



BURNETT WASHBURN
POLK BARRON

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Woman’s 60-year card-writing streak honors late veteran’s dying wish

CURRENTS



Balsam Lake businesses hold Main Street Trick-or-Treat

CURRENTS

Free electronics recycling event held in Amery

CURRENTS

Frederic Chamber warms up fall with chili, s’mores and vintage truck photos after road reopening

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Bomb threat forces evacuation of Frederic High School and Middle School



A member of the Polk County Sheriff’s Office is seen standing by the Frederic Elementary School.



Students from the Frederic 6-12 School are seen evacuating the building and walking to Frederic Elementary School in the wake of a bomb threat on Tuesday, Nov. 4. - Photos by Robert Tabern

By Robert Tabern | Editor
FREDERIC – The Polk County Sheriff’s Office is investigating a bomb threat made to the Frederic High School and Middle School building, located at 1437 Clam Falls Drive. A threatening call, possibly from a phone number traced to Redwood City, California, was received by the Polk County 9-1-1 Center around 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4. Law enforcement quickly responded to the school, while district officials began orderly evacuations of the high school and middle school building. Students were observed by the Inter-County Leader first walking to the Frederic Seventh-Day Adventist Church at 605 Benson Road N., then to the Frederic Elementary School Building at 305 Birch St. E. First on the scene

was Luck Police Chief Nick Nelson, who just happened to be in the area. Various members of the Polk County Sheriff’s Office also responded, including Polk County Sheriff Brent Waak. The Frederic Fire Department and North Land Ambulance staged at the fire station, with Chief Brian Daeffler responding to the school. Various law enforcement members were seen conducting a sweep of the school, including the roof and cars in the parking lot. Superintendent Kyle Luedtke also remained on scene at the school and released this statement: “Today, the Polk County Sheriff’s Office received a bomb threat for our 6-12 building. We were immediately notified. We evacuated all students and staff to

see **Bomb Threat**, on page 20

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NEWS BRIEFS

Amery man charged with sex crimes against children reaches agreement with prosecutors

By Robert Tabern | Editor

BALSAM LAKE – An Amery man who was charged with a felony count of cause child 13-18 to view sex activity has reached a plea deal with prosecutors. Joshua S. Whiting, 42, appeared in Polk County Circuit Court on Monday, Oct. 27. A plea hearing has been scheduled for him on Wednesday, Dec. 17. According to the criminal complaint obtained by the Inter-County Leader, Joshua's wife, Amanda, is accused of having a sexual relationship with a minor employee when she owned the theater in

Amery. The criminal complaint goes on to allege that Joshua also tried to have sexual relations with the underage victim. Amanda faces 15 separate charges and is due in court on Friday, Nov. 21, for a status conference in her case.



Joshua S. Whiting

Barron County man arrested on sexual assault charges

By Robert Tabern | Editor

BARRON – A Barron County man has been arrested for two sexual assaults that he allegedly committed. The Inter-County Leader received a media release from the Barron County Sheriff's Department on Tuesday, Oct. 28, advising that Devon Bernstein has been taken into custody and is pending an upcoming court date. The Washburn County Sheriff's Department assisted Barron

County in Bernstein's arrest. The media release said that Bernstein attempted to evade arrest, and a deputy had to use a taser to apprehend him.



Devon Bernstein

Fatal mobile home fire reported in Comstock

By Robert Tabern | Editor

COMSTOCK – The Barron County Sheriff's Department is investigating a fatal mobile home fire that broke out on Thursday afternoon, Oct. 30, in Comstock. A news release from authorities reports the fire broke out around 3:15

p.m. in the 1800 block of U.S. Hwy. 63. Once the Cumberland Fire Department extinguished the fire, firefighters located the body of a deceased female inside the mobile home. The victim was identified as Dawn Allen of Comstock. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Suspicious fire under investigation at McNally Industries in Grantsburg

By Robert Tabern | Editor, with information from the Grantsburg Police Department

GRANTSBURG – A suspicious overnight fire at McNally Industries in Grantsburg is under investigation by the Grantsburg Police Department. The Inter-County Leader received a news release from Chief Jared Woody regarding

an inquiry into the blaze that broke out at 3:25 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 3, at 340 West Benson Ave. We are told no employees were on scene at the time of the alarm. Authorities are coordinating efforts with the State Division of Criminal Investigation and the Wisconsin State Fire Marshall's Office.

Barron man receives 10-year sentence for repeat OWI

By Robert Tabern | Editor

POLK COUNTY – A 55-year-old Barron man, originally charged with his fifth OWI, was sentenced in Polk County Circuit Court on Thursday, Oct. 30. Prosecutors amended charges when they discovered additional previous OWI offenses committed by Richard Manning. Manning was charged with OWI (7th, 8th, or 9th) and pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal. He received a 10-year sentence, which includes five years of ini-

tial incarceration and five years of extended supervision. Manning was arrested for operating while intoxicated on Dec. 27, following a crash that happened near U.S. Hwy. 8 and State Hwy. 46, north of Amery.



Richard Manning

Thank you for being a Leader reader.
You are 1 in 10,000.

Robbery suspect apprehended in St. Croix Falls

By Robert Tabern | Editor

ST. CROIX FALLS – The Polk County Sheriff's Office arrested a 47-year-old Minnesota man wanted in connection with an aggravated robbery. Authorities were alerted that Saengdara Somkhoun might be traveling through the St. Croix Falls area. They observed the suspect turning onto U.S. Hwy. 8 from State Hwy. 35 around 9 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 27. Deputies report that Somkhoun attempted to flee. A pursuit ensued with

the suspect's vehicle entering the ditch. Polk County K-9 Bane was deployed to apprehend the suspect who was armed with a loaded handgun. Formal charges are still pending against Somkhoun.



Saengdara Somkhoun

Car vs. pedestrian strike under investigation in Burnett County

By Robert Tabern | Editor

TOWN OF LINCOLN – A 37-year-old Webster man was arrested after he struck a pedestrian over the weekend. Luke Beechler is facing a charge of cause injury by intoxicated use of a vehicle. The accident happened around 1 a.m., near the intersection of County Hwy. FF and Perida Road in the Town of Lincoln. The pedestrian, whose name has not been released yet, was airlifted to the Twin Cities. Their condition is also un-

known. The Siren Police Department and Webster Fire Department responded to the scene, as well as the Burnett County Sheriff's Office.



Luke Beechler



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Editor's Note: "The Farm Stand" column by Jennifer Williams, which usually appears in this spot on the first Wednesday of the month, is taking November off, but plans to return in December.

This past weekend, we once again messed with our clocks, setting them back one hour to standard time. The past few days of a pre-5 p.m. sunset have really been messing with me and are a depressing sign that winter is just about here across Leader Land. It seems every year at this time the debate comes up over whether we should do one of three things: go back to standard time year-round, adopt daylight saving time year-round, or continue setting the clocks back and forth twice per year.

I am a firm proponent of adopting daylight saving time year-round ... and I will explain my arguments. Year-round daylight saving time is the practice of keeping clocks set forward year-round, eliminating the traditional "spring forward" and "fall back" changes.

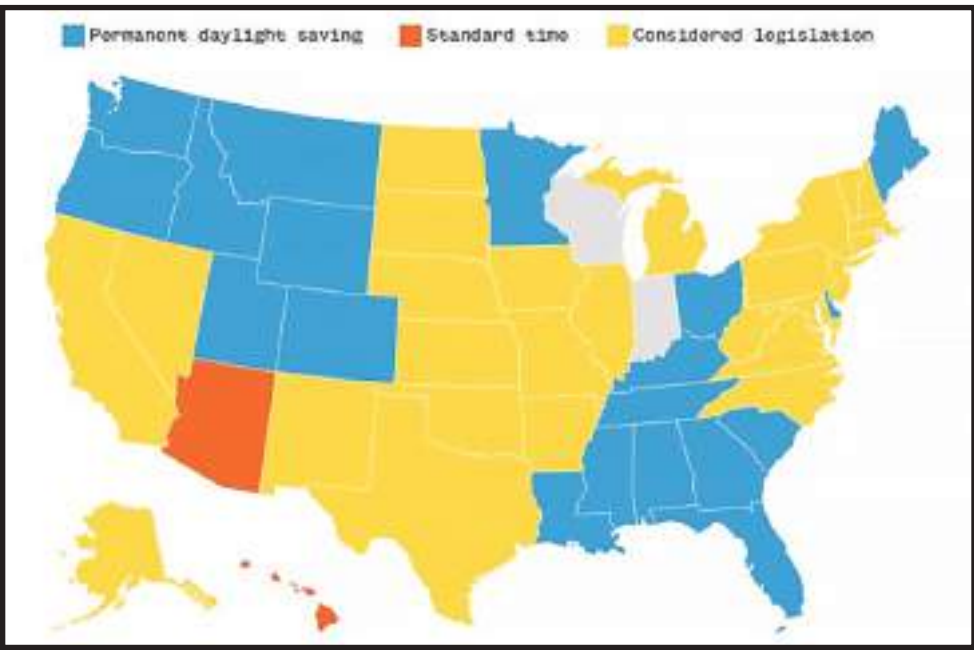
The consensus amongst sleep experts and researchers is that we'd be best served by just dropping the whole idea of DST and returning to plain old standard time year-round.

Hmmm ... I really question that, though. If we went to standard time year-round, the sun would rise at my house, outside of St. Croix Falls, at



4:19 a.m. on June 14 and June 15, the two days of the year with the earliest sunrise times. It would literally start getting light out at 3:43 a.m. Granted, I am not much of a morning person, and really enjoy staying up late writing my stories for the Leader, but whose "natural circadian rhythm" involves getting up between 3 and 4 in the morning? Likewise, the extraordinarily late sunsets in the summer would be a thing of the past. If we adopted year-round standard time, the sunset would be at 8:04 p.m. on June 26, the date with the latest sunset. Late summer sunsets, sitting by the lakeshore having a campfire on my property until 10 p.m., are something I greatly cherish. Longer evenings motivate people to get out of the house. The extra hour of daylight can be used for outdoor recreation like golf, soccer, baseball, running, etc.

Another argument the "year-round standard time people" make is that it would be too dark for children to go to school in the dead of winter. Granted, I don't have kids, but I call baloney on this. Under the standard time as it is now, the sun doesn't come up until 7:48



Where states stand on daylight saving time. - Image Provided

a.m. on Jan. 2, the day with the latest sunrise. I believe most school buses come before this time anyway, and it doesn't really present much of a problem. Kids are used to getting ready and waiting for the bus in the dark. Under year-round daylight saving time, it wouldn't get light until 8:48 a.m., but then we would be rewarded with sunsets no later than 5:30 p.m. It would be nice to have an hour of daylight after work. Under standard time in Thunder Bay, Ontario, it doesn't get light out

until 8:48 a.m. in January, and you don't hear reports of children getting hit by school buses.

While Wisconsin has remained neutral on the "time debate," several states have passed resolutions wanting to adopt year-round daylight time (see map). Unfortunately, that doesn't mean much unless Congress were to take up the issue. Call your senator or representative and tell them to save the late summer sunsets!

Leader launches revamped website

By Robert Tabern | Editor

FREDERIC – Hopefully, in the last week, you've had the chance to check out our new website at leadericcpa.com. If you have not, you have another week to check it out—completely free. We have removed the paywall through Tuesday, Nov. 11, to encourage everyone to come and explore all the new features available to those with a digital subscription. Remember, your old login and password for the Leader's former website cannot be used on the new website, and you will need to create a new account. It has truly been a great team-building experience the past few months designing this new website.

I want to thank our company president, Richard Lee, for reviewing various

web design companies and ultimately choosing a partnership with Creative Circle Media Solutions. Gayle Olson was pivotal in designing the homepage and coordinating the training. I want to thank our proofreaders, Nancy, Aaron and Jennifer, and reporters, Sarah, Devon and Zach, for learning how to post stories and for their input into the design. Plus, our advertising/sales team will begin selling digital ads in earnest.

I am truly very happy with our new website, and, more importantly, I think you, as our reader, will be pleased with the improvements, too. I think it's a step in the right direction as we march closer to the Leader's 100th anniversary in 2033.



The Inter-County Leader launched our new website on Wednesday, Oct. 29. - Photo provided

Frederic workshop demystifies AI, from history to hands-on tools

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter

FREDERIC – Five tech-curious residents gathered Monday, Oct. 20, at the Frederic Senior Community Center for an interactive introduction to artificial intelligence. Instructor Dave Muller led participants through historical highlights and hands-on demonstrations, focusing the discussion on AI's real-world impact and practical uses. The two-hour "Intro to AI" class, part of the Frederic School District's community education program, explored key concepts by encouraging attendees to engage directly with machine learning and neural network tools, connecting AI's evolution to present-day applications in health care, finance, transportation, retail, entertainment, manufacturing and education.

Attendees, including retirees and writers, actively participated by questioning and testing AI tools in real time. One attendee prompted ChatGPT about data centers' water use, sparking a group discussion on environmental and ethical trade-offs. The session's focus shifted



Instructor Dave Muller fields questions on AI during a hands-on demo with engaged attendees at the Frederic Senior Community Center. - Photo by Sarah Beth Radomsky

to concrete impacts of AI, such as job changes, privacy strategies, and ethical considerations, demonstrated through practical examples and tool demonstrations. Attendees weighed the benefits and risks, from creativity released by automating repetitive tasks to concerns about surveillance and skill erosion, rounding out their experience with actionable privacy tips and resources for further exploration.

Newborn surrendered in Safe Haven Baby Box for first time in state's history

By our partners at WEAU-TV, Eau Claire RACINE – A newborn was safely surrendered in a Safe Haven Baby Box for the first time in Wisconsin state history. According to officials, the baby was placed in the Safe Haven Baby Box at a Racine fire department on Oct. 16.

Division Chief Joshua Weber said in the release obtained by the Racine County Eye that the infant was in good health and immediately cared for by on-duty firefighters.

The baby was taken to the hospital for an evaluation and then placed in the custody of Child Protective Services.

Weber said the process of finding a permanent adoptive home has already begun.

The baby box was installed in December.

Monica Kelsey founded Safe Haven Baby Boxes to end infant abandonment. In addition to the baby boxes, the organization operates a confidential national hotline to provide immediate support to mothers in crisis. Officials say the National Safe Haven Crisis Line has



A newborn was safely surrendered in a Safe Haven Baby Box for the first time in Wisconsin state history. – File photo

assisted in more than 175 handoff surrenders and 66 baby box surrenders nationwide.

Baby Boxes are currently available in 23 states, offering parents a safe and legal option. Each surrendered infant is placed through adoption with families registered as foster-to-adopt.

For more information about Safe Haven Baby Boxes, visit the organization's website. If you are a parent in crisis, you can call or text 1-866-99BABY1 to reach the National Safe Haven Crisis Line.

Buying Local:

- Provides Jobs Locally
- Provides Donations for Fundraisers
- Provides Money for Scholarships
- Supports the Chamber, which promotes area businesses and supports the community

Area Veterans Day Programs

Amery
Amery High School will host a Veterans Day program on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 8:30 a.m. in the high school gym. The public is welcome to attend the ceremony, which will be followed by a breakfast hosted by the FCCLA for veterans and their spouses.

Centuria
Coffee & Camaraderie Veterans Gathering Saturday, Nov. 8, 8 – 10 a.m. hosted at Joy Lutheran Church.

Grantsburg
There will be a Veterans Day ceremony at the Grantsburg High School Gym on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m., to honor the dedication and service of our local veterans. The program will feature Grantsburg native, Danielle J. Zayas. Refreshments will be provided following the program.

Lewis
The American Legion Post #249 will host a Veterans Day Weekend spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 5 p.m. until gone, at the VFW Lewis Memorial Post #10332. Free-will donations accepted and there will be 50/50 raffles during the event.

Luck
A Veterans Day program will be held Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. in the Luck School main gym. Veterans and their families are invited to a social time at 9 a.m. before the program. Lunch for veterans and their families following the program. RSVP by Nov. 5 for the meal to Marissa Bazey at marissab@lucksd.k12.wi.us or call the school at 715-472-2152 ext. 103.

Milltown
United VFW Post 6856 will host a Veterans Day dinner on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 5 p.m. at the Post, with a short program at 6:30 p.m. and fireworks to follow. For more info: 715-825-3597.

Osceola
Osceola Intermediate School will be hosting a Veterans Day program honoring the courage and service of our veterans, while also reflecting on the rich history and symbolism of the United States flag. It will take place in the Intermediate School Gym on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 9 a.m.

Shell Lake
A Veterans Day program will be held Tuesday, Nov. 11, 9:30 -11 a.m. in the Var-

sity Gym.
Siren
Veterans Day program, Tuesday, Nov. 11, at the school auditorium 10:30-noon.

Spooner
Spooner High School will host a Veterans Day program on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 9:45 a.m., with refreshments for veterans and their families following the ceremony.

St. Croix Falls
American Legion Post 143 will hold a Veterans Day Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 8. Open at 5 p.m. for social hour, turkey dinner at 6 p.m. followed by a program at 7 p.m. and Bingo at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited, \$15 dinner, children 12 and under \$11, veterans free.

St. Croix Falls High School will hold a Veterans Day program on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 9 a.m. in the gym. Refreshments will be provided following the program.

Stone Lake
A complimentary dinner will be served at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at the Lions Hall. Please RSVP to Sharon Paine by calling or texting 715-699-0893.

Turtle Lake
The American Legion Post, Turtle Lake, will host a veterans dinner and dance on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Call 715-556-5664 for info.

Unity School District
There will be a Veterans Day program held at the Unity Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, Nov. 11, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Webster
Webster Schools will be having a Veteran’s Day program, open to the public, on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the high school gymnasium.

There will be a Veterans Day meal at the Webster Community Center, on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Social hour at 4:30 p.m., and meal at 5:30 p.m. Free for veterans and their family.

Wolf Creek
Howlin’ Wolf Creek Bar and Grill will be serving a special home-cooked meal for free to veterans and their spouses, from noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Luck School District to host annual Veterans Day program

Submitted by Marissa Bazey
LUCK – The Luck School District’s Veterans Day program will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m. in the main gym. All veterans and their families are invited to a social that will be held prior to the program at 9 a.m. A special thank you to the Luck Student Council, National Honor Society, and Special Education Department for hosting the social. Following the program, veterans and their families are invited to stay for lunch, sponsored by the National Honor

Society and student council. If you are interested in staying for lunch, please RSVP to Marissa Bazey at marissab@lucksd.k12.wi.us or call the school at 715-472-2152 ext. 103. Everyone is invited to the program to help honor our veterans. The program will feature music from the band and choir, readings from student groups, a slideshow honoring veterans, and a guest speaker. If you are unable to make it, the program will be livestreamed on the school’s Hudl page.



The Luck School District’s Veterans Day program will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m. in the main gym. – Photo provided

Frederic American Legion to hold Veterans Day dinner

Upcoming event comes amidst hopeful outlook for Post 249

By Zach Zelinski | Reporter
FREDERIC – This Veterans Day, the Frederic American Legion Post 249 is set to hold a spaghetti dinner event at the Lewis VFW Memorial Post. The dinner event will also feature 50/50 raffles every 30 minutes. Freewill donations encouraged for the occasion will contribute to the Post’s ongoing efforts to assist community veterans and their families, as well as support American Legion youth programs. This comes amidst encouraging growth for the Post under Post Commander Dave Chell, who was appointed this recent February. As the first major event for the Frederic Post Commander Chell, it will highlight the recent positive trend in community engagement and activity that the Post has been able to achieve over the course of 2025. “We’re building our structure to be set for coming years,” Chell remarked, noting an increase in member-

ship from a handful to around 30. As a part of the American Legion’s national goal of providing support for veterans and their families, Post 249 engages in much of the same work as Posts across the country, collaborating with communities to raise awareness and heighten engagement with local causes. For Post 249, this ranges from carrying out patriotic commemorations like Memorial Day flag laying at the cemetery to engaging in youth planning and community event organizing. Chell, for instance, has met with social studies and English teachers to organize potential scholarship funds to be raised by the Post. Along with this year’s Memorial Day commemorations, the Post also held a summer raffle shortly after the July 4 holiday. The Veterans Day dinner will be a good opportunity to show the post’s momentum this year, which Chell looks forward to. Chell also hopes to collaborate with the Lodestone Bar and Grill opening early next year, as well as potentially revitalize the Post’s associated auxiliary.

Polk-Burnett returns \$1.85M to co-op members on November electric bills

Submitted by Joan O’Fallon
CENTURIA – Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative will return \$1,856,567 in capital credits to co-op members who purchased electricity in 2002-2003 and/or 2022. “If you were a Polk-Burnett member those years, you will get money back,” announced General Manager Steve Stroshane. “Instead of returning money to distant stockholders, Polk-Burnett returns capital credits to the local people we serve. Capital credits are a benefit of your electric co-op membership.” “As a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative, Polk-Burnett operates at cost,” explained Stroshane. “Any revenue left after annual expenses is allocated and returned to members, according to our cooperative business principles.”

