Administrator resigns amid council chasm

Bizarre scenarios of city seeming to sue itself  Page 3

A SWEDISH SILENT NIGHT

The quaint Swedish Mission Church on the hill in Trade Lake was built in the mid-1890s, with two front doors – one for men and one for women. Built for $200, the church stands on the top of the hill on the north side of Trade Lake. The electric lights provided a warm golden glow as the congregation filed out of the building on a gorgeous December evening. See more photos on back page. - Photo by Becky Stabel

Four Cubs Farm files suit against Burnett Dairy

Cooperative severs ties with largest customer  Page 5

442 years of service recognized

Burnett County Board honors 40 county employees  Page 9
Patterson yielded to three police cars while kidnapping Jayme Closs

The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel last week published more information on the case using documents — including audio and video files — released by the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

Among their findings were:
- Authorities searched nearby bodies of water based on information from an astrologer who believed Jayme was dead in a lake or pond near her home, and even suggested a name. That name led authorities to a Barron County sex offender but that lead led nowhere.
- Patterson, 22, told police he began to entertain fantasies of taking a girl after his discharge from the Marines, noting he prefers younger girls to those his own age.
- Patterson said Jayme was scared when they arrived in Gordon and wouldn’t eat or drink until a week had passed. Throughout her 88 days of captivity the two watched TV, played board games together and even played badminton outside before the weather grew cold.
- Dozens of investigators pursued overheard conversations in bars, interviews with family and co-workers and surveillance footage at gas stations from Janesville to Superior.
- Jayme, according to Patterson, spoke of her parents as if they were still alive but they didn’t discuss what had happened or the circumstances they were in.

When investigators reached the Closs home, which has since been razed, they found James Closs dead in the living room, Denise Closs dead in the bathroom and their dog in the basement trembling in fear behind the washer and dryer.

A link to the complete story can be found at leaderregister.com.

RIGHT: Jayme Closs, now 14, lives with her aunt and uncle in Barron. - Special photo

The College of St. Scholastica will host a musical look at the life of legendary music educa
tor Nadia Boulanger at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020, in the Mitchell Auditorium on campus. “Nadia” explores the life of Boulanger, a French teacher, composer and conductor. She served as a teacher for many of the leading composers and musicians of the 20th century and also performed occasionally as a pianist and organist. Soprano Adriana Zabala (above) and classical musicians the Bakken Trio will team up for a mesmerizing one-woman tour-de-force that combines chamber music with theater to tell Boulanger’s story. The event is free and open to the public. For more in
tformation, contact the Spotlight Box Office at 218-723-7000 or spotlight@css.edu. - Photo provided

This photo from the dash cam of a Barron County Sheriff’s Deputy squad car shows the head
lights of a dark red Taurus driven by Jake Patterson the evening of Oct. 16, 2018, minutes after he had kidnapped Jayme Closs after killing her parents. - Photo courtesy Wisconsin Department of Justice

“NADIA” TO BE PRESENTED AT DULUTH
Grantsburg man faces child porn charges

Becky Strabel \Staff writer
BURNETT COUNTY – Johnny L. Massey Jr. 33, Grantsburg, was in front of Burnett County Circuit Court Judge Melissa Mogen on Monday, Dec. 23, for a bail/bond hearing after being arrested the evening of Thursday, Dec. 19, for felony possession of child pornography.

A $10,000 cash bond with conditions was set. Massey is not to have contact with any children, including his own biological children, until further order of the court. In this matter, a child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 years old. Massey is not to be in possession of any sexual images or allowed to use any technological device with internet access capability, including but not limited to computers, iPads/tablets, or cell phones.

Massey is scheduled to be back in front of Mogen on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Child porn charges filed against Centuria man

Ten felony charges resulted from Internet tip

Greg Marsten \Staff writer
BALSM. LAKE – Ten felony charges were filed against a 34-year-old Centuria man, Matthew Bader, after an Internet watchdog group reported to police that he had registered the man sending multiple emails with images of underage children.

Bader was later charged with 10 felony counts of possession of child pornography and making child pornography images accessible on the Internet.

Balsam Lake’s Matthew Bader, who was interviewed by state officials, with Bader later admitting to being behind the username. Police later found evidence of child porn, spanning several ages, as well as other items suggesting he was being a pedophile. Bader was later charged with 10 felony counts of possession of child pornography and making child pornography images accessible on the Internet.

Balsam Lake Police Chief Tony Messer said the primary concern of the case was to get Bader off the street and protect the children. The chief said the man would be in court on Jan. 7, with a judge who would be handling the case.

Wisconsin homeowners got a nice present from the lottery

The Wisconsin Lottery has provided a $100 million gift to homeowners to help reduce property taxes. The lottery's “Property Tax Credit” program provides a one-time $500 credit for each property tax bill, starting with the first tax bill of 2020.

The credit is available to homeowners who own their own homes and have a homestead exemption. The credit is non-refundable and cannot be transferred to another property. The credit is available for the 2020 tax year only and cannot be used to pay property taxes for previous years.

The credit is automatically applied to a homeowner's property tax bill, and the homeowner does not need to apply for the credit. The credit is applied by the local assessor's office and is included in the property tax bill. The homeowner can then pay the bill as usual.

The credit has been available since 1985 and is funded by the state's lottery. The credit is one of the ways the state helps homeowners manage their property taxes.

The lottery has contributed more than $5 billion to the state's general fund since 1985, with over 60% of the lottery's revenue going to education programs. The remaining revenue is used for environmental conservation, outdoor recreation, veterans' affairs, and sportsmen's and women's programs.

The lottery has more than 300 millionaires and has paid out over $100 billion in prize money since its inception. The lottery has also contributed to numerous community projects, including schools, libraries, and hospitals.

The lottery has a long history of giving back to the state and its communities. The lottery has become a trusted and respected source of revenue for the state, and it continues to provide a valuable service to the people of Wisconsin.
Lawmakers, public divided over bill that punishes students who disrupt free speech

Lawmakers and the public appear largely divided over the necessity of a bill that would require mandatory punishments for any University of Wisconsin student who “materially or substantially disrupts the free expression of others.”

Members of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities split along party lines over whether the bill would have a “chilling effect” for campus free speech or be a protector of it.

Rep. Katrina Shankland, D-Stevens Point, criticized the bill as “a bad solution in search of a problem” and worried the mandatory punishments in the proposal would cause students to hold back all expression fearing fear of retaliation.

Sen. Chris Kapenga, R-Delavan, said passage of a measure similar to AB 444 would suspend UW students for a minimum of one semester after a formal investigation and disciplinary hearing found them responsible for two offenses. Students would then be expelled after a third charge.

Rep. David Murphy, R-Greenville, also introduced an amendment that would expand the bill’s policy to Wisconsin Technical College System campuses.

“You are choosing to limit what people would even say in a public forum, because they’d be so afraid of being disruptive that they wouldn’t even challenge someone who deserves to be challenged,” Shankland said at the hearing on Dec. 12. “They will not even engage in civil debates, because they will not have time to run around with conditions of ‘maternal,’ ‘substan-"
Letters to the Editor

RICE LAKE – The investigation into the Dec. 8 death of a 2-year-old Rice Lake girl has been completed and an autopsy shows the death was accidental by drowning, according to a joint press statement issued Monday, Dec. 23, by the city of Rice Lake Police Department and the Barron County District Attorney’s office. No charges will be filed.

“The death of the child was a tragic accident the circumstances of which will not be discussed,” the joint statement read. “Her father was asleep, the girl woke up. She could walk very well on her own and had recently learned how to open the door. She walked to the front door, pulled down on the door handle and open the door and ran outside to play.” Her father did not hear or see her leave.”

The statement says that as soon as the father saw his daughter missing, he ran outside and began calling for her. When he did not hear back, he called 911.

“An autopsy and determination of the manner and cause of death will be made by the Medical Examiner’s Office. The family will be notified,” the statement said.

Wood Creek and Wood River Beavers, made beautifully detailed replicas of the visitor center, some in the fashion of “gingerbread” houses. Also, special recognition to Ed Peterson (who, in 1965-66, was one of the men who worked on reconstructions of the visitor center on our site) who was on hand to greet and answer questions regarding our historical center.

My sincere gratitude goes out to the many Webster School students who volunteered to help us bake a little one in our Elves Store, helping Mr. and Mrs. Claus and performing live music with the winter resident, snowman, all with such positive, cheerful intent.

I also wanted to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the families who attended Christmas at the Forts. We hope there was “Treaty Fun for Everyone.”

A Merry Christmas to all!

Sincerely,

Mary Strutl
Staff writer

SIREN – Last week in Burnett County Circuit Court a suit was filed by Four Cubs Dairy Cooperative, Inc., a dairy farm in Sister Bay, against Burnett Dairy Cooperative, Inc., the farmer cooperative’s attorney for the plaintiffs. The complaint makes claims that the Burnett Dairy Cooperative board of directors, in way he handled the farm’s request for relief and that the cooperative did not allow the allotted time for fair hearing. The plaintiffs are seeking judgment will seek relief if the suit affects the sale.

The cooperative has allowed the sale to proceed, and forceful defense based on both the law and facts. The plaintiffs believe the cooperative is invalid and an attorney stating that the cooperative unreasonably voted to terminate Four Cubs Dairy Cooperative’s membership. The suit is also included, citing malicious defamation, interference in the bidding process and disclosing confidential information on the executory compensation plan.

Statement from BDC board

Following is a statement issued Tues- day by Burnett Dairy Cooperative: “Bill Haase, Chairman of the Burnett Dairy Cooperative board of directors, today issued the following statement after being asked by local media about a lawsuit filed in Circuit Court: “The lawsuit in question was filed by a former cooperative member who was terminated in early November for con- duct that interfered with the business. Unfortunately, this former member has chosen to not only pursue unfounded legal actions relating to their termi- nation membership, but they have also chosen to make additional, sensational and unsubstantiated allegations. These efforts are meant to discredit the Board of Directors and management of the Co- operative. We believe the Board of Directors and management are acting in the best interest of the cooperative and our membership. We are not ready to file any legal motion to dismiss the lawsuit. We will present an aggressive and forceful defense based on both the facts and law, and we are optimistic that the court will rule in our favor after all the evidence is presented.

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Grantsburg Telcom holds open house for retiring manager Mark Anderson

multiple felony charges filed after OWI

Woman flees police into own front door

Fiscal facts

A new window into school spending

Spreading the spirit of Christmas to those who serve

STATE SENATOR
PATTY SCHACHTNER
10th Senate District

responder to keep our community safe and healthy. And this year, I won’t be able to welcome my son Dylan home for Christmas, and I have spent many holidays separated from my sons during their time in the U.S. Navy. Whether they work in law enforcement, military service, health care or retail, hundreds of our neighbors in northwestern Wisconsin will be spending their Christmas Day in service to all of us. They keep our roads clear, keep our grocery shelves stocked and care for patients. I am grateful to them for their service and I understand their sacrifice. Serving on Christmas can feel isolating. We miss the Christmas Eve service or the opening of presents and it separates us from the traditions that the rest of our community enjoys. It also requires us to ask our families to make the same sacrifices.

As an EMT, I responded to car crashes and medical emergencies on holidays rather than gathering with my family and loved ones. While transporting patients is always stressful and difficult, it brought me peace to enter a hospital filled with poinsettias donated by churches, greeting cards from neighbors down the street, and other reminders of the holiday season. The love of our community filled me and my fellow first responders with light that the darkness could not overcome, and that is really the spirit of Christmas.

This Christmas, stop by your local fire station with a plate of cookies or send a poinsettia to the intensive care unit at your nearest hospital. Spread the spirit of Christmas to all those who aren’t able to celebrate with their families because they’ve put our community first. Your kindness will mean the world.

State Sen. Patty Schachtner proudly represents Wisconsin’s 10th Senate District, with 178,250 constituents. The district covers parts of Burnett, Dunn, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties.

about the use of resources and whether resource allocation decisions or practices are putting some students at a rel-

ative disadvantage.

This information is a service of the Wis-
consin Policy Forum, the state’s leading resource for nonpartisan state and local government research and civic education. Learn more at wispoliforum.org.
Remodel bid approved for Luck Village Hall

LUCY – The Luck Village Hall will soon undergo remodeling, creating a more secure facility for employees and more efficient transaction areas for customers. The village board, at its Wednesday, Dec. 11, meeting, took action to accept a bid on the project.

People entering the village hall will come in through a secure door, being “buzzed in” by staff. The existing closet between the office area and meeting room will be replaced by a wall with ADA-compliant transaction windows.

Also included in the project is replacement of the carpeting and window treatments, new ceiling and re-placement of current lighting for LED lights through the entire building.

The men’s bathroom will be remodeled into a unisex rest room meeting ADA requirements.

On the outside, flashing on the bottom of the south wall will be repaired and replaced.

“It’s a pretty big facelift on everything,” said public works director Seth Petersen, “and a fairly extensive change in the transaction area.”

This is the second time the project has been bid, Petersen said, and this bid is both local and lower than the first bid.

Clarke Construction will be handling the project, saying they “are ready to go,” according to Petersen. Clarke’s bid of not to exceed $117,371 is significantly lower than the first bid of $153,000.

“He was excited to have winter work in town,” Petersen said of Clarke.

Luck is . . .

Results are in from a survey conducted by Luck’s tourism department, and thewhelmingly show that that the greatest thing the community has going for it is its friendly, small-town atmosphere.

Luck tourism director Sherrine Johnson, adding that Luck can grow while maintaining its small-town feel.

One of the questions on the survey asked respondents to finish the sentence, “My town is . . .” She said one of her favorite answers was, “My town is the luckiest town in the world.”

Capitalizing on the name of the village, Johnson said, will be one of the priorities of the tourism community.

Many respondents spoke highly of the ambulance service, police department and fire department, according to Johnson.

On the negative side, she said, 60% of respondents did not feel that the five-year outlook for Luck was promising, particularly regarding the vacant buildings on Main Street.

However, she said, there were many who noted the improvements made during last year’s project that included new sidewalk, curb and gutter, streetlights and other items on Main Street, along with the new village hall.

To combat the vacancies Johnson said she is working with Luck School art classes to create banners depicting history of Luck. The banners will be placed in the window of the vacant buildings, and donations are being sought for the project.

Other business

The board approved the hiring of full-time police officer Chris Olsen, made in part through a partnership with Luck Schools. With the school covering 15 hours a week, said police Chief Monte Trettsven, and using the village’s part-time officer budget, there will be little impact on the police budget.

• Trustee Sonja Jensen, the board’s designee to the library board, was granted permission to attend the library board’s field trip to Appleton to see the Appleton library. She said the library board was also interested in learning about the long-term financial impact on the library if the “AARP” Tax-Aide service this year to help people with their taxes.

• RaeAnn Allen was presented with a framed certificate of appreciation for her 15 years as manager of Northland Municipal Ambulance Service. She started with the service in 1991 and has been manager since 2004. The certificate reads “Awarded to RaeAnn Allen for being an outstanding professional. We couldn’t do it without you. Thank you for your service.”

BURNETT COUNTY – An appeal to raise the speed limit through Alpha 700 feet to the west was re-turned with results that seem slightly counterproductive by local officials. On Monday, Dec. 16, Burnett County Highway Commissioner Mike Hoefs hosted a meeting at the highway department attended by staff from the highway department, the DOT, the sheriff’s office and representation from the town of Wood River and Burnett Dairy Coop.

Traffic studies completed in late April to mid-May and from late July to early August showed that 85% of the free-flow drivers are comfortable driving at a certain speed doesn’t mean they should.

• Traffic moving off the roadway was not included in the data. During the count, there were 4,200 free-flowing vehicles. The tally machines boot out anything traveling within six seconds of each other making the speed may be higher.

The DOT suggested that Burnett Dairy conduct their own traffic count on their property to help create a plan moving forward.

A new business the size of the dairy would likely most need to have a traffic impact assessment completed, but Burnett Dairy has expanded over the years, inherited access from other properties and was grandfathered through without much foresight.

• RaeAnn Allen is Luck’s representative on the ambulance board. The board approved a request from the dairy to move the zone between CTH M and the westernmost driveway by the weigh scales at the dairy.

According to Northwest Regional DOT traffic engineer Jennifer Berg, the study follows the statewide speed radar survey, which is the biggest that mirror federal procedures. Factors other than speed such as building locations, access points and pedestrians are reviewed.

Therefore, she suggests a multiple-proposed approach; raising the speed to 45 mph, work with Burnett Dairy on traffic flow and install a crosswalk with a rectangular rapid flashing beacon that is controlled by the pedestrian. Then reassess in a few years.

“The multiple changes will create the safest situation,” stated Berg, who also indicated that data shows the least amount of accidents occur when posted speeds are closer to what the 85% are traveling. “It seems contradictory, but the lower speeds aren’t always the safest. People will drive what they are comfortable driving and even speed if they know they will not get caught.

Local representation countered even though drivers are comfortable driving at a certain speed doesn’t mean they should.

• Local representation countered even though drivers are comfortable driving at a certain speed doesn’t mean they should.

The DOT emphasized that they cannot fund any changes but could potentially permit changes with local funding. Crosswalks and turn lanes would then be kept up with state dollars.

“Change must be made since the study was done,” explained Berg, “45 in the middle of the pace speeds. The speed needs to appear reasonable to the drivers.”

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Passage of moratorium is also expected

Mary Stirrat | Staff writer
TRADE LAKE — The Town of Trade Lake is closing in on its development of a concentrated animal feeding operations ordinance, with final approval possible at the town board’s Jan. 9 meeting. An accompanying one-year moratorium on CAFO licensing is also likely to be approved at the same time.

The board held its regular monthly meeting, fulfilling its commitment to have a full house of about 40 audience members. The meeting was one week later than usual, to accommodate the many people who have been working with the town on the ordinance and moratorium.

The attorney, Nick Vivian is a lead attorney with Eckberg Lammers of Stillwater and Hudson. He presented a preliminary draft of the proposed ordinance at the October town board meeting and incorporated appropriate comments and suggestions in the draft presented last week.

Vivian stressed that the proposed is not a siting ordinance, which would outline where a CAFO can be located.

Rather, he said, the ordinance outlines the processes that must be followed if someone does want to site a CAFO in the town.

Beginning by recognizing the public health and ecological impact of CAFOs, the proposed ordinance lists environmental health effects identified by the National Institute of Public Health, the pollutants commonly found in air surrounding CAFOs, and particulars on animal manure.

Although there is a growing body of evidence regarding the negative health impacts of CAFOs, Vivian said he focused the ordinance on the implications on water quality because of the impor­tance of water in the town.

The ordinance requires a CAFO operation to be issued by the town for any new or expanding livestock facility that will operate with 1,000 or more animal units.

An application for the permit must be submitted with the town clerk along with a non-refundable fee of $1 per permitted animal unit, payable to the town. This fee will be used to offset any costs the town incurs in reviewing and processing the application.

In addition, the public hearing, the presentation of any additional materials by the applicant or other interested parties, and review by legal counsel, the town would decide whether to approve the application and issue the permit.

All landowners within three miles of the proposed CAFO will be notified of the date and time of the town board meeting at which the application will be considered.

The permit can be issued, either with or without conditions, if a majority of the town board finds there is “clear and convincing evidence” that the operation will not negatively impact public health and safety, will prevent pollution and not create public or private nuisance, and “will preserve the quality of life, environment and existing small-scale livestock and agricultural operations in the town.”

Included in the ordinance is a set of 11 possible conditions of approval that can be incorporated into the permit.

