Unsolved tragedy

Six years out, the deadly hit-and-run story needs to be told

Greg Marsten | Staff writer

BALSAM LAKE – Polk County Sheriff Brent Waak refuses to use the term “cold case,” but it is hard to classify the case otherwise in the effort to find out who was behind the wheel of the Ford pickup truck that struck and killed Richard Cobenais and Benjamin Juarez in the dark on a slippery Polk County road on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014.

It was just over six years ago that the two men died in a hit-and-run accident on County Road E, in the Round Lake community, east of Luck. To this date, no one has come forward.

“Just because it’s cold, doesn’t mean we’re not working on it … We want to know, and none of...
HARLANDER TURNS 100 THIS SATURDAY

Family and friends of Doug Harlander, of Frederic, will gather this Saturday, Feb. 1, at Traditions of Frederic in downtown Frederic to help him celebrate his 100th birthday. Harlander is a longtime Frederic resident who was well-known as a dentist and member of the local VFW chapter, leading the annual Frederic Family Days parade, an event he still participates in along with the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs. Harlander, a veteran of World War II, has been highlighted in the Leader for the 70-year commemoration of D-Day. Harlander was a 24-year-old ensign aboard an American landing ship called an LST, participating in a top-secret maneuver in preparation for the D-Day landing, when German patrol boats spotted the LSTs and fired torpedoes. Harlander’s ship was split apart by torpedoes, but before it sank, he turned his attention to trying to save men, grabbing life jackets and passing them out, helping 15 men over the side and being the last man over the port side of the ship. He hung on to a life raft for hours until a British ship fished him out of the water. More than 700 lives were lost, more than the U.S. military lost during the actual landing on D-Day. “Were we heroes?” Harlander asked. “I don’t think we were heroes – just doing our duty.” - Special photos

SNOWMOBILER EXTRICATED FROM TREE

On Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 8:30 p.m., on 26th Avenue near CTH M in Barron County, a snowmobile operated by Jerad Bellefeuille of Rice Lake failed to stop for a traffic stop sign and struck a tree. He was extricated from the tree by the Rice Lake Fire Department and transported to Marshfield Clinic in Rice Lake with non-life threatening injuries. A contributing factor in the crash was that two days earlier a snowmobiler from Rice Lake struck a tree and was airlifted to an area hospital with a broken leg.

Photo from Barron County Sheriff’s Department

LUCK’S FREE Flick is “MARTY”

The Luck Museum is featuring “Marty,” a 1955 classic, as its First Friday Free Flick on Friday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. Winner of four Academy Awards, “Marty” stars Ernest Borgnine and Betsy Blair. It follows the story of Marty (Borgnine), a 24-year-old butcher whose family is constantly after him to get married. He meets plain-living schoolteacher Clara (Blair). Both are lonely unglamorous people who have resigned themselves to their unloved lives. In time, however, they manage to grope their way to love. This beautiful, romantic film won Academy Awards for best movie, director, best actor for Borgnine, and best screenplay. It also won Golden Globes for best movie and best drama (Borgnine) and the Palme d’Or (Golden Palm) for best film at the Cannes Film Festival. - Photo provided

DANGER BAND RETURNS TO PARK CENTER

Local favorites Molly and the Danger Band make a long-awaited return Thursday, Feb. 6, as the featured artists of the First Thursday Music Series, a monthly benefit at and for The Park Center, 15791 U.S. 63, Hayward. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. Audience members are encouraged to bring donations in the form of cash, checks or credit cards. Molly and the Danger Band consists of Molly Otis, Randy Wydra and Tom Draughon, served as the original hosts of the First Thursday series which originated more than a decade ago. Subsequent hosts include popular father-and-son duo Sean and Ian Okamoto and the current host, Spooner-based singer-songwriter Chad Kostner, who recently released his first full-length album “Highway 63.” You could call them a rock/country/jazz/bluegrass band, but they are really an Americana band. The blending of different American roots music creates a unique musical cocktail, with a twist of Irish. The Danger Band started in 2006 when Otis crawled onto a 3-foot-wide ledge, hovering 6 feet above a glass-top bar at her popular bistro and live music venue, The Pavilion, in downtown Hayward. The ledge has been called many things through the years, but came to be known as the Danger Stage, where it is bound to go. - Photo provided

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CENSUS UNDERWAY

As required by the U.S. Constitution, a census must be conducted every 10 years. The 2020 Census begins in March, and will be conducted March 30. They will be conducting surveys using a laptop computer and will be knocking on doors in order to verify addresses and gather information. These workers can be identified by the Census Bureau logo on the laptop, a black canvas bag with a Census logo, as well as photo identification. More information can be found at 2020census.gov and a story can be found on our website, leaderregister.com.

Social media: Facebook.com/leaderregister Twitter: Twitter.com/leaderregister Special photo

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No Luck ice castle this year

LUCK – Due to poor ice conditions there will be no ice castle at the Luck Winter Carnival this year. The lighting ceremony, scheduled for Thursday evening at 6 p.m., has been canceled, but the flag retirement ceremony will take place at that time in the Jensen Furniture parking lot at Hwy. 48 and Main Street. – Mary Stritat

WHS to host speaker on vaping

WEBSTER - Webster Schools will be hosting nationally recognized speaker Michael McGowan this Thursday, Jan. 30, from 6 to 7:15 p.m., in the Webster 5-12 School’s media center. His presentation is titled “Stemming the Tide: Helping Students Make Good Decisions about Juul, Vape and Substances.” McGowan has worked nationally with thousands of students, teachers, the NFL, MLB and companies over the past 15 years. All are invited to attend this informative, interactive and entertaining evening. Also, starting at 4 p.m., Tiger Tech and the tech ed department will be holding their annual open house.

Wisconsin Farmers Union members lobby on rural issues

MADISON – Mike Miles, from Luck, joined other farmers and family farm advocates in Madison on Wednesday, Jan. 15, for the annual Wisconsin Farmers Union Farm and Rural Lobby Day. A total of 75 participants connected with their legislators on issues impacting family farms and rural communities across the state, speaking up on the importance of farmland preservation, ending gerrymandering and programs to help farmers protect drinking water.

“Decisions that are made in Madison have a tremendous impact on our lives in rural Wisconsin,” said WFU President Darin Von Ruden. “Lobby Day is an important opportunity to get to know your legislators and for you to be heard and to play an important role in the democratic process.”

“You can go to a local listening session with 40 other people and maybe get a question answered or you can go to Madison, schedule a meeting and have a one-on-one conversation with your representative or their staff,” said Miles. “WUF does a great job setting up logistics and providing training and tools to really make an impact on issues that concern all of us in rural areas. This was the second time I met with Sen. Schachtner and her staff.”

Participants visited with or shared information with every Wisconsin state senator and Assembly representative. WUF members will have the opportunity to speak up and lobby again this fall, when farmers from throughout the country will gather in Washington, D.C., for the National Farmers Union Fly-In in September.

Wisconsin Farmers Union, a member-driven organization, is committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors and civic engagement. For more information visit wisconsinfarmersunion.com.

Extension needed on Polk’s CAFO moratorium

DEADLINES FOR THE SIX-MONTH MORATORIUM

Wednesday, Jan. 22:
Deadline for final ordinance amendment language in order to meet requirements of public notice for mandatory public hearing on Feb. 12.

Wednesday, Feb. 12:
Holding the public hearing Feb. 12 allows compilation and analysis of public comments before presentation of the CAFO study’s findings and recommendations to the county board at the February meeting. The resolution establishing the moratorium requires that the county administrator present this information to the full county board a month before the expiration of the moratorium.

Thursday, Feb. 20:
The county administrator would present the findings and recommendations of the study to the full county board, giving one month before final approval at the March meeting of the county board.

Tuesday, March 17:
Final adoption of the ordinance changes by the Polk County Board of Supervisors, allowing them to be in place prior to the end of the moratorium on April 16. This allows the current supervisors to complete the process before new supervisors elected in April take office.

Follow the Leader.

Polk County staff members working to develop ordinance amendments relating to concentrated animal feeding operations. The recommendations are being made by a consultant, county planner Tim Anderson, environmental health specialist Brian Hobbs and Zoning Administrator Jason Kjeseth. – Photos by Mary Stritat

Survey results as well as public comments from the agriculture producers were presented to the environmental services committee, after which committee members agreed that there was not enough time to thoroughly review the remaining comments and concerns. Kjeseth said that the survey results and comments, concerns and suggestions will be posted on the county website. Survey results are presented for the entire group as well as by the three individual stakeholder groups.

Concerns covered everything from air and water quality to disposal of manure and dead animals, from health concerns and reduction in property values to setbacks.

Many argued that additional research into using existing laws and regulations is needed, and that some means is needed of ensuring the operator is responsible for and able to cover the costs of cleanup and other mitigation.

While some members of the agricultural producers group said they felt an extension of the moratorium is needed, the final group of concerned citizens voted 5-1 in favor of a proposal by Mike Miles to conclude the moratorium.

Members of this group said they were “underwhelmed” by the proposal being considered, accusing the committee of ignoring the concerns of concerned citizens.

See Moratorium, page 7

Mike Miles, from Luck, joined other farmers and family farm advocates in Madison on Wednesday, Jan. 15, for the annual Wisconsin Farmers Union Farm and Rural Lobby Day. - Photo provided

Picture 1 of 3

Picture 2 of 3

Picture 3 of 3

Open Full Screen Mode
The greatest lake(s)

If you grew up in northern Wisconsin, you’ve probably been to Lake Superior. On a family trip, a class trip, a trip with friends or a solo adventure, it’s almost a prerequisite for all area natives to make the trek to see one of the greatest natural wonders in the world.

As a young man I was fortunate enough to be a passenger in a small plane that flew over this largest freshwater lake in the world. I have piloted small and not-so-small craft on its waters. Sometimes the adventures were a bit too adventurous. The plane I was in lost power – temporarily, although it felt like an eternity – while flying just off the coast of the North Shore. Once a boat I was piloting struck a floating, or half-submerged, railroad tie a mile offshore from one of the Apostle Islands and lost power. And being out on the lake when the water gets seriously rough can be disconcerting – to say the least. Not memories you would cherish but with all things considered, the majesty of the lake now overshadows those calamitous events.

Growing up I was always told the water in Lake Superior was clean enough to drink and there’s no doubt I probably did just that at least a time or two.

Today I would hesitate. There’s plenty of information now to suggest the cleanest lake in the world may have never held that title and certainly the cleanest lake in the world may be the most disturbing news related to pollution or potential pollution to our waters these days.

Lake Superior is the source of drinking water for a mind-boggling 48 million people in the U.S. and Canada. That process involves filtering, of course and likely the addition of chlorine. This week Sen. Tammy Baldwin and some of her colleagues from Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota and Indiana, members of the Senate Great Lakes Task Force, requested $320 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the president’s 2021 budget. The GLRI is “a results-driven program designed to address the most serious issues that threaten the ecological and economic well-being of the Great Lakes basin, including invasive species, pollution and toxic contamination.”

Those threats aren’t all man-made, but obviously it takes man-made elements to mess up the Great Lakes. Stormwater and partially untreated sewage – 15 million gallons of it – overwhelmed the city of Ashland’s system during one storm in 2018 and went into the lake. Is that poor planning? Is it Mother Nature and her growing aggressiveness due to global warming? Perhaps just a 100-year weather phenomenon?

The hopeful aspect of all this lies with the GLRI. For the past decade the agency has provided funding to several federal organizations to target the biggest threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem and, according to the senators’ letter, is “making progress and seeing results.”

One of the agency’s goals is “to leave the Great Lakes better for the next generation.”

Let’s hope – with support from all of us – they can somehow overcome man and nature. – Gary King

A lot on the plate of DNR leadership

Of football, snowmobiling and deer hunting – perhaps The Big Three when it comes to cold-weather recreation in rural Wisconsin (let’s leave beer drinking out of it) – it appears snowmobiling might be rising to the top fairly quickly as the recreational sport enjoying the most successful season, given our snowfall total thus far.

Of course, it’s all debatable, but why split hairs when you’re having any kind of fun in Northwest Wisconsin? Pro football season is over for most area fanatics and, alas, it was not such a great year overall for deer hunting. Deer hunters throughout Wisconsin, according to DNR statistics released this week, killed 30,000 fewer deer this year – across all seasons, including archery. That’s a 14% decline. Looking at just the gun deer hunt, it was a 23.5% drop. Total license sales also dropped a bit, from 806,442 to 794,712.

There were a number of reasons the deer harvest was down: The season started so late that the rut had ended and deer weren’t moving. There was wet, snowy weather during the last half of the season, too. The wet fall delayed harvests and more than 2 million acres were still covered with standing corn at the end of November, providing deer more cover than usual. As for licenses, there apparently has been a slow decline, with 577,600 holding gun deer licenses in 2018, about 121,000 fewer than in 1990, or a 17.4% drop. DNR officials must be feeling some concern for the future deer hunts. Why the continued drop in license sales? How do you reconcile fewer hunters with an apparently growing herd, more than 2 million whitetails at last count? And what about CWD? At one time the disease was confined, or so we were led to believe, to an area in southern Wisconsin.

Since first detected in 2002 the DNR has found 6,492 cases of CWD around the state after testing 245,065 animals. About 400 cases were found at Wisconsin deer farms and hunting ranches over the past 20 years – but more than a quarter of those were reported just this past year, including a case at a local deer farm.

The plot thickens when some deer escape the farms and ranches and enter into the general deer population. A recent poll suggests that most people in Wisconsin don’t think CWD is increasing in the state. Outdoor writer Pat Durkin noted recently that 49% of hunters polled last October by Marquette University researchers thought CWD had stabilized in Wisconsin. Another 13% thought the disease was declining. Only 30% knew it was increasing.

Durkin had some harsh words for former DNR chiefs who “made denial and ignorance of CWD a core DNR mission,” throughout former Gov. Scott Walker’s eight-year reign. CWD monitoring, Durkin noted, is critical. Perhaps the good news is there was an increase of testing for chronic wasting disease – the DNR collected 17,828 samples statewide in 2019 compared to 17,200 in 2018.

But questions will continue. Will there be a case of transmission of CWD to humans? How easily is CWD spread to humans? How easily is CWD spread among the deer herd? Can CWD be eradicated? As we noted, there is a lot on the plate for the DNR leaders and for hunting enthusiasts everywhere. – Gary King
Sen. Schachtner introduces legislation to expand broadband access

MADISON – State Sen. Patty Schachtner, D-Democrat, has introduced legislation to expand internet access to Wisconsin farms as part of the Better Broadband package. Schachtner has served two terms in the state Assembly. She previously served one term in the state Assembly. She previously served one term in the state Assembly.

The Better Broadband package with Sen. Jeff Smith, D-Westbrook, and Tom Tiffany, Minocqua, will provide a $250 million grant program that will prioritize rural broadband access.

Schachtner said, "I have been fighting to prioritize the needs of rural Wisconsin for years, and rural broadband access is an important and necessary step toward providing our communities with the resources we need to succeed," finished Schachtner.

Note: Schachtner represents Wisconsin’s 10th Senate District, with 17,250 constituents. The district covers parts of Burnett, Dunn, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties.

Capitol report

GOV state senators enter 2020 with more cash on hand than Democrats

R epublican incumbents up for re-election to the Wisconsin state Senate this fall, on average, had almost twice as much money in the bank heading into 2020 as their Democratic colleagues, according to a WisPolitics.com check of finance reports.

The GOP incumbents reported an average of $87,716 cash on hand to end 2019, compared to $46,666 on average for Democrats. That calculation doesn’t include GOP state Sen. Tom Tiffany, who is currently running for the 7th Congressional District and had $132,563 in his state account at year’s end. That’s after returning $51,195 to contributors starting in September as he launched his congressional bid.

It also doesn’t include Democratic Sen. Lena Taylor, who’s running for Milwaukee mayor this spring, and had $2,868 cash on hand. Nor does it include Sen. Dave Hansen, who announced last week he will not seek reelection in November. The Green Bay Democrat had $40,577 in cash on hand to end the year.

Gov. Evers, side, freshman Sen. Pat Stevin, of Stevens Point, had the top war chest among those up for re-election at $257,686, raised $49,161 for the six-month period and spent $11,478 for the first half of the year.

Topline numbers for other candidates to watch in 2020 include:

• Sen. Patty Schachtner, D-Democrat, raised $46,548 for the six-month period, spent $2,759 and had $72,264 cash on hand. She’s a top GOP target this fall.

• State Sen. Ralph Hise, who represents the town of La Crosse, also had $72,264 for the six-month period and $3,345 in the bank. He’s a growing target for Democrats.

• Democratic Sen. Fred Risser, the longest-serving state lawmaker in the nation’s history, reported no fundraising activity in the second half of 2019. The Madison Dem said it was too early to talk about whether he would run for re-election after he reported in July that he had collected no contributions in the first half of the year and finished the period with $3,161 in the bank.

Assembly breakdown

Republican Rep. Jim Ott and Democrat Rep. Nick Milroy, expected to be among the top targets in the Assembly this fall, showed negligible activity on the fundraising front over the six months of 2019.

Ott, R-Mequon, reported raising $150 between July 1 and Dec. 31. He spent $2,638 and finished the period with $2,642 in the bank.

Milroy, D-South Range, wasn’t challenged in 2018. But President Trump narrowly lost his district in 2016, and Republicans have been eyeing his seat.

Ott didn’t report any contributions for the six-month period and had $3,161 in the bank.

First Assembly members were much more active.

Here are summaries from state reps who may have to fend off challenges this fall, in order of district number:

Assembly District 5

Sen. John R泽, W-Broadfield, raised $3,800, spent $1,200 and had $27,375 in the bank.

Rep. Robyn Vining, a top GOP target, raised $41,258 and spent $5,535. The Waupaca Democrat had $51,631 in the bank.

Rep. Todd Novak, a perpetual Democratic target, raised $10,890 and spent $4,365. The Dodgeville Republican had $26,039 cash on hand.

Rep. Treg Pronzinski, R-Mon-dovi, didn’t report any contributions, spent $4,044 and had $8,166 in the bank.

Rep. Steve Doyle, D-Onalaska, raised $49,196, spent $4,270 and had $80,679 cash on hand.

Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, raised $51,485 and had $435,118 in the bank, by far the biggest war chest in the chamber. By comparison, Minority Leader Gordon Hintz, D-Oshkosh, raised $1,880 and had $36,890 in the bank. For the same period two years earlier, Hintz raised $15,555 and had $40,862 cash on hand.

The Capitol Report is written by editorial staff at WisPolitics.com, a nonpartisan, Madison-based news service that specializes in coverage of government and politics, and is distributed for publication by members of the Wisconsin Newspaper Publishers Association.

NORTHERN WISCONSIN – Two special call-in programs featuring the candidates for the state’s three special primary elections for the 7th Congressional District seat have been scheduled for WPR listeners throughout the Northern Wisconsin on two consecutive Thursdays, Jan. 30 and Feb. 6, 10-11 a.m.

On Jan. 30, a WPR’s Wausau-based talk show “Route 51,” will team with Robin Washington, host of Superior-based talk show “Simply Superior,” to moderate the programs. Democratic candidates Lawrence Dale, Eagle River, and Tresia Zunker, Wausau, will appear on the Jan. 30 show, while Republican candidates Jason Church, Hudson, and Tom Tiffany, Minocqua, will debate on Feb. 6. Listeners will be able to ask questions of the candidates as well as 800-780-9742.

Here’s where you can hear the debates:

Western Wisconsin: 88.3/Memom- onie-Eau Claire and 88.7/River Falls. The debate will be recorded on Thursday, Jan. 30, and Friday, Feb. 7, on 89.7/ Eau Claire and 90.7/Memom- onie.

Northern Wisconsin: 91.3/Superior and 90.9/Ashtabula. They will be rebroad- cast at 7 p.m. Jan. 30, and Feb. 7, on 89.9/ Eau Claire and 90.7/Memom- onie.

Wisconsin’s 7th Congressional Dis- trict includes Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Clark, Douglas, Florence, For- est, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor, Vilas and Washburn coun- ties. It also includes portions of Chip- ewa, Jackson,Juneau,Monroe and Wood counties.

The special election was called by Gov. Tony Evers to replace Republican U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy, who resigned for family reasons last fall. The primary election is on Feb. 18, with winners facing off in the general election on May 12.

The stated reason for accepting this assignment, Judge Tolain, was to “avoid a trial.” Staebler caused great suffering to his mother, most likely for more than the six weeks she lay on that floor. Her abuse didn’t start with her time on that floor.

Where is the justice or humanity for this woman who lived for 87 years and then died lying in her own feces and urine? Where is the reasoning when Staebler was al- lowed to plead down? This trial the judge and prosecutor … why would they avoid a trial for this man? For nine months Staebler will be given a warm bed and three hot meals every day, something he denied his own mother.

Ione Johnson

Frederic

Go to wpr.org for details.

“The stated reason for accepting this assignment, Judge Tolain, was to ‘avoid a trial.’ Staebler caused great suffering to his mother, most likely for more than the six weeks she lay on that floor. Her abuse didn’t start with her time on that floor.” — Judge Tolain

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Ione Johnson

Frederic

Go to wpr.org for details.
All shoreline areas are affected

Mary Stirrat | Staff writer
POLK COUNTY — As supervisors, commissioners and residents across Wisconsin are working toward developing a local means of managing potential effects of concentrated agriculture feedlots operating in their area, Polk County zoning, at least two towns are doing the same.

The towns of Clam Falls, Georgetown, Lorain and Sterling have six no zoning ordinances, while the towns of Farmington, Garfield and St. Croix Falls have adopted their own zoning.

The towns of Laketown and Sterling are taking steps to develop their own shoreline land use ordinance and amendment.

Lakeview
The Lakeview Town Board approved a one-year CAFO moratorium in July 2019. The town has delayed licensing until February. The committee, a member of which is Vicki Breault, a lakeshore citizen. Lisa Doerr, Jared Olson, Dave Bretten, Joe Breault, Jeannine Sauer, Polk County Zoning Administrator Jason Kjeseth and former land and water resources director Tim Ritten.

In December the committee presented a draft report, which reviews the Polk County zoning, state and local regulations, and set a July 2020 deadline for a final report. The committee will meet next on Wednesday, Feb. 5, and will hear from Polk County Public Health Director Brian Kaczmarski about research he has conducted as part of the county moratorium process. The meeting will be at the Laketown Community Center and is open to the public.

Sterling
Back in September the town of Sterling enacted a one-year moratorium and established a large-scale livestock study committee. Members include town of Sterling Supervisor Keith Ward, proposed committee members, farmer Ben Lundgren and Allyse Sorensen.

The committee meets at least once a month and is planning to have a list of questions and suggestions to present to the town attorney in April.

