Corey Laqua, Rick Penberthy, Leonard Knauber, Joy Jackson, Andy Chartrand, Jessica Pett, Maria Menard, Vern Knauber, Jeff Butler, Kathy Clesnian, Tashan Ariy, Logan Stevens, Cody Miller, Chad White, Melissa Thompson, Jeni Ariy and Jay Thompson.

The staff at North Land Ambulance is asking that everyone stay safe as they enjoy a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. “We look forward to serving you in 2020,” said outgoing manager Rae Ann Allen, front left. Pictured with Allen (not in order) are Lori Hostrup, Brandon Coweno, Brent Hostrup, Corey Laqua, Rick Penberthy, Leonard Knauber, Joy Jackson, Andy Chartrand, Jessica Pett, Maria Menard, Vern Knauber, Jeff Butler, Kathy Clesnian, Tashan Ariy, Logan Stevens, Cody Miller, Chad White, Melissa Thompson, Jeni Ariy and Jay Thompson.
Wisconsin has so far received $235.9 million out of the over $10 billion in Market Facilitation Program funding sent nationally by the Trump administration in 2019 as reimbursement for economic losses over trade conflicts with other nations. But a WisPolitics.com review of recipients, gathered from data obtained by the Environmental Working Group under the Freedom of Information Act, revealed that over half of all first-round 2019 payments went to the top 11.1% of all recipients. And 25% of first-round payments went to only 3% of all recipients.

Wisconsin is above average in spending but about average among states and in state and local taxes. Yet government research and civic education, the state’s leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government and civic education. Learn more at wispolicyforum.org.

Joe Heller

Here’s why Wisconsin ranks average in spending, above average in taxes

Wisconsin long has ranked above average among the 50 states in the share of income its residents pay in state and local taxes. Yet government spending in Wisconsin in 2017 was about average among states and a closer look at state tax and spending data reveals important nuances.

Each year the U.S. Census Bureau releases figures on state and local taxes, spending and finances around the country. Overall, they show that, as a share of personal income, state and local governments in Wisconsin spend at roughly average levels, ranking 24th among states in 2017 on a key spending metric known as direct general expenditures.

This raises the question: why does Wisconsin tax more? That’s in part because governments here receive significant revenues from property taxes, which requires residential and other types of property to be taxed at the same rate and effectively blocks the kinds of property tax breaks and deductions for homeowners in some other states.

Wisconsin’s individual income tax takes up the next highest share of income at 2.8%, which was 11th highest in the country in 2017. The tax’s share of personal income and its national rank were both unchanged from 2016.

The sales tax, the last of the state’s three big taxes, took up 2% of personal income in Wisconsin, ranking the state 33rd nationally. Those figures have been essentially unchanged since 2009.

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

Follow the Leader.
Dear Editor,

I read with interest the recent article on the status of agriculture and its impact on our economy. As a farmer myself, I understand the challenges faced by the industry and the importance of supporting local farmers.

I would like to express my concern about the trend of large-scale farming and the loss of small family farms. While it is true that economies of scale can lead to efficiency and cost savings, I believe that this trend is detrimental to the diversity and sustainability of our food system.

As a member of the community, I believe it is crucial to support local farmers and encourage a more equitable distribution of food. By doing so, we can ensure a more resilient and healthy food system for future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
Two 2019 Ram Promaster City cargo vans similar to this will be added to the county fleet for highway department use. - Special photo

Threats to the environment

The board will hold its caucus on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 2 p.m., which will be followed by their regular monthly meeting. All terms are two years and begin on the first Monday of the year of their election. Doty’s, Rudy Mothes’ and Jim Pearson’s terms expire in 2020. Any person who has the qualifications of an eligible voter in the municipality, even if not registered voter, may be nominated or be nominated as a village trustee. A person may nomi- nate themselves as a candidate also. Doty’s, Rudy Mothes’ and Jim Pearson’s terms expire in 2020. Any person who has the qualifications of an eligible voter in the municipality, even if not registered voter, may be nominated or be nominated as a village trustee. A person may nomi- nate themselves as a candidate also. The board receives a report from the Schauer family that would like to donate a bench at Crooked Lake. The request was sent to the appropriate committee.

To TIF or not to TIF

Trustees look to possible third TIF district

Becky Strabel | Staff writer

SIREN – Tax increment financing allows local governments to use future property tax revenues to fund projects that support a specific economic development project or public improvement project in the community, according to the new county board.

It was noted at the regular monthly meeting held on Thursday, Dec. 5, that Siren currently has two TIF districts but only one is still eligible for expansion. The eligible district is located on the west end of town, 335 acres, and the board is looking to install 150 feet of road to help increase new development. The second TIF district is located on the north end of town, along Main Street, the 35/70 corridor and land south, the project can be used to pay for that project.

Looking to the future, the village may create a third district to pay for eligible projects of 12%, which remains the actualized value of the municipality can be placed in a TIF district. This leaves about $740,000 in 2019 to support infrastructure on the Tewalt land project on the south side of town.

Public hearing

No comments were heard when Pres- ident Dave Alden called the public bud- get hearing to order. He did receive one written comment during the public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 7. They have asked that certain zoning regulations be revised. The proposed re-zoning of the certified survey map for North States Industries on State Highway 27 south of town, the town said that they felt the comments were premature in re- lation to the request for a zone change. The CSW is certified by North States Industries along with the request for a zone change. It was noted that the zoning change include that the manufacturing facility maintains runoff on their site. If that was not an option, the group asked that their concerns at least be placed on the public record for future decisions. The parcel in question includes wet- lands. All properties were certified by the state Department of Natural Resources. So the board feels confident that any con- struction or development on that por- tion would be regulated by the DNR. Runoff and water management would be part of the agreement.

"It is a most potent right now until they apply for permits. This is only a zoning change," commented Dave Doty Sr. after the discussion was had.

Other business

Chief of Police Chris Sybers asked the board to consider a yearly license for Lexipol. This is a program that de- partments can utilize to review and strengthen their policy and procedure manuals. It is field-tested for vil- lage-specific needs. Lexipol can reduce insurance premiums and help with offi- cer liability. Once implemented, Lexipol can send out daily report briefings on best practices to each member of the de- partment. An officer resident who can- not review the briefings and who has not. More information is needed before the board will consider this nonbudge- tary expense.

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The board received a letter from the Schauer family that would like to donate a bench at Crooked Lake. The request was sent to the appropriate committee.

Pearson moved to provide a 2% wage increase for village employees in 2020. This passed unanimously.

A Fair Housing proclamation that the village must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac- cine must receive the second dose in 2021. They have only had one dose of the vac-
January meeting of Burnett CAFO committee

Mary Stirrat | Staff writer
SIREN — When Burnett County’s large-scale livestock study ad hoc committee members met on Jan. 6, members will be bearing a hearing on the potential effects of applying liquid manure to cropland in the county.

The committee at its Dec. 12 meeting, approved a contract with Ed Taylor, a wastewater specialist with long-term experience in soil science, biology and septic systems.

After the committee approved the contract, the presentation will consist of three main topics.

First will be general information on soil composition and how this composition affects the ways physical, chemical and biological processes in the local environment.

Second will be information on soil composition and how this composition affects the ways physical, chemical and biological processes in the county.

And third will be general information on soil composition and how this composition affects the ways physical, chemical and biological processes in the county.

The third topic consists of the risks and benefits of applying liquid manure to cropland in Burnett County.

This third section, according to the agreement, highlights potential areas of environmental and public health vulnerabilities that are associated with applying liquid manure.

It will also outline possible benefits of applying liquid manure to a manner appropriate to local soils.

Cost for the presentation, expected to be two hours long, is $660.

Taylor has a nearly 40-year career in applied science that includes companion soil science, agricultural engineering and evaluation and design of both public and private septic systems.

The agency noted not all areas of the state are sensitive to groundwater contamination.

“Of the animals that fall within a CAFO operation, hogs have the closest contact between hogs and humans than between other animals. Sometimes “jump” from hogs to humans than between other species.”

One of the animals that fall within a CAFO operation, hogs have the closest contact between hogs and humans than between other animals. Sometimes “jump” from hogs to humans than between other species.

Kaczmarski started by saying that he would focus on the possible impacts of high CAFOs because of the genetic similarity between hogs and humans.

“Of the animals that fall within a CAFO operation, hogs have the closest contact between hogs and humans than between other species. Sometimes “jump” from hogs to humans than between other species.”

Kaczmarski summarized another conclusion, “If a not a direct causal link to protecting health or the health of livestock animals that requires further research.”

He mentioned a link between “blue baby syndrome” and perinatal and pediatric diseases that result from low or no oxygen in the blood. A pregnant mother with anemia who lives in proximity to a CAFO, he said, is more likely to give birth to a baby with a low birth weight or anemia than if they lived farther away.

At this point committee member Doug Bolin raised that it was really trying to look at the 2018 study. Kaczmarski agreed, but added that the study “does not have the data.”

“Of the animals that fall within a CAFO operation, hogs have the closest contact between hogs and humans than between other species. Sometimes “jump” from hogs to humans than between other species.”

Kaczmarski noted that the American Public Health Association supports a moratorium on large livestock facilities in order to further study impacts on the environment and human health. He noted again that environmental links are fairly established and there is a growing body of evidence showing health impacts.

Rock, Green, Pepin and Kewaunee counties in Wisconsin have completed six-month health-impact assessments, he said. He indicated that there was little or no evidence of health concerns associated with CAFOs. He also noted an increase in respiratory issues in people living near CAFOs.

Kaczmarski said that he would like to see a future where safe drinking water is available in the state, he said.

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MARY STIRRATT | STAFF WRITER

MILLTOWN - Last July the Milltown Public Library received a $500,000 grant to renovate and expand, and in late November the “new” facility was open for use.

The grant was a Community Development Block Grant for public facilities, and grant administrator Lynn McIntyre, of Cedar Corporation, attended the Tuesday, Dec. 10, meeting of the Milltown Village Board to give an update on the project.

“It’s changed a lot since we wrote the grant for it,” she commented.

An open house was held Thursday, Dec. 5, which was attended by an estimated 250 people, said library director Bonnie Carl. Between silent-auction items and the sale of unneeded equipment the library raised about $1,700 that day.

The total cost of the project is just under $1.2 million, and the library is accepting donations to cover the $268,000 loan secured by the village on its behalf.

Bryant Christianson, engineer for Cedar Corporation, noted that, overall, the project is 98-99% completed, with “a couple of things to finish.”

Cedar Corp is holding the $50,000 retainer until these items are completed, according to Christianson. “I’m really not going to send money until I’m happy,” he told the board.

Approved by the board at the Dec. 10 meeting was an invoice from Derrick Building Solutions in the amount of $97,132, which nearly completes the project.

Christianson and Carl said that there will be one more change order to move the outside lights so they don’t interfere with the lettering. The 5% contingency included in the project costs is covering the change order.

McIntyre told the board that Milltown is now eligible to apply for another Community Development Block Grant, adding that awards are now being made up to $1 million rather than $500,000, with the village required to match one-third rather than one-half.

She encouraged staff and board members to consider projects that might be grant eligible. In response to a question from village President LuAnn White, McIntyre said the application could be for as low as $300,000.

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New Polk administrator begins

Outdoor rec plan, supervisor reimbursement, lime quarry discussions

Geraldine E. Anderson

For 35 years as a first-grade teacher in the Ossela School District, Anderson was inducted into the Dressed Public Library sets new name and fine-free policy

Free community celebration event set for Saturday, Jan. 4

DRESSER – The Dresser Public Library has a lot to celebrate, beginning with the opening of the new brochures. The library is located on the corner of First and Main Streets, just west of Dresser Village Library. The library board is recognizing Anderson’s legacy by renaming it "Geraldine E. Anderson Library.”

In addition to the new-name dedication, the library, on Jan. 1, will become a fine-free library, waiving overcharge penalties that can total nearly $1,000 annually. The library is also adding an additional item of the night, as the proposed resolution would allow for the sale of coffee, tea, and other refreshments in the library’s new community meeting space in a safe public setting.

To celebrate, the library will host a free open house to be held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 4. Refreshments will be served.

About Geraldine E. Anderson

For 35 years as a first-grade teacher in the Ossela School District, Anderson was inducted into the Dresser Public Library sets new name and fine-free policy

About the Geraldine E. Anderson Library

The library was founded on Sept. 7, 1935, by the Dresser Women’s Club as the Dresser Junior High School Library. In the 1950s, the library was moved to its current location and recently renovated in 1995. The library has been a community meeting space in a safe public setting.

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In the spirit of giving and kindness: Northwest Alliance Community Foundation

Renee Nanez | NACF

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN - The spirit of giving is alive and well in Northwest Wisconsin and at the Northwest Alliance Community Foundation. During its year-end campaign, anonymous donors have given a one-time $10,000 donation and pledged another $10,000 to the Northwest Alliance Community Foundation. The change was approved by the Mill Town Village Board at its Tuesday, Dec. 10, and while they had little business at hand, they did approve the next step in the process toward a pending $14 million referendum effort for this coming spring by officially hiring two firms that will be part of the process in design and construction.

“The engagement letter to get together pre-referendum, outlining what they’ll do, the costs, that type of thing,” district Administrator Mark Burandt told the board.

The referendum question voters will consider next April involves a $14 million proposal that addresses a new performing arts center, health/wellness and weightlifting facility, as well as an addition and improvements to the district bus garage.

The board had little discussion on the official contracting of the two firms, Kraus-Anderson and DSGW Architects, who will work together to finalize the construction proposals, options and marketing materials as a prelude to the referendum question.

The initial cost of the hiring is $8,500 but Burandt said that if the ballot measure passes, the two firms would move to a much more involved role, providing detailed design schematics, timelines for bidding, projected costs and more.

The engagement decision also means that both firms would be hired to do the finalized designs and the like, if the referendum question passes, essentially as a placeholder of both firms.

Burandt said he met with Kraus-Anderson recently, and they are preparing to have more detailed information available on the proposed projects shortly after the first of the year, when they will also set up a variety of informational meetings, presentations and information sharing.

“Are we actually out to enter a really exciting phase?” Burandt noted, as the board approved the contract with both Kraus-Anderson and DSGW Architects.

In other board action

• The board approved hiring a local firm, New Finish Painting, to do hallway painting in the high school hallways.

$34,500 in grants and helping 33 organizations continue and expand services to our communities. Ongoing professional, nonprofit training is also a part of NACF’s commitment to the community.

On Wednesday, Nov. 20, NACF was excited to celebrate its six-year anniversary by presenting its single largest grant since forming in 2013. A grant of $4,000 presented to Crystal Meier, program manager of Independent Living Services of Workforce Resource Inc., will help support its mentorship program for foster children aging out of the foster care system.

The NACF board of directors is honored by the kindhearted people in this area who have chosen to become involved with them to promote lasting change and find creative solutions to local challenges.

NACF is an affiliate of the St. Croix Valley Foundation, northwestalliancecf.org.

Renee Nanez is shown with the Northwest Alliance Community Foundation Board of Directors. (L to R): Lisa Murphy, Chris Byerly, Jennifer Turft, Linetere, Gary Gerds, Nanez, Patti Hurd, Mark Buley and Tracey Nooner. Not pictured: Nancy Martin.


Recycling collection changing in Milltown

Mary Stirrat | Staff writer

MILLTOWN — Starting at the beginning of February residents of Milltown will see a change in how they handle recyclables.

Rather than weekly curbside pickup, recyclables will need to be taken to drop boxes scattered around the village. These boxes will be open one weekend a month.

A notice of the change and the drop box locations will be included in the village newsletter. The current doors are narrow and can only accommodate one car at a time. The new doors will be open one weekend a month.

When asked what prevents people from still throwing smaller trash into his containers, Waterman said he has been using them in some communities for 20 years and there haven’t been issues.

The contract between the village and Waterman’s goes back to 2013 and has never been revised, said village clerk Amy Albrecht.

Along with changes in recycling, the new contract includes nominal price increases for garbage containers. The new rate for both 35- and 60-gallon containers will be $45 per quarter, rather than the current $37 and $43.

Waterman showed photos of 60-gallon containers overflowing with garbage and indicated that many of them are already being packed with 90 gallons of garbage.

Ninety-gallon containers will increase in price from $50.50 to $52.50 per quarter.

Price increases are effective Jan. 1, 2020.

Other business

The caucus was set for Monday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m., at the village hall, immediately prior to the regular monthly board meeting. Up for election are seats held by Joe Castellano, Les Sloper and Larry Kuske.

Police Chief Shaun Thayer reported that Carlson Construction is going to look at the garage doors for the bays at the village shop where squad cars are being parked. The current doors are narrow, he said, leaving only an inch or two on each side when the squad cars are backed in.
Grantsburg’s Holiday Indulgence concert

Abby Alderman, Emma Quimby, Brooke Quimby, Austin Louis as Santa, Elle Duncan, director Linda Benge, Lauren Hermann, Olivia Ohnstad and Isabelle Quimby performed at the Grantsburg High School music department’s annual Christmas concert this past weekend. The entertaining event has become a holiday tradition for the past 13 years. The event focuses on traditional and contemporary holiday music and includes a tasty meal. This was a performance fundraiser for trip expenses for the music department.