About 40 people gathered at the Trade Lake Town Hall for the Dec. 19 meeting of the town board. Many in the audience were in attendance to hear about the proposed ordinance regarding the licensing of concentrated animal feeding operations. — Photos by Mary Stirrat

Frederic School discusses construction, tax impact and CE

Referendum results showing in construction and tax statements

Greg Marsten | Staff writer
FREDERIC — Frederic School District Administrator Josh Robinson had several updates on the construction and re­habilitations of the school, which are located in the district as a result of last spring’s two-question referendum, but he also warned the board of education, at their regular meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 11, that it will only get more expensive if they don’t refocus their hearts on the mill rate.

The referendum questions passed the April 2 general election, allowing an $8.2 million levy override for five years and also a $7 million facilities and capital improvement project.

The taxpayers will see their mill rate increase from 10.27 to 10.2 cents, although the previous mill rate was considered a sort of rarity because of recent debt retirement and a variety of other factors.

“The goal was to get a mill rate to 10.2,” Robinson said, noting the pre-referendum plans associated with the two questions in the referendum, but said “we don’t have control over, even at 10.2, but just to note that the rate (10.2) is the third lowest mill rate in the state.”

The noted construction projects have been well underway for several months. The board also got an update on one of the project managers from Market & Johnson, the firm leading the construction and rehabilitation projects under­way at both schools.

The elementary office reconstruction is a little behind schedule, but other aspects, including construction of a new agriculture classroom building and locker building, are advancing as planned.

“On time and will address the changes soon.” Beecroft said. “We have great communication with the teachers, to post personal accom­plishments, updates and more, which they said is proving to be highly popu­lar. ‘It’s a valuable tool in bridging the classrooms,’ Billsing said. “We can use it in a wide range of ways.” “As an admin­istrator, I even get excited about what they post!” elementary Principal Megan Challoner commented.

The community education offerings and report came via Sheila Beecroft, who pointed out the growing success and new offerings in the district through community education, which had almost 350 participants in the last year.

Beecroft noted the addition of kids atten­dance for free with adults, as well as a growing sort of camaraderie among attendees. “They almost feel like family and they’re often building friendships in school and bringing them out of the school,” Beecroft said. “We have great attendance, and you’re almost at the maximum number of students.”

The board also met their new communications coordinator, Cecilia Pardun, who discussed networking oppor­tunities she is trying to establish and other innovations, with a goal of district promotion and transparency. “This is a great opportunity to tell the story of the Frederic School District,” Pardun said.

Robinson noted a few upcoming things they are pursuing, including ex­pansion of the two-year cooperative ath­letic contract with the Luck School District for cross country. “It seems to be a coop­erative that’s really growing,” Robinson said, noted the successes of the coaching staff.

Robinson gave a brief update on a recent annual security drill the district held. They worked with the Frederic Police Department on a safety drill Dec. 16, with a fake assailant trying to enter the buildings. “It proved successful for the district. ‘Good news, he was unable to enter the building,’” Robinson said, as he detailed the scenario and responses. The board approved the results of the annual safety drill. Robinson said they gave their annual district nurse program, which hit a bit of a setback with the recent resignation of their nurse, Anna Hinde, due to a full­time job offer. But Robinson said they are working with the local medical cen­ter, the local community clinic.

She offered to help out with (medical) screenings and the like,” Robinson said.

• Approval of CAFO ordinance expected at Trade Lake next month

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• Johnson discuusses construction, tax impact and CE

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LCEY will allow a more diverse group composed of state agency leaders. The Alabama Leadership Council on Early Years Children and Families and a newly created Illinois Governor’s Council on Early Childhood will be looking at ways to improve retention, retention and support of the early care and education workforce. Finding qualified employees and keeping them is often cited as one of the biggest challenges child care providers face. Wisconsin’s plan will also focus on bridging the gap between early childhood and school-aged programming and vulnerable and underserved children.

"This grant gives us an opportunity to rethink how Wisconsin values early childhood," said Secretary-designee Emilie Amundson. "What we hear from people across the state is that access to high-quality early care and education experiences drive a whole host of other positive outcomes for communities. This is our chance to build a bigger table and help everyone understand the value early care and education provides Wisconsin."

Providing a strong educational foundation for our youngest learners is critical to close opportunity and achievement gaps," Stanford Taylor said. "The funding allows us to design a Wisconsin-specific approach that respects the diversity we face. This is up from the low 50s a few years ago. It was noted that not many in jail are on bail but waiting to be transferred to prison or sitting for probation violations.

Other business

Introduced as the newly hired Burnett County Economic Development director was Dick Hartmann. His office is in the Land Services Department. Health and Human Services director Allison Fern presented the department’s 2019 annual report. Challenges and changes occurred and included a number of employee turnovers, high numbers of youth in care and a meth diversion graduation. A resolution to amend the fines for the illegal transportation of aquatic plants and invasive animals to more closely follow the fines set by the Department of Natural Resources was approved.

Other resolutions signed included a county/trial law enforcement assistance tribal grant application, participation in the DNR municipal dam grant program and a tax deed issuance were approved. Chairman Don Taylor explained that the tax deeds are from 2015 unpaid taxes, which puts a burden on all taxpayers.

### Wisconsin awarded nearly $10 million for early childhood efforts

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers announced on Monday, Dec. 23, that Wisconsin has been awarded $10 million through the Preschool Development Grant Program to strengthen the state’s early childhood system. The grant focuses on addressing pervasive challenges around equity, access, quality and affordability in early care and education.

The grant will allow Wisconsin to collect better information about the needs of the early care and education system. That information will be used to create a state plan. The grant activities are led by Evers, first lady Kathy Evers, state Superintendent of Public Instruction Carolyn Stanford Taylor, the state Department of Children and Families and a newly created Early Childhood Leadership Council on Early Years composed of state agency leaders. The LCEY will allow a more diverse group of stakeholders to be involved in providing feedback on early childhood policy: connecting the dots among sectors like business, health care and higher education that bring valuable knowledge and experience to the conversation.

"The first years of a kid’s life set the tone for their future success," said Gov. Evers. "Right now, many families struggle to find affordable and reliable care for their kids before they reach school age. This grant provides us with an opportunity to clear some of those hurdles, and to connect the dots for our kids and their families." As part of the grant activities, the state will be looking at ways to improve recruitment, retention and support of the early care and education workforce. Finding qualified employees and keeping them is often cited as one of the biggest challenges child care providers face. Wisconsin’s plan will also focus on bridging the gap between early childhood and school-aged programming and vulnerable and underserved children.

This grant gives us an opportunity to rethink how Wisconsin values early childhood," said Secretary-designee Emilie Amundson. "What we hear from people across the state is that access to high-quality early care and education experiences drive a whole host of other positive outcomes for communities. This is our chance to build a bigger table and help everyone understand the value early care and education provides Wisconsin."

Providing a strong educational foundation for our youngest learners is critical to close opportunity and achievement gaps," Stanford Taylor said. "The funding allows us to design a Wisconsin-specific approach that respects the diversity we face. This is up from the low 50s a few years ago. It was noted that not many in jail are on bail but waiting to be transferred to prison or sitting for probation violations.

### Woodland Chorale auditions set for Jan. 16

LUCK - Woodland Chorale will hold auditions for new singers wishing to join the group for its spring concert. Auditions will be held at the Luck High School rehearsal room beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 16. Interested singers should contact Harry Johansen at 715-472-4575 for audition information.
Limited modification to injunction allowed

Becky Stabel | Staff writer

BURNETT COUNTY – A telephone conference hearing scheduled on Friday, Dec. 6, was converted to an off-record status update due to the phone system not functioning properly in Judge Melissa Mogen’s courtroom for the case of Matthew Jensen v. Wood Lake Camp and RV LLC.

Last month, Mogen dismissed the Concerned Citizens of Big Wood Lake as plaintiffs, since, as a whole, they have no claim in the case because they do not own property, but individual members of the group do.

At that time, Mogen ordered a temporary restraining order requiring Wood Lake Camp and RV LLC to stop construction projects on the former Bible camp property until a judgment was made in the case. Jensen was ordered to post a $2,500 surety bond. Mogen noted that if the judgment goes to the defendant and they are damaged in any respect by the TRO, they are entitled to compensation.

Following the judge’s order, Wood Lake Camp and RV LLC asked for clarification and a modification to the injunction. The party claimed that some construction or finalizing of some projects was needed to prevent damage from occurring over the winter; they also said that additional security in the form of a bond in the amount of $200,000. If modifications to the projects were not allowed, they were seeking $300,000. These numbers were not adequately supported by the defense, but there was support and a plausible argument for a significantly increased bond. Therefore, Mogen ordered $100,000 to be held in bond. The $97,500 balance was posted on Friday, Dec. 20, by Jensen.

The court’s request for seven changes to the injunction was denied, one request was denied in part and also granted in part, and two requests were granted.

The defense was allowed to winterize buildings to prevent freezing pipes. A 150-year-old historic church was in the process of getting new siding which will be installed in the TRO. Also, the interior renovation to the single-family home on the camp property can be completed for the benefit of an employee and their family.

A detailed description of the work that will be performed and a schedule of when it will be completed must be provided at least one week prior to the work being carried out. Also, all heavy equipment and machinery on the property to be removed must be ordered to be removed within 96 hours.

Jensen alleges that the WLCRV ceased to operate as a youth Bible camp for at least a year and would have lost the right to continue the conditional use.

He also has a felony methamphetamine possession case pending from October, with a $2,500 signature bond, as well as several other past cases. He is slated to go before a judge on the latest charges on Dec. 26.

Statewide availability of marriage certificates to expand

For some the holidays are a time of joy and excitement, while for others the holidays can be a difficult time — especially if grieving the loss of a loved one.

To help save lives and prevent needless tragedies, Burnett County law enforcement officers will be joining law enforcement agencies across Wisconsin during the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over holiday safety campaign from Friday, Dec. 13, through New Year’s Day.

“The holiday season is a festive time for many, but it can quickly turn tragic if drivers make the dangerous and irresponsible decision to get behind the wheel impaired,” said Sheriff Tracy Finch.

Last year in Wisconsin, alcohol-related crashes resulted in 160 deaths and nearly 3,300 injuries. While also impairs drivers are a serious concern, law enforcement faces a growing challenge with the growing number of impaired drivers people whose ability to safely operate a motor vehicle is compromised by legal or illegal drugs including prescription and over-the-counter medications. To help combat impaired driving, Wisconsin has: About 6,000 police officers trained in advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement to help detect and remove impaired drivers from the roadways; 301 highly trained drug recognition experts, among the most in the nation, and

Stalking, battery and drugs cited

Greg Marsten | Staff writer

AMERY — A report of a man sleeping in his car in the lane of traffic near Amery on the morning of Sunday, Dec. 22, sent a Polk County sheriff’s deputy to the scene, where they found Scott Kobs’ car running, in gear, with him asleep at the wheel.

When awakened, Kobs had little idea of where he was, and exhibited unusual behavior. The officer undertook a field sobriety test, but Kobs did not appear to have any alcohol in his system. A subsequent search did yield a marijuana, and he was on probation at the time.

Kobs, 54, Deer Park, also appeared to have blood on his hands, and the area he was found in was a short walk away from the address of a woman with whom he was not supposed to have contact. The deputy went to the location and found blood on the scene, and he also interviewed a woman who claimed Kobs had violated a court order and had allegedly stalked and assaulted her the previous night, saying he repeatedly violated the court order at the home.

Kobs was later charged with felony stalking as a repeater, as well as felony possession of marijuana, felony bail jumping and misdemeanor battery, as a repeater and for domestic assault.

He also has a felony methamphetamine possession case pending from October, with a $2,500 signature bond, as well as several other past cases. He is slated to go before a judge on the latest charges on Dec. 26.

Drivetime is tracking impaired driving, battery and drug charges.

For the holidays the Wisconsin Department of Transportation’s Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign will be joined by local law enforcement to help save lives and prevent needless tragedies across Wisconsin during the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over holiday safety campaign from Friday, Dec. 13, through New Year’s Day.

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AG Kaul issues victim restitution for 267 Wisconsin consumers

MADISON — Attorney General Josh Kaul recently announced that hundreds of Wisconsin consumers were provided restitution for companies alleged to have violated consumer protection laws. Both of these cases were resolved prior to the enactment of Act 9, which makes victim restitution legally owed to third parties.

“Members of DOJ’s Public Protection Unit work to protect consumers who have been harmed by unlawful conduct,” said Kaul. “I’m proud to announce today that 267 consumer victims will be receiving restitution.”

Wisconsin O’Connor Corporation and Mary Ann O’Connor
Wisconsin O’Connor Corporation and Mary Ann O’Connor (collectively “the O’Conners”) are landlords of 23 apartment buildings in southeastern Wisconsin. All of the O’Conners’ apartments are operated by Paul O’Connor, co-owner of the Wisconsin O’Connor Corporation and son of Mary Ann O’Connor. The state filed an enforcement action against the O’Conners in May 2015. The complaint alleged violations of Wisconsin’s consumer protection laws for making illegal security deposit deductions and using an illegal provision in their standard rental agreements.

In July 2018, the Milwaukee County Circuit Court entered a consent judgment against the O’Conners. The judgment prohibits the defendants from continuing their unlawful practices and requires them to pay consumer restitution.

After reviewing returned consumer restitution claim forms, the DOJ Public Protection Unit issued a total of $137,021.69 to 267 Wisconsin consumer victims on Dec. 20, 2019.

Northstar Alarm Services LLC.
Northstar Alarm Services LLC (Northstar Alarm) is a home security company out of Utah. In 2017, Northstar Alarm sent a team of salespeople to Milwaukee to sell alarm systems with five-year service contracts door-to-door. The state filed an enforcement action against Northstar Alarm in December 2017. The complaint alleged that Northstar Alarm violated Wisconsin’s consumer protection laws by failing to properly disclose alarm response fees and that the company prohibited cancellations.

In February 2019, the Milwaukee County Circuit Court entered a consent judgment against Northstar Alarm. The judgment prohibits the defendants from continuing their unlawful practices and requires them to pay consumer restitution.

After reviewing returned consumer restitution claim forms, the DOJ Public Protection Unit issued a total of $9,421.86 to 38 Wisconsin consumers victims on Dec. 20, 2019.

Baldwin announces “major successes” for Wisconsin farmers


Baldwin worked to secure $20 million for her Dairy Business Innovation Initiative, as well as $10 million to provide our nation’s farmers and agricultural workers with more mental health resources. Both of these investments for Wisconsin farmers are included in the government funding agreement that will be voted on in Congress this week.

Baldwin’s FARMERS FIRST Act, introduced with Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, was included in the 2018 Farm Bill, which passed the Senate last year. This year, Baldwin worked to make sure her reform is fully funded at $10 million for fiscal year 2020, an increase of $8 million from fiscal year 2019. Baldwin’s reform provides competitive grant funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to state departments of agriculture, state extension services, nonprofits and tribes to establish helplines and websites, provide suicide prevention training for farm advocates, create support groups and re-establish the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.

“This event helped showcase a very important building in Spooner. It was a great space for our event with a stage, kitchen facilities and open floor plan. Many people spoke of the great value of this property previously and hoped that the attendees left the event with some great ideas on a use and a possible buyer. My band, The Victorines, played and folks seemed to enjoy the music! We were thrilled to partner with Lakeland Family Resource Center and look forward to another fun event together soon,” said Vic Sacco, of Sacco Group.

Lakeland Family Resource Center would like to extend gratitude to everyone who attended and volunteered at their event and would encourage the community to stay tuned for upcoming events. LFRC and Sacco Group would also like to extend gratitude to all sponsors and donors. This event would not have been possible without their support.

Appreciation goes out to Bemick’s, Buckridge Tree Service, First & Vine, Ford Financial, Grassley’s Grocery, Greenfield Physical Therapy, Indianhead Credit Union, Jane Scoates, Katherine Hoellen, Lady of the Lakes Group, Aaron Arl, Sacco Group Edina Realty; Katie Folstad, Sacco Group Edina Realty; and Renee Luell, Lakeland Family Resource Center executive director, teamed up to raise funds for LFRC’s School-to-Home program Saturday, Dec. 14.

Louise Kolthoff, MarketPlace Foods, Mayana Chocolate, Nikki Halverson, Perlick Distillery, Round Man Brewing Co., Sacco Group, Spooner Family Restaurant, Stumble Duck Productions, Tim Reedy of State Farm Insurance, Tricia Condevre of Tri My Biling $5 and Washburn County Tourism.

Funds raised for LFRC School-to-Home program

SPOONER - On Saturday, Dec. 14, Lakeland Family Resource Center and Sacco Group teamed up to present “Tastefully Together” to raise funds for LFRC’s School-to-Home program. Hosted at LFRC’s former location, 314 Elm St., this elegant evening showcased this one-of-a-kind building, which is currently on the market and listed with Sacco Group Edina Realty, Spooner.

“As the first time hosting an event of this nature, I was unsure of what to expect. The community support and funds raised were such a blessing to Lakeland Family Resource Center, and we would look forward to hosting more events like ‘Tastefully Together’ in the near future. It was an absolute pleasure to work with Vic and his team as well. I am continuously blown away by our community’s generosity,” said LFRC’s director, Renee Luell.

The School-to-Home program is available to all students and their families across Washburn County. The pilot program began in Shell Lake School District in 2017 to provide services to students and families in need of support in a broad array of areas, including financial, academic, behavioral, etc. LFRC is happy to announce that School-to-Home has taken off to a fully established program in all four school districts across Washburn County.

“Many are and I am incredibly thankful for the funds raised to help give our students and families the wraparound services they need. My heart was so happy to hear the outcome of our event, and I cannot express my gratitude for the doors that have been opened by raising these funds,” said Kortney, Shell Lake School District's School-to-Home specialist.

“Tastefully Together” brought in $30,621.86 in donations for LFRC’s School-to-Home program.

“I worked across party lines to include the FARMERS FIRST Act in the farm bill and now I’ve worked across the aisle to fully fund it because we need to help our farmers when they are dealing with stressful times. Our Wisconsin farmers are facing many difficult challenges and we all need to work together to provide them the support they need, including more funding for local mental health resources,” said Baldwin.

The $20 million she secured for her Dairy Business Innovation Initiative, will help dairy businesses looking to get their start, grow their business, modernize their dairy plants and reach new markets. Baldwin’s Dairy Business Innovation Act was included in the 2018 Farm Bill that passed Congress and was signed into law by President Trump.

“Wisconsin’s dairy businesses are a key driver of our state’s economy, but recently our dairy farmers have faced very challenging times with an oversupply of milk, low milk prices and tough impacts from tariffs,” said Baldwin. “It’s critical that farmers, cheesemakers and dairy processors have tools to innovate and develop new made in Wisconsin dairy products to build a brighter future for our dairy farms and drive our rural economy forward.”

Live music was performed by The Victorines. - Photos provided

Aaron Arl, Sacco Group Edina Realty; Katie Folstad, Sacco Group Edina Realty; and Renee Luell, Lakeland Family Resource Center executive director, teamed up to raise funds for LFRC’s School-to-Home program Saturday, Dec. 14.
Despite its rural location, the town of Chicog, population 234, has robust community services with several active groups filling various needs. The Chicog Emergency Support Group, formed in 2011, is a part of the town’s volunteer fire department that assists in emergency situations, but it also holds fundraisers, community meetings, and the Chicog Walkabout Socially Enhancing Group.

There is a need for this because we are far from Spooner, or other areas where we might be able to take advantage of group specialties,” said Cathy Peterson, an active member of the Chicog community. The Chicog Walkabout Socially Enhancing Group started in 2014 to bring town residents together once a week to walk and visit with one another. A new revelation, but he was inspired to fail because we don’t have people that know what to do,” said Peterson. For Wilcox, this man’s time of need was not expected, and he was surprised that no one realized he needed help. 