The amount of each credit is based on how much electricity was purchased by the member in 2002-2003 and/or 2022. Capital credits will be distributed to 17,917 active members and 5,677 former members. Active members will receive a credit on November electric bills. Former members will be mailed a check of \$25 or more; lesser amounts will be left to accrue for future payouts. Co-op members may donate future capital credits to the co-op scholarship fund to support education for students of co-op member families; please contact Polk-Burnett’s billing office, 800-421-0283, ext. 335, or enroll on polkburnett.com, under the capital credits menu. For more information about capital credits for electric co-op members, visit polkburnett.com or call 800-421-0283, ext. 335.

Grantsburg High School to hold Veterans Day ceremony

Submitted by Heidi Engstrand
GRANTSBURG – The Grantsburg High School gym will be the site of a Veterans Day ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 11, at 10 a.m. as we honor the dedication and service of our local veterans. Community members are invited to join us in honoring veterans, including Danielle J. (Bertelsen) Zayas. A native of Grantsburg, Zayas graduated from Grantsburg High School in 2017 and immediately enlisted in the United States Air Force. During her five years of service, which concluded with her honorable discharge in 2022, Zayas served as a Geospatial Intelligence Imagery Analyst. After

the program, veterans and community members are invited to the commons for some refreshments. While visiting, please take the opportunity to view the Grantsburg High School’s Wall of Honor.



Danielle J. (Bertelsen) Zayas will be honored at the Grantsburg Veterans Day ceremony. – Photo provided

Burnett County residents dispose of unused medications on National Take Back Day

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter
SIREN – Burnett County residents dropped off unused prescription drugs and other medications the morning of Saturday, Oct. 25, at three sites for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, a nationwide effort to curb misuse and environmental harm from expired pharmaceuticals. The events provided anonymous drop-off points for pills, patches, and other substances that officials say can be dangerous if left at home. Organizers also gave out free drug deactivation packets, lock boxes, and sharps containers to encourage safe disposal year-round.

At the Siren Village Hall, Youth of Burnett County prevention coalition volunteers and the Siren Police Department oversaw a secure drop-off kiosk. Project coordinator Rachel McNally stressed the event's focus on immediate disposal and education, citing a DEA statistic that two out of three opioid-addicted teens steal

them from medicine cabinets. The coalition is in year three of a five-year Drug Free Communities grant from the CDC and recently received additional prevention funding.

Law enforcement was required at each site to handle controlled substances and deter theft, with Siren Police Officer Andrew Tyler present in Siren. Accepted items included prescription and over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, ointments, pet medications, patches, inhalers, and sealed liquid medications. The Burnett Medical Center, with the Grantsburg Police Department, also collected electronic smoking devices (without batteries). The Grantsburg and Danbury sites accepted similar items and sharps. Burnett County Public Health provided the free giveaways through Marshfield Clinic Health System's grant program.

Deterra deactivation pouches, which neutralize medications for safe trash disposal, were popular. Pharmacies in sev-

eral local towns now offer similar products and drop boxes. The Burnett County Government Center offers a new sharps bin. The Siren Village Hall's new kiosk, funded by a YOBC grant, provides instructions for safe disposal. Fewer people attend in the fall than spring, but McNally said the coalition is building long-term awareness in the community.

Nationally, the DEA's take-back program has removed more than seven tons of medications since 2010. In Burnett County, the effort highlights a rural response to the opioid crisis, with coalition members and school counselors promoting education and outreach. As the event ended,



(L to R): Project coordinator Rachel McNally of Youth of Burnett County and Officer Andrew Tyler of Siren Police Department display how many medications had already been collected mid-morning. - Photo by Sarah Beth Radomsky

organizers expressed optimism about continued progress, supported by new grants.



An outside view of the Siren Village Hall. - File Photo

Siren Village committee backs union deal with wage boosts

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter
SIREN – The Personnel and Finance committee of the Village of Siren has recommended full board approval of a new labor contract with Teamsters Local 346, highlighting wage increases for hourly workers and a modest rise in on-call compensation. The committee met on Tuesday, Oct. 28, at Village Hall, where members deliberated in a closed session on union negotiations. The session fo-

cused on finalizing terms with the union representing village employees. Clerk's notes from the meeting indicate the panel's consensus to forward the agreement for ratification by the full Village Board. "The only significant item was wages," Clerk Ann Peterson shared, specifying an hourly wage increase alongside a slight adjustment for on-call pay. The full board's ratification vote is pending.

Quinn rebuffs Evers fee increases on livestock industry

In July, the liberal state Supreme Court in its infinite wisdom handed down a ruling to remove legislative oversight from the Evers' administration's rulemaking power. It did not take long to see the consequences of this newfound power.

Soon after, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection proposed a rule to increase fees on animal markets, animal dealers, and animal truckers at extreme levels. In the proposal, animal dealer licenses would climb from \$220 to \$670, a 205% increase. The registration fee paid by truckers transporting livestock would



increase 517%, from the current \$60 to \$370. And an Animal Market Class A license would jump from \$420 to a whopping \$7,430—an increase of nearly 1,700%!

Immediately I began hearing from neighbors, constituents, and those

involved in the industry who shared their concerns that such sharp increases could potentially drive them out of business or force them to move into neighboring states where existing fees are more in line with Wisconsin's existing license fees.

Unfortunately, under the new unilateral rules power given to state agencies, the legislature can no longer object to such rules, so the bureaucratic deep state is free to make these changes all on its own—with the blessing of Governor Evers.

In response, I introduced legislation that will put the decision-making pro-

cess back in the hands of the elected legislature, not unelected bureaucrats. The bill proposes to stop the massive fee hikes on our livestock industry by not allowing the governor or his agency to raise fees simply by rule. The bill keeps the current fees in place, codifying them in state statute where the elected legislature has oversight.

Unelected bureaucrats should not be able to drive farmers out of business or put a huge financial burden on their backs—and Governor Evers should not allow them to do so. Instead, he should listen to elected representatives when they put this bill on his desk.

Alfonso announces candidacy for 7th Congressional District race

By Robert Tabern | Editor
NORTHWEST WISCONSIN – Republican candidate Michael Alfonso has officially announced he is running for Congress in Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District. Alfonso issued a media release to the Inter-County Leader on Wednesday, Oct. 29, stating that he would fight for the people of Wisconsin, restore hope for all Americans and strengthen the country we love.

"I was born and raised with the traditional Wisconsin values of faith, community, and hard work - and now I'm ready to give back to the area that gave so much to me. I've watched as the American Dream has continued to slip away from the people who so deserve it," said Alfonso. "I've seen the effects of higher taxes and the increased cost of living on our families and our farms, and the erosion of our constitutional rights. I'm running for Congress because Northern Wisconsin needs to continue to have

a representative who will truly put our families, communities, and America first."

Michael and his family are from Vilas County and the Wausau area. He is the son-in-law of former Wisconsin congressman and current U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy.

The 7th Congressional District is an open race as current Rep. Tom Tiffany is running for governor.



Republican candidate Michael Alfonso has officially announced he is running for Congress in Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District. - Photo provided

GOP U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden says the state should fund FoodShare during shutdown

By our partners at WEAU-TV, Eau Claire
MADISON – Food assistance benefits for 700,000 Wisconsin residents ended Saturday, Nov. 1, as the federal government shutdown continues with no resolution in sight.

Republican U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden visited the Wisconsin State Capitol and said states should fund SNAP benefits if the federal government will not.

"I was raised in abject rural poverty," Van Orden said. "We had to use food stamps."

Van Orden blamed Democrats for the shutdown.

"Call Tammy Baldwin's office," Van Orden said. "They could start the government up again today."

A spokesperson for Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin responded, "While Congressman Derrick Van Orden is on day 40 of his paid vacation, Sen. Baldwin has been in Washington working with her colleagues to lower health care costs

and reopen the government."

The spokesperson also pointed to the Trump Administration, writing, "Donald Trump has the power and money to fund FoodShare."

Last week, Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul joined 22 others in suing the Trump Administration to keep SNAP funding intact amid the shutdown.

A Marquette Law School poll released on Wednesday shows Wisconsin voters are divided over who is responsible for the shutdown; 38% blame Republicans in Congress, 33% blame Democrats, and 28% say both parties are equally at fault.



U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden - Photo provided

Frederic Chamber warms up fall with chili, s'mores and vintage truck photos after road reopening

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter
FREDERIC – Dozens of residents gathered under sunny fall skies Saturday for a chili celebration hosted by the Frederic Area Chamber of Commerce, capping off a road reopening with bowls of steaming chili, s'mores by the pavilion and seasonal photo opportunities. The event, held at the Frederic Senior/Community Center, featured complimentary chili meals paired with homemade corn-

bread. A 50/50 raffle helped raise funds for the 2026 Family Days fireworks display, organizers said. Chamber President Erin Hornbeak said she was thrilled to bring a free photo setup to the community, having previously traveled long distances for similar paid experiences with her own family. "We're excited to offer this right here at home," Hornbeak said. Attendees posed for pictures with a vintage truck decked out in fall-themed

decorations, while a race-themed car, courtesy of a chamber member, provided an additional backdrop.

The SPARK group, known as Supplying Hope Around Our Kids, assisted at the s'mores station near the pavilion. Local youth royalty joined the festivities, enjoying the meal and lending a hand with s'mores prep. They included Junior Miss Frederic Hadley Lundquist, Junior 1st Princess Maple Popham, Junior 2nd

Princess Avina Wojtowicz, and Junior 3rd Princess Zoey Borchardt. Chamber volunteers pitched in with setup and serving, including Vice President Shari Chadwick, owner of Frederic Design; Phyllis Wilder of the Frederic Lions; Rose Houtari of Rose's Garden; and Sheila Beecroft of Frederic Community Education. The gathering highlighted the chamber's efforts to foster community spirit as autumn settles in.



Chamber members pause for a photo during the busy event. (L to R): Phyllis Wilder of the Frederic Lions, President Erin Hornbeak, Vice President Shari Chadwick, owner of Frederic Design, and Rose Houtari of Rose's Garden. - Photos by Sarah Beth Radomsky



Royalty sat down to enjoy a meal at the chili feed. (L to R): Junior 3rd Princess Zoey Borchardt, Junior 1st Princess Maple Popham, Junior Miss Frederic Hadley Lundquist, and Junior 2nd Princess Avina Wojtowicz.



This family took part in the vintage truck photo shoot. (L to R): Lucy Hinks, Oliver Dojan and Arnie Dojan. - Photos by Sarah Beth Radomsky

Unity School District to close child care center by January over financial strain

Most enrolled expected to transition to The Grove in Milltown

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter
BALSAM LAKE – The Unity School District will shut down its LEAP Child Care Center, with its last day of operation on Jan. 2, after years of mounting

financial losses, Superintendent Zachary Fugate said Wednesday, Oct. 29. The district will redirect resources to core pre-K through 12th-grade education. The center, which opened in the fall of 2019 to address a local child care shortage, currently serves about 28 children with 11 staff members. Fugate said the program has been subsidized but proved unsustainable, with child care costs escalating

over time. "It's been a challenge," he said. "We've tried many strategies to offset the costs and approach it as cost-effectively as possible, but the reality of sustainability just wasn't there."

The decision follows the 2023 opening of The Grove Childcare Center, a private childcare center in nearby Milltown that Fugate described as "a wonderful facility" filling the community's needs. Dis-

trict officials expect most LEAP families to transition there, with a supportive plan in place. Staff will have options at The Grove, within the district, or elsewhere, he added. "It's definitely been a difficult decision," Fugate said, crediting the board of education for careful evaluation. "The district as a whole very much appreciates the work of the LEAP workers and the families."

Gov. Evers takes action on 19 bills

Submitted by Gov. Evers Press Office
MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers took action on 19 bills in addition to 2025 Wisconsin Act 42. The bills signed by the governor include providing safeguards for 911 call centers and dispatchers when transferring a call to the national 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, creating a statewide general prohibition on student electronic device use in the classroom, and allowing law enforcement to impound and retain vehicles used to drive recklessly until all outstanding fees, fines, and forfeitures are paid, among others.

Senate Bill 309, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 41:
Specifies that 911 call centers and dispatchers who transfer a caller to the national 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline are generally immune from civil liability for any outcomes resulting from the transfer; and

Specifies that this immunity does not apply if the injury claimed to have resulted from the transfer is the result of an act or omission that constitutes gross negligence or willful misconduct by the dispatcher or public safety answering point.

"Our 911 dispatchers play a vital role in the safety and security of our state, but they often don't have the time or resources available to provide the response necessary for somebody experiencing a mental health crisis," said Evers. "By offering much-needed protection to 911 dispatchers who transfer calls to the 988 Lifeline, this bill allows for a better and safer crisis response by ensuring crisis calls go to the service providers who are trained to provide appropriate care and resources to those who need it most."

According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, over 196,000

calls have been answered by the 988 Lifeline since the service started in 2022, and counselors resolved 99.6% of calls by providing emotional support, reducing callers' stress, offering coping strategies, and/or connecting callers with local resources. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the purpose of 911 is to provide quick response to an emergency in the form of law enforcement, fire, and medical services. While these services are critical in life-threatening emergencies, public safety answering points do not always have the resources to respond to a mental health crisis, as mental health emergencies require a response that prioritizes time, listening, connection to care, and follow-up.

Assembly Bill 78, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 46:
Enables political subdivisions to implement ordinances that, at the discretion of a law enforcement officer, immediately impound a vehicle used to drive recklessly and retain the vehicle until all outstanding fees, fines, and forfeitures owed by the vehicle's owners are paid; and

Requires law enforcement to determine if the impounded vehicle is stolen, and if the impounded vehicle is found to be stolen, the vehicle shall be released to the owner without payment of a fee.

"Wisconsinites should feel safe in their homes, in our neighborhoods, and on our streets, roads, and highways. Whether it's distracted driving, speeding, or erratic and aggressive behaviors, reckless driving puts our kids, families, and communities in harm's way," said Evers. "Tackling reckless driving has been a bipartisan goal in recent years, and I'm glad to see this trend has continued this session. This bill will help

hold bad actors accountable to keep our roads and communities safe while also providing local governments and law enforcement additional tools needed to respond. I look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to keep Wisconsinites safe on our roads and streets."

Senate Bill 66, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 37:
Combats the use of devices that prevent the quick or accurate identification of stolen vehicles or vehicles that criminals are using with the intent of evading law enforcement; and

Prohibits the possession, sale, or use of a registration plate concealment device and creates a penalty for violations of a fine of not more than \$1,000, imprisonment of not more than 90 days, or both, and the possible impoundment of the vehicle.

Senate Bill 84, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 38:
Removes a financial barrier to homeownership by exempting real estate transfers between grandparents and grandchildren from the real estate transfer fee, making it easier to keep property in the family.

Senate Bill 159, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 39:
Clarifies the placement of blue and red flashing lights on the roof or inside of a marked police vehicle; and

Allows blue and red lights on the front, rear, and sides of police vehicles in addition to the main lights on the roof of the car to help improve the visibility of police vehicles and enhance safety.

Senate Bill 189, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 40:
Allows a court, if certain conditions are met, to enter a judgment of divorce or legal separation based on an affidavit signed by each party, helping victims of interspousal battery or domestic abuse and improving judicial efficiency by requiring fewer in-person hearings, which

could help with caseloads and reduce costs.

Assembly Bill 35, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 43:
Allows a candidate for office at a general election or partisan primary to withdraw their candidacy and not be included on the ballot by filing a sworn statement with and paying a fee to the Wisconsin Elections Commission, excluding district attorney candidates.

Assembly Bill 65, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 44:
Adds intent to commit misdemeanor battery, or battery to an unborn child, to the crime of burglary, better aligning the penalties associated with property crimes and crimes against bodily security.

Assembly Bill 75, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 45:
Requires the Wisconsin Department of Justice to collect certain criminal justice-related information, create an interactive dashboard on its website that includes the collected information, and submit an annual report to the Legislature summarizing the collected information.

Assembly Bill 149, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 47:

Requires the chairperson of the state committee of a political party to nominate the party's presidential electors in the event of a political party not having a candidate for state Senate or Assembly, a state officer, or a holdover state senator;

Extends the current law requirements that there needs to be one presidential elector from each congressional district and two electors from the state at large to the chairperson's nominations; and

Requires the chairperson to certify the names of the nominees to the chairperson of the Elections Commission.

Gov. Evers signs executive order declaring state of emergency due to the ongoing federal government shutdown and lapse in FoodShare benefits

Submitted by Gov. Evers Press Office
MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers signed Executive Order #278 declaring a state of emergency and a period of abnormal economic disruption in the state of Wisconsin due to the ongoing federal government shutdown and a lapse in FoodShare benefits, which are jeopardizing access to critical resources and programs that are necessary for the health, safety, well-being, and economic security of Wisconsinites. The governor’s executive order directs the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to begin enforcing against price gouging as nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites lose access to food assistance that ensures they can afford basic food and groceries and directs all executive branch state agencies to take any and all measures to respond, including reviewing and suspending any administrative rules that will hinder or delay the state’s response to the emergency.

Evers’ executive order comes as it remains unclear whether the Trump Administration plans to comply with two courts that opined that the Trump Administration likely must use available federal funding to continue providing at least partial benefits under SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), also known as FoodShare in Wisconsin. The program, which helps ensure nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites have access to food and groceries, is set to run out of funding.

Unlike other states, the governor of Wisconsin does not have the power to appropriate funding by executive order or unilateral mechanisms that would continue funding FoodShare benefits or

other resources to food pantries. Appropriating funding to help continue providing Wisconsin FoodShare benefits or support would require a bill to be passed by both houses of the Republican-controlled Wisconsin State Legislature, which have so far indicated they have no intention or plans to do so.

The governor’s executive order directs state agencies to take any and all necessary measures to ensure Wisconsin can address the state of emergency, including but not limited to prohibiting price gouging due to loss of FoodShare funding and continuing economic disruptions, ensuring relevant resources are readily available for Wisconsinites and the state, and state agencies can utilize every available tool and resource to support Wisconsinites through impacts of the federal government shutdown.

“Wisconsinites and Americans across the country are now scrambling, trying to figure out how to feed their families. There’s no excuse for it, and this is a direct result of Republicans in Congress and the Trump Administration, who’ve done nothing to help. As the courts agree, the Trump Administration could’ve stopped this from happening, but they didn’t, and now, Wisconsin’s kids, families, and seniors are worried about whether or when they’re going to eat next. This shouldn’t be happening. Period,” said Evers. “I have always promised to do the right thing, and my executive order will ensure our state agencies can do whatever they can within our power to help support kids, families, farmers, seniors, veterans, and so many others across our state, including cracking down on price gouging on

everyday things folks need.

“But here’s the bottom line for me: Wisconsinites are sick and tired of the excuses Congressional Republicans and the Trump Administration are making out in Washington. The federal government shutdown has gone on long enough—it has to end,” said Evers. “Republicans must start working across the aisle to end the federal government shutdown and extend tax credits that will lower the cost of healthcare so Wisconsinites and Americans across our country have economic stability and certainty. And the Trump Administration must take action and do so quickly to fix the damage they’ve caused and ensure folks can get basic food and groceries they need to survive without any further delay.”

The governor’s executive order declares that a period of abnormal economic disruption exists in the state of Wisconsin and prohibits price gouging. Consumers are encouraged to contact the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection’s Bureau of Consumer Protection to file a complaint by visiting datcp.wi.gov or by calling the Consumer Protection Hotline at 800-422-7128.

Evers also encourages Wisconsinites across the state to contact their congressional representatives and urge support for ending the federal government shutdown, extending key programs that help lower healthcare costs, and preventing hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites from going hungry. Wisconsinites can go to congress.gov/members/find-your-member and enter their address to find the contact information for their con-

gressional representative and senators.

Any Wisconsinite who needs additional food or infant formula for their house or family can reach out to 211 for information and referrals to local services. Anyone can use 211 to get help by:

- Dialing 211 or 877-947-2211.
- Visiting their website at 211wisconsin.communityos.org. Through the website, people can search for services or chat with someone online who can help.
- Texting their ZIP code to 898211.

DHS also encourages Medicaid and FoodShare members to make sure their phone number, email, and mailing address on file are up-to-date by going to the ACCESS.wi.gov website or the smartphone app. The department will announce some of the changes broadly, as appropriate, using channels like the Medicaid news web page, FoodShare news webpage, social media, news releases, and email.

Importantly, please note that Wisconsin WIC is currently available, and based on the information available at this time, November benefits will also be available. During the government shutdown, WIC members can use their WIC benefits, attend WIC appointments, and do not need to take any action. If there are changes to the availability of WIC funding and benefits, DHS will let WIC members, partners, and providers know as soon as possible.

Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus members still have coverage to get the care and services they need. For updates, visit the Medicaid News page.

Gov. Evers signs bipartisan bill to ban cellphone use in schools

Submitted by Gov. Evers Press Office
MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers signed a bipartisan bill on Friday, Oct. 31, aimed at creating a statewide ban on cellphone use in the classroom.

Evers released the following statement:

“It has always been my belief that decisions like this should be made at the local level by local school districts and that we should trust local school boards to work with students, parents and families, educators, staff, and administrators to make decisions that make sense for students in their community. That continues to be my position. Nevertheless, my promise to the people of Wisconsin is to always do what’s best for our kids, and that obligation weighs heavily on me in considering this bill, as it does every bill affecting kids that reaches my desk.