Clam Falls, Georgetown, Lorain and St. Croix Falls, Georgetown and Lorain have not held any discussion regarding CAFOs. St. Croix Falls
The town of St. Croix Falls, according to the town board meeting minutes, has sent a letter to Polk County opposing the use of the shoreline ordinance as an additional tool to address feedlots within the town. A letter was also sent requesting that the town of St. Croix Falls be excluded from any county licensing ordinance for CAFOs.

Farmington and Garfield
Neither the town of Farmington nor the town of Garfield have held discussions regarding CAFOs, according to each town clerk.

Candidates for 7th District on campaign trail locally

Becky Strabel | Staff writer
Blind River, Polk and Burnett counties — Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District for the U.S. House of Representatives covers over 10,700 square miles in 24 counties and the person elected will be representing about 710,000 people living in the northern and central part of the state.

To provide information for our readers, we are running a series in this section seeking election that will appear on the Feb. 18 ballot and canvassed the web for information on write-in Michael Opea Sr. to see if any of them will be traveling north of Hwy. 8 between now and the primary.

Despite progress, Wisconsin one of only three states with a negative general fund balance

Last year, the state of Wisconsin’s “hidden deficit” fell by more than $2 billion since 2011, a one-third reduction marking the largest percentage decrease in decades. Wisconsin nevertheless remains one of only three states with a negative general fund balance which is possible by generally accepted budgeting and accounting principles. This method, used by publicly traded companies, allows them to defer these costs until they are committed; the state uses cash accounting, which does not book expenses until they are paid. Under the cash method, the state’s general and rainy-day fund balances will be over $2 billion by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2019. How does Wisconsin do it?

“hidden deficit” to its lowest level since 1990 after adjusting for inflation.

This accounting maneuver has allowed state officials of both parties to take credit for more spending in a given year without affecting the balance shown in the general fund using cash accounting. For example, the general fund’s June 2019 balance is lowered by $491.2 million after adjusting the state’s cash accounting system to reflect delayed payments for state aid to local governments known as shared revenue. This accounting system is used by the state’s debt certification officer for determining delayed payments for state property tax credits lowers the balance by an additional $809.6 million.

So far this year, state tax revenue growth has remained strong, which, if sustained, could help continue positive trends in the general fund condition. Of course, future progress is not guaranteed; in fact, the current 2019-21 budget is projected to reduce the general fund balance substantially, which could, in turn, lower the GAAP balance.

The negative balance matters because it represents some of the state’s compensation for being able to pay for in the following year. If Wisconsin’s economy and tax collections keep growing, the state can use the cash surplus to fund these undesignated excesses, thus allowing the negative balance puts added pressures on the state’s ability to meet its obligations.

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 wiscontext.org.

FISCAL FACTS
Wisconsin Policy Forum

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Chasing away those winter blues

February — the time of year that sometimes tests your love of winter. There’s nothing quite as beautiful as a fresh blanket of snow on the pine trees that line the roads in northern Wisconsin. But that snow comes with responsibilities and hard work. Whether you are a resident or a visitor, the simple scraping of the windshield, there are a few down sides. But I like to focus on the good during the sometimes long wait for the warming of spring to arrive.

In addition to being beautiful, this year’s abundant snow has made it easier for eagle watchers and tourists to get out and enjoy a variety of outdoor activities that our region is known for. Whether you are a resident or just visiting, the eagle can be seen all over the place. From the solitude of snowshoeing to the excitement of snowmobiling, there is never a lack of recreation to be found if you’re willing to bundle up and brave the elements.

During the month of February, there will be two opportunities to saw a variety of activities away by getting out and seeing mushers from throughout the country compete in Bayfield County. On Feb. 1 and 2, you can attend the 25th-annual Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race. Multiple races over the two days begin just north of the city of Bayfield at the Echo Valley Gravel Pit on Hwy. 13, with the course following the Sand River Trail System of Bayfield County. In years past, I’ve volunteered as a dog handler, guiding excited teams to the starting gate. This year I’ll be presenting the winners with their awards on Sunday afternoon. And later in the month, on Saturday, Feb. 15, the Northern Pines Sled Dog Race will begin in the Northern Pines Golf Course in Iron River. This is a newer race, but equally fun and exciting.

In addition to being a great opportunity to get out and experience the outdoors, attending a sled dog race is a great way to connect with the heritage of both indigenous peoples and early settlers. Many historians believe that the Inuit people of what we now know as Northern Canada were some of the first to use sled dogs and that the practice spread throughout the northern parts of the continent. People sometimes forget how far back this tradition goes and how much fun can be had while experiencing the unique features of winter.

For details, email triciaforwisconsin.com or visit his campaign website at triciaforwisconsin.com. On Facebook, search TriciaWI.

• Democrat Tricia Zunker, Wausau.
• Republican Tom Tiffany, Hazelhurst. Tiffany will be in the area next week for a meet and greet at Tippy Canoe, 1030 N. Cascade St., Osceola.

For details, email team@tiffanyforwisconsin.com or visit his campaign website at tiffanyforwisconsin.com. On Facebook, search TomTI.

• Democrat Tricia Zunker, Wausau. Zunker will be attending the Burnett County Democrats dinner in Siren on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 4 p.m. at the Siren Senior Center. Search triciaforwisconsin on Facebook. Zunker’s campaign website is triciaforwisconsin.com.
Water quality issues topic of Burnett CAFO committee meeting

Paul La Liberte of Wisconsin's Green Fire.
- Photo by Mary Stirrat

La Liberte pointed out that anything greater than 10 mg/L exceeds the state and federal limits for safe drinking water. Nitrate levels between 2 and 10 mg/L are considered safe but show evidence of land-use impacts, and less than 2 mg/L is considered the natural level in Wisconsin groundwater.

While levels between 2 and 10 mg/L meet the standards for drinking water, La Liberte said, studies show that there still can be and are some health impacts.

La Liberte discussed some of the health effects associated with high levels of nitrates. Nitrates in the drinking water are linked to methemoglobinemia, or blue baby syndrome, when nitrates convert to nitrites. Nitrites bind to hemoglobin in the blood and prevent oxygen circulation.

Research also suggests links between drinking-water nitrates and other health issues such as cancer, birth defects such as spina bifida and anencephaly, and thyroid disease.

In Burnett County, La Liberte said, 2% of reporting wells have nitrate levels of more than 10 mg/L. About 11% have levels between 2.1 and 10 mg/L, and the remaining 87% are 2 mg/L or lower.

La Liberte said, "The economic impact of lake health is heavy. La Liberte said, given that tourism in Wisconsin generates more than $20 billion per year. It is estimated that the poor quality of Lake Menomin in Dane County costs about $2.6 million in health care costs.

Lakeshore property values are also affected by the clarity of the water, said La Liberte, noting that increasing clarity by 3 feet adds an average of $30,000 to the value of a lake home.

Speaking about nitrates, La Liberte pointed out that anything greater than 10 mg/L exceeds the state and federal limits for safe drinking water. Nitrate levels between 2 and 10 mg/L are considered safe but show evidence of land-use impacts, and less than 2 mg/L is considered the natural level in Wisconsin groundwater.

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La Liberte noted that CAFOs are all "concentrately managed" due to lack of funding. Fees charged to CAFOs, he said, cover only about 3% of running the program.

"The lack of oversight is pretty alarming," Krause said.

The committee meets again Feb. 12 and will hear from local zoning and land information staff. Future presentations will include someone representing the DNR and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

When asked by county Administrator and committee Chair Nathan Ehalt if there are any other speakers the committee would like to have, members suggested a presentation from UW-Extension on current farm practices and how they have evolved through the years.

Another suggestion was a presenta- tion by Midwest Environmental Advocates to learn how other counties are seeking to implement CAFO regulations and whether there have been any legal challenges.

An estimated 120 people attended at least one of three CAFO stakeholder meetings held Wednesday, Jan. 22, and facilitated by county staff members. The three groups consisted of agricultural producers, local of- ficials/moratorium committee members and concerned citizens. At each meeting, staff reviewed proposed ordinance amendments and took public comments and suggestions. Information collected was presented to the Polk County Environmental Services Committee the following day for possible consideration as part of the ordinance.

Mary Stirrat | Staff writer
SIREN — Burnett County’s large scale livestock study ad hoc committee has been systematically seeking input from state, local, and private parties to determine what, if any, scientifically defensible restrictions can and should be established regarding large-scale livestock operations.

Earlier in January the committee heard from Soil and Water Conservation District Ed Taylor, who presented an overview of soil composition, properties and processes. He talked about the role of Burnett County and the pros and cons of liquid manure application.

The focus of the committee’s Wednesday, Jan. 22, meeting was the presentation by Paul La Liberte, a member of the board of directors of Wisconsin’s Green Fire. The mission of Wisconsin’s Green Fire, according to its website, is to support “the conservation legacy of Wisconsin by promoting science-based management of Wisconsin’s natural resources.”

La Liberte indicated his presentation was not specific to CAFOs but explored cropping practices in relation to water quality, particularly phosphorus and nitrogen. He told committee members that they would need to determine for themselves what is useful for their purposes.

The relationships between agriculture and air and water quality is complicated, La Liberte said, and achieving environmentally sound practices on farms can be costly. Those costs cannot be passed on to consumers in the way they are in some businesses.

However, he said, not using environmentally sound practices carries a “de- ffered cost” in the form of contaminated water.

Minimum practices required by the state often do not allow negative impacts to the local environment, and Wisconsin’s Green Fire seeks to make available to farmers and policymakers the science that can help them make good choices.

La Liberte spoke about the effects of phosphorus in the water and the algae blooms it can cause to humans and animals. He said that between 10% and 15% of Burnett County farms have a nutrient management plan. Farms that have been

Moratorium from page 3

being lax in its efforts to protect the citizenry and of rushing the process to put inadequate measures in place.

Larger farmers in the county pointed out that many things, including municipal sewer systems and individual septic systems, contribute to pollution and yet are regulated primarily at the state level. One woman noted that even after a six-month extension of the moratorium it is unlikely that any proposal will be presented.

Next steps

At its Jan. 22 meeting the environmental services committee directed staff to look into State Statute 92.15, regarding local regulations of livestock operations. The committee met again Feb. 12.

Whether or not to hold a county board meeting in February is typically left to the board chairman’s discretion, and at the board’s Jan. 22 meeting it was agreed to schedule a meeting for Thursday, Feb. 20.

Along with discussing a six-month extension of the moratorium, the board will also hear presentations on the recycling program and the Stower Seven Lakes Tracy study and ongoing work with the fair banks and stream-keepers at the fairgrounds.

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**Climate change**

Peterson from the Bayfield chapter of the Climate Change Lobby presented a resolution to the St. Croix Falls Board of Education asking the county to consider passing a resolution in support of the nonpartisan lobbying group. Peterson explained that by raising taxes at the fuel source, except for gasoline, and using the savings, enforceable energy investments would go up. Peterson said that it would be decided by the county how those funds would be used. He said another way that the district would be able to help the county would be that people would have more money to use locally. "This will make real, but Social Security tax was too high in the 1930s. It is essential meaning if their child had a medical issue or was comatose, that they would not be legally able to revive the child. The issue may seem extremely macabre and rare, but Burundt said that he did not know what that family or that child might be going through."
Homeless man convicted of 10th OWI

Sentenced to 7 years' incarceration and must pay restitution of more than $29,000

Becky Strabel | Staff writer

BURNETT COUNTY — A homeless man has been convicted of his 10th operating while intoxicated offense and sentenced to seven years of incarceration with five years of extended supervision.

Russell Towle, 61, formerly of Hinckley, Minnesota, was sentenced by Burnett County Judge Melissa Mogen, who spoke about the severity of the offense before issuing her sentence. Towle was sentenced to seven years of incarceration with five years of extended supervision, consecutively to sentences he earned in 2008 and 2012 for alcohol-related offenses.

The evidentiary blood draw determined that Towle had a blood alcohol concentration of 0.121 g/100mL two hours after Towle was reported to dispatch.

Restitution: Determined following the sentencing hearing. The district attorney argued that no further liens or encumbrances be placed on Towle's per capita and that $500 per month would be claimed from that money.

The judge also agreed to the district attorney's request that Towle must be placed on the per capita until restitution, in this case, is paid in full.

Man faces charges of making terrorist threats

Anthony Henderson

On Friday evening, Jan. 17, Henderson was at home and back at college, called for an ambulance after experiencing problems breathing and said he was incoherent. The ambulance driver took him to Henderson on the couch with numerous empty vodka bottles lying around him. Also, there were multiple guns with intact ammunition, a sawed-off shotgun, a handgun, a large fishing reel, and a belt that was made of braided snake skin.

Henderson stated that he was going to Minnesota to get a member of his family, and that he would shoot anyone who pulled in to his driveway. A deputy was able to make contact with Henderson and was able to talk with him.

He told the deputy that he had a gun and was going to Minnesota to get a member of his family, and that he would shoot anyone who pulled in to his driveway. A deputy was able to make contact with Henderson and was able to talk with him.

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We fully expected someone to come forward this past Monday, to admit it. But that never happened.

Pretty much everyone involved admits that the crash was likely an unavoidable accident, but has been treated as such legally. But two men died in a horrific and tragic incident that still haunts dozens of people involved, including the sheriff. We get lucky a lot of the time, in solving some cases; this time we’re not,” Waak said.

The PCSO is hoping to put fresh public pressure on the case, and is teaming up with the St. Croix Tribal Police Department and regional media of all flavors to spread a wider net and force the word out beyond this area, to solve the case of who was behind the wheel, and answer the larger question: how does this forward, to solve the tragedy once and for all.

“Family members, every night they wonder,” Waak said. “But in reality, it’s bothered me every day since.”

“Cobie” was the daughter of the accident, Waak was on patrol as a PCSO deputy, and was part of the initial response, as they tried to control traffic, mark off the scene, and perimeter and find the truck that struck the two men, but minutes count, and in spite of the short window that night that the driver remains at large.

They are looking for several people specifically, one of whom was the pas- senger in the truck that struck and killed Ben Juarez and Rick Cobenais, better known as “Cobie.” As a patrol deputy on duty that night, now but as sheriff, Waak looks at it with a different perspective.

“Any involved in that scene and this case has been deeply affected by this case. It touched off a lot of emotions,” Waak said as he opened up some of the background of the case for the press, while also discussing the current background and a full press conference planned for this Friday, Jan. 31, where they will share what they have, and make an appeal. A heartfelt, personal appeal.

“The main thing is to find the people who drove away,” Waak said.

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**Man sentenced to state prison for sexual assault**

Danielle Danford | Staff writer

**SHELL LAKE — Travis Nichols, 27, of Siren, formerly of Spooner, was sentenced to 4 years in state prison after pleading guilty to third-degree sexual assault, a class G felony, in Washburn County court.**

Nichols pleaded guilty to third-degree sexual assault, disorderly conduct and bail jumping on Oct. 9, 2019. Nichols was sentenced for the crimes on Tuesday, Jan. 21, which court records show occurred on March 20, 2018. The crimes occurred in the town of Beaver Brook, Wash- burn County, and were filed in Washburn County court after the victim’s family members reported the crime to law enforcement. At the time of the incident, Nichols lived in Spooner.

On the third-degree sexual assaults, Travis Nichols was sentenced to 4 years in state prison and 5 years extended supervision. He is to have no contact with the victim or the victim’s family, and not to come within 1,000 feet of the victim’s property. Nichols is ordered to register as a sex offender for 15 years and complete all sex of fender counseling through the Department of Corrections.

On the charge of disorderly conduct, domestic abuse, Nichols was sentenced to 90 days in jail to run concurrent with the third-degree sexual assault charge.

Nichols was ordered to serve nine months in jail, to run concurrent with his other sentences. Two other charges were dismissed but read into the court record: first-degree child sex assault and bail jumping.

**It was just over six years ago that the two men died in a hit-and-run accident on County Road E, in the Round Lake community, east of Luck.”** - Photo by Greg Marsten

**For family members, every night they wonder. But in reality, it’s bothered me every day since.”** — Sheriff Brent Waak

**Unsolved**/from page 1

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Horses, timber, and a new pottery retreat on the agenda

Greg Marsten | Staff writer
BALSAM LAKE — The Polk County Environmental Services Committee met on Wednesday, Jan. 22, where among the topics of discussion were issues with the pending master plan of the Stower Seven Lakes Trail, in the southern part of the county. The discussion was a rehash of some of the issues regarding the moratorium on concentrated animal feeding operations, which is addressed elsewhere. That moratorium is likely be extended, due to timeline and public hearing requirements.

The committee was supposed to hear a presentation by the contracted firm that has been working on the Stower Seven Lakes Trail master plan for some time, but due to an illness, it was delayed for another few weeks. There were a number of people in the crowd who spoke to the issue, and encouraged the committee to consider equating the use of the former rail line, although the committee did not discuss the details of the plan or the draft of the plan, which was made available to the committee just before the meeting. It now appears that the county currently has 30 miles of equine trails in the Gov. Knowles Reserve in the northwest part of the county, and the committee discussed considering adding portions of the McKenzie Creek area for further equestrian use, but it was just that, discussion, and there was no action or details revealed, until the master plan presentation was completed and presented to the committee.

The ES committee also reviewed several issues with water and sewer issues on the area, and discussed the consequences of the last few weeks. The timeline for the storm damage and subsequent cleanup, the inventory of timber remains high, and of the seven tracts of land, they own, the pace of work has been slow, due to the age of the trees. Only a few of the tracts received bids, meaning they will go back to bidding in a few months, but can expect slightly less in returns. If they get no minimum bids at that time, loggers will be contracted, at a slower rate.

The committee also continued to review the long-range forestry plans, as a body, by the National Congress of American Indians and the National Congress of American Indians and the National Congress of American Indians and the National Congress of American Indians and the National Congress of American Indians and the National Congress of American Indians and the National Congress of American Indians.

Dresser man facing multiple felonies

Greg Marsten | Staff writer

BALSAM LAKE — A 45-year-old Dresser man is facing multiple felony and misdemeanor charges for sexual assault of an underage child, allegations that occurred during the summer of 2019.

According to a heavily redacted probable cause report filed by the Polk County Sheriff’s Office, the incident occurred on Saturday, Jan. 19, and appeared to involve an underage female who was allegedly sexually assaulted by Kaj Juergensen, 45, Dresser.

Juergensen is facing at least two felony child sexual assault allegations, as well as a charge of child pornography.

Police drove Juergensen to a local hospital on Jan. 16 after he was found in a parking lot. He was accused of sexually assaulting her when she was almost passed out and unable to give consent.

He later avoided a trial with a plea deal that reduced the charges to third- and fourth-degree sexual assault. He pleaded “no contest” to a reduced charge of misdemeanor fourth-degree sexual assault.

The Lusardi facility would have four large gas kilns, extruders, necessary storage and throwing equipment and potters wheels, with most of the artists visiting from out of state and outside of the area.

Lusardi’s neighbors had no objections, and while some limits were suggested to the county, the area is zoned CUP, which allows for the CUP application, including some refining of roles and responsibilities.
Vacant seat to have an official candidate not on the ballot

Greg Marsten  | Staff writer

ST. CROIX FALLS – The St. Croix Falls Common Council met on Monday, Jan. 27, and while they had little business on their agenda, we later learned that a lingering empty ballot spot for a new-vacant seat has an official write-in candidate after all.

The issue was only briefly addressed as the council reviewed several other committee appointments forwarded by Mayor Arnie Carlson.

The aldermanic vacancy was not on the agenda to officially consider, but even more importantly, the vacancy created by the recent resignation by former Alderperson Joy Zasadny was not done properly, as the resignation must be done on paper, according to city clerk Bonita Leggitt. Leggitt said Zasadny only officially submitted her resignation in writing that day, too late for the agenda.

However, in a subsequent conversation with Leggitt, it was revealed that there is one person interested in filling the seat, Joe Snyder. He has officially declared his intention to seek the District 1 seat, which had no official candidates file by the deadline.

The other soon-to-be-vacant aldermanic District 2 seat does have a candidate on the ballot, Craig Lien, who is the lone person seeking the council seat currently held by Alderperson Kirk Anderson, who chose not to run for alderman. Anderson has chosen to focus on running for mayor only, which has a total of three candidates, including himself and the current mayor, Carlson. Jimmy Allen has also filed for the mayoral spot, meaning the three candidates will be whittled down to two candidates in a primary election prior to the April general election.

It is believed that the council will consider filling the Zasadny vacancy at their next council meeting, now that she has officially resigned in writing.

In other council business

• Several public works issues and purchase requests were approved after a meeting of the public works committee prior to the full council meeting.

SCF Council now has a write-in candidate

Among the items considered included how to deal with the growing brush pile at the city compost site. The site now has controlled access for residents only and requires a key card to enter, alleviating brush dumping from people who live outside the city limits. Public works director Matt Larson was approved to seek bids for chipping the large pile of brush, which is taking up too much space at the site.

“We need to get the pile ground up to reset the facility,” Larson said, noting that there are still several contractors in the area doing some cleanup work from last summer’s storms and tornadoes. “We might get a few extra bids if we do it now.”

He thinks the chipping effort would cost about $8,000, but possibly less with competitive bidding, and it said it is something that should only need to be contracted out every five years or so. “Now that we’ve got control of it (the secure site)… that gate has been very successful,” Larson said.

The council also approved the purchase of a new hydraulic hammer attachment, which is a sort of jackhammer apparatus they can use for things like sidewalk reconstruction and breaking the frost line for frozen water or sewer line work. The low bid for the item was about $8,000 less than they thought it might be, coming in at around $15,000 from Allied Construction, which they approved.

• After a brief presentation by race coordinator Jeff Allen, the council approved a request for a 10-mile trail foot-race for Aug. 28-29 across the city, which will start and finish at the high school campus.

“I’m hoping to see about 220 people, and I can confidently say that about 80% of them will be from over 30 miles or further away,” Allen said, noting he has organized several other similar races in several communities, going back over a decade. “People love the trails (in St. Croix Falls), they are single track, muddy and rocky, just what they like.”

The race will be on a Saturday, but will have some trail and course marking done the Friday prior, allowing an early morning start on Saturday, Aug. 29.

• There was some discussion on how to fill the vacant city administrator position, and while the city has had several people express interest, only one resume has been submitted. They debated using a search firm to find someone, although the submissions may allow them to hire someone on an interim basis for now, for a lesser initial cost.

“It doesn’t seem to make sense to spend $8,000 (on a search team) when we seek a ‘fill-in,’” Carlson said. It was noted that it was best to discuss names, particulars and the like in closed session, which they agreed to tackle at their next full council meeting.

• Several appointments were approved, including having Shannon Donahue and Matt Fisk fill the final “at-large” seats for the new Special Civic Oversight Committee. The council also approved Woody McBride and Kelly Reeves to fill the city’s Tourism Commission.