Correction
Also, Navy Airman Lucas Stiemann graduated in 2014 from Siren High School, not 2004.
We apologize for the errors.

Polk elections/from page 3

- Unity: Debbie Ince-Peterson and Ryan Peterson.

Towns
Polk County is made up of 24 towns, the unit of government in unincorporated areas of the county that in most states are referred to as “townships.”
Twenty of the towns are governed by three-member town boards, all of which were up for election last year. The only seats up for election on any of these 20 town boards are those open through a vacancy.
Four towns are governed by five-member boards, with three members up for election last year and two this year. Those five-member boards are Alden, Clayton, Eureka and St. Croix Falls.
Candidates are nominated at the annual caucus. Listed below are supervisors up for election in those four towns.

Alden
Up for election are Supervisors Barry Ausen and Gerald Anderson. The town caucus is Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m. at the town hall.

Clayton
Up for election are Supervisors Jake Balog and Scott Gilbertson. The caucus will be Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m. at the town hall.

Eureka
Up for election are Supervisors Jake Balog and Scott Gilbertson. The caucus will be Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m. at the town hall.

St. Croix Falls
Up for election are Will Bergmann and Katie Appel. The date of caucus will be determined at the Dec. 18 monthly meeting.

Other
A primary is scheduled for the Wisconsin Supreme Court position held by Daniel Kelly. Candidates challenging Kelly are Jill Karofsky and Edward A. Fallone, requiring a primary that will be held Feb. 18. The position carries a 10-year term.

Also on Feb. 18 is the special primary to narrow the ballot for the 7th Congressional District seat in the U.S. House, a position vacant since the Sept. 23 resignation of Republican Rep. Sean Duffy.
Republican candidates are Jason Church and Thomas Tiffany and Democratic candidates are Lawrence Dale and Tricia Zunker (see the Dec. 11 Leader for candidate information). The top candidate from each party will face each other in a special general election May 12.
The presidential preference primary will be held at the same time as the spring election, April 7, 2020.
SCF Plan Commission weighs in on county housing study

Where will the workers live?
One of the main drivers for the housing study was that, in general, residents suggested from political and business leaders about a lack of affordable local housing, which they suggested is needed to fill job demands. Badtke noted that the data also pointed to the skewing of the income-versus-housing cost problem, which suggests that a growing volume of most local incomes have come nowhere near keeping up with rising housing costs.

Badtke went over data suggesting that of the top 10 types of local jobs, only two or three offer a wage high enough to pay for local housing. While the affordable housing income level is a countywide problem, St. Croix Falls has seen median home value go up over 34% since 2000, while wages have only risen about 14% in the same time frame, and how the city has seen a 12% reduction in home ownership by households under age 35.

Rent increases are compounded by the stagnant wages, and Badtke pointed out that the average two-bedroom apartment in Polk County is approximately $763, and the number of people considered “housing cost burdened” is over 30% of the population.

That lack of affordable housing also became a part of the meeting focus. As the plan commission is usually on the forefront of housing development projects, they heard from several people involved in both financing and building such housing, who pointed out that the costs per square foot of new construction have essentially doubled since the Great Recession, and it isn’t due to labor costs, but materials.

“We’re basically finding that it’s hard to build a new home for under $250,000 now,” Badtke said, as the discussions noted several lower cost options, which typically include lower quality materials or some combination of the two.

“In 2010, building costs were around $100 to $105 per square foot,” builder John Helling noted, which is still 20 to 25 per square foot now, so it’s doubled.”

While the recession claimed quite a few development plans and proposals around the city, Badtke noted there is still a solid number of available areas to build in the city, including some of the parcels off Wilberg Boulevard bought off forested areas as several areas rotated later in the meeting as possibly able to house multi-unit senior housing, which Badtke believed was not a concern even before the housing study results.

Senior housing proposal
Related to the discussions on affordable housing options and the need for more affordable housing, the St. Croix Falls Plan Commission also heard from several local groups including the St. Croix Falls Rotary Club, Commissioner Warren White is involved in a possible site for such a development, which would require at least 1.5 acres for 30 units, at about 1,000 square feet each, and accompanied enclosed parking.

White pointed out several possible locations for such a development, including a proposal being considered by a local church, as well as the possible involvement by a local developer, which had two representatives at the meeting. They think they can make such a project work, meeting the suggested features the group is hoping for, including single-level living, enclosed garages and sidewalks like those found in moving in other possible features, with a relatively small footprint.

“We’re trying to make something move,” White said, noting that several active options are under consideration. And, according to city officials, being not only investors but also active producers of trying to make it happen, was a focus for the city.

Tourist workers?
The other interesting aspect of the housing study had to do with the influx/outflow of workers to the city, which White noted some community members find enviable. Badtke said that 2017 data suggests that approximately 130 people work in the city, while 2,085 residents leave the city for work. The interesting aspect was that 2,085 workers enter the city from elsewhere, which several commissioners noted as a real opportunity.

“I would gather that of those workers, most are (working with) one of four places, mostly the school, hospital, Walmart and Menards,” Mayor Adam Carlson commented. “Which I would think means they are from both ends of the spectrum, either moving up or down.”

While the city workforce overwhelmingly comes from out of town, the housing options approved would need to be a common issue, and means some good news for the future of St. Croix Falls, primarily from those workers. Badtke pointed to a move to the city.

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Board members cite incorrect handling of issues by president

Referendum language approved
Becky Strabel | Staff writer

SIRN - The Burnett County School District board has voted to remove Mascots from the board. Signed by both myself and Mark Pettis.”

Operating referendum
Voters will be asked at the April 7 election to authorize the district to exceed the revenue limit by $300,000 per year for three years beginning with the 2020-2021 school year and ending with the 2022-2023 school year. This would be nonrecurring referendum for operating and maintaining the building and facilities, sustaining current programming and services and other ongoing operational expenses. This language was official approved by roll call vote.

Mascots
The resolution presented this fall for board approval is not the resolution that will be voted on at the WASB convention in January. It had been revised or amended and Resolution 20-10: Native American Mascots that will be discussed reads: The WASB supports legislation requiring school districts to retire Native American mascots, provided such legislation: a) establishes adequate timelines to allow for the consideration and implementation of other alternatives; b) provides state funding to compensate districts for the costs (e.g., changes to facilities, uniforms, etc.) necessary to retire Native American mascots, logos or imagery; and c) does not require the retiring of images, statues or other likenesses of historic individual figures after whom a school or community is named.

“I have absolutely no hesitation to support this version of the resolution,” declared Pettis.

Therefore, he moved to support this language and it was passed unanimously and the rest of the board. This appeared to shock but encourage Native American Coordinator Tara Voss.

Hunting
Associate Principal Wayne Koball ad¬mitted to the board that he took it upon himself to post the school forests as non-hunting. Koball made a formal request to the Burnett County Sheriff’s Office to remove the no hunting signs on the school property. He also cautioned the board to be careful if any school forest is named.

“My thought is that if a directive or action is made by an individual, then the rest of the board has a responsibility to consider a request for a formal motion. A motion would require the issue or directive to become public record and there would be an opportunity for the board to discuss, table, amend or refer it to a committee,” said Meyer.

Meyer concluded that the school board must tread carefully. Chapter 19 enacts a strong—if not overwhelming—presumption in favor of public meetings of governmental boards. The exceptions to this requirement are slim and narrow, and the penalties for violation of the Open Meeting Law can be severe according to Sec. 19.19.

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Moore stated that she would like to see the board have some training or seminars on the topic after the election is held. She also cautioned the board to be careful with email correspondence, which need to be monitored as they can quickly appear as a meeting. She referred to a recent email she sent to most of the board but excluded her.

Other business
• The board advised finance director Laura Lessard that vouchers such as the Siren Bus Company Inc.’s invoice cannot be paid until reviewed at the monthly meeting, then released for payment.
• The school signed the boys co-op hockey resolution.
• Starwires Technologies tower/anten¬na removal was approved for five years.
• Snow removal bid was awarded to Back Country Custon Builders.
• The bleachers in the gymnasiums were inspected and found to be safe, but some repairs to help extend their life will need to be made. It will be addressed over the summer.
• Lisa Seaman was hired as the district secretary.
• No action was taken regarding the middle school girls basketball coach position.
• Cut from the 2019-2020 budget was attendance at that WASB convention; while on the agenda, no action was taken to change that decision.

Meeting calendar
Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m. — Policy, planning and curriculum committee.
Wednesday, Jan. 15, 4:15 p.m. — Budget, finance, personnel and negotiations, fol¬lowed by building, grounds and transportation at 5:15 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 27, 6 p.m. — Regular monthly school board meeting.

It should be noted that a special board meeting may be scheduled before Jan. 1 for discussion and possible action on school worker’s compensation insurance. While not disclosed to the public, Moore stated another company would like to submit a quote, but they were not ready to do so as of Monday.

Reporter’s note: Following is a reminder of how to run for school board, which would also be appropriate in this coverage. The following was not discussed at the school meeting.

School board candidacy
An eligible resident must file for the 2020 spring election by completing and returning declaration of candidacy paper¬work to the district clerk or deputy clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7. School board candidates do not need to gather signatures to get on the ballot. To be on the ballot for school board one must be a citizen of the United States; 18 years of age or older; and a resident of the school district for at least 10 consecutive days at the time of filing.

A full school board term runs for three years. In Siren, the oath of office and an election for the executive board is gener¬ally held on the same night as the monthly meeting, which is the fourth Monday in April.

The present incumbents whose terms expire this April include Peggy Moore and Mark Pettis.

BURNETT COUNTY — On Saturday, Dec. 14, the Burnett County Sheriff’s Office, along with local police departments, hosted their first-annual Shop with a Cop event.

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Congratulations to Cassie McKenzie, who won the Frederic jersey quilt. The Viking’s Loot would like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets for supporting students in the Frederic Schools; 155 tickets were sold in total. The funds will be put toward a student field trip. Everyone’s involvement is greatly appreciated. – Photo provided

On Friday night, Dec. 6, 60 sixth- through eighth-grade students participated in the “Rock Around the Christmas Tree” semiformal dance. During the dance the students participated in several competitions, with volunteers from the high school music program serving as judges. Grace Nelson won the freeze-dance competition, Nehemiah Brinkman won the limbo competition and Logan Williamson was selected as the overall best dancer. Mr. and Mrs. Pyke judged the best dressed for the semiformal winter dance. Samantha Nelson was selected as the best-dressed lady and Elijha Doll was selected as the best-dressed gentleman. – Photo provided

On Monday, Dec. 2, students from Frederic High School performed in the St. Croix Valley Music Teacher Association’s Honor Choir. Singing with a choir of over 100 students, some of the area’s best musicians came together and performed in a unique concert. Starting their day at Unity High School, the students spent the day working with local director Shawn Gudmunsen, after their scheduled clinician was unable to dig out of 30 inches of snow from the early-December snowstorm. The students learned to work with students from other schools, gained new insights into their songs and made new friendships. Congratulations, Frederic students, on a job well done!

The First Friday Free Flick of the new year will feature the 1933 film “Dinner at Eight,” which will be shown at the Luck Museum Friday, Jan. 3, at 1 p.m. Directed by George Cukor, the film centers on the affluent Milliecent and Oliver Jordan, who throw a dinner for a handful of wealthy and/or well-born acquaintances, each of whom has much to reveal. The film stars are Marie Dressler, Lionel Barrymore, Billie Burke, Madge Evans, Wallace Beery, Jean Harlow, John Barrymore and Lee Tracy. All are welcome. – Photo provided

The St. Croix Falls High School Chamber Choir performed as part of the school’s annual Christmas concert Monday evening, Dec. 16, under the direction of choir director Shawn Gudmunsen. The Chamber Singers members include (not necessarily in order) Evan Gudmunsen, Aleah Jensen, Jana Carter, Nora Wondra, Abigail Jensen, Faith Blauert, Addilyn Green, Alexis Backes, Minna Flom, Azalea Edwards, Carly Herrick, Seth Gudmunsen, Hunter Stetton, Mitchell Steele, Jack Kessler, Andrew Opel and Alex Myricka. More photos of the concert in next week’s Leader. – Photo provided
A “Marvelous Magical Sleigh” at Frederic

Frederic second-graders sing about the “Hip Hop Reindeer” at their concert held last Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Frederic Elementary School auditorium. The program was under the direction of Lisa Mattson.

Second- and third-graders tell the audience about “A December to Remember” from the program “My Marvelous Magical Sleigh.”

PHOTOS BY WENDY KNAUBER

Carl Antonich listens to the story being told at the annual Frederic second- and third-grade concert last Thursday, Dec. 12.

Harrison Larson and Kendra Lang take a pretend ride on the Marvelous Magical Sleigh.

Avi Wojtowicz reminds us not to procrastinate before the holidays.

Santa, played by Caiden Johnson, is happy to see the crowd of children that his magical sleigh brought.
Grantsburg Legion hosts Breakfast with Santa

Four-year-old Layla Chute and her 1-year-old sister, Akira, were all too happy to sit with Santa during the Breakfast with Santa at the Grantsburg Legion on Saturday, Dec. 14.

PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA BAUER

Posing for a fun family photo with Santa were Dauntay Erickson, Charlie Glonek, Willow Nyland, and the newest family member, Walden Erickson.

Five-month-old Walden Erickson looked a bit bewildered about being held by a big, bearded guy in a red suit.

Looking festive in her Santa hat, 16-month-old Abby Carlson told St. Nick her Christmas wishes.

Willow Nyland was happy to visit with Santa at the Grantsburg Legion Hall Saturday morning.

Twins Brynnlee and Kimber Nelson seemed to take their turn on Santa’s lap all in stride.

Seven-year-old Blake Reid wore his best Santa fan shirt for a visit with Mr. Claus.

The camera caught Matthew Whatley as he was about take a bite of his breakfast.

Sonya Sawall took her time answering when Santa asked that all-important question, “What do you want for Christmas?”
High-scoring Saints girls dominate Grantsburg, Unity

Above The Fold Media | For The Leader

LUCK – Things picked up in the second half and the increased pace eventually benefited the Luck girls basketball team on Friday, Dec. 13.

Though Frederic emerged from a first half that totaled 22 points between both teams with a two-point lead, the Cardinals had a second-half run that erased the Vikings lead and went on for a 36-29 win at home. Grace Thoreson scored nine of her 11 points in the second half and Coral Melin had 10 of her 16 after the break to lead the Cardinals to their second Lakeland West win in as many tries.

Luck had to overcome both the slim halftime deficit and the play of Hannah Schmidt, who finished with a game-high 18 points.

“It was a slow game in the first half,” Luck coach Ron Petersen said. “We knew we needed to stop (Frederic’s) inside game, which we did fairly well in the first half. But (Schmidt) scored most of (Frederic’s) points in the first half and came on really strong at the start of the second.”

Schmidt scored seven points in the first half, which accounted for more than half of the Vikings first-half total. She led Frederic to a six-point lead early in the second half, though the Cardinals were drawing contact on defense and it eventually cost the Vikings.

“(Schmidt) got in foul trouble in the second half and when we applied full-court pressure, we started to pull away,” Petersen said.

Luck limited Frederic to just two scorers in the second half, with Haley Ennis sinking a pair of 3-pointers to complement Schmidt’s 11 second-half points. But, the Cardinals got a combined 26 points from Melin, Thoreson and McKenna Delaney in the second half.

Delaney finished with seven points for Luck, which improved to 2-2; Ennis scored all three of her points for Frederic in the first half and Kaylee Miron added six of her eight. Meanwhile, Cate Lee scored all three of her points for Grantsburg in the first half.

Kaylee Miron, Emily McCurdy and Brianna McCurdy had eight points each for St. Croix Falls, helping it remain unscathed in the Lakeland West, putting the Saints in the lead heading into the week.

Balsam Lake – Lucia Neuman sank four 3-pointers and finished with a game-high 23 points in St. Croix Falls’ win on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Neuman made three of her long-distance shots in the first half while Emily McCurdy added two more and had nine first-half points. Olivia Miron’s 13 first-half points also helped the Saints to a 44-31 lead entering halftime.

The scoring of those three players countered Unity’s 1-2 combination of Raegan Sorensen and Sierra Swanson, who accounted for 28 of the Eagles first-half points.

But the Saints limited Unity to 17 second-half points to keep adding to their lead.

Miron finished with 16 points for St. Croix Falls; McCurdy had 11 and Kaylee Miron added nine.

Webster 45, Grantsburg 28

GRANTSBURG – Brooke Hettel scored a game-high 16 points for the Tigers and added 15 rebounds with six steals in their road win on Dec. 10.

Hettel led a Webster attack that built a 25-10 lead in the first half. Hannah McDowell provided long-range shooting, scoring all 12 of her points from 3-point range and grabbing nine rebounds. Jenna Gomulak had two points and seven rebounds for Webster.

Olivia Ohnstad led Grantsburg with 12 points.

Frederic 53, Siren 49

FREDERIC – Hannah Schmidt scored 16 points and had 13 rebounds for the Vikings in their win on Dec. 10.

After scoring the first two points of the game, Schmidt went scoreless for the remainder of the half and the Dragons entered the break with a 24-22 lead. Near the midway point of the second half, Schmidt scored five consecutive points to give Frederic a 35-33 lead.