“In 2025 the Year of the Kid, I am deeply concerned about the impacts cellphone and social media use are having on our kids and their mental health, school outcomes, and how our kids en-

gage and interact with each other and the world around us. Our kids are struggling today, perhaps now more than ever. It’s really tough to be a kid these days, and we know that cellphones can be a major distraction from learning, a source of bullying, and a barrier to our kids’ important work of just being a kid.

“Innovative technology is an important part of our daily lives in the 21st century, and it is exceedingly important our schools are preparing our kids for a 21st-century world, economy, and future. But as technology continues to evolve and expand into our schools, we must evolve with it, and that includes taking pragmatic steps to keep our kids safe and protect them from the harmful impacts of new and emerging technology.

“While I wish the Legislature would have taken a different approach with this legislation, I will never stop fighting for Wisconsin’s kids and working to do what’s best for them, which is why I am signing this bill into law today.”

A recent report by the Wisconsin Pol-

icy Forum showed most schools across the state of Wisconsin already restrict cellphone use at the local level. There is growing evidence that schools with phone bans foster stronger social connections, improved classroom focus, and better health and safety of students. A recent study found there were reductions in psychological distress among students attending a school with a phone ban.

According to research compiled by the Wisconsin Office of Children’s Mental Health: “Researchers have warned that too much time on a smartphone can impair the development of social skills, critical thinking, and impulse control. Many experts advise delaying smartphone use until age 14 or older, when kids’ brains are more developed. Kids with smartphones have increased risk of exposure to inappropriate content on the internet and cyberbullying. Researchers have tracked how technology addiction disrupts concentration and the ability to focus, but also how it leads to depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts.”

Support for phone bans at schools has been steadily increasing. Pew Research found that 74% of U.S. adults say they would support banning middle and high school students from using cellphones during class, up from 68% last fall.

Assembly Bill 2, now 2025 Wisconsin Act 42:

Requires public school boards to adopt policies that generally prohibit students from using wireless communication devices, including cellphones, during school;

Under the amended bill, school district-issued electronic devices would be exempt from the prohibition;

A school board may also provide an exemption to the prohibition in the event of an emergency or perceived threat, to manage a student’s healthcare, as permitted under a student’s individualized education plan, or for educational purposes authorized by a teacher; and

Under the bill, a public-school board must adopt a wireless communication device policy by July 1, 2026.

Schaffer Manufacturing certified as Family Friendly Workplace

Submitted by Brianna Mayer
MILLTOWN – Family Friendly Workplaces is proud to announce that Schaffer Manufacturing has been recertified as a Gold-Level Family Friendly Workplace. This recognition highlights their ongoing commitment to creating a workplace where employees can effectively balance their personal and professional responsibilities.

“Supporting the health and well-being of our employees and their families is central to who we are at Schaffer Manufacturing,” said Steven Schaffer, owner and chairman of Schaffer Manufacturing. “This recertification as a Family Friendly Workplace affirms the culture we’ve worked hard to build—one rooted in compassion, flexibility, and community.”

As part of this commitment, Schaffer

Manufacturing continues to give back to the local community. This year, the organization made a generous donation to the Mental Health Task Force of Polk County, helping local families access essential resources and reinforcing Schaffer’s mission to promote community wellness.

Schaffer has also become a leader in the state with its efforts to support the child care needs of its employees and the larger community. The Grove Child-care Center in Milltown is on the leading edge of employer-connected child care, and serves as an inspiration to other employers and communities across Wisconsin.

Neil Kline, executive director of Family Friendly Workplaces, commended Schaffer Manufacturing’s continued leadership, “We’re proud to recognize

Schaffer Manufacturing again this year. Their commitment to family-friendly workplace practices and support for local nonprofits sets a powerful example for employers across the region and the state.”

The recertification process includes a comprehensive review of policies and programs that support work-life balance and family well-being. With this designation, Schaffer Manufacturing proudly continues as a leading member of a growing network of certified Family Friendly Workplaces, reinforcing its role as an



As part of Schaffer’s recertification, the company makes a donation to the Mental Health Task Force of Polk County - Photo provided

employer of choice in Western Wisconsin.

For more information on Family Friendly Workplaces and its certification program, visit familyfriendlyworkplaces.org.

LEADER SPORTS

Grantsburg advances by beating Bloomer in sectional semifinals



Grantsburg's No. 3, senior Kaylie Moore, and No. 11, freshman Eden Burkman prepare to return the ball.



Grantsburg lines up for the national anthem at the beginning of the game.



This spectator holds up a sign showing her support for Grantsburg senior Aliya Henderson.
- Photos by Robert Tabern



Grantsburg senior Megan Harmon waves as she is introduced at the last home game of her volleyball career.



Grantsburg senior Norah Bjelland hits the ball.



Grantsburg senior Selah Prusinski dives to keep the ball in play.

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LEADER SPORTS

Grantsburg Volleyball/from page 8



Grantsburg senior Aliya Henderson returns the ball to the Bloomer side of the net.



Grantsburg freshman Avery Kwolek receives a hug following her team's win in the sectional semifinal on Thursday night.



Grantsburg junior Pressly Olson celebrates Grantsburg's victory over Bloomer in the sectional semifinal.



Grantsburg sophomore Carly Burton celebrates the win.



It was hugs all around as members of the Grantsburg volleyball team celebrated their big win, before advancing to the sectional final on Saturday at Eau Claire North High School.



These spectators show support for the Grantsburg Pirates volleyball seniors.



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LEADER SPORTS

Barron ends Pirates’ season in sectional final

Above The Fold Media | For the Leader
EAU CLAIRE – The win streak stopped at 11 and the season ended in the WIAA Division 3 sectional final for the Grantsburg volleyball team. The Pirates extended their win streak to 10 matches on Thursday with a 3-0 win over Bloomer but had their season conclude with a 3-1 loss to Barron in the sectional final Saturday. Grantsburg defeated the Blackhawks 25-15, 25-10 and 25-13 on Thursday. Megan Harmon had 16 assists and six digs for the Pirates; Kaylie Moore had 10

assists and six digs; Selah Prusinski had 16 digs and three aces; Norah Bjelland had 12 digs; Eden Burkman had eight digs; Aliya Henderson had four aces and Ruby Rengo had 11 kills with six blocks. Barron won the opening set 25-17 on Saturday and Grantsburg responded with a 26-24 win in the second, but the Golden Bears won the third set 25-16 to claim the match. The Pirates end the season with a 29-7 overall record and a share of the Lake-land West title.



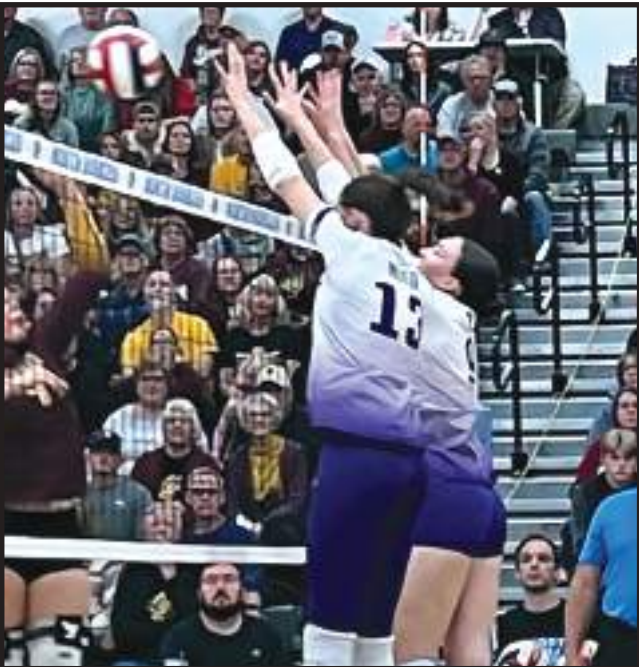
Pirate Eden Burkman dives for the ball. - Photos by Sarah Beth Radomsky



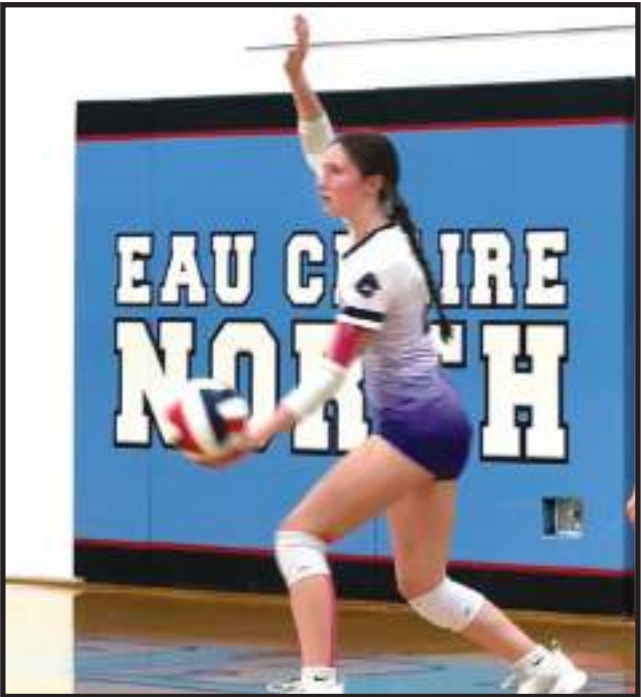
The Barron Golden Bears show off their plaque after their victory at the sectional final at Eau Claire.



Grantsburg’s Selah Prusinski spikes the ball at the Eau Claire North sectional final Saturday, Nov. 1. - Photos by Sarah Beth Radomsky



(L to R): Grantsburg’s Ruby Rengo and Piper Olson leap to block at the net.



Grantsburg’s Norah Bjelland serves.



The Pirates celebrate winning the second set against the Golden Bears.



The Barron Golden Bears run toward fans with their victory plaque.



A group photo of the Golden Bears, newly triumphant with their fans after the sectional final, before they head to state.

LEADER SPORTS

Tigers' path ends shy of Green Bay

Above The Fold Media | *For the Leader*
WEBSTER – The Webster volleyball team was one win away from a spot in the WIAA Division 4 sectional final and being a step away from a trip to Green Bay.

However, by virtue of a tiebreaker set against Clear Lake on Thursday, the Ti-

gers' impressive season and postseason run were concluded as the Warriors' 15-12 decision in the tiebreaker gave them passage to the sectional final.

After the Warriors won the opening set 25-22, the Tigers were on the verge of winning the match after winning the second set 25-17 and the third 25-19. But,

Clear Lake won the fourth set 25-17 to force a fifth and final set.

Dana Jackson had 20 assists, 10 digs and three blocks for Webster; Abbi Smith had 20 assists; Avery Hetfeld had 23 digs, nine kills and four aces; Brooke Wolf had 17 digs, eight kills and three aces; Lilyanne Jacobs had 14 digs, 10

kills and four blocks.

Webster finished the season with a 32-3 overall record and a share of the Lakeland West title.



Webster junior and libero Reese Grindell closes in to bump the ball. - Photos by Zach Zelinski



Webster senior Lily Jacobs leaps for a midair spike to Clear Lake.



Clear Lake is on defense against a spike from Webster.

Saints stopped by Rice Lake in sectional semifinal

Above The Fold Media | *For the Leader*
RICE LAKE – The St. Croix Falls volleyball team pushed Rice Lake in Thursday's WIAA Division 2 sectional semifinal, which had one of the longest sets of the postseason, but the Warriors

advanced with a 3-1 win.

Rice Lake opened with 25-23 and 25-20 wins in the first two sets and were close to ending the match in the third set though the Saints avoided a sweep by outlasting the Warriors for a 40-38 win

in the third set, forcing a fourth.

The run ended with a 26-17 victory for Rice Lake in the fourth set, giving the Warriors a pass to the sectional final.

The Saints finished the season with a 24-12 overall record and a Heart O'

North title. The loss snapped an eight-match win streak.



Britta Olson of St. Croix Falls leaps to send the ball back to the Warriors on Thursday, Oct. 30. - Photos by Sarah Beth Radomsky



Catherine Williams of St. Croix Falls sets the ball.



Saint Britta Olson dives for the ball.

STRUGGLING?
SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

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LEADER SPORTS

Pirates to host Tigers after making Panthers walk the plank

Above The Fold Media | For the Leader
GRANTSBURG – A fourth-quarter comeback kept the Grantsburg football team’s unbeaten record and hopes for a return trip to Camp Randall alive.

The Pirates advanced to host Northwestern in a battle of unbeatens this Friday after overcoming a late deficit against Durand-Arkansaw to claim a 36-30 win and improve to 11-0 on the season.

The Panthers took the first lead of the game with the only touchdown of the first quarter and eventually took a 22-8 lead into halftime but Grantsburg cut into that deficit with a third-quarter score and then outscored the Panthers 22-8 in the fourth quarter.

And the Pirates were scoring on both the ground and through the air with Brock Matheny leading the way. He went 26-for-41 for 263 yards and two

touchdowns, connecting with Caden Matheny and Daxter Schultz on touchdowns passes. Levi Anderson added another touchdown pass with a 42-yard connection with Reece Jensen, who finished with four catches for 72 yards. Caleb Rombach had eight catches for 80 yards; Schultz had four catches for 51 yards; Caden Matheny had four catches for 45 yards and Ryder Anderson had five catches for 40 yards.

Schultz led the ground game with 115 yards on 25 carries and two touchdowns; Caden Matheny, Rombach and Levi Anderson each had a 2-point conversion.

Schultz also had eight tackles on defense; Levi Anderson, Sawyer Spaight and Henry Quintana each had seven tackles. Ryder Anderson had an interception and both Caden Matheny and Justin Kwolek had a fumble recovery.

Now the Pirates prepare for a home



The Pirates return to the field after halftime. - Photo by Zach Zelinski

matchup against Northwestern, which is coming off a 47-20 win over St. Croix Falls. It was the Tigers’ second win over the Saints this season after winning a 41-0 decision during the regular season.

They needed just 23 yards passing to earn the win, relying on the run game for 311 yards and six touchdowns.



The Grantsburg Pirates beat Durand-Arkansaw in post-season play on Friday. They will host Northwestern this Friday. – Photo courtesy Grantsburg Football

Saints’ streak, postseason run, end at Northwestern

Above The Fold Media | For the Leader
MAPLE – St. Croix Falls got on the board the second time around but not often enough to avenge a loss from the regular season.

The Saints matched up with Northwestern in the second round of the WIAA Division 5 football playoffs, seeking both advancement in the postseason and revenge for a 41-0 loss in mid-September. They avoided a shutout but not an end to the season as the Tigers

remained undefeated with a 47-20 win over the Saints on Friday.

Northwestern had the upper hand in a game that totaled over 500 yards rushing between the two teams. The Tigers needed just 23 yards passing as it gained 311 yards on the ground along with six touchdowns. Tysen Teal led the way with 155 yards on 11 carries and two touchdowns with teammate Mason Chell adding two more touchdowns.

Alex Hoff and Micah Nwachukwu ac-

counted for more than half of St. Croix Falls’ total yardage. Hoff rushed for 74 yards on 12 carries and two touchdowns while Nwachukwu had 103 yards on 11 carries.

Brett Sladky completed four of his nine pass attempts for 50 yards and connected with Drake Petersen for a touchdown pass. Petersen finished with two catches for 48 yards.

Chase Steffen had 11 tackles on defense; Jacoby Mickle had nine tackles

and Hoff had four tackles with a fumble recovery.

The loss also ended the Saints’ six-game win streak and they ended the 2025 season with an 8-3 overall record. Northwestern advances to face Grantsburg this Friday in a battle of still undefeated teams.

Several Saints in HON all-conference football picks

Above The Fold Media | For The Leader
ST. CROIX FALLS – Several members of the St. Croix Falls football team are included in the Heart O’ North All-Conference selections for the 2025 season.

Six Saints are first-team selections on offense, starting with junior quarterback Brett Sladky. He completed 125 of his 195 pass attempts for 1,922 yards and 19 touchdowns. His two most-often targeted teammates also are first-team picks.

Junior Drake Petersen and senior Jared DeSmith were picked as receivers.

Petersen led the Saints with 53 catches, 951 yards and 10 touchdowns while DeSmith was second on the team with 39 catches, 579 yards and six touchdowns. DeSmith added five 2-point conversions and Petersen had four.

Senior Brodie Allram is a first-team pick at running back after rushing for 705 yards on 121 carries and nine touchdowns in addition to 18 catches for 249 yards and two more touchdowns. He also had ten 2-point conversions.

Two members of St. Croix Falls’ offensive line—senior Isaac Briggs and junior

Eli Larson—are included in first-team selections on offense.

DeSmith and Petersen doubled-up as first-team picks as defensive backs. Petersen had 54 tackles and two interceptions while DeSmith had 26 tackles and an interception.

Junior linebacker Chase Steffen is a first-team pick after leading the Saints with 91 tackles.

Senior Alex Hoff is a second-team pick on both offense and defense as a running back and linebacker. He rushed for 655 yards on 125 carries and seven

touchdowns in addition to two 2-point conversions and he had 42 tackles, four fumble recoveries and three sacks on defense.

Allram and Briggs join Hoff as second-team linebackers; Allram had 60 tackles, three sacks and a fumble recovery while Briggs had 40 tackles and an interception.

Two more seniors are second-team picks; Jack Shober had 25 tackles and five sacks and Connor Weber had 41 tackles with three interceptions.

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LEADER SPORTS

Mattson, Morales earn top-25 finishes in CC finale

Above The Fold Media | *For the Leader*
WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Two area runners earned top-20 finishes in the WIAA Division 3 Cross Country Championships at Ridges Golf Course on Saturday.

Frederic/Luck's Zane Mattson and Unity's Isaiah Morales both claimed top-20 finishes to cap the 2025 season while Grantsburg's Josh Hartke was 10 seconds away from a top-25 finish. The individual event was won by St. Ambrose Academy's Jonathan Simon, who finished in 16 minutes, 6.9 seconds, while his team won the state title with 113 points, ahead of Prentice/Rib Lake (137) and Phillips (138).

Mattson led area runners with an 11th-place finish in 16 minutes, 49.2 seconds



Frederic/Luck's Zane Mattson led area runners with an 11th-place finish in 16 minutes, 49.2 seconds at the state cross country meet. – Photo courtesy Frederic Vikings Athletics

in his final cross country event for the Otters. The senior runner was less than six seconds from a top-10 finish.

Morales, 16:56.5, was 16th overall and was fourth among sophomores in the event. He was less than 13 seconds behind a top-10 finish.

Hartke—in his final cross country run for the Pirates—was 30th overall in 17:17.9.

Tanner Morley—also in his final cross country event for Frederic/Luck—was 56th in 17:47.3.

Unity had another top-50 finisher with Dominic Fox placing 37th in 17:29.1 and Oliver Garipey, 17:50.6, was 61st.



Unity's Isaiah Morales was 16th overall at the state cross country meet. – Photo courtesy Unity Cross Country

Belisle, Vikings top Northern State, former teammates

College Roundup

Above The Fold Media | *For the Leader*
SIOUX FALLS – Brady Belisle (St. Croix Falls) and the Augustana football team extended their season-long win streak at the expense of two former teammates.

The Vikings improved to 9-0 with a 27-14 win Saturday over Northern State with its two former St. Croix Falls football players—Joe Petherbridge and Willem Hoefler.

The Vikings scored the game's first 13 points before Northern State got on the board with a touchdown late in the first half, making it a 13-7 game entering halftime. But, Augustana scored the only touchdown of the third quarter and the first touchdown of the fourth quarter to secure the win.

The Vikings held a 221-129 advantage in rushing yards; Hoefler had one tackle for Northern State.

Augustana hosts Minnesota State this Saturday and Northern State hosts Minot State.

Football

• **Ian Burkman** (Grantsburg) and Bethel maintained their unbeaten record as they prepare to host Carleton College this Saturday.

The Royals improved to 8-0 with a 55-9 win over Concordia (Minn.) last Saturday. They entered halftime with a 34-0 lead and took a 55-0 advantage into the fourth quarter, limiting Concordia to 69 rushing yards in the game.

Burkman had three carries for 33 yards and a touchdown.

Bethel has outscored its last four opponents by a total of 228-26.

• **Nolan Imhoff** (St. Croix Falls) and Minnesota State-Moorhead host Jamestown this Saturday after returning to the win column with a 49-21 decision over Bemidji State last weekend.

The Dragons held a 366-143 advantage

in passing yards over Bemidji State and had three interceptions.

• **Evan Sikorski** (Webster) and Northwestern (Minn.) try for a fourth consecutive win this Saturday at Greenville.

The Eagles earned their fourth consecutive win, 24-17 over Martin Luther College last weekend. Northwestern outrushed Martin Luther 159-55; Sikorski had two tackles.

Men's Cross Country

Will Gerber (Grantsburg) finished 19th for North Dakota State in Saturday's Summit League Championships.

Gerber finished in 24 minutes, 34.9 seconds to help the Bison finish third in the team standings with 76 points.