Frédéric – Frédéric School District voters supported a $7 million facilities referendum in April 2019 and renovations at the Frédéric Elementary School are continuing.

Phase one of renovations began in November 2019. The elementary building is scheduled to go through four phases of renovations. During the first phase an addition was added to the front of the school building and the maintenance building is being replaced.

The addition to the front of the Frédéric Elementary School will create a secure entrance. Once renovations are complete, the elementary office will be located in the new addition. Visitors will be required to check in at the office prior to being allowed access to the building. The steel structure of the addition has been erected, with foam insulation and brick veneer installed. The roof and concrete flooring for the addition are scheduled to be completed this week.

Over the next month, crews will work to complete electrical and plumbing of the office addition and start work on the interior walls. Despite a few weather-related delays, the addition is scheduled to be completed in April of 2020.

The former maintenance shed has been demolished. Framing for a new maintenance building has been completed. The install of metal sheeting is nearing completion. Over the next month, insulation will be installed and preparations will be made for pouring the concrete floor. The maintenance building is projected to be completed in March 2020.

When asked about the projects Carl Ekdof the building and grounds director for the Frédéric School District, stated, “It has been challenging, but it is exciting to see it all start to come together.”

Phase two of renovations at the elementary school will include updates to eight learning spaces and transformation of the current office to a Student Services Center. Phase two is scheduled to begin in mid-April, with all five phases scheduled to be completed by fall of 2020.

Photos provided
Residents and visitors recognized for their input

SIREN - The Siren Area Economic Development Advisory Committee has just completed phase two, the engagement phase, of their planning project with their consultant Civic 4 LLC of Madison. SEDAC was formed in January 2018 with membership from the Siren Village Board, Siren C-Farm of Commerce, Siren School, Siren Tourism Commission, Burnett County Development Association, WITC-New Richmond, key business segments and civic organizations - with the county administrator and representatives of the St. Croix Tribe as ad hoc members. The town of Siren and town of Menomonie joined the group to represent the broader Siren area. The committee meets monthly and early initiatives included customer service and social media training classes, regional guest speakers, etc.

In fall 2018 the decision was made to pursue a formal economic development plan for the Siren area and to work through a consultant to lead the project. A request for proposal was written and published in January 2019 with five responses being received by the March deadline.

Following committee review, Civic 4 LLC of Madison was selected as their partner for these reasons:
- Their fresh, new and innovative project approach.
- Planning and consulting are their core competencies and sole focus.
- Familiarity with Northwest Wisconsin and his positive client recommendations.
- Experience working with an even smaller tourism-based community.
- Total cost the least expensive of all proposals.

To complete the planning project, a Community Development Block Grant for Planning from the Wisconsin Department of Administration was pursued to help with the funding, with Civic 4 a grant application was submitted in May and awarded in June, with the final agreement receipt in July.

The planning project kickoff with the committee and Civic 4 was held July 17. The project includes three phases: current plan analysis, public engagement, and project goals/action plans. Upon completion, the Siren Area Comprehensive Plan will also be prepared and presented to the village board for adoption.

Project phase 1: Current plan analysis
- All Siren area planning activities underway in the last 20 years were reviewed by Civic 4. All information was compiled and key takeaways were noted.
- The Siren area is very proactive in planning for the future.
- The community understands the importance of attracting/retaining young people.
- Every completed community plan has led to improvements and positive changes.
- The village’s commitment to continuous plan and implement solutions is an important reason why they are where they are today.
- Planning and visioning continue to help the Siren area move toward a better future.
- Sophie Parr, Civic 4 owner/principal planner, states: “When leadership is invested in the community it can lead to stronger investment from residents, business owners and other stakeholders. There is a lot of pride in and commitment to the future of the Siren area which creates a strong foundation for growth.

Project phase 2: Public engagement
- Public input is critical to a process such as this, i.e., the plan is only as good as the community input received. From September to November 2019 Civic 4 held two “pop-up” events, a public forum with 25 attendees, and hosted an online survey with 150 responses. Also, throughout September and October, they met with individuals and focus groups/organizations to receive direct insights into various challenges and opportunities facing the Siren area – plus held a Main Street Vision Workshop with several property owners on Main Street.

The results of the public engagement phase permitted to validate the challenges that Siren has faced in the past and continues to discuss today: Need for more affordable housing opportunities for more sustainable-wage jobs, and desire for different kinds of education programming to support higher education challenges.
- A less important understanding that tourism is an important part of the Siren area’s future and growth. Lastly, the community is very proud of the place they choose to live and work – a philosophy that was reinforced throughout this process.

The major themes garnered from individual and group interviews on needs were:
- Affordable housing, workforce, e.g., inflated wages, living wage definition, better high school and employer connection, etc.
- Housing affordability, e.g., current housing, needed improvements, need for all housing types, labor and material cost, etc.
- Community-centered growth, e.g., co-op style store or “pop-up” shop venues, young professionals networking, a community center for every age and income level, etc.
- Community coordination, e.g., healthy competition and cohesion, build success and stronger county economic base, village/triual/county partnership, etc.
- Investment in trades, e.g., high demand fields, building a high school trades program can encourage young adult students to stay, the ability to serve underemployed adults.
- Local investment, e.g., local business marketing to Siren community, invest in Siren, culture, more accepting of new residents, etc.

The online survey yielded numerous data points, including:
- Infrastructure - residential location, age, priorities
- Respondents were asked to identify three priorities. Over 25% of all respondents live within the village of Siren, followed by 23% who live within the town of Siren. A majority of respondents (33%) actually live elsewhere in Burnett County but most likely frequent the businesses and services within the village of Siren.
- Two of the three top priorities are the same: income levels (quality of life) and recreation opportunities. People want to live in and visit Siren.
- Third comes education opportunities and “community continuing education programming.” However, for those with income levels at $55,000 and lower, their third priority is “developing affordable housing,” while for those with income levels at $55,000 and above selected “increasing recreation and tourism” as their third priority.

Reasons for living/working in Siren area
- Family and friends, rural atmosphere, quality of life and recreation opportunities topped the list for reasons to live and work in the Siren area. By age, “friends and family” is the main reason for those under 25; 25- to 44-year-old respondents chose “quality of life” and “recreation opportunities”; “rural atmosphere” topped the list for those 45-64; and 65+ respondents are in the Siren area for “quality of life.”

Challenges and assets
- Providing adequate job opportunities, attracting and retaining young people, and providing a suitable range of housing opportunities are seen as the main challenges.

Key assets identified include recreational opportunities, small-town charm, and a sense of community.

Housing
- The main housing challenge is not enough year-round affordable rental housing options. For those, by recommendation of respondents, followed by 19% for not enough senior housing, and 14% for not enough single-family housing, while 12% said Siren was not having a housing problem. Regarding housing options, 36% chose single-family housing, with 14% for condominiums and 13% opted for a housing “blend” of single-family and town houses.

Educational opportunities
- At 51%, the highest-ranked educational priority is a two-year associate degree/apprenticeship, as “short-term courses/training” and “community continuing education programming” received 35% and 33%, respectively.

Attracting and retaining young people
- At 43%, “become a hub for trade education and employment” is seen as an important reason why they are where they are today.

All public engagement input was distilled into the following preliminary goal concepts, in priority order:
- Create a hub for trade education/employment and cultivate/support entrepreneurial businesses.
- Most respondents (69%) live within the village of Siren, followed by 23% who live within the town of Siren.
- Be recognized as a four-season community, i.e., seasons.
- Transform Main Street into a community destination.
- The area’s identity that stands out among the county’s communities.

Project phase 3: Project goals/action plans
- Civic 4 is presently focused on developing action plans associated with each preliminary goal. Action plans will be developed for five-year, 10-year, 15-year and 20-year time frames.
- The tentative completion is scheduled for February delivery to the committee.
- Upon review and initial approval, presentations to key stakeholders and the public will be held in March.
- Civic 4 is focused on developing plans associated with each preliminary goal. Action plans will be developed for five-year, 10-year, 15-year and 20-year time frames. The tentative completion is scheduled for February delivery to the committee. Upon review and initial approval, presentations to key stakeholders and the public will be held in March.

The planning project report and presentation identified five important goals for the Siren area: 1)Visit, 2)Work, 3)Live, 4)Play, and 5)Invest.

The final planning report and presentation identified five goals:

- Create a hub for trade education/employment and cultivate/support entrepreneurial businesses.
- Most respondents (69%) live within the village of Siren, followed by 23% who live within the town of Siren.
- Be recognized as a four-season community, i.e., seasons.
- Transform Main Street into a community destination.
- The area’s identity that stands out among the county’s communities.

The complete “Current Plan Analysis” and “Engagement Report” can be found on the village’s website, visitsiren.com, under the Village tab and Economic Development section of the Village Government drop-down menu. Links to these documents are listed where full details can be reviewed, even all open-ended questions answers are provided in appendix.

SEDAC extends gratitude to everyone who provided their input as they have progressed with this project. The committee and Civic 4 are happy to be associated with the numbers and level of responsiveness by the area community.

In addition to the 2019 project, SEDAC has recently begun researching and investigating the possibility of converting the Siren C-Farm to a more formal economic development entity such as an economic development corporation. With the input and ideas captured at the Siren Village Hall. Also, if you have plans for your current or future business or to locate your project, please contact Chris Moeller, Siren Economic Development director, at 715-537-9575. Visit visitsiren.com or stop in during this part of the process which has been started in the development of preliminary goals.

Siren provides economic development update with preliminary goals

A public forum was held Oct. 17 to gain further insights from the community on what the Siren area needs. - Photos provided.
An interview with Geraldine “Geri” Andrews

FREDERIC - Geraldine Andrews is a former resident of Frederic Nursing and Rehab who was there for physical and occupational therapy. Her cheerful demeanor and love and compassion have left an indelible mark on the hearts of both staff and residents. The activities director at FNR said, “I have had the privilege of witnessing Geraldine in a role that is outside of that of ‘resident.’ She has demonstrated love, compassion, friendship and laughter to both residents and staff.”

Andrews responded, “FNR gave me excellent care and delivered it with compassion and love! Because of this and all of my needs being met I was able to focus on recovery. I enjoyed being involved with various activities and loved to hear the residents laugh as they participated. A lot of what I miss by being back at home is the residents and staff with whom I formed many good relationships. There is nothing that gives me more pleasure than to help in any small way that I can for people who are in need.”

She added, “Some friendships at the nursing home happen so quickly, from playing cribbage and Rummikub, word games or just visiting.”

One resident with whom she formed a close friendship was Jake. His only family was his nephew, who came a long distance to visit him. When Jake was dying, Andrews could be seen sitting by his bedside and holding his hand, offering him words of comfort. A staff member, the activities director, saw Jake lean over and kiss her cheek and thank her. She said seeing the exchange brought tears to her eyes. Andrews said, “I think that is so important.” Andrews likes to volunteer at the nursing home, visiting with people, playing table games, word games and doing things to make the residents laugh. She said, “It is important to make real contact and connect with people on a personal level; this is what the staff at FNR do so well.”

Andrews has once again “graduated” from physical therapy and is back home. The Frederic Nursing and Rehab staff is happy for her recovery, but miss her smiling face and acts of kindness. They know, however, that it won’t be long and she will be back with her radiant smile to volunteer and visit with both staff and residents.

They are grateful to Geraldine for the gift of love and laughter that she bestowed upon so many.

Aging and Disability Resource Center offers February trips

POLK/BURNETT COUNTIES – The ADRC van and minibus are helping people get out of the house this winter, run some errands or just enjoy an afternoon out. The ADRC Social Transportation Program provides wheelchair accessible transportation to social events, shopping and errands for individuals 60 years of age and older and adults of all ages with a disability.

New to the program? Here are some basic details:
• Most trips are only $4 per person.
• Payment is required at the time of service, cash only.
• Trips are prescheduled by the ADRC of Northwest Wisconsin and published in its monthly newsletter, The Voicer, and online at adrcnwwi.org/transportation.htm.
• Custom group trips (not on the schedule) are accepted on a case-by-case basis. ADRC asks that you call right away with your request, invite friends and be flexible, if you can be, with dates.
• The van can accommodate three to five individuals and the bus can accommodate eight to 10 individuals.

Upcoming trips for Polk County residents
• Milltown dining site meal: Monday, Feb. 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• Walmart shopping and errands in New Richmond for residents of Amery, Balsam Lake, Clear Lake and Clayton: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
• Walmart shopping and errands in St. Croix Falls for residents of Frederic, Luck, Milltown, Centuria, Dresser, Osceola and St Croix Falls: Friday, Feb. 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
• Amery dining site meal: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• Night trains in St. Paul, Minnesota: Saturday, Feb. 15, 6 to 8 p.m.
• Forest Lake shopping trip: Monday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
• Milltown dining site meal: Friday, Feb. 21, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• Amery dining site meal: Friday, Feb. 26, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Upcoming trips for Burnett County residents
• Walmart shopping and errands in Pine City, Minnesota: Thursday, Feb. 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
• Grantsburg dining site meal: Thursday, Feb. 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• Night trains in St. Paul, Minnesota: Saturday, Feb. 8, 6 to 8 p.m.
• Webster dining site meal: Friday, Feb. 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• Rice Lake shopping trip: Thursday, Feb. 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
• Grantsburg dining site meal: Thursday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Northwest Wisconsin serves Burnett and Polk counties and the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin. For more information call toll free, 877-485-2372, or visit adrcnwwi.org. To reserve a seat for one of the above trips, get more information, or coordinate your own custom group trip, contact the ADRC of Northwest Wisconsin at 877-485-2372.
LUCK'S TECH ED CLASSES CONSTRUCT SHED FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students in Kirsten Konder’s tech ed classes at Luck High School constructed a shed that will be used by the school district’s child care program, The Nest at Butternut Crossing, for storing play equipment. Students building the shed were from Konder’s construction and DIY/restoration classes. Shown (L to R): Connor Hochstetler, Hunter Sellent, Dominic Caroon, Nate Skow, Tim Thompson and Josh Hildreth. Not shown but also involved in the construction project were Grayden Hershfield, Gavyn Ellefson, Brandon Linder, Joe Lueck, Collin Anderson and Wyatt Jensen. – Photos courtesy of Luck School District

LUCK – An application has been submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency on behalf of Luck School District which, if successful, will allow construction of a 10,000-square-foot storm shelter.

The domed structure would house a weight room, two locker rooms with showers and rest rooms, and two rooms plus rest rooms for the child care center. Measuring 198 feet by 68 feet, it would connect with the existing building at the southwest corner of the high school gym, utilizing the area between the building and the road and extending south. It would be directly west of the new gym, if district residents approve the proposed building project in the April referendum vote.

Total cost for the shelter, which would be built to withstand an F-5 tornado and winds of 250 mph, is $3.4 million. Depending on how FEMA looks at the poverty rates in the area, the grant would cover 75% to 90% of the cost, with the school district responsible for the rest.

“I’ve talked with our financial planners,” district Administrator Cory Hinkel told the school board Monday night, Jan. 27, “and there are different ways we can fund that.”

In addition, he said, the school has already received $3,000 in earmarked funds to go toward the project, which increases the likelihood of receiving the grant. According to Hinkel, Sterling Bank has earmarked $1,000 and the Luck Alumni group has earmarked $2,000.

“Now we just wait until June or July to hear (if we are awarded the grant),” Hinkel told the board.

Other business
• Hinkel reported that the Gandy Dancer Trail Marathon donated $3,500 to the Eugene Wynn Memorial Dock. A dock company out of Pine City, Minnesota, is being considered as a source for the dock, and a group plans to tour the facility and hopefully order it for spring installation. “They came in with a very good quote,” Hinkel said.
• The board accepted resignations from junior high wrestling coach Larry Johnson, middle school volleyball coach Ashley Ekhholm, and educational assistant Heather Johnson. Hirings approved were Cole Britton as junior high wrestling coach, Bridget Golsor and Josh Williams as educational assistants and Kendra DeLong as yearbook advisor. Cora and TJ Wilkiewicz were approved as volunteer ice-fishing coaches.
• As required annually, the board approved open enrollment seats for the 2020-21 school year. The district is open for enrollment with the exception of students requiring occupational or physical therapy or who are hearing or visually impaired. These services are contracted outside the district and therefore there are limited spots. Students will be put on a wait list.
• The board reviewed the district’s strategic plan, which is done every June and January. The areas of focus are student achievement and opportunities, and learning environment, with nine objectives listed. Progress and changes made since June 2019 were noted, including expansion of the technical education department, addition of an ACT Honor Board, implementation of the Positivity Project in all grades, and remodeling of the art department and the library. Partnerships with the Luck Police Department, St. Croix Valley Hardwoods and Jensen Furniture were also noted.
• High school Principal Brad Werner reported that most juniors are taking an ACT prep course that will provide a half credit as well as allowing students to be better prepared to take the test. He also said that students are responding very positively to the new school resource officer, who makes a point of chatting with them in the cafeteria or lunchroom. “(The officer) is really engaged with the kids,” he said. He also thanked “Grandma Donna” Pedersen, who spends five days a week volunteering with students in the classroom.
• A community informational meeting on the April 7 referendum vote will be held at the school Thursday, March 5, at 6 p.m.

Mary Stirrat | Staff writer

Bennett Jensen is this month’s student representative to the Luck School Board. – Photo by Mary Stirrat
The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board will ask state residents this spring if they’d like to extend the state’s storied nine-day gun deer hunt to 19 days. — Photo by Keith Srakocic/AP Photo

Proposal seen as way to bolster declining gun deer hunt license sales

Rich Kremer and The Associated Press

STATEWIDE – The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board will ask state residents this spring if they’d like to extend the state’s storied nine-day gun deer hunt to 19 days. The proposal and others discussed Wednesday, Jan. 22, are aimed at addressing declining license sales.

Natural Resources Board members voted to include six questions in an annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress spring hearing questionnaire, which gauges public opinion on a wide range of hunting and environmental issues.

Along with an extended gun deer season, board members voted to add five questions asking about limiting the use of crossbows for deer hunting to October and November after the gun deer season wraps up, eliminating a four-day antlerless-only hunt in December, banning hunting for two or five days leading up to the start of the November gun season, and whether archery or crossbow buck tags should be invalidated during the gun deer season. Current law allows hunters to use guns or “lesser weapons” like bows in an antlerless season.

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Above The Fold Media | For The Leader

ST. CROIX FALLS - A loss was avoided by both St. Croix Falls and Tanner Gaffey.

In the 22-team St. Croix Falls Invitational Saturday, Jan. 25, the Saints eluded a letdown while their heavy-weight continued his undefeated record in their first-place finish. St. Croix Falls had two first-place finishers to win the tournament with 197 points. Princeton, 170, was second and Hudson, 151.5, was third while Luck-Frederic-Grantsburg-Siren was 13th with 40 points.

"Our home tournament is a city hard tournament," St. Croix Falls coach Joe Raygor said. "There were over 40 ranked wrestlers as well as several ranked teams in multiple divisions. "Home tournaments can be tricky sometimes, with all the distractions that go into making sure it runs smoothly."

Bennett Bergmann, 152 pounds, and Gaffey, 285, made clear paths to top finishes for the Saints by winning all of their matches. Bergmann won two of his matches by pin and defeated River Falls’ Tyler Haydon, 3-1, in the first-place match. Gaffey followed a first-round bye with two wins by pin before a major decision over Cumberland’s Jake Simon in his first-place match.


Taedon Nichols, 126, and Landyn Johnson, 138, led LFGS with fourth-place finishes. Nichols won both of his matches by pin and another by technical fall before taking a pair of losses. Johnson followed a first-round bye with a win by decision, then was defeated in his next two matches.

St. Croix Falls goes to Ladysmith for a multiteam conference event this Friday, Jan. 31, and LFGS goes to Clear Lake for a four-division event.

Shell Lake Challenge

SHELL LAKE - Spooner-Webster had five top-five finishers in Saturday’s tournament and Unity had two in the 17-team event.

The Rails finished eighth in the team standings with 233 points while Unity was 14th with 134; Spring Valley-Ely-Elmwood won the event with 346 points. The 182-pound division featured a first-place match between Unity’s Jack Nelson and Spooner-Webster’s Carter Melton. Nelson won the match in four minutes, 28 seconds to earn the top spot with his fifth pin of the tournament. Melton also won his previous four matches by pin before the first-place match.

Alex Daniels, 120, and Brody Jeppson, 138, had third-place finishes for Spooner-Webster. Kolton Frederickson, 113, and Brandon Meister, 152, had fourth-place finishes.

Mike Nelson, 285, added a third-place finish for the Eagles, winning four of his five matches.

LFGS 57, Turtle Lake-Clayton 6

LUCK - Luck-Frederic-Grantsburg-Siren claimed all but one match in a lopsided win on Thursday, Jan. 23. Cory Popham, 113 pounds; Taedon Nichols, 120; Landyn Johnson, 138; Gavin Fredericks, 145; Logan Czech, 152; Isaac Quimby, 160; Aiden Burkmann, 170; Brody Johnson, 182; and Brad Lucas, 220; earned wins for LFGS.

“This puts us at 4-0 in the conference, going into the final meet,” LFGS coach Chris Bartlett said. “We win all three (Clear Lake, Flambeau, Cornell-Gilman) matches that night and we are the dual conference champs.

Superior 45, Spooner-Webster 31

SUPERIOR - Four wrestlers won by pin for Spooner-Webster on Thursday, Jan. 23, but it wasn’t enough for a team win.

Jimmy Melton, 126 pounds, Brody Jeppson, 138, Carter Melton, 182, and Ian Perrine, 285, won their matches by pin to account for 24 of Spooner-Webster’s points. Brandon Meister, 152, added a win by major decision and Alex Daniels, 120, won an 8-3 decision.

More Saints wrestlers win tough home tournament

Above The Fold Media | For The Leader

ST. CROIX FALLS - The St. Croix Falls wrestling team took a slight step back according to the rankings, a majority of its roster is moving upward if not staying atop their division.

In the rankings released by Wisconsin Wrestling, Spooner-Webster on Tuesday, the Saints moved down one spot to fifth in Division 3, but more of their wrestlers now appear in the top 20 of the individual rankings and two remained No. 1.

Kole Marko maintained his top ranking at 145 and Tanner Gaffey did the same at 285. Luke Thaemert also held second at 106; Mason Will remained No. 12 at 120 and Zack Clark was still an honorable mention at 182.

But among those who improved their position for the Saints was Bennett Bergmann, who elevated one spot to sixth at 152. St. Croix Falls coach Joe Raygor said Bergmann’s recent shift in divisions was beneficial, which reflects in the rankings.