Lindsay Liljenberg later scored six consecutive points to give Siren a 40-33 lead.

Unity junior Raegan Sorensen executes a perfect layup against Siren. - Photo by Jodie Hager

Turtle Lake 39, Webster 37

TURTLE LAKE – The Tigers fell a basket short of forcing overtime, if not earning a road win on Thursday, Dec. 12.

Hannah McDowell and Brooke Hettel shared game-high scoring status with 12 points each for Webster, but Turtle Lake had more scoring depth. Hettel added nine rebounds for the Tigers; Taylor Anderson led Turtle Lake with 10 points.

TURTLE LAKE • GRANTSBURG • LUCK • ST. CROIX FALLS • SIREN • UNITY • WEBSTER

SPORTS
Cards improve to 2-0 in conference play

Unity, Grantsburg, SCF and Frederic post victories

Above The Fold Media | For The Leader

LUCK – Only the Luck boys basketball team made it through the first two weeks of the Lakeland West schedule without taking a loss. The Cardinals improved to 2-0 in conference play with a 73-47 win at home over Frederic on Friday, Dec. 13, improving to 3-1 overall on the season. Levi Jensen scored a game-high 21 points and added seven rebounds, helping the Cardinals to an early lead and the eventual win.

Luck won an 11-0 run early in the first half and despite a 7-0 run by Frederic, the Cardinals soon returned to a double-digit advantage. A 13-0 run put Luck up 32-13 in the final minutes of the half and they held a 34-17 lead entering halftime.

The Vikings trimmed the lead by scoring the first four points of the second half but the Cardinals then made an 8-0 run to go up 39-21. Luck went up by 20 points near the midway mark of the half and were up by 30 with less than six minutes remaining.

Wyatt Jensen had 15 points for the Cardinals; Ben Smith added 13 and Gage Johansen had nine points, 16 assists and 12 rebounds.

Logan Lillehaug led the Vikings with 11 points; Adam Dreier added nine and Oscar Lahti had eight.

The Cardinals started a three-game road stretch this week and play at Clear Lake on Friday; the Vikings dropped to 2-3 overall.

Unity 49, SCF 32

BALSAM LAKE – The Eagles held the Saints to just 11 second-half points in a home win on Dec. 10, spoiling St. Croix Falls’ previously unbeaten record.

Jaxson Flaherty scored 12 of his team-high 18 points in the first half, accounting for more than half the team’s points before the break. But, Jared Lessman had all of his 11 points for the Saints in the first half and Unity held a slim 22-21 lead entering halftime.

The Eagles allowed only Kullan Parks to score from the field in the second half while turning a close game into a runaway win.

Jake Bloom added seven points for the Eagles; Lake Flaherty, Cullen Fest and Dan Sorensen added six points each.

Unity was 2-2 through four games and were up by 30 with less than six minutes remaining. Luke Flaherty, Cullen Feist and Oscar Lahti contributed nine points apiece.

SCF 76, Grantsburg 46

ST. CROIX FALLS – The Saints sank a game-high 27 points and added 12 rebounds for the Cardinals in their win on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Johansen sank three early 3-pointers to give Luck an 11-4 lead and after sustaining a comeback run by Chetek-Weyerhaeuser, the Cardinals entered halftime with a 28-21 lead.

The Cardinals led by as many as 13 in the second half and the Bulldogs went on a 10-2 run late before hitting a 3-pointer in the final seconds to pull within a basket, but a pair of free throws from Johansen spelled the game-winning points.

Carson Eley had nine points and nine rebounds for the Cardinals; Ben Smith had nine points and eight rebounds while Levi Jensen had nine points with four rebounds.

Frederic 66, Webster 62

GRANTSBURG – The Pirates held on for a win despite a game-high 33 points from Webster’s Colton Peterson.

Zach Miller scored 11 of his 15 points in the first half for Grantsburg while Carson Knutson and Austin Wedin each finished with seven each, leading the Pirates to a 34-21 lead entering halftime.

But after scoring 12 points in the first half, Peterson scored 21 points in the second half and Webster dwindled Grantsburg’s double-digit lead, setting up the Tigers for a come-from-behind win. However, the Pirates made seven of their 10 free throws in the second half while Wedin and Knutson scored 10 points each.

Knutson and Wedin each finished with 17 points for Grantsburg, which improved to 3-1 overall on the season and hosts Oconto on Thursday. Owen Washburn and Tallon Parent added 10 points each for the Tigers and the Tigers dropped 1-3 and play at Bruce on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Frederic 66, Siren 60

FREDERIC – Logan Lillehaug scored a team-high 22 points for the Vikings to counter a game-high 25 points from Siren’s Riley Churchill.

Frederic built a nine-point lead near the midway point of the first half but Churchill later led a 10-0 run for Siren that tied the game at 27-27. The Dragons also scored the final seven points of the half to take a 37-34 lead into the break.

Siren eventually took a 48-36 lead early in the second half, but Lillehaug outscored the Dragons 7-3 over the next two minutes to keep Frederic within striking distance. A 7-0 run minutes later brought Frederic to within a point at 53-52 with plenty of time remaining.

The game was tied at 58-58 in the final minutes and Frederic then scored the next six points and allowed Siren just one basket down the stretch.

Adam Dreier had 16 points and nine rebounds for Frederic; Bradley Nick had 11 points and Tate Ovik had six points with 10 rebounds. The Vikings improved to 2-3 overall.

Churchill added eight rebounds for the Dragons; Nathan Kosloski had 14 points and Jeremy Liljenberg added seven points. Siren was 0-4 through four games and plays at Turtle Lake on Friday.

LUCK 59, C-W 57

LUCK – Gage Johansen scored a game-high 27 points and added 12 rebounds for the Cardinals in their win on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

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SCF 76, Grantsburg 46

ST. CROIX FALLS – The Saints sank four 3-pointers and 10 free throws in the first half of their win on Friday.

Jared Van Watermeulen had most of Grantsburg’s offense in the first half, scoring 14 of his 16 points in the game before halftime. But the shooting from the 3-point and free-throw lines put St. Croix Falls ahead 42-24 entering halftime. Declan Greenquist had nine first-half points for the Saints and Payton Christiansen added eight.

Dayo Oye sank two 3-pointers in each half and had 13 points for St. Croix Falls, which made 17 free throws in the game. Christiansen led the Saints with 18 points; Kullan Parks had 12 and Greenquist had 11.

Sterling McKinley and Austin Wedin had seven points each for Grantsburg, which had its three-game win streak snapped.
Gymnasts finish 7th at Snowflake Invitational

Petersen leads team with third in floor exercise

Above The Fold Media | For The Leader

CHIPPEWA FALLS – The Grantsburg co-op gymnastics team got its first meet out of the way.

Now the team can move forward with developing its younger competitors to complement its three returning seniors.

Grantsburg finished seventh in the Snowflake Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 14, with 116.35 points while Holmen, 135.875, won the event ahead of River Falls, 131.125, and Sparta, 130.65.

"It is always nice to get that first meet in," Grantsburg coach Kathy Lund said. "This meet was a good mix of Division 1 and Division 2 schools. With just three returning varsity gymnasts, (we) had a decent first meet."

One of the team’s seniors, Jeni Petersen, led the team with a third-place finish in the floor exercise, finishing with a 9.35; River Falls’ Autumn Tiede won the event with a 9.45. Allison Peterson was 24th with a 7.925 and Amy Harmon was 34th with a 7.225.

Petersen also tied for eighth in the balance beam with an 8.275; Peterson, 7.1, added a 25th-place finish and Harmon, 6.575, was 32nd. Petersen also had another top 10 in the uneven bars, placing in a tie for 10th with a 7.9. Harmon tied for 24th with a 7.375 and Petersen was 29th with a 6.9.

"As a team, we started out really well on the uneven bars," Lund said. "On the beam, it was a rough event for the team, a lot of falls and missed connections. (It was) our lowest event score."

Petersen finished seventh in all-around scoring with a 33.775, with Holmen’s Kamryn McNally topping the standings at 34.775. Peterson was 20th with a 29.525 and Harmon was 22nd with a 28.875.

Lund said Grantsburg has some new arrivals that she hopes will develop throughout the season to become more competitive in future events.

"Mckayla Blume and Mya Benson both competed on varsity for their first time ever in gymnastics," she said. "Young-Garayt is our only gymnast from Unity and has been out of competition for a few years, coming back from an injury. She’s been a nice addition to the team."

Grantsburg has a few weeks’ break before the next meet, on Thursday, Jan. 2, at Rush City, Minnesota.

PAIRS HOCKEY
Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., Miscellaneous
Video game systems

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Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., Miscellaneous
Video game systems
Blizzard Peewee team consolation champs

Above The Fold Media | For The Leader

SPOONER - The Blizzard Peewee team won the consolation champs spot in the Northern Shores Tournament that took place Friday-Sunday, Dec. 13-15, in Spooner.

Teams from as near as Amery and far as Eagle River came to compete. The first game was against Amery where the Blizzards scored in the last 17 seconds of the third period to win 7-6. Next the team lost to Eagle River, who became the tourney champs.

They earned consolation champs by defeating Baraboo 4-2.

In the Amery game the Blizzard's first goal was scored by Aiden Johnson with an assist by Landon Smestad, the second scored by Bradon Nutter from the point. The Blizzards were down 5-4 in the second period, goals came from Clayton Shutt, and Landon Smestad assisted by Clayton Shutt. In the third period the Blizzards forced ahead to win 7-6. Four were scored by Ryder Anderson from Bradon Nutter, Clayton Shutt from Levi Anderson, and the game-winning goal with 18 seconds remaining from Ryder Anderson assisted by Clayton Shutt. In game two, against Rusk River, 24 minutes in penalties hurt the Blizzards.

The final score was 11-2, goals came from Levi Anderson and Lane Hopkins from the point with an assist from Ryder Anderson. In game three, against Barron, Levi Anderson made the first goal with an assist from Bradon Nutter. In the second period Bradon Nutter scored with an assist from Lane Hopkins and Levi Anderson and the third goal was scored by Ryder Anderson. In the third period Grayson Hendricks-Baxter scored his first goal from the point unassisted, making the score 4-2.

Boys hockey: Somerset wins; Blizzard lose 2-0 lead

Above The Fold Media | For The Leader

SOMERSET/MENOMONIE -- A delay by the Western Wisconsin Icemen gave the Somerset boys hockey team a win in a hurry.

With the game tied 4-4 after three periods and the Icemen called for delay of the game four minutes into overtime to give them five minutes for a lineup change, the Icemen were called for delay of the game four minutes into the game, with a five-minute penalty to the Icemen.

The Icemen, who came into the game riding a five-game losing streak, scored three goals in the final six minutes of overtime to give them a 6-3 win.

The win snapped a two-game skid for the Spartans, who took an early lead but still had to come from behind in the third period.

St. Croix Falls’ Owen McDonough gave Somerset a 1-0 lead just over three minutes into the game, when he scored a power-play goal, assisted by A.J. Simpson and McDonough, while Smith scored two goals over the next six minutes, one by Abe Sirek, assisted by A.J. Simpson, and the second by Sirek, assisted by Ryan Kelly and Brown.

The game was scoreless for the final 9:31 of regulation and the first four minutes of overtime. The Spartans had to kill three penalties in the final six minutes to maintain the tie.

St. Croix Falls’ Kaleb Bentz had 28 Western Wisconsin’s empty-net goal assisted by Simpkins and Kelly. Bentz had 26 saves for Somerset, which improved to 3-3 overall on the season. The Spartans host Baldwin-Woodville this Thursday, Dec. 19.

Girls hockey: Stars maintain winning record

Above The Fold Media | For The Leader

CHIPPEWA FALLS – The Western Wisconsin girls hockey team hasn’t been topped since late November.

The Stars entered this two-game week with a four-game unbeaten streak, out-scoring their opponents 24-5 in the three wins over that stretch and getting above the .500 mark after dropping their first two games of the season. In their 3-2 win over the Cross Falls’ Ellie Brice led the Stars to their third win of the season with two goals and an assist.

Western Wisconsin was held scoreless for much of the first period while the Sabers took a 1-0 lead just beyond the halfway mark, getting a goal at even strength. But in the final minute of the period, the Stars tied the score with a goal from Bryn Connors, assisted by Erin Huerta and Lauren Graber.

The Sabers outshot the Stars 15-9 in the first period though the Stars took the lead on the scoreboard with a 10-9 advantage in both the second and third periods. Western Wisconsin also avoided surrendering a power-play goal in the second despite being on the penalty kill twice in the final seven minutes.

Brice gave the Stars their first lead with a goal at even strength in the second period; Huerta had the assist and Western Wisconsin took a 2-1 lead into the third.

The Stars had to kill another penalty early in the third period and got their first insurance goal a few minutes later when Brice scored her second goal of the game. Huerta again assisted on the goal at even strength and Western Wisconsin’s 3-1 lead stood until less than four minutes remained.

Huerta got a goal of her own on the power play, assisted by Brice and St. Croix Falls’ Aline Wedin, putting the Stars up 4-1. Bailey Williams added an unassisted shorthanded goal in the final seconds.

The Stars denied all six of the Sabers power plays and goalie Caitlyn Erickson had 26 saves. The win improved Western Wisconsin’s overall record to 3-2-1; the Stars play at Centennial on Thursday and then have more than a week off before playing at North Shore on Dec. 30.

HAYWARD

The Hayward Hurricanes co-op team that includes Grantsburg will play at Superior on Thursday, Dec. 19, and will have just over a week off before a mid-tournament game at Black River Falls that starts Friday, Dec. 27. They were 1-4 through their first five games and Grantsburg’s Emma Quimby has 104 saves with a 3.40 goals-against average.
LFGS grapplers place in top 5 at Barron invite

Johnson, Nichols, Caroon each win their division

Above The Fold Media | L E A D E R

BARRON – Three first-place finishes put the Luck-Frederic-Grantsburg-Siren wrestling team in the top five of the Sat. Dec. 14, Barron Invitational.

Nolan Johnson, Tadson Nichols and Dominic Caroon each won their division for LFGS in the 14-team event to finish with 198.5 points; West Salem-Bangor, 287; Superior-Senior’s hockey team, hopes to gain some bragging rights.

The event is a fundraiser for the current high school hockey team. There will be a gate fee which will go to the high school hockey team. There will be a donation to benefit the high school hockey team.

The Mavericks host Montana this Sat.

Blizzard varsity alumni game set

Players sought

SIREN - An alumni game for all past and present hockey players is set for Sat. Dec. 29, at 4 p.m., at the Lodge Center Arena on First Avenue in Siren.

Based on the high temperatures, it will be even years (white) versus odd years (dark). Matches will be run just like a regular hockey game, but with no checking. Feel free to invite other past players.

Wolves topic on “The West Side”

The West Side - An alumni game for all past and present hockey players is set for Sat. Dec. 29, at 4 p.m., at the Lodge Center Arena on First Avenue in Siren.

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College roundup: Curtis helps Yellowjackets gain fifth straight win

Above The Fold Media | L E A D E R

SUPEIROR - Jenna Curtis, from Web-

ster, and on the University of Wisconsin - Web-

ster, will be the focus of conver-

sations at this weekend’s Superior Invitational.

Curtis, who has four of his five matches by pin, starting with a win over Angela Zimmermann, Barron, in 20 seconds. He then won a 1-0 first-period lead that lasted until late in the second period.

But the Wildcats tied the game with two first-period goals at even strength in the

first period and answered St. Catherine’s first-period goals at even strength in the

second period with another score

just 27 seconds later to take a 3-1 lead.

The Mavericks are off for nearly a month, next playing on Jan. 10 at Gus-

tavus Adolphus in St. Peter, Minn. Curtis had three goals and two assists in the 2019 portion of the schedule.

The Yellowjackets took a 2-1 lead less than nine minutes into the third and added

an insurance score with less than four minutes remaining. The Wildcats pulled within a goal with just over a minute remaining in regula-

tion but UW-Superior made the one-goal lead count.

Another one-goal game on Saturday, Dec. 14, at St. Catherine gave UW-Supe-

rior its fifth consecutive win.

The Yellowjackets scored a pair of first-period goals at even strength in the

first of a pair of second-period goals with another score just 27 seconds later to take a 3-1 lead.

The Mavericks are 1-0-1 overall and 3-0-1 in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Curtis also broke a 1-0 tie with a win in the 41st second. The Mavericks then pulled back to within a goal with just over a minute remaining in regulation but UW-Superior made the one-goal lead count.

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2019 gun deer season fits historical patterns

No one should be shocked that Wisconsin’s nine-day gun season generated a statewide deer kill – 167,693, including 76,760 bucks – that resembled harvests from the Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan eras. For the historically challenged, that means 1979, when we registered 76,550 bucks, and 1981, when the combined kill of does, bucks, and fawns was 166,673.

We should also note those preliminary 2019 totals from the Nov. 23 to Dec. 1 gun season were achieved with far fewer hunters. Consider: Wisconsin sold 564,664 gun-deer licenses by Dec. 1 this year, which is 52,445 fewer tags (minus-8.5%) than sold in 1979, at 617,109, and 64,370 fewer tags (minus-10.2%) than sold in 1981, 629,034.