Wilcox sees the commitment of main town residents so they can provide help. “That’s an issue up in this area in particular, and we’ve run into it all the time that people will say, ‘no they don’t need anything,’” said Peterson. The group has discussed how to gain people’s trust, so they feel comfortable accepting help. There’s also the issue of people refusing help because they believe they are capable or don’t want to accept help. “We are not trying to change their standard, but we also recognize that when you fall and you have to go to physical therapy every other day that, yes, you do need some help and that’s why we are here for you, but it’s not easy to close that gap,” said Peterson. Wilcox sees the community as a challenge. “It’s one thing to have a concept of helping, it’s another to get people to believe in it and actually promote, get it to grow and actually watch it to, hopefully, flourish in the future,” said Wilcox. His hope for the group is to provide some respect to elderly in staying at home and to be a mentor to people interested in what the group is doing, especially younger people looking more community action and youth.

Kelso believes that the future of community challenges like Chicog depends on people age 18 to 60. He believes these people need to be engaged in their local community’s efforts, so they are not involved in local government. “Our communities are going to start to fail because we won’t have people that are interested,” he said. Peterson believes a lot of people who volunteer in the AOS or other groups do so because they want that service to exist for when they may need it themselves. “We are aging up here and a lot of us are on our own up here and so it is scary. I think a lot of the people who volunteer do so because they want to be able to access the service too,” said Peterson.

Robust network

Despite the challenges, the Chicog community has a robust network of volunteers and active, caring community members who find inspiration in the power of caregiving. “We do not know how much we affect lives until we actually do something,” said Wilcox. The AOS and groups like it are the feet on the ground in communities where populations are aging and needs are growing. The AOS is just starting out, but it may represent the reality of filling the needs of aging and vulnerable rural populations.
Grantsburg senior Austin Wedin finds an opening against Osceola and drives to the basket in a game played last Thursday, Dec. 19, at Grantsburg. Wedin scored 16 points to help the Pirates win the game.

- Photo by Sue Bunting

Declan Greenquist drives to the basket against Webster in a game last week in which he scored 13 points for the Saints. St. Croix Falls ended up winning the contest by a 20-point margin.

- Photo by Eugene Sikorski

Webster’s Coleton Peterson puts up a shot against the Saints in a home game last week in which the Tigers lost to the Saints. See wrap-up of area boys basketball games on page 18.

LEFT: Tiger Carson Stenberg focuses as he prepares to make a free throw.

- Photos by Eugene Sikorski
Grantsburg’s Madison Schafer protects the ball in a contest last week against the Webster Tigers. A wrap-up of recent girls games can be found on page 18. - Photo by Eugene Sikorski

Brooke Quimby goes up for two points as the Grantsburg Pirates beat Spooner, 58-28, in a nonconference game on Friday, Dec. 20, in Spooner. She had 15 points for the game. - Photos above and below by Larry Samson

Olivia Ohnstad goes up against the Spooner defense on this basket. She was the high scorer for the Pirates with 31 points.

Siren freshman Lindsay Liljenberg makes a fast break against the Pirates. - Photo by Sue Bunting

Brooke Hetfeld concentrates as she prepares to shoot a free throw. - Photo by Eugene Sikorski
New chief warden appointed

MADISON — A 22-year veteran of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources’ Conservation Warden Service has been named the next chief warden, succeeding Chief Todd Schaller, who will retire from the top law enforcement position after more than 30 years of public service.

DNR Secretary-designee Preston Cole has announced that Capt. Casey Krueger will be sworn in to succeed Schaller in January. Krueger currently leads the department’s law enforcement teams serving the south-central region out of the Fitchburg headquarters in Dane County.

“We thank Chief Schaller for his outstanding public service and look forward to working with Capt. Krueger in his new position,” Cole said. “Wisconsin is fortunate to have these dedicated officers who protect our precious natural resources and the people who enjoy them.”

Hired in January 1998, Krueger served as a field warden in Oconto and Columbia counties. In 2008, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant/warden supervisor of the Park Falls Warden Team based in northern Lincoln County. In 2012, the Langlade County native was promoted to captain of the south-central region and moved to Dane County. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

“I’m extremely honored to step into the role of chief warden to continue working with our dedicated, passionate men and women who encompass the Department of Natural Resources. I also look forward to our continued partnerships with the public we serve which will no doubt lead us to success in protecting our natural resources through integration, education and community involvement,” Krueger said.

Capt. Casey Krueger will be sworn in as Wisconsin’s new chief warden. - Photo provided

Warden notes: Dogs, rescues, hunts, helping and a sneaky badger!

Joanne M. Haas | WDNR Bureau of Law Enforcement

STATEWIDE - You’ll often hear a WDNR conservation warden say, “No, two days are the same.” That’s true in any season in Wisconsin, where the natural resources are incredible, the people are active and the wardens are ready to respond.

As we approach the end of the year and the 2019s, the wardens pulled a few highlights from their community service experiences to share with you during this holiday season. Here they are:

Keystone: “You kinda look like a deer”

Conservation Warden Clark Delzer was walking among the jammed parking areas surrounding a Shawano County public hunting area on opening day of the 2019 gun-deer season when he was bit stunned by what he saw.

“I see this dog running up to me,” Clark said of a golden retriever that appeared and said, “Oh, that’s Keystone. He must’ve gotten out.”

So, the warden and the dog started walking the road, hoping to find its owner still in one of the vehicles. No luck. He turned around saw the dog walking with its apparent original trek of heading into the woods — bad move considering how easily this dog could have been mistaken for a deer.

“This is not safe,” Clark said as he made a dash for his truck. He swung open the passenger door of his warden truck and whistled to the dog to come back. It did, and dropped its rear a bit for some ear scratches.

But Keystone lives on in Clark’s memory — and on his passenger seat. “I’m still cleaning out the dog hair.”

Warden Chris Spalight gets half a selfie as he and Wardens Dustin Gabrishon and Peter Carlson fire up some steaks on break during gun-deer patrols. - Photo provided

Wardens, dog and kids: Cool classroom connections!

Wardens Kaitlin Kernovsky and Jonathan Kaiser, along with Warden Kaitlin’s K-9 Teal, enjoyed a day with the Waupaca Middle School students at the Waupaca FFA Career Day. The kids had a lot of curiosity about the warden career.

However, in the spirit of full disclosure, the star of the day was Teal, who worked the room reinforcing the service side of the job. Or, maybe he was just looking for some ear scratches.

Cover-up solved! Bandit caught on camera

Wardens get all sorts of calls for help from citizens facing … well, you name it! Warden Matt Koshlof of Drummond got a call from a citizen who was frustrated by the appearance of someone being mischievous with some bear bait.

The citizen complained that day after day, the bait was being covered with sand. Who was behind this cover-up? A trail camera was put in place to determine who was behind this sly act.

After one night the mystery was solved as they watched the evidence unfold. Waddling up to cover the bait was — a badger.

UTV ticket brings real-life lesson

Warden Nick King of Green County saw a utility-terrain vehicle operating on a public trail with three passengers. None were not wearing seat belts. One of the passengers was 6 years old and was not wearing a helmet as required.

So, King issued a safety violation citation — much to the chagrin of the UTV operator, who also was the child’s grandfather. He called King’s supervisor to complain. A week or so later, King was called to a UTV accident that involved the same 6-year-old, who, this time, was wearing a helmet. King again spoke with the grandfather, who was in tears, saying he understood the helmet requirement and it was the helmet that likely saved the child’s life.

From all the wardens to you, enjoy this season and all the incredible outdoor fun to be had in Wisconsin. Stay safe out there!

If you have information regarding natural resource violations, you may confidentially report by calling or texting: VIOLATION HOTLINE: 800-TIP-WDNR or 800-847-9567. The hotline is in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Trained staff relay information to conservation wardens.

Send news and story ideas to submit@leaderregister.com
Wisconsin’s CWD pros collect, analyze deer samples

BLACK EARTH – Deer heads arrive in individual black plastic bags at Wisconsin’s CWD processing station just south of town each fall, and depart in head-filled dumpsters a few days later after providing two tissue samples from their spine/brain intersection.

Those two samples – a pair of lymph nodes removed when the head is detached and a pinhead-sized piece of brain stem tissue – are sent to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. As many as 400 deer heads arrive each day, containing about 100 heads each. A worker unbags the heads and piles them into a detached skin-skate bucket on the floor.

Two biologists then take turns grabbing heads from the bucket, twisting open the plastic bag, and then slicing the lymph nodes off the head, examining the teeth in the lower jaw, and recording the deer’s age based on tooth-wear patterns.

The heads’ next stop is one of six nearby worktables, where two-person teams use scalpels to slice open each head/upper neck at the white throat patch. From there they extract the tissue samples that will be analyzed daily at Wisconsin’s Diagnostic Laboratory on the University of Wisconsin-Parkville.

At every step in the process, biologists and technicians verify computer bar codes to ensure they match the hunter’s name who provided the sample. The system must function flawlessly, given the DNR’s goal to sample about 20,000 deer for CWD during the current collection cycle, which ends March 31.

By Dec. 22, the agency had checked in 17,343 deer heads, and the laboratory had collected about 16,410 of them for CWD. Of those analyzed so far, a record 1,192 have tested positive for CWD, 129 more than the 2018 record of 1,063 positive cases from 17,200 samples. If you’re keeping score, that’s 12% more CWD-positive tests this year versus 2.25% fewer cases.

One assumes that each of the 25-plus people working daily in November and December at Black Earth’s processing center eventually discuss such results, but not while they’re working. Other than small talk and shop talk during four- and eight-hour shifts, these biologists and technicians are too busy keeping pace on the “assembly line” to analyze year-to-date results.

Anna Schneider, the center’s supervi- sor, said laboratory deer skulls number about 400 deer heads. Her typical crew includes two deer “agers,” 12 sample extractors, two “runners,” two floaters, two check-in workers and two “greet- ers” who work with hunters dropping off deer.

If all goes as planned, a hunter can drop his deer head at any drop-off site statewide, store the venison in a home freezer, and learn within a week whether their deer had CWD. If there’s a hang-up in the process, it seldom occurs between Black Earth and the di- agnostics lab in Madison. That 20-mile trip only takes about 30 minutes.

Daniel Barr, the pathology-sciences supervisor at the diagnostics lab, oversees about 20 scientists trimming, test- ing and analyzing lymph nodes. Each of his five to six two-person teams can process about 90 samples daily, starting from when they slice wafer-thin sam- ples from the tissues and ending when the results are ready eight hours later.

Hunters who get their deer tested don’t pay for the testing directly, but the DNR pays the costs with hunter-gener- ated funds from hunting licenses and other fees. The lab bills the agency $197.95 for each lymph-node test.

He demands back the vet lab’s services have grown so much in recent years that Barr and his teams recently have worked with a 75,000-square-foot area to one covering about 2,100 square meters. About 10% of the sample is left when the DNR is building a 40,000-square-foot facility near Poy- nette to replace the cramped Black Earth center.

To realize CWD’s threat to Wiscon- sin’s deer herd – and deer hunting itself – just look at data from the past decade to evaluate the lab’s test results. The disease re- mained at or below 2% infection rates in the core CWD area in northern Iowa County until about 2007. That’s when the Legislature intervened to halt the DNR’s aggressive management ef- forts.

Yet even when the current decade began three years later, Wisconsin had only 219 cases in 2010 and 239 cases in 2011 statewide, CWD testing was continued only in 10 and nine counties, respectively those years. But as recently as 22 June this year, the state had identified 21 counties with CWD, including 366 cases in Iowa County alone. Two other counties, Dunn and Sheboygan, had their first cases this year.

It also marks the second straight year Iowa County had over 300 CWD cases. In 2018, it had 397 cases from 1,502 (26.4%) so far. This year, CWD has been found in 27.4% of the county’s samples (1,336).

The DNR has also identified 321 cases in Sauk County this year, which is 27% of the 981 samples, 228 cases in Rich- land County (17% of 1,336 samples), and 136 cases in Dane County (14% of 967 samples).

Those four counties – Iowa, Dane, Sauk and Richland – account for 971 cases already this year, or 21.4% of 4,570 samples.

No one can pin so sobering num- bers on neglect or mismanagement by DNR staff or Wisconsin Veterinary Lab scientists. In fact, our Black Earth and Madison CWD centers are where other states now send their experts to learn how to collect and process deer sam- ples efficiently and accurately.

Although not intentionally. Wiscon- sin’s inept politicians helped train the nation’s most proficient group of CWD sample collectors and tissue analy- lists by giving them unending work in their fields.

Patrick Durkin, @patrickdurkinout- doors, is a freelance writer who covers out- door recreation in Wisconsin. Write to him at 721 Wosley St., Waupaca, Wisc. 54981, or by email at patrickdurkin50@gmail.com.
Saint wrestlers challenge for overall win at holiday tourney

Above The Fold Media

LINDSTROM, Minn. — Despite missing two wrestlers due to injuries, the St. Croix Falls wrestling team challenged for the overall win in its second appearance at the Chisago Lakes Holiday Tournament.

For the second year in a row, the Falcons earned their way into the final round by winning their division and had multiple other top-three finishes to place second in the tourney with 124 points, topped only by Woodbury, at 235.

“Wrestling in tough Minnesota tournaments helps us because schools’ enrollments are a lot bigger, which usually means more athletes to choose from,” St. Croix Falls coach Joe Raygor said. “Also, we learn from wrestling Minnesota guys and we don’t have to see them down the stretch in our post-season.”

Mason Will, at 120 pounds; Zack Clark, 136; McKenzie Erickson, 195; and Tanner Gaffey, 285; swept their competition to win their given divisions for the Saints.

Luke Thaemert, at 106, added a runner-up finish; Bennett Bergman, at 203; and Calan Luke Thaemert, 106; added a runner-up finish; and Tanner Gaffey, 285, won in sudden victory.

SCF 58, Ladysmith 15

“The Saints go to the two-day North Western Battle Classic this Fri., Dec. 20,” Raygor said.

OSCEOLA — Luck-Frederic-Grantsburg-Siren had two wrestlers finish with a 5-0 record in the Saturday, Dec. 21, invitational tournament that had each team facing five opponents.

Nolan Johnson, 106; and Taedon Nicholson, 14, each had three matches on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Luke Thaemert, 106; Kegan Koshial, 113; Sam Glenna, 132; and Grady Guggisberg, 152, earned wins by pin for St. Croix Falls.

“Tanner Gaffey, 285, was our head wrestler as a collective team yet, but we’re getting closer,” Raygor said.

The Saints go to the two-day North Western Battle Classic this Fri., Dec. 20.

SCF 58, Ladysmith 15

The Saints surrendered just three matches in a home win on Thursday, Dec. 19.

Luke Thaemert, 106; Kegan Koshial, 113; Sam Glenna, 132; and Grady Guggisberg, 152, earned wins by pin for St. Croix Falls.

Tanner Gaffey, 285, won in sudden victory.

Osceola Duals

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Johansen scores six points in final minutes to keep Cards unbeaten

Above The Fold Media | For The Leader

LUCK – Late scoring by Gage Johansen and Devon Leer helped the Luck boys basketball team to enter 2020 still sporting an unbeaten record in the Lake- land West.

Unity nearly gave the Cardinals their first conference loss on Tuesday, Dec. 17, but six points from Johansen in the final two minutes gave Luck an eventual 50-47 win to improve to 3-0 in the Lake- land West. He led the Cardinals with 17 points in the game and their second-half comeback.

The Eagles broke an early 6-6 tie with seven consecutive points and later opened a 20-10 lead with back- to-back baskets from Cullen Feist and Jake Bloom. They led by as many as 11 in the first half and only a Carsen Eley 3-pointer in the final seconds prevented the Cardinals from entering halftime with a double-digit lead, 31-23.

Unity started the second half with an 8-3 run to go up 32-26, but the Cardinals scored the next nine points and a basket by Levi Jensen later put them within a point at 41-40. Johansen later tied the game at 43-43 with one of his three 3-pointers soon after halftime.

Van Watermolen added 14 points for the Pirates, while Jordan Webster and Nick Webster had seven points each for Siemens.

Eley finished with 13 points for Luck; Levi Jensen had 11 points and eight rebounds; Johansen added nine rebounds while Wyatt Jensen added eight points. Flaherty scored a game-high 21 points and six rebounds; Feist had 12 points; Bloom and Zach Peterson had five points each.

Grantsburg 81, Siren 59
GRANTSBURG – Austin Wedin had a game-high 26 points and Gus Bergman had 18 for the Pirates, who built a 38-23 lead entering halftime on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Carson Knutson, Jared Van Watermolen and Wedin each made shots from the floor and sank multiple free throws for Grantsburg in the first half. Riley Churchill scored eight of his team-high 21 points in the first half for Siren, which didn’t have the offense to keep pace with the Pirates in either half.

The Dragons sank five second-half 3-pointers but Wedin sank four on his own in the half, where teammates Zach Miller scored all seven of his points.

Van Watermolen had 14 points for the Pirates; Siemens’ Ryan Suden sank two 3-pointers and added 11 points of his own.

Johansen added nine rebounds for Luck; Carsen Eley and Levi Jensen had eight points each.

Birchwood 71, Frederic 54
BIRCHWOOD – Birchwood’s duo of Tyler Church and Matthew Marinski slightly outscored the Vikings’ Adam Dreier and Logan Lillehaug but had more complementary scoring in a win against Frederic on Dec. 17.

Johnson had a game-high 23 points and Marinski added 22 for the Bobcats, who had four players reach double-digit scoring. Dreier led the Vikings with 20 points and 10 rebounds while Lillehaug had 18 points and five assists.

The Bobcats trimmed Frederic’s lead to five points early in the second half but a pair of 3-pointers from Haley Ennis put the Vikings up by 10 near the midway point of the half. Birchwood pulled within a basket with over six minutes remaining in the game and answered the Vikings’ seven straight points with three of its own.

Ennis finished with 17 points for Frederic; Kendra Albeth had 10 and Hannah Schmidt added nine.

Unity 65, Luck 45
BALSAM LAKE – Raegan Sorensen scored a game-high 21 points, making 10 of her 13 attempts from the floor. The Bobcats held the Tigers to a win on Thursday.

Riley Churchill led Siren with 19 points and six rebounds; Feist had 12 points; Bloom and Zach Peterson had five points each.

Eley finished with 13 points for Luck; Levi Jensen had 11 points and eight rebounds; Johansen added nine rebounds while Wyatt Jensen added eight points. Flaherty scored a game-high 21 points and six rebounds; Feist had 12 points; Bloom and Zach Peterson had five points each.

Grantsburg 69, Osceola 52
GRANTSBURG – Carson Knutson and Austin Wedin had 16 points each for the Pirates, who built a double-digit lead in the first half and 12 more in the second half.

The Dragons sank 11 free throws in the first half and 12 more in the second half to build on their 35-25 lead after halftime.

Johansen had 50 points and the second half and Knutson had nine.

Josh Mork led Osceola with 15 points.

Turtle Lake 86, Siren 47
TURTLE LAKE – The Dragons were within striking range with five minutes remaining in the first half on Friday but Turtle Lake ended their half with a big run and led for the remainder.

Riley Churchill led Siren with 19 points and the team still seeks its first win through six games.

“We continue to improve yet we’re still looking for the first win to break the ice,” Siren coach Rick Kosloski said.

Webster 63, Bruce 39
BRUCE – The Tigers held Bruce to 14 first-half points and earned their second straight win in the season, in lopsided fashion on Thursday.

Webster used a 40-point second half to increase the nine-point advantage they had to start the half. Bruce was limited to 12-42-for-42 performance from the floor and made just four of their 21 3-point attempts.

Clear Lake 75, Luck 37
CLEAR LAKE – After falling behind by 21 before halftime, the Cardinals were held to just 14 points in the second half of their loss on Friday.

Clear Lake shot over 50% from the floor, 31-58, the free-throw line, 8-for-12, and was at 50% from 3-point range, 5-for-10. Maddy Rose scored 16 points with 14 second-half scorers with 18 points for Clear Lake.