Volleyball

• **Hanne Johnson** (Grantsburg) and UW-Eau Claire take an 11-match win streak to UW-Oshkosh this Friday in the final match before postseason play begins.

The Bugolds' streak reached 10 with a 3-0 win over UW-Platteville on Oct. 29 and hit 11 with a 3-1 win over St. Olaf on Saturday.

• **Kelsey Cooper** (St. Croix Falls) and Concordia-St. Paul brought an eight-match win streak into the week after defeating Northern State and Jamestown last weekend.

Friday, the Golden Bears went to Northern State for a 3-0 win; Cooper had five kills, three blocks, two digs, two aces and two assists.

The following day they went to Jamestown for another 3-0 win; Cooper had four kills and a block.

Concordia-St. Paul hosts Minnesota State-Moorhead this Friday and Minnesota State-Moorhead on Saturday.

• **Lucy Belisle** (St. Croix Falls) and Augustana take a three-match win streak to University of Mary this Friday after wins over Minnesota-Crookston and Minnesota State-Moorhead last weekend.

Muller earns top-20 spot at state final

Above The Fold Media | *For the Leader*
WISCONSIN RAPIDS – Unity's Ava Muller ended the 2025 girls cross country season with a top-20 finish in Saturday's WIAA Division 3 championships at Ridges Golf Course.

Muller completed the course in 19 minutes, 46.1 seconds to place 14th overall; she was third among juniors in the field and less than 14 seconds from a top-10 spot. Kohler's Maggie Behler won the event in 18:22.5 and Darlington won the state title with 92 points, just ahead of Kohler (96).

In her first state final, Frederic/Luck's Lola Morley was 70th in 21:21.6.



LEFT: Unity's Ava Muller placed 14th overall at the state cross country meet. – Photo courtesy Unity Cross Country

The Vikings defeated Minnesota-Crookston 3-0 on Friday; Belisle had nine kills and five digs. They defeated MSU-Moorhead 3-0 the following day with Belisle providing six kills, three digs and two blocks.

• **Lauren Hetfeld** (Webster) and Bethel go to College of Saint Benedict tonight after having their four-match win streak snapped Saturday.

The Royals' streak reached four games with a 3-0 win over Augsburg on Oct. 29; Hetfeld had three digs. But, Saint Mary's ended the streak with a 3-2 win over the Royals; Hetfeld had 10 digs and two aces.

• UW-Superior had its three-match win streak stopped with a 3-1 loss to Northwestern (Minn.) on Saturday.

The Yellowjackets earned a 3-0 win over North Central on Friday. **Colleen Claude** (Unity) had 11 assists and eight digs; **Sydney Smith** (Unity) had five kills, three blocks and an assist while **Sidney Bader** (Unity) had five kills and two digs.

Claude had 23 assists and 12 digs in

Saturday's loss; Smith had four kills and two blocks; Bader had 11 kills and five digs.

• Minnesota-Duluth will try to snap a three-match skid this Friday at St. Cloud State.

The Bulldogs went to Southwest Minnesota State for a 3-1 loss last Friday; **Madison Reed** (Unity) had 13 digs, five assists and three aces while **Kylie Broten** (St. Croix Falls) had five kills, one dig and one assist.

They took another 3-1 loss Saturday, to Sioux Falls; Reed had 20 digs, six assists, two aces and a kill while Broten had five kills, two digs and two blocks.

The Bulldogs also face Minnesota State-Mankato on Saturday.

• **Sloan Horgan** (Unity) and UW-Stout host UW-La Crosse tonight after having their win streak snapped at three matches Oct. 29.

The Blue Devils took the 3-1 loss to UW-River Falls; Horgan had three kills, a block and a dig.

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SPORTS SNAPSHOTS

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter

Thanks for checking out this week's Sports Snapshots section where we feature various sports photographs taken across the area in the past week or so. We welcome our member readers to submit their own photos for consideration. Please email

them to us directly at editor@iccpaonline.com, with the subject line "Sports Snapshots." Be sure to include your name and where your photo was taken. We are also looking for videos that you take that are no more than 20 seconds in length from local sporting events for posting on our website, leadericcpa.com.



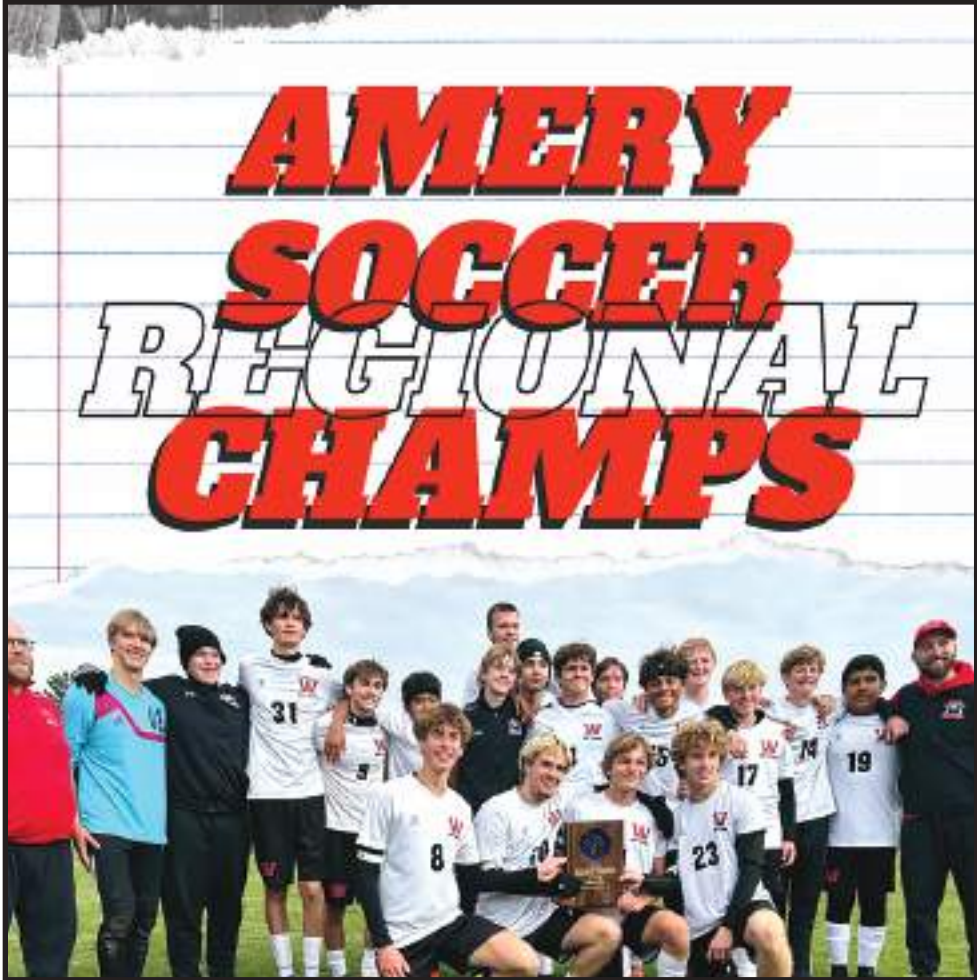
The Grantsburg Pirates football team earned the conference title this season and advanced to the playoffs. - Photo courtesy of School District of Grantsburg



Grantsburg High School's boys cross country team won the conference title this season, earning recognition for their performance and effort. - Photo courtesy of School District of Grantsburg



Unity students in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes joined peers from area schools for an evening at Grantsburg Stadium. The event included games, food, worship, testimonies and prayer, promoting cross-community connections. - Photo courtesy of Unity School District



The Amery Warriors soccer team displays their regional championship trophy after their double triumph on Saturday, Oct. 25, upsetting the top seed before edging Northland Pines. - Photo courtesy of School District of Amery



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Under overcast skies at Grantsburg High School's 400-meter Olympic track on Oct. 17, third-graders competed in the ninth Bi-annual 3rd Grade Pirate Cup. Tris Olson won the boys' two-lap dash, while record-tying favorite Jossy Danielson led the girls' race by nearly 30 seconds. The event drew cheers from packed grandstands. - Photos courtesy of School District of Grantsburg



Siren Village Board discusses budgeting and businesses

By Zach Zelinski | Reporter

SIREN – The Siren Village Board met for its monthly meeting at the Village Hall on the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 22. Notable topics on the agenda included Christmas decorations at Crooked Lake Park, awarding alcohol-vending licenses to prospective new owners of Timbers Theater, and the yearly village budget, the latter of which will be subject to a public hearing before approval. After the pledge, the approval of the last meeting’s minutes, and no initial public comment, the meeting proceeded.

Crooked Lake Park Christmas Lights

Members of the board voiced concern about the holiday lights display at Crooked Lake Park last year, expressing dissatisfaction with how long they remained installed, reportedly until April of this year. These concerns reflect those of the Siren Chamber of Commerce over the scheduling of when these lights should be set up, displayed and taken



The Siren Village Board discussed budgeting and committee schedules. - Photos by Zach Zelinski

down. Such responsibilities usually lie with the Lions Club as well as the local businesses that organize and sponsor the lights.

“When I was a Lions member, we usually got them down in February,” noted Village President Steve Young. It was resolved to collaborate with the



Todd and Kelly Cutler were approved for beer and wine licenses as prospective new owners of the Siren theater.

Village Tourism Commission to solidify a set schedule for the lights in an upcoming meeting. There was also discussion over the continued maintenance of the park’s electronic sign.

Beer and Wine at Siren Cinema

Pike Lake Cinema LLC d/b/a Aurora Cinema, the anticipated new owner and operator of Timbers

Theatres, sought a Class B Beer License and a Class C Wine License to serve relevant alcohol at the theater. Upon allocated opportunity for comment on the matter, prospective owner Todd Cutler elaborated on his commitment to ensure the cinema’s alcohol offerings won’t be abused. The Cutlers plan to take steps like installing surveillance cameras in the theaters to curb any risk of underage drinking, along with working closely with Siren Police Chief Trevor Thiex, who was present to support this collaboration in enforcement. The motion for the licenses was carried.

Proposed Budget and Meeting Schedules

The continual analysis of the proposed 2026 budget was a notable topic, especially after mentions of intense balancing work during the week prior. Elaboration was sought upon concern that the budget was too tightly balanced, with not enough surplus in the event it is needed. The budget will be more open to deliberation and public comment at a future public hearing.

Following the agenda, dates for particular committees to meet were also agreed on. The Building, Grounds & Parks Committee’s ongoing prioritization of changing plans for a statue memorial of the Homer Pearson buck was a particular point of discussion.



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OBITUARIES

Carol A. Bengtson

Carol A. Bengtson, 90, of Milltown, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on Friday, Oct. 31, 2025, with her family at her side. Carol was born on May 19, 1935, in Joel, Wisconsin, the daughter of William and Myrtle (Lein) Hoisington.



Carol attended school at Centuria High School and was the student council president her senior year. She married Donald Bengtson on Dec. 12, 1953, and together they raised their six children. Carol was the head cook at the Oakland Jr. High School in Stillwater, Minnesota, for 26 years. She and Donald had a hobby farm in Centuria, Wisconsin, for many years. She was a member of North Valley Lutheran Church, North Valley Church Ladies Aide, she enjoyed quilting, arts and crafts, she was a member of the Red Hats, and Polk County Homemakers. She loved spending time with her family and was very proud of her children.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, William and Myrtle; her husband, Donald Bengtson Sr.; her daughter, Cynthia Yelle; and daughter-in-law, Linda Bengtson.

She leaves to celebrate her memory, her children, Donald Jr. (Brenda) Bengtson, Lake Elmo, Minnesota, Dale Bengtson, Luck, Wisconsin, Dennis (Shari) Bengtson, Lake Elmo, Douglas Bengtson, Milltown, and Duane (Brigitte) Bengtson, Cambridge, Minnesota; 14 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; sister Patricia; and son-in-law, Steven.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Nov. 16, at the North Valley Lutheran Church, Centuria. Visitation will be held at noon, and the service will begin at 1 p.m. She will then be laid to rest at the Milltown Cemetery. Please join the family for lunch and fellowship back at the church following the cemetery service.

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

Harvey James Thompson

Harvey James Thompson, age 89, of Webster, Wisconsin, passed away on Oct. 28, 2025. Services will be held at a later date.

Obituaries can be emailed to:
ads@iccpawi.com



George Harold Fjorden

George Harold Fjorden passed away on Oct. 29, 2025.



George was born to Margaret Glaser Fjorden and Harold Fjorden Sr., Sept. 18, 1935, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The family moved to Luck, Wisconsin in 1946. He went to Luck High School until he joined the Army for a three-year term. He then worked at Waldorf Paper Company, the Jesse Peterson Sawmill, Stoklasa Sawmill, and retired from Cummings Lumber, where he worked for over 25 years.

George met Sandra Berke at Calderwood Lodge, which was owned by her father, while still at school and they married in 1958 in Pine City, Minnesota. George and Sandy had three children, Harvey Dale, Ted Harold and George Harold Jr. In 1975, George and Sandy welcomed their nieces, Arlene and Sandra Baker into their home.

George was a quiet and kind-hearted man. He would do anything for anyone. If there was wood to be chopped, he could not be kept away. Even at age 90, he still loved to mow the lawn and no one was going to take that job away from him.

Nothing beat George's best role – Grandpa! George was grandpa to Bobbi, Lisa, Dylan, Justin, Hunter, Sierra, Heath, Nicky, Dustin, Ashley, Russell, Austin, Matthew, Kimberly, Amanda and Michael. George learned the hard way not to lead a horse with twine when he lost his pointer finger. Because of that, all George's grandkids can be identified because they point with their middle finger, just like he did. He built them the play set "Jungle George" and enjoyed taking them fishing on his boat.

George had a great love for family, friends, fishing and reading. He would read several books a week. His favorites were westerns, military history, thrift store finds and books gifted from the family.

George and Sandy had many pets over the years. Sandy would bring home a bird, cat or dog and George would mutter under his breath "Jesus Christ, what are we going to do with that." The animals always loved George best and he was never without a little dog in his lap. His favorite is fondly called "Cocaine" by all the family. George was also the primary caregiver for "Willie" the parrot. He was the only one who could feed him without getting bitten.

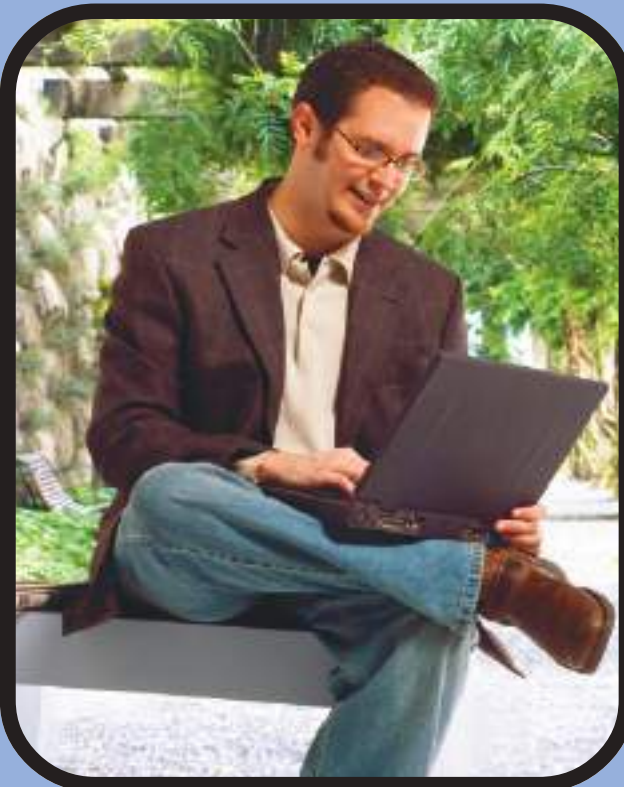
George was preceded in death by his parents, Margaret and Harold; son, George Jr. "Pork"; siblings, Jim and Lucy; sisters-in-law, Bonnie and Arlene; and brothers-in-law, Jerry, Bob, Johnny and Warren. He is survived by his wife, Sandy; siblings, Jack, Cora, Harold (Dolly) and Marguerite; sisters-in-law, Priscilla and Judy; and sons, Harvey (Melodi) and Ted; as well as 16 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

A lunch will be held at the Luck DBS Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 9. In celebration of George's life, put on a flannel shirt and come and join us.

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

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LEGALNOTICES

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(Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5)
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
POLK COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
DOUGLAS THOR TOVSEN
Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)
Case No. 25 PR 95
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth January 4, 1943, and date of death August 24, 2025, was domiciled in Polk County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 627 Milltown Ave., Milltown, WI 54858.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 30, 2026.
5. A claim may be filed at the Polk County Courthouse, Balsam Lake, Wisconsin, Room 500.

Date Signed: October 15, 2025.
Cheryl Winberg
Probate Registrar
Peter M. Johnson, Attorney
P.O. Box 487
Milltown, WI 54858
715-280-9700
Bar No.: 1125147 46026_1
WNAXLP

(Nov. 5, 12, 19)
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
POLK COUNTY
Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Plaintiff,
vs.
Sandra Emahiser, Paul D.
Emahiser, Foundation Finance
Company LLC and Aqua
Finance, Inc.
Defendants.

NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE SALE
Case No. 25-CV-000105

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on September 2, 2025 in the amount of \$125,720.93, the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:

TIME: December 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds, payable to the clerk of courts (personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the clerk of courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation of the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold 'as is' and subject to all liens and encumbrances.

PLACE: Front entrance of the Polk County Justice Center, 1005 W. Main Street, Suite 900, Balsam Lake, WI 54810.

DESCRIPTION: The South 60 Feet of the North 135 Feet of Lot C, Block 14, First Addition to the Village of Frederic, Polk County, Wisconsin.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 302 Wisconsin Ave. N., Frederic, WI 54837-8998.

DATED: October 2, 2025
Gray & Associates, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
16345 West Glendale Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151-2841
414-224-8404

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Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

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(Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5)
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
POLK COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
CHERYL J. GILLILAND
Order Setting Time to Hear
Petition for Administration and
Deadline for Filing Claims
(Formal Administration)
Case No. 25PR94

A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.

THE COURT FINDS:
The decedent, with date of birth May 13, 1975, and date of death July 17, 2025, was domiciled in Polk County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 410 N. Adams St., St. Croix Falls, WI 54024.

THE COURT ORDERS:
1. The Petition be heard at the Polk County Courthouse, Balsam Lake, Wis., Room 1, before Circuit Court Judge Hon. Daniel J. Tolan, on November 19, 2025, at 8:45 a.m.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 30, 2026.

3. A claim may be filed at the Polk County Courthouse, Balsam Lake, Wis., Room 500.

4. Heirship will be determined at the hearing on petition for final judgment.

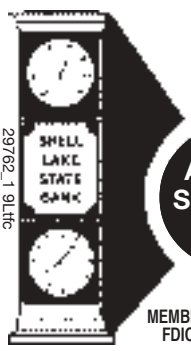
5. Publication of this notice is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-485-9238 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

DATE SIGNED: Oct. 16, 2025.

Daniel J. Tolan
Circuit Court Judge
Please check with person named below for exact time and date.

Ann E. Brose -
Doar, Drill & Skow, S.C.
103 N. Knowles Ave.
New Richmond, WI 54017
715-246-2211 46053_1
Bar No.: 1019597 WNAXLP



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CITY OF ST. CROIX FALLS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUEST

WHEN: Monday, November 17, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: Plan Commission Meeting, City Hall, 710 Hwy. 35 South, St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Plan Commission to consider a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) submitted by Woodrow McBride to operate a U-Haul dealership in the north parking lot of 510 S. Washington St. for the following described property in Saint Croix Falls, WI 54024:
*LOTS 21, 22, 23 AND 24 BLOCK 17 ORIGINAL PLAT AND PART OF VACATED CAROLINA STREET
City of St. Croix Falls, Polk County, Wisconsin
Parcel ID #281-00549-0000: 0.73 acre*
Persons wishing to appear at the hearing may do so in person or by attorney. Written statements may be filed with the City Plan Commission, 710 Hwy. 35 South, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024, until 4:30 p.m. on November 14, 2025.
Dated this 3rd day of November, 2025.
Signed: Sarah Jensen, City Clerk
715-483-3929, extension 2
clerk@cityofstcroixfalls.com 46382_1 14-15L
WNAXLP

(Nov. 5, 12, 19)
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
POLK COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
DOUGLAS M. POLZIN
Order Setting Time to Hear
Petition for Administration and
Deadline for Filing Claims
(Formal Administration)
Case No. 25 PR 99

A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.

THE COURT FINDS:
The decedent, with date of birth November 27, 1965, and date of death July 15, 2025, was domiciled in Polk County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of P.O. Box 298, Luck, WI 54853.

THE COURT ORDERS:
1. The Petition be heard at the Polk County Courthouse, Balsam Lake, Wis., Room 2, before Circuit Court Judge Hon. Jeffery L. Anderson, on December 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is February 12, 2026.

3. A claim may be filed at the Polk County Courthouse, Balsam Lake, Wis., Room 500.

4. Heirship will be determined at the hearing on petition for final judgment.

5. Publication of this notice is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-485-9238 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

DATE SIGNED: Oct. 28, 2025.