“(Bergmann) is moving much better at 152,” Raygor said. “I think the best thing for him was wrestling most of the season at 160 against high-quality opponents.”

Grady Guggisburg - previously not ranked at 160 - moved into one of the five honorable-mention spots in his division. Kyle Zehm also moved from being an honorable mention at 220 to being ranked 11th.

McKinley Erickson did drop one spot, to 11th at 195, but the Saints still had ranked wrestlers in nine of the 14 weight divisions.

LFGS also had multiple wrestlers appearing in the individual rankings for Division 2.

Nolan Johnson remained seventh at 106 and Taedon Nichols dropped one spot to eighth at 120. But two members of the team improved their ranking. Landyn Johnson went from unranked at 138 to being an honorable mention while Dominic Carson jumped two spots to 10th at 195.

For Spooner-Webster, Ian Perrine remained an honorable mention at 285 for Division 2.
Pirate boys back in the hunt for WL lead

Above The Fold Media 1 For The Leader

GRANTSBURG – A four-game winning streak has put the Grantsburg boys basketball team back in the hunt for the West Lakeland lead with an important showdown coming on Tuesday.

The Pirates collected three conference wins during their streak to tie Unity for second at 5-2 as they both chase Luck, which was 6-0 through six conference games and hosts Grantsburg on Tuesday.

“We’ve got a lot of meaningful games left in the conference,” Grantsburg coach Nick Hallberg said. “As the season goes on, some people’s three faces are kind of settling into their roles.”

The most recent of Grantsburg’s four consecutive wins came on Saturday, Jan. 25, in a matchup with Clear Lake at the Target Center. Carson Knutson had a game-high 22 points for the Pirates in their 62-53 win. Knutson scored 10 points in the first half, including two of the game’s four three-pointers in the half.

But, Clear Lake still took a 34-31 lead into halftime. The Pirates erased that deficit with 11 points from Knutson and several free throws. Grantsburg scored 16 points at the line in the second half and finished with 21 in the game.

Austin Wedin added 12 points for the Pirates, Jared Van Watermeulen had 11 and Sterling McKinley had nine. They improved to 9-0 overall and have an important conference game at Luck this Friday, Jan. 31, be

Unity 60, Siren 32

BALSAM LAKE – The Eagles limited Siren to just 12 points in the first half of Friday’s win Jan. 24.

Jaxon Flaherty had a team-high 15 points and Cullen Feist added 14, guiding Unity to a 26-12 lead entering the half. Flaherty scored 10 points in the first half while Zach Collins sank two. Nathan Kosloski had six of Siren’s 12 first-half points.

The Eagles didn’t need long-range shooting in the second half, they instead went to the free-throw line for 13 points in securing the win. Collins finished with 12 points for Unity while Heath Foeller and Zack Peterson added seven each.

Kosloski led the Dragons with 13 points and Riley Churchill added nine.

The Eagles improved to 10-3 overall and have a chance to move to 6-0 in-conference play at home on Monday, Feb. 3.

Gregg Bergman finished with 19 points for the Pirates and VanWatermeulen had 15. Trevor Lamirande and Payton Christen had four of the Saints eight 3-pointers in the game.

Luck 62, Frederic 45

FREDERIC – While Adam Dreier accounted for more than half of the Vikings points on Friday, Jan. 24, the Cardinals limited the rest of Frederic’s roster to 20 points in a road win.

Dreier scored a game-high 25 points and had a team-high seven rebounds. He also scored the first four points of the game to help the Vikings to an early lead they held until near the halfway point of the first half.

But with a 13-13 tie, the Cardinals went on a 9-0 run and eventually took a 26-19 lead into the break.

Five consecutive points from Gage Johansen in the second half gave Luck a 44-27 lead, though the Vikings soon went on a 6-0 run to pull within eight points at 46-38 with less than eight minutes remaining in regulation. But a 9-2 run by the Cardinals essentially secured the win.

Johansen led the Cardinals with 20 points and 11 rebounds, Levi Jensen had 17 points and 11 rebounds while Riley Rannels had nine points. Logan Liliehaug added nine points and five assists for Frederic and Bradley Nick had seven points and six rebounds.

Grantsburg 66, Webster 62

WEBSTER – A forced turnover in the final seconds of the game preserved a road win for the Pirates on Jan. 21.

The Tigers got 14 points from both Owen Washburn and Nathan Stadler, with 12 of Stadler’s points coming on 3-pointers. They led Webster to a 30-26 lead entering halftime, but Grantsburg grabbed a late lead with help from Jared VanWatermeulen and their game-high 27 points.

The Pirates held a 63-62 lead though the Tigers had possession and a chance for a go-ahead basket. Grantsburg foiled the effort by forcing a turnover and adding a couple free throws to secure the win.

Austin Wedin had 18 points for Grantsburg and Carson Knutson added eight. Tallon Parent had 11 points for the Tigers while Carson Sterenberg and Harlem Olson had eight points each.

Siren 62, Glenwood City 42

SIREN – Nathan Kosloski became the 10th player in Siren’s history to reach 1,000 points at the varsity level, scoring 13 points in a win on Monday, Jan. 27.

Riley Churchill led the Dragons with 11 first-half points while their defense limited Glenwood City to 13 points before halftime. Kosloski scored 10 second-half points, including the basket that put his four-year total at four figures.

Churchill led all scorers with 16 points and Brady Kosloski added nine. Siren hosts Grantsburg this Friday, Jan. 31, and plays at Webster on Tuesday.

SCF 69, Ladysmith 44

ST. CROIX FALLS – Trevor Lamirande had four of the Saints eight 3-pointers in their home win on Monday.

LaMirande finished with a game-high 17 points while Kullan Parks had 15 and Declan Greenquist added 14. St. Croix Falls also got scoring from the free-throw line, going 13-15 in the game as a team.

Hunter Stelton added nine points for the Saints, who improved to 8-4 overall on the season and remained at 4-3 in the conference. They play at Cumberland this Thursday and host Webster on Friday before going to Oconomowoc on Monday.

Luck 76, Lake Holcombe 56

HOLOMCE – Levi Jensen had a game-high 31 points for the Cardinals in their home win on Monday, Jan. 27.

He was joined in double-digit point totals by Gage Johansen with 13, and both Wyatt Jensen and Ben Smith added 10 points each. Luck maintained the Lake- land West lead with a 6-0 in-conference record and improved to 9-2 overall.

The Cardinals host Unity this Friday and play at Grantsburg on Tuesday.

Webster 76, Lac Courte Oreilles 27

WEBSTER – The Tigers returned to the 0.500 mark overall on the season with a lopsided win at Lake Courte Oreilles, Friday, Jan. 24.

The win improved their record to 6-6 on the season and they remained 2-4 in the conference. Webster goes to St. Croix Falls this Friday, Jan. 31, and to Frederic on Monday, Feb. 3.

Unity 57, SCF 49

ST. CROIX FALLS – The Eagles defense held Declan Greenquist to five points in the second half after he scored 13 in the first, to help erase the Saints slim lead at halftime and get a road win on Jan. 21.

Jaxon Flaherty led Unity with 16 points, including 12 in the second half, while Dan Sorensen had 14 in the game. Jake Bloom added 13 points and Cullen Feist had 10.

Greenquist scored 12 of his game-high 18 points from the 3-point line; Kullan Parks added 10 points and Trevor Lamirande had nine.

Siren 66, Washburn 53

SIREN – Nathan Kosloski had a game-high 22 points for the Dragons in their win on Thursday.

The win gave the Dragons consecutive victories for the first time this season.

Grantsburg 63, SCF 61

GRANTSBURG – Despite a game-high 29 points from the Saints’ Declan Greenquist, the Pirates held on-for a win at home on Friday.

Greenquist sank three 3-pointers in the first half and had two more in his 16-point second half that helped shrink a Grantsburg lead. But, the Pirates got 11 second-half points from Gus Bergman and nine more from Jared VanWatermeulen to help counter Greenquist’s scoring.

Bergman finished with 19 points for the Pirates and VanWatermeulen had 15. Trevor Lamirande and Payton Christenson had eight points each for St. Croix Falls.

Siren 41, Frederic 35

SIREN – Nathan Kosloski scored a game-high 16 points for the Dragons in their first conference win on Tuesday, Jan. 25.

Kosloski scored nine points in the first half while Brady Kosloski added five; giving Siren a 16-12 lead entering halftime. Though three 3-pointers from Logan Liliehaug boosted the Vikings second-half scoring, the Dragons sank enough free throws to maintain the late lead.

Kosloski finished with 10 points for Siren, Liliehaug led Frederic with 14 points and Adam Dreier had nine.

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Dayo Oye races down the court on a fast break and two points for the Saints during their game against the Pirates. – Photo by Sue Bunting

Jared Van Watermeulen scored 11 points for Grantsburg against Clear Lake. - Photo by Stu Bunting

Adam Dreier
Above The Fold Media | For The Leader

LUCK – The path to a Lakeland West title has so far included a few speed bumps, at most.

The Saints entered the week with an unbeaten 13-0 record that includes an 8-0 mark in conference play, which was improved with three lopsided victories last week. They earned wins over Unity, Grantsburg, and Luck, outscoring their opponents 214-91.

St. Croix Falls had 10 players score in their 67-38 win over Unity on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Emily McCurdy and Azalea Edwards shared game-high status with 14 points each, with McCurdy sinking a pair of first-half 3-pointers and joining Edwards with eight points each in the second half.

Lizzy Tilton’s 3-point shooting helped keep Unity within six points entering halftime, making three 3-pointers before the break. But the Saints scoring depth made the difference, with all 10 players getting second-half points.

Olivia Miron added 10 points for the Saints, Raegan Sorensen led Unity with 10 points and Tilton finished with nine. Miron led the way for St. Croix Falls in a 73-37 win over Grantsburg on Friday. She scored 12 of her points in the first half, where the Saints essentially won the game by building a 53-16 lead. McCurdy had 16 points and Lucia Neuman added 11 for the Saints. Brooke Quimby led the Pirates with 17 points and Olivia Ohnstad added 10 for the Pirates.

On Saturday, the Saints had a dominating defensive performance, holding Luck to just eight points in each half of a 74-16 win.

Miron again led St. Croix Falls, this time with 15 points. Brianna McCurdy had 12 points while Edwards and Emily McCurdy had 11 points each.

St. Croix Falls hosts Ellsworth this Thursday and Webster on Friday, before going to Amery on Tuesday.

Siren 61, Frederic 42

SIREN – The Dragons held the Vikings to 15 first-half points and kept adding to their lead for a home win on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Lindsay Lijenberg had 16 points and Jaidyn Jewell added 15 for Siren, which had to answer scoring from Frederic’s Kennady Alseth, who finished with a game-high 21 points.

Morgan Shetter added 11 points for the Dragons and Hannah Lemieux had 10. Karlie Alexander had nine points for the Vikings.

Grantsburg 59, Webster 45

WEBSTER – Brooke Quimby had 20 points, 19 rebounds and 10 steals for the Pirates in their road win on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Olivia Ohnstad added 18 points and eight rebounds for Grantsburg while the Tigers, led by 15 points from Hannah McDowell, relied heavily on 3-pointers in the game. She sank five of the team’s eight 3-pointers in the game to finish with 15 points, but Webster finished just 8 for 27 from long range.

Grace McCool added 10 points for the Tigers. Madison Schaefer and McKenzie Hicks had nine points each for the Pirates.

South Shore 61, Frederic 55

PORT WING – Hannah Schmidt had a game-high 24 points for the Vikings on Saturday, Jan. 25, but South Shore still got the win.

The Cardinals had three players in double-digit points and shot 50 percent from the floor in the game. Tessa Domagala and Kennady Alseth had 12 points each for Frederic, which plays at Northwood this Friday and hosts Webster on Monday. The Vikings dropped to 5-8 overall on the season.

Shell Lake 58, Luck 54

LUCK – Addie Schroeder scored a game-high 33 points for Shell Lake in a road win over the Cardinals on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

Schroeder sank three 3-pointers and 10 more shots from the floor, though Grace Thoreson helped keep the Tigers within striking range by scoring 28 points in the game. Coral Melin added 14 points for the Cardinals and Sommer Asper had seven points with 10 rebounds.

Unity 93, Siren 28

BALSAM LAKE – The Eagles offense totaled 13 3-pointers in their lopsided home win on Friday, Jan. 24.

Raegan Sorensen had a game-high 26 points, accounting for four of Unity’s 3-pointers in the game. She also had eight steals and six rebounds. Madison Strange added 15 points and seven assists for the Eagles. Sydney Bader had 14 points and Sierra Swanson had 13 points with seven rebounds.

Frederic 46, Luck 42

FREDERIC – Despite the efforts of Grace Thoreson, the Vikings got a win at home on Friday, Jan. 24.

Thoreson led Luck with 15 points and 20 rebounds, bringing her team to a 27-20 lead entering the break. But the Cardinals had just three players with more than one basket from the floor while Hannah Schmidt led six Vikings with multiple makes, finishing with 11 points. Karlie Alexander had nine points for Frederic and Haley Ennis added eight.

Sommer Asper had 13 points and six rebounds for Luck.

Webster 39, Lac Courte Oregilles 38

WEBSTER – The Tigers earned a close win at home over the Eagles, 39-38, finishing the game with three 3-pointers from 3-point range and at the free-throw line.

Hannah McDowell had 11 points for the Tigers with nine coming off 3-pointers. But the team was just 3 for 20 from long distance. McDowell and Jenna Gomulak both finished with 11 points and seven rebounds. Brooke Hetfeld added seven points and eight rebounds.

Three Pirate defenders close in on a Saints player during Lakeland West Conference action this past week. The Saints posted victories over Unity, Grantsburg and Luck. - Photo by Sue Bunting

Jenna Gomulak scored 11 points for the Webster Tigers in their one-point victory over Lac Courte Oregilles. - Photo by Eugene Sikorski

去除多余的空白行: 

SCF girls enter week with 13-0 record
Family members of Nathan Kosloski were extremely proud of their senior.

Sporting 1-0-0-0 on their chests are some of Nathan Kosloski’s classmates, Gavyn Anton, Trevor Stanford, Mo Richter and Cordell Fischer.

Jon Ruud has coached Nathan Kosloski throughout the years. “Scoring 1,000 points is a big accomplishment! It has always amazed me how effortlessly Nathan has been able to score!” Ruud said. Only nine other Dragon boys have met the challenge.

Cake was enjoyed by family, friends and fans following the game.

PHOTOS BY BECKY STRABEL

Siren’s Nathan Kosloski scores 1,000th point

SIREN - Nathan Kosloski scored the 1,000th point of his high school basketball career Monday evening, Jan. 27, on his home court.

Only nine other Siren players have achieved that status in the history of the school.

Coach Jon Ruud made the following comments during a special ceremony:

“Tonight I am excited to recognize a special milestone for an athlete. Nathan Kosloski, or better known as ‘Kos,’ joins the ranks of those who have scored 1,000 points during their high school career as a Siren Dragon. Kos has always loved the game of basketball. From shooting in the yard and playing 3 on 3 with his cousins to organized basketball in middle school and the great northwest league to being a four-year varsity player in high school, he has been an offensive force slashing through the paint, pulling up for the 3, or getting the crowd on their feet with a flashy dunk.

Thank you, Kos, for your contributions to your team throughout your basketball career. I would also like to thank your parents and family, Coach Ruud, Coach Oustigoff, Coach Johnson and Coach Thiex for pushing you to achieve this goal. At this time I am honored not only as your coach but also as your uncle to present this game ball signifying your accomplishment. We will have a cake following the game.”

Siren’s Nathan Kosloski scores 1,000th point

PHOTOS BY BECKY STRABEL

Cake was enjoyed by family, friends and fans following the game.

PHOTOS BY BECKY STRABEL

Family members of Nathan Kosloski were extremely proud of their senior.

PHOTOS BY BECKY STRABEL

Coach Rick Kosloski was not only honored as Nathan Kosloski’s coach but also as his uncle, happy to present the game ball signifying his 1,000 points. Students at Siren High School were excited and proud to witness Nathan Kosloski’s accomplishment of scoring 1,000 points.
St. Croix Falls led the way with five first-place finishes in Sunday’s Somerset Youth Tournament, with nearly 50 teams and schools. St. Croix Falls had two undefeated wrestlers in less than a minute, to get a first-place finish. This team's passing has improved drastically. They came from behind to win both the first and the third game, revealing character and persistence. If not for 6 minutes in penalties against St. Cloud (the second game), they stayed right with them. This weekend the team will be playing in Barron for the opportunity to represent our area (Siren, Webster, Frederic, Luck and Grantsburg) at the state tournament held in March in Altoona. Players shown (L to R) include Lewis Anderson, Jenna Lester, Landyn Randt, Braiden Eaton, Isaiah Rust, Kelsey Douglas, Owen Douglas and Aiden Johnson. - Photo courtesy of Desiree Anderson

Local wrestlers dominate Somerset Youth Tournament

Above The Fold Media | For The Leader
SIREN – The number of opportunities has dwindled to a handful. Entering the final two weeks of the regular season, the WSFLG boys hockey team has few remaining games to get a win and stop their season-long skid. Baldwin-Woodville and Medford are the most recent teams to keep the Blizzard out of the win column.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, the Blizzard hosted Baldwin-Woodville and were outshot 48-18 in a 9-1 loss. The Black-hawks scored three first-period goals at even strength and killed two penalties, called just seconds apart, that gave the Blizzard a 2-skater advantage for nearly two minutes.

Baldwin-Woodville then scored three goals in the first six minutes of the second period and eventually took an 8-0 lead into the third. The Blackhawks added a third-period goal to take a 9-0 lead, though WSFLG spoiled the shutout bid with a goal from Will Gerber, assisted by Logan Hopkins, in the final two minutes.

Cashton Kapp had 39 saves for the Blizzard, but a shutout loss couldn’t be avoided on Saturday at Medford. The Raiders scored three goals in both the first and second periods, finishing with a 4-4-3 shutout advantage and a 7-0 win. This was the fourth time WSFLG has been held scoreless this season and the third time in their last seven games.

Kapp had 37 saves for the Blizzard, who dropped to 0-14 on the season.

The Blizzard will host Moose Lake this Thursday, Jan. 30, before hosting Ashland on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

Amery, 1-2, 68-69, had runner-up finishes in three games. The peewees are playing for a spot in the state tournament Saturday, Feb. 1. Highlights of the game included first goals from Lewis Anderson and Jenna Lester, while Tanner Freer, 5-6, 84-87, earned a win by decision, by pin and another by technical fall to win his division, while Tanner Freer, 5-6, 131-136, won two matches by pin, each in less than a minute, to get a first-place finish.

Isaac Studtmann, pre-K-K, 5-3-4, and Liam Zellmer, 1-2, 68-69, had runner-up finishes for Unity.

Tate Johnson, 3-4, 71-72, had two matches by pin and another by an 11-5 decision in the 37- to 38-pound division for first and second grades for St. Croix Falls, Miles Kelly, third and fourth grade, 79-85 pounds, had two wins by decision and another by pin; Massyn Bauerfeld, 3-4, 112-116, won two matches by decision; Brett Sladky, 5-6, 98-107, won two matches by pin and another by major decision; while Phoenix Heise, 7-8, 105-115, won a major decision, a technical fall and by pin. Ethan Behning, 3-4, 69-70; Lucas Boser, 3-4, 96-103; Isaac Tate, 5-6, 72-74; and Garrett Dagedest, 5-6, 176-212 had second-place finishes for St. Croix Falls. Grant Dagedest, pre-K-K, 40-43; Kyler Callicoat, 1-2, 46-48; Carson Warner, 1-2, 50-53; Braiden Eaton, 3-4, 64-65; and Payton Kelly, 7-8, 125-135, had third-place finishes.

Unity had two undefeated wrestlers earn first-place finishes. Adrien Olson, 5-6, 84-87, earned a win by decision, by pin and another by technical fall to win his division, while Tanner Freer, 5-6, 131-136, won two matches by pin, each in less than a minute, to get a first-place finish.

Amery, which outshot Somerset 26-18 in the game, got the game-winning goal at even strength in the final two minutes of the first period. The Spartans had two power plays in the second period and were denied on both. Another power play in the third also was successfully killed by Amery.

The Spartans dropped to 8-9 overall and will host Regis-Altoona-McDonell this Thursday, Jan. 30, then River Falls on Friday, Jan 31.

The Blizzard Squirt team traveled to Marshfield to compete in the MYHA Squirt Tournament on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 25-26. The team started the tournament on Saturday afternoon with a loss (3-1) against Amery. On Sunday, the Blizzard beat Amery, 1-0, and lost to Waupaca, 4-2. The Blizzard won their first game, earning 7 of the 11 total tournament points available for each game played (2 points for winning and 1 point for each period won and 3 points for winning the game). Later Saturday afternoon, they faced off against Everson and earned all of the tournament’s points for that game, ending the day with 18 points. On Sunday morning, they guaranteed their first-place finish by earning all 11 points against Mansfield.

Team members shown are (L to R, back row): Coaches Adam Imme, James Anderson and Nick Johnson. Middle row: Aiden Johnson, Owen Douglas, Bennett Illmanian, Kelsey Bellisle, Taylor Anderson and Gavin Hill. Front row: Grant Johnson, Mason Mattson, Leo Carlson, Grace McDonald, Levi Randt, Matt Smith and Talon Imme. - Photo courtesy of Desiree Anderson

Above The Fold Media | For The Leader
SOMERSET – Kaleb Bents, St. Croix Falls, Miles Kelly, 3-4, 96-103; Isaac Tate, 5-6, 72-74; and Garrett Dagedest, 5-6, 176-212 had second-place finishes for St. Croix Falls. Grant Dagedest, pre-K-K, 40-43; Kyler Callicoat, 1-2, 46-48; Carson Warner, 1-2, 50-53; Braiden Eaton, 3-4, 64-65; and Payton Kelly, 7-8, 125-135, had third-place finishes.

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Tate Johnson, 3-4, 71-72, earned Bur- nett County’s first-place finish, winning one match by pin and another by decision. Brett Sterneke, 7-8, 131-135, won two matches by pin and another by decision to give Luck a first-place finish.
F A T H E R  O F  T H E  F O R W A R D  P A S S

Edward “Eddie” Cochems. You see, Eddie helped to create the modern-day football game. His story — and profiles of many other UW-Madison alums whose images still grace the world — is featured in “Thank You, 72,” a salute to outstanding Badgers from every one of Wisconsin’s seven counties. See all of their stories, and more, atforward72.org.

Born in Sturgeon Bay in 1877, Cochems competed in baseball, football and track for UW-Madison and graduated in 1899. During his four seasons on the gridiron, the football Badgers compiled a 35-4-1 record. A classmate described him as “one of the most spectacular men of my time… wonderfully built, handsome and affable” — and one not prone to injury on the field.