Siren 57, Turtle Lake 50
TURTLE LAKE – Morgan Shetler had a game-high 21 points for the Dragons in Friday’s win to put them at 4-3 overall on the season.

Siren held one-point lead at halftime but foul trouble for Turtle Lake led to 53 total free-throw attempts. The Dragons sank all 24 of those attempts and maintained a double-digit lead for much of the second half.

“Unfortunately I still had a 20-point lead if we hit more free throws,” Siren coach Ryan Karsten said.

Lucy Hansen led Siren with 14 points for Siren and Maddie Nichols added 10.
Blizzard have three chances to get into win column this week.

### Somerset suffers two OT losses

**Above The Fold Media**

**For The Leader**

BURNETT COUNTY — The Blizzard boys hockey team has three opportunities to get into win column at Barren this week. They face Amery, Beaver Dam and Northwest in consecutive games starting Thursday, after their last two tries for the season’s first win were denied on the road. The Blizzard managed one goal each in losses to Ashland and Moose Lake. WSSFGL fell behind, 4-0, to Ashland on Tuesday, Dec. 10, and were outshot 46-18 in a 9-1 loss to the Oredocks. Ashland scored twice in the first period and upped their lead in the second half of the game, taking a 6-1 lead into the third. 

Ashland added three more goals in the third period, the last coming on a short-handed situation. Caitlyn Erickson had 37 saves for the Blizzard; the team dropped 0-5 on the season. The winless streak reached six games with a 6-1 loss at Moose Lake on Thursday. The Rebels scored two goals at even strength in the first period and scored four unanswered goals in the first period. The Blizzard couldn’t capitalize on an early power play but killed two penalties after Moose Lake opened a 2-0 lead. Tollandon got WSSFGL on the board with a goal at even strength early in the second period.

But the Rebels scored four times in the third period and rejected the Blizzard’s 10 shots on goal. Moose Lake finished with a 48-28 advantage in shots. Kapp had 42 saves for WSSFGL.

**Two OT losses for Somerset**

### RIVER FALLS — If counting goals only scored in regulation, the Somerset boys hockey team is undefeated in its last four games. But two losses in overtime week ended a two-game winning streak, started by an overtime win against Northwest. The Spartans took overtime goals in their first two games and ended last week’s with the final two games of the calendar year coming up this weekend.

A power-play goal less than two minutes into overtime on Dec. 10 gave Amery a 3-2 win over Somerset. The Spartans twice overcame deficits and outshot the Warriors 34-21 through three periods. Amery took a 1-0 lead at even strength less than five minutes into the first period but the Spartans tied the game on a power play five minutes later with a goal from Beaudette Smith. St. Croix Falls’ Abe Sirek and John Wiehl assisted on the goal.

The Warriors regained the lead midway through the second period with a goal on the power play. The Spartans were unable to score on their lone power play of the period. But they did break through at even strength with less than four minutes remaining in regulation. St. Croix Falls’ A.J. Simon scored a goal at even strength, assisted by Antonio Gomez, to force an eventual overtime.

The extra play lasted less than two minutes and Amery ended the game on their second shot in overtime. St. Croix Falls’ Kaleb Bents made 20 saves for the Spartans.

Somerset had to overcome just one deficit on Thursday against Baldwin-Woodville and had no opportunity to overcome the second. A scoreless tie lasted through the first two periods and ended with a Blackhawks goal less than two minutes into the third. The Spartans nearly ran out of time to force another overtime, though St. Croix Falls’ Owen McDonough scored the game-tying goal with 92 seconds remaining in regulation, with an assist from Smith.

Baldwin-Woodville scored the game-winning goal on its seventh shot of the overtime; the Spartans had four shots on goal. Bents had 27 saves for the Spartans. They play two games in River Falls this weekend – on Friday against Waukaeree and on Saturday against Be

### Local students in the thick of college action

**Above The Fold Media**

**For The Leader**

SAN DIEGO – The University of Iowa football team has added emotion entering Friday’s Holiday Bowl against USC. The 16th-ranked Hawkeyes face the Trojans in San Diego just 11 days after the death of Hayden Fry, who held the all-time lead in coaching wins at Iowa until he was passed by current coach Kirk Ferentz in 2018. Fry went 143-89-6 at Iowa’s coach and inherited a team that hadn’t posted a winning record in Iowa in 30 years. They went 5-7 in 2003 and a 55-0 thrashing in 1976. “You don’t have to say much,” Ferentz said. “If you think about USC – the tradition, the coaching, the history, the amount of fans that come to see these games.”

USC ranks 17th this season in total offense, averaging 463.7 yards per game while Iowa ranks 98th with 367.9, however, the Hawkeyes allow 13th in total defense, allowing 304.3 yards per game and the Trojans are 83rd, at 413.9 yards. The game is scheduled for a 7 p.m. start on Fox Sports.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

St. Croix Falls native Nathan Brussae and the University of Nebraska - Omaha ended the calendar year with an 87-82 win over Montana on Saturday, Dec. 21. The Mavericks sank eight free throws in the final minute of overtime to improve their record to 7-8 overall and maintain a perfect 6-0 record at home. The win followed a 97-56 loss to Eastern Washington on Dec. 17. Brussae had two points and a rebound.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

Sarah Shaffer, from Siren, and Mount Mary University ended their losing streak before 2019 ended. After two losses to start December, the Blue Angels outscored Alverno 21-2 in the second quarter and finished with a 70-55 win. Mount Mary held a huge advantage at the 3-point line, making 10 of their 22 attempts while Alverno made just one of its seven attempts. Mount Mary improved to 4-6 overall and next play on Jan. 2 at Rockford.

Michaela Kruger, of St. Croix Falls, and Itasca were held to just four points in the third quarter of a 79-26 loss to Lake Itasca on Saturday, Dec. 21. The Mavericks sank eight free throws in the final minute of overtime to improve their record to 7-8 overall and maintain a perfect 6-0 record at home. The win followed a 97-56 loss to Eastern Washington on Dec. 17. Brussae had two points and a rebound.

### College roundup: Local students in the thick of college action

**Above The Fold Media**

**For The Leader**

**Local students in the thick of college action**

Hayward

The Hayward Hurricanes missed an initial chance to end their losing streak on Tuesday, Dec. 17, but capitalized on the next chance on Thursday, Dec. 19. Hayward nearly stopped its skid at three games against Wausau West-

### Men's basketball

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**Women’s basketball**

Sarah Shaffer, from Siren, and Mount Mary University ended their losing streak before 2019 ended. After two losses to start December, the Blue Angels outscored Alverno 21-2 in the second quarter and finished with a 70-55 win. Mount Mary held a huge advantage at the 3-point line, making 10 of their 22 attempts while Alverno made just one of its seven attempts.

Mount Mary improved to 4-6 overall and next play on Jan. 2 at Rockford.

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to announce the birth of Jesus. This was one of the might have reacted to the angels coming to them service at Lakeview UM Church Sunday morn daughter, Lyza, performed a skit during the worship gelsen were among a number of people who went to the church event. Diane Hulleman's granddaughter, Izzy were Melba Denotter, Bob Cairns, Marlene Swear ingen and Lida Nordquist.

We celebrate, once again, the birth of Jesus our Savior and King, who protects and guides us in all things. In the hustle and bustle to get things done, we sometimes forget the season pertains to him. This past weekend the center was used for pri parties. The center is decorated for the holiday season. All you have to do is bring your own food and family and friends and enjoy! If you would like to use the center for your event, call Joyce Nelson for information on renting, 715-483-3466.

New Year’s Eve the center will be open for a potluck evening meal and cards. If you are looking for unexpected aspects of the Christmas story. Others were: Mary, the mother, being such a very young amount of time to come and see your families and friends. By noon, I had run out of gas and didn’t even want to try and find a gas station. I just didn’t have the energy to keep going. I turned around and went back to the same spot. I saw some other cars that had also run out of gas and we ended up talking and sharing stories. It was a heartwarming experience that I won’t forget.

Well, folks, how did you enjoy the temps last week? Monday and Tuesday? I, myself, was blown away when I read the temperature on my computer, a whopping 20 below. Even with the sun out it didn’t help. It was enough for me to stay home where the temperature was a bit more comfortable. I think I will make sure to wear layers of clothes rather than one heavy coat. The weather was very unpredictable. I heard that some people had snow and others had rain. Whatever the case may be, it was definitely a cold and windy day.

After a long day of work, I decided to take a break and enjoy some coffee. I found a cozy cafe nearby and sat down with a hot chocolate. The warmth of the drink and the cozy atmosphere helped me relax and forget about the cold outside. It was a moment of peace and self-care that I really needed.

On the other hand, there were some positive aspects as well. The holiday season is a time to give and share. I received a thoughtful gift from a friend and it made me feel appreciative and grateful. This small act of kindness reminded me of the importance of spreading love and joy during the holiday season.

I hope you had a safe and enjoyable holiday. Remember to take care of yourself and each other. We are in this together.

The author can be reached at danielledanford@leader-register.com
ALL REAL ESTATE ADVERTISING IN THIS NEWSPAPER IS SUBJECT TO THE FAIR HOUSING ACT WHICH MAKES IT ILLEGAL TO ADVERTISE "ANY PREFERENCE LIMITATION OR DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, HANDICAP, FAMILY STATUS, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR AN INTENT, TO MAKE ANY SUCH PREFERENCE, LIMITATION OR DISCRIMINATION." FAMILY STATUS INCLUDES CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 LIVING WITH PARENTS OR LEGAL CUSTODIANS; PREGNANT WOMEN AND PEOPLE SECURING CUSTODY OF CHILDREN UNDER 18. THIS NEWSPAPER WILL NOT KNOWINGLY ACCEPT ANY ADVERTISING FOR REAL ESTATE WHICH IS IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW. OUR READERS ARE HEREBY INFORMED THAT ALL DWELLINGS ADVERTISED IN THIS NEWSPAPER ARE AVAILABLE ON AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BASIS. TO COMPLAIN OF DISCRIMINATION CALL HUD TOLL-FREE AT 1-800-669-9777. THE TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED IS 1-800-927-9275.

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WISCONSIN INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - SHELL LAKE
WITC is looking for a full-time Human Resources Technician to provide administrative support to the HR Department by assisting other staff in carrying out operational responsibilities and providing a high level of customer service to internal and external customers. This position will assist with coordinates recruitment process and onboarding of new employees, payroll processing and assist in the administration of all benefits programs offered by the College. A complete job description, list of qualifications and to apply visit our website at: https://www.witc.edu/about-witc/employment

Deadline to apply: January 13, 2020

WITC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Veterans/Disabled Employee and Employer

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Children in foster care who have a CASA volunteer are more likely to succeed in school and adjust to changes. Ask them how long it will take to either foster care system. As a volunteer, you can make a difference for a child who needs therapeutic services and support in your community. Get Involved, and change a child's story.

WITC is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Veterans/Disabled Employee and Employer
**Public Notice**

The Town of Wood River is seeking to hire a Deputy Town Clerk to start training in Jan. 2020 with the current Town Clerk. Please see full notice on the Town’s website at www.townofwoodriver.com. Please email questions and apply to chair@townofwoodriver.org or chair@townofwoodriver.com.

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

**TOWN CLERK WANTED**

The Town of Wood River is seeking to hire a Deputy Town Clerk to start training in Jan. 2020 with the current Clerk. Applications are due by December 20, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. Please see full notice on the Town’s website at www.townofwoodriver.com. Please email questions and apply to chair@townofwoodriver.org or chair@townofwoodriver.com.

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

**INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS TECHNICIAN - FT**

**WISCONSIN INDIANHEAD TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**NEW RICHMOND CAMPUS**

WTTC is seeking and will consider applications for the following position.

Institutional Effectiveness Technician. This position will be scheduled 1,950 hours per year and will report to the Institutional Research Analyst and provide direct support for the day-to-day functions for the Institutional Effectiveness Team.

For a complete description, list of qualifications, and to apply, visit our website at [https://www.witc.edu/about-witc/employment](https://www.witc.edu/about-witc/employment).

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

December 12, 2019

For more information, contact:

Troy Peterson, Cedar Corporation, 715-235-9081

Project ID: 6844-00-0171

South Fork Clam River Bridge Rehabilitation, B-07-0005

CTH B

Burnett County

Rehabilitation of the structure on CTH B over North Fork Clam River at the junction of State Trunk 10 and CTH X, will be discussed at the January 2, 2020, Public Information Meeting. The meeting will be held on January 2, 2020, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Burnett County Highway Department, 8150 State Road 70, Siren, WI. Project representatives will be present to discuss the proposed project and address any questions or concerns.

The proposed project is the repair and replacement of the existing bridge deck and railing with minimal approach work on either side of the bridge. Construction is anticipated for summer 2020. CTH B will be closed to traffic during the repair. Public access will be maintained to properties along CTH B.

The public is encouraged to attend and examine the draft plans and specifications. Questions and comments about the project will be received until January 22, 2020. Comments should be directed to the project engineer, Mike Aldrich, at Mike.Aldrich@burnettcounty.com or (715) 749-3499.

For more information visit: [www.co.burnett.wi.us](http://www.co.burnett.wi.us), or call (715) 749-3499.

**ATTENTION CHEESE LOVERS!**

Burnett Dairy Cooperative is currently hiring part-time Baristo and Cheese Store workers. The right person for these positions is someone who enjoys working in a busy, fast-paced environment and can adapt to stressful situations; able to work evenings, weekends and holidays; has good interpersonal and communication skills; and enjoys dealing with customers. The right person for these positions is someone who enjoys working in a busy, fast-paced environment and can adapt to stressful situations; able to work evenings, weekends and holidays; has good interpersonal and communication skills; and enjoys dealing with customers.

For more information, please visit [burnett.dairycoop.com](http://burnett.dairycoop.com) or call (715) 886-5840.

**FREDCRED BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 5:30 PM

1. President, Mr. Holicky called the regular board meeting of the Frederic Board of Education to order at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, in the District Boardroom.

2. Board member present: Mr. Holicky, Mr. Ennis, Ms. Lilis, and Ms. Luthi

3. Motion Karl/Ennis to adjourn, carried 4-0. Time 6:25 p.m.

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For more information, please visit [burnett.dairycoop.com](http://burnett.dairycoop.com) or call (715) 886-5840.
Duane “Dee” James Cable
Duane “Dee” James Cable, 73, a resident of Danbury, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully at the Burnett Medical Continuing Care Center in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, on Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019, after a long and courageous battle with liver disease.

Duane grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and lived in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, for 25 years before moving permanently to Webster in 1996. He was a longtime member of the Moose Lodge, the American Legion and a DNR fire warden for 35 years. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and tinkering around in his garage, crafting birdhouses or homemade inventions to help his grandchildren. He was a handy man who could truly fix anything.

Stuart Roger Fosmo
Stuart Roger Fosmo, 90, of Webster, Wisconsin, passed away on Dec. 18, 2019, at Luther Mayo Hospital in Two Rivers. Stuart was born on Aug. 3, 1929, in Chicago, Illinois, to parents, Olufwene (Lewis) and Emil Fosmo. The youngest of four children, Stuart graduated from Webster High School in 1947. He attended the University of Minnesota for a few years.

Stuart was united in marriage to Barbara Larrabee in 1949. They spent two years in Minnesota working for 3M, then moved to Wisconsin for two years in the oil fields. They later returned to Minnesota and purchased a farm near Bab’s dad and for the next 37 years it was operated as Stuart’s Farm.

He was a member of the Moose Lodge, the American Legion and a DNR fire warden for 35 years. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and tinkering around in his garage, crafting birdhouses or homemade inventions to help his grandchildren. He was a handy man who could truly fix anything.

We would like to especially thank the great care Judy received from the St. Croix Hospice nurses and the St. Croix oncology team.

Memorials preferred to the St. Croix Valley Senior Center and St. Croix Hospice.

Judy is survived by her husband, Gary; children, Craig (Denise), Brian (Tracy) and Melissa (Jeff) Kern; grandchildren, Jessica, Jerad, Breanna, Devin, Connor, Allyson, Hailey, Kaelyn, Sara, Tyler, Carissa (Tim) Mooney, Ariel and Bailey; great-grandchildren, Hayley; brothers, Mike (Chris) and Bill McLain; and sisters, Sandy (Jim) and Lisa (Don) Johnson; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, Malcolm and Jo; and son, Steven.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held 11 a.m., Monday, Dec. 30, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Taylors Falls, Minnesota. A visitation will be held from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 29, at the Grandstrand Funeral Home in Osceola and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday. Interment will be at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Cemetery, Hastings. Arrangements are with the Grandstrand Funeral Home, Osceola. Condolences may be expressed online at grandstrandfh.com.

John Nels Remley
John Nels Remley, former dairy farmer who farmed east of Luck, Wisconsin, passed away on Dec. 13, 2019, in Largo, Florida, at the age of 91. He was born March 15, 1928, in the village of Luck. He was preceded in death by his father, John Lawrence Remley; his mother, Emma; his twin sister, Sister Mary Jo (Harriette) Raye; brothers, Thomas, Kenneth and Robert; and son, Rodney John. He survived his wife, Sheila, for 66 years.

He will be greatly missed by his daughter, Cynthia Lavelle, and son-in-law, Kenneth Protoskinos of Clearwater, Florida; and many nieces and nephews.

He lived in Washington, Virginia, for over 50 years and was a successful insurance broker. When he took an early retirement and his wife began traveling to many international destinations, he also became an avid bird watcher.

In 2014, he and his wife moved to Largo to live full-time. A memorial service was held on Dec. 21, 2019, in Largo.
Sarah “Sally” Anne Bibeau
Sarah “Sally” Anne Bibeau, 68, of Frederic, Wisconsin, died peacefully surrounded by her family on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019. She was born on Jan. 31, 1951, in St. Paul, Minnesota. She lived in Willerme, Minnesota, until 1976 and then moved to Frederic in 1976. She was preceded in death by her father, Elmer James Bibeau.
She is survived by her mother, Patricia Bibeau; siblings, Patricia, Thomas, and Linda; sisters, Irene Bibeau, Betty Kowalczyk, Jeanne Nelson, Elfrieda (Lampe) and Laurel Nelson; nieces, Patricia Nelson, and great-nephews and great-great-nieces.
A memorial service will be held at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Frederic on Friday, Dec. 20, at 11 a.m. You are invited to leave condolences, memories and photographs online.