In other words, we killed roughly the same number of deer during the November-December gun season as we did during Novembers 40 years ago, but with roughly 9% fewer hunters. That suggests two possibilities: Today’s deer hunters are more skilled than our counterparts four decades ago, or we’re hunting a larger herd than was present in 1980.

Personally, I think the latter – more deer – better explains things. Scientific preseason estimates put Wisconsin’s deer herd at a record 2 million this year. No, not 2 million on your 80-acre pine plantation; 2 million across a 41.92-million-acre state.

The herd’s size shouldn’t shock anyone, either, given that we haven’t shot 2 million deer in recent years to reduce the herd, and we certainly didn’t curb it in late November by moving only 222,733 deer, or fawns. In fact, history harvests show that roughly 25% of the antlerless kill, 22,733, were buck fawns, which means gun hunters removed 90,493 males and 77,200 female fawns this year. You can’t control deer herds by shooting 18% more bucks than does.

Even so, I think our 1980 counterparts could have killed a few more than we do. Few used bait, few had Taj Mahal heated blinds, many hunted after opening weekend, many moved around after the first two hours on opening day aspiring to join their neighbors to drive deer.

In contrast, most 2019 hunters move less than a nine-hole golfer; few hunt after noon Sunday on opening weekend and few talk to neighboring hunters except to accuse them of shooting “their buck” or crowding their fence line.

In addition, gun-hunting opportunities were cut the past decade. We no longer have a four-day October gun hunt, which killed 66,437 deer in 2000 even though it was neither statewide nor subject to Earn-A-Buck restrictions. And until 2014, Wisconsin didn’t restrict hunters to specific counties for antlerless hunting, or make them choose public or private-land tags. The Natural Resources Board also eliminated gun buck hunting in December, further dampening overall interest.

And scoff all you want, but when gun season opened on Nov. 23 – it’s possible opener – hunting success declines. That fact is consistent and clear when comparing harvest figures compiled by the Department of Natural Resources in an annual booklet titled “Game and Fish Hunting Summary.”


In all six cases, the buck kill suffered a five-figure drop from the early opener to the late opener. This year’s nine-day gun-season buck kill suffered a record 27.6% decline from 2018, from 106,038 to 76,760, but the buck kill also increased.

• 21.3% from 2007 to 2008 (124,895 to 98,304).
• 13.3% from 2001 to 2002 (140,632 to 121,959).

The best chance to break that chain was 2002, but that’s when Wisconsin learned it had chronic wasting disease, and we lost 69,585 hunters, a 10% drop, to CWD hysteria that year. Those who hunted achieved a decent harvest despite little snow cover statewide on opening weekend, and sub-zero temperatures in the north.

This year we had snow across far northern Wisconsin on opening weekend, and nice weather statewide. Still, the rut was over, and deer moved little on their own in daylight. Any chance of compensating for the opener’s low kill got washed or whitened out statewide by heavy rains and snows the second weekend.

Maybe that’s why post-gun-season bellyaching hasn’t been all that loud. Jeff Pfritzl, the DNR’s wildlife district supervisor in Green Bay, noticed a lack of negative feedback, too.

“I’ve had many more hunters ac- knowledged that deer simply weren’t moving during daylight during the nine-day season,” Pfritzl said. “I take that to mean more hunters understand that seeing deer isn’t always directly correlated with deer abundance. Trail cameras and the ease of monitoring them remotely seems to be influencing that change in thinking. A lot of them shared stories of noticeable drop-offs in daytime pictures even a week before gun season.”

The archery season corroboration deer abundance. As of Dec. 13, the combined buck kill for crossbows and regular archery year was 52,476, which is 10% higher (4,844) than the total buck kill for the entire 2018 season, which was 47,632.

More specifically, compound-bow hunters registered 23,602 bucks by Dec. 13, up 8% from 21,678 in 2018, and crossbow hunters had registered a record 28,874 bucks, up 11% from 25,956 in 2018.

The deer are out there, folks. If that’s not true where you hunt in Wisconsin, consider these radical suggestions: Abandon your dead zone and hunt where they live until bow season closes Jan. 5.

Patrick Durkin, pattadurkinoutdoors, is a freelance writer who covers out- door recreation in Wisconsin. Write to him at 724 Wesley St., Waupaca, WI 54981; or by email at pattadurkin56@gmail.com.

Majority of winter trails are open

Permission given to proceed with grant application for Devils Lake project

Becky Strelab | Staff correspondent

BURNETT COUNTY – The majority of snowmobile and winter ATV/UTV trails officially opened on Monday, Dec. 16, and the county’s recreation law enforcement agency was prepping the snowmobile for patrol.

The natural resources committee met last Monday to discuss the December dates for trail updates from the forest and parks department with reminders to be registered or face a $95 fine. More information is available on the county’s website along with the Notify Me link, where you can sign up to receive trail updates by email or text message.

Even though winter has set in, permission was given to Nichols to move forward with a grant application for the Devils Lake public boat landing project. The grant would have 50% of the proj- ect’s $325,000 bill. The county currently has $125,000 in the budget so even if the grant is received, the work would not be completed until 2020 unless the short- fall is met with other funds. Without the grant, there will be no sheet piling proj- ect or it would be delayed even further out.

Forest and Parks Administrator Jake Nichols continued to review the department’s 5-year plan with input from the committee.

UWEX

Lori Balstrud, area extension director, shared a video on the FoodWise program, the budget performance and monthly report along with a contract for services agreement from the board of regents for the University of Wisconsin System. The contract includes the $10,000 discount that has been in- cluded yearly since the reconfiguration of the UWEX program.

The FoodWise program is conducted by the Extension services at no cost to the county or state. It is federally funded by the Supplemental Nutrition Assis- tance Program-Education and the Exp-anded Food and Nutrition Education Program and serves Wisconsin residents with limited incomes. The goal is to em- power Wisconsin residents with lim- ited incomes to make healthy choices to achieve healthy lives and reduce health disparities.

Tourism

The tourism monthly report was pre- sented by Emily Gall. She went over updates that were given at the Burnett County Tourism Coalition annual meet- ing the night before. This would be Gall’s last meeting as the director but she reported that the new directors would be introduced at the January meeting, with an announcement of the county’s top 10 category winners. Many thanks were of- fered to Gall, who will continue with the BCTC.

Natural Resource Conservation Services

The Natural Resource Conservation Services Program presented a resolu- tion to participate in the Department of Natural Resources municipal dam grant program. Burnett County owns the Minerva, Clam Lake, Loon Lake and Webb Lake dams and requested finan- cial assistance under state statutes for the purpose of dam maintenance and repair. The state share for such a project may not exceed 50% of the first $400,000 of total eligible project costs nor 25% of the next $800,000 of total eligible project costs. The county would agree to pay a share of the eligible costs which is equal to the total project cost minus the state share. The request is for the 2020-2025 grant cycle.

Cindy Blank, wildlife damage techni- cian, reported that around 25% of farm crops planted in the county remain un- harvested. She wished that she could ask the committee to set the claim year closure date to April 1 but unfortunately the last date allowed is Dec. 31.

She did state that returning veterans would be able to use farmer deer dam- age hunting tags until Jan. 31. She also said that about 24 deer were processed for area food shelves over the gun hunt- ing season.
S

o in the midst of my 60's I began to realize that not only was I out of shape, lethargic and overweight, with physical ailments, I finally realized that my body seemed no longer the same bundle of muscle and nerves that I had assumed I would always have. I began to ponder the possibility of taking an attempt to correct the situation. It seemed to me, as it always had in the past, that I needed to begin to exercise. However, I didn't know how to do it. Somehow that always has the ring of a New Year's resolution and we all know how we usually work out. I was a little apprehensive about the advantages just due to the fact that I live in Grantsburg.

We live on 40 acres adjacent to the Grantsburg, making it a very convenient place to cross-country ski and we have that in Grantsburg. The trails had been used in some capacity by a couple of local guys who helped to build the original trail system. Tim agreed to work with me to get the trails passable again and work for a couple of summers doing just that. I put a trail-grooming machine on the back of my utility vehicle and voila, I was living next to a big ski trail. Grantsburg also had a health fitness center on the main highway but it had been closed for a number of years. There was a downtown center in the village that offered PAC equipment for training for me. The PAC system uses a number of machines that are intended to help strengthen the whole body by sequencing through machines in a timed fashion while adjusting the weights to match capabilities. And Grantsburg is adjacent to the Crex Meadows sanctuary which has some great cross- 

ice paths for running and hiking. I decided to ski and use the PAC equipment and start jogging on those trails as well.

Wow, can one find a lot of reasons not to do something? I began to find them. Too little snow, too much trouble to get the skis before dark, too sore from the last time I tried jogging, too tired, too hungry, too much other work to do. The excuses can just go on and on. The fact is, just about every time I had to make up my mind to go out with just 15 minutes of very slow jogging or 30 minutes of skating. The PAC routines were easier to follow. I had to feel that I accomplished something by the end of each session, but it didn't seem like that at first. The PAC routines made me acutely aware not to the level that I felt I needed. I was neither having any success losing weight. The goal of regaining fitness and good health didn't exactly parallel any New Year's resolution. I sputtered along for probably a year in this plan that wasn't working.

At this juncture the issues at least were clear. Despite all the denial in the world, age does happen. On top of that I was terribly out of shape. No matter how close and attractive my capabilities are, if you can find an excuse not to use them, they are useless. Any exercise is better than none. I began to eat a healthier, but certainly not to the level I felt I was needed. Also, the apparent sciatica in my legs was so bad that I couldn't walk at all. I was in time of cramping. I did something to my shoulder and could no longer play sports that used the upper arm. Tennis, racketball, volleyball, were all not going to work. But just then, Dr. Steve Bont reopened the Grantsburg Fitness Center. More on that next week.
**Webster Fire Department**
Webster Fire Department recorded the following incidents for the week of Dec. 2:
- One mutual aid assist and one smell of smoke.

**Siren Police Department**
Siren Police Department recorded the following incidents for the week of Dec. 2:
- Four thefts, four suspicious persons, one welfare check, one disturbance, one search warrant, one juvenile probation, one lock-out and one arrest.

**Burnett County Deaths**
Louis C. Hjort, 74, of Wood River, died Dec. 4, 2019.

**St. Croix Tribal Police Dept.**
St. Croix Tribal Police Department recorded the following incidents for the week of Dec. 2:
- Two abandoned/disabled vehicles, one mutual aid assist, one alarm, five vehicle complaints, one violation, one citizen assist, one drug incident, one fight, one request for information, one loss/misplacing property, one medical emergency, five follow-ups, one paper service, one runways, eight security checks, one sex offense, seven sobriety tests, four suspicious people, two suspicious vehicles, one traffic complaint, 13 traffic stops, two vehicle lock-outs and two wellness checks.

**Polk County Circuit Court**
Polk County Circuit Court-criminal and traffic violations recorded the following charges for the report date of Nov. 19:
- Russell D. Carlson, 59, Milton, failure to yield resulting in great bodily harm, $767.30.
- Scott J. Erickson, 55, Balsam Lake, speeding, $175.30.
- Brady L. Genest, 30, Osceola, drug paraphernalia, $10.00.
- Chance D. Farlow, 44, Barmett, no registration of vehicle, $175.30.
- Karen R. Freeman, 70, Frederic, OWI, $255.40.
- Janet M. Nelson, 79, Luck, fail to stop at stop sign, $175.30.
- Jason T. Taylor, 38, Frederic, operating while suspended, $200.50.

**Grantz Police Department**
Grantz Police Department recorded the following incidents for the week of Dec. 2:
- Five other agency assists, five civil matters, six follow up investigations, two ordinance complaints, two suspicious activities/people, one traffic stop and five people/dues.

**Siren Fire Department**
Siren Fire Department recorded the following incidents for the week of Dec. 8:
- One lift assist and one structure fire.

**Burnett County Court**
Burnett County Circuit Court-criminal and traffic violations recorded the following charges for the report date of Dec. 2:
- Zachaeus R. Bachmeier, Hugo, Minn., bail jumping - misdemeanor.
- Matthew R. Rambus, Siren, retail theft - intentional.
- Brett R. Casey, Danbury, contempt of court, resisting or obstructing an officer, $443.00, probation, sentence withheld; disorderly conduct, $443.00, local jail.
- Darren B. Cole, Webster, OWI, operating while revoked.
- Jordan M. Decorah, Webster, failure to appear.
- Jared R. Denhoff, Webster, bail jumping - misdemeanor.
- Robin K. Hauf, Siren, OWI.
- Jacqueline R. Hetka, South Range, OWI.
- David R. Hubbell Jr., Webster, contempt of court.
- Jeffery C. Hunsick, Woodbury, Minn., possession of methamphetamine, $10.00; possession of drug paraphernalia, $10.00.

**Burnett County Bookings**
Burnett County Bookings and traffic violations recorded the following charges for the report date of Dec. 11:
- One Glick R. N. Bellile, 25, Hayward, possession of amphetamines/LSD/Psilocin, $443.00, probation, sentence imposed, local jail; possession of drug paraphernalia, $443.00, probation, sentence withheld; possession of controlled substance, $443.00, probation, sentence withheld; disorderly conduct, $443.00, local jail.
- Nikkia Benjamin, 26, Shopeen, Minn., OWI, $1,429.00; local costs, driver’s license revoked 12 months, ignition interlock, alcohol assessment, other sentence community.
- Burnette L. Brooks, 75, St. Forest Lake, Minn., disorderly conduct, $500.00, costs.
- Cootie D. Bugg, 39, Hickory, Minn., possession of methamphetamine, $518.00, probation, sentence withheld.
- Christopher L. Hermann, 20, Grantsburg, OWI, $811.50, driver’s license revoked six months, alcohol assessment.
- Bree A. Hollan, 27, Pine City, Minn., disorderly conduct, $453.00, probation, sentence imposed, local jail; OWI, $807.50, driver’s license revoked six months, alcohol assessment.
- Gall L. Roblitz, 60, Danbury, court warrant, $114.50.

**Burnett County Dispatch**
Burnett County Dispatch recorded the following incidents for the week of Dec. 2:
- Two medical calls, two deaths, 10 alarms, 13 suspicious activities, 16 wellness checks, 16 transports, 11 juvenile problems, four disturbances, nine citizen assists, 19 civil matters, two damages to property, four $111 hang-ups, five arrests, 16 transports, two drug complaints, two harassments, one burglary, seven other agency assists, one assault, five motor vehicle incidents, four emr incidents, one traffic offense.
- We used to be able to predict births fairly well. Now it’s getting more difficult,” he added.

**Shamane Mills I WPR News**
"We used to be able to predict births fairly well. Now it’s getting more difficult,” he added.

**Polk County Circuit Court**
Polk County Circuit Court-criminal and traffic violations recorded the following incidents for the report date of Dec. 11:
- Larcia J. Brattl, Webster, bail jumping - misdemeanor.
- William A. Wilson, Luck, battery – simple assault, disorderly conduct, domestic abuse enhancer, criminal damage to property.
- Kevin J. Holmes, Danbury, OWI.
- Vernon M. Morrison, Siren, OWI.
- John E. Paulson, Webster, bail jumping - misdemeanor.
- Denny M. Pflopp, Spring Grove, contempt of court.
- David J. John, Webster, bail jumping - misdemeanor.
- Christopher K. Stewart, Siren, domestic abuse enhancer, disorderly conduct, battery - simple assault.
- Jacob G. Taylor, Webster, bail jumping - misdemeanor.

**Breckenridge Police Department**
Breckenridge Police Department recorded the following incidents for the week of Dec. 2:
- Two abandoned/disabled vehicles, one mutual aid assist, two 911 hang-ups, six arrests, 16 transports, two drug complaints, two harassments, one burglary, seven other agency assists, one assault, five motor vehicle incidents, four emr incidents, one traffic offense.

**Siren Police Department**
Siren Police Department recorded the following incidents for the week of Dec. 2:
Communication with different races has become more frequent in some counties, especially those where manufacturing jobs have disappeared. One reason for the drop in births is fewer very young mothers. Year-after-year trends show birth trends continue to decline in both the state and country.
- “The birth rates for teenagers in 2018 declined by 7%. That’s really quite striking,” said Brady Hamilton, a statistician with the National Center for Health Statistics. A national report released Wednesday from the center also shows a decline in multiple births. There was a 4% drop in twins last year. And the number of triplets was at its lowest level since 1994, according to the report.
To: DAKOTA WHEELER
ACAR LEASING LTD.
to whom the said action may be
or any other judge of said court

a.m. before the calendar judge
on January 13, 2020, at 11:00
of Barron, State of Wisconsin,
State Hwy. 25 North in the City
County Justice Center, 1420

you shall appear in the Circuit
of the Plaintiff are entitled to the

PO No.: 1572.06
Tele.: 414-271-9556

By: Paul J. Galganski, Attorney
d/b/a GM FINANCIAL LEASING

NOW THEREFORE, unless

00.00

Tele.: 414-271-9556

BARRON COUNTY
CIRCUIT COURT

December 12, 2019

for more information, contact:
Troy Peterson, Cedar Corporation, 715-235-9081
Project ID: 8844-00-01/71

Siren: North Fork Clam River Bridge Rehabilitation, B-07-0005
Burnett County

Rehabilitation of the structure on CTH B Bridge over North Fork Clam River located between Siren and CTH X, will be discussed at the January 2, 2020, Public Information Meeting.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 2, 2020, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Burnett County Highway Department, 8100 State Road 70, Siren. Project representatives will be available to discuss the proposed project and address any questions or concerns.