Cochems’ football career at the University of Wisconsin was a great start, but it was his time as a football coach at St. Louis University that assured his place in the sport’s history books.

As the Super Bowl approaches, we remember the UW grad known as the “Father of the Forward Pass.”

MADISON — As you’re watching the Super Bowl this year, take a moment to celebrate Door County native and University of Wisconsin — Madison alumnus Edward “Eddie” Cochems. You see, Eddie helped to create the modern-day football game.

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Northwest Passage Pioneers earn their first win

WEBSTER - Northwest Passage continues to break down walls and stereotypes surrounding mental health issues by offering inclusive programs and opportunities at their residential treatment facilities. One of the most unique opportunities afforded to its residents is their Prairieview program in Frederic to join a basketball team.

The “Pioneers,” as they are called, wrapped up their third season, and they are just that – pioneers. The team members have stepped out of their comfort zones, most of them trying basketball, or any organized sport for that matter, for the first time. The team, coordinated and coached by Northwest Passage teacher Taylor Mathias, provides the unique opportunity to bring the girls into the community, allows them to play against other girls their age, and normalizes life for them. The team plays approximately eight games per season against local public and private schools.

This season was no different, but last week the Pioneers earned their first win in program history. Coach Mathias described the game as a “historically significant” game, “As I watched the final seconds of the game tick down, I knew we had just solidified our first win. I felt like time stood still. I looked around a gymnasium that was full of teachers, therapists, case managers, clinicians and all sorts of direct care staff that had come out to support their girls. I looked down the bench and saw all of my players and coaching staff trying to hold back their exuberance for just a few more seconds. The clock hit triple zeros; we shook hands with the opposing team and then the celebrations began. It felt like we had won a national championship. Fans and family ran onto the court and hugged our girls. That was their proudest faces of those who knew just how far these girls have come.”

Another successful season is in the books for the Pioneers of Northwest Passage. Reflecting on the season, Mathias said, “It’s surreal. Did we win? With this team, it goes beyond the win/loss column. When I see these girls laughing, high-fiving and busting some serious dance moves (yes, sometimes they dance during the game) I realize this is winning! After one of our games this season, I overheard a player tell her teammate, ‘Wow, tonight that was a win in my book any day.’

For more information about Northwest Passage, call 715-327-4402 or visit nwpdfl.org.

Coaches Taylor Mathias (left) and Dustin Anderson (right) and the Northwest Passage Pioneers basketball team is jubilant after their first win. - Photo provided

E A D E R  S P O R T S

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Above The Fold Media | For The Leader
RICE LAKE – Even with an incomplete score, the Grantsburg co-op gymnastics team managed a top-10 finish.

In Saturday’s Rice Lake Invitational, Grantsburg finished with 100.975 points to place ninth while River Falls, 133.45, topped the standings, followed by Eau Claire, 129.65, and Stevens Point, 127.

Grantsburg’s best team event was the vault, where they scored 31 points. Allison Peterson tied for 12th with an 8.4. Amy Harmon, 7.0, was 28th; Benson, 6.0, was 41st; Blume, 5.925, was 42nd; and Kramer, 5.4, was 46th. Chippewa Falls’ Chloe Wingert won the event with a 9.075.

Harmon led Grantsburg in the uneven bars with a 6.725 to place 23rd. Peterson, 6.575, was 26th and Kramer, 4.4, was 44th. Tiede won the event with an 8.725. Peterson, 30.3, did earn a top-10 finish in all-around scoring, placing 16th. Harmon, 27.35, was 23rd and Kramer, 22.15, was 26th.

Grantsburg hosts Menomonie at Grantsburg Community Center Thursday, Feb. 13.

Top-10 finish for gymnasts at Rice Lake Invite

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Above The Fold Media | For The Leader
RICE LAKE – Even with an incomplete score, the Grantsburg co-op gymnastics team managed a top-10 finish.

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Above The Fold Media | For The Leader

**HAYWARD – Back-to-back wins for Hurricanes**

The Hurricanes, including Grantsburg’s Emma Quimby, won a road game at North Shore and a home game against Onalaska, improving to 8-8-1 overall on the season. It’s the first time since the opening week of the season that Hayward hasn’t been below the 0.500 mark.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, the Hurricanes scored three second-period goals in a 6-3 win over North Shore. Hadley Owen scored a power-play goal, assisted by Emily Caiowski and Jerzy Petit, to give Hayward a 1-0 lead, though North Shore responded with its own power-play goal, making it a 1-1 tie entering the first intermission.

Hayward then took control with a pair of second-period goals. Kennedy Sprenger scored off a Soile Doyle assist and Taylor Eytcheson scored on assists from Alex Pieterek and Gajewski.

North Shore managed to again tie the score with two goals in the first eight minutes of the third period, but the Hurricanes scored three unanswered in the final seven minutes. Sprenger, Pieterek and Lily Eytcheson scored the goals.

Emily Gajewski and Jerzy Petit, to give Hayward three unanswered goals and a 7-3 lead. Riley Sprenger then scored a power-play goal on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

**SCV 6, Western Wisconsin 1**

**RIVER FALLS – The Western Wisconsin Stars failed to capitalize on any of their five power plays in a loss to the Fusion on Thursday, Jan. 23.**

St. Croix Valley scored three first-period goals, including one on the power-play goal, to hold a 3-0 lead into the third period. The Fusion went up 4-0 with a goal at even strength less than 20 seconds into the third.

Bailey Williams scored the Stars lone goal just over two minutes into the third, unassisted. The Fusion added a pair of insurance goals, including one during a Western Wisconsin power play. Caitlyn Erickson had 27 saves for Western Wisconsin.

**The Stars dropped to 6-9-1 with the loss.**

**BRF 3, Hayward 2**

**BLACK RIVER FALLS – Before the Hurricanes’ consecutive wins last week, they were defeated by a late power-play goal on Tuesday, Jan. 21.**

Kennedy Sprenger gave them a 1-0 lead with an assist from Taylor Eytcheson, but back-to-back goals from Lexie Hagen gave Black River Falls a 2-1 lead. Riley Sprenger then scored a power-play goal, assisted by Soile Doyle, with less than seven minutes remaining.

Black River Falls then got a power-play goal with less than five minutes remaining and capitalized. The Hurricanes got a power play in the final minute but couldn’t force overtime.

Emma Quimby had 17 saves for Hayward.

**Central Wisconsin 3, Western Wisconsin 1**

**SOMERSET – The Stars were limited to just one goal for the third consecutive game on Friday, Jan. 24.**

Central Wisconsin took a 1-0 lead with less than five minutes remaining in the first period and St. Croix Falls’ Ellie Brice tied the game with a Western Wisconsin goal in even strength in the period’s final minute.

But the two remaining scores were made by Central Wisconsin’s Kassidy Oliva and all 16 Stars shots were rejected in the final two periods. Lauren Sobczak made 36 saves for the Stars, who dropped to 6-10-1.

Western Wisconsin plays at Superior this Friday, Jan. 31, and hosts Chippewa Falls–Menomonie on Thursday, Feb. 6.

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**WEBSTER NJHS DONATES TO BURNETT COUNTY FOSTER CLOSET**

The National Junior Honor Society members of Webster will present a donation to the Burnett County Foster Closet.

These students chose to raise money and purchase these items while on their service day to Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids, Minn. They had a choice to use the funds to go out to eat or pack a lunch and donate to a good cause. Unanimously, they chose to use the funds to help members of their community. The school couldn’t be more proud to advise these students. - Photos provided

**NEW CHORUS OFFICERS INSTALLED**

Dan Smith is a 34-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and has been a member of the Indianhead Barbershop Chorus for five years. Dan sings in the Solid Rock quartet and is the music vice president of the chorus. Alan Salmela, chorus membership and marketing vice president, presented an award to Smith at Ladies Night on Saturday, Jan. 25, at Village Pizzeria in Dresser. The chorus sang “Can You Feel The Love Tonight,” “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” “Honey/Little ‘Lize,” and “Heart of My Heart.” The Bright Knights Quartet with Alan Salmela, Ken Mettler, Karl Wicklund and Larry Fisk sang “Has Anybody Seen My Gal?” The Village Pizzeria had a wonderful meal and the ladies were honored with a long-stemmed rose.

Steve Zorn, chapter advocate for the Indianhead Barbershop Chorus, was present at the annual Ladies Night festivities on Saturday, Jan. 25, at Village Pizzeria in Dresser to install the chorus officers for 2020. Pictured: Ken Mettler, president; Larry Fisk, secretary/treasurer; Dan Smith, music vice president; Alan Salmela, membership and marketing vice president; Peter Kwong, Tom Fedge and Bryan Shobe, members at large; director Kari Wicklund; and assistant director Dan Valentine. All had a wonderful meal and a great time singing! - Photos provided
Catch big fun at the Grantsburg Legion Wood Lake ice-fishing contest

GRANTSBURG — The Grantsburg American Legion will be hosting their 25th annual ice-fishing contest at the Thoreson American Legion Park at Big Wood Lake from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 8.

Catch a chance to take home $100, $75 and $50 for the first, second- and third-place winners of the dogfish and win $50. And hey, kids, be one of the first 40 youngsters 15 and under to bring a fish to the pavilion and get $5.

Folks can reel in the grand prize of a $1,000 bond or one of the bigger prizes throughout the day, with a $10 contest ticket. Legion members will be selling tickets in the Legion pavilion and at the public landings.

Fill up on hot eats and cold refreshments that will be ready and waiting for folks in the warming tent. Bring your ticket to the Legion post in Grantsburg for the contest’s costume, coverage specials and a home-cooked meal.

Thoreson American Legion Park is located at 11771 North Shore Drive on Big Wood Lake, 7 miles southeast of Grantsburg on CTH Y off Hwy. 70.

Remember, go to Big Wood Lake Saturday, Feb. 8, for big fishing fun for all ages. It’s a great event to enjoy with your family and friends. The Legion will be serving a home-cooked meal. Legion members will be selling tickets in the Legion pavilion and at the public landings.

The public is invited to come out and enjoy the fun.

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DNR Board practicing witchcraft on state’s deer program

For roughly 57 years after its creation in 1927, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources took its orders from a seven-member governing board that boasted some of Wisconsin’s most impressive conservation minds.

Sigh.

No one watching the current DNR board will confuse its leaders with their predecessors, such as Herb Behnke, John Lawton and Pete Helland.

Chaos fairies now reign over the DNR, having replaced rational and scientific thought with illogical and absurd monkey-wrenching.

Or may be these folks are goofy witch doctors who like poking, pricking and pricking at Wisconsin’s deer-management programs while asking, “What happens if we stick it here?”

Either way, board Chair Frank Prehn and Vice Chair Greg Kazmierski don’t know if they’re practicing voodoo or acupuncture, and they act like it’s splitting hairs to ask.

Too harsh? Call up Wisconsin Eye on the DNR’s website, and watch our board member, Bill Smith, of Shell Lake, suggested the question include a box where people could answer “I’m confused.”

Even though Wisconsin citizens can vote to reject this chaos in April, it’s irritating that we’re even talking about it. The problem, of course, is that Prehn and Kazmierski think that 42% of the bucks is still skulking about our woods, marshes and fields when gun season opens.

If gun-hunters aren’t shooting their “fair share” of bucks, why don’t Kaz and Prehn suggest opening December’s four-day antlerless-only hunt to bucks, and open the holiday season to either-sex hunting? They could do that right now instead of trying to slash those hunting opportunities.

Perhaps sensing the pending blowback, Prehn said the board’s questions for the spring hearings aren’t a knee-jerk reaction to November’s relatively low gun kill. More buck pellets.

The problem is that Kaz last year commissioned a sociological study of crossbow use in Wisconsin, and didn’t like its findings, which we reported in November: Crossbows didn’t hurt gun-season participation.

That’s why Kaz and Prehn crafted their Six Silly Questions, and they hope the spring hearings give them license to eliminate hunting opportunities they don’t like.

Predictably, the board didn’t post its questions for its Jan. 21-22 agenda until one day before it cut off registration for public testimony at its meeting. Therefore, only one person showed up to testify. Jan. 22: Mike Brust, Kaz’s chief toady.

Brust is also president of the Wisconsin Bowhunters Association. He predictably told the board that crossbows make bowhunting too easy, and too much like gun-hunting. In other words, crossbows differ little from muzzleloaders.

If Brust and Kaz believe that, we have a solution: In the spirit of compromise, let’s restrict crossbows to October and December, and extend the deer-season to 19 days. In exchange, let’s open October and December to muzzleloaders to boost the firearms buck kill.

Problem solved, right?

As the board’s baffling discussions concluded Jan. 22, Prehn told DNR Secretary Preston Cole that he wants the agency to craft a five-year plan to increase deer hunting’s value to Wisconsin, saying:

“Be bold in your analytics and how you digest deer numbers. Tell us what needs fixing. We want the DNR to help us digest deer numbers. We want the DNR to help us. We don’t need the DNR to just weigh in. You’re the experts. I charge you to simplify the licence structure.

The public is confused, we’re confused and you’re confused.”

Good for you, Mr. Prehn. You inadvertently poked an indisputable truth. Now put your voodoo pins away.

Patrick Durkin, @patrickdurkinoutdoors, is a freelance writer who covers outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. Write to him at 721 Wesley St., Waupaca, WI 54981; or by email at patrickdurkin69@gmail.com.
ST. CROIX FALLS - On Tuesday, Jan.
21, the St. Croix Falls Dollars for Schol-
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annual chili and soup dinner to raise
money for scholarships for district stu-
dents. The event was very successful, hav-
ing over 18 entries in the soup/chili
categorries and a huge crowd to eat the
dinner brought in by local businesses.
The contest was Brian Anderson from
Sir Smoke A Lot, and there was a tie in the
soup/chili category between Saratoga
Brown Steeber and Phil Stratmoen, rep-
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The scholarship committee would like to
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The Town of St. Croix Falls Plan Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 12, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., on the 2nd floor of the City Hall, 505 Pine Ridge Drive, Siren, Wisconsin. The purpose of this public meeting is to consider the appointment for the District Board Position below. A public hearing will be held for a special exception for a retail use in the Town Center Commercial District. The parcel identification number is 040-00693-0000, and the meeting will be held in the WITC Conference Room 211.

Town of St. Croix Falls

Governmental Board

Position Number: 040-00693-0000

Description: The Town of St. Croix Falls is seeking a candidate to serve as a District Board Member for the Town of St. Croix Falls. The District Board Member serves on the Board of Directors of the WITC District and is responsible for overseeing the operation of the college, representing the interests of the community, and ensuring the financial stability of the college. The District Board Member is appointed by the Town Board of Supervisors and serves a term of four years. The position pays a $1,500 per year stipend. The District Board Member is expected to attend regular Board meetings, participate in policy development, and represent the interests of the community in decision-making.

Requirements:
- A minimum of 2 years of experience in a leadership role in a government or non-profit organization
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- The ability to work collaboratively with others
- A commitment to the mission and values of WITC

Application Process:
- Applications will be accepted until Friday, January 31, 2020.
- Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, resume, and two references to:
  - The Town Clerk, Town of St. Croix Falls
  - Town Hall, 505 Pine Ridge Drive, Siren, WI 54872

Public Notice is hereby given that applications are being accepted for the District Board Member position in the Town of St. Croix Falls. Interested parties are encouraged to submit their applications by the deadline. The Town of St. Croix Falls reserves the right to fill the position at its discretion. For more information, please contact the Town Clerk at 715-349-5119.

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WISCONSIN INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COLLEGE ASHLAND & RICE LAKE CAMPUSES

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College is currently accepting applications from qualified candidates for the part-time position of Truck Driving Instructor at the WITC Ashland and Rice Lake Campuses. WITC is establishing a pool of qualified candidates to be considered when adjunct and/or substitute instructors are needed. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

For consideration, a person must be able to work independently, efficient and courteous, and above all, be a positive role model. A high school diploma or GED is required. The Village of Siren is an equal opportunity employer.

Deadline to apply: February 14, 2020

WITC is an Equal Opportunity Access/Information Active/Veteran/Disability/ Employer/Employee Center TTY F71 706484 15-14.aX.c.b 26-27.l.s.

HELP WANTED

SOMEBODY TO SHOVEL SNOW AFTERS pORS

Applicant

Siren Leader Office

OR Call 715-349-2560

WITC is an Equal Opportunity Access/Information Active/Veteran/Disability/ Employer/Employee Center TTY F71 706484 15-14.aX.c.b 26-27.l.s.

VILLAGE OF SIREN TRUSTEE POSITION

The Village of Siren is looking for an individual to fill the remainder of an unexpired Village of Siren Trustee term of office. The term of office would run through April 2021. Interested Village residents should contact Village Hall at 715-349-2273 or Village Clerk Ann Petersen at 906-346-7624 or apetersen@siren.village.wi.us. The Village Board would like to announce that the deadline for applications is February 6, 2020.

Deadline to apply: February 20, 2020

WITC is an Equal Opportunity Access/Information Active/Veteran/Disability/ Employer/Employee Center TTY F71 706484 15-14.aX.c.b 26-27.l.s.

TRUCK DRIVING TEACHING SPECIALIST - ADJUNCT

WIUSCONSIN INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL RICE LAKE CAMPUS

WITC is seeking qualified candidates for a full-time Admissions Advisor at our Rice Lake Campus. The Admissions Advisor is responsible for providing information for all WITC programs, courses, and college services. This position creates ongoing relationships with potential students, their families, and high school counselors. This position involves several key accounts and is responsible for the marketing and recruitment of students for postsecondary education and career training. This position is responsible for maintaining an ongoing relationship with several key market segments and may require travel.

For a complete job description, list of qualifications and to apply, visit our website at: https://www.witc.org/about-us/employment

Deadline to apply: February 20, 2020

WITC is an Equal Opportunity Access/Information Active/Veteran/Disability/ Employer/Employee Center TTY F71 706484 15-14.aX.c.b 26-27.l.s.

BURNETT COUNTY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

DENTAL CARE SPECIALIST $23.79 - $25.07 PER HOUR

This position provides services for you and your family members. The position involves the completion of dental examinations, emergency services, radiographs, and cleaning of the teeth and oral cavity. The position will also involve the management of dental records and insurance claims. Excellent interpersonal and technical skills are required.

Deadline to apply: February 19, 2020

WITC is an Equal Opportunity Access/Information Active/Veteran/Disability/ Employer/Employee Center TTY F71 706484 15-14.aX.c.b 26-27.l.s.

LUTHERAN HOSPITAL

BURNS TDA

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL COACH

WISCONSIN INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL RICE LAKE CAMPUS

Position: Luck School District is accepting applications for the position of Luck School District Athletic Director.

- Equal Opportunity Employer

Deadline to apply: February 19, 2020

WITC is an Equal Opportunity Access/Information Active/Veteran/Disability/ Employer/Employee Center TTY F71 706484 15-14.aX.c.b 26-27.l.s.

LUCIUS SCHOOLS

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL COACH

Qualifications Necessary: Candidates will possess excellent coaching techniques, knowledge and understanding of the game. Candidates must be able to develop a team that is competitive and effectively working relationships with other coaches, school administrators, athletes and parents. Prior experience in a coaching position is preferred. Please provide a completed cover letter, resume, up to three current letters of recommendation, reference list and any supporting credentials.

Deadline to apply: February 19, 2020

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SCHOOL DISTRICTS

NOW HIRING

AGRONOMY DRIVERS WANTED

Burnett County is currently hiring an Agronomy Driver. This position includes daily driving, field operations, equipment adjustments and job function analysis. In addition, this position will require constant communication with the customer. This position will require constant standing and a valid driver’s license. This position will require the ability to work independently, to lift, carry, pull and push a minimum of 60 pounds.

Burnett County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Qualifications Necessary: Candidates will possess excellent coaching techniques, knowledge and understanding of the game. Candidates must be able to develop a team that is competitive and effectively working relationships with other coaches, school administrators, athletes and parents. Prior experience in a coaching position is preferred. Please provide a completed cover letter, resume, up to three current letters of recommendation, reference list and any supporting credentials.

Deadline to apply: February 19, 2020

WITC is an Equal Opportunity Access/Information Active/Veteran/Disability/ Employer/Employee Center TTY F71 706484 15-14.aX.c.b 26-27.l.s.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

NOW HIRING

AGRONOMY DRIVERS WANTED

Burnett County is currently hiring an Agronomy Driver. This position includes daily driving, field operations, equipment adjustments and job function analysis. In addition, this position will require constant communication with the customer. This position will require constant standing and a valid driver’s license. This position will require the ability to work independently, to lift, carry, pull and push a minimum of 60 pounds.

Burnett County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Deadline to apply: February 19, 2020

WITC is an Equal Opportunity Access/Information Active/Veteran/Disability/ Employer/Employee Center TTY F71 706484 15-14.aX.c.b 26-27.l.s.

LUCIUS SCHOOLS

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL COACH

WISCONSIN INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL RICE LAKE CAMPUS

Position: Luck School District is accepting applications for the position of Luck School District Athletic Director.

- Equal Opportunity Employer

Deadline to apply: February 19, 2020

WITC is an Equal Opportunity Access/Information Active/Veteran/Disability/ Employer/Employee Center TTY F71 706484 15-14.aX.c.b 26-27.l.s.

LUCIUS SCHOOLS

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL COACH

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WITC is an Equal Opportunity Access/Information Active/Veteran/Disability/ Employer/Employee Center TTY F71 706484 15-14.aX.c.b 26-27.l.s.
Burnt County Circuit Court

criminal and traffic disputes re-

corded for the week of Jan. 19:

Janota, John J.

Theft, theft of liquor, $950.

felony.

Smith, Derek L.

felony.

Smith, Jodie O., 46, Luck, pos-

session of methamphetamine.

Smith, Loretta J., 39, Burnet-

t County, probation violation.

Smith, Marla A., 35, Parkside,

felony.

Smith, Matthew S., 36, Clover-

field, failure to appear.

Smith, Jodie O., 46, Luck, pos-

session of methamphetamine.

Smith, Marla A., 35, Parkside,

felony.

Smith, Matthew S., 36, Clover-

field, failure to appear.

Smerksen, Horst H., 73

snowmobile under the influence.

Snow, Tony F., 42

snowmobile under the influence.

Spence, Vernon D., 57

snowmobile under the influence.

Spence, Vernon D., 57

snowmobile under the influence.

Spencer, Jesse A., 19

snowmobile under the influence.

Spencer, Joe Wells, 37

snowmobile under the influence.

Springer, Doreen, 53

snowmobile under the influence.

St. John, Stanley C., 60

snowmobile under the influence.

St. John, Justin K., 42

snowmobile under the influence.

Staples, Lashannon M., 60

snowmobile under the influence.