Anthony “Tony” L. Nelson
Tony was born on Feb. 15, 1959, in Grantsburg, to parents Irene (Lampe) and Laurel Nelson. Tony graduated from Grantsburg High School in 1977, married, in 1979, and had two daughters, Erica and Shelly. Tony worked for Leo Janke, owner of Northside Electric in Grantsburg, learning the trade of electrician and using this knowledge throughout his life in his many building and remodeling projects.
On Oct. 5, 1985, Tony was united in marriage to Kerri Harter. They had two daughters, Tera and Kerri “Keets” and one son, Alex.
Tony was employed by Grantsburg School District as a custodian for eight years and then Burnett Dairy for over 30 years. We will all miss seeing him on the road in his big whey truck, and waving from behind the wheel.
He was also known for his exceptional taxidermy talent. He proudly operated his own business, Tony’s Taxidermy, for over 20 years. Many of his customers would stop in and visit him in his shop, whether or not they had a successful hunt, just to shoot the breeze and check out the most recent trophies Tony was curating.
Tony enjoyed the great outdoors, hunting, fishing, trapshooting, snowmobiling, spending time at the cabin and socializing with family and friends. He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren, whom he loved dearly.
Tony was an active member of the Grantsburg Rod and Gun Club and one of his favorite activities was trapshooting. He was also involved with the Phantom Trail Riders Snowmobile Club, helping with trail signage and upkeep. We will forever find peace knowing he spent his last day with us doing what he enjoyed... working on the snowmobile trails with one of his best friends.
He will be deeply missed and forever remembered as a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, and friend to so very many.
Tony is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Kerri; mother, Irene Nelson; daughters, Shelly Nelson, Tera (Randy) Bowman and Kerri (Aaron Os- terman) Nelson; son, Alex (Darla Corty) Nelson; grandchildren, Erica, Alethea, Anthony, Elana, Eve, Katie, Chelsea and Alex; one brother, Jim (Laura- rie) Nelson; sister, Mary Jane (Paul) Johnson; sister-in-law, Janice Nelson; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.
Preceding Tony in death was his father, Laurel Nelson; brothers, Randy Nelson and Rick Nelson; and daughter Kerri (Lampe) and Laurel Nelson.
A funeral Mass was held on Monday, Dec. 16, at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Frederic. As his health declined, in 1978, as a chief clerk, to care for their family.
Tony lived many years with her sisters, Doris and Laura, in Minneapolis and later in Edina, Minnesota. In 1989, they built a new home in Frederic, Wisconsin, where she enjoyed small-town living once again. After the passing of her two sisters, she moved to her Frederic home and went to Hudson to reside with her sister, Mary Jane Nelson, and niece, Susan Light. After Norma’s passing in 2016, she moved that October to Royal Oaks Independent and Assisted Living Community in Osceola. As her health declined, in August 2018, she transferred to the Burnett Medical Continuing Care Center in Grantsburg.
Frances was always very active in Central Evangelical Church in Minneapolis and then Frederic Evangelical Free Church. She always loved listening to music and spending time with her family. She was also the beloved aunt who connected with her nieces and nephews by having fun with them all. Family was always of utmost importance to Frances.
Frances was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Florence Milner; her sisters, Nora Hansen, Dona Milner and Laura Milner; brothers, Richard Milner, William Milner, David Milner and James Milner; brothers-in-law, Louis Hansen and Vern Johnson; son-in-law, Larry Miller; nieces, Mary Carlson and Gail Johnson; and nephew, Timo- ny Johnson.
Frances will be missed by her surviving family of two sisters-in-law, Gladys Milner and Darlene Milner; along with many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.
Funeral services were held at Calvary Covenant Church in Minneapolis on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m. A visitation service will be held from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 28, at Grandstrand Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 941 State Road 35 Osceola, WI 54024. Please join the family for a luncheon from 3-6 p.m. with a Celebration of Life at American Legion Post 143, 807 Pine St., St. Croix Falls WI 54024. Condolences may be expressed online at grandstrandfh.com.

Frances Marion Milner
Frances Marion Milner, 97, went to be with her precious Lord and Savior on Dec. 17, 2019, at Burnett Medical Continuing Care Center. She will now be celebrating Christmas and New Year’s with Jesus.
Frances was born on March 20, 1922, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Walter and Florence Milner. She attended Seward School in Minneapolis until the family moved to Bayfield, Wisconsin. She never called Bayfield home, and always thought of it as just a family vacation. In 1940, the family moved to Grantsburg and then to the Trade River area in 1937. Frances attended Grantsburg Schools and graduated in 1946. After graduation, she returned to Minneapolis with her sisters, Doris and Edith, where they worked at Griswold Cable. For two years, they then began her career at Northwestern Bell. After 37 years of service, she retired in 1978, as a clerical clerk, to care for her family.
Frances lived many years with her sisters, Doris and Laura, in Minneapolis and later in Edina, Minnesota. In 1989, they built a new home in Frederic, Wisconsin, where she enjoyed small-town living once again. After the passing of her two sisters, she moved to her Frederic home and went to Hudson to reside with her sister, Mary Jane Nelson, and niece, Susan Light. After Norma’s passing in 2016, she moved that October to Royal Oaks Independent and Assisted Living Community in Osceola. As her health declined, in August 2018, she transferred to the Burnett Medical Continuing Care Center in Grantsburg.
Frances was always very active in Central Evangelical Church in Minneapolis and then Frederic Evangelical Free Church. She always loved listening to music and spending time with her family. She was also the beloved aunt who connected with her nieces and nephews by having fun with them all. Family was always of utmost importance to Frances.
Frances was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Florence Milner; her sisters, Nora Hansen, Dona Milner and Laura Milner; brothers, Richard Milner, William Milner, David Milner and James Milner; brothers-in-law, Louis Hansen and Vern Johnson; son-in-law, Larry Miller; nieces, Mary Carlson and Gail Johnson; and nephew, Timothy Johnson.
Frances will be missed by her surviving family of two sisters-in-law, Gladys Milner and Darlene Milner; along with many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.
Funeral services were held at Calvary Covenant Church in Minneapolis on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m. A visitation service will be held from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 28, at Grandstrand Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 941 State Road 35 Osceola, WI 54024. Please join the family for a luncheon from 3-6 p.m. with a Celebration of Life at American Legion Post 143, 807 Pine St., St. Croix Falls WI 54024. Condolences may be expressed online at grandstrandfh.com.

Lawrence “Larry” Matrious, Medwekamiginan
Lawrence “Larry” Matrious, Medwekamiginan passed away surrounded by loved ones on Dec. 18, 2019, at the age of 80.
A husband, married to the love of his life, Cheryl, for 58 years, father to his four children (Denise and Troy; grandfather to eight; great-grandfather to four; brother, uncle, cousin, friend, and proud Anishinaabe, welder, craftsman, bowler, ball player, hunter, fisherman, golfer, jockey and a dog dad to his beloved Trixie. His loving soul and silky spirit will come down and through the many family and friends who loved him.
Popie, we love you endlessly and miss you dearly. We will meet again in the happy hunting grounds.
Lawrence was also preceded in death by his wife, Debra (Mike) Lilly and Christina (Gene) Salay; along with nieces, nephews, other relatives and many dear friends.
Larry was preceded in death by his parents; son, Troy; brother, Jim; and sisters, Bernice and Katherine. His passing was held on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10 a.m. at Lake Lena Community Center in St. Croix, Minnesota. Lee Staples officiated. Pallbearers were David Darrow, Larry Milner, Gene Salay, Tom Kain and Kent Hallenbien. Honorary pallbearers were Carlos Hernandez, Rick Benjamin, Gene Salay, Leonard Butler, Mike Lilly, Jeff Matrious, Mino Kanazawina and a host of nieces who were entrusted to Swedberg-Taylor Funeral Home, Webster. Online condolences can be made at swed-berg-taylor.com.
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Las Posadas celebrated at Luck Lutheran Church

¿Qué significa del día festivo se llama Las Posadas?

LUCK - Las Posadas is a Mexican holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus, specifically by re-enacting Mary and Joseph’s search for a posada, or an inn. This is done throughout Mexico leading up to Christmas. People sing carols throughout the street and go door to door asking for room at the inn. When room is finally found, people have a fiesta, or party, to celebrate the upcoming birth of their Savior, Jesus Christ.

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, the children and adults at Luck Lutheran’s Our Faith Journey and members of the Luck High School Spanish Club celebrated Las Posadas. Spanish Club members Addie Thompson, Becky Gaspar, Gage Johannsen, Maddy Becker and her mom, Apryl Livingstone, and Sophia Saueressig along with Spanish teacher Torrie Gaffrey and her husband, David, served a Mexican meal to the intergenerational group of church members. Following the meal, everyone accompanied Mary, on her horse, and Joseph through the streets of Luck seeking a posada and singing carols. Mexican hot chocolate and cookies were a welcome treat following that trek in the cold and snow.

Donations were also given to the Spanish Club to support their fundraising for a trip to Mexico planned for June 15-22, 2021. Currently 19 students and parents have signed up to travel and explore Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula. They will be traveling to many ancient sites and ruins and exploring the history of the Mayan people and civilizations. They will be doing so through guided walking tours, kayaking, snorkeling, horseback riding and more.

CLASS BENEFITS

Follow the Leader.
Swedish Mission Church Christmas Program

Angels Whitney Goldman and Emma Wicklund held the star above the holy family at the Trade Lake Swedish Mission Church on Saturday, Dec. 21, during the late-afternoon Christmas program.

PHOTOS BY BECKY STRABEL

Katie Melin narrated the Nativity story and watched over the children as they performed in front of the full one-room church. Shown with Melin back row (L to R): Addie Chell, Kendall Johnson and Whitney Goldman. Middle: Dominick Whiteside, Maya Allee, Alivia Melin and Riley Johnson. Front: Beckett Johnson and Stella Melin. Not shown: Valerie Wicklund, Oliver Melin and Addy Melin.

The holy family was played by Emmett Peavey and Stella Melin, and a gentle donkey played by Beckett Johnson helped to rock Baby Jesus.

Special music included the singing of “Silent Night” in both Swedish and English by a mother and daughter duet, Marci Wicklund and Maya Allee. Wicklund also sang “Were You There” with Elna Doornink.

RIGHT: Kneeling in honor and respect of Baby Jesus is Dominick Whiteside.

Marci Wicklund holds the microphone for the three wise men who presented gifts to the babe that was wrapped in the manger. With Wicklund are (L to R): Maya Allee, Alivia Melin and Riley Johnson.

PHOTOS BY BECKY STRABEL

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THE LEADER’S 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

Editor’s note: As we wind down yet another year – and decade – of news, we offer an overview of the past 52 weeks of local news in two parts, beginning this week and concluding with next week’s issue. It’s been another year of news that reminds us that as rural communities we have our own unique set of concerns and issues and yet are subject to the same issues that affect everyone nationwide - crime, drug use, challenges in providing good education, the environment and the economy. Following are highlights of big news and small as they appeared in the Leader. A look back as we look forward to another year.

Compiled by Sue Renno

January

• The first baby of 2019 born at the St. Croix Regional Medical Center was Andy James Osumi, born Jan. 1, to Tiffany and Anthony Osumi, of Frederic.
• Burnett County Sheriff Ron Wilhelm retired from his position on Jan. 6.
• Gov.-elect Tony Evers named Carolyne Stanford Taylor as the new state superintendent of public instruction.
• A couple from Minnesota, Joseph and Kimberly O’Brien, died after their snowmobile went through the ice on Webb Lake just before the new year. Another vehicle, a car, broke through the ice on Big Round Lake in Polk County, but the driver was able to escape. A few weeks later, David Maki, Blaine, Minnesota, died when his vehicle went through the ice in the narrows between Balsam Lake and East Balsam Lake.
• Kathryn Kienholz, Miltonia, was finally able to reveal, as the program aired, that she had won $22,000 on “Jeopardy.”
• Unity’s Jaxon Flaherty was presented pornography. Green was hired by the library as its clerk/treasurer, and a gift of appreciation from the town was sworn in at the state Capitol on Jan. 7, as was Gov. Tony Evers.
• Romney Nelson received a certificate and a gift of appreciation from the town of Grantsburg for “13 years of extraordinary dedication” as its clerk/treasurer, and Dennis O’Donnell received a plaque of appreciation for his 38 years of service on the 4-H Youth Achievement Board.
• Brent Waak was sworn in as the new Burnett County sheriff, and Tracy Finch as Burnett County sheriff’s deputy.
• Wilke’s Treasures Gration reached its 1,000thth point in basketball on Jan. 4 during a game against Siren.
• Thirteen-year-old Jayme Closs, from Frederic, managed to escape her abductor, Thomas Patterson, and was safe at home with her aunt, Jennifer Smith, after 88 days held captive at a home his family owned outside of Gordon. Patterson had killed her parents, James and Denise Closs, when he kidnapped her.
• The four-seat St. Croix Falls City Council was down one seat as Brent Waak had resigned after he was elected sheriff of Polk County. The three remaining members voted, 2-1, to kill the renoxification project for the Civic Auditorium and to put the building up for sale, citing the failure of the Centennial Committee to meet their fundraising goal and the length of time the project had been in limbo.

Home safe. Jayme Closs is shown with her aunt and legal guardian, Jennifer Smith, and her dog. – Special photo

• The Salvation Army of Polk and Burnett counties reported their Red Kettle Campaign totals had fallen short of their goals and they might have to cut back on the assistance offered to people who need it most.
• Unity’s Jaxon Flaherty was presented with the oldest basketball in the school’s possession, inscribed with his recent record-breaking accomplishment of scoring 43 points in one game, a 55-year-old record for the school, held by Dan Wilson, who had scored 41 points.
• Former Frederic Public Library director Eric Green pleased no contest to two felony charges of possessing child pornography. Green was hired by the library in March 2016 but an investigation against him began a few months later. He was technically on a leave of absence from November 2016 until July 2017 when he was fired by the library as charges were filed. He was later sentenced to five years in state prison and 10 years of extended supervision.
• Schools and government offices closed for two days and even the U.S. Postal Service suspended delivery at the end of January because of Polar Vortex Jayden, which brought minus-30s to minus-40s in the Midwest.
• Nick Osborne was hired as the new Polk County administrator.
• The Polk County Board of Supervisors voted to dismiss the entire county board of adjustment, the entity tasked with enforcing state-sanctioned shoreland zoning provisions. Polk County Corporation Counsel and interim county Administrator Jeff Fuge had considered appointing Adam Fuge and Jeff Peterson to the board to fill two vacancies before the vote to dismiss the entire board. When asked about it, Fuge only grinned. Another government official said, “Having Peterson and Jaroch serving together on the BOA? You could sell tickets.” Fuge had recently announced his intention to retire from his position effective March 1.
• St. Croix Falls resident Ryan Anderson was first to cross the finish line at the Bearpaw dog sled race at Lutsen Mountain.
• Hilda Trudeau, 90, was chosen to be the grand marshal of the Luck Winter Carnival.
• Scott Knuf caught the biggest northern pike, measuring 32 inches, that weighed 145 pounds, for the 2019 Polk County Ice Fishing Championship.

Tiffany and Anthony Osumi, of Frederic, had something very special to celebrate during the first week of the new year: the birth of their baby boy, Andy James Osumi. He had the honor of being the first baby born at St. Croix Regional Medical Center in 2019. – Photo by Renee Weinzierl Photography

Our first issue of 2019 featured this car that went through the ice on the northwestern corner of Big Round Lake in Polk County. The driver was able to exit the window onto the roof of the vehicle and then slide down the hood to the surface of the ice. The accident occurred Saturday, Dec. 29, and the vehicle was removed by Rick Dierker and crew of Aqua Trek Divers. – Photo provided

Top local stories, page 2
February

• Former Frederic Principal Ryan Fitzgerald, 40, who was living in Hudson and principal at Hale Elementary School in Minneapolis, died suddenly, leaving a daughter, Carah, his parents, and other family members.

• Janet and Everett Marsh, Morning Sun Farms, rural Frederic, won a $2,000 grant from Cultivating Change and Greener Fields Together, which they would use to make changes to their existing solar energy system and connect it to the grid. In thanking the public for their support, Janet said the money would help two businesses - their farm and Legacy Solar.

• The Salvation Army Serenity Home homeless shelter finished moving their office to the Clear Lake Community Center. Instead of the shelter in the old jail in Balsam Lake, three different homes were opened around Polk County.

• The Webb Lake Yellow Ribbon Snowmobile Run raised nearly $6,000 for local veterans.

• The St. Croix Falls wrestling team won the Lakeland Conference championship, and Spooner-Webster won the Heart O’North Conference title. The St. Croix Falls girls had a strong showing in the sectional title and had 12 qualify for the sectional. LFGS wrestlers Taedon Nichols placed first at 113 pounds.

• The Blizzard PeeWee hockey team defeated Ashland 4-2, qualifying them for the state peewee hockey tournament in Sparta in March.

• Grantsburg’s Red Kleiss was a cast member of Theatre 95’s production of “Hair” at the Mixed Blood Theatre in Minneapolis.

• Seven students Alayna Johnson, Casandra Maslow, Rylee O’Brien, Grace Schultz and Katie Taylor reported on their three-week trip to Europe during the past summer as part of the Wisconsin Ambassadors of Music program, joined by their instrumental instructor, Bryn Anderson. They had applied, auditioned and practiced, and got to visit London, Vienna, Paris, the Swiss Alps, and parts of Germany including the Dachau concentration camp.

• Winners at the ice-fishing contest on Big Wood Lake were John Hoffman, 7-1/8-oz. northern, Kevin Karge, 4-1/2-oz. bass, Mike Stenman, 1-4-7/oz. crappie, and Keith Lindquist, 6-5-oz. sunfish.

• Juliana Olive was crowned 2019 Miss Luck at the Luck Winter Carnival, with Princesses Rose King and Anasta sia Adams, and Little Miss Luck Astrid Sommerfeld and Little Princess Arianna Springer.

• Over 300 people came to Webster High School for the Tiger Tech open house, where they saw what modern shop classes have aspired to.

• The unbeaten St. Croix Falls girls basketball team won the Lakeland West Conference title with their 61-20 victory over Luck. The Webster Tigers boys team were conference champs with a 20-1 record. The Saints girls went on to win the sectional title.

• LFGS wrestlers Taedon Nichols and Nolan Johnson qualified for the state tournament. The St. Croix Falls team qualified, as did individual wrestlers Kole Marko, Tanner Gaffey, Luke Thae mert, Masen Will, Bennett Bergman, Austin McCurdy and Kyle Zehn.

• Webster senior Brad Sigfrids signed his letter of intent to play football for the Upper Iowa Peacocks, a Division 2 team.

• Mark Bohn, Frederic, bowled a perfect 300 game at the 300 Club in Frederic during league play.

• Jerry Fiedler, Grantsburg, decided to close his business, Fiedler Ford, on Feb. 15 after 41 years in business.

• St. Croix Falls resident and author Alan Clark had his book out, “Silent Partner: A Father’s Perspective of Raising an Autistic Child.” He wanted to express his gratitude for all the supportive people in his family’s lives and share what he learned from his experiences, and he said that his wife is “the hero.” His son was diagnosed in 1987 at less than 2 years old.

• Eighteen Frederic FBLA members and their chaperones and adviser went to Chicago for the National Leadership Fall Conference, where they participated in several competitions, attended workshops and exhibits, and saw some Chicago sights, Calvin Brewster, Tate Ovick and Ted Tietz first in hospitality management; Karlie Alexander place first in her introduction to business presentation; and Casey Thae mert place first in job interview.

• After the DNR issued a written order shutting down snowmobiles on the Stover Seven Lakes State Trail, the Polk County Board voted to rescind master trail plan amendments allowing for motorized use on the trail.

Lake and Amery fire departments, with help from neighbors, used manual labor and large excavators to remove steel and roof sections and free the animals. Thirty-seven animals died or had to be put down because of their injuries.

• Local school districts were starting to outline the details of how they would make up for lost instructional time after several school closings because of severe winter weather.

• Controversy was starting to heat up over what plans the new owners of Wood Lake Bible Camp might have for the property. They said they wanted to keep it as a family camp, but neighbors were concerned about plans to add RV spots, and a public meeting was planned for March 5.

• St. Croix Falls freshman Kole Marko won all three of his matches at state wrestling to come home with the 128-pound division championship. Two teammates added top-five finishes, Luke Thae mert, fourth at 106, and Tanner Gaffey, fifth at 138. Taedon Nichols of LFGS, placed sixth overall, after losing his third match due to injury.

• Emma Quimby, Grantsburg, playing for the Hayward co-op girls hockey team, was named Player of the Year in independent girls hockey.

• Earl Wilson, who has worked for Burnett Dairy Cooperative since he was 19, in 1973, was presented with a Taylor acoustic/electric guitar at the company holiday party for being a 45-year employee. He was currently the strategic project manager, or in his words, a cheesemaker trainer.

• St. Croix school board FCCLA members attended the regional STAR Event competition at UW-Stout. Gold medal winners were Jordan Staggers and Miranda Zumberger; Sierra Zufi, Grayden Henshfield, Britta Hibbs, Gabrielle Engstrand, Katia Marcel- lus, Rose King, Grace Jensen, Juliana Thompson and Chloe Johnson.