Jeffery L. Anderson
Circuit Court Judge
Please check with person named below for exact time and date.

Ann E. Brose -
Doar, Drill & Skow, S.C.
103 N. Knowles Ave.
New Richmond, WI 54017
715-246-2211 46270_1
Bar No.: 1019597 WNAXLP

(Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5)
STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
POLK COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF
Wispact Trust I FBO
Audrey I. Anderson
DOD: Sept., 28, 2024
Notice of Hearing Application
(Probate)
Case No. 25-PR-91

NOTICE OF HEARING:
Date: November 18, 2025
Time: 11:30 a.m.

Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner: Honorable Daniel J. Tolan.

Location: Polk County Probate Court, Branch 1, 1005 W. Main Street, Balsam Lake, WI 54810

Hearing on Petition for Modification of Dispositive Provisions of Wispact Trust I f/b/o Audrey I. Anderson.

A current mailing address for the following persons is not known nor reasonably ascertainable: Bradley D. Anderson (a/k/a Max L. Turner). Notice will be given by publication of this notice in the following newspaper: Inter-County Leader, once a week for three consecutive weeks; the first publication date will be within 15 days from the date of this notice.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-485-9238 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

Polk Country Circuit Court
Dated: October 14, 2025
Attorney Chantelle M. Ringe
Hill Glowacki, LLP
5250 East Terrace Dr., Suite 130
Madison, WI 53718
608-244-1354 46010_1
Bar No.: 1058136 WNAXLP

Burnett County Circuit Court

Burnett County Circuit Court criminal and traffic dispositions recorded the following charges for the report date of Nov. 4:

Collin R. Daniels, 25, Webster, speeding on rustic road, unspecified fine.

Kenneth E. Foster, 61, Chisago City, Minn., failure to stop at stop sign operating bicycle, \$114.50.

Paul E. Krahenbuhl, 67, Clear Lake, dog running at large, \$114.50.

Mark A. Lacek, 69, Minneapolis, Minn., disorderly conduct, \$330.50.

Robert G. Teske, 47, Webster, possession of amphetamine/LSD/psilocin, \$250, local jail.

David G. Vejtruba, 73, Kimball, Minn., speedometer violations, \$175.30.

Jay J. Wondra, 71, Frederic, speeding, \$175.30.

Local and state news.

Daily. leadericcpa.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET
HEARING FOR THE TOWN OF LUCK

Budget meeting for the Town of Luck will be held in the Luck Town Hall November 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Revenues:	2026 Budget	2025 Budget
Levy Allowed	\$249,594	\$246,349
Loan for Road	\$166,382	\$150,000
Total Levy	\$415,976	\$396,349
State Shared Revenue	\$110,424	\$59,421
Hwy. Aid	\$142,720	\$133,173
Liquor Lic.	\$750	\$730
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$500	\$500
Interest Income	\$10,000	\$1,000
LRIP	\$19,000	\$0
Loan Advance	\$166,382	\$150,000
Total	\$865,752	\$741,173

Expenditures:	2026 Budget	2025 Budget
General Administration	\$42,200	\$40,000
Assessor	\$7,300	\$10,000
Fire Department	\$70,021	\$64,017
Ambulance Service	\$19,520	\$19,520
Highways Operational Expense	\$460,722	\$356,442
Debt Repayment	\$265,989	\$251,194
Total	\$865,752	\$741,173

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, immediately following the Public Hearing on the proposed budget, a Special Town Meeting of Electors called pursuant to Sec. 60.12 (1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes by the Town Board for the following purposes will be held:

- (1) To approve the total 2026 highway expenditures pursuant to Sec. 81.01(3) of Wisconsin Statutes.
- (2) To adopt the 2025 Town tax levy to be paid in 2026 pursuant to Sec 60.01(1)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes.

46379_1 14-15L WNAXLP Patsy Gustafson, Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR
CITY OF ST. CROIX FALLS, WISCONSIN
2026 BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on November 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., the City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for 2026 at City Hall, 710 Highway 35 South, St. Croix Falls, WI. The following is a summary of the proposed budget. A detailed account of the proposed budget may be inspected at the office of the City Clerk. CITY OF ST. CROIX FALLS, WI

	Adopted 2025 Budget	Proposed 2026 Budget	Percentage Change
GENERAL FUND			
Expenditures:			
General Government	\$369,353	\$402,266	
Public Safety	1,222,894	1,346,445	
Public Works	501,562	478,466	
Sanitation	23,511	32,377	
Health and Human Services	6,050	-	
Culture, Recreation and Education	12,900	13,600	
Conservation and Development	66,530	84,689	
Transfer to Debt Service	532,564	860,000	
Transfer to Library	168,000	173,000	
Total Expenditures	\$2,903,364	\$3,390,843	16.8%
REVENUES			
Taxes:			
Property Taxes	\$1,179,308	\$1,205,536	
Property Taxes-Debt Service	557,000	860,000	
Other Taxes	57,035	96,235	
Special Assessments	14,555	14,714	
Intergovernmental Revenues	727,586	800,477	
Licenses and Permits	65,104	90,122	
Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties	-	16,360	
Charges for Public Services	8,656	29,180	
Intergovt. Charges for Services	56,220	64,440	
Interest	8,900	500	
Miscellaneous	126,888	124,789	
Transfer from Other Funds	113,287	113,287	
Total Revenues	\$2,914,539	\$3,415,640	17.2%
REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES			
	\$11,175	\$24,797	
	2024 Payable 2025	2025 Payable 2026	Percentage Change
Tax Levy Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	\$4.98	\$5.84	17.3%
Total Assessed Value	\$348,753,900	\$353,624,400	1.4%
Tax Levy Per \$1,000 of Equalized Value	\$4.47	\$5.52	23.4%
Total Equalized Value	\$388,315,500	\$374,196,800	-3.6%
Dated This November 4, 2025.			
46381_1 14L WNAXLP			

LEGAL NOTICES



Miscellaneous

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK, BOAT, RV AND MORE TO SUPPORT OUR VETERANS! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-425-2108 today!

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JACUZZI BATH REMODEL can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/31/25.) Call 1-844-260-2934

Classified Ads

PUBLIC AUCTION: Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., Self Storage Group, St. Croix Falls, Wis., 800-236-3072. Personal effects, household goods and misc. items belonging to the following: Jesika Lindberg S082. 14-15Lc

PUBLIC AUCTION: Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, 8:20 a.m., Balsam Lake Mini Storage, Balsam Lake, Wis., 800-236-3072. Personal effects, household goods and misc. items belonging to the following: Makena Buffington BL14. 14-15Lc

PUBLIC AUCTION: Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, 10:15 a.m., Frederic Mini Storage, Frederic, Wis., 800-236-3072. Personal effects, household goods and misc. items belonging to the following: Ian Karl FR31. 14-15Lc

PUBLIC AUCTION: Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, 10:35 a.m. Siren Mini Storage, Siren, Wis., 800-236-3072. Personal effects, household goods and misc. items belonging to the following: Trespasser SN25; Erye Demarre SN45; Brittney Nimmo SN10. 14-15Lc

PUBLIC AUCTION: Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, 11:00 a.m. Self Storage Group, Grantsburg, Wis., 800-236-3072. Personal effects, household goods and misc. items belonging to the following: Tom Fuller G079. 14-15Lc

PUBLIC AUCTION: Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, 11:00 a.m. Grantsburg Mini Storage, Grantsburg, Wis., 800-236-3072. Personal effects, household goods and misc. items belonging to the following: Christa Huntley GB20, GB21. 14-15Lc

Births

Born at Osceola Medical Center:

A boy, Kaden Jack Lent, born Oct. 27, 2025, to Amber and Bryan Lent, of Clear Lake. Kaden weighed 6 lbs. 1.9 oz.

A girl, Hazel Joan Nelson, born Oct. 27, 2025, to Tasha Rehbein and Tony Nelson, of Grantsburg. Hazel weighed 8 lbs. 1 oz.

Burnett County bookings

Burnett County Sheriff's Department booked the following people the week of Oct. 27 to Nov. 3:

Kaylee J. Yeazle, 31, failure to appear.

Nicholas J. McPheeters, 37, possession of THC, possession of drug paraphernalia, operating while revoked, probation violation.

Michael M. Patterson, 38, felony bail jumping.

Randi M. Bearheart, 33, battery, disorderly conduct.

Shondell X. Merrill, 52, contempt of court.

Ashley M. Oiyotte, 22, disorderly conduct, domestic abuse enhancer.

Luke A. Beechler, 37, OWI causing injury.

Burnett County Dispatch

Burnett County Dispatch recorded the following incidents for the report period of Oct. 27 to Nov. 3: ten 911 hang-ups, one abandoned vehicle, five motor vehicle accidents involving deer, six motor vehicle accidents with property damage, seven alarms, 17 animal problems, three warrant/probation/arrests, one assault, seven agency assists, four citizen assists, one ATV complaint/accident, seven civil papers/court orders or violate/custody, four disturbances, one domestic disturbance, one drug complaint, seven erratic drivers, one fire/gas/CO2, three structure/vehicle fire, one follow up, two fraud reports, three harassment complaints, one juvenile problem, one juvenile problem at school, one litter/pollution, two reports of lost property, three medical emergencies, two noise complaints, 25 ordinance violations, seven paper service/writs, two reports of property damage, one repossession, one search warrant, two suicidal subjects, 19 suspicious persons/circumstances, three theft/shoplifts, 15 traffic stops, two prisoner transports, two trespassing incidents and 11 welfare/abuse/neglect checks.

NOTICE OF MEETING Village of Frederic

The regular Monthly Village Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 7 p.m., at the Village Hall, 110 Oak Street East. Agenda will be posted at the Village Hall.

Janice Schott
Clerk

46325_1 14L WNAXLP

(Nov. 5, 12, 19)

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
POLK COUNTY
CIVIL DIVISION

ONEMAIN FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC AS SERVICER FOR ("ASF") WILMINGTON TRUST, N.A., AS ISSUER LOAN TRUSTEE FOR ONEMAIN FINANCIAL ISSUANCE TRUST 2022-2
601 NW Second Street
Evansville, IN 47708

Plaintiff,

vs.

ANGEL N. JOHNSON
130 W. State St.
Dresser, WI 54009

Defendant.

Case No.: 2025CV000272
Classification Code: 30301
The amount claimed is over \$10,000.

PUBLICATION SUMMONS

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN,
To the person named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The complaint, which is attached, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within 40 (forty) days after November 6, 2025, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is 1005 West Main Street, Balsam Lake, WI 54810 and to Dobberstein Law Firm, LLC, the plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 225 S. Executive Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not provide a proper answer within 40 (forty) days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 29th day of October, 2025.

DOBBERSTEIN LAW FIRM, LLC
Attorneys for the Plaintiff
Electronically signed by Jillian E Caggiano
Jillian E Caggiano
State Bar No. 1101032

MAILING ADDRESS:
225 S. Executive Dr.
Brookfield, WI 53005
262-641-3715

46311_1
WNAXLP

(Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12)

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
POLK COUNTY

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
Plaintiff,

vs.

Heidi Wien, John Doe Wien
a/k/a Bryce James Carlson and
The United States of America
acting by and through the Rural
Housing Service

Defendants.

NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE SALE
Case No. 25-CV-000132

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on September 3, 2025, in the amount of \$146,395.91 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:

TIME: December 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds, payable to the clerk of courts (personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the clerk of courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation of the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold 'as is' and subject to all liens and encumbrances.

PLACE: Front entrance of the Polk County Justice Center, 1005 W. Main Street, Suite 900, Balsam Lake, WI 54810.

DESCRIPTION: The South 50 feet of a parcel of land in Government Lot Three (3), Section Twenty-eight (28), Township Thirty-three (33) North, Range Sixteen (16) West, City of Amery, Polk County, Wisconsin, described as follows: Commencing at an iron gas pipe 2 1/4 inches by 36 inches in length driven at waters edge of the West bank of the Apple River, Government Lot 3, Section 28, Township 33 North, Range 16 West, said gas pipe located 374 feet South of North line of Government Lot 3, measurement taken on Due North-South course, thence South on 5 deg. East variation 178 feet to iron post, thence East 82 feet, thence North 8 deg. East 38 feet to iron pipe driven at waters edge of West bank of the Apple River, thence Northwesterly along West bank of Apple River 179 feet to beginning, Polk County, Wisconsin.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 500 Riverside Blvd., Amery, WI 54001-1132.

DATED: October 8, 2025.

Gray & Associates, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
16345 West Glendale Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151-2841
414-224-8404

Please go to www.gray-law.com to obtain the bid for this sale.

Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

46149_1 WNAXLP

Follow the Leader. leadericcpa.com

TOWN OF BONE LAKE POLK COUNTY WISCONSIN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED 2026 BUDGET & SPECIAL ELECTORS MEETING NOVEMBER 11, 2025, AT 7 P.M. BONE LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Followed by the regular monthly meeting of the Town of Bone Lake Board to conduct normal town business.

Full agenda to be posted on the website: townofbonelake.org.
46360_1 14L WNAXLP
Ellen Gnan, Clerk, Town of Bone Lake, Polk County, WI

TOWN OF EUREKA Polk County, Wisconsin townofeureka@gmail.com NOTICE OF BEER AND LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that the following application has been received by the Town of Eureka, Polk County, WI, for a beer and/or liquor licenses for the ensuing year ending June 30, 2026.

S & P Edgetown LLC, Shauna O. Fehlen, Agent for a Combination Class B Beer and/or Liquor license, 2087 State Road 35, Milltown, WI 54858.

Notice is further given that the above license application will be acted upon at the regular Town Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2025, 7 p.m. at the Eureka Town Hall.

David Anderson, Town Clerk
Polk County, Wisconsin
townofeureka@gmail.com

46310_1 14L WNAXLP

TOWN OF MILLTOWN ROADWORK BID

Official Notice-Advertisement for Bids

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 985, notice is hereby given that the Town of Milltown, Polk County, Wisconsin, is accepting sealed bids for the following projects until 7:00 p.m. local time on Friday, November 7, 2025. Bids will be publicly opened at the town board meeting on November 10th, 2025, at the Milltown Town Hall, 1502 200th Ave., Milltown, WI 54858.

1. 145th Street, from 235th Ave to Milltown/Luck Township border. Work includes finish grade, 2.5" hot mix asphalt, pulverized and knockdown, rolled + 22' wide, and 2' driveway bump outs.

Bids will be opened on November 10, 2025, at the monthly Board Meeting at 7 p.m. Bids marked "road work bid" can be mailed to the Town of Milltown, P.O. Box 475, Milltown, WI 54858.

The Town of Milltown reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in the bidding process or accepting bids which best serves the interest of the town. Proof of insurance is required. Any questions contact Frank Rau, Maintenance Supervisor at (715) 553-8644. Cheryl Kloehe, Clerk

46133_1 2-3a,d 13-14L

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LUCK BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY

The School District of Luck Board of Education is seeking applicants to fill a board member vacancy. The Luck School Board meets on the fourth Monday of every month to guide district policy, budgets, and educational goals. For more information about board responsibilities and meeting dates, visit <https://www.lucksd.k12.wi.us/district/Board.cfm>.

How to Apply:

Submit a letter of interest by 5:00 p.m. on November 17, 2025, to:

School District of Luck
Attn: Board Vacancy
810 S. 7th Street
Luck, WI 54853

or via email to coryh@lucksd.k12.wi.us

Next Steps:

- Letters of interest will be reviewed on November 17, 2025.
- If needed, interviews will be held on December 22, 2025, with an appointment made the same day.
- The appointed board member will officially begin their term at the January Board Meeting.
- The appointment will run through the April Board Meeting, at which point the seat will be up for election in the Spring Election.

46344_1 14L WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC 2026 BUDGET HEARING TOWN OF WEST SWEDEN

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the West Sweden Town Hall, 209 3rd Ave., Frederic, a public hearing on the Proposed 2026 Budget will be held pursuant to section 65.90, Wisconsin Statutes. The proposed budget detail is available for inspection by contacting the town clerk at 715-327-8951 or clerk@townofwestsweden.com

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN ELECTORS MEETING

Notice is hereby given that immediately following the budget hearing a special meeting of the electors is called by Town Board, pursuant to Sec. 60.12 (1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes, for the following purpose,

- To consider the adoption of a resolution by the electors at the town meeting endorsing the town board resolution which proposes that he town levy exceed the state allowable levy limit under Wis. Stat. SS 66.0602, specifically a proposed tax levy which would exceed the allowable town levy for 2025, after adjustments, by 14.85%, for a dollar increase of \$39,315.00.
- To approve the 2025 town tax levy to be paid in 2026 pursuant to Sec. 60.10(1)(a) of WI. Stats.

The regular monthly meeting will follow the adjournment of the special electors meeting. The agenda will be posted 24 hours prior to the board meeting.

46345_1 14L WNAXLP

Phyllis Wilder, Clerk

Bomb Threat/

the elementary building. At this time, all students are accounted for and safe. The Polk County Sheriff's Dept. is currently making sure the 6-12 building is safe and following up on the phone call received." The Wisconsin State Patrol was on scene as well, blocking cars from entering the Frederic High School parking lot. Sheriff Waak and Superintendent

Luedtke spoke with the Inter-County Leader at the scene, saying that an initial sweep was complete, that the building is unlikely to reopen, and that students would be dismissed from the elementary school. They added that any additional statements would be released later in the evening.



Frederic Superintendent Kyle Luedtke, Polk County Sheriff Brent Waak, Luck Police Chief Nick Nelson, and other members of law enforcement are seen outside of the Frederic 6-12 building. - Photos by Robert Tabern



Frederic Fire Chief Brian Daeffler is seen responding to the Frederic 6-12 School building to conduct a sweep of the building.



Law enforcement is seen sweeping various cars in the parking lot at the Frederic 6-12 School building.



mārch right in!

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Leader
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If You Would Like To Know More,
Please Contact Us At:
Frederic
715-327-4236
memberships@leadericcpa.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Polk County bookings

Polk County Sheriff's Department booked the following people the week of Oct. 27 to Nov. 3:

- Carmen T. Ahyai, felony bail jumping.
- Meckella M. Anderson, out-of-county warrant.
- Tanner R. Prosek, charges not listed.
- Heather L. Emerson, charges not listed.
- Scott G. Buskirk, misdemeanor bail jumping.
- Timothy J. Arsenal, warrant on failure to appear.
- Lauren A. Nelson, disorderly conduct.
- Mandy J. Elton, OWI.
- Jeremy D. Stoklasa, possession of methamphetamine.
- Jared S. Jensen, disorderly conduct.
- Milo C. Merrill Jr., possession of methamphetamine.
- Alfredo Carrasco, probation revocation order and warrant.
- Joel Castanon Frausto, first-degree intentional homicide.
- Luke M. Pitzen, probation hold.
- David J. Groszewski, probation hold.
- Stephanie K. Stevens, probation hold.
- Jeremy L. Swanson, criminal damage to property.
- Dana J. Mickus, probation hold.
- Somkhoun Saengdara, fleeing or eluding an officer.

Siren Police Department

Siren Police Department recorded the following incidents for the report period of Oct. 27 to Nov. 3: one 911 hang-up, one motor vehicle accident involving deer, two motor vehicle accidents involving property damage, one animal problem, two agency assists, two citizen assists, one erratic driver, one information report, one juvenile problem at school, one medical emergency, one suicidal subject, two suspicious persons or circumstances and seven traffic stops.

HELP WANTED
POSITIONS OPEN:
COOK & SERVER/BARTENDER

Apply In Person 46378_1 14L 4a
THE 10th HOLE BAR & GRILL
7768 Cty. Rd. U, Danbury, WI • 715-866-7107

Webster Police Department

Webster Police Department recorded the following incidents for the report period of Oct. 27 to Nov. 3: two citizen assists, one civil papers/court order or violate/custody, one drug complaint, two information reports, four juvenile problems at school, one ordinance violation, one suspicious person/circumstance, one traffic stop, five truancies and one welfare/abuse/neglect check.

Burnett County warrants

Burnett County Circuit Court issued the following warrants for the report date of Nov. 4:

Failure to Appear
Josh L. Doriott, 33.

Teachers Make Our World a Better Place



Thanks to the dedicated educators who help our community's kids learn, thrive, succeed and create a better future!



303 Wisconsin Ave. North
Frederic, WI 54837
715-327-4236 • leadericcpa.com



Cancer Center of
Western Wisconsin



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INTER-COUNTY LEADER SECTION B

NORTHERN CURRENTS

Stories from the Northwest Wisconsin Community

Woman's 60-year card-writing streak honors late veteran's dying wish

Activity brings happiness to recipients and writer

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter
BARRON – For more than six decades, Donna Wheeler has kept a promise to her dying father. Speaking with the Inter-County Leader on Wednesday, Oct. 29, Wheeler shared that from her home in this small Northwest Wisconsin town, she sends handwritten cards to service members and veterans. This quiet ritual has brightened the lives of hundreds.