Staples, Spring D., 33

snowmobile under the influence.

Rogers, Sadie E., 21

possession of methamphetamine,

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CHURCH NEWS

JOY LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIPS

Raelin Sorensen and Daniel Ebensperger were presented with scholarships at Joy Lutheran Church on Sunday, Dec. 29, at the 10 a.m. service. These scholarships are made possible through the estates of John Larson and Kathy Glunz. All members of the church attending postsecondary schooling are eligible to apply. Joy Lutheran is the new church formed by the consolidation of Fristad Lutheran and Milltown Lutheran churches and is located on Hwy. 35 in Centuria. – Photo provided

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST COMMUNION PARTICIPANTS

First Communion participants at New Hope Lutheran Church of Grantsburg Sunday, Jan. 5, are pictured (L to R): Hannah Hillman, Evan Taylor, Dane Moore, Robert Spaight, Caleb Rombach and Archer Hale. – Photo provided

ST. CROIX FALLS - On Easter Sunday last year, First Presbyterian Church signed an agreement with Pastor David Maghakian to become their permanent part-time pastor, which they feel is one of their best decisions. Maghakian brings an unmatched energy, along with his love for God and a great sense of humor and the church has been having fun ever since he joined them. Evidence of that is nine new members have been added since he joined the church and they are very excited about that. Three new members were added in December and six this past Sunday.

If you are looking for a church family, you are invited to visit at 10 a.m. Sunday mornings, stay for fellowship and coffee, or call 715-483-3550. First Presbyterian is the “church in the pines” at 719 Nevada St. Their motto is “Love Grows Here!”

New members welcomed at First Presbyterian Church

DivorceCare support group

SIREN - Healing from divorce is not easy. DivorceCare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Through this 13-week seminar, each participant will receive a free workbook and information that addresses the questions and issues they are facing. Support groups will be held Mondays from 6-8 p.m. at Siren Covenant Church, 7086 Lofty Pines Drive, from Feb. 3 through April 27. For more information or to sign up, contact Cecilia at 715-220-0871.

Bass to speak at Wilderness Fellowship

FREDERIC – “I Am Loved” is the theme for the February Experience the River event Saturday, Feb. 15, 12:30-5:30 p.m. Gerry Bass will be speaking on how much the Lord loves you. Everyone is expected to walk away from this conference with more awareness of God’s unconditional love for them. Please register for the conference with dinner by Friday, Feb. 7, with a $30 suggested donation. You may register anytime for the conference only, without dinner, with a suggested $25 donation. See their website, wildernessfellowship.com, or call 715-488-8564.

Wilderness Worship Night will follow the conference at 7:830 p.m. Worship Night is a free community event which takes place the third Saturday of each month.

leaderregister.com

UNITY STUDENTS’ ARTWORK DISPLAYED AT MILWAUKEE

Members of the Unity Board of Education, James Bestle, Jeremy Cox, Pat Kastens, Debbie Incze-Peterson and Ryan Peterson, recently attended the WASB School Board Convention in Milwaukee. There the artwork of three talented Unity students, Sloan Horgan, Devon Mares and Hunter Panoch, was chosen to be featured throughout the convention. Congratulations are extended to the students on being selected to represent Unity School District! - Photo provided
Interment was held in the Almelund Cemetery. Ar (Matt) Anderson of St. Croix Falls; and great-great-grandfather, Dean Alling of Dresser; great-granddaughter, Amy George and Frena (Rehbein) Kinyon; husband, Ar Wisconsin, passed away Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, at the Wisconsin Cremation Center in Milltown. Floral memorials are appreciated. Memorials preferred to the Siren Covenant Church. At 11 a.m., with a lunch to follow in the fellowship hall. Siren Covenant Church in Siren with Pastor Brian Par 27. For more information or to sign up, contact Cecilia, 715-220-0871.

Lonnie Paul Simon

Lonnie Paul Simon, 79 years and 7 months, was born June 19, 1940, and passed away peacefully Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020, at the home of his brother, Orlando, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

Lonnie was born in the Grantsburg, Wisconsin, Crew Meadows area, and lived there until adulthood when the family relocated to Luck, Wisconsin, after selling the home farm to the state for conservation as part of Crew Meadows. He spent his youth helping with the family farm and attending school in Grantsburg where he graduated from high school. He took a two-year course in mechanical drafting and later worked for McNally’s. He then worked as a carpenter for his brother, Orlando, for nearly 50 years. He worked at Walmart for several years and enjoyed meeting the many customers he helped.

Lonnie’s highest accomplishment is of the great care he took of his mother, Elizabeth, who lived to the grand old age of 103-1/2. Lonnie was preceded in death by his parents, James and Elizabeth Simon; brothers, Milo, Bud, Jim, Donny, Jordan, David, Ernie, Elton; and sisters, Elvina and Charlotte.

He is survived by brothers, Frank (Atheleen) and Orlando (JoAnn); sisters, Berdella Hall and Barb Nelson (Don); many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and great-great-nieces and nephews; and many, many friends.

Services for Lonnie will be held Friday, Jan. 31, at the Siren Covenant Church in Siren with Pastor Brian Par dun officiating. Visitations will begin at 10 a.m., service at 11 a.m., with a lunch to follow in the fellowship hall. Memorial floral arrangements are appreciated. You are invited to leave condolences, memories and photos at rowefh.com. Arrangements are entrusted to Rowe Funeral Home, 715-472-2444, and the Northwest Wisconsin Cremation Center in Milltown.

Diane J. (Schau) Norman

Diane J. (Schau) Norman, 74, of Siren, Wisconsin, surrounded by her family, went home to be with Our Lord and Savior on Jan. 21, 2020. She was born May 3, 1945. Diane was an active member of many groups, such as Siren Covenant Church, where she attended weekly services, the Siren Food Pantry and the Siren Senior Center. With all of her social and volunteer activities, Diane always found time for her family, with her grandson, Max, her pride and joy.

Diane was preceded in death by her grandparents, Ernest and Isabelle Rosser; and parents, Albert Schau and Irene (John) Kewlondland. Diane is survived by her son, Grey (Jill) Norman; daughter, Corinne Norman; grandson, Max; brother, Thomas (Leanne) Schau; and nieces. Memorials preferred to the Siren Covenant Church. At Diane’s request, a private family memorial service will be planned.

Mary J. (Meyer) Marquardt

Mary J. (Meyer) Marquardt, 93, of Fond du Lac, former of Frederic, Wisconsin, died Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, in Fond du Lac. Guest book and tribute wall may be found by visiting ueckerwitt.com.

Virginia Margaret Bjork

Virginia Margaret Bjork, 97, of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, passed away Thursday, Jan. 23, 2020, at the Divine Rehabilitation and Nursing Home in St. Croix Falls.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, George and Frena (Rehbein) Kinyon; husband, Arnold; daughter, Lois (Wayne) Parmeter; and brothers, Robert and Howard Kinyon.

Virginia is survived by her granddaughter, Lisa (Dean) Alling of Dresser; great-granddaughter, Amy (Matt) Anderson of St. Croix Falls; and great-great-grandchildren, Devon and Alexis Anderson.

Funeral services were held Monday, Jan. 27, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Almena, Minnesota. Interment was held in the Almenlud Cemetery. Arrangements are with the Grandstrand Funeral Home, Oconto. Condolences may be expressed online at grandstrandfh.com.

Esther Eva Windbiel

Esther Eva Windbiel passed away and went to be with the Lord on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, at 9 a.m. in her sleep.

She was a loving mother, had many friends, enjoyed walking her dog and helping others. She loved nature, feeding the birds and woodpeckers and hummingbirds. She enjoyed fishing, summer and winter, loved cooking and making and giving away jelly was a major pastime. She loved helping St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. She loved the outdoors and enjoyed shopping for her clothes.

She was a bank teller for First National Bank of Chicago, a mother, worked at Walgreens for years in Sauk Village, Illinois, then was a cook for the St. Croix day care, cooked at Capeside Cove and then Oak Grove restaurant, and worked for Indianhead Medical Center for many years before retiring.

She spent her last few years enjoying life. She was a very loving woman and will be missed by many.

She is survived by one brother, Tom Fuss of Rhinelander; three sons, Jim Smith, Ken Windbiel and Eric Windbiel; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

A cemetery service to honor her life will be held in the spring for family and friends.

You are invited to leave condolences, memories and photos at rowefh.com. Arrangements are entrusted to Rowe Funeral Home, 715-472-2444, and the Northwest Wisconsin Cremation Center in Milltown.

Patrick James Basler

Patrick James Basler, 81, longtime resident of Burton, died Sunday, Jan. 15, 2020, at North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale, Minnesota. Pat was born Aug. 4, 1938, to Louis and Rosie (Thammarat) Basler in St. Cloud, Wisconsin, the son of Barney and Avita Basler. He is survived by his wife, Lucy Basler; three sons, Lonnie, Mark (Theresa) and Eric of Washington, D.C.; Aaron Basler and daughter-in-law Deb-bie of Conowingo, Maryland, and Adam Basler of Sonoma, California. Pat’s six grandchildren include John and Isaac Basler, Ben Stockton, Mary Basler and Austin Brinkman and Violet Lane Basler. He is also survived by his sister, Mary Ames of Caldwell, Idaho.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, Dick and Bobby.

Pat joined the Army Reserves right out of high school and went on to attend (and graduated from) Platteville University. Imme- diately, in 1963, he joined International Volunteer Service, teaching at the Lao University in Southeast Asia, teaching sports, English and supervising the school’s motor pool. After 4-1/2 years, Pat, along with his family, spent a year in Bangkok and a year in Nakhon Sri Thai with the Peace Corps.

After teaching one year at Bloomer High School in 1970, the family moved to Webster, Wisconsin, and bought the Par Florence, a house and barn on the North Sand Lake. Pat taught multicultural education for 18 years in the Web-ster Schools, in addition to coaching cross-country and golf. Pat was involved in the original AODA program in the Webster Schools.

Pat completed the Discourse Program through the Superior Diocese.

After building part of their future dome home, the family moved to Washington, D.C., where Pat volunteered for the UPS Center. Pat volunteered for Food and Friends, an organization that delivered meals to HIV folks. He enjoyed visiting the recipients and helping them with working out issues they may have had.

In 1995, the family returned to their dome home. While in D.C., Pat had a near-death experience and through that experience he said, after coming back to Webster, “I didn’t come back to work, I have come back to live.”

Pat went to Iraq for two weeks in very early 2003 through Christian Peacemaker Teams organization. While there, medicines were handed out, but most enjoy- ably Pat would hand out balloons he brought and playing his harmonica. Candy drops were handed out to the children which he often gave to some of the children. Pat was asked if he was an American soldier. The sounds of the children took the candy out of his mouth and the children ran after him, hugging and hugging, of course not in his own mouth. His time in Iraq was one of the high points of his life. After returning home, he began vigils by the traffic lights in Siren. At one point there were 20 folks standing with him with signs. In those later days, he would sit in a lawn chair and hold up signs like “War is not the Answer” and “Love Not Hate.”

Fishing was second nature for Pat. He got the reputa- tion as the fisherman to talk to as to where the fish were in North Sand Lake. Pat was a part of the kids who soon became “brothers.”

In his newly build home, he loved watching the birds. His last moments on this earth were spent feed- ing the birds. While outside taking care of the birds, he had a massive brain hemorrhage, basically ending his life. Pat’s life ended exactly the way he wanted: fast and pain-free.

He was reviewed at his home with many, many friends and relatives coming to give their last respects. He was cremated by the Spooner Funeral Home, who went out of their way to accommodate his family.

There will be a memorial celebration at the event center, formerly The Stables, on CTH A, Saturday, July 25, in the afternoon. The service will be sent to Smile Train.

Send obituaries to: submit@leaderregister.com

leaderregister.com
Mary Stirrat | Staff writer

LUCK – Luck’s 2020 Luck Winter Carnival grand marshal is part of a long heritage of involvement in the community. Jake Jensen’s family has been part of Luck’s business, educational and community life for more than 115 years, since 1903 when his great-grandfather established a blacksmith shop, a hardware store and sold farm equipment.

In 1956 the first Jacob Jensen’s son, Levi, bought the furniture business on Luck’s Main Street, and Grand Marshal Jake Jensen is the third generation to own and operate that business.

“We’ve been fortunate, as a family, to be able to be in business in the Luck community for that many years,” said Jake Jensen.

“This is, in my opinion, as good a place as any to live and raise a family and to be in business. Our community supports each other well.

“We’ve got a wonderful local customer base, but outside of the business standpoint our community looks out for other community members.”

People here have a desire to help one another, Jensen said. While this trait may be common in small towns, he said, “we may be a little exceptional with it in Luck.”

A Luck graduate, Jake met his wife, Sonja, while they were both in school at UW-River Falls. As a married couple they were living in Ellsworth when they learned their first child was on the way.

“Parenthood, or upcoming parenthood, changes your perspective,” he said.

The couple realized that the things of Luck were what they wanted for their family. At the same time, Jake’s dad, Mark, was expanding the furniture business and the opportunity opened up for Jake and Sonja to move into the community.

“The things that drew us back are some of the same things that still make Luck a great place to live” he said. “It’s a great community with a great school and great people.”

Along with Jensen Furniture, Jake is a member of the Luck Lions Club, is a member and past president of the Big Butternut Lake Management District, on the church council at Luck Lutheran, is a member of the community club and is president of the Luck School Board.

Jake’s mom and dad, Marsha and Mark Jensen, were both past grand marshals, as well as his grandfather Levi. He also has royalty in his family, with at least one aunt serving as Winter Carnival queen. His sister was a candidate and his daughter was a first princess.

Jake and Sonja have three children. Isabelle is a sophomore at UW-La Crosse, and Levi is a senior and Wyatt is a sophomore at Luck High School.

“It was a surprise and an honor to be considered for the grand marshal,” he said. “I appreciate being able to represent the community of Luck in that capacity.

“These community events are part of what keeps our community a community. I appreciate being part of that history.”
FREDERIC - The Frederic Chamber hosted the 14th-annual Coon Lake Classic on Saturday, Jan. 25. The Coon Lake Classic included an ice-fishing contest, medallion hunt, and raffle. Oscar Lahti found the medallion, earning him the grand prize of $1,000. All proceeds benefited Frederic School District programs including the ice-fishing team, Summer Saunters and the music department.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

January Jubilee!

Prices good through Jan. 31, 2020

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SANFORD Liquid Pen Highlighters $11.99

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11 West 5th Ave. - Lake Mall
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INTER-COUNTY LEADER NEWS SECTION A JANUARY 29, 2020
Siren Moms For Kids team up with St. Croix Festival Art in Action

SIREN – The students at Siren Schools were given the opportunity to take part in St. Croix Festival Theatre’s Art in Action program the week of Jan. 20-24. Moms For Kids sponsored the free after-school camp that empowers kids to take ownership of their creative process and have fun. The students, from second grade through eighth grade, created, rehearsed and performed two original short plays and two interpretive dances. They designed and painted simple backdrops, created characters and collaborated while learning to use their voice, body and imagination. The final performance took place in the school auditorium on Friday, Jan. 24, at 6:15 p.m. It was attended by proud family members, supportive friends and the community. Moms For Kids has sponsored similar theater experiences for over 20 years.

PHOTOS BY BECKY STRABEL

Students (L to R): Adelyn Bergeron, Kairi Moody, Layla Daley and Leelan Moody were part of the dance ensemble that performed “Spring,” an interpretive dance that reflected on their favorite things of the season.

See Moms For Kids, page 2

One of the princesses turns a demon, played by Owen Decorah, into a frog that gets chased out of the house by the cat, played by Jayden Vander Velden. Others in the scene include (L to R): Lydia Peterson, Paphada Udomwongsak, Owen Decorah, Brooklyn Millar, Jayden Vander Velden and Kaiden Xurvein. 

Kaiden Xurvein, middle, isn’t really an old man but a long-lost prince. Shown with Xurvein in shock are (L to R): Brooklyn Millar, Paphada Udomwongsak, Jenasis Moody, Bella Weller, Claire Meyer and Lydia Peterson.

Landan Herwick’s and Jenasis Moody’s favorite season is summer. They and others created a dance that highlighted the best parts of enjoying the long lazy days that aren’t spent in school.

Begging their parents for help in freeing a lizard are Adelyn Bergeron, Brooklyn D’Jock and Lucy Peter-son. Their parents, the king and queen, were played by Madeline Lahmann and Kaiir Moody. The youngest child, Layla Daley, looks on.

Throughout the week, Siren students expressed themselves in multiple ways as part of the Art in Action experience. The front of the stage was lined with their artwork.


PHOTOS BY BECKY STRABEL
New York City

The first time I got on an airplane was when I was 13 and was flying to Hong Kong for the States; I was 50-some years ago. My college is in Southern California, and that’s where I spent most of my time going to school and working. Somehow, I did manage to visit my high school buddies from Hong Kong who were studying in other states, but it was by bus only. Not the easiest flight to fly to once my career took a turn many years later. I was invited to interview with companies in different parts of the country, and hence, I started to learn more about different airports and to begin my journey of traveling.

After spending 15 years in just one state, California, all I knew was San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento. Then the sky opened up, and I started to learn more about other states – Flordia, Washington, Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, Wisconsin, New York, Minnesota and many others. Even though most airport terminals look the same inside, the views before landing are all different. I loved the window seat as I could check out all the scenery. Yes, California is a big state, yet, it is just a small part of a huge country!

In most of the states, planes would pass through mountains or forests before they landed on the runway. But not New York City; the plane would fly past buildings after buildings before it finally would land. It is indeed a land of cement forests. The first time I was in New York City I was in awe, as it reminded me so much of Hong Kong – tall buildings and busy people everywhere! And everyone seemed to be in a hurry. It is not much time for sightseeing. My mission was to try many different restaurants from various Chinese restaurants, and to create the perfect one for a restaurant owner (who is Jewish) so he could use the sauce for his restaurant in Israel.

A true story indeed, but that’s the story of my life. I think I had tried dipping sauces from different restaurants, and I finally came up with my own. To spend all that money just to develop a dipping sauce? Why not, if you have plenty of time and money?

After my daughter graduated from college in Boston, she decided to move to New York City to try her luck. She didn’t have a job lined up and she didn’t know a single soul; yet, she just packed up and went. Sounds a lot like her old man. So, what kind of advice could I give her? I could hear her defending herself, “You did it, Dad, why can’t I?” That’s why I didn’t say a word. As a miracle, not only did she find an apartment, she also landed an amazing job. I guess luck ran in our family. My wife and I went and was very frugal – to spend a fortune on hotel rooms and meals is not my cup of tea.

The third trip to NYC was more fun, as all the expenses were paid for. I was working for a Spanish broadcasting company then. No, don’t ask why in the world a non-Spanish-speaking Chinese person was there. To survive, you just got to do what you got to do. Anyway, the company was bought out by some American investors who were interested in the growing market. They were looking for a new name for the company and were offering a prize for the winner – an all-paid vacation to NYC.

I guess who submitted it – yes, truly yours. It is nice to spend money when you don’t have to think about it. The prize included the plane fare, the hotel, $500 cash, plus dinner with the CEO of the company. I was shocked and elated. Not only could we visit NYC in style, but we would be dining with the CEO. I forgot the name of the restaurant, but we will never forget the dining experience. Needless to say, candles, shining chandeliers, spotless china and glassware – and the servers all dressed better than we did. Oh well. But the best part of the whole experience was that the menu had no prices! Yes, no prices. Never in our lives had we eaten in any establishments that wouldn’t tell you how much it cost for your meal. As a matter of fact, part of my skills in designing a menu is how to price the menu. Some would just put an even number as the price – $6, $9, $13 – while some would put $23.99 just to reflect the price is under $24. But this menu had no prices listed. I looked at the counter and was very confident that we didn’t have to wash dishes afterward. So, I acted like we ate at places like this often and started to relax a bit.

We had appetizers, entrees, wines, after-dinner drinks, desserts and more after-dinner drinks…. I stopped trying to figure out how much the meal would have cost me after the second glass of wine. Lordy, couldn’t wait to tell the guys at the office.

The third time was when my daughter got married. It was a joyous occasion indeed, my little girl all grown up and found her true love. At the reception, before I gave the toast, I told the guests that in China, we called our daughter “Chien Chin.” In translation, it means a thousand teals of gold. Just imagine how much it is worth for a single teal (bar) of gold and multiply that 1,000 times. I looked at the groom and said, “I’m giving you the most treasured possession I have ever had. And now she is in your hands. Please take good care of her.” Everyone cheered.

The fourth time was after our grandson was born. He was barely 7 or 8 months old. Watching my daughter feeding the baby, changing him and giving him all the attention and love just melted my heart. Four months later, they announced that they would be moving to San Francisco as my son-in-law got a great job there. Like any proud dad, I couldn’t let my daughter move, and my heart was not my kind of town, but she has left a lot of fond memories in my heart. Who knows, we might return some day for a visit. I’d like to go back to the restaurant where the menu has no prices just to see for myself. I will bring my personal rubber gloves just in case I have to wash dishes.

Peter’s new book “Have You Eaten?” just came out. It is a memoir of him growing up around food in Hong Kong, plus a lot of fun and interesting dishes from his cooking classes. Check out the video on his website, phkong.com.

So my middle daughter, Jozie, who is smarter than I am, asked if she could borrow my phone to see if her headphones were working. If it was just my middle daughter, Jozie, who is smarter than I am, asked if she could borrow my phone earlier in the day, “Jozie! What are you doing?!” I texted.

When she borrowed my phone earlier in the day, “So use your Bluetooth Beats,” I said.

So, if anyone receives the response, “Yes, darling. A thousand teals of gold and multiply that 1,000 times. I looked at the groom and said, “I’m giving you the most treasured possession I have ever had. And now she is in your hands. Please take good care of her.” Everyone cheered.

The fourth time was after our grandson was born. He was barely 7 or 8 months old. Watching my daughter feeding the baby, changing him and giving him all the attention and love just melted my heart. Four months later, they announced that they would be moving to San Francisco as my son-in-law got a great job there. Like any proud dad, I couldn’t let my daughter move, and my heart was not my kind of town, but she has left a lot of fond memories in my heart. Who knows, we might return some day for a visit. I’d like to go back to the restaurant where the menu has no prices just to see for myself. I will bring my personal rubber gloves just in case I have to wash dishes.
Learning to whistle

My sister learned to whistle at 2 years old. She always knew she would do it her way. She knew how to read by the time she started kindergarten. She demonstrated a physical dexterity I never did. She made an appearance a year later. She sat in her high chair at my grandparents’ house and started whistling her heart out. She could see, even at 2, that she was creating quite a stir. She knew how to read by the time she started kindergarten. She demonstrated a physical dexterity I never in- tentionally taught her.