The proposed project to address the replacement of the existing bridge deck and railing with minimal approach work on either side of the bridge, is estimated to be completed for summer 2020. CTH B will be closed to through traffic during construction, however, access will be maintained to properties along CTH B.

The Siren School Board will attend and examine the proposed improvements and discuss any concerns they may have with regard to the project. The public is invited to attend the January 2, 2020, Public Information Meeting to contribute comments by contacting the following individuals:

Michael Hoefs - Highway Commissioner
michael.hoefs@co.burnett.wi.us,

Troy Peterson, P.E., - Project Manager
Cedar Corporation
604 Wilson Ave
Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751
715-235-9081

TERMS OF SALE:

proceeds of the proposed Bond issue are on file in the District
school improvement program to be financed with the

School; renovations, improvements and technology updates at

Resolution entitled:
INITIAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GENERAL OBLIGATION

POLK COUNTY

NOTICE TO THE ELECTORS OF

BURNETT AND DOUGLAS COUNTIES, WISCONSIN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEBSTER, IN THE TOWNSHIP OF GARFIELD, AND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WARREN, IN THE COUNTY OF POLK, IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, that a School Board Meeting will be held and conducted on December 16, 2019, adopted an Initial

onic, and facility site improvements at the Middle/High School; renovation and technology updates at the Elementary School and the Middle/High School; and acquisitions.

Copies of said Initial Resolution and a detailed breakdown of the school improvement program are available for public review. A copy of the proposed Bond issue are on file in the District Office located at 24842 Lake Avenue S., West, Town of Garfield, Polk County, Wisconsin.

The School Board has called for a referendum election on the

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

CHEESE LOVERS!

BURNETT Dairy Cooperative is currently hiring part-time and Bistro Cheese Store workers. The right person for these positions is prompt, efficient, courteous, and above all has excellent customer-service skills. Duty includes, but are not limited to: cashing, stocking shelves and a basket, making a clean and safe work area, and helping customers with their transactions. To be qualified for either position, a person must be comfortable using a computer, be able to collect money and make change, be comfortable working with food products and demonstrate excellent customer-service skills. This job requires constant standing, intermittent lifting up to 50 pounds, and the ability to work as part of a team in a fast-paced, pleasant work environment. Similar clerk experience preferred. Schedule includes weekends and weekdays ranging from 7:45 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Apply in person at the Burnett Dairy office, 11025 State Road 70, Danbury, WI 54014
Apply online at burnettdairy.com, or call 715-689-2010 for more information

Polk County Recycling Survey

An online survey on the uses of the Polk County Recycling Program is now available from the Polk County Recycling Department.

Dec. 18, 2019,

the referendum election on the

the School Board of the above-named School District, at a meeting duly called, noticed, held and conducted on December 16, 2019, adopted an Initial

INTENTION, to make any such
familial status, or national origin, or
newspaper is subject to the Fair
Housing Act. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 2, 2020,

If you generously donated gift baskets for our Silent

with food products and demonstrate excellent customer-service
be able to collect money and make change, be comfortable working

Countryside Co-op
Mary Curran
Stephanie Fansler
Les & Toni Sloper

Jeff’s Small Engine
Sharon Fleming-Thomas
Beo Hopkins

Jensen-Sundquist Agency
Milltown Hardware
Laura Bonnes
Greg Wilson
Julie Avera

Siren, WI 54872
8150 State Road 70
Burnett County Highway Department
Michael Hoefs - Highway Commissioner
troy.peterson@cedarcorp.com

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Robert Irwin Wheeler
Notices to Creditors

the above-named School District, at a meeting duly called, noticed, held and conducted on December 16, 2019, adopted an Initial

WENDY LARSON, Clark/Treasurer, Village of Siren

With the help of all our volunteers, staff, and contributors we successfully moved back into our newly renovated library and send out a heartfelt thank you.

By: Paul J. Galganski, Attorney
d/b/a GM FINANCIAL LEASING

The purpose of this survey is to meet the

Early deadline notice

Burnett Dairy Cooperative is currently hiring part-time and Bistro Cheese Store workers. The right person for these positions is prompt, efficient, courteous, and above all has excellent customer-service skills. Duty includes, but are not limited to: cashing, stocking shelves and a basket, making a clean and safe work area, and helping customers with their transactions. To be qualified for either position, a person must be comfortable using a computer, be able to collect money and make change, be comfortable working with food products and demonstrate excellent customer-service skills. This job requires constant standing, intermittent lifting up to 50 pounds, and the ability to work as part of a team in a fast-paced, pleasant work environment. Similar clerk experience preferred. Schedule includes weekends and weekdays ranging from 7:45 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Apply in person at the Burnett Dairy office, 11025 State Road 70, Danbury, WI 54014
Apply online at burnettdairy.com, or call 715-689-2010 for more information
TOWN CLERK WANTED

The Town of Wood River is seeking to hire a Deputy Town Clerk to start training in Jan. 2020. The current Town Clerk, Raylene Swanson, will complete TCOLE in April of 2020 as the Town Clerk.

Please send full notice on the Town’s website at townofwoodriver.com. Please email questions and resume to clerk@townofwoodriver.org or clerk@townofwoodriver.org.

You are NOT required to reside in the Town of Wood River, Grantsburg.

Raylene Swanson, Town Clerk

D9054 19-30, 9-10a

LAWSON MANOR POSITIONS OPEN: Care Partner (Assisted Living) Part-Time/Afternoon Shift

Salary: $500 sign-on bonus, benefits package.

On-site paid certification and training.

Beautiful building, great working environment.

Apply in person or online at: www.unitedpioneerhome.org.

United Pioneer Home/
Lawson Manor
623 S. 2nd Street, Luck, WI 54853

EOE

leaderregister.com

NOW HIRING

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN DAY SHIFT

Burnett Dairy Cooperative is looking to add a full-time member to its maintenance team. This position performs maintenance for the cheese factory buildings, equipment and some grounds work. Some experience is required to perform welding, electrical, fabrication and mechanical duties. Must be reliable and able to troubleshoot and work independently in a fast-paced working environment. This is a day shift Maintenance Technician. Hours will vary, may include holidays and weekends. The right person for this position has strong attention to detail, excellent problem-solving skills and takes initiative to get things done. Experience in welding, electrical, fabrication or mechanical troubleshooting is required, experience in all is preferred. If you are diligent and thorough in your work, able to work independently, self-motivated and have a positive attitude, please apply today—Must be 18 years old to apply.

All positions require drug screen and pre-employment testing.

Apply in person at the Burnett Dairy office, 11631 State Road 70, Grantsburg, WI 54846.

Apply online at BurnettDairy.com or call 715-689-2010 for more information.

FT/PT/SEASONAL

Balsam Lake-Centuria Police Department

Responsibilities: General police functions including patrol, criminal law enforcement, traffic code, ordinance enforcement, maintaining public peace, protecting life and property, working with communities to address concerns. Candidate must be physically able to perform essential functions of a police officer.

Salary: $20-624 per hour plus benefits. Salary dependent on qualifica-

Qualifications: U.S. citizen; minimum age 18; driver license; good driving record; eligibility for Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board Certification; high school diploma; 60 college credits; ability to possess a firearm; no felony convictions; no domestic abuse con-
victions; vision correctable to 20/20; able to react quickly and effectively; to stand, stoop, sit, or kneel, bend, twist, and work independently.


Contact: Administrator

Balsam Lake-Centuria Police Department
404 Main Street, P.O. Box 506
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Phone: 715-485-3424; Fax: 715-485-9399

Email: vobl@lakeland.ws.

EOE
Advent and Christmas
church services set

**BALSAM LAKE**
- East Balsam Baptist Church will present “Bells of Christmas” at their Christmas Eve service Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m.

**BONE LAKE**
- Zion Lutheran Church will hold a candlelight Christmas Eve program with live music on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m.

**DANBURY**
- Yellow Lake Lutheran will hold Christmas Eve services on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 3 and 4:30 p.m.

**DRESSER**
- Peace Lutheran Church will have their Christmas Eve candlelight services at 2, 4 and 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

**CENTURIA**
- Christmas service times are at St. John’s Lutheran in Centuria on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m. and at Redeemer Lutheran in St. Croix Falls on Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 9:15 a.m.
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will have a “Time of Remembrance - a Service of Lament and Hope” on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 4 p.m., followed by a light meal; and Christmas Eve candlelight services on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 5 and 10:30 p.m.

**FALUN**
- First Baptist Church will hold a Christmas Eve service Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 4:30 p.m.

**FREDERIC**
- St. Dominic Catholic Church will hold a Christmas Eve service Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 7 p.m., and a Christmas morning service Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 10:30 a.m.
- Pilgrim Lutheran Church will have their Sunday School Christmas program at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 18, and a Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24.

**GRANTSBURG**
- Immaculate Conception Catholic Church will hold a Christmas Eve service Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m., and a service on Christmas morning, Wednesday, Dec. 25, at 8:30 a.m.

**LUCK**
- Luck Lutheran Church will hold special services to celebrate Christmas. Christmas Eve candlelight worship service at 4 p.m. at the Luck Lutheran, 5th Street and Foster Ave. Christmas Day, 9:30 a.m., Nativity of our Lord Holy Communion service. Sunday, Dec. 29, Service of Lessons and Carols at 9:30 a.m. All are welcomed to join in the celebration of the birth of Christ.

**SIREN**
- Adventure Church will have their Christmas service on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10:15 a.m. in the Siren High School auditorium. They will have a Christmas Eve service on Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m. at the school.

**TAYLORS FALLS, Minn.**
- The United Methodist Church will have a Christmas Eve candlelight service on Monday, Dec. 23, at 7 p.m., a service of lessons and carols.

**TRADE LAKE**
- A traditional Swedish Julotta service will be held at Trade Lake Baptist Church at 6 a.m. on Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25.
- Zion Lutheran Church will have a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

**WEBSTER**
- Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will hold its final Advent service Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m., with a soup and sandwich supper at 6 p.m.

**WEST SWEDEN**
- Grace Lutheran Church will have a candlelight Christmas Eve service at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

**WEST SWEDEN**
- Grace Lutheran Church, formerly Milltown and Frisstad congregations, hosted two sessions for making “Joy” star crafts in Centuria last week. They had over 30 people participate. What a joy it was! Follow them on Facebook, Joy Lutheran Church, or Instagram, @joylutheran, to find out about their upcoming events. They have a lot of things planned after the Christmas season so be sure to check it out. They will be hosting “Time of Remembrance – a Service of Lament and Hope” on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 4 p.m. This service will be a quiet time to reflect, ponder the real meaning of Christmas and light a candle symbolic of Christ’s light which is constantly present in darkness. They hope you will join them in sharing and hearing prayers, Scripture and music that acknowledge that God’s presence is comfort for those who mourn and for those who struggle — and that God’s Word comes to shine light into the darkness. Everyone is welcome. The short service will be followed by a light meal and fellowship. Christmas Eve candlelight services will be at 5 and 10:30 p.m. All are welcome to join them at the church located at 501 Hwy. 35, Centuria. Phone: 715-646-2357.

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**NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED**

First Presbyterian Church welcomed three new members into their church family this past Sunday. Pictured are (L to R): Jackie Hillman, Pastor David Maghakian, Frank Jerrick and Bonnie Jerrick. The new members decided to join after visiting the church for a few months because they felt as though they had found the church home they were looking for. FPC is excited to welcome them, and are thankful for God’s hand in leading the new members to their church. If you are looking for a church family, FPC would love to have you visit. They are the “church in the pines” at 719 Nevada St. in St. Croix Falls. – Photo provided

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**SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

The seventh-annual worship service of lessons and carols was celebrated at Danbury United Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 15. The service was sponsored and led by pastors and members of Danbury Area Churches – United Methodist, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic, Yellow Lake Lutheran and Woodland Wesleyan. – Photo provided
### OBITUARIES

**Doris Elaine Bjornstad**

Doris Elaine Bjornstad, 88, of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, died peacefully on Monday, December 16, 2019, at Divine Rehabilitation and Nursing. Doris was born in Freeborn, Minnesota, on August 4, 1931, to Ray and Adeline (Pearson) Larson. She graduated from Freeborn High School in May 1949. Doris was united in marriage to Kenneth Bjornstad on November 18, 1949. They lived in Freeborn until 1955 when they moved to Eureka Center, Wisconsin. Here they built a house and had a gas station on Hwy. 87. They enjoyed traveling, camping and playing cards with friends. For many years the family spent the Fourth of July camping at Two Harbors, Minnesota. In 2000 Doris moved to Forest Heights Apartments in St. Croix Falls. Here she met many new friends where playing cards and quilting were activities in the community room. Recently she moved to Divine Rehabilitation and Nursing in St. Croix Falls. Memorials are preferred to First Lutheran Church, Cushing, Wisconsin; Divine Therapy; Davita Dialysis; and Interfaith Caregivers.

Doris is survived by her four children, Carol (Alfred) Caper, Vern (Carol) Bjornstad, Keith (Cheryl) Bjornstad and Tery (Robyn) Bjornstad; brother, Gene (Lila) Larson; four brothers-in-law; 20 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews and friends.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents, Ray and Adeline Larson; husband, Kenneth Bjornstad; brother-in-law, Bud Weisz; and granddaughter, Amy Larson.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 21, at First Lutheran Church, Cushing, with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in Cushing Cemetery. Arrangements are with Grandstrand Funeral Home. Condolences may be expressed online at grandstrandfh.com.

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**Agnes E. Harder**

Agnes E. Harder, 99, of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, passed away early Dec. 12, 2019, at Frederic Nursing and Rehab. Agnes was born Jan. 5, 1920, to Ole and Emma Torkelson. She married Fred Harder on July 15, 1938, and to this union three children were born, Delores (Joel) Olsen, Duane (Jane) Harder and Carol (Bob) Thompson. There are eight grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Agnes enjoyed living on the family farm and loved gardening, quilting and family gatherings. Agnes was preceded in death by her husband, Fred; her parents; sister, Alice Swanson; and great-grandchild, Per Olsen.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19, at First Lutheran Church in Cushing, Wisconsin, with visitation one hour prior to the service. The Rev. Marilyn Crossfield will be officiating. Private interment will be at a later date.

You are invited to leave condolences, memories and photos at rowefh.com. Arrangements are entrusted to Rowe Funeral Home, 715-327-4475, and the Northwest Wisconsin Cremation Center in Milltown.

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**Sally Ann Peters**

Sally Ann Peters, 58, of Luck, died Dec. 8, 2019. She was born April 10, 1961, to Theodore and Marilyn Peters. She grew up and lived her entire life in the Luck, Wisconsin, countryside. She loved horses and her goats.

She is survived by her mother, Marilyn Peters; brother, Theodore Peters Jr.; two sisters, Donna Harr and Linda Nelson; four nephews, Adrian Harr; Russell Harr, Kaleb Harr and Cory Nelson; two nieces, Anita Harr and Brandy Recavarren (Kyle); one great-nephew, Thunder Harr; uncles, Ray Peters (Helga), Earl Avery, Bill Schilling, Norm Hanson and Ken Johnson; aunts, Clair McEvoy and Fern Gallon; and many cousins, family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Theodore D. Peters Sr.; and grandparents, Ots and Lillian Peters and Russell and Clara Avery.

A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, Dec. 14, at Bone Lake Lutheran Church in Luck with Pastor Mikey Kopp officiating. Arrangements are entrusted to Rowe Funeral Home, 715-472-2444, and the Northwest Wisconsin Cremation Center in Milltown.

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**Avis Lindblad**

Avis Lindblad, 77, of Grantsburg, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully while surrounded by her family on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019, at the U of M Fairview in Minneapolis.

Avis was born on March 2, 1942, to Henry and Jessie Amundsen in Frederic, Wisconsin. Avis graduated from Frederic High School in 1960 and went on to earn her cosmetology license. She was united in marriage to Ronald Lindblad on Oct. 13, 1962. She owned and operated Avis’s Beauty Salon for 30 years, from her own home, while raising her two children, Sheri and Randy.

Avis was a faithful and devoted member of Trade Lake Baptist Church. She was a woman who loved her Lord and Savior. Avis loved sharing God’s story and love with children and taught Sunday school for many years. Alongside her husband, Ron, Avis served as caretaker of Skonewood Christian Retreat Center for 27 years.

In her spare time, Avis loved watching her Green Bay Packers, Milwaukee Brewers and Wisconsin Badgers, along with watching game shows on TV. More than anything, Avis loved spending time with her family and never missed the opportunity to watch her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in all their sports and activities.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Ron Lindblad of Grantsburg; daughter, Sheri Finch of Grantsburg; son, Randy Lindblad of Brooklyn Park, Minn.; three grandchildren, Shane (Natalie) Finch of Grantsburg, Payton Lindblad and Jayden Lindblad of Brooklyn Park; great-grandchildren, Jaxon Finch and Allie Finch; brother, Henry (Patricia) Amundsen; sister, Joyce (Gary) Peterson; and brother-in-law, Duane (Karen) Lindblad.