Now 88 and turning 89 on Jan. 13, Wheeler traces her commitment to 1962, when her father, an Army veteran, lay in

a St. Paul, Minnesota, VA hospital battling lung cancer. Amid long visits where they talked about everything, he urged her, "Promise me you'll always keep in touch with the veterans and send them cards or whatever." She did, starting in earnest two years later, after spotting newspaper ads for shut-ins and service members. "I always loved getting cards from him as a little girl; it made my day," Wheeler said in a phone interview. "It just made me happy to know it made them happy."

Wheeler, a mother of three at the time, began writing sporadically to those she heard about through word of mouth or local notices. In 2015, she discovered the Help Heal Veterans pen pal program in

California, an initiative focused on crafts and correspondence for veterans. She joined immediately. Afterward, every two months, lists of participants arrived for her, sometimes with a dozen names, other times as many as 30.

Since then, Wheeler has sent over 240 cards and letters to veterans and active-duty personnel across the U.S. Her script, though now shakier with numb fingers, remains legible. She is currently compiling cards for about 25 recipients. For each one, she plans to mail Christmas cards, complete with handmade magnets. "I have a lot of time; I don't run around," she said. "It warms my heart with joy that I am able to repay our heroes for our freedom. They all deserve

happiness."

Her dedication caught wider notice a few years ago when Help Heal Veterans spotlighted her on Facebook, saluting her as a "true pen pal hero" for upholding the vow that began during her father's 11-month hospital stay. The post, dated Dec. 26, 2023, noted her impact: "Her unwavering commitment to our heroes has made a profound impact on their lives."

Wheeler has shared her lists with at least one friend in West Virginia, who now participates in the program. The organization puts out a simple call: anyone can join by emailing penpals@heal-vets.org. "I love it. It makes my day," Wheeler said.



Donna Wheeler at her 85th birthday party in 2023. - Photos provided



In this 1942 photo, Donna Wheeler's veteran father, Glen Cooley, stands by a United States Army building.

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Memorable Gift

My sister and I told my mother we were throwing her a party for her 90th birthday.

“Not everyone knows I’m 90!” she said.

“Well, it’s good we tell them,” I said.

“We told everyone that Dad turned 90 last year, and we don’t want people to think he robbed the cradle.”

Mom saw the sense in that, and we sent out invitations to friends and family, and even though a few people couldn’t make it at the last minute, we still had 34 guests. A spattering of rain sent everyone indoors, but everyone found a place to sit and eat appetizers and snacks and salads and cake, and we toasted to Mom’s 90th year.

Mom told a story about how, on her golden birthday, when she was 10, all the relatives had been invited over to the farmhouse. Mom came from a big family, with 10 siblings and dozens of cousins. They had a tradition that, on your birthday, you got to eat first, which would be a rare thing for a small child in such a large family. My mom and her cousins were out playing in the peat marsh, and when they came in to eat, the family had already started. Mom said she was so hurt that she has never forgotten it. She told this story 80 years later, and we all agreed she should get to eat first.

After the cake had been eaten and most of the guests had left, Mom opened a few gifts. We had told everyone not to bring gifts, but a few family members had disregarded the instructions. Her grandson, Beau, gave her a little bird that, when placed in a pie, blew steam out its beak when the filling was done.

“It’s practical and cute!” my mother said, and that is high praise coming from someone who is both.

Just when the last of the guests were thinking it was time to head on home, my oldest friend, Andrew, arrived. He was going to take me to the theater, as I have season tickets and we always go together.

“Happy Birthday, Jone!” Andrew said as he walked into the house. “I have some presents for you!”

Andrew handed my mother two bags. In the first was a cookie that said, “Happy Birthday” on it, which was nice. “Open the other one!” Andrew urged. My mother did.

“There’s food in here,” my mother said, sounding very confused.

My mother had a right to be confused. There was an entire meal inside the bag. She pulled the items out, and there were three tacos, wrapped in tinfoil, a brownie and a couple of other items that were not identified.

“Someone from DoorDash left it at my door by mistake, and I thought it was providential, and I should bring it to you!” he said.

“Who is this person?” one of the remaining guests whispered to me.

Then, my sister started to laugh, and I did, too. And my mother shook her head.

“I just thought I should bring you a gift,” Andrew explained.

“Well, you didn’t buy this, did you?” my mother asked.

“That’s not very nice, to ask about a gift!” Andrew replied. My father rolled his eyes, and my mother laughed.

My parents have known Andrew since before he had a driver’s license. But even knowing someone for almost 50 years does not prepare you for getting pilfered DoorDash on your 90th birthday.

“I brought the most memorable gift, didn’t I?” Andrew asked on the way to the theater.

I could not deny it.

Till next time,
Carrie

To see photos, check out [CarrieClassonAuthor](#) on Facebook or visit [CarrieClasson.com](#).



“Coomer is Dead” Part I

“Coomer is dead” stated a Milwaukee Journal article in March 1964. The Wisconsin Historical Society made a similar observation in 1978 calling Coomer a ghost town when a photo of the former Coomer School was filed.

It’s not unusual for a settlement to blossom for a while, serving the needs of the settlers of the area, and then fade away. That was the fate of Coomer.

The hamlet of Coomer is located in the Town of LaFollette on today’s County Road B about eight miles east of Siren near the intersection with Coyour Road. The earliest settlers in that area, arriving in the late 1870s, were the families of George David, August Fahland, Christopher Fahland and C.B. Tucker. Other families soon followed, including Lee Fahland, Orlando B. Smith (referred to as O.B. Smith) and Benjamin W. Styles.

Mrs. Fred (Elizabeth) Hunter, daughter of Benjamin Styles and granddaughter of George David, wrote “They were of many nationalities and religions, but they worked together and enjoyed the social life together as one big family.” (Inter-County Leader, April 30, 1958)

Cutting trees, burning brush, clearing out stumps, and building small log homes for their families were the first priorities of the pioneers. The next priority was education for the children.

The first school was a 16x24 foot log cabin built on Lee Fahland’s farm about one mile west of what would become the heart of Coomer. LaFollette Township records list 1884 as the date the school opened. Other sources list the date as 1881. Piecing together numerous bits of information, 1884 is most likely the correct date.

The nearest post office was in Clam Falls, about six miles southwest. Once a week, someone from the Coomer area would go to Clam Falls to get the mail and groceries for the area families.

It was O.B. Smith who put Coomer on the map, both literally and figuratively. He decided that the area farmers needed a closer store and post office, so he built a small general store with living quarters for his family and applied to establish a post office.

Smith purchased most of his supplies from William Comer in Taylors Falls, Minnesota. (Some sources say it was Andrew Comer, a St. Croix Falls merchant, but the October 1901

Faith’s Lodge: A Sanctuary for Grieving Hearts

Nestled in the serene landscapes of Northwest Wisconsin, Faith’s Lodge stands as a beacon of hope for families grappling with the unimaginable pain of losing a child. Established in 2007 by Mark and Susan Lacek after their own devastating loss, the lodge was created with a mission to provide solace, connection, and healing to those who experience one of life’s most profound tragedies.

The inception of Faith’s Lodge is deeply personal; the Laceks faced the heart-wrenching stillbirth of their daughter, Faith, at 39 weeks. In the wake of their tragedy, they recognized an urgent need for a supportive environment where grieving parents could gather, share their experiences, and begin the journey toward healing. Since opening its doors, Faith’s Lodge has welcomed over 13,000 individuals from across the country, offering a space to grieve, heal, and connect with others who understand their pain.

“One of our primary goals is to foster a sense of community for grieving parents,” said Mark Lacek, co-founder of Faith’s Lodge. “When you’re in the depths of sorrow, it can feel isolating. Here, we help families find hope and strength in each other and inspire courage to go on.”



Burnett County Sentinel refers to William Comer as Smith’s contact.) Smith named the post office after Comer, but changed the name slightly to Coomer. The Coomer post office opened March 11, 1892, but was short-lived, closing on June 30, 1908.

The schoolhouse burned down in 1894, the same year as the Hinckley fire, but not related to it. All the school records were destroyed. A new schoolhouse was built across the road from Smith’s store and post office.

In 1897, Smith added on to his store and home and included a barbershop, making it even more of a center for the community. The weekly columns on Coomer in the Journal of Burnett County in the late 1890s and early 1900s show that Smith rented rooms in his house and served meals to people passing through the area—wolf hunters, photographers, salesmen, and other travelers. Dentist J.E. Burgan of Grantsburg would stay there while doing dental work in the area.

Saturday night dances were held at Smith’s for a number of years, sometimes hosted by Smith. At other times, people rented his large house and hosted the dances. One visitor entertained people with his “talking machine” (phonograph) which was a new experience for the locals since it had been invented just 20 years earlier in 1877 by Thomas Edison.

Besides farming and running the store and post office, Smith bought and sold horses. Young men often rented a horse and buggy to take their dates on a buggy ride. It was said that Smith knew the land so well, he could tell where a young man had taken the buggy by looking at the soil or mud stuck to the buggy wheels when they returned.

The first bicycle in Coomer was bought in September 1897. Not to be outdone, a few days later Smith bought a bicycle, even though it was a difficult ride since none of the roads were paved.

The two local newspapers, the Frederic Star and Journal of Burnett County, don’t record anything unusual hap-



This small water tower marks the location of the once-vibrant settlement of Coomer. – Photo provided

pening in Smith’s life over the next 10 years.

The Nov. 27, 1907 Frederic Star said, “O.B. Smith has put an addition to his house by building a summer kitchen.” This allowed him to accommodate more paid guests at his home. Then, a month later, the Dec. 26, 1907 newspaper had the startling and cryptic statement, “Postmaster O.B. Smith has resigned.” No further details were given in subsequent newspaper articles on why he resigned or what became of his store.

There is a clue, though, in the March 26, 1909 Journal of Burnett County which states, “O.B. Smith is canvassing the whole country getting signers for the Globe Association of Chicago.” Globe (Great Co-operative Buyer’s) Association provided merchandise direct from factories and producers to consumers, eliminating the retailer. For a low membership price, consumers could buy groceries, housewares, etc., at a discount.

Smith continued his horse farm and haying operations over the next years. In May 1916, he bought a Model T Ford. But, just a few months later he was critically ill with liver and kidney problems. He died on Oct. 3, 1916.

Part II of the Coomer story will follow the growth of Coomer beginning in 1908 with the new store owner and postmaster Frank Fahland.



The retreats at Faith’s Lodge are designed to provide a nurturing environment where parents can engage in supportive activities, including therapeutic workshops, group discussions, and private reflection time. These experiences help families navigate their grief while also honoring the memories of their lost children. Testimonials from previous participants highlight the profound impact of these retreats, with many describing it as a turning point in their healing journey.

In addition to its retreats, Faith’s Lodge collaborates with The BelieVe Foundation, which was founded by Clark and Margo Gassen in 2019 to provide financial assistance to grieving families. This initiative addresses the often-overlooked financial burdens that accompany the loss of a child. With support through the Child Loss BelieVe Fund, parents can receive immediate financial aid for medical expenses, funeral costs, and other essentials during a time of profound emotional turmoil.

The combined efforts of Faith’s Lodge and the BelieVe Foundation highlight the importance of comprehensive support systems for grieving families. The Lodge continues to expand its outreach and serve as a resource for parents in need, ensuring that no one has to navigate the complexities of grief alone. “We want families to know they are not alone, and there’s a community here ready to support them,” said Lacek.

As Faith’s Lodge approaches its milestone anniversary, its impact resonates deeply within the community and beyond. The Laceks remain committed to fostering healing and hope, one family at a time. For those in need of support, Faith’s Lodge offers not just a place to reflect on lost loved ones but a pathway to healing through connection, compassion, and understanding.

For more information about Faith’s Lodge and its upcoming retreats, families can visit Faith’s Lodge’s website, [faithslodge.org](#), to learn more about their programs and the work they continue to do for grieving parents.

The Northwest Alliance Community Foundation is an affiliate of the St. Croix Valley Foundation. We support area non-profits with educational opportunities and grants. Please consider joining us by making a donation. See our website, [nacommunityfoundation.org](#), for more information or email [nacf.hq@gmail.com](#).

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Meet local author **Jerry Marek** who will be discussing his political fantasy book, “Legends of Alehl: Oracles of the Terebinth,” and sharing tips on online self-publishing. You are invited to the Frederic Public Library on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 10 a.m.

Let’s Make **Lefse!** Learn how to make this Scandinavian tradition using a no-fail recipe, sample your cooking and take some home on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 6 p.m. at the Frederic High School. Call Frederic Community Ed. for more information, 715-327-4868.

You still have time to read one of my favorite books, “**A Man Called Ove,**” and join the discussion at the Frederic Public Library on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 2 p.m.

Local food shelves are in need of nonperishable foods and personal products. Consider donating cash or dropping off shelf-stable milk, peanut butter, tuna, chicken, Spam, SpaghettiOs, beef stew, instant mashed potatoes, crackers, toiletries and cleaning supplies. **Family Pathways in Frederic** is open and fully stocked Monday through Thursday at 1100 Wisconsin Ave. S. Call 715 327-4425.

Mondays - Exercise for Seniors, 9:30-10 a.m.

November is here, the 11th month of the year, and the calendars are filling up fast with so many events to celebrate. All Saints Day, elections, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, hunting season, craft shows, and preparing for the weather that changes so quickly.

As this is also the season of goodies, did you know Nov. 3 is Sandwich Day? Nov. 6 is Nacho Day, the 14th is Pickle Day and the 28th is French Toast Day. And the most random of all, Nov. 29 is Lemon Cream Pie Day. And let’s not forget Thanksgiving—turkey!

Well, it’s that time of the year again—Open En-

Bonnie Fogelberg sent an email to let us know about the kids’ Halloween party that was held at the community center on Saturday. She said that they didn’t have quite as many children show up this year as they did last year, but they all had fun and were kept busy with games, snacks and cakewalks. This year the pumpkins were donated by R&R Pumpkins which happens to be located right next door to the community center. The kids decorated the pumpkins, naturally, and took them home. There was a “guess the number of candies” in two water bottles, and Maddie Bartz won that. She got to keep the candy and water bottles. All in all, it was a fun-filled day for everyone. Members of the civic club are grateful to all who donated candy, snacks, cakes and time to make the party a fun event. She also mentioned that there were some students from Shell Lake who worked the games, which is always appreciated.

Tina Anderson was taking some of the Oak View clients to Rice Lake on Saturday after-

Rivertown Holiday Organizational Meeting: Thursdays, 5:30 p.m., at the senior center and until Dec. 6, to plan Dec. 6 and 7 holiday event. All downtown merchants urged to attend. Bring your new ideas and energy for fun in St. Croix Falls and to benefit downtown businesses.

Veterans Day Dinner: Saturday, Nov. 8, 5 p.m., full turkey dinner. Vets free, guests \$7, non-vets \$15. Everyone welcome. American Legion Post #143, 807 E Pine St., St. Croix Falls.

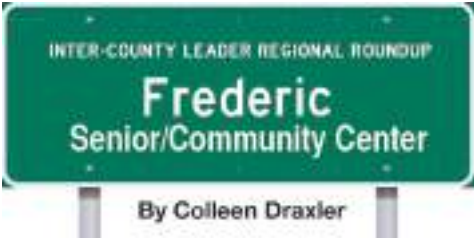
St. Croix Health Quarterly Alumni Luncheon: Thursday, Nov. 13, 11 a.m., Village Pizzeria, Dresser. Volunteers, alumni and present staff welcome.

City of Trails: The Riegel Section of the Ice Age Trail starts at Blanding Woods Road. It follows the paved Interlink Trail and shortly turns to the north and goes up the rocks and through the woods. This land was donated by Fred Riegel

Holly and Steve Torbenson took Karen Mangelsen out to eat at Tracks Sunday evening. It was an early celebration of Karen’s birthday.

Patty and Mandy Close visited their grandmother Karen Mangelsen Wednesday afternoon. On Friday, Dave, April and Mandy Close stopped for a visit.

Dixie Andrea, Connie Quam and Karen Mangelsen got together and played cards Thursday afternoon. They enjoyed a rhubarb dessert that



The cost is \$10 a month for two sessions a week. Sign up at the senior center. An energetic group of regulars will warmly welcome you.

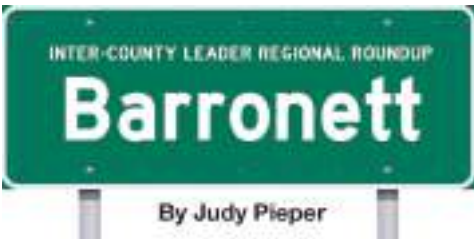
The Frederic **Scrabble** Club meets from 1 to 3 p.m. for two rounds of our favorite game, friendly competition and interesting conversation. Last week, Henrik scored 344 to win his game with a 95-points play of YEASTED on a triple word. He also put down ZEPHYR, an unusual Scrabble move. There is room for more players; join us next Monday.

Tuesdays - Coffee time, 8-11 a.m. Every week a crew shows up for good eats (and you can join us) including cheese and sausage donated by Daeffler’s, thanks to Lois for cinnamon strudel bread and JoAnn and Laurel for whipping



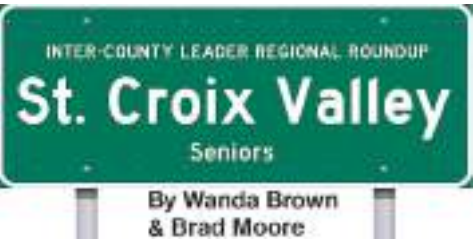
rollment! I’ve heard there are some who may be looking for a new supplement. We have a contact person if you’re in question.

Don’t forget the ADRC Nutrition Program here in Grantsburg. Come join us! All meal reserva-



noon, and she happened to be going through Cumberland at the time of the safe trick-or-treat. She hadn’t planned on that, didn’t even know it was going on, but she said that she was so glad that she was there at the right time. Traffic was, of course, crawling along at about 5 mph, and she and the clients were able to see all the little cuties dressed up in adorable costumes. Seeing them was well worth the extra time spent getting through town.

Ivana Bellefeuille was one of the little ones trick-or-treating that day. She was dressed as



to the city for a park, thus “The Riegel Section.” There is a spur that connects an Ice Age Trail parking lot just off Louisiana Street across from the dog park to the main trail. All the main trails are blazed in bright yellow. The spurs are blazed with blue and loops off the trail with white paint. These two sections are about a mile long.

Maps of the trails are available at the city office and the Polk County Information Center.

Cards and games each week, \$1 fee: Rummikub – Tuesdays, 4 p.m.



Connie had baked.

up French toast hot off the grill. Talk of the table: setting a trap for a woodchuck, fall decorations at the center, catching a skunk, and how to winter raspberry bushes and peonies.

Wednesdays - Exercise for Seniors, 9:30-10 a.m. Stop in the center and join this dedicated group at any time for \$10 a month.

Thursdays - From noon to 3 p.m., the **500 Card Club** gets together for a series of games each week. The winners last week: 1. Teresa, 2. Laryn, 3. Dave, 4. Pat and 5. Myrna. Nine-bid was Myrna and Wayne. Congrats!

Sundays – Please join the action for fast, fun **Bingo** at the center. Games start at 2 p.m., the door opens at 1:30 p.m. You must be 18 or older to play. The pot gets bigger every week: \$65 per game, \$305 for the coverall, \$881 total in prizes and the jokes are so cool: “Why don’t skeletons fight? They don’t have the guts.”

Consider the Frederic Senior/Community Center for your next class, reunion or party. Leave a message at 715-327-8623, email fredericseniorcenter@gmail.com, or visit on Facebook at Frederic Senior/Community Center. **You’re also welcome to stop by any Tuesday morning to chat with a board member.**

tions are required to be at least 24 hours in advance. Please call Siren, 715-349-2154 for your requests.

For questions about the center or other requests, call the center at 715-463-2940 or email us at gburg118@gmail.com. You can contact Patzy Wenthe at 715-222-6400 for any other questions.

Coming events:

- Veterans Day – Tuesday, Nov. 11.
- Pink Squirrel – Nov. 12-16, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
- Soup & Soul – Monday, Nov. 17, 6 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Dinner – Thursday, Nov. 27.

a kitten. She and her mom and dad, Tinille and Mark, stopped by our place when they left Cumberland, so we saw her all dressed up as a little kitty. I don’t even know the words to describe how adorable that little girl is. We love her!

Art and Jill Adams stopped by on Saturday afternoon. They were just coming home from the rodeo finals in Minnesota. They went to cheer for Jeremy and Miriah Olson, who are both ropers. Jeremy and Miriah both did an outstanding job. Jeremy took second in the open on Friday, and second in the over 40 on Saturday. On Saturday evening he placed third in the open and won the average for the rodeo. Miriah, who does break-away roping, split second on Sunday. Oh, and one side note, Jeremy’s cousin, JB, won first. Awesome showing by the Olson family.

I guess I had better go. I have lots of apples to rake up and cart off. If you know of anyone who wants deer apples, send them over. See you next week.

- Mahjong – Wednesdays, noon.
- Bridge – Fridays, 10 a.m.

Exercise each week, \$1 fee.

Zumba - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. Move to upbeat music to get your cardio going.

Core and More - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. Work on core strength, stretching and balance.