“Carie, some people never learn how to whistle,” she informed me.

I suppose this was to help me understand that I had company, that there was a great world of non-whistlers out there and I would surely find companionship with the similarly inadequately. I was not so comforted.

Some people never learn how to whistle!” I re- member repeating to myself many times over. I think this may have been the first time I was seriously confronted with the possibility that there might be something I desperately wanted to do that I would not be able to do. I had parents who assured me that I would be able to do whatever I put my mind to and here I was, at 6, already stopped at a major road- block. It was very discouraging.

I could be imagining this, but it seems to me my sister sensed my dejection and whistled with even more virtuosity. All this came to mind as I was in New York last week. I had just performed material from my column at a conference. I was certainly a late arrival to this world. Most of the performers were at least 20 years younger than me, if not 30, and I was every bit as nervous as the younger ones—perhaps more so.

I had 15 minutes to perform and, while it’s hard to tell with these things, I felt like I had done good. Afterward, I changed out of my sparkly costume and headed back to the hotel to watch some of the other talents people perform. It was understandably warm in New York for January. The sky was clear and there was an unexpectedly big moon rising over the skyscrapers. I stopped right in the middle of Broadway and stared at this giant moon.

I suddenly realized how ridiculously lucky I was. I was doing something new. I was having fun. I might or might not be embarrassed myself but, if I was, I really did not care. I started to whistle. I was walk- ing down Broadway whistling and didn’t care if anyone heard me.
KNITTING WORKSHOP

THE LUCK-FREDERIC BASKETBALL RIVALRY came out on the side of Frederic in their matchup on Jan. 30, 1970, despite a "brilliant effort by Luck's Greg Pautsch," who scored 38 points in the game. For the photo at left, the caption says, "They were all up in the air for this one in the game at Luck Friday night, but Mike Murphy was in the right place at the right time for the Cards this time. Frederic's Jim Shattuck and Luck's Duane Murphy were part of this grateful ballet dance too, with Bob Johnson of the Vikings waiting on the floor to see who came down with what." In the right photo, Bob Johnson has the ball, with Frederic's Tim Lane and Luck's Ron Kunze to the left. "At this point Bob looks well surrounded" by 'Cards sharpshooter Greg Pautsch, Murphy and another unidentified cager," says the caption, with Frederic's Jim Shattuck behind them. The final score was 72-63 for the Vikings.

Hand washing reduces illness

Washing your hands with soap and water can have a major impact on health. Washing your hands properly has been shown to decrease diarrheal disease-associated deaths by about 50%, reduce food-borne illnesses and outbreaks, decrease respiratory infections by over 20% and reduce absences from school and work.

You should wash your hands:
• Before, during and after preparing food;
• Before eating food;
• Before and after caring for someone who is sick;
• Before and after treating a cut or wound;
• After using the toilet;
• After changing diapers or cleaning up a child who used the toilet;
• After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing;
• After touching an animal, animal food or animal waste; and
• After touching garbage.

Five steps to washing your hands:
1. Wet with clean, running water. This can be warm or cold. Turn off the tap and apply soap.
2. Lather by rubbing your hands together with soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end while scrubbing.
4. Rinse under clean, running water.
5. Dry using a towel or air dry.

For more information, visit cdc.gov/handwashing.

Submitted by BrittaNey. B5, 85, MPH, Burnett County DHHS public health specialist.

Healthy Minute is brought to you by healthyburnett.org

Do You Remember?

50 years ago

Olympic gold medalist and three-time world figure skating champion Peggy Fleming was coming to the Twin Cities plus $100,000 for transit funding for the Shipshewana and Johnson Ice Follies.–Students graduating at UW-Eau Claire included Gary Young, son of Mr. and Mrs. Noble Young, who would graduate as a guidance counselor with the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs; Dennis Olson, from Cushing, who would pursue graduate studies for the balance of the school year and accept a teaching position in the fall; and Steven Nelson, Milltown, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.–Sp. 4 Charles Brown Jr., from Webster, earned the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service as a surveyor in Headquarters Battery, 6th Battalion of the 27th Artillery, near Quan Loi, Vietnam.–Seventeen cows died of electrocution in the barn at the Noble Olson farm near Atlas, apparently caused by a short in the electric barn cleaner.

40 years ago

Tom Lemieux, Lewis, won a drawing at Perry’s Supper Club, Siren, for a three-day vacation trip to Las Vegas plus $100,000 for transit funding for the Shipshewana and Johnson Ice Follies.– Students graduating at UW-Eau Claire included Gary Young, son of Mr. and Mrs. Noble Young, who would graduate as a guidance counselor with the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs; Dennis Olson, from Cushing, who would pursue graduate studies for the balance of the school year and accept a teaching position in the fall; and Steven Nelson, Milltown, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.–Sp. 4 Charles Brown Jr., from Webster, earned the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service as a surveyor in Headquarters Battery, 6th Battalion of the 27th Artillery, near Quan Loi, Vietnam.–Seventeen cows died of electrocution in the barn at the Noble Olson farm near Atlas, apparently caused by a short in the electric barn cleaner.

20 years ago

Vice President Al Gore announced a $120 million initiative to create smaller, safer and better high schools in the U.S. Since the end of WWI, the number of schools nationwide had declined 70%, while average enrollment had increased 500%. The initiative came after a school shootings had caused great concern about the alienation and aggression in some teenagers, which seemed to point to the need for more parental involvement, stricter school discipline policies, and teens needing more attention than larger high schools could give them. "It’s time for the large, factory-like high schools of the 20th century to make way for the smaller, more flexible and innovative institutions that will mark the 21st century," he said.–Stephanie Anderson, Frederic graduate, was named to the dean’s list at UW-Eau Claire.– Winners in the elementary division of the conservation speaking contest in Burnett County were Colleen Fore, Crantsburg, “The Forest,” first; Laurie Fleckner, Siren, “The Soil Beneath Your Feet,” second; and Carol Bjorklund, Webster, “Wildlife in an Ordinarily Wisconsin Forest,” third. Junior division: David Fleckner, Siren, “Earth’s Future – Garbage Dump or Garden Home,” first; Brandi McDonald, Crantsburg, “Energy Conservation,” second; and Lori Sears, Webster, “Our Disappearing Beauty,” third. Senior division: Daniel Horowitz, Crantsburg, “Time, Money, Change” first; and Peggy Imme, Siren, “Save Our Forests,” second.–Several hundred people attended the open house and dedication of the new Siren School, with a program, lunch and tours.

Compiled by Sue Renno

Follow the Leader • leaderregister.com •

A cooperative-owned newspaper
Karen Patzy story? Stop in at the center and share your tale over February many of the area fishing contests will be fresh, cold air, hit the ice! Oh, and as we enter ful fishing are coming in. So, if you’re in need of $8 as a celebration for Valentine’s Day on Sunday, Darla a happy day in person.

Florida had about the same temperatures these St. Croix Valley Senior Center to see if all the plants I planted and moved from one I have yet to find a way to keep him out of we’ll see. I can’t believe old Mother Nature hasn’t we’ll see. I can’t believe old Mother Nature hasn’t

Karen Mangelsen visited Marlene Swearingen the springtime ball. They are waiting to meet their and the Arnell supporters who played along to raise and unassuming, Bentley

Becky Markow
The ice must be right, as the reports of success and the annual meeting at 1 p.m.

Frasier

Willits

Our deepest sympathy to Diane Norman’s family. Diane passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 21, from a very aggressive cancer. Diane was recently elected to be our treasurer for the new year. A new treasurer will be chosen in the near future.

Several from the senior center are going to use the ADRG bus and go to Cambridge, Minnesota, for an ice-fishing contest on Saturday, Feb. 8. We hope to see you there.

The 500 winners for Thursday, Jan. 23, were

Dewey-LaFollette
Tuesday evening Lindsay Ziemer and the rest of the Shell Lake seven-year-old girls’ basketball team played Northwood and defeated them 36-26. Keanna stayed out of the house on Jan. 30, if you are interested in the van or bus, contact the ADRG office to make your arrange-

Don’t get too far to the left of Jupiter as this solar system has Mars BARK and Wine. Even though April 4

Our next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 18. Please

We will offer Wi-Fi, coffee and goodies, and check out the book box. For questions on meal reserva-

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Karen Mangelsen was celebrated a minor chronic condition that is easily managed and unassuming, Bentley

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Karen Mangelsen was celebrated
Building literacy is focus at Frederic Elementary

PHOTOS PROVIDED

FREDERIC – Promoting strong literacy skills in children is a crucial foundation for future academic success. As part of the Frederic Elementary School literacy program each student participates in daily activities to promote literacy, in addition to Target Time and access to free books. Elementary Principal Megan Challoner stated, “Literacy is a key component that is essential to an individual’s success in life.” In early elementary years, students are learning how to read; eventually students begin using reading as a tool for learning other skills.

At the elementary school, the day begins with a soft start, where students are allowed time for silent reading. This is one of the Daily Five activities designed to engage students in reading and writing. In addition to silent reading, the Daily Five involve students in working on writing, completing word work, reading aloud to someone and listening to reading. While it may seem odd to read aloud to older students, it allows staff members the opportunity to model reading fluency and intonation to match the characters’ voices. This helps students to strengthen their reading comprehension skills.

As unique individuals, students may develop certain skills a little before or a little after same-aged peers. Frederic Elementary School is engaging students at their skill level through 45 minutes a day of Target Time. During Target Time each class is divided into groups of approximately four to six students, based on their individual skills. Additional staff is utilized to lead each group and provide the students with skill-specific instruction, allowing the opportunity for additional support in areas of need.

Frederic Elementary is also working with Book Trust, Scholastic Book Clubs and the TOSA Foundation to provide free books to students. During the school year the Book Trust partnership allows students in 4K through sixth grade the opportunity to order $7 worth of free books every month. Over the last seven years Book Trust has provided over 20,000 free books to Frederic students. It has been essential to the continued growth of students’ personal libraries and their love of reading.

Tanya Asproth, library media specialist for the Frederic School District, works to build literacy through making the library an inviting and enjoyable place for students. She takes note of books that students inquire about for future ordering. After working for the Frederic School District for over 21 years, Asproth understands the importance of students feeling successful when reading. To guarantee students find a “just the right fit” book, she works with classroom teachers to understand each student’s skill level.

Mrs. Asproth accepted the library media specialist position at the beginning of this school year. When describing the position, she stated, “I am enjoying my new role this year as the Frederic School District’s library media specialist. I am growing in my learning right along with the students. My continued goal is to work to instill a love for reading in all of our Frederic students.”

PHOTOS PROVIDED
GRANTSBUG – Grantsburg High School students celebrated winter with fun activities last week at the school’s Winternationalfest.

Students participated in crazy games, a talent show and voted for and crowned the 2020 Winternationalfest king and queen. The week was capped off with a Winternationalfest dance Friday evening, Jan. 24, in the high school commons area.

Adding to the flavor of the annual break from the cold was the warm visit from a group of Costa Rican students who shared their country’s sights, sounds, foods and customs in the classrooms, at their host students’ homes, and even on the dance floor.

Grantsburg students celebrate winter with fun and international flavor

Seniors and newly crowned 2020 Winternationalfest King Austin Wedin and Queen Brooke Quimby as Han Solo and Princess Leia from “Star Wars” struck a far-out pose for the camera.

Grantsburg High School students played their own version of the board game Hungry Hungry Hippos during an afternoon of crazy games held as part of the annual Winternational fest celebration held Jan. 21-24.

Senior Jillian Seeger and dancer partner junior Lanie Thoreen performed a crowd-pleasing dance routine.

Visiting Costa Rican students Fabiola Mora and Ximena Araya showed their Winternationalfest spirit playing the crazy fun Hungry Hungry Hippos game.

Grantsburg Elementary and Nelson School students were also excited to learn about Costa Rica when the students visited their classrooms.
Danbury Area Lions and Frederic Masons ice-fishing contest fun for all

Darin and Lisa Williams from the Nicaboyne Lake area were all smiles at the Danbury Area Lions Club and the Masons of the Frederic Masonic Lodge 42nd-annual ice-fishing contest. They became the contest’s lucky couple after Darin won a $600 savings bond and Lisa won a $100 bond.

Four-year-old Brianna Wihren and her dad, Charlie, showed off her baby sunfish for a fun dad-and-daughter memory.

Though not catching many fish, Duane Christy and Dave Doskey of Grantsburg were anything but grumpy old men, instead, the two fishing friends were happy to be out on the ice together in the mild January temps.

Danbury Area Lions Club member Klaus Nieder welcomed folks to the 42nd-annual Danbury Area Lions Club and the Masons of the Frederic Masonic Lodge ice-fishing contest held on Burlingame Lake Saturday, Jan. 25.

Angel Clausen, who came from St. Paul, Minn., for the annual Burlingame Lake ice-fishing contest, checked his tip-up for a chance to catch a big one.

The Lacy Cabin group of family and friends have been coming to the Danbury ice-fishing contest the past seven years for a great get-together with good fishing, good food and good old-fashioned fun on the ice. - Photos submitted.
AMERY — artZ Gallery has announced that area artists Jenna Wojan, of New Richmond, and James Boutin, of Webster, will be featured at their gallery for the month of February. The gallery is located at 208 Keller Ave. and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artists interested in exhibiting can get application information at the gallery or by visiting the website artzgallery.org.

Jenna Wojan

Wojan lives in New Richmond and has been working creatively her whole life. As a professional graphic designer, she is passionate about trendsetting, researching, ideating and solving problems. She believes design should be simple, beautiful and unfettered.

Her personal work delves into the world of mixed-media analog collage. She explores the surreal, the erotic and the delightfully strange with her hand-cut collages – oftentimes juxtaposing dreamlike shapes and images with symbols of pin-up Americana. “I’ve heard collage artists described as bottom feeders of the art world, but I see it as creating something entirely new, similar in the way one’s conscious mind takes day-to-day mundane activities in waking life and turns them into bizarre dreamscapes when lights are out. This method of creating allows me to step away from technology and make something tangible, something real, something really weird.” Read more at jennawojan.com.

James Boutin

Boutin produces images of nature made from brass, copper and aluminum. He lives near Webster, where he spends much time hunting, skiing and just walking in the woods. Most family vacations involve skiing or scuba diving. His love of fish comes from scuba diving and keeping aquariums of both fresh- and saltwater fish. “I live near several lakes in the northwestern part of Wisconsin, and I hardly ever fish. I make them in my shop. I find great satisfaction when someone chooses to take the things I have made into their home.” Recently Boutin has added birch trees to his creations. More to see and read at jamesboutinmetalart.com.

Painting workshop with Paul Oman

A one-day painting workshop with Paul Oman is coming up at artZ Gallery, Thursday, Feb. 6, “Painting Dramatic, Emotional Skies,” 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To register, call Oman at 715-790-2029 or register at artZ Gallery.

Frederic — Music makes the heart sing and friendship does the same thing. So, when you put the two together you have a very happy heart.

Allen Parson and Friends will bring their love of music, their instruments and their happy hearts to perform at the Frederic Art Center, 310 Lake St. South, for the Raising the Roof Concert No. 22 on Friday, Jan. 31, beginning at 7 p.m. Freewill donations accepted.

Parson’s friends and partners for this performance are CJ Long, Elaine Thander, Greg Lane and Lloyd Wilson.

Parson’s instruments will be keyboard, sax, flute and melodic, he also does vocals. Long returns to the area with excellent vocal treatments of well-known female artists from different genres and across many decades. Thander will bring her violin, her classical training and musical sensitivities over from Minneapolis to add some recognizable melodies from show tunes, rock operas and from the bottom of her happy heart.

Lane, locally born and bred, will have his well-known bass guitar, his soulful voice and his never-panic approach to life.

Wilson will be doing some vocals and harmonies and a duet with CJ Long.

The RtR concert series is a monthly fundraiser, with all money donated going into the Frederic Art Center Building Project Fund. Frederic Arts is a registered nonprofit organization. Please become a participant as an artist or supporter/member and be involved with something positive in your life.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/fredericartscenter or fredericarts.org.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-EDITIONS ONLINE AT leaderregister.com

Or call one of our offices at:
715-327-4236 - Frederic
715-468-2314 - Shell Lake
715-349-2560 - Siren
During Balsam Lake Winterfest:

We are the location for the medalion hunt clues that will be posted throughout the day on Saturday. We are also a drop-off location for the “Food Fight Challenge” benefiting local food shelves.

Upcoming events for kids and families:

Story time
Tuesdays, Feb. 4 and Feb. 11, at 10:30 a.m., are playgroup times. Feb. 4 will have a snow theme and Feb. 11 is colors.

Discovery Club
Discovery Club for home-schoolers of all ages is held the third Thursday of every month at 1:30 p.m. The next date is Thursday, Feb. 20, at the library. We will be learning meditation relaxation techniques. Plus, we’ll be doing a make-to-take “focus” raiser balls, and Rachel Groome will be presenting how to make your own teabag tea. The kids will participate in a hands-on activity, preparing to make your own snak-eat! Registration is required by Feb. 13.

STEAM Wednesday
The second Wednesday of every month at 4 p.m. is STEAM time. Imagine - create - build - explore. We have Snap Circuits, Legos, Picassoles, Ozobots and more. Snacks provided.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
Remember to sign up for 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten if you haven’t yet. This program is for children from birth to preschool. If you’ve already signed up, remember to stop in to let us know how you’re doing in your reading adventures.

Book club
Our book club will meet next on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 2 p.m., at the library. The book is “Mrs. Lincoln’s Dressmaker” by Jennifer Chiaverini. It’s “a fictionalized account of the friendship between Mary Todd Lincoln and her dressmaker Elizabeth Keckley, a former slave.”

Adult and family winter reading program
Our Winterland game began Jan. 15 and runs through Feb. 29 this year. Pick up the activity sheet at the library to find out more.

Garden dreaming
It was a full house of garden enthusiasts who came to see Pamela Davies, Master Gardener, give information and inspiration for this season’s garden. Through a series of slides, Pam discussed what to consider when designing your spring garden site. From the practical to the whimsical, she led us through some great tips and tricks to get your garden dream started.

The Master Gardener program is a division of the University of Wisconsin - Extension office. As a Master Gardener, part of Pam’s duties included educating and encouraging public participation in gardening of all sorts.

Whether vegetable gardening, landscape design, or simply some potted plants on your back step, gardening is shown to burn calories, lower your blood pressure and relieve stress. Gardening can encourage a sense of community and gardeners are known to live a healthier and happier lifestyle. Anyone curious about the Master Gardener program is encouraged to visit the website, mastergardener.org, to learn more about it.

Pam has promised to return in March to talk about the Master Gardener program. Garden enthusiasts gathered to share ideas, ask questions and get inspired.

Questions?
Contact staff by email frederic@fredericlibrary.org or call 715-327-4979. Address: 127 Oak St. W. Like us on Facebook.

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Since August, a strong field of “Super Bowl” readers have participated in the Football Challenge Reading Program. Each book finished represented a yard on the football field. With 100 books read, these two readers each scored a touchdown! Congrats to all the young readers who participated.

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Visit our Little Free Libraries
Take a book and return it, anytime – 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are located at the beach, the park, and the Polk County Gov-

New kits for checkout
We have a chemistry kit, bird-watching kit, fishing pole kit, microscope kit, measuring kit, health and safety kit, Dash and Dot kit, we’ve added three more snowshoe sets and a blood pressure monitor, and Frisbee golf discs are coming soon!

Our mission statement
The Balsam Lake Public Library provides materials, resources and services that enhance and contribute to individual knowledge, enlightenment and enjoyment, creating a vibrant center of our community.

Publications
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Pamela Davies walked us through all the possibilities for a dream-come-true garden this season. – Photos provided

WITC High School Career Day at Ashland

Each student can choose two 40-minute hands-on career sessions, including:

• Admissions and application assistance.
• Accounting and business management.
• Broadband internet services and utility construction.
• Criminal justice studies.
• Early childhood education.
• Emergency medical technician and fire training services.
• Human services associate and gerontology aging services professional.
• IT-Systems administration specialist and IT-cybersecurity specialist.
• Machine tool operation.
• Marine repair technician.
• Medical administrative professional and nonprofit leadership.
• Medical assistant.
• Nursing.
• Nursing assistant.
• Occupational therapy assistant.
• University transfer degree.
• Welding.

WITC asks parents to encourage their high school students to explore their career options at Career Day. The morning session will run from 9-11:30 a.m., and the afternoon session is 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information and to register, students or parents should contact Melissa Weber, career specialist/recruiter, at 715-682-4591, ext. 3192, or email melissa.weber@witc.edu.

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The Master Gardener program is a division of the University of Wisconsin - Extension office. As a Master Gardener, part of Pam’s duties included educating and encouraging public participation in gardening of all sorts.

Whether vegetable gardening, landscape design, or simply some potted plants on your back step, gardening is shown to burn calories, lower your blood pressure and relieve stress. Gardening can encourage a sense of community and gardeners are known to live a healthier and happier lifestyle. Anyone curious about the Master Gardener program is encouraged to visit the website, mastergardener.org, to learn more about it.

Pam has promised to return in March to talk about the Master Gardener program. Garden enthusiasts gathered to share ideas, ask questions and get inspired.

Questions?
Contact staff by email frederic@fredericlibrary.org or call 715-327-4979. Address: 127 Oak St. W. Like us on Facebook.

Since August, a strong field of “Super Bowl” readers have participated in the Football Challenge Reading Program. Each book finished represented a yard on the football field. With 100 books read, these two readers each scored a touchdown! Congrats to all the young readers who participated.
Amery High School received a $1,000 grant from Polk-Burnett’s Operation Round Up to help the junior class tour universities and technical colleges. Pictured (L to R): Amery High School students Keaton Tollakson, Drew Granica, Anna Ganje and Walker Ingham. – Photo provided

Polk-Burnett’s Operation Round Up awards $16,705 to 19 local nonprofits

CENTURIA – Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op’s Operation Round Up awarded $16,705 to 19 nonprofits serving our community this winter. Amery High School and Ruby’s Food Shelf are two local programs that received a financial boost this quarter, thanks to the generosity of electric co-op members. Grants also benefited three libraries, two historical societies and students at St. Croix Falls, Turtle Lake and Webster schools.

Funding for Operation Round Up is donated to nonprofit organizations that improve our local quality of life. “Polk-Burnett is pleased to support our community through Operation Round Up, and we thank our members for their participation and generosity. Operation Round Up aligns with our co-op values,” said Polk-Burnett’s Regional Manager of Corporate Affairs. “Together, we are making a difference in our community.”