March

• About 150 people attended the Burnett County Land Use and Information Committee meeting to express their non-support of a conditional use permit for Wood Lake Camp and RV, the former Baptist Bible Camp on Wood Lake, sold to private owners. The committee voted to table the decision and gather more information. Owners Patrick and Judi Kinsella withdrew their request later that month.
Memories of Grandpa

Guess what I did for my birthday this year? Went to a funeral — yes, as a fun! Thank goodness it wasn’t my own. It was my wife’s father, whom I have followed how all the grandkids called him “Grandpa.” Didn’t feel right calling him dad, as I already have my Chinese father and my American dad; so Grandpa it was, the whole time. He always responded with an enthusiastic smile.

Paul Harold Zimmerman was a simple and wonderful man. Starting the family with his wife, Clarice, many years ago, they ended up with five children, and then the children’s spouses, and next came the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I don’t even dare to add them up as I’ve never been good with math. Let’s just say that the Zimmerman family is a large family. Grandpa and Grandma should be very pleased and proud!

There is an old Chinese saying that “giving birth, getting old, being sick and dying” are the different paths that we must pass in our life’s journey; and I am sure that Grandpa’s journey was most rewarding. I didn’t know him well, but we got closer and closer each time we saw each other. I love to cook, and he loved my cooking. Yes, we bonded through food. When I moved in with my wife (who lived in Whitewater then, an hour west of Milwaukee) after we got married, our house was only two blocks down from theirs. Naturally we would invite them to come over for dinner on Sunday evenings. Little did I know that it would become a tradition.

Need for invitation, every Sunday at 4 p.m. Grandpa would promptly show up with Grandma. I loved to cook, and they loved to eat. Life was good!

Because of our jobs, we decided to move back to Milwaukee. Not long after, Grandma Claired away, after a long battle with Parkinson’s disease. Grandpa was all alone. It was then that we asked him to come to Milwaukee on weekends and join us. He did, and that would become another tradition. Instead of calling us ahead of time, asking if it was WOK & ROLL

Peter H. Kwong

OK for him to come and visit, he would just call us and let us know when to expect him for his visit. I love to sing, especially Spanish love songs, just so romantic. Even if I don’t know the meaning of the words, I can sing all the songs in Spanish. I have gathered many friends (amigos y amigas) who like to play guitar and sing along with me. Music is a universal language, believe it. We would gather quite often — to sing, to eat, and to laugh (with a lot of tequila toasts, of course). Grandpa would join us in all our gatherings. He was known as “Pablo.” For some strange reasons, even though he didn’t speak any Spanish, he would be chatting with someone who spoke little English. And they would be laughing hysterically together. It must be a gift — a gift that he could blend in with everyone and anyone. It would take a genuine soul who loved and cared for other people to do that, and that was the Grandpa that I knew.

Grandpa joined the Army at the end of the war. He never went to battle as the war ended before deployment. But he was very proud that he was indeed in the military service. Unable to live alone after Grandma passed, the family suggested that he should move to King Veterans Home, near Waupaca, which was closer to his son Ron, who resides in Stevens Point. It was a comforting thought, knowing that someone was close by if something drastic happened.

For many years, he lived happily at the veterans home. First, being a sociable person, he had lots of friends to chat with. Also, he enjoyed a job at the home, working with postal duties. He liked to be active and involved and he kept busy with crossword puzzles. He liked to contribute in helping others; a definite giver. We visited him as often as we could. He liked to eat out at different restaurants as he wasn’t too fond of “hospital food” (who is?). Then one day, he just announced that he would rather stay in the home rather than go anywhere. We knew that he was running out of time then.

A month ago, we got a call from the home that Grandpa was not doing well, maybe the family should be there to check on him. Family members from all over rushed to the home as fast as they could; and we are glad that we did have a chance to say goodbye to him one last time.

He was buried in a veterans cemetery, with full military honors given. It was raining that day, maybe the angels were sharing the sadness of losing a good man. I was most touched when Dalton, the younger son of Rhonda, the youngest daughter of the five siblings, read this poem. It is titled, “Not, how did he die, but how did he live?”

“Not how did he die, but how did he live? Not what did he gain, but what did he give? These are the units to measure the worth Of a man, a woman, regardless of his birth. Nor was it his church, nor what was his creed? But had he befriended those really in need? Was he ever ready, with words of good cheer, To bring back a smile, to banish a tear? Not what did the sketch in the newspaper say, But how many were sorry when he passed away? Anonymous

Though Grandpa is gone, he will always be in our hearts. We’ll meet again someday, hopefully not too soon. He just started another journey with another beginning. But I know that he will be the same — Grandpa, providing comfort, laughter and love to whoever crosses his path. Farewell, and have a safe journey.

FREDERIC CHOIRS PERFORM AT MALL OF AMERICA

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, the Frederic High School vocal choir and bell choirs performed at the Mall of America. Director Lisa Mattson performed “Rockin’ Reindeer Christmas,” “Star in the East” and “In Dulci Jubilo” accompanied on piano by Chris Tou. The Frederic Middle and High school choirs will perform next on March 24, 2020, at the Large Group Festival, which will be hosted at the Friday, 6-12 School. The handbell program at Frederic has continued to expand, with three different groups performing at the Mall of America this year. Each bell choir contains 11 students who practice once a week at 7:30 a.m. The Tuesday bell choir performed “He is Born,” “The Holly and the Ivy” and “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” The Wednesday bell choir performed “An Appalachian Christmas,” “Masters in the Hall” and “Ring the Bells on Christmas Day.” The Friday bell choir performed “Jingle Jingle,” “O Christmas Tree” and “Christmas Chime.” The Frederic sixth- and seventh-grade bell choir group will participate in solo and ensemble on Feb. 11. Bell choir groups from seventh through 12th grade will participate in solo and ensemble April 7. — Photos provided

Polk County recycling survey available online

POLK COUNTY - A survey on the uses of the Polk County Recycling Program is available online at co.polk.wi.us/recycling goes through Friday, Jan. 10, 2020. This survey has been put together by the Polk County Recycling Department for the purpose of gathering public opinion on recycling needs for the county. Residents are encouraged to take this short online survey, which includes an opportunity for comments.

Shannel G. Wisconsin law bans the disposal or incineration of any recyclable materials. Wisconsin law also mandates that local governments ensure recycling is available to all residents. The Polk County Recycling Center has collected materials that would have otherwise ended up in the landfill.

Polk County’s recycling program continues to see an increase in material at its collection sites. Recycling material is still in demand and with the increase in material there is an increase in costs.

Funds are needed to support sorting equipment, trucking costs and larger reuse material and ship to companies throughout the U.S.

Polk County offers recycling bin drop-off locations throughout the county for items such as electronics, paper, glass jars/bottles, tin and aluminum. No. 1 and No. 2 plastic bottles/jugs, corrugated brown cardboard, newspaper, magazines, office paper, glass jars/bottles, tin and aluminum can all be dropped off at these bins.

For further information, contact Tina Riley, office manager of the county Recycling Department, at 715-485-9294 or email polk.recyling@co.polk.wi.us.

Academic news

MILWAUKEE — A local student received academic honors from the Milwaukee School of Engineering for the 2019 fall quarter. Benjamin Jacobs, a junior, majoring in electrical engineering, was named to the fall 2019 dean’s list at the University of Sioux Falls. To qualify, students must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or greater on a 4.0 scale.

DE PERE – Oliver Dressel, of Dressel, has been named to the 2019 fall semester dean’s list at St. Norbert College. A minimum 3.5 grade-point average is required for academic eligibility.
Caleb the Christmas tree

I went with my parents to get a Christmas tree. All the trees were wearing hangtags shaped like bells and all the bells had hand-tipped names on them. At first, I assumed these trees were spoken for and the names indicated the person who had reserved the tree. Then I realized that, no, the names were for the trees.

This was a fancy place and, apparently, when you spend as much as this store was charging for a tree, the tree came complete with a name. Actually, for what they were charging, I’m surprised the trees didn’t come with at least a two-year degree from a vo-tech college. Still, they were lovely trees, I must admit. We immediately spotted a balsam fir named Howard, and the wind was so chill I was fully prepared and ready to pile Howard on top of the car and call it a day.

But tradition insisted we must make something resembling a hunt and so we reviewed the rest of the trees lined up in the windy parking lot until we came to one that seemed to have near perfect shape: not too bushy, an attractive leader at the top, no straggly branches at the bottom, and just the right height. There was only one problem: the tree was named Caleb.

“Mom, Caleb is not a good name for a Christmas tree.”

Julia’s garden

It was grand in its short day. Beautiful, stunning. The Gladiolas, the Marigolds, the plants guarded like bells and all the bells had hand-tipped names on them. At first, I assumed these trees were spoken for and the names indicated the person who had reserved the tree. Then I realized that, no, the names were for the trees.

Even in the late fall, the crinkled and brown tomato fence became lovers of others and lovers of grandeur. Apples plucked were not filled with knowledge, just gardens of their lives. A young with her lover. They would dream of other hidden where Julia would eat carry out egg foo yung.

Then, suddenly His presence becalmed the ground and it was frozen fast and only the wind and cold were waiting there for the gardener. Akin the very first garden, it is hard to leave and when at last a garden hews into sight, it is the last garden. Much like the first one but a garden of oil plants. A garden of their lives. The author can be reached at jackgator75@gmail.com

The Postscript

Carrie Classon

“No, it really isn’t,” my mother agreed. We both studied Caleb silently. There was no denying that Caleb was an attractive tree.

“Maybe we could rename him,” my mother suggested, as we strapped Caleb to the roof for the short drive home.

My dad got out the metal tree stand which is old and a little rusty and will never be replaced because you can’t buy one like it anymore. He pounded the tree down onto the stake in the middle of the pan and tightened the screws. He raised the tree into a standing position and its branches slowly relaxed, showing off its full splendor, then he wrapped it in a few strings of lights.

“I think Caleb looks very nice!” my mother declared.

And, while I still thought it was a wildly inappropriate name for a Christmas tree, Caleb had somehow managed, as is often the case this time of year, to embody the Christmas spirit exactly.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon’s memoir, “Blue Yarn,” was released earlier this year. Learn more at CarrieClason.com.

Julia’s garden

It was grand in its short day. Beautiful, stunning. The Gladiolas, the Marigolds, the plants guarded like bells and all the bells had hand-tipped names on them. Too many Zucchini and asparagus fronds in autumn. Too many chard and a battalion of Brussels sprouts waiting to be thumb rolled.

There was a bench in the middle surrounded and hidden where Julia would eat carry out egg foo yung.

Then, suddenly His presence becalmed the ground and it was frozen fast and only the wind and cold were waiting there for the gardener. Akin the very first garden, it is hard to leave and when at last a garden hews into sight, it is the last garden. Much like the first one but a garden of oil plants. A garden promising hard-pressing labor along with the beauty. It is a place of a different kind of sweat and labor. A place of a different kind of sweat and labor.

Then my mom pulled out the ornaments and wondered aloud where many of them came from and how long we have had them. We don’t remember. Except we know the little fellow in the canoe used to be holding an oar until my dad carved a tiny paddle for him (because what was he doing with an oar in a canoe?) And my mom remembers the ornaments she brought back the year they visited the Holy Land. But what about the sled that had my dad’s name on it and the year 1982? It is a mystery, as is the angel made of pinecones and the tiny skis holding tiny skis and the surprising number of mice in Christmas attire.

“You could have dressed up a whole string of them you caught under the sink this week!” I suggested to my mom (a thought she did not seem to care for).

There were a few glass balls hung to fill in the empty spaces and the whole process was finished in what seemed like no time at all.

“I think Caleb looks very nice!” my mother declared.

And, while I still thought it was a wildly inappropriate name for a Christmas tree, Caleb had somehow managed, as is often the case this time of year, to embody the Christmas spirit exactly.

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Ses K-5 Christmas program

There are many who have smaller gardens that try to understand and put word to the eternity of this garden, seen by the planter. The sacrifice, the impossible price for the last harvest is now known but somehow was briefly forgotten when the seed was sown.

The harvest has now begun, the olives turned into perfect oil as the sower has been sown Himself. The price for this seed has now been paid in full and it cannot be fully known, even by those who valiantly and brilliantly try to understand. The sower has planted the perfect seed, and the harvest is plentiful.

The 23-member fifth-grade band performed six songs as part of their debut concert on Thursday, Dec. 19, in the Siren School auditorium. The band is under the direction of Bryn Anderson.

The author can be reached at jackgator75@gmail.com

The postscript

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“My mother asked my husband, Peter, (who is the least likely to have an opinion on the subject) and Peter declared that there were plenty of lights.

Then my mom pulled out the ornaments and wondered aloud where many of them came from and how long we have had them. We don’t remember.

Except we know the little fellow in the canoe used to be holding an oar until my dad carved a tiny paddle for him (because what was he doing with an oar in a canoe?) And my mom remembers the ornaments she brought back the year they visited the Holy Land. But what about the sled that had my dad’s name on it and the year 1982? It is a mystery, as is the angel made of pinecones and the tiny skiers holding tiny skis and the surprising number of mice in Christmas attire.

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New year, new you

With the new year quickly approaching, the American Medical Association is offering recommendations to help Americans make the most impactful, long-lasting improvements to their health in 2019.

The AMA’s recommendations for a healthier new year include the following:

- **• Talk with your doctor about tobacco and nicotine use, then quit.** Declare your home and car smoke-free to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.

**HEALTHY MINUTE**

- **• Pain medication is personal.** If you are taking prescription opioids, follow your doctor’s instructions, store them safely to prevent misuse and properly dispose of any leftover medication.

- **• Make sure your family is up to date on their vaccines.** This includes getting the annual influenza vaccine for everyone age 6 months or older.

**Brought to you by Healthy Burnett**

Written by American Medical Association. Submitted by Burnett Medical Center. Healthy Minute is brought to you by healthyburnett.org.

50 years ago

Donna Johnson and Marی Gill were married Nov. 1 at the United Methodist church at Webster. Employees of the Frederic Bottling Co. poured about 700 cases worth of bottles of Diet Pepsi containing cyclamate down the drain so the bottles could be refilled with the new formula, containing a small amount of sugar. Cyclamates were banned as a possible carcinogen. Terry J. Arney, from Siren, was promoted to Army specialist four while assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division in Germany.—Keith Schmidt, 6 of the Clam Falls community, was thrown from a tractor and suffered a broken thighbone when the tractor, driven by his brother Carl, 13, also carrying another brother, Donald, 10, started to slide downhill while pulling a load of feed home from the feed mill. Carl was able to stop the tractor and he and Donald were not injured.—Bradford Mcabee, a Frederick graduate, and Joyce Larson were married Oct. 18 at First Lutheran Church, Rush City, Minnesota.—Welfare Owens, from rural Frederic and a student at UW-River Falls, was one of 24 Wisconsin delegates to the National Education Association convention in Detroit.—Joy Hansen and Kenneth Ogren were married Nov. 29 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Frederick.—Robert A. Nelson, from Frederic and a senior at Wisconsin State University - Superior, was appointed to the spring 1979 Undergraduate Honors Program at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois.

40 years ago

Lynn Ludack, a senior at Unity High School, was selected as the Wisconsin Honey Queen.—Esther Amundson was Indian Creek Citizen of the Year, and her friends and relatives had a party for her as she had sold her home to Lin and Alice Root and was going to Florida for the winter.—Rudolph Steinman, Frederick, a U.S. veteran and a native of Switzerland, died on Armistice Day at the age of 80. He came to the U.S. when he was 18, and after working for his brother, served in the U.S. Army for 30 years, earning many medals and distinctions. He was one of 16 children, some of them still lived in Switzerland, and his sister Emma, whom he lived with in his later years, lived in Frederick.—Navy Fire Control Technician 3rd Class Leon Brandt, from Grantsburg, graduated from Fire Technician School at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois.—Arlene Tobias, a 1951 graduate of Siren High School who was the National Education Association regional director for New England and New York, was named executive director of FTP-NEA, Florida’s largest teachers organization. She had worked as an NEA negotiations specialist in Florida from 1974-76 and moved back to Florida in November. The new Polk County Jail was complete and an open house was held Dec. 16.—Craig Libelberg, from Frederic, graduated from the University of Minnesota with a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy and had recently passed the state board exams. He and his wife, Patty, lived in Mankato, Minnesota.—Vi Anderson, Webster, closed the beauty shop she had operated in her home for 41 years and six months.

20 years ago

Webster Police Officer Bridget Moritz pulled over a speeding car and found Josh Pardun, Danbury, was rushing his wife, Rachel, who was in labor, to the hospital. Caleb Joshua Pardun was born by emergency C-section about 2-1/2 hours later. The couple knew their baby was in the breech position and he was not expected for three weeks. When her water broke, she called her dad and gathered some things to take along – 17 baby outfits and nothing for Rachel or herself—Army Pvt. Tiffany Wondra, from Frederic, graduated from basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and was at Fort Lee, Virginia, for further training.—Twins Jarred Joseph and Cody John were born Oct. 21 to Missy and Jason Peterson, Fridley, Minnesota, with grandparents being Stan and Betty Fees, Grantsburg, and Pat and Ike Peterson, Webster. Robert Austin Gardner was born Nov. 12 to Corinne Kokesch and William Gardner, Grantsburg. Isabelle Grace Maslow was born Nov. 12 to Jacquelleyn and Jonathan Maslow, Grantsburg; Spencer Matthew Bunting was born Nov. 10 to Sue Stickland and Scott Bunting, St. Croix Falls. Brandon Ray Bas-tin was born Nov. 9 to Luann and Keith Bastin, St. Croix Falls; Jordan Robert Mitchell was born Nov. 9 to Maranda and Keith Mitchell, Webster. Brianne Marie Peterson was born Nov. 5 to Diane and Ryan Peterson, Balsam Lake; Jack Patrick Volgren was born Oct. 31 to Tina and Jon Volgren, Balsam Lake; and Gavin Olson was born Nov. 7 to Amanda and Matthew Olson, Milltown.