Butts and Guts - Mondays and Thursdays, 4:30 p.m. Challenge yourself with a great strength and toning workout. Bring a mat to class for floor exercise.

Sunday morning church - Living Waters Church, 10 a.m., all welcome.

For information or reservation of the senior center, call Brad Moore, 906-396-2481. Think about graduation, confirmation events—space for 100 attendees.

All Saints Day was celebrated at Lakeview UM Church Sunday morning during the worship service. Candles were provided for people to light in memory of a relative or friend who had died during the last year.

Special visitors at Timberland Ringebu Free Lutheran Church Sunday morning were Ilene Nelson Ostenson and two of her daughters. Ilene grew up in Timberland and attended church there for a number of years.



Gluten-free Cinnamon Roll Muffins

These delicious muffins are gluten- and dairy-free with a gooey cinnamon sugar middle.

Topping Ingredients

- 3/4 cup coconut or maple sugar or a combination of both
- 1/2 tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 cup pecans, finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons coconut oil, melted

Muffin Ingredients

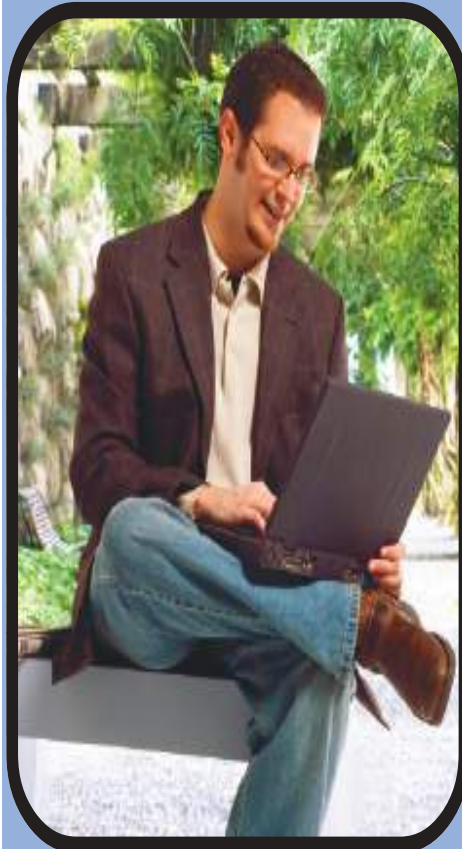
- 1-1/2 cups almond flour
- 1/2 cup tapioca flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 cup coconut or maple sugar
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil, melted
- 2 eggs
- Approximately 1 cup coconut or almond milk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line 12-cup muffin pan with baking cup liners.

Mix the topping ingredients together and set aside. Mix the dry ingredients for the muffins together and set aside. Crack eggs into a glass measuring cup and whisk with a fork. Fill to the 1-1/4 mark with dairy-free milk of choice. Add the 2 tablespoons of melted coconut oil. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and mix just until everything is moist. Add 1 cup of the topping mixture to the muffin mix and gently fold in. It does not need to be fully mixed in.

Scoop batter into prepared pan, filling liners about 3/4 full. Sprinkle the remaining topping mixture on the muffins. Bake for 24 minutes.

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Learn a complete Christmas carol this year
Except for “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer,” most of us only know the first verse of all the beautiful Christmas carols. So why not pick a carol, make many copies and practice singing that carol every night in November and December. Choosing the carol will be a challenge as there are so many beautiful carols to choose from.

Shenanigans
John Rickert and Bob Deeg (who now are the president and secretary of the Lions) are planning to keep this fun event going even after Whistle Punk reopens in December. So when other establishments are closed, there will be a place to go. A place to be with friends, have a drink and/or popcorn and hear good music. What a way to start the winter in Stone Lake. There was a great Halloween party last week and the canned goods drive for the food shelf was a huge success.

Live Nativity
Stone Lake Wesleyan Church will be hosting a live Nativity scene, Saturday, Nov. 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. The Nativity scene will be held on the porch of Wild Heart, corner of Main Street and



Hwy. 70. Please join us during that time to start your Christmas season. Hot chocolate, coffee and cookies to enjoy. If you would like to be part of this—shepherds, wise men, animals or angels, please contact Jody Flynn at 612-991-0494.

Children’s Christmas Party
This is another event to plan for with families and friends. The party begins at 10 a.m. with children making eight ornaments to bring home, have a cookie, sing Christmas carols, listen to a Christmas story and visit with Santa. We are fortunate to have a Lion who plays Santa for many. And he couldn’t believe the Santa suit we have. Some may remember Karen Philbrook. She was a gifted seamstress and this was her masterpiece. Red silk velvet and detail work beyond compare.

The children will learn the art of potato stamping. The children decorate a white bakery bag with a variety of potato prints. This bag will hold their ornaments. There is one ornament that the children make that also uses a potato print. This is one of my favorites. The child starts with a slice of birch branch—a nice birch wood circle with a bit of bark about the edge.
Thank you to those who carefully cut these circles. This is how Stone Lake works. Years of people helping. And for many of those years this was Jeff Coddington’s hand-work. He cut the circles and then worked with the children at the hall on this project. Now Cliff Parr has become the carpenter of Christmas birch bark ornaments. He made a couple hundred last year for us. Fond memories of Jeff, and thank you, Cliff. Back to the ornament making. Using a crank hand drill, the child drills a hole in the birch circle for the hook for hanging. Then potato stamp a red bird or heart ... voila! What a lovely ornament.
The hall is beautifully decorated with vintage items from many years. There is an elaborate vintage Nativity scene, a miniature town (the putz houses made in Japan in the ‘50s), a lovely tree decorated with vintage and handmade ornaments and Christmas art. The hall is truly transformed.

And add Brianna’s lighting this year. Forever the party has been on the first Saturday in December, so this year it is Dec. 6.

Dates to Remember
Lions Hall Shenanigans – Thursday, Nov. 6, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Lions Hall.
Second Saturday Barn Dance – Saturday, Nov. 8, 7-9 p.m., Lions Hall.
Veterans Dinner – Tuesday, Nov. 11, noon, Lions Hall.
Music Night – Saturday, Nov. 15, 6-9 p.m., Lions Hall.
St. Joe Recycled Christmas Sale – Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., St. Joe’s Hall, Hayward.
Chili Supper – Saturday, Nov. 22, 4-7 p.m., Lions Hall.
Holiday Market – Saturday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Lions Hall.
Live Nativity – Saturday, Nov. 29, 2-4 p.m., Wild Heart Porch.
Lions Children’s Christmas Party – Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-noon, Lions Hall.

Christine Maestri can be reached at 715-558-2714, chmaestri@gmail.com.

Author Talk with Jerry Marek
Saturday, Nov. 8, 10 a.m.
Local author Jerry Marek will introduce his new political fantasy book, “Legends of Alehl: Oracle of the Terebinth,” and share his insights into online self-publishing tools.
November Book Clubs
Wild Card Book Club meets Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. and is reading “Everything is Tuberculosis” by John Green.
Afternoon Book Club meets Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 2 p.m. and is reading “A Man Called Ove” by Fredrik Backman. Copies available at the li-

FREDERIC LIBRARY NEWS

brary.
Chess Club
Friday, Nov. 21, 4-5 p.m.
Learn new strategies. Practice with some friendly competition. All skill levels are welcome!

Cozy Collective
Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Bring whatever handicraft project you are working on to the library to chat and stitch with friends.
Food drive for Family Pathways of Frederic
Bring donations of non-refrigerated food items and drop them off in the designated bin in the lobby to help support those in our community affected by food insecurity. Donations accepted all through November.
Fall for Reading Bingo
This is the last month for bingo. For each book you read, mark off a box. Each bingo gets you

an entry into the grand prize drawing. Adult and kid versions available. Make sure to turn in your Bingo sheet by the end of the month.
General Info
Contact us at 715-327-4979 or library@fred-ericlibrary.org. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon. Wi-Fi is always available in the lobby.

Senior Connections
Tuesdays, 11 a.m. and Fridays, 1 p.m.
Gather at the library to play card or board games, do puzzles, or bring in your own handicrafts to work on while socializing with others. Adults of all ages are welcome to join us.
Books & Brews
First Wednesday of month, 6:30 p.m.
A book club for adults, by the Balsam Lake Public Library at the Balsam Lake Brewery & Market. Come chat about great books and drink great beers! Join us anytime!
Ales & Adventures
Every third Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.
A Dungeons and Dragons event for adults held at the Balsam Lake Brewery.

BALSAM LAKE LIBRARY NEWS

Dungeons & Dragons: After-school Adventures
Second Friday of every month
4 p.m. - Drop-off/Snack time
4:30 p.m. - Game Time!
One-shot adventures in a home-brewed fantasy setting. Perfect for both new and experienced players, ages 10-18. No equipment necessary—we’ll provide dice, character sheets, books and a story.

Saturday Storytime
Saturdays 10:30 a.m.
Romping read-alouds, silly games, songs, crafts and more! For the littlest listeners to school-aged kids & their families.
Wildwood Labs – Wool Over Your Eyes
Thursday, Nov. 20, 4:30 p.m.
Learn how to use a carder and spinning wheel to turn raw wool into yarn. Limited space. Sign up required! Wildwood Labs is a perfect after-school program for hands-on learners and a great addition to any homeschool curriculum. These events are intended for school-aged kids and teens.
Fiber Arts Series
Join us at the library for a hands-on series of events where we’ll go from wool to weave. Sign up for these events by calling or visiting the library.
• Fiber Arts Series: Spinning Wool to Yarn - Friday, Nov. 21, 1 p.m.

• Fiber Arts Series: Creating Colorful Yarn - Friday, Dec. 5, 1 p.m.
• Fiber Arts Series: Introduction to Weaving - Friday, Dec. 19, 1 p.m.
Sign up by visiting or calling the library at 715-485-3215. These events are intended for adults only.
General info:
Reminder that all library events are free! Contact us at 715-485-3215 or balsamlakepubliclibrary.org. Find us on Facebook and Instagram. We have Wi-Fi outside of the building at all times. Check out the Little Free Libraries at the beach, county building and at the park. Go online at more.lib.wi.us to access the catalog, check out e-books, magazines and audiobooks.

Flow Yoga, Mondays and Thursdays, 9 a.m., adult event.
Chair Yoga, Mondays and Thursdays, 10:15 a.m., adult event.
Cribbage, **Tuesdays, 11 a.m.**
Whether you are a seasoned player or are just getting started, come join us for a fun time of playing cribbage together. Adult event.
Children’s Story and Music Time
Tuesdays, 11 a.m.
Learn and develop through stories and music. Listen and sing along with fun songs, then enjoy some classic kid stories and a creative activity. Kid event.
Computer assistance, **Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.**
Get help with computer, internet, smartphone, tablet and e-reader basics. Reservations welcome but not required.
Music Collaboration
1st and 3rd Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.
Whether you play, sing, or just enjoy listening to music, come join us as we play fun songs together. Adult event.

MILLTOWN LIBRARY NEWS

Engaging Seniors, **Thursdays, 2 p.m.**
Free events, materials provided. Call ADRC at 715-485-8592 for a free ride. Adult events.
Engaging Seniors – Card making class
Thursday, Nov. 6, 2 p.m.
Join us as we make greeting cards for all different occasions. Whether you have stamped for years, or are new to the craft, you will enjoy this event. Supplies provided.
Engaging Seniors – Community Fiber Art
Thursday, Nov. 13, 2 p.m.
Join your neighbors in helping us create a dazzling art hanging! We’ll be creating CD weavings to be strung together and hung on display in the library. Anyone can do it, no previous skill necessary.

Explore the World Replay
Thursday, Nov. 20, 2 p.m.
Join the library every month for a free online lecture featuring Road Scholar instructors from around the world. Topic: GIs in Britain—The British People and American Troops in WWII. Adult event.
Toddler Fiber Arts
Monday, Nov. 10, 11:15 a.m.
Enjoy an easy introduction to fiber arts, with a fun project anyone can do! Join us as we follow the basic steps of the CD weaving pattern, enjoy some snacks, and read a short book. Kid event.
Card Making Class
Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2 p.m.
Join us as we make greeting cards for all different occasions. Whether you have stamped for years, or are new to the craft, you will enjoy this event. Supplies provided. Adult event.
Explore the World
Monday, Nov. 17, noon
Join the library every month for a free online lecture featuring Road Scholar instructors from

around the world. Topic: GIs in Britain—The British People and American Troops in WWII. Adult event.
Homeschool Community Fiber Art
Tuesday, Nov. 18, 1 p.m.
Join your neighbors in helping us create a dazzling art hanging! We’ll be creating CD weavings to be strung together and hung on display in the library. Anyone can do it, no previous skill necessary. Homeschool event.

Current library hours:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Contact information:
Phone: 715-825-2313; website: milltownpubliclibrary.org; address: 61 W. Main St.; and find us on Facebook. We have 24-hour Wi-Fi outside the building. Go online at more.lib.wi.us to access the catalog and check out e-books, e-audiobooks and e-magazines.

WHITEWATER – The following local students are among the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater scholarship recipients receiving financial awards for the 2025-26 academic year.
Luck
Sabrina Aune, who is studying art, won the following scholarship: General Merit.
Webster
Ally Clendening, who is studying accounting, won the following scholarship: Rising Warhawk Scholarship.

LOCAL ACADEMIC NEWS

Osceola
Lauren Kremer, who is studying supply chain management, won the following scholarship:

Supply Chain Management Recurring Scholarship, first year.
Kya Krenz, who is studying accounting, won the following scholarship: CoBE Admissions Scholarship.
St. Croix Falls
Brianna Mccurdy, who is studying integrated science-business, won the following scholarship: Chancellor Scholars.
Clayton
Ryan Moskal, who is studying mathematics,

won the following scholarship: Chancellor Scholars.
New Richmond
Chloe Nielsen, who is studying elementary middle education, won the following scholarships: Warren & Virginia Theune Scholarship, Promise Endowment COE&PS, and Chancellor Scholars.
The UW-Whitewater Foundation awarded more than \$1.4 million in scholarship dollars to students last academic year.

The Leader is a cooperative-owned newspaper. Since 1933.

Grantsburg middle and high schoolers to perform play this weekend

By Robert Tabern | Editor, with information provided by Angie Anderson
GRANTSBURG – The Grantsburg Middle and High School students will be performing a play this weekend. “Too Many Detectives at the Murder Mansion” will be held in the high school auditorium on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., and on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 3 p.m. Tickets are just \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. A cast of eccentric characters meet at a mansion, only to become suspects of a murder that a singular ge-

nious detective will eventually solve. But what happens when all the suspects are the detectives? Sherlock Holmes, Nancy Drew, Miss Marple and Batman are just a few of the guests.



Two Grantsburg students prepare signs for the play this weekend at their school. - Photo by Robert Tabern

Amery Ale Works kicks off Halloween weekend

By Devon Christensen | Reporter
AMERY – There was no shortage of fun for all at Amery Ale Works the day before Halloween. On Thursday, Oct. 30, the restaurant and brewery held their usual trivia that takes place every other Thursday, but this time with a Halloween twist. Attendees were invited to dress in costume, and halfway through the event, prizes were given to the favorites. A group of three young women, who called themselves the Louvre Heisters, won first place and were awarded a \$25 gift card and free drinks. For their costumes, they each wore a neon construction vest over black clothing, along with plastic tiaras and jewelry—a play on the recent heist at the Louvre in France on Oct. 19, where thieves dressed as construction workers stole eight pieces of

the French crown jewels. Second place, which Amery Ale Works owner, Jenna Johnson, said as she awarded it, “makes me so happy because I completely forgot about it until today,” was given to a woman dressed as Prymaat from the 1993 film, “Coneheads.” She was given a free drink as well. Johnson was dressed in a unicorn onesie to host the trivia contest, and Halloween-themed questions included general Halloween facts, a photo round, and film questions, such as “Who directed the 1960 movie, ‘Psycho’?” The winning trivia team was awarded a \$25 gift card for their knowledge.

The trivia and costume contest weren’t the only Halloween events at Amery Ale Works. In the upper level of the barn, YogaSol hosted a Halloween yoga ses-

sion. The class was nearly at capacity and participants had fun doing Halloween-themed yoga with costumes including a monkey, a witch, a devil and more. The yoga attendees also received a Halloween cocktail from the bar included in their ticket price. Amery Ale Works served Halloween-themed cocktails all weekend long, with names such as “swamp water punch,” “haunted tide margarita” and “huckle-scary seltzer.” On Halloween itself, Amery Ale Works invited families to come show off their costumes with candy for all. They finished the weekend with a Sunday morning brunch, which Amery Ale Works just recently started offering. The next Thursday night trivia will take place on Nov. 13 and is free for all to participate in.



The first-place winners of the costume contest dressed as Louvre heisters. - Photos by Devon Christensen



The second-place costume contest winner dressed as a character from “Coneheads.”

This week’s question comes from Chloe in Grantsburg:

I texted “I love you” to a guy I’ve been dating and didn’t realize it until the next morning. I tried calling him and texting him, but he hasn’t responded. Is there a way to walk it back?

Countless people who have dated in the age of smartphones have had a moment like this: the text you wish you could unsend, the message that feels too honest, too soon. You woke up, saw what you sent, and then your brain probably offered a flood of “Oh no” thoughts. It’s key to remember, though, that the sinking, uneasy, embarrassed feeling comes from what you are making this mean for you, not the actual text itself. You took a small emotional risk, but your mind turned it into an emergency. Here’s the truth, though: you didn’t do anything wrong. You were human and vulnerable for one brief moment, and that’s where real connection begins.

There might not be a way to literally walk it back once he’s seen it, but you get to decide what you make it mean. Maybe you were thinking, “He’ll think I’m desperate,” which triggers shame and panic. But you could also be thinking, “I meant it, and it’s okay if it surprised him.” Those thoughts lead to very different feelings and actions.

A great place to start would be to

MIDWEST
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Coaching For Your Life
with Kari Langkamp

ask yourself: What prompted me to send that message? Was it true in that moment? Do I want it to be true now? Getting clear on what’s real for you matters more than trying to manage his reaction. If it isn’t true for you, your approach afterward will be different if it still feels true.

Right now, your mind is probably offering guesses: He’s freaked out. He’s ghosting me. I ruined everything. But those are stories, not facts. The only fact is that you texted “I love you,” and he hasn’t replied yet. Everything else is interpretation. Instead of spinning in what-ifs, consider curiosity. Maybe he felt caught off guard. Maybe he’s unsure what to say. Maybe his phone is off. You won’t know until you talk. Curiosity calms the nervous system and opens space for connection, while fear shuts it down.

Once you’ve grounded yourself, decide what kind of partner you want to be in this moment. Do you want

to chase reassurance or communicate calmly? You might send a simple message like, “Hey, I realized I sent that last night. I would love to talk about where we’re both at.” That shows maturity and steadiness rather than backpedaling or over-explaining. Imagine the version of you who is secure and confident in love. How would she handle this? She would probably lead with honesty over apology.

Whether he responds warmly or not at all, you’ll learn something valuable. If he’s willing to talk about it, great. You get to see where the relationship stands. If he disappears, you’ve learned that communication under pressure isn’t his strong suit. Either way, you gain clarity about what you want in a partner. It’s okay if you feel embarrassed or sad. Those emotions make sense. You can allow them without judging yourself. Vulnerability can sting, but it’s also how we build real connection. You can’t unsend love, but you can stand in it with grace. That’s where your power is.

Midwest Moxie: Coaching for Your Life appears bi-weekly. Have a coaching question you want answered by a Master-Certified Coach? Send your questions to the Inter-County Leader at editor@iccpaonline.com or visit Kari’s website for free coaching at heykarianne.com/ask-kari.

DO YOU
REMEMBER?

Compiled by Sue Renno

70 years ago

“Visions of a swimming pool for Frederic are becoming more and more a reality as the Frederic school board has approved plans,” began the story accompanying a photo of the swimming pool at Osseo, Wisconsin, similar to the one planned for Frederic. “This project has been uppermost in the minds of the Twentieth Century Club for some months and they are going all out to raise part of the funds for the pool,” it continued.—The Siren Raiders football team finished the season undefeated, beating Balsam Lake 45-0. Team members mentioned included Arthur Beckmark, Chuck Nyberg, Lavern Johnson, Jerry Root, Jares Brown, Lavern Schauer, Duane Elmberg, Rudy Mothes, Bob Fuerstenberg, Kermit Culbertson and Tommy Sheid.

50 years ago

Ed and Loretta Knieff celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house at St. Luke’s Methodist Church in Frederic, attended by friends and relatives, including their four children, 10 grandchildren and seven great-granddaughters. They had operated a chick hatchery on the west side of Frederic for many years, then Ed had a Land O’Lakes milk delivery route.—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Hutton were guests of honor at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Panek, to celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary. They lived in the rural Milltown area most of their lives, then moved to Bone Lake. They were the parents of 12 children, with 33 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.—Second Lt. Bruce Java, a 1967 Frederic grad, graduated with honors from pilot training at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and was remaining at Vance for flying duty as a T-37 instructor pilot.