Avis was preceded in death by her father, Henry E. Amundsen; mother, Jessie E. Amundsen; brother-in-law, Paul Lindblad; sister-in-law, Anna Lindblad; and nephew, Keith Lindblad.

Memorial services will be held at Trade Lake Baptist Church in Frederic on Saturday, Dec. 21. Visitations will begin at 10 a.m. followed by the service at 11 a.m. You are invited to leave condolences, memories and photos at rowefh.com. Arrangements are entrusted to Rowe Funeral Home, 715-327-4475, and the Northwest Wisconsin Cremation Center in Milltown.
Loren G. Nelson

Loren George Nelson, 92, of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, died Monday, Dec. 9, 2019, at the Frederic Nursing and Rehab Community in Frederic.

Loren was preceded in death by his parents, Arndt and Ethel; and a brother, Robert.

He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Bertha; two sons, Craig (Marilyn) Sholes and Jack (Kathy) Sholes; daughter, Valerie (Fred) Sommer; five grandchildren, Olin Schultz, Grace Schmidt, Brooks Uram and Nash Uram; sister, Lois Nelson; also nieces, nephews, cousins and sisters-in-law.

Loren was born March 14, 1927, in Superior, Wisconsin, to Arndt and Ethel (Kronlund) Nelson. He was a graduate of Superior Central High School and served his country in the U.S. Army from Nov. 21, 1945, until Dec. 27, 1946. Loren was united in marriage to Bertha Fornell on June 30, 1951, in Clam Falls. In 1956, they moved to Cushing and to St. Croix Falls in 2014. Loren was the postmaster in Cushing and retired in 1987.

Loren was a member of First Lutheran Church in Cushing where he served as the church choir director for 30 years. He also served on the board of Directors, Cushing Creamery, Cushing Co-op and the First Bank of Cushing. He served as president of the Fiesta Village Retirement Community in Mission and founded and led the Fiesta Village Singers. Loren was president of the Clam Falls Evening Foot Ball Chorus, which he directed for nearly 30 years. He volunteered with Meals on Wheels and the Polk County School Board. In St. Croix Falls, Loren enjoyed singing, farming, and was known to “occasionally” have a good roll of Schwan’s ice cream.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 14, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cushing. Visitation will be held Friday, Dec. 13, at Grandstrand Funeral Home in Osceola and for one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Interment will be in Cushing Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be expressed at grandstrandfh.com.

Eugene “Gene” M. Ludack

Eugene “Gene” M. Ludack, 85, Centuria, Wisconsin, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019, at the BayCare Health Clinic in Ashland. Gene was born on Aug. 22, 1934, in Ashland, Wisconsin, to Matthew and Bertha (Hutmacher) Ludack. The family moved to Northland College he moved to Siren, Wisconsin, to begin his teaching career. He married Dorothy Ludack on Aug. 2, 1958. A few years later they moved to Cushing, Minnesota. When Dorothy was diagnosed with cancer, Eugene taught at Unity until his retirement in 1993. Gene was an avid hunter and fisherman. He and Dorothy enjoyed camping, traveling and boat- ing, especially around the Apostle Islands.

Gene leaves to celebrate his memory, son, Mark (Patricia) Ludack of Centuria; daughters, Lynn Hen- jin, White Bear Lake, Minn., and Kathryn Ludack (David Gee) Eau Claire; grandchildren, Erin (Shane) Seubert, Stephanie (Matt) Ludack, Stephanie Henjig, Justin Henjig, Tyler (Thy) Breault and Ron (Molly) Ludack; great grandchildren, Olin Schultz, Rory Schultz and Fin Brandt; brother-in-law, Ed Zio lkowski; sisters-in-law, LaNore Ziozkowski and Marge McManus; and other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy; par- ents, a brother and sisters, Harold, Lois, Beatrice and Ethel Ludack; grandparents; and parents-in-law.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to the staff at BeeHive Homes, St. Croix Hospice and Riverside Endoscopy Center.

A memorial Mass for Gene will be held on Thurs- day, Dec. 19, at 11 a.m., at St. Charles Borromeo Lady of the Lakes Catholic Cemetery in Balsam Lake. Gene’s family will greet visitors at the church beginning at 10 a.m. Gene will be at Rest in the care of St. Charles Borromeo’s Catholic Cemetery in Centuria in the spring. Please join the family for lunch and continued fellowship following the service in the church fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the American Cancer Society.

The Kolstad Family Funeral Home of Centuria has been entrusted with arrangements.

Jack C. Neurer

Jack C. Neurer, 86, of Webster, Wisconsin, passed away on December 8, 2019, at his residence in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Jack was born on Aug. 8, 1933, in Cumberland, Wisconsin, to par- ents, Hazel (Christensen) and Al- fredo “Al” Frease. Jack attended Cumberland High School where his major athletic career included basketball, baseball, as well as hockey with the city league. After graduation, Jack served four years in the U.S. Air Force in Texas.

Jack attended the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, earning his bachelor’s degree in education as well as success on the football field. Playing defensive line and tight end for the Falcons, Jack was an all-conference player three years and as a senior was an honorable mention All-American. He was inducted into the Taylor Falls Athletic Hall of Fame in 1983 and the Cumberland High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999.

In 1964, Jack married Margaret Sweet and together they had three children during their 15-year marriage.

Before settling on a teaching career, Jack’s international hockey competition and Vancouver for the Olympics in 1980.

Jack also enjoyed being outdoors, deer hunting, bird-watching, wild rice harvesting, golfing, making maple syrup, music, reading and sports. But his fa- vorite way to spend time was fishing. Fishing brought him to British Columbia, Newfoundland, Argu- mentina, Scotland and Norway. Still, after all of those wonderful endeavors, Jack would still say his favorite fishing spots were the ones he first shared with his fa- ther on the Crib in his hometown.

Preceding him in death were his parents; sister, Je ann Mackenzie; brother, Dick (Lorraine) Neurer; and nephews.

Jack is survived by his wife of 33 years, Tanya; daughter, Kristen (Eric Molter) Neurer; sons, Louis (Brooke) Neurer and Lyndon (Melissa) Neurer; grandchildren, Libby Jackson, Alex Jackson, Brianna Jackson; and great grandchildren, Jack; in-laws, Libby, Jack, Annabelle, Mallory, Carolina, Luca, Cam and Ruth; sister, Linda (David) Keyes, sister-in-law, Tricia (Roth) Fair, sister-in-law, Lauren Mad- ison; and many nieces, nephews, others relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at Grace United Methodist Church in Webster with Pastor the Rev. Dr. George Zwick. Arrangements have been entrusted to Swedberg-Taylor Funeral Home in Webster. Online condon- es may be expressed at swedberg-taylor.com.

Silas “Andy” Swenson

Silas “Andy” Swenson, 95, of Taylors Falls, Minnesota, passed away on Dec. 14, 2019. Andy was born in Trade River, Wisconsin, on April 7, 1924. He attended a one-room country school and later went to high school in Grantsburg, Wisconsin. Following high school in 1943 he joined the Navy. He served on an LST 173 as a machin- ist mate in the North African-Eur- opean-Middle Eastern American Theater. Asiatic Philippine Liberation and received a Victory Medal. He was mustered out of the service Nov. 24, 1945. He was so proud of his service to his country.

With his wife he married his loving sweetheart at The Little Brown Church in the Vale in Nashua, Iowa. Andy and Geri returned to that church year after year to renew their wedding vows and celebrate their enduring love. They cel- ebrated their 71st wedding anniversary in May 2019.

Over the years Andy worked in various occupations. He was a registered nurse in St. Croix Falls. Andy and Geri built Camp Waub O Jeeg on their land which is on the banks of the St. Croix River.

He loved his church and he shared his woodwork- ing talents by creating beautiful pieces for the church. He served as mayor of Taylors Falls in the 1960s and he was an active member of the Taylors Falls Lions Club where he and Geri enjoyed working to keep the parks and grounds pretty.

Andy was innovative and a visionary. His hobbies were abundant. He loved. He knew all the hot mushroom spots (which he kept secret) and he knew the names of every wildflower. He loved to landscape and build rock (boulder) walls. His current home is a testimony of his creativity. He was an amazing woodworker, an avid gardener, a winemaker, a canoeer and much more.

Andy and Geri loved to travel. Over the years they traveled the world including doing 10 years of mis- sionary work in Ecuador.

Andy married, all Andy loved spending time with his fam- ily. He was a great listener. He gave gentle but wise advice and never judged or just had unkind words. His world was full of gratitude, awe and positivity. His world was full of gratitude, awe and positivity.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy; par- ents, Hazel (Christensen) and Al- fredo “Al” Frease. Jack attended Cumberland High School where his major athletic career included basketball, baseball, as well as hockey with the city league. After graduation, Jack served four years in the U.S. Air Force in Texas.

Jack attended the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, earning his bachelor’s degree in education as well as success on the football field. Playing defensive line and tight end for the Falcons, Jack was an all-conference player three years and as a senior was an honorable mention All-American. He was inducted into the Taylor Falls Athletic Hall of Fame in 1983 and the Cumberland High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999.

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Preceding him in death were his parents; sister, Je ann Mackenzie; brother, Dick (Lorraine) Neurer; and nephews.

Jack is survived by his wife of 33 years, Tanya; daughter, Kristen (Eric Molter) Neurer; sons, Louis (Brooke) Neurer and Lyndon (Melissa) Neurer; grandchildren, Libby Jackson, Alex Jackson, Brianna Jackson; and great grandchildren, Jack; in-laws, Libby, Jack, Annabelle, Mallory, Carolina, Luca, Cam and Ruth; sister, Linda (David) Keyes, sister-in-law, Tricia (Roth) Fair, sister-in-law, Lauren Madison; and many nieces, nephews, others relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at First Lutheran Church in Taylors Falls with Pastor the Rev. Dr. George Zwick. Arrangements have been entrusted to Swedberg-Taylor Funeral Home in Webster. Online condolences may be expressed at swedberg-taylor.com.
Agricultural/Farming Services


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St. Croix Falls Rivertown Holiday

The cookies & hot cider, music & caroling party by the kettle fire, and the fireworks were so good that Santa came to town! Thanks to all the elves that brought it to life. Happy Holidays!

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Upcoming events at Interstate Park

ST. CROIX FALLS — There are some upcoming events at Interstate State Park, St. Croix Falls. More information about this area is available online at several sites, or call 715-483-5747.

First day hike

On Wednesday, Jan. 1, 9-11 a.m., join park staff and the Friends of Interstate Park in welcoming the new year with snowshoeing or hiking at the park. Warming fire and light refreshments provided by the Friends of Interstate Park. 2020 vehicle admission stickers will be available for purchase. Meet at the Ice Age Center.

Candlelight night

On Saturday, Feb. 15, 5-8 p.m., stop in at the Ice Age Visitor Center to find out which of the trails will be illuminated by hundreds of candles—a beautiful sight to see! You can also learn which trails are groomed for skiing, which are open to snowshoeing … and even sign in to borrow some free snowshoes for the evening (it is enough snow for it). Visitors are also welcome to gather in the visitor center for some live music provided by The Geezers. Fun for the whole family!

2020 Wisconsin state trail passes now available as holiday gifts

POLK COUNTY — Looking for that last-minute gift for the bicycle riders, skiers or equestrian enthusiasts on your list? 2020 state annual passes are available for holiday shopping at the Polk County Information Center in St. Croix Falls, and also online, at the site www.cycleguide.com that require passes. Annual passes are priced at $25 and are good for calendar year 2020. Trail pass sales generated just over $10,000 in 2019 for Polk County that is used for trail maintenance and that helps offset the tax levy to lower your taxes. So, if you are planning to use any of the Wisconsin state recreation trails in 2020 that require passes, it pays to buy your pass at home in Polk County.

Polk County has two bike trails, one Nordic ski trail and an equestrian trail that require a state pass. The Gandy Dancer State Trail, is a 14-mile, limestone-surfaced trail running from St. Croix Falls to Danbury. It is operated by agreement with the DNR as a nonmotorized trail in the summer and a snowmobile trail in the winter. Wisconsin’s newest state trail, the Stover Seven Lakes Trail, is a 14-mile, limestone-surfaced trail running from Amery to just outside of Dresser. It is a nonmotorized trail year-round, offering biking, birding and hiking in the summer and cross-country skiing, fat-biking and snowshoeing in the winter for bikers and skiers. Those who are 16 and over and must have a state trail pass.

For more information, call 800-222-POLK, 715-485-9294, or visit polkcountytourism.com.
A rootin’ tootin’ holiday musical

Daniel Shutt and David Buskirk look a little bit naughty as they exchange a couple of mischievous smirks between songs on Friday, Dec. 13, during the Webster Elementary School program. The program was a rootin’ tootin’ holiday musical.

Payton Warwas concentrates on playing her handbell at just the right time. She and her classmates are working on learning how to read sheet music as they played a Bach piece from Cantata No. 208, “Sheep May Safely Graze.”

The townpeople of Snowy Gulch prepare to celebrate Christmas with their annual festival at the O.K. Corral on the edge of town, but they face an annoyed Bubblegum Bart, who wants to stop the celebration.

The audience finds out that Bart is just lonely and feels left out. The townpeople respond by welcoming Bart into their celebration and into their town. The Candy Cane Kid is a hero, Bart is loved, and the celebration of Christmas at the O.K. Corral is the greatest ever.

Each school has its own traditions. At Webster School, the Gingerbread Village is displayed outside the office and made with love by the kids in Mrs. Dorn’s, Mrs. Hedrick’s and Mrs. Dobberschutz’s kindergarten classes.

Mrs. Hedrick’s class join in singing “We Wish You A Merry Christmas” with the entire student body before they were joined by their family and friends for milk and cookies in the cafeteria.

Photos by Becky Strabel

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- Luck Pharmacy, Luck
- Wood River Pharmacy, Grantsburg
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See video online at FahrenheitCardGame.com
Fawn-Doe-Rosa Christmas

Echo the yellow Labrador helped sisters Brooke, 5 and Aida, 4, of St. Croix Falls, chat with Santa at Fawn-Doe-Rosa on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Marshall, 5, had a few suggestions for Mr. Claus. - Photos by Greg Marsten

The horses were ready to pull wagons full of Christmas celebrators.

RIGHT: Marci, 4, and little sister Mahala, 2 months, got to make Santa smile.
I was still dark when I pulled ski pants over yoga pants, zipped up my puffy coat and headed out to clear fresh snow off my car. I knew that my plow guy would arrive soon, and I wanted to be ready to play musical parking spots.

Shoveling in hand, I shuffled through 6 inches of dense snow. Before reaching my car, though, I noticed that someone else had made tracks before me. I hadn’t expected that. This was the first measurable snowfall of the year, so the tracks hadn’t been sunk in a previous layer—they’d been made during the night, after half the stuff had already fallen.

Feet held still now, I pivoted in place to follow the tracks without wrecking them. A surprised “ha!” escaped when I saw that tracks led right up to my door. I’d just walked right past them. Leaning in, I saw the nailed, five-toed tracks of a Mustelid, daintily imprinted on the dusting of snow that had blown under the porch roof. My visitor should have knocked!

Almost as big as the palm of my hand, I knew that these tracks couldn’t have been made by a mink or ermine. They were fisher or otter tracks for sure. I snapped a few photos before following the tracks back out across the driveway. On the smooth snow, three, interwoven sets of prints were interrupted by long troughs, in a dot-dot-dash, Morse code-type pattern.

Otters, then: critters who are known to play, and who love to use sliding as a method of travel. Like grade-schoolers on a snow day, this romp of otters who love to use sliding as a method of travel. Like

Once, on a winter camping trip in the Boundary Waters, I skied beside a set of otter tracks that climbed up on the steep bank, only to slide back down. Up and down; up and down. There wasn’t anything to eat up on the lakeshore. It could only have been for fun.

Cross-country skiers—and the 6-year-olds inside all of us—know exactly why you go to the trouble of climbing a snow-covered hill: so that you can slide thrillingly down the other side.

Just a few days after that first snowstorm, while milling around the kitchen after Thanksgiving dinner, I noticed the tracks and slides of three otters. We watched eagerly as the squirrel re-summited the ridge rope, a swift leap, belly down, legs spread wide to get the full effect of the exhilarating toboggan it had found, a slide. “Faster and faster it ran, intoxicated by the sensation.”

This scene brought to mind the chapter “Moon Magic,” from Sigurd Olson’s book, “The Singing Wilderness.”

“The little guy seemed not to remember how he’d gotten onto the roof in the first place, as he tried to climb the vertical walls (not grippy enough), sum- mited a plow pile and tried to jump (not high enough yet), and finally succumbed to the far side where a hemlock trunk provided the perfect ladder and launch. As the squirrel plowed through the fluffy frosting toward the edge, we jeered and commen- tated on this journey. Suddenly, he took a flying leap off the edge, missed a spindly hemlock, and plopped into the snow. Was the squirrel playing? Would we be able to watch him dive into the snowdrift over and over with squeaks of glee?”

Cross-country skiers—and the 6-year-olds inside all of us—know exactly why you go to the trouble of climbing a snow-covered hill: so that you can slide thrillingly down the other side.