Brought to you by:

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Presenting an Elizabethan banquet was a new venture for students in the Siren School music department in 1979. Directed by vocal music instructor Mike Rugen, the high school choir members and a brass quintet performed music from old England in the high school cafeteria while guests enjoyed a meal of roast pork with all the trimmings and apple crisp for dessert, with a concert of Christmas carols after the meal. The choir members wore costumes borrowed from the high school in Chicago that their director used to attend. Participants, back row (L to R): Mary Wiberg, Dawn Olson, Karen McMillan, Donna Thomas, Shelly Geater, Sim Lee, Cindy Wegner, Jim Kolander and Steve Clay (holding the banner, with Gaylen Brown at the left). Front: Geri Rivers, Sally D’Jock, Sandy Bretholer, Glory Ackland, Chris Hagert, Kris Swanson, Pam Hedlund, Shannon Beckmark, Joanna DaRonca and Cheryl Kelley. — File photo

GRANT KUENKEL RECEIVES FOUR-STAR AWARD

North Valley Lutheran Church is pleased to announce that Grant Kuenkel of Scout Troop 160 of St. Croix Falls was presented with the P.R.A.Y. Four Star Award on Sunday, Dec. 15, during the regular church service under the mentorship of Pastor Maggie Issacson. A four-star recipient is someone who started in the first, second or third grade and continued on into Boy Scouts to earn all four levels of the P.R.A.Y. series: God and Family, God and Freedom, God and Work, and God and Llife. The P.R.A.Y. Series is a Bible-based curric ulum that requires both Bible study and service projects. Less than 1% of the P.R.A.Y. recipients in any year receive the prestigious four-star award. North Valley Lutheran Church is located at 1968 220th Ave., Centuria, about 3 miles west of Milltown on CTG H. Worship is at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. — Photo provided

Compiled by Sue Renno
LEFT: Earl Wilson was recently honored for completing his 45th year with Burnett Dairy Cooperative in Alpha. He started with the dairy on Aug. 1, 1973, when he was 19 years old. Wilson is a licensed cheesemaker and currently has the title of strategic project manager, working as a liaison between Burnett Dairy’s research and development and manufacturing departments. He still frequently works on the production floor and serves as a mentor to co-workers, supervisors and managers. - Special photo

Charllynn and Ben Chanell are shown with their children inside Aribella’s Boutique in downtown Frederic. Aribella’s is one of a number of new shops that are revitalizing downtown Frederic. - Special photo

Year in review (from page 2)

• Three juveniles, age 16, 13 and 12, arrived at the Luck Minit Mart on snowmobile and attempted to rob the clerk at knife-point, but a customer intervened and the robbers were apprehended.
• The St. Croix Falls School District was considering plans for a day care, to be operated at Peace Lutheran Church in Dresser, and an addition to the school with a new auditorium, fitness center and bus garage.
• Gavyn Anton, a junior at Siren High School, qualified for the state powerlifting championships and currently has the title of state champion.
• Helen Yourchuck, of Luck, was chosen by the Elizabeth Bole Foundation to represent Wisconsin as a Dole Caregiver Fellow, trained by the foundation to share her story with the White House, Congress, the VA and other government agencies. Her husband, Dean, a Navy veteran, suffered a broken neck as a result of his military service and has PTSD, depression and chronic pain.
• The Excel Gymnastics team from Grantsburg, with gymnasts Dylan Anderson, Anita Finch, Abby Kryzer, Morgan Macho, Eden Burkmel, Laurel Craker and Abby Robach, competed at the state meet in Minnesota, and won the Division 2 state championship.
• Michael George, formerly from Altoona, was sentenced to eight years of incarceration and seven years of extended supervision in the hit-and-run death of Lisa Allen, 50, in Amery.
• About 55 Clam Falls residents came to the Port County Board of Supervisors to plead their case to save the Clam Falls Dam and flowage, wanting the county to take ownership of the dam, which was owned by Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company, not in use, and needing maintenance. NWEC had offered to transfer ownership of the dam to the town of Clam Falls and to Port County, but both refused because of the cost to maintain it.
• Youth wrestler Drake Petersen took first and team medals Brock Sladky, Garrett Dagestad, Kaleb Palmer and Autumn Steffan medaled at the Wisconsin WRESTLING Federation Folkstyle State Championships. The wrestlers range in age from 8 to 15.
• The Mental Health Task Force of Port County reported that over 1,000 professionals and community members had or would be trained to understand the impact of childhood trauma through their Trauma-Informed Care Initiative. The story quoted Dr. Robert Anda, referring to adverse childhood experiences: "ACEs are the leading determinant of the health and social well-being of our nation."
• The traditional wigwam built at Forts Folle Avoine later said she was taking full responsibility for her actions as a mentor to co-workers, leaders and currently has the title of strategic project manager, working as a liaison between Burnett Dairy’s research and development and manufacturing departments. He still frequently works on the production floor and serves as a mentor to co-workers, supervisors and managers. - Special photo

April

• Spring election results included school referendums passing in Frederic, one of two in Siren, and Luck and Osceola’s failing. Becky Amundson defeated George Hansford as president of the Frederic Village Board, and the state Supreme Court race was too close to call. A recount was called for Siren referendum to establish a new athletic field, but it still failed, 356-332.
• Kathy Poirier was elected village president in Balsam Lake.
• It was announced that Grantsburg High School Principal Josh Wilt was the new superintendent starting July 1. Dr. Joni Burgin had announced she would retire at the end of the school year.
• Jake Patterson, 21, Gordon, pleaded guilty to two counts of intentional homicide and one count of kidnapping in the Jayme Closs case.
• Daniel Pfeiffer, who was arrested for his eighth drunk driving charge after driving almost double the speed limit through downtown Osceola, was sentenced to three years in prison, five years of extended supervision, various treatment programs, and had his driver’s license revoked for life.
• Balsam Lake Police Chief Tom Thompson and village President Geno D’Agostino said farewell to the Balsam Lake Village Board as Thompson was retiring and D’Agostino chose not to seek re-election.
• St. Croix Falls fourth-grader Jocelyn Shimon won the Sargent Art Award for the state Youth Art Month entry, “Sandia Silberweig Inspired Portrait.”
• The April 10 Leader front page said “Brace yourself!” as a foot of snow and 40- to 50-mph winds were forecast.
• Polk County Corporation Counsel Malia Malone was pulled over for speeding and charged with OWI, first, on her way home from Stillwater, Minnesota. She later said she was taking full responsibility for her actions and that she had apologized to her co-workers.
• The St. Croix Falls Common Council decided to list the Civic Auditorium with a real estate agent. Mayor Arnie Carlson admitted that when the new council was seated in two weeks, the current council’s decision might be overridden.

See Year in review, page 10
COUNTRY CHATTER

HSBC has several fabulous felines who have generous sponsors to cover their adoption fees. For Chickie, Ge-zhi, Mj, Adam, Eva and Oreo, that means it only takes a prescreened application to bring home a Christmas cheer. Meet two of our sponsored cats right here.

It’s one of the oldest stories out there: Adam and Eva are looking for a new home. These two cats look similar and would love a home with another pair of bookends. However, they are more interested in being around people than being window dressing. HSBC challenges you to choose a favorite.

Adam: An 11-year-old boy and brown tabby with green eyes. He is short-haired, a boy, who gets along with his community room friends and would love someone to pal around with. Adam’s favorite pastime is sunbathing and interacting with people of all ages. He promises years of devotion and warmth. Adam arrived at HSBC with his babies. Now that her mothering days are behind her, this boy and brown tabby 6-year-old is ready to be spoiled. Even though she’s a little shy, she has a laid-back personality. Eva enjoys being the center of attention. She is skilled at catching people’s eyes with her brown eyes and green eyes. She loves cuddling with adults and children alike and would love to share the cold nights of winter.

Eva’s doing the December Reading Challenge! She checked out books and received an entry form to win a fabulous gift basket with certificates to the 300 Club in Frederic and Village Floral in Grantsburg – Photo provided at our first-ever “Afternoon Tea Book Club.” Pick up the book at the library, read it and come ready to engage in a lively discussion while enjoying a steaming mug of tea. 1 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and March 19.

Free beginning tai chi class

Tuesdays, Jan. 7 - Feb. 4, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Come learn a traditional form of low-impact mind-body Chinese relaxation and movement. From this free one-hour class, you start to learn to reduce stress and gain mental and physical balance in life. Space is limited and preregistration is required. Register at grantsburglibrary.org

Chess club

Come to chess club on Wednesdays at 3:45 p.m., starting Jan. 15. Our focus is on developing literacy skills by emphasizing activities that reinforce the five early literacy practices: Read – Talk – Sing – Play. Everyone is welcome!

Countdown to Noon Year’s Eve

Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the countdown to the new year ... at noon! It’s the last day of 2019, and the Friends of the Library are hosting a special celebration for anyone who can’t stay awake until midnight. We’ll start the festivities with a comedy magic show, then enjoy refreshments and end off with a countdown to the new year! Register online or by calling the library at 715-463-2244.

Vivian’s doing the December Reading Challenge! She checked out books and received an entry form to win a fabulous gift basket with certificates to the 300 Club in Frederic and Village Floral in Grantsburg – Photo provided at our first-ever “Afternoon Tea Book Club.” Pick up the book at the library, read it and come ready to engage in a lively discussion while enjoying a steaming mug of tea. 1 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and March 19.

New items coming soon...

Books

“The Country Guesthouse” by Robyn Carr

“Little Lies in a Small Town” by Liane Cambert

“The Family Upstarts” by Lisa Jewell

“Finds” by Lisa Jewell

“Running With Sherman” by Christopher McDougal

“Secondhand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale” by Adamo Minter

“Lost” by James Patterson

“The River Murders” by James Patterson

“The Woman’s Hour” by Elaine Weiss

“Treason” by Stuart Woods

Youth books

“The Best of Iggys” by Ann Barrows

“Real Pigeons Fight Crime” by Andrew McDonald

“The Forests of Silence” by Ruta Sepulveda

“Once Upon A Time In Hollywood” by Robin Bildner

Audio books

“The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton” by Rick Atkinson

Movies

“Oscars”

“Hustlers”

“Life with Dog”

“Once Upon A Time in Hollywood”

“Where’s Your Balladrene?”

Library hours and information

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; noon to 2 p.m. Saturday. Phone number: 715-463-2244. Website: grantsburglibrary.org. To find out about the latest library events, follow us on Facebook.

P TOWN TALK • COUNTRY CHATTER

Grantsburg Public Library

Free beginning tai chi class

Tuesdays, Jan. 7 - Feb. 4, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Come learn a traditional form of low-impact mind-body Chinese relaxation and movement. From this free one-hour class, you start to learn to reduce stress and gain mental and physical balance in life. Space is limited and preregistration is required. Register at grantsburglibrary.org

Chess club

Come to chess club on Wednesdays at 3:45 p.m., starting Jan. 15. Our focus is on developing literacy skills by emphasizing activities that reinforce the five early literacy practices: Read – Talk – Sing – Play. Everyone is welcome!

Countdown to Noon Year’s Eve

Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 10:30 a.m. Celebrate the countdown to the new year ... at noon! It’s the last day of 2019, and the Friends of the Library are hosting a special celebration for anyone who can’t stay awake until midnight. We’ll start the festivities with a comedy magic show, then enjoy refreshments and end off with a countdown to the new year! Register online or by calling the library at 715-463-2244.

Vivian’s doing the December Reading Challenge! She checked out books and received an entry form to win a fabulous gift basket with certificates to the 300 Club in Frederic and Village Floral in Grantsburg – Photo provided at our first-ever “Afternoon Tea Book Club.” Pick up the book at the library, read it and come ready to engage in a lively discussion while enjoying a steaming mug of tea. 1 p.m., Thursdays, Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and March 19.

New items coming soon...

Books

“The Country Guesthouse” by Robyn Carr

“Little Lies in a Small Town” by Liane Cambert

“The Family Upstarts” by Lisa Jewell

“Finds” by Lisa Jewell

“Running With Sherman” by Christopher McDougal

“Secondhand: Travels in the New Global Garage Sale” by Adamo Minter

“Lost” by James Patterson

“The River Murders” by James Patterson

“The Woman’s Hour” by Elaine Weiss

“Treason” by Stuart Woods

Youth books

“The Best of Iggys” by Ann Barrows

“Real Pigeons Fight Crime” by Andrew McDonald

“The Forests of Silence” by Ruta Sepulveda

“Once Upon A Time in Hollywood” by Robin Bildner

Library hours and information

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; noon to 2 p.m. Saturday. Phone number: 715-463-2244. Website: grantsburglibrary.org. To find out about the latest library events, follow us on Facebook.
Siren Kid Central Christmas

Adalyn Dugger enjoys her cup of hot cocoa and a snack at the Kid Central Christmas celebration. Dinner was also provided to those who attended.

The preschool students put on a performance with a little help from their teachers, Nicole D’Jock and Tiffany George. Old St. Nick enjoyed the performance along with family and friends who also watched.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

LEFT: With a big smile, Kinsley Nasman hops on Santa’s lap and was part of the preschool program too.

Santa visited with Keira Lightfeather and many other youngsters. The party was a great time.

Journey Hubbell was content to sit on the jolly old man’s lap. Santa made a stop at Kid Central in Siren on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Chris Phernetton decorates a cookie as little Aubrielle Baum looks at it in wonder.
Grantsburg Elementary Christmas Program

Third-grader Lauren Hallberg played the popular tune "Jingle Bells" for her preconcert performance.

Grantsburg Elementary School first- through third-grade students got the audience in a festive mood when they performed the song “We Wish You A Swinging Holiday” during their Christmas program in the high school auditorium Thursday, Dec. 19.

Third-grade students Tristan Vaksdal, Justin Rosa, Braxton Lindus and Morgan Anderson looked merry and bright while singing “Christmas Through the Eyes of a Child.”

Amelia White glowed as lights on the Christmas tree as she and her second-grade classmates sang the holiday tune, “A Nice, Nice Christmas.”

PhOTOS BY PRISCILLA BAUER

First-graders Thomas Rauchbauer and Abram Hale sang out with their classmates during the Christmas carol sing-along with the audience.

Grantsburg third-graders looked ready to fly off to Santa’s house with their festive finish to the tune “North Pole, North Pole.”
Year in review

• Folk County Administrator Nick Osborne told the county board the county’s Department of Child Protective Services might exceed budgeted amounts by as much as $1 million, blaming the situation on the ravages of drug addiction.

• Milltown Police Chief Shaun Thayer said the people making illegal U-turns on Main Street would no longer get a $25 parking ticket, but a moving violation that would go through the Folk County Court system, resulting in a $198 fine, issued “when it’s appropri- ate,” such as re-offense violations.

• The Milltown Library moved to a temporary loca- tion at the former RCU building in preparation for their expansion and renovation project.

• Unity School District was planning to turn some snow days into virtual learning days. Each Unity stu- dent from fifth grade through high school has their own iPad and was given a “top secret mission” packet detailing several activities, and would be given a password in the event of a snow day.

• The Frederic Chamber of Commerce announced their citizens of the year: Sandy Lundquist, Citizen of the Year; Dean Dversdall and Freddie Kirk, Volunteers of the Year; and Kris Pyke of Avalon, Business of the Year.

• Wisconsin Supreme Court candidate Lisa Neubauer conceded her opponent, Brian Hagedorn, who had announced this year, in an emotional video posted on his YouTube channel, that he had cancer.

• Wisconsin Supreme Court candidate Lisa Neubauer conceded to her opponent, Brian Hagedorn, who had announced this year, in an emotional video posted on his YouTube channel, that he had cancer.

• Local writer Buz Swerkstrom had two new books out: “Borderline Mystical” and the fourth volume of “Profiles In Passion,” about local artisans and collec- tors. Also, Leader columnist Carrie Classon’s book, “Blue Yarn: A Memoir About Loss, Letting Go, & What Happens Next,” was released.

• The Grantsburg School District picked Kandis Olson as their Volunteer of the Year. A retired occupa-

See Year in review, page 11

On Sunday, Feb. 24, Kikkan Randall, five-time Olympian and PyeongChang cross-country skiing gold medalist, led the Fast and Female Champ Chat as part of Birkie Week 2019. From fitness ac-

On Sunday, March 10, Grey fell in love with Max while visiting over Christmas leave and the two have been together ever since. – Photo provided

Max’s journey began in Sept. 2018, when he arrived at the Hu-

What’s real, what’s fake? INTER-COUNTY LEADER - NORTHERN CURRENTS, SECTION B • DECEMBER 25, 2019

Get your hometown news delivered each week!

Get your hometown news delivered each week!
Karlee Sybers’ 17th birthday included being crowned Siren High School’s 2019 prom queen, with classmate Trevor Stanford as king. Stanford wore his uncle’s dragon-appliqued, light-blue leisure suit that he wore to his prom in 1976, which happened to also be the Year of the Dragon in the Chinese zodiac calendar. - Photo provided

Webster Tiger seniors pose with the WIAA Division 4 state baseball trophy after defeating Mineral Point 11 to 1 at Appleton on Thursday, June 13. - Photo by Eugene Sikorski
Becky Strabel | Staff writer

SIREN – “The Polar Express,” written by Chris Van Allsburg, is a tradition held annually at Siren Elementary School and presently by the third-grade classes taught by Jill Tinman and Jill Spafford. This year’s play was held on Friday, Dec. 13. Students greeted visitors before they passed out tickets to board the train; once all passengers are boarded, the conductor swings through to collect tickets before heading to the North Pole. As the train makes its way north, students share the story as the audience enjoys hot cocoa “as thick and rich as melted candy bars,” also known as chocolate milk and Hershey’s Kisses. They also view an eerie pack of wolves as the express heads through the dark woods. The book concludes that only those who hear the ringing of jingle bells believe in the spirit of Christmas.

At the close of the event, the students sang “We Wish You A Merry Christmas” before crafty snowmen that sat on display were given to parents who attended the show.

Introductions were made by (L to R): Amani McGeshick, Wyatt Bearhart-Taylor, Carly Heller and Eli Trenter.

Book readers were, back (L to R): Angel Wondra, Kaeden Koch, Alayna Peterson, Alayna Gjonnes and Faith Wondra. Front: Breanna Douglas, Kailey Livingston, Aubrie Bartheidel, Lydia Peterson, Oriana Wikstrom, Ryan Winberg, Zane Olin and Maci Hubbell.

The thank-you was said by Alayna Gjonnes and Faith Wondra.
Year in review/from page 11

- The St. Croix Falls School Board appointed Southam as assistant DA. The village of Milltown was faced with the decision of whether to replace aging municipal vehicles in need of expensive repairs or fix village roads that needed work. Nancy LeMay, volunteer for Angels Island park, told the village board the park needed water, and proposed to install four spigots for watering plants and a drinking fountain to the park.

- Bob Kazmierski was hired as the new St. Croix Falls city administrator, and at his first council meeting, they discussed what to do with the money pledged, donated or granted to the Civic Auditorium project, which appeared to be dead.

- Jim Melin surrendered his position as Trade Lake Town Board chair, amid the controversy raised by his organiz-

ing a land deal with an Iowa-based company wanting to build a large hog CAFO on a parcel of his land. About 85 residents attended the town board meeting and requested a moratorium on CAFOs until the possible effects on the community and the environment could be examined.

- The Webster Tigers baseball team had built an 18-0 overall record and were appearing to be unbeatable.

- A head-on crash killed Jody Quimby, 41, and Allan Hill, 73, both of Grantsburg, and injured a young person in the Quimby vehicle.

- Maggie Petersen was named Volun-

teer of the Year for the Luck School Dis-

tric.

- The historic Wood Lake Town Hall was demolished to make way for a new building that would house the town hall and shop, with offices for the clerk and treasurer.

- About 85 members of the Wood Lake community attended a meeting with the new owners of the former Wood Lake Bible Camp, Pat and Judy Kinsella, but the concerned citizens were still suspi-

cious of the plans for the site.

- The St. Croix Falls School Board ap-

proved a plan to switch from the Lake-

land Conference to the Heart O’North Conference, to be competing against schools more their size.

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**Students of the Week**

**Frederic**

- **Charley Jensen** has been chosen Frederic Elementary School’s student of the week. She is the daughter of Jamie and Mike. She enjoys the classroom with a smile every day and is a curious learner. She is kind and helpful to her classmates and teacher. Her favorite color is teal. She especially loves painting and art projects at school. At home, she likes to play school with her young cousin and her grandma.

- **Kourtney Schultz** has been chosen Frederic High School’s student of the week. He is in sixth grade and the son of Anthony Schultz. She is a thoughtful person who is wellliked by her classmates. She works very hard at school and always has her heart. She enjoys math, but really likes choir and band. She is a very hardworking artist. She is quiet and follows directions well. She is a very hardworking artist. She is quiet and follows directions well. She is always willing to participate and just asks questions when she needs help. She is a very hardworking artist. She is quiet and follows directions well. She is always willing to participate and just asks questions when she needs help.

**Grantsburg**

- **Lucas Nieman** has been chosen Luck Middle School’s student of the week. He is in eighth grade and the son of Brent and Cindy Nieman. Her daily, calm and quiet attitude makes her fun to work with. She is a joy to have in the classroom. She is almost always prepared to contribute to class discussions and is helpful to other students. She is a gentle smile. She is always willing to do what a teacher asks of her. She is a gentle smile. She is always willing to do what a teacher asks of her.

- **Trinity Gonzales** has been chosen Siren Elementary School’s student of the week. She is in fifth grade and the daughter of Lisa Anderson and Andre Gonzales. She is a kind, thoughtful person who is wellliked by her classmates. She works very hard at school and always has her heart. She enjoys math, but really likes choir and band. One day she hopes to become a singer. She is a very good worker and shows her true spirit of a Siren Son.