Grant recipients for winter 2020 and the planned use of the grants are:
- Workforce Resource, $600, resources kits for young people.
- Amery High School, $1,000, college visits for juniors.
- St. Croix Falls School District, $1,000, blazers for students in SkillsUSA Club.
- St. Croix Falls Historical Society, $900, handicap ramp for Little Red Schoolhouse, Polk County Fairgrounds.
- Restorative Justice of Northwest Wisconsin, $1,000, program to assist victims and offenders.
- Clear Lake Public Library, $1,000, 100 large-print books.
- Interfaith Caregivers of Burnett County, $1,500, firewood for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Turtle Lake FFA, $400, aquaponics indoor garden system and fish tanks.
- Friends of Amery Public Library, $500, adult programs.
- Friends of Larsen Family Library-Webster, $1,000, early childhood books.
- Healthy Burnett, $305, website.
- Grow SCV, $500, family night events.
- Ruby’s Food Shelf, $1,500, food for people in Siren and Webster area.
- Softies, $1,000, career exploration for Webster students.
- Burnett County Fresh & Healthy, $1,000, helping people select and prepare healthy foods.
- Polk County Historical Society, $1,000, WWII and military exhibits.
- Turtle Lake FFA, $400, new light fixtures for clinic in Luck.
- Rowdy Red Hat Mamas of NW Wisconsin, $500, cancer care kits for women.
- Osecola Area Chamber and Main Street, $1,000, LEDS for Luminare Downtown project.

Nonprofit organizations interested in applying for a grant or co-op members who’d like to round their bill up in support of Operation Round Up may contact 800-421-0283 or polkburnett.com. The next application deadline is March 1.
W hen I owned a quilt shop years ago, I taught various patterns, including the popular sunshine and shadows pattern. Made of alternating squares of light and dark fabric, the final result is always a thing of beauty. The pattern is still popular, especially in Amish communities where their beautiful works of art reflect not only nature but their Christian faith.

In such a quilt, the dark pieces symbolize evil and the light pieces are reflections of God’s light. We know that many evil deeds are done under the cloak of darkness. Conversely, light is the place where truth is most often revealed. “Step out into the light where I can see you,” we say to the child hiding in the shadows after being naughty. Light reveals a person’s body language and countenance as surely as dark shadows hide them. We can tell much about a person when standing in the sunshine or a lighted room.

The Bible warns us about living in darkness. “If we say we have fellowship with him [Jesus], and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.” (1 John 1:6) John also makes it clear that “God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:5, 7)

Before coming to faith in Christ, we were “… once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light … finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness…” (Ephesians 5:8-9) We can find out what is acceptable to God by practice, looking through darkness and evil that confronts us and toward the good (sunshine) that lies beyond. Deliverance from spiritual darkness should bring us to look toward and live in the light of God’s word. Since any bad habits we’ve accumulated may prevent us from doing so, we must make it a daily practice to avoid them.

Through the power of God’s spirit and our faith, we can win the victory over sin’s darkness. Lord, thank you for being the light of the world. Give us the desire and power to remain in your word. Help us become a pattern of light, rather than of darkness, that will shine before all those around us and dispel any shadows. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Mrs. Bair may be reached at sallybair@gmail.com.

Sunshine and shadow

Q: As a fairly new parent, I’m really wanting to do something practical and helpful for my child. Do you have any practical advice?

Danny Huerta, vice president, Parenting and Youth. In many ways, being a parent is the most natural thing in the world. But there’s a lot to learn, as well. The word “discipline” comes from the Latin word for “disciple,” “pupil” or “learner.” Discipline is about teaching — and all of us have the skills to teach.

First, make sure your child understands the rules before you discipline him. If Junior hasn’t been told ahead of time a particular behavior is wrong, he shouldn’t be punished for it. And remember: There’s a difference between defiance and mistakes. So, if your child acts out because of immaturity or clumsiness, there’s no reason to punish him at all. Just come alongside him and help him learn and grow from the experience.

Second, when your child breaks a rule or makes a mistake, it’s important to discipline the offense. Don’t put out a match with a fire hose. In other words, don’t overreact. A small act of defiance should receive an equally small form of correction. Again, you’re teaching.

Most importantly, stay in control. Never discipline in anger. Unless your child is facing immediate danger, you don’t have to address a problem the moment it happens. Instead, step back from the situation until your emotions are under control. Discipline isn’t about telling a child down. It’s about teaching your child right and wrong and helping him to learn and grow.

In a nutshell, parenting is about balancing love with clear and consistent limits. If and when you need help, visit our website at FocusOnTheFamily.com or call us at 800-A-FAMILY (800-232-6849).

Jim Daly is a husband and father, an author, president of Focus on the Family and host of the “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 80905. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Distributed by Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106; 816-581-7500. 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: Luck Lutheran Church

Moving on after divorce can be tough

Q: I recently went through a divorce that I didn’t want, but my ex has moved on, and there’s no going back. I’m starting to look forward myself. How soon is too soon to get married again after divorce?

Jim: There’s no one-size-fits-all answer to “how soon is too soon.” But if you’re open to learning, just look for the right person; become someone who refuses to go to therapy and help him learn and grow from the experience.

Again, you’re teaching.

H.O.P. الامام علي رض

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Siren, Win., 715-349-2560

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES
Corey T. Arnold Agent
Fredderick, Win., 715-327-8076

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

Church listings sponsored by the following area businesses:

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INTER-COUNTY LEADER - NORTHERN CURRENTS, SECTION B • JANUARY 29, 2020

FAITH LUTHERAN - GRANTSBURG
Sun. Worship 9:30 a.m.; 715-349-5346
Brandon Owens, Council President,
Pastor Steve Miller
10:30 a.m. Worship; 11:30 a.m. Fellowship.

LUCK LUTHERAN
Sun. Wor. 10:45 a.m.; Sun. Schl. 10:45 a.m.

LAKETOWN LUTHERAN - CUSHING
Church Office 715-635-7791, Pastor Bill Schroeder
(Missouri Synod)
Pastor Diane House; Parish Office - 715-857-5580
Sun. Worship 9 a.m.; Fellowship Hour 10:15 a.m.
Pastor Dwight Rudquist, pastorrudquist@gmail.com
Sun. Schl. - 9:30 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
3 miles So. of Grantsburg on Hwy. 87

BETHANY LUTHERAN - BRANSTAD
Sun. Wor. - 9:30 a.m.; Sun. School & Bible
Cell: 661-400-3828, Hwy. 70 at 53, Spooner
LUTHERAN

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH
Youth Ministry Pastor Chris Folkestad;
ALLIANCE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

NURSERY AVAILABLE

ATLAS UNITED METHODIST
715 Nevada St., St. Croix Falls
715-463-4161; info@gracechurchosceola.com
722 Seminole Ave., Osceola
Wed. School: 3:30-5 p.m. Oct.-May
Mt. Zion-Grace Parish, 715-244-3301
Pastor John Peterson
Council Chair, 715-222-6712;
ZION LUTHERAN - MARKVILLE
Service 9:30 a.m.; Youth Group, 6 p.m., at
Danny Wheeler and Ralph Thompson
yellowlakelutheranchurch.org
Sun. Wor. 9 a.m.; Communion 1st & 3rd Sunday
Fellowship 11 a.m.
1 mi. west of Luck on N, 2478 170th St., Luck
Pastor Linda Rozumalski
Pastor Mark K. Schoen
140 Madison St. South, St. Croix Falls
200 N. Adams St., St. Croix Falls
(centurylink.com)
Pastor Melissa Carmack
Pastor Mark R. Seeley
Pastor Karl Seely
Pastor Carl Heidel, 715-222-6712;
Pastoral Serv. 715-349-5280
Sun. Schl. - 9:30 a.m.; Worship - 11 a.m.
3 miles So. of Grantsburg on Hwy. 87

PEACE LUTHERAN - DRESSER (ELCA)
Sun. Worship - 9:30 a.m.; Sun. School: 10:45 a.m.
Rev. Eddie Crise, Sr. Pastor
3482 115th St., 715-866-8646

ST. CROIX UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Thursdays: Celebrate Recovery 6 p.m.
Sundays: Bible Study 9 a.m.; Service 10 a.m.
7534 Peet St., Danbury, WI 54830
Pastor Jason Peterson

REV. ANDREW MURPHY IN THE NEWS

Find out what’s happening around the Northern Wisconsin area in this edition of the "Northern Currents" section of the "Inter-County Leader" newspaper. The page features listings for various churches and their services, including worship times, fellowship hours, and other events. This edition includes listings from Faith Lutheran in Grantsburg, Luck Lutheran, Laketown Lutheran in Cushing, Bethany Lutheran in Branstad, Word of Life Church, and many others. The locations range from Grantsburg to Luck and include various denominations such as Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, and Unitarian Universalist. The information provided is organized in a readable format, making it easy for readers to find the religious services they are interested in attending.
Gavin Nelson has been chosen Frederic Elementary School’s student of the week. He is in third grade and the son of Jared and Rachel Nelson. He is a positive role model in music class. He is focused, works hard and is helpful to others. He enjoys learning during Tag-Get Time. Some of his interests include playing video games, playing soccer and eating cheese pizza. When he grows up, he would like to become a game developer.

Freddie Nelson has been chosen Fre- deric Middle School’s student of the week. He is in seventh grade and the son of Todd and Roseann Nelson. He is a calm, well-mannered student who helps his classmates and leads by example. He is involved in PEP and helps teammates. He enjoys running, baseball, basketball, football, track and basketball. He enjoys playing video games and playing with his pets and playing video games. His favorite snack is a banana. His hobbies include fishing, hunting and playing video games. His favorite color is a green. His favorite season is summer. He wants to be a police officer.

Ember Rosasmen has been chosen Fred- ric High School’s student of the week. She is a student and the daughter of David and Tim Rosasmen. She is involved in painting, handball and dance at Oak Forest Center. She enjoys reading and learning the Korean language. She is a hard worker and always does his best on his work. He works on time, studies for assessments and does deep understanding of all topics. His plans to attend Cornes- ton State University and study film production or missionary work.

Anahit Libzah has been chosen Gra- borg Elementary School’s student of the week. She is in fourth grade and the daughter of Joseph and Kathy Libzah. She loves to check out books from the library. She is kind and supportive of her classmates and keeps trying when something is difficult. She likes to help her classmates, play handball and read books. Her favorite color is pink and she likes to eat cheeseburgers. When she grows up, she wants to be a teacher.

Matt Michael has been chosen Grants- burg Middle School’s student of the week. He is in seventh grade and the son of Lula Kapp and Akeim Michael. He is a very self-motivated, responsible young man. He works hard every day and is a role model for his peers in the hall. If the respect and kindness he shows for others. He wants to be an officer.

Linda Meine has been chosen Luck Ele- mentary School’s student of the week. She is in fourth grade and the daughter of Ted and Roseann Meine. She often helps her classmates and leads by example. She is involved in PEP and helps her teammates. She enjoys playing basketball, football, track and basketball. She enjoys playing video games and playing with her pets. Her favorite snack is a banana. Her hobbies include fishing, hunting and playing video games. Her favorite color is green. Her favorite season is summer. She wants to be a game developer.

Zai Walters has been chosen Luck Mid- dle School’s student of the week. She is in seventh grade and the daughter of Todd and Roseann Walters. She is a calm, well-mannered student who helps her classmates and leads by example. She is involved in PEP and helps her teammates. She enjoys playing basketball, football, track and basketball. She enjoys playing video games and playing with her pets. Her favorite snack is a banana. Her hobbies include fishing, hunting and playing video games. Her favorite color is green. Her favorite season is summer. She wants to be a police officer.

Angie Johanson has been chosen Luck High School’s student of the week. She is in third grade and the daughter of Todd and Heather Johanson. He always has a great smile, an infectious laugh and a good sense of humor. She loves her teachers and works towards them. She likes reading, math and grammar. She also likes to read about wolves.

Angel Bolland has been chosen Si- den Elementary School’s student of the week. She is in third grade and the daughter of Todd Bolland. She has worked very hard this year at becoming a better reader and making good choices. She is kind to her classmates, has a great smile, an infectious laugh and a good sense of humor. She loves her teachers and works towards them. She likes reading, math and grammar. She is a very kind, goofy friend in our Busy Bees class.

Blake Nolte has been chosen Siren Mid- dle School’s student of the week. He is in fourth grade and the son of and Kathy Nolte. He is involved in basketball and football. He is an extremely hard worker and gives his best effort in all of his classes. He plays football and woodwinds for the Dragons. He likes to fish and hunt and he has three.

Brady Kosloski has been chosen Siren High School’s student of the week. He is a junior and the son of Rick and Kristin Kosloski. He is active in football, basketball, track and field, and is a member of the football team. He is an extremely hard worker and gives his best effort in all of his classes. He plays football and woodwinds for the Dragons. He likes to fish and hunt and he has three.

Luna Nelson has been chosen Siren Ele- mentary School’s student of the week. She is in fourth grade and the daughter of Joseph and Kathy Nelson. She is a very kind, hardworking child. She is a role model for her peers and always helps others when needed. She enjoys art and drawing. She loves to spend time with her family and friends. Her favorite class is music class. She is a very responsible and mature student.

Pherra Bowers has been chosen Uni- ty Elementary School’s student of the week. She is in fourth grade and the daughter of Andrea Leis and Eric Bowers. She is a kind, goody-goody child in our Busy Bees class. She wants to be a teacher and is a role model for her classmates and leads by example. She is involved in PEP and helps her teammates. She enjoys playing basketball, softball and softball and her future plans in- clude attending a two-year college for a math- or science-related field.

Olivia Johnson has been chosen Unity Middle School’s student of the week. She is in fourth grade and the daughter of and Kelly Johnson. He enjoys helping others, turns her work in on time, studies for assessments and does deep understanding of all topics. Her plans to attend Corner- stone University and study film production or missionary work.

Pherra Bowers has been chosen Uni- ty Elementary School’s student of the week. She is in fourth grade and the daughter of Andrea Leis and Eric Bowers. She is a kind, goody-goody child in our Busy Bees class. She wants to be a teacher and is a role model for her classmates and leads by example. She is involved in PEP and helps her teammates. She enjoys playing basketball, softball and softball and her future plans in- clude attending a two-year college for a math- or science-related field.

Olivia Johnson has been chosen Unity Middle School’s student of the week. She is in fourth grade and the daughter of and Kelly Johnson. He enjoys helping others, turns her work in on time, studies for assessments and does deep understanding of all topics. Her plans to attend Corner- stone University and study film production or missionary work.

Charlie Hanson has been chosen Drescher Elementary School’s student of the week. He is in second grade and lives at home with his mom and older brother. His hobbies include playing basketball, football, track and basketball. He enjoys drawing and sewing and even makes some of his own clothes.

Emma Schostek has been chosen St. Croix Falls Middle School’s student of the week. She is in fifth grade and the daughter of Sarah and Cody Schostek. She is involved in volleyball, softball, Club Red volleyball and enjoys drawing, coloring, streaming, hunting, fishing, playing and spending time with family and friends. Her favorite class is gym. She is responsible and always will- ing to help others, turns her work in on time and does her best when needed.

Kadenz Soper has been chosen St. Croix Falls High School’s student of the week. She is the daughter of Jen- nifer Soper and Benjamin Soper. She always goes above and beyond in the classroom. She is always upbeat and does her best to help other students in need. She participates in basketball and softball and her future plans in- clude becoming a two-year college for a math- or science-related field.

Heaven Heinen has been chosen Unity Middle School’s student of the week. He is in fifth grade and the son of Rick and Pam Heinen. He was chosen for being helpful in the classroom and a great kid. He is involved in student council, foren- sicics, youth group, Kinship, FCCLA and basketball. He enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his family and friends. His favorite class is science class. He is always upbeat and does his best when needed.

Pia Hutton has been chosen Unity High School’s student of the week. She is a freshman and the son of Timothy Hutton. He is a hardworking young man who is responsible and kind to all those with whom he comes in contact with. He is involved in football, basketball and baseball. He likes to draw and play video games. His plans to become a forest economist later in life.
**Coming Events**

**Send your coming events items to:** INTER-COUNTY LEADER, BOX 490, FREDERIC, WI 54837 OR EMAIL submit@leaderregister.com

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**January**

**Thursday/Saturday**

**Amery**
- Bingo at the VFW post, 7-9 p.m., mvfw.org/wi/post7929.

**Dresser**
- Weekly grief support group at New Life Christian Community, 6:30-8:30 p.m., griefshare.org, 715-201-2295.

**Frederic**
- Friends of the Frederic Library meet at the library, 10:30 a.m., 715-327-4979.

**Grantsburg**
- Sunset snowshoe hike at Crex Meadows, 3:30-5 p.m. Must preregister, 715-463-2739, crexmeadows.org.

- Cellist/singer/composer Mike Block at Weston Damar Lutheran Church, 7:30 p.m. Tickets at door. 715-328-0830, westendmaran.net.

**Milltown**
- Domestic violence family group, 5-6 p.m., 800-301-2723.
- Domestic violence support group, 6-7 p.m., 800-281-2723.

**Webster**
- Tiger Tech open house at the high school, 4-8 p.m., rites, door prizes, demos, more.

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**Friday**

**Grantsburg**
- Free board distribution, every Friday until further notice at Trinity Lutheran Church, 9 a.m. 715-327-4837.

**Frederic**
- Deadline to sign up for trip to Old Gem Theater, New Richmond; for “Foodball” on Mon., Feb. 17, 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., 715-327-4837. Facebook: Frederick Comm. Comm. Education.

**Promette (59 and older) at Crosswalk Community Church, 12:30-3 p.m.; lunch provided. National Send a Card to a Friend Day. 715-886-6177.

**Grantsburg**
- Candlelight hike at Crex Meadows, walk or snowshoe, 6-8 p.m., 715-463-2739, crexmeadows.org.

**Luck**
- Free movie at the museum, “Mary,” 1955, 1 p.m.

**Saturday/Sunday**

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**February**

**Saturday/Sunday**

**Amery**
- Wanderos Area Lions Club ice-fishing contest on Lake Wapogasset, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 715-383-1945.

**Balsam Lake**
- Fire & Ice Plunge on Beaver Lake by the beach, to benefit the fire dept., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Facebook.

**Clayton**
- Free scoring event at Richardson Sportmen Club, antlers, etc., any North American animal, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Danbury**
- Rump’s Pantry at A Slanted Reading shop, 520 donation. Open 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

**Grantsburg**
- Instant Pot Essentials class at the high school, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Register: 715-463-4701, school district website.

**Gun show**
- at the library, 10-11 a.m., 715-866-7697.

**Clear Lake**
- Snowshoe hike at Interstate Park, 1-2:30 p.m. Meet at visitor center, 715-483-3747.

**Dresser**
- Blood drive at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., redcrossblood.org, 700-333-7767.

- Sen. Patty Schachtner literacy session at the library, 3-5:30 p.m. Info: sen.schachtner@legis.wi.gov, 608-266-7475.

**Grantsburg**
- First session of ballroom dancing class, rumble, 4 weeks, at the high school, 6-7 p.m. Register: 715-463-4701, school district website.
- Sign-up night for youth soccer season at the high school community, 6-7 p.m., alyssa.bluesombrero.com/region1/2729.

**Luck**
- Luck Lions Club meet at the Lions Hall, 7 p.m.
- Blood drive at Rugby’s Wells Café, 12:30-6:30 p.m., 700-333-7767, redcrossblood.org.

**Siren**
- SurvivorCare at the Covenant Church, 6-8 p.m. 13-week session, Jan.-April, 715-220-0871.

**Barnett Arts Area Group meets at In A New Light Gallery, 5 p.m.
- AARP Tax Aides at the library, call for appointment, 715-866-7697.

**Webster**
- Bette M. Smith Memorial Fundraiser at St. Croix Falls, 7-9 p.m., 715-866-7697.

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**March**

**Saturday/Sunday**

**Amery**
- Winn/Doozer at the library, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Snoeshoe hike at Interstate Park, 1-2:30 p.m. Meet at visitor center, 715-483-3747.

**Dresser**
- Blood drive at Rugby’s Wells Café, 12:30-6:30 p.m., 700-333-7767, redcrossblood.org.

**Clear Lake**
- Compassionate Friends, Tri-County Chapter, grief support in the death of a child, at First Lutheran, 7 p.m., 715-383-2799.

**Dresser**
- Weekly grief support group at New Life Christian Community, 5:30-7 p.m., griefshare.org, 715-201-2295.

**Grantsburg**
- First session of ballroom dancing class, rumble, 4 weeks, at the high school, 6-7 p.m. Register: 715-463-4701, school district website.
- Sign-up night for youth soccer season at the high school community, 6-7 p.m., alyssa.bluesombrero.com/region1/2729.

**Luck**
- Luck Lions Club meet at the Lions Hall, 7 p.m.
- Blood drive at Rugby’s Wells Café, 12:30-6:30 p.m., 700-333-7767, redcrossblood.org.

**Siren**
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- Bette M. Smith Memorial Fundraiser at St. Croix Falls, 7-9 p.m., 715-866-7697.

**Weaver**
- Bette M. Smith Memorial Fundraiser at St. Croix Falls, 7-9 p.m., 715-866-7697.

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**April**

**Saturday/Sunday**

**Amery**
- Bingo at the VFW post, 5-8 p.m., mvfw.org/wi/post7929.

**Dresser**
- Blood drive at Bethel Lutheran Church, noon-6 p.m., 700-333-7767, redcrossblood.org.
- Weekly grief support group at New Life Christian Community, 6-8:30 p.m., griefshare.org, 715-201-2295.

**Frederic**
- Military family support group meeting at the community center, 6-7:30 p.m., 715-657-0557.
- Blood drive at Hope Evangelical Free Church, 12:30-6:30 p.m., redcrossblood.org, 700-333-7767.

**Grantsburg**
- Mental health peer support group led by NAMI facilitators at the library, 10-11 a.m., 715-866-7697.
- American Legion & Auxiliaries meetings at the community center. Post 96: 7:11 p.m., Unit 96: 6:30-8 p.m.
- Talking Circle at Sand Lake Elder Nutrition Site, 7 p.m., 715-416-2687; or Buck Zehner, 715-416-2927.

**Balsam Lake**
- Chef/author Peter Kwan of the library, cooking demo, book signing. 11 a.m., 715-483-2515.

**Grantsburg**
- Sand Rock Coffee ice fishing at WISCA trailhead on Hwy. 70, 4-12 p.m., atsrovericeassociation.org.
- Winter Wednesdays snowshoe hike at Crex Meadows, 10-11:30 a.m. Must preregister. crexmeadows.org, 715-483-2739.

**Amery**
- Pancake Supper at Veterans’ Home, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 800-733-2767.

**Siren**
- Primetime (59 and older) at Crosswalk Community Church, 12:30-3 p.m.; lunch provided. National Send a Card to a Friend Day. 715-886-6177.

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**Send event information (include contact information) to submit@leaderregister.com**