Strengthened with a full-moon night near the Canadian border, Olson watched a mouse using the roof of his tent as a slide. “Faster and faster it ran, intoxicated by its new and thrilling experience: up along the edge straight toward the center of the ridge rope, a swift leap, belly down, legs spread wide to get the full effect of the exhilarating toboggan it had found, a slide of balloon silk straight to the needle-strown ground below.”

So we watched eagerly as the squirrel re-summited the roof. Instead of a running jump, he crept down to the edge of the shingles, like a mini Tyrolean traverse. While he slipped and scrambled, we shouted encouragement and ridicule. Until suddenly, he was gone.

Later, once we’d strapped on snowshoes to explore the woods, I took a detour to check out the squirrel’s vanishing point. Tucked under the eaves was a grooved hole, obviously chewed by rodent teeth. So, the little guy had access to my garden tools and a tub full of compost-ready maple leaves. With the shed door blocked by the snowplow’s mountain, the situation will remain until spring.

Of course, that “situation” also means a transformed world, blanketed in a magical layer of fluff, ready for anyone who wants to experience the joy of sliding.

Emily Stone is the naturalist/education director at the Cable Natural History Museum. Her second book, “Natural Connections: Dreaming of an Elfin Skinner,” is now available to purchase at cablemuseum.org/books and at your local independent bookstore.
Centuria’s Cozy Country Christmas

The Cozy Country Christmas festivities in Centuria wouldn’t have been complete without the tremendous help of the Centuria Fire Department, including the Knutson family.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE ALLING

These kids were the reindeer and toboggan race winners at the Centuria Cozy Country Christmas.

Balsam Lake royalty attended Centuria’s Cozy Country Christmas.

Royalty bowling, hosted by the Centuria Ambassador and Friends, was held at McKenzie Lanes for Cozy Country Christmas. Visiting royalty included those from Balsam Lake, Clear Lake, River Road Royalty and St. Croix Falls.
NATIONWIDE - NordPass has listed 200 most commonly used passwords of 2019. The list contains such easy-to-hack login credentials as "12345" or a romantic "iloveyou." Despite the constant reminders from cybersecurity experts, people keep on using the same letter or number throughout all their accounts.

The most popular passwords of 2019 come in endless variations, such as 12345, 111111 and 123232, or just strings of letters forming a horizontal or vertical line on a QWERTY keyboard: asdfghjkl, qazwsx, 1qaz2wsx, etc. The most obvious one, “password,” remains very popular, as 368,046 people were still using it in 2019.

The list of 200 most popular passwords was compiled from the credentials that were leaked in data breaches just this year - independent researchers evaluated the data and came up with 500 million passwords in total. Here are the top 20 passwords you should never use:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Password</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>test1</td>
<td>12345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>password</td>
<td>123456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zinch</td>
<td>123456789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>test</td>
<td>1234567890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>qwerty</td>
<td>Aa123456.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Badgers won the Rose Bowl, and a month later, what could it be? We’re finally living in a state of winners! Yeah!

There are so many things that we have to learn, living in Wisconsin. What’s a stop and go light? What is a bubbler? Is supper the same as dinner? Does “hunting we’ll go” apply to all sports? Regardless, love living here in the North Woods.

Mark Peacock publishes sixth short story collection

LUCK – Local writer Mark Peacock has published his sixth short story collection, “Another Four Break Time Stories.” The Kindle book includes another mangled fairy tale, “Snow Job and The Four Dwarfs,” along with three other tales written to be read as complete stories during a typical work break. His two paperback books, "The First Gathering of The Break Time Stories" and "The Second Gathering of The Break Time Stories" are available through Amazon.com.

Peacock, who writes fiction as Mark Hayes Peacock, has read his stories in area libraries, including St. Croix Falls, Balsam Lake, Milltown, Luck and White Bear Lake, Minnesota; at fundraisers for St. Croix Festival Theatre and Amery Classic Theatre; and at Amery’s Northern Lakes Center for the Arts. WPCPA-FM broadcasts and streams online Peacock’s short story readings the first Tuesday evening of each month at 7 p.m. He lives and writes in Luck.

Twenty passwords you should never use

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<tr>
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They are as popular as hot dogs in any baseball games and I’ve learned to love them. With sauerkraut on a toasted bun with mayo and mustard, that can be the hit at any baseball game. Who needs Cracker Jacks and candy bars? I learned the secret of cooking brats, with slow heat and lots of patience. Most of all, a pot with boiling beer and sliced onions. Don’t drink the beer first before using the other half for cooking the onions and the brats. After the brats are removed from the boiling water and the onions are done, they will grill them till they turn brown. Then, on a toasty bun, add mayo and mustard, the grilled brat and top with the sauerkraut onion. After the first bite, I fell in love with Wisconsin.

When we were living in San Diego, California, the Chargers were doing fine fine, but not many waves. Then in Texas, the Cowboys were at their worst. The only time we (my neighbor and I) went to watch the Cowboys cheerleaders, the Atlanta Falcons, they were not doing well at all for the time we lived there. Then things changed all of a sudden after we moved to Wisconsin. First the Badgers won the Rose Bowl, and a month later, the Packers won the Super Bowl. What, what, how could it be? We’re finally living in a state of winners! Yeah!

Regardless, love living here in the North Woods.
THE POSTSCRIPT
Carrie Classon

Dr. Harlander from Frederic, who recently turned 99. Our dentists today are amazed we have fillings that last over 60 years.

Mom nursed us through all the common childhood diseases, chickenpox, mumps, two kinds of measles. None of us got polio, a dreaded summer disease. None of us got whooping cough. None of us got diphtheria. None of us got cerebral palsy. None of us got vitamin D deficiency. None of us got rheumatic fever. None of us got all the diseases that children now get in school. None of us got scurvy. None of us got beriberi. None of us got pellagra. None of us got rickets.

In 1967 I married a nurse and my nurse-practitioner mom retired, but Mom didn’t. Once a mother, always a mother.

Laura’s Ginger Snaps
2 1/2 cups vegetable oil
4 cups sugar
1 cup molasses
3 eggs
8 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. ginger
2 tsp. cloves
8 cups flour
Cream sugar, molasses and eggs well. Add flour, soda, salt and spices and mix well. Roll into balls, dip in sugar, and bake at 375 for about 11 minutes.

Give the gift that gives all year long. Birthdays, Anniversaries, Special Occasions, etc. Call one of our offices today to send your gift subscription.

Laura’s Ginger Snaps | Lorraine Hoels

Laura’s Ginger Snaps
2 1/2 cups vegetable oil
4 cups sugar
1 cup molasses
3 eggs
8 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. ginger
2 tsp. cloves
8 cups flour
Cream sugar, molasses and eggs well. Add flour, soda, salt and spices and mix well. Roll into balls, dip in sugar, and bake at 375 for about 11 minutes.

Happy holidays! If you have any tried-and-true recipes you’d like to share, send them to me at editor@ynpho.com.

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

Two little black and white puppies, abandoned in Frederic on Christmas Eve in 1989, were rescued by the children of Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Stevens at the Turner Hotel. The pups were wandering on the streets along Wisconsin Avenue and in danger of being hit by cars in the heavy volume of Christmas Eve traffic when they were brought in to the Stevens home. Shown with the puppies by the Christmas tree in the hotel lobby are Reed, Ron and Rachelle Stevens, who had their own dog to care for, but were temporarily also giving tender, loving care to the abandoned puppies. The Stevens family didn’t have room for three dogs, and volunteers to take the pups were asked to call the Turner Hotel. – Photo provided

FIRST FORTS LUTEFISK DINNER

The first, and hopefully annual, lutefisk dinner at Forts Folle Avoine was served to 60 people on Sunday, Dec. 15. Advance reservations were needed to be able to enjoy a traditional menu of lutefisk with white sauce, Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, squash, green beans, lettuce and cardamom bread. Beverages included Swedish glogg, and for dessert, ginger cookies and apple crisp with ice cream were enjoyed. The meal, atmosphere and decorations received glowing reviews. The meal, atmosphere and decorations received glowing reviews. The meal, atmosphere and decorations received glowing reviews. The meal, atmosphere and decorations received glowing reviews.

Getting a good night’s sleep

What’s the magic number when it comes to how much sleep you need each night? Experts say we should aim for at least seven or eight hours in order to thrive the next day. Sleep allows us to recharge our brains and bodies. However, in today’s jam-packed world of always on the go, coupled with stress and anxiety, many of us fall short.

Sleep is key to all aspects of our lives, including health, relationships and overall well-being. Without enough sleep, our bodies begin to shut down and the negative side effects start to take over. Lack of sleep can be linked to poor work performance, relationship problems, car crashes and much more.

Sleep deprivation can also raise your risk of high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, obesity and relationship problems, car crashes and much more. With the added stress and anxiety, many of us fall short.

Getting a good night’s sleep is good for your health and well-being. Try to make sleep a priority and incorporate some of these helpful sleep tips into your daily routine.

HEALTHY MINUTE

Brought to you by Healthy Burnett

- Avoid alcohol and big meals: Eating a big or spicy meal can make it hard to sleep. Try eating at least two hours before going to bed. Alcohol, cigarettes and caffeine can also disrupt your sleep.
- Exercise daily: Any exercise, even light exercise, can help you feel better.
- Bedtime check: Make sure you have a comfortable, supportive mattress and pillow. If your mattress is 10 years or older, it may be time for a new one. Cooler temperatures, 60-67 degrees, and darkness are ideal for sleeping. Your bedroom should also be free from any distracting noises.
- Getting a good night’s sleep is good for your health and well-being. Try to make sleep a priority and incorporate some of these helpful sleep tips into your daily routine.

Submitted by Halle Pardun, Burnett Medical Center marketing director, Healthy Minute is brought to you by healthyburnett.org.

50 years ago

The Frederic High School newspaper, the Golden Nugget, was one of four in the state cited for excellence in the monthly printed division of the Wisconsin High School Newspaper Conference. Other divisions included weekly, biweekly and mimeographed. Editors of the issues entered in the competition were Marlene Beecroft and Don Hau- mant.–Danbury United Methodist Church observed the 50th anniversary of their founding, and the Rev. Ernest Barber, founding pastor, and his wife came from North Bend, Washington, to be part of the celebrations.–Navy Fireman’s Apprentice Dan McClay was assigned to sea duty aboard the USS Dubuque in the South China Sea.–The Frederic School District accepted the gift of a $10,000 scholarship in memory of Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Franseen, pioneer residents of the Frederic community, from Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Rasekowksi, Downey, California, to honor her parents.–The Frederic Farmers Co-op Exchange had their annual meeting and were looking toward the coming year, when they would reach the 50-year mark in their history. Les Annett was manager of the mill department, Cal “Bud” Johnson managed the grocery store, and Lyle Sattler managed the petroleum department. Total gross sales were $751,000, and the ownership of assets ratio was over 87%.–Adolph Anderson was president of the Northern Currents, section B – page 5

40 years ago

An unprecedented 28 players were named to the 1979 Upper St. Croix Valley Conference All-Conference football team. Grantsburg, Osceola and St. Croix Falls were tying co-champions that year. Selected were Philip Memmer, Luck; Tim McIntyre, Ron Erickson, Vaughn; Chute, Don Melin; Dan Copp and Mike Zurawski, Grantsburg; Dennis Waalen, Unity; Kevin Rogers, Wayne Peterson, Dave Hale, Todd Rud, Brad Tamman and Scott Frank, Osceola; Steve Lemire, Somerset; Tom Greener, Jeff Parks; Steve Edling, Mike Northquist, Keith Bastin and Mike Olson, St. Croix Falls; Allen Peterson, Jim Wippersten and Dwight Larsen, Frederic; and Mike Maloney, Randy Hedrick, Gary People and Jerry Haddock, Webster.–Sportswriter Gary King, in his column, talked about the role of sportswriters in their Sportswriters meetings he had covered in the past year and described the members as “a group of sincere, dedicated men and women who not only have firsthand knowledge of our wildlife, but protect it, nurture it, and live from it.” He added, “They always make you feel welcome at their meetings, and hand out prizes at the end and I usually get one!”–Airman Matthew R. Jarsan, from Grantsburg, completed basic training and was assigned to Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi, to receive specialized training in the communications electronics systems field.–Seaman Phillip B. Gardner, from Grantsburg, completed the Navy’s Basic Electronics-Electronics course at the Navy Service School Command, Great Lakes, Illinois.–Col. Thomas E. Christensen, from Grantsburg, completed the 446th Military Airlift Wing at McChord Air Force Base in Washington, near Seattle.

20 years ago

Young married couple Larry and Jen Johnson were hired within the same week to be head coaches, he of the Frederic wrestling program, and she of the St. Croix Falls gymnastics program. They weren’t expecting to see much of each other for the coming year, as they both had full-time day jobs.–Frederic veteran of World War II Fred Jackson, 84, was profiled in this paper. He had been part of the 125th Infantry, 2nd Battalion, spending time in Africa and Italy, and then as a prisoner of war in Germany. He had weighed 87 pounds, from his normal 150, when he returned home after the war, as the prisoners were made to work 15-hour days and fed only sauerkraut.–Army Spc. Robert Clemen, from Grantsburg, was deployed to Bosnia to participate in Operation Joint Forge as a member of Task Force Eagle.–Amber Sorensen, a junior at Indian Creek 4-H Club, Ann Marie Hughes, Friendly Corners, and Nathan Rugroden, Pleasant Lake, were the Polk County recipients of the 1999 4-H Key Awards. Among the 4-H Leaders honored for years of service were Elsie Wood, Knotty Pine, 40 years, and Lillian Christensen, Little Butternut, 35 years.
The weather this past week canceled a couple of card dates at the center. Once the snow started it was a cold any better? I guess all I’ve got to say right now is, “Old Man Winter, please be kind!”

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Christmas tree sale a success. We sold over $1,000. After the auction, Shelby Gaddis and Bob and Pam Bentz, and Deb Ziemer. The total collected was $2368; email, rescue.hsbc@gmail.com; website, hsburnettcty.org; and Facebook, facebook.com/humanesocietyburnettcounty.

The Thursday, Dec. 12, 500 winner was Elroy Nelson and Jan Janzon as Siren’s Students of the Week. What a great turn.

The HSBC shelter is located in the Peggy Schill Animal Adoption and Education Center at 7410 CTH D, Webster, WI 54893; telephone, 715-349-2368; email, rescue.hsbc@gmail.com; website, hsburnettcty.org; and Facebook, facebook.com/humanesocietyburnettcounty.

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As winter is upon us, HSBC wants to remind you that cold weather can be stressful for pets. Ensure your outdoor animals have access to unfrozen water and shelter on cold nights. Consider pet-safe ice-melting products, paw wax or boots to keep paws healthy. Your pets will thank you!

Some of HSBC’s available pets are a soil monochromat on the outside but want to be a house cat inside. HSBC wants to remind you that regardless of soil appearance, all of their residents have a variety of unique qualities to choose from.

Bruce is an older gentleman in search of a home committed to helping him get back in shape. As a senior black Lab, Bruce needs a little extra love to keep him fit, healthy, and under control. He also hates loud noises, suffers from a bit of arthritis and could use help removing a bit of extra fluff from his 127-pound frame. Nine-year-old Bruce is patient and kind with kids and likes to entertain them with his bag of tricks. In addition to being house-trained, he knows the commands of shake, sit, speak and down. Let Bruce show you how an older dog is worth a little extra maintenance. He promises affection and devotion in return.

Buddy is personable plus! Nearly 6 months old, this gray and white shorthair seems to know how handsome he is. The proof is in the photos on the HSBC website and Facebook pages. Where Buddy lure you in with his jade-green eyes. When not hanging out in the community room’s hammock, he loves to explore and play with other cats and children alike.

HSBC will all of its residents to find homes for the holidays. Sponsored kittens Sibertown, Chickie, Go-dhi, MJ, Adam, Aspen, Eva and Oreo already have adopted pets for them. But there’s more! Through the holidays, adoption fees for all cats are discounted. It’s an ideal time to consider adding a feline family member to your household.

Check HSBC’s website to see all the spectacular cats and kittens looking for homes.

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Public hours: Tuesday – Friday, noon – 5 p.m., and Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Frederic’s kindergarten and first-grade students performed the musical “The Littlest Christmas Tree,” under the direction of Lisa Mattson on Thursday, Dec. 5, at the elementary school auditorium. Photos courtesy Frederic Schools.

Morgan LeClaire gets ready for the holiday concert.

April Owens, Jackson Larson, Maple Popham and Brooklynn Nyman pose during their holiday concert on Thursday, Dec. 5.

Trees Zoey Borchardt and Sully Anderson pose for Santa and hope he will pick them.

Santa, played by Jackson Larson, picked the littlest tree (Brooklynn Nyman) as his favorite tree.

Eleanor Mattson helps Santa pick a tree as an elf.

Maple Popham was instrumental in lining up the Christmas trees.

Trigger Dodds can help find the perfect tree.
Bethany Lutheran hosts festive Christmas Tour of Homes

ABOVE AND RIGHT: The stockings where hung by the chimney with care at Ernie and Barb Lyga’s and Jim and Marge Olson’s homes.

This cross-stitched fishing themed pillow was one of many unique gift items to be found at the Christmas bazaar at Bethany Lutheran Church held on Dec. 15.