**Luck**

- **Alexia Chartrand** has been chosen Luck Middle School’s student of the week. She is in fifth grade and the daughter of Monika and Cody Tierney. Her smiling, calm and sweet aura, as well as her kind heart, make her a role model to other students. She is almost always prepared to contribute to class discussions and is helpful to other students. She is a gentle smile. She is always willing to do what a teacher asks of her.

- **Lucia Nieman** has been chosen Luck High School’s student of the week. She is a senior and the son of Brent and Cindy Nieman. His leadership, commitment and willingness to try new things is appreciated. He is involved in contemporary choir and solo and group dance. He enjoys video games, building computers and working with computers. He plans to attend WITC as an associate degree in science, then transfer to a four-year school.

**Siren**

- **Christina Damsgard** has been chosen St. Croix Falls Middle School’s student of the week. She is in her first year in high school and the daughter of Miranda and Cody Tierney. She is in eighth grade and the son of Brent and Cindy Nieman. His leadership, commitment and willingness to try new things is appreciated. He is involved in contemporary choir and solo and group dance. He enjoys video games, building computers and working with computers. He plans to attend WITC as an associate degree in science, then transfer to a four-year school.

**St. Croix Falls**

- **Brantley Geiger** has been chosen St. Croix Falls Elementary School’s student of the week. He is a third grader and the son of Lisa and Todd Jensen. He is a respectful student who works hard and comes to class every day with a positive attitude. He is a very hardworking artist. He is quiet and follows directions well. He is always willing to do what a teacher asks of her. He is a gentle smile. He is always willing to do what a teacher asks of her.

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**Unity**

- **Becca McGrane** has been chosen Unity High School’s student of the week. She is a sophomore, new to Unity this year, and the daughter of Mike and Christine McGrane. Her friendly demeanor and genuine smile make her a role model to other students. She is a gentle smile. She is always willing to do what a teacher asks of her.

**Webster**

- **Kirk Gleenke** has been chosen Webster Elementary School’s student of the week. He is in kindergarten and the son of Chad Gleenke. He is very kind and quiet and is a good helper in the classroom. He is a very hardworking artist. He is quiet and follows directions well. He is always willing to do what a teacher asks of her. He is a gentle smile. He is always willing to do what a teacher asks of her.

- **Jefferson Janssen** has been chosen Webster High School’s student of the week. He is in eighth grade and the son of Kevin and Suzanne Janssen. He is a very kind and quiet and is a good helper in the classroom. He is a very hardworking artist. He is quiet and follows directions well. He is always willing to do what a teacher asks of her.
The St. Croix Falls Common Council reversed their January decision to cancel restoration efforts for the Civic Auditorium in downtown St. Croix Falls.

The Polk County Economic Development Corporation named its annual Outstanding Community Partner Awards went to the Dogtown Cluster trail segment, 6 miles of scenic mountain bike and hiking trails north of Hwy. 77.

The Webb Lake Men’s Club and the Back Country Bike Club held a grand opening for a new loop during the Dogtown Cluster trail segment, 6 miles of scenic mountain bike and hiking trails north of Hwy. 77.

Jack Washburn, Webster, won the state title in long jump and medaled in triple jump and high jump. Unity’s Rae-Ann Sorensen placed third state in pole vault competition and Webster’s Jeni Peterson placed fourth.

The Webster Tigers baseball team won the sectional championship.

The Red Maple Eatery, formerly the Classic Cafe, is located in downtown Siren, and is owned and operated by Tony and Karen Skidmore.

The Polk County Dairy Breakfast held in Grantsburg, was valedictorian Jamin Wilson and salutatorian Jenna McNally.

The Luck High School football team and also went to state in their first year, on being first on the gold medal podium.

The Polk County Mental Health Task Force, in a two-day retreat, went to the St. Croix Falls School District for the help and support the school has provided. The task force concluded that the principal Rita Platt then spoke at the same school board meeting about her desire for the therapy Grace in Recovery, which Administrator Mark Burandt expressed his full support.

The Polk County mental health task force completed its first year.

The St. Croix Falls High School boys’ softball team won the WIAA Division 4 sectional, with teammates Justin Patterson, Alex Dow and Nick Lee.

The Polk County Dairy Breakfast was held at the St. Croix Falls Community Center and the Burnett County Dairy Breakfast was held at Four Cows Farm, rural Grantsburg.

Doug “Doc” Harlander, 99 years old and a 53-year member of American Legion Post 249, rode the Frederic Family to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Frederic Family.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Interstate Park’s State of the Dalles beach as the 2-1/2 year renovation project was complete.

The Webster Tigers baseball team defeated Mineral Point to become the No. 1 team in the state champs for the second year in a row.

Webster Elementary Principal Maria Anderson was getting ready to retire and was showing her replacement, Ashley Hardig, the ropes. The school board gave her a gift of appreciation, and quoted some words of wisdom that Dr. Hardig read to the school board before she left. Her advice gleaned years before from jailer Matera was noted as a temporary fix that did correct the track issue.

Doug “Doc” Harlander, 99 years old and a 53-year member of American Legion Post 249, rode the Frederic Family to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Frederic Family.

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Over 150 people came for the picnic to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Trade Lake Baptist Church on the church grounds.

It was noted as a temporary fix that did correct the track issue.

The Reuben Burnett Republican Party Chair Laurie Riemer was named the 2019 recipient of the Chairman’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

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A Christmas letter

Dear friends and loved ones, this letter comes compliments of God and me. The many blessings I’ve received this past year, I owe to him. I also owe you, my readers, thanks for all your uplifting comments about my columns. I value each one of you, and I hope to continue blessing you with God’s wisdom and strength.

Winter 2013-14: Long, cold and snowy. No mosquitoes. Crisp, clear air. A time when everything took longer to accomplish. My time spent with God, however, was more valuable to me than the billions of bejeweled, sun-soaked snowflakes we received.

I took to walking at the local rehab center, which graciously opened its hallways for us wimpy northerners who fear falling on icy paths. I continued leading my Bible study group. From my office window I watched deer foraging in my gardening neighbor’s yard.


Summer 2014: Short, cool and wet. A benevolent writer awarded me with a scholarship to attend the Christian Writer’s Write-To-Publish conference. While there, God blessed me with a short visit with cousins I hadn’t seen for years, laughter and tears with dear friends, and time to schmooze with agents, editors and other writers. As a result, I’m closer to publishing various writings. The season also allowed me to drive to the U.P. for my seasonal visits with my twin sister, Thanks, Dick.

Fall 2014: Short, cool and wet. God blessed us with beauty beyond measure as the leaves turned to brilliant golds. I made a final trip to the U.P. until I return for Christmas—maybe. I’ll leave it in God’s weather-controlling hands whether I actually make it there. Chickenhearted about driving on icy or snow-covered roads, my plans are tenuous.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

“...I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy for your fellowship in the Gospel … being confident … that he who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:3-6)

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

Church listings sponsored by the following area businesses:

**FOCUS ON THE FAMILY**

Jim Dlug

Q: New year, new beginnings ... ya-da-yada-yada. It seems like every year I set goals for new things I want to accomplish, but even when I’ve managed to follow through and achieve them, I still feel unfulfilled. Isn’t life all about seeking and finding new experiences? What am I missing?

Jim: At New Year’s parties all over the world, many people celebrate midnight by breaking into a rendition of the classic song, “Auld Lang Syne.” It’s a perfect tune to ring in the new year … if you know what the words mean and take them to heart.

“Auld Lang Syne” is usually sung out of tradition, much like the “Happy Birthday” jingle at a birthday party, but few understand its meaning. After all, “Auld Lang Syne” translates to “old lang syne”! Those words actually call us to meaning relationships in the new year.

The Scottish words “auld lang syne” literally mean “days of old.” So, translated, the song is asking: “Should old acquaintances be forgot, and auld lang syne?” Those words call us not to forget the important relationships that define our lives as we move into the new year. That’s a wonderful reminder. New Year’s resolutions usually involve diet plans or professional goals. But do we ever consider how we can deepen our current relationships or reconnect with dear friends on whom we’ve leaned in the past? That’s the kind of resolution that could make this coming year the best one yet.

There’s nothing wrong with setting goals for learning new skills or improving ourselves. But true connection and fulfillment come from having relationships with deep roots. Whatever we do and wherever we go, we’re more apt to succeed when we have strong bonds with people we know well and love.

So when the clock strikes midnight on Jan. 1, sing those words from your heart—and let them move you closer to the important people who are already in your life.

***

Q: Do you have any creative ideas to help me stay connected with my kids? We’re all so involved that it takes them to heart.

Danny Huerta, vice president, Parenting and Youth: You’re not alone—in a Pew Research survey, 56% of working parents reported difficulty in balancing work and family life. The secret is addition by subtraction. In other words, choosing to say “no” to some things for each member of the family will serve to free up everybody’s time for saying “yes” to each other.

In my house, we have a family night each week and make sure to laugh and laugh together. Another simple yet powerful tool for works for us (and many families I’ve counseled professionally) is keeping “connection journals.” These are journals we each keep at our place on the kitchen table. They allow us all to write short messages to one another—notes of encouragement, inspiring quotes, Bible verses, riddles and jokes and words of gratitude for what that person means to us.

Reading (and rereading) what’s been written in these journals is like opening a gift. My son reads his before leaving for school; my daughter sometimes takes hers to read later in the day. My wife looks at her journal throughout the day while the rest of us are away from home. I enjoy taking mine to work and on business trips.

Connection journals can provide a quick mental “reset.” We can all get off track when negative thinking crowds our perspective. Uplifting words get us back to what matters most.

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ALLIANCE
BALSAM LUTHERAN
1115 Main Street
Lonom, 715-327-8027
Sun. Worship and Service 9 a.m.
Sun. School 9:30 a.m.
REV. SCOTT L. JONES
Pastor
352-8073

BELHAVEN
307 W. 1st St.
Dresser, 715-398-2536
Pastor: Chuck Kelso
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Presbyterian
Sun. Service 10:30 a.m.
Community meal at 5:30

BELLEVUE
929 Highway 29 N.
Hodgins, 715-848-4584
Pastor: Terry LeRoux
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sun. Worship 11 a.m.

BELMONT
113 Main Street
Montello, 715-849-3265
Pastor: Ross Swenson
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

BELTONA
1194 W. Washington Street
Rice Lake, 715-634-3141
Pastor: Brian Pardun
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Wor. 10:30 a.m.

BEMUS POINT
708 N. Adams St.
St. Croix Falls, 715-477-4904
Pastor: John W. Richards
Sun. Sch. 9:30 a.m.; Sun. Wor. 10 a.m.

BELTONA
301 Washington Street
Rice Lake, 715-849-6480
Pastor: Ron Sekulic
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Wor. 10:30 a.m.

BELMONT
113 Main Street
Montello, 715-849-3265
Pastor: Ross Swenson
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

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Rice Lake, 715-634-3141
Pastor: Brian Pardun
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Wor. 10:30 a.m.

BELTONA
301 Washington Street
Rice Lake, 715-849-6480
Pastor: Ron Sekulic
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Wor. 10:30 a.m.

BELMONT
113 Main Street
Montello, 715-849-3265
Pastor: Ross Swenson
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

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This bear was seen coming out of her den along Hwy. 70 west of Siren in late March. At least one cub was spotted with its mama. - Photo by Kelly Wiltrout

Beauty in Nature by Kylie, age 17, of Northwest Passage. “This picture symbolizes how truly beautiful nature can really be when you look close enough. I believe that when you take the time to look at your surroundings you can find the most beautiful things that have ever been created. I like this picture because it focuses on a seed you would normally not think of, but when you look close enough, it creates a photo that could not be duplicated.” - Photo provided

These young foxes were photographed playing at their den last spring. – Photo by Joan Sorenson

Handle with care if you are helping a snapper to cross the road; do not pick them up by the tail as you can hurt them in the process. On a back road you can sit in your car with the flashers on and wait for it to cross. On a busy road, the correct way to handle them is to carefully lift them by the shell and carry them in the direction they were going. But don’t get anywhere near their strong, snapping jaws. - Photo by Larry Samson

These young foxes were photographed playing at their den last spring. – Photo by Joan Sorenson

Deer forage in the snow for nourishment until the late-spring snow finally melts. - Photo by Patrick Durkin
**DECEMBER**

**THURSDAY/26**
- **Amery**
  - Bingo at the VFW post, 6:30 p.m., mvcfa.org/wi/post7929.
- **Burnett County**
  - Burnett ADCR trip to Danbury casino for lunch buffet, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call 877-485-2372 for seat on bus.
- **Grantsburg**
  - Caregiver support group at the library, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 715-485-2372.
  - Movie night at the library, 6 p.m., 715-463-2344.
  - Freewill donation Christmas ham dinner at the Legion Hall, 6:17 p.m. or until gone.
- **Milltown**
  - Domestic violence family group, 5-6 p.m., 800-261-7233.
  - Domestic violence support group, 6:7 p.m., 800-261-7233.

**FRIDAY/27**
- **Fallun**
  - Free bread distribution, every Friday until further notice at Trinity Lutheran Church, 7 a.m. Dick’s Market, 2:15 p.m., 800-733-2767, redcrossblood.org.
  - Free showing of “Dinner at Eight,” 1933, DomestInc Support Group, 6 p.m., 715-566-4077.
- **St. Croix Falls**
  - “Home Alone” at the library, 6 p.m., 715-483-1777.
  - Storytime at the library.
  - Movie: “Clinging to the High,” 10-11 a.m., infant to preschool.

**Saturday/28**
- **Siren**
  - Blizzard varsity alumni game at the Lodge Center Arena, 4 p.m.

**MONDAY/30**
- **Frederic**
  - Movie marathon at the Library. Schedule posted at library, on Facebook, and at fredericlibrary.org.

**TUESDAY/31**
- **Polk County**
  - Burton Area Arts Group meets at the community center. Post 96: 7 p.m., 715-566-0350; Unit 96: 7 p.m., 715-566-4077.
  - Community drum circle, 6:30 p.m. Dwayne Rasmussen, 715-755-3473, comedrumcircle.com.
  - Learn to make your own drum.
  - Polk County Democrats meet at the Pizzeria, 5:30 p.m.
  - Rogers Club at the library, 7 p.m., 715-327-4597, federiclibrary.org.

**WEDNESDAY/1**
- **Luck**
  - First-day hike at Straight Lake State Park, route at picnic area parking lot, 1-mile hike, refreshments and fun, 1-3 p.m.
  - Dave’s Butterball Bake Sale at Ruby’s Retreat, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
  - Domestic violence family group, 5-6 p.m., 800-261-7233.
  - Domestic violence support group, 6:7 p.m., 800-261-7233.

**THURSDAY/2**
- **Amery**
  - Bingo at the VFW post, 6:30 p.m., mvcfa.org/wi/post7929.
  - Burnett County Democrats meet at the U.S. Constitution, How Long Will it Last by Pasquale Patti, 7 a.m., 715-472-7700 to apply, myfreeclinic.org.

**MONDAY/6**
- **Amery**
  - Burnett Area Arts Group meets at the art center, 7 p.m., federiclibrary.org.

**TUESDAY/7**
- **Clam Falls**
  - Coffee shop at Clam Falls Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.
  - Free bread distribution, any Friday until further notice at Trinity Lutheran Church, 7 a.m.

**FRIDAY/3**
- **Fallun**
  - Free bread distribution, every Friday until further notice at Trinity Lutheran Church, 7 a.m.

**SAT. & SUN.4 / & 5**
- **Grantsburg**
  - Snowmobile Safety class at the high school, 8:30 a.m. Must preregister, karen.sinen@lgs12.net, 715-463-4701.

**SATURDAY/4**
- **Danbury**
  - Ruby’s Pantry at the town maintenance shop, $20 donation. Open 9:30 a.m., distribution 10:11 a.m.
  - Love Potluck at Ruby’s Retreat and Well Care Center, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
  - Local writers read stories, poems & essays at Northern Lakes Center for the Arts, 7:30 p.m., 715-288-6811, northernlakescenter.com.
  - Ruby’s Pantry at Congregational Church, Doors open 8:30 a.m. Dist. 9 a.m. $20 donation, 715-268-7390.

**WEDNESDAY/8**
- **Siren**
  - Burnett County Law Enforcement Citizens Auxiliary meeting at the government center, 6 p.m.

**DECEMBER EVENTS**

**STATEWIDE EVENTS**

**DECEMBER 25**

**Christmas Events**

**Amery**
- “CLING” by Sidney
  - Acid burning the back of my throat
  - Don’t know how to pay you back
  - Don’t try to take it away
  - I can’t live without you
  - Clinging to the high till we can do it again
  - Tomorrow won’t come fast enough
  - I don’t want to do it anymore
  - Only I can stop it, it pulls me back
  - Nobody can stop the pull.”
  - In a New Light is a therapeutic nature photography project at Northwest Passage. To see more of the kids’ photography, visitinanewlight.org.

**SUNDAY/12**
- **St. Croix Falls**

**TUESDAY/14**
- **Dresser**
  - Tot-time at Peace Lutheran Church, 10-11 a.m., infant to preschool, 715-755-2515, Facebook.

**Grantsburg**
- Monthly meeting of American Legion Post 289, at 7 p.m., 715-483-0724, and Auxiliary at 5 p.m., 715-483-2929, at Legion hall.

**Luck**
- Blood drive at Luck Lutheran Church, 12:30-6:30 p.m., 800-733-2767, redcrossblood.org.
- Free medical clinic at Ruby’s Well Care, 4-7 p.m., 715-472-7700 to apply, myfreeclinic.org.
- Free Beauty Salon Day at Ruby’s Well Care. For details, 715-472-7700.
- Free toenail trimming at Ruby’s Well Care & Home Away, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call 715-472-7700 for apppt.

**Webster**
- Taking Care at Sand Lake Elder Nutrition Site, 7 p.m., Mark Brown, 715-418-2687.
- Friends of the Library meeting at the library, 9 a.m., 715-268-9279.
- Northwoods MS Connection Group, living with multiple sclerosis, at the library, 6 p.m., 734-832-8572, diane@msnetworks.com.

**WEDNESDAY/15**
- **Balsam Lake**
  - Friends of the Library meeting, 5:30 p.m., 715-485-3215.
  - Free blood pressure checks at Courtyard Square, 10 a.m.-noon.
  - Afternoon Tea book club at the library, 1 p.m., 715-463-2244.
  - **Milltown**
  - Domestic violence family group, 5:6 p.m., 800-261-7233.
  - Domestic violence support group, 6:7 p.m., 800-261-7233.

**Siren**
- Burnett County Democratic meeting at Traders Roundabout Bar & Grill, 5:30 p.m.
- **Yellow Lake** food distribution at Caring Hearts Thrift Shop. formerly Connections, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 715-866-8151.

**FRIDAY/17**
- **Fallun**
  - Free bread distribution, every Friday until further notice at Trinity Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.

**SATURDAY/18**
- **Barronett**
  - Civic club ice-fishing contest on Shallow Lake, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Supper, meat raffle, 6th at civic center after.

**SUNDAY/19**
- **Burnett County**
  - Non-denominational end-time Bible teaching: The U.S. Constitution, How Long Will It Last by Pasquale Patti, 7:45 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Dwayne Rasmussen, 715-575-3473, wolfetown.com.

**MONDAY/20**
- **Dresser**
  - Suicide survivors support group meeting at the community center, 6:30-8:30 a.m. Call 715-755-2515, Facebook.

**TUESDAY/21**
- **Amery**
  - Burnett County Law Enforcement Citizens Auxiliary meeting at the government center, 6 p.m.

**SUNDAY/29**
- **St. Croix Falls**

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