LEFT: Ellyn Lindquist stood by the sweet gingerbread house she made especially to be given away to one of the Tour of Homes guests.

RIGHT: Tour of Homes guests enjoyed coffee and cider while munching on Christmas goodies in the church fellowship hall before heading out to visit several homes in the Siren and Webster area.

PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA BAUER

SIREN – Folks coming to Bethany Lutheran Church’s annual Tour of Homes on Sunday, Dec. 15, were greeted warmly in the church fellowship hall before heading off to visit several area homes decked out for the holidays.

Guests enjoyed coffee and cider while munching on yummy Christmas goodies and browsing tables filled with holiday decor, gift items and freshly baked treats.

Cindy Stewart admired a Santa quilt, one of several quilts on display and for sale at Bethany Lutheran Church’s Christmas bazaar held in conjunction with the church’s annual Tour of Homes on Sunday, Dec. 15.

Priscilla Bauer / Staff writer
Tour of homes, cont’d

Lois Lane’s “Gingerbread House” was a treat for the eyes with an outdoor display of colorful candy canes and grinning gingerbread cutouts.

Mary Lou Shutt and her daughter, Sandy Schmitz, welcomed guests to Shutt’s “Northern Family Christmas” home which featured a table set for holiday dining with Shutt’s great-grandparents’ china.

Signs of the season could be found all about the Jim and Marge Olson home in rural Webster.

A gingerbread church and gingerbread homes made an eye-catching holiday display.

Barb Lyga posed with her doll, Thurman, made some 64 years ago by Lyga’s mother. Lyga said these days Thurman is enjoying retirement and being dressed festively for Christmas.

A Christmas tree displayed at Jim and Marge Olson’s home literally was for the dogs, decorated with photos of family pets.
Luck kids present “Christmas on Candy Cane Lane”

Olivia Gjerdahl, left, and Mireya Dietmeier were part of the forest of Christmas trees at Luck on Thursday, Dec. 12. The trees performed “Evergreen,” with “O Christmas Tree.”


Astrid Sommerfeld “leans her ear this way” as she sings “Jolly Old St. Nicholas.”

Candy canes Jaisa Oullette, Avery Siedow and Jakob Taylor sing “Christmas on Candy Cane Lane” during the Luck Elementary School program.

Standing at attention during “Peace March” is soldier Carson Alling.
Happy noisays and best wishes for the new year!

As we come to the close of 2019, we of the Frederic Library staff and the library board of trustees wish to thank all our patrons and community members for their support throughout the year. It is our loyalty and generously that keep the doors open and help us continue to give the best service possible.

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

There is nothing like fresh air and exercise to shake those blues away. No need to invest in expensive equipment, the library is offering snow-shoes for free. Just check them out with your library card. It’s easy to get the whole family out there and explore the beautiful new Coon Lake Park trails, because the library has snowshoes in three sizes. Snow-shoes can be picked up on a first-come, first-serve basis. Your MORE library card can check out the snow-shoes for a three-day checkout, so you can use the snow-shoes for the weekend, or just a quick mid-week break. Once you are back inside, don’t forget to check-out the new books, DVD’s, magazines, audio and all the fun library activities we have to offer.

Gingerbread house contest

Be sure to stop by the library to marvel at this year’s amazing gingerbread house creations. Take a moment to vote on your favorite entry. There is still time to enter because entries can be dropped off at the library until Friday, Dec. 20. Judging for all categories will be on Saturday, Dec. 21, with all prizes awarded in each category.

Christmas break

Holiday movie marathons. Movies will run all day on Monday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 30. Family-friendly flicks for kids of all ages. Movie titles will be posted at the library.

Check out our mini-escape room activities for children of all ages during the school break. Kids who solve the puzzle will win a prize.

friends of the Frederic Library

For those of you who wish to offer more, consider becoming a Friend of the Frederic Library. Your talents and energy would be a welcome addition to help the Friends continue to bring fresh and innovative programming to our local community. The next Friends meeting is Thursday, Jan. 30, at 10 a.m. Can’t make the meeting? Send an email to our email address, and we will connect you with the Friends list-serves to keep you up to date with all Friends activities.

January events:
- Every Wednesday: 10:30 a.m., Story time, preschool. no registration required.
- Every Thursday: 3:30-5 p.m., Open Lego play time, drop-in, no registration required; and Chess Club, new members always welcome – no registration required, 3:30 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 7, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Free blood pressure check, drop-in, no registration required.
- Thursday, Jan. 9, Teen robotics, contact the library for information – registration required.
- Friday, Jan. 10 Head Injury Support Group at 2 p.m., drop-in, no registration required.
- Monday, Jan. 20, Escape room fun, contact the library to register.
- Tuesday, Jan. 28, Afternoon book club at 2 p.m. will be discussing “Virgil Wander” by Lefler. no registration required.
- Thursday, Jan. 30, Friends of the Frederic Library meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Holiday hours for December

The library’s regular hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The library will be closed for Christmas Eve on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Christmas Day, Dec. 25. In appreciation of our wonderful staff. We will have short hours on Thursday, Dec. 31, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and will be closed for New Year’s Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020.

Check out the library webpage for current information about book groups and current activities at freddiclibrary.org or call a librarian at 715-307-4679 or email us at library@freddiclibrary.org with any questions, special requests, or to register for upcoming events. Also, like us on Facebook to receive all notices and updates.

TOWN TALK • COUNTRY CHATTER

SCF Middle School Happenings

In Mr. Steeber’s seventh-grade science class, students did frog dissection and comparative anatomy at the end of their unit called Human Body Systems. – Photo provided

TOYS FOR TOTS DONATION

Tavern League of Burnett County President Chuck Anderson presents a check for $500 to Burnett County Toys for Tots coordinator Kathy “Daisy” Eckstrom. Eckstrom has seen the living conditions of some local families and as a former food service director for the Webster School District, has talked with them. “While Christmas is a time of joy and happiness for most families, for some parents it is a time of despair and depression.” she said. Eckstrom worked with the Danbury Fire Department for over 25 years raising funds for the school Christmas drive and the elderly. She is now in her fifth year campaigning for kids who live in Burnett County. – Photo provided

The Ridgway family is excited to hit the trails with snowshoes they’ve checked out from the Frederic Public Library! – Photo provided.

The library will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 for the holidays.

Events at the library

Story time

No story time Dec. 24 and 31. But please come in to play! Our regular story time is on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Discovery Club

Discovery Club for homeschoolers of all ages is held every third Thursday of every month at 1:30 p.m. The next date is Thursday, Dec. 19, at Balsam Arts. Tour the studio and create a personalized Christmas ornament. Registration is closed for this event. Please check our Facebook page or website for the most up-to-date information.

STEAM Wednesday

The second Wednesday of every month is STEAM Wednesday, at 4 p.m. Imagine - create - build - explore. We have snap circuits, Legos, Pi-casso tiles, Ozobot and more. Snacks provided.

New kits for checkout coming soon:

Chemistry kit, bird-watching kit, fishing pole kit, microscope kit, measuring kit, and we have a Dash and Dot robot.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Remember to sign up if you haven’t yet. This program is for children from birth to preschool.

If you are already signed up, remember to stop in to let us know how you are doing in your reading adventures.

Book club

Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 2 p.m. at the library. Every one will be bringing a “book report” for their favorite book.

Screening of “How Not to Die” by Dr. Michael Greger

Thursday, Jan. 9, 6 p.m., presented by Rachael Jerome. This event is a free screening of Dr. Michael Greger’s 2016 presentation, “How Not to Die: The Role of Diet in Preventing, Arresting, & Reversing Our Top 15 Killers.”

“In his rally cry of a talk, Dr. Michael Greger, a physician, New York Times best-selling author, outlines the best evidence-based diet based on the latest government recommendations, resources and services that enhance and contribute to individual knowledge, enlightenment and enjoyment, creating a vibrant center of our community.

General info

Check out our website, balsamakepubliclibrary.org. We offer free Wi-Fi, public computers, faxing and copying, free coffee and an inviting atmosphere. In addition to our usual library materials we also have magazines, snowshoes, a hotpot, kids, puppets, games and puzzles available for checkout. Stop in and see us! The IFLS library offers many online tools. Take a moment to look at our online catalog for downloadable magazines, books, audiobooks, learning tools, ancestry, and much, much more.

Hours

Monday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For the most updated information, like us on Facebook or email us at library@balsamlakepl.org. Our phone number is 715-485-3215.
On Tuesday, Dec. 10, officers from area towns and village police departments, along with the Polk County Sheriff's Department, participated in the Shop with a Cop program. With generous donations from Bernick’s, Walmart and local law enforcement agencies, they helped fulfill Christmas wishes for many area children.  - Photos provided
Imagine the shepherds watching over their sheep on the night Jesus was born. Their thoughts reflected those of their Jewish ancestors, wondering when their Messiah would come. As they mangled with the sheep, they couldn’t help but look up into the star-studded sky – waiting. When an angel appeared, the shepherds nearly panicked until the angel reassured them. Their fear evaporated with the stunning news that … yes, their long-awaited Messiah had appeared. Imagine them hurrying to the stable, blending their voices with the indescribable beauty of angel song, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:14).

Imagine the wise men, deciding, after a lifetime of studying the position of the stars, that the Messiah would soon appear. When they saw the brilliant star in the sky, they headed out, knowing it would lead them to the Messiah. Though their trip was long and perhaps dangerous, they took valuable gifts for the Christ Child.

A city of a million people has a million stories, because “…everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.”

The Christmas season, in all its assumed merriment, can be a challenging time of year for hurts of the heart. So I’d like to encourage you to always make the effort to reach out in kindness – even if it doesn’t seem like it will matter. Meanwhile, don’t forget the context of those words, “peace on earth, goodwill to men.” They’re pivotal in the true story of Christmas. And the world-changing message is this: In a specific place, at a specific time, our Creator stepped into the middle of our human mess with the answer to all our conflicts and troubles. In our limited smallness, we can’t fix those things ourselves. But he can. Our role is to point others to him, and that starts with kindness.

Christmas actually provides us with an opportunity to extend an extra measure of kindness. It doesn’t have to be fancy or significant. It’s the thought that counts. As the world seems to grow more cold and more coarse with each passing day, a kind response can provide the antidote and balm to help soothe the burns of the world.

So, remember this quote: “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.”

Finally, maybe that someone is you. We have a staff of caring people (including licensed counselors) available to listen and help; see FocusOnTheFamily.com or call 800-A-FAMILY (800-232-6439).

May God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas.

Jim Daly is a husband and father, an author, president of Focus on the Family and host of “Focus on the Family” radio program. Catch up with him at jimdalyblog.com or at facebook.com/DalyFocus. Copyright 2019 Focus on the Family, Colorado Springs, CO. 2019 Focus on the Family. All rights reserved. Distributed by Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106; 816-583-7500. This feature may not be reproduced or distributed electronically, in print or otherwise, without written permission of Focus on the Family.

Brought to you by: Crosswalk Community Church (Formerly Frederic Evangelical Free Church) Frederic

Church listings sponsored by the following area businesses:

**ALPHA**
BASS LAKE LUMBER
• Complex Line of Building Supplies & Lumber
  • Cabo’s Sundeck
  Grantsburg, Wis.  715-488-2671 or 715-327-8766

**FREDERIC**
DAEFLLER’S QUALITY MEATS, INC.
• Wholesale & Retail Meat
• Custom Butchering & Processing
Phone 715-327-4056

**CARLSON-ROKE FUNERAL HOME**
Frederic, Wis.  715-327-4475

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Shell Lake, Wis.  715-468-2314
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Casy T. Arnold, Agent
Frederic, Wis.  715-327-8876

**NORTHERN WISCONSIN ELECTRIC CO.**
“I use Energy Wisely”

**LUCK**
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**D & L FINANCIAL SERVICES**
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715-689-2539

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Hwy. 35 North
Webster, Wis.
Phone 715-866-4157
M.P.R.S. 803959

SWEBERG-TAYLOR FUNERAL HOME
Webster, Wis.
Phone 715-866-7131

Any area business wishing to help sponsor the church listings should contact the Leader at 715-327-4236.
**BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH
8610 E. Saint Joseph, Cold Spring
763-755-3084
- Fellowship 7 p.m. Sun. 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday School 9 a.m.
- Women’s Bible Study
- Junior High Bible Study
- Adult Bible Study

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

**CATHOLIC**

**ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**
Pastor Dan Pearson; Parish Office 715-857-5580
10 mi. W. of Cumberland on Hwy. 48 (McKinley)
- Parking Lot
- Elevator provided, welcome
- Sunday Schl. 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Wor. 10:30 a.m.

**CALVARY COVENANT - ALPHA**
Pastor Seth Brickley
1816 108th St., CTH I, 715-857-5411
- Morning Wor. 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Schl. 10:45 a.m.;
- Pastor Greg Lund, 715-327-8767
942 U.S. Hwy. 8, Amery, 715-268-2176
- Apple River Community (EFCA)

**CHRISTIAN CENTER - ELCA**
Pastor Larry Mederich, 715-294-4332
Sunday Latin Mass 8:30 a.m., Mass 11 a.m.
- Mass Wed. & Thurs. 9 a.m.
- Sat. Mass 4 p.m., Sun. Mass 10:30 a.m.
- Robert Rutherford, 715-327-8387
- Available in office 9 a.m. - noon, Tues.-Fri.; Sun.
- Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Pastor Tom Wyckoff, 715-327-5600
- Services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
- Pastor on call for Bible studies and other ministries
- Robert Rutherford, 715-327-8387

**CHURCH OF GOD**
Pastor Tony Wynn, 715-327-9297
- Meetings are held every Friday night at 7 p.m.
- Pastor on call for Bible studies and other ministries
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- Robert Rutherford, 715-327-8387
Isaiah Grey has been chosen Frederic Elementary School’s student of the week. He is in third grade and the son of Allison Grey. He makes school a better place each and every day with his passion for science. He’s creative, humorous, a positive attitude and the kindness he shows to his peers. You can always find him holding the door open for someone. When he’s not at school, he loves to spend time with his family and play video games.

Evelyn Wilson has been chosen Frederic Middle School’s student of the week. She is in seventh grade and the daughter of Sarah Wilson and James Stumpf. She is involved in volleyball, soccer and band. She works at a new math online until she gets it. She is always very kind, respectful and works hard. Her hobbies include art and skating. Her favorite subject in school is art. She is kind respectful and very caring.

Richard Bugella has been chosen Frederic High School’s student of the week. He is a senior and the son of Craig and Sharon Bugella. He is punctual and prepared for class, and smart in-depth questions that load the class to learn more about a subject. He’s involved in cross country, bowling, NMB, FBLA and walks at Subway. He has excellent computer skills and plans to attend UW-Stout and study computer science.

Perry Mason has been chosen Grantsburg Elementary School’s student of the week. He is in second grade and the son of Penny Mason and Alther Clark. He is a hardworking and polite young man, who always manages to do his right thing, in and out of class. He’s always positive and has a great sense of humor. He likes to hunt and fish, and orange is his favorite color. When he grows up, he wants to work in the real estate business.

Robert Kohls has been chosen Luck Middle School’s student of the week. He is in sixth grade and the son of Wendy and Dirk Kohls. He always does his best and is a good encouragement to the other kids. He was a good example for his peers and always offers to help his friends present in class. He’s involved in soccer. His hobbies include watching YouTube, hunting and just having fun.

Katie Show has been chosen Luck High School’s student of the week. She is a sophomore and the daughter of Ron and Heidi Show. She is a student who is willing to participate in discussions and does not hesitate to ask questions. She is involved in tennis with her father. She is an active basketball and girl in her free time. She enjoys reading and playing with her brother. When he grows up, he would like to be a football player and a track athlete.

Nate Skow has been chosen Luck Middle School’s student of the week. He is in fifth grade and the son of Dennis and Cindy Skow. He is a good student. He always does his best and is a good encouragement to the other kids. He was a good example for his peers and always offers to help his friends present in class. He’s involved in soccer. His hobbies include watching YouTube, hunting and just having fun.

Ryan Dumlah has been chosen Siren Elementary School’s student of the week. He is in second grade and the son of Angela Dumlah. He is very kind and considerate and a great role model for his peers. He enjoys playing outside, running and lying in the snow. He also enjoys reading and playing with his older brother. When he grows up, he would like to be a football player and a track athlete.

Taylor Nelson has been chosen St. Croix Falls Elementary School’s student of the week. She is in third grade and the daughter of Sarah Wilson and James Stumpf. She is involved in volleyball, soccer and band. She works at a new math online until she gets it. She is always very kind, respectful and works hard. Her hobbies include art and skating. Her favorite subject in school is art. She is kind respectful and very caring.

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**Coming Events**

SEND YOUR COMING EVENTS ITEMS TO: INTER-COUNTY LEADER, BOX 490, FREDERIC, WI 54837 OR EMAIL submit@leaderregister.com

**UPSID-E-DOWN WORLD**

by Jordan, age 17

"The day that I arrived at Passage I was struggling with some anger and drug addiction issues. Ever since being there I learned how to control my anger, that drugs can lead you to a bad life and that they don't get you anywhere. The upside-down world shows that my life was not in order and that things had to be changed."