40 years ago

Matthew Steven was born to Laurie Juleen and Steve Johnson at the Grantsburg hospital.—Deanna Brown, Webster’s only golfer, placed seventh at the state girls golf meet.—Capt. Kevin R. Erickson, son of Harlan and Joyce Erickson, rural Frederic, completed the Air Force Institute of Technology program and earned a master’s degree in logistics management.—Dewey Scott Jr. was born to Dewey S. and Lynn Hill at the Altus, Oklahoma Air Force Base. Grandparents were Dewey and Jean Hill, Lewis.—Luck science teachers Robert Clifton and Marty Messar were two of 90 participants selected from throughout the state to participate in a national science program to be held at UW-Madison.—There was a grand reopening of Dave Petersen’s Gambles Store in Luck, which had been seriously damaged by fire earlier in the year.—Frederic Electric Motor Company opened in Frederic, with Craig Meinke rebuilding motors, heavy-duty starters and alternators, and selling electrical supplies and new and used motors, and Steve Ayd offering electrical wiring service to residential, commercial, industrial and farm customers.

20 years ago

The Frederic boys cross-country team won the Division 3 sectional at Hurley and the Grantsburg team placed second, and both were headed for the state meet. Webster’s Peter Walsh qualified as an individual, placing second behind Grantsburg sophomore Sean Kutz. Aimee Rinnman, Webster, also qualified as an individual, placing third overall at Hurley.—October births included Lauren Elizabeth, to Jennifer and Joshua Hetfeld, Webster; Jamesen Alexander, to Jesseka and Troy Wink, Frederic; Taylor Shae, to Kerri and Paul Koski, Dresser; William Axel, to Melanie and Daniel Johnson, Webster; David Lynn, to Belinda LacQuay, Milltown; and Xander Marshall, to Jennifer and Matthew Hill, Danbury.—Caylin Bowman and Abby Coyour were the recipients of the 2005 Burnett County 4-H Key Awards. Bowman and Robert Lake were outstanding senior boy and girl; Jade Johnson, Lake, Bowman and Kelley Wampfler won achievement awards; and Wampfler, Coyour, Bowman and Lake received senior leadership awards.

Balsam Lake businesses hold Main Street Trick-or-Treat

By Zach Zelinski | Reporter
BALSAM LAKE – For its fourth Halloween in a row, Main Street Trick-or-Treat encouraged area trick-or-treaters to visit Balsam Lake businesses for Halloween fun. From the mid-afternoon into the evening, participating businesses welcomed trick-or-treaters for candy and festive activities as costumed celebrants lined the streets of downtown Balsam

Lake to enjoy the Halloween festivities. The Balsam Lake Chamber of Commerce spearheaded the effort for a town-wide trick-or-treat, an idea that sprang from the passion for Halloween held by Vanessa Martagon and Angela Chandler of the Balsam Lake Cafe. In previous years, the cafe hosted larger attractions for the event, including pumpkin bowling and a performative seance. This year

instead saw a focus on the decorative and eccentric details, with tall skeletons and similarly spooky large-scale installations placed outside of the cafe entrance, and its menu of drinks served in novelty blood bags. Across the street, the Balsam Lake Public Library welcomed in celebrating attendees. Nearby, Village President Gary Johnson and Trustee Brian Nelson donned costumes to hand out

candy to passersby. Balsam Lake’s Main Street Trick-or-Treat provided a trusty trick-or-treating experience for those wanting to celebrate with both safety and variety, while also highlighting the effort local businesses and institutions put into organizing community events for large-scale holiday fun.



Vanessa Martagon hands out candy to trick-or-treaters at the Balsam Lake Cafe. - Photos by Zach Zelinski



The library accepted trick-or-treaters, as the village president also welcomed trick-or-treaters and handed out candy nearby.



Giant skeleton “Jon Bon Bony” and his dog “David Bony” stand outside the Balsam Lake Cafe.



(L to R): Trustee Brian Nelson and Village President Gary Johnson welcomed trick-or-treaters to the Balsam Lake Main Street Trick-or-Treat.



Laurie and Joel Loehr handed out candy on behalf of St. Croix Health outside of the library.



Amanda Hol oversaw this spooky street-decor to represent Balsam Lake Pro-Lawn.



Sam Linder and Emma Kravig helped distribute candy to trick-or-treaters who came by the library.



Johanna Alling welcomes Lauren and Adilyn Frokjer at Shine Boutique for trick-or-treating.



Dakota Balog (right) lets Charlie take her pick of candy at Doc's Pub and Eatery.



At the Balsam Lake Brewery and Market, Marissa Anderson (right) distributed treats.



At the recently opened Bookery, Marion Olson offers Brinley a choice of candy.

Frederic's Trunk-or-Treat draws record crowds

Snow-free weather credited with turnout

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter
FREDERIC – Despite chilly and rainy weather, a large number of families and volunteers turned out for Frederic's 10th annual Trunk-or-Treat on Friday, Oct. 31. Oak Street, in front of Traditions of Frederic Assisted Living, was transformed into a safe, candy-filled haven for Hal-

loween revelers. The hour-long event, held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., drew children in costumes for an evening of treats and community spirit. The setup avoided the risks associated with traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating. Participants lined up with decorated cars, trucks and lawn chairs, each stocked with bowls of candy. Others donated sweets or funds that provided treats for the residents of the assisted living facility. The residents eagerly handed out goodies from their

designated spots. Organizers noted that turnout was higher than expected, with approximately 415 kids attending, attributing the increase to the absence of snow, which had limited attendance the previous year. Lines for entry to the trunk-or-treat trailed south onto Wisconsin Avenue all the way to the Avalon Salon, not long after the event began. "I think it's no snow, that really helps, and some of the kids have come through twice,"

said organizer Shari Chadwick laughingly, who is the Frederic Area Chamber of Commerce vice president and owner of Frederic Design. Families praised the family-friendly vibe as costumed children wove their way between trunks to collect candy. The gathering boosted local businesses and groups that see fewer visitors on Halloween, fostering shared neighborhood fun. Now in its 10th year, the event stands as a cherished tradition.



Attendees were already lined up on Oak Street and beyond just after the 5:30 p.m. start to Frederic's Trunk-or-Treat.



Halloween trick-or-treaters lined up as far away as Avalon Salon on Wisconsin Avenue to wait for a turn to trunk-or-treat.



Shari Chadwick, vice president of the Frederic Area Chamber of Commerce and owner of Frederic Design, gives out regular-sized candy bars to delighted guests as a way to count the evening's participants. A total of 415 kids came through. - Photos by Sarah Beth Radomsky



Northland Municipal Ambulance and Frederic Rural Fire Association volunteers were a popular stop.



Frederic Police Chief Brandon Sams hands out candy to young guests.



Oak Street was full of a larger-than-anticipated amount of Halloween revelers, which organizers credited to a snowless day, unlike last year, despite cooler temps and even some rain.



Residents of Traditions of Frederic hand out candy to lines of visitors during the event.



Siren Chamber of Commerce Trunk-or-Treating

By Zach Zelinski | Reporter
SIREN – The Siren Chamber of Commerce held the annual trunk-or-treat in the parking lot of the Siren Lodge Center Arena the evening of Halloween. Local businesses and establishments set up decorated open trunks to bring Halloween festivity to the arena lot, providing attendees with candy and other treats. Many of these trunks also featured activities and games for trunk-or-treaters to enjoy. The Siren Fire Department brought a fire truck to the event for attendees to admire from inside. Representatives from the chamber, including President Chris Sybers, welcomed attendees to the event while emphasizing the sense of community, safety and business focus that trunk-or-treating can bring.



Vehicles representing Siren area businesses opened their trunks for trunk-or-treating at the Lodge Center Arena. - Photos by Zach Zelinski



Cory Miller of the Siren Fire Department looks on as the Mutschlers enjoy the fire truck.



More for Kids featured this “Inside Out”-themed interactive activity.



Siren Chamber President Chris Sybers helped give out treats for attendees.

New rendition of annual Trick-or-Trot fundraiser draws a crowd

By Devon Christensen | Reporter
WANDEROOS – The annual Amery Trick-or-Trot fundraising tradition began in 2014 when the event organizers were inspired by their grandparents, Wilfred and Ermagene Kuhl. For the first several years of the fundraiser, the group hosted a 5K fun run, which gave them their name. As the number of participants decreased, they shifted gears and organized a scavenger hunt to raise money over the past two years. In their first 10 years, the group has raised \$76,249, and all proceeds go to the Amery Food Pan-

try and Amery Backpack Program. The Amery Food Pantry is available to those residing in the School District of Amery who meet income guidelines, and the Amery Backpack Program provides food to children in need during the weekend while away from school. This year’s event took place at UW Wanderoos Bar and Grill just outside of Amery on the afternoon of Nov. 1. The group decided to try something new again this year, and planned a meat and basket raffle. The event received an amazing turnout, with one of the organizers,

Laura Peetz, expressing, “We did not expect so many people.” Peetz is a granddaughter of Wilfred and Ermagene Kuhl and was dressed as the Queen of Hearts. Many others were wearing costumes for the costume contest, including monsters, devils, cowboys and cheerleaders. There were several baskets up for grabs, filled with prizes such as gift cards to local businesses, a bloody mary kit and board games. There were also packages of meat being raffled off. “We get a lot of donations through Amery businesses, and they’re just recurring every year, so

that’s really nice,” explained Peetz. She also added, in regard to UW Wanderoos hosting the event, “They let us come in and take over their stuff. Wanderoos does a little meat raffle every week, so we got a lot of people from that, so that’s really nice.” The event was a huge success thanks to the Trick-or-Trot organizers, UW Wanderoos, and many local sponsors, such as Cardinal LG, Slumberland and Thrivent Financial.



ABOVE & BELOW: The crowd waits for the next winning ticket to be announced. - Photos by Devon Christensen



Pam Humpal, the daughter of Wilfred and Ermagene Kuhl, shows off some of the raffle baskets and encourages attendees to buy tickets.



One of the raffle baskets put together by the Trick-or-Trot group, which includes gift cards to Ellie’s Ice Cream, Dairy Queen, Village Pizzeria, Kwik Trip and Amery Family Restaurant.

St. Croix Falls celebrates restoration of The Historic Auditorium with awards presentation

Newly remodeled main floor lounge room unveiled

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter
ST. CROIX FALLS – The Historic Auditorium in St. Croix Falls celebrated a milestone in its restoration Thursday evening, hosting a ribbon cutting, an awards presentation and the unveiling of the newly remodeled Pepper’s Library Lounge on the main floor. Organized by The Historic Auditorium and St. Croix Falls Historical Society, the Oct. 30 event welcomed community members for a 5 p.m. reception in the lounge before the main program in the auditorium.

Admission was by suggested free-will donation.
Master of Ceremonies Bill Ties, executive director of the Falls Chamber of Commerce, opened the evening by reflecting on the building’s long journey of near misses and restarts. He credited city grants, foundation funding, private donations, and groups such as Festival Theatre and Friends of the Civic Auditorium for sustaining the effort. Ties also praised developers Jeff Virchow and Rick Vezina of 210 Civic LLC for ultimately completing the project after years of stalled plans. “It took these two gentlemen ... to get it from the 1-inch line where it sat for like 10 years and into the end zone,” he said.

The ribbon cutting, led by the chamber, marked the completion of renovations that refreshed nearly every inch of the building. Speakers recounted challenges and successes. Quentin Collette, director at New History, explained how federal and state historic tax credits, available because the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007, supported the project. New History guided the 2022 transfer of ownership to private hands and oversaw tax credit certifications during construction from 2022 to 2024. Collette summarized the 1916 Arts and Crafts-style structure’s evolution from vaudeville theater and silent movie house to emergency hospital and World War II sewing plant,

noting alterations like boarded-up windows in the 1950s and the later removal of a 1960s lobby addition. Amy Thomas of Rethos, a historic preservation nonprofit, and Mayor Kirk Anderson also spoke about the project’s design and community impact. Christian Overland, director and CEO of the Wisconsin Historical Society, presented the Society’s Restoration Award, recognizing the event center’s adaptive reuse, with Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. grants supplementing tax credits. The night concluded with a performance by pianist Marissa Dodge and Ondas Sonoras Trio, blending jazz, soul, blues, and Brazilian rhythms, celebrating the auditorium’s future as a community hub.



The evening began with a reception and live music in the newly remodeled Pepper’s Library Lounge. - Photos by Sarah Beth Radomsky



A ribbon-cutting ceremony on The Historic Auditorium’s stage marked the completion of renovations.



Key figures in the renovation of the St. Croix Falls Historical Auditorium pause for a photo together. (L to R): Bill Ties, executive director of the St. Croix Chamber of Commerce; Rick Vezina, owner of 210 Civic LLC; Quentin Collette, managing director of New History; Christian Overland, the Ruth and Hartley Barker Director and CEO for the Wisconsin Historical Society; Kirk Anderson, St. Croix Falls mayor; and Jeff Virchow, also an owner of 210 Civic LLC.

Operation Christmas Child kicks off shoebox gift season

Submitted by Mary Stirrat
NORTHWEST WISCONSIN – The Northwest Wisconsin Area of Operation Christmas Child kicked off the 2025 collection season with a gathering of at least three dozen individuals at Spooner Wesleyan Church late last month.
This year’s collection week is Monday, Nov. 17, through Monday, Nov. 24, and volunteers in this area hope to collect more than 6,500 shoebox gifts filled with fun toys, school supplies and personal care items for children in need around the world.

A project of Samaritan’s Purse, Operation Christmas Child shares the love of Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas with millions of children each year.
Drop-off locations across the Northwest Wisconsin area will be the first stop on a journey across the globe for the thousands of boxes packed by local families. Together with the church worldwide, Operation Christmas Child will collect and deliver these gifts to children in need overseas to more than 100 countries. A shoebox gift is often the first and only gift the child has ever received.
Operation Christmas Child seeks to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 232 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.
More than 90% of the 12 million shoeboxes distributed last year were filled by generous participants in the United States through a network of local volunteers. The Northwest Wisconsin Area of Operation Christmas Child includes Burnett, Washburn and Sawyer counties along with the areas of Polk, Barron and

Rusk counties north of Hwy. 8.
The eternal impact of Operation Christmas Child was shared in statistics presented in a video shown by volunteer area coordinator Wyman Johnson. Every 24 hours, through the packing and distribution of shoebox gifts, 31,020 children hear the gospel, and 8,930 children accept Jesus as their Savior.
For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child, call volunteer area coordinator Wyman Johnson at 763-607-8215 or visit samaritanaspurse.org/occ. Participants can donate \$10 per shoebox gift online through “Follow Your Box” and receive a tracking label to discover its destination.
For those who prefer, shoeboxes can also be packed online at samaritanaspurse.org/buildonline to select gifts matched to a child’s specific age and gender. A photo and personal note of encouragement can be added to an online shoebox gift.

Shoebox Gift Drop-Off Sites and Hours
East Balsam Baptist Church, Balsam Lake
Monday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m.–noon; Tuesday, Nov. 18, 8-10 a.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1–3 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 20, 5–7 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 21, 2-4 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m.–noon; Sunday, Nov. 23, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 24, 8-10 a.m.
First Baptist Church, Webster
Monday, Nov. 17, 9-11 a.m.; Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6-8 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 19, 4-6 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 20, 3-5 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 21, 3-5 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m.–noon; Sunday, Nov. 23, noon-2 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 24, 8:30-10:30 a.m.



Children excitedly explore their own personal shoebox gift, filled with toys, school supplies and personal care items. Last year alone, more than 12 million shoebox gifts were distributed around the world. This is often the first and only gift a child will receive. With each shoebox gift comes the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ and the true meaning of Christmas. – Photo courtesy of Samaritan’s Purse

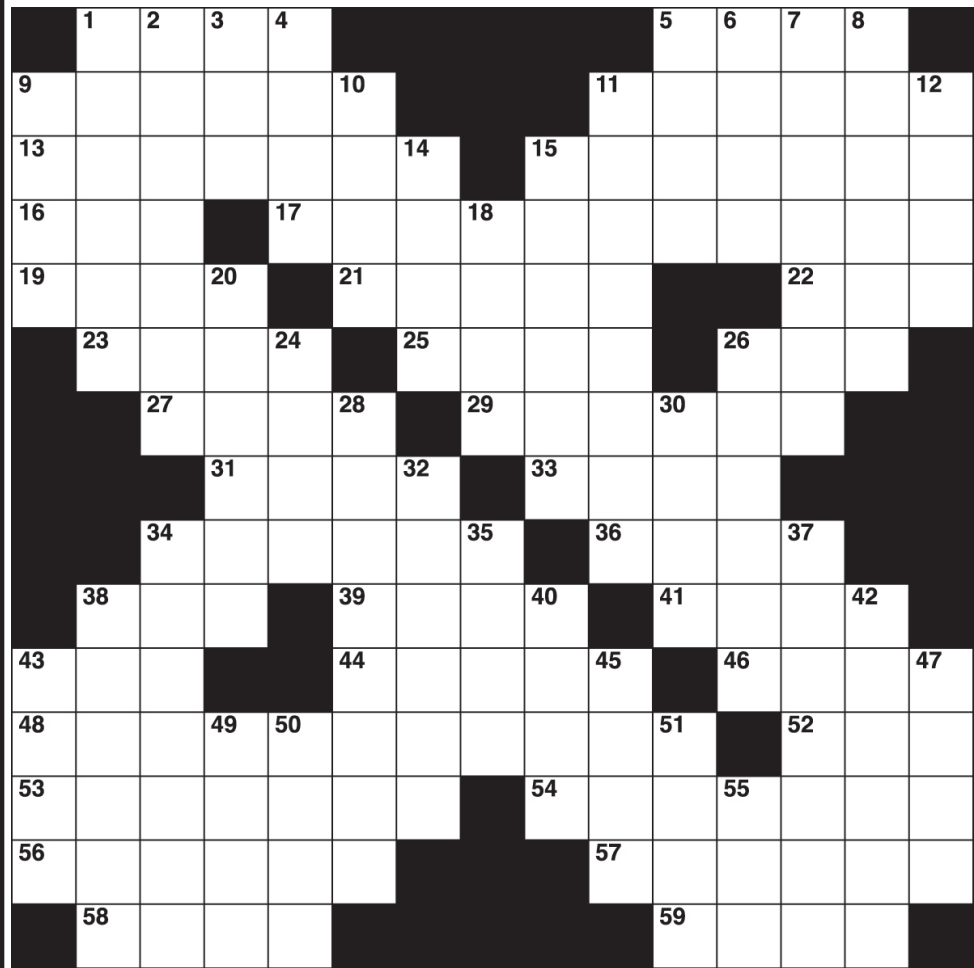
Spooner Wesleyan Church
Monday, Nov. 17, 10 a.m.-noon; Tuesday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-noon; Wednesday, Nov. 19, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 20, 1-3 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 21, 1-3 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-noon; Sunday, Nov. 23, noon–2 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 24, 10 a.m.–noon.
Journey Church, Amery
Monday, Nov. 17, 3-5 p.m.; Tuesday, Nov. 18, 5-7 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3-5 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 20, 3-5 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 21, 4-6 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m.-noon; Sunday, Nov. 23, 12-2 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 24, 8-10 a.m.
Osceola Community Church
Monday, Nov. 17, 5-8 p.m.; Tuesday, Nov. 18, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, Nov. 19, 3-7 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 20, 3-7 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 22, 5-8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, 1-7 p.m.; and Monday, Nov. 24, 7-11 a.m.



Emmanuel Osire spoke at First Baptist Church of Webster and East Balsam Baptist Church, sharing the impact that an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift made on him while growing up in Uganda. His gift, the first he had ever received, included a harmonica. Emmanuel still plays that harmonica today. – Photos provided



Leader Fun & Games Page



- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Difficult
 - 5. Coarsely ground corn
 - 9. There's one for the "world"
 - 11. Loved Romeo
 - 13. Sticky situation
 - 15. Pelvic areas
 - 16. An informal debt instrument
 - 17. Cannot be repaired surgically
 - 19. A device attached to a workbench
 - 21. Related on the mother's side
 - 22. Sound unit
 - 23. ___ Sagan, astronomer
 - 25. Utah city
 - 26. A disappointing effort
 - 27. Steal goods during a riot
 - 29. Wakes up
 - 31. Hair salon service
 - 33. Serenaded
 - 34. Looked intensely
 - 36. U.S. Air Force expert Robert F.
 - 38. A type of cast
 - 39. One's duty
 - 41. Where golfers begin
 - 43. Make a mistake
 - 44. Semitic sun god
 - 46. Ancient Greek City
 - 48. Having had the head cut off
 - 52. A place to stay
 - 53. Unwise
 - 54. Most unnatural
 - 56. Dennis is a notable one
 - 57. Ointments
 - 58. Students' exam
 - 59. Leaked blood

- CLUES DOWN
- 1. Brave
 - 2. Act of awakening
 - 3. Jest at
 - 4. Sandwich store
 - 5. Chapter of the Koran
 - 6. Dismounted
 - 7. Small vehicle
 - 8. Irked
 - 9. One who earns by disreputable dealings
 - 10. Monetary unit of Samoa
 - 11. Long, mournful lamentation
 - 12. Weight unit
 - 14. Alone, single
 - 15. Decreases
 - 18. Indicates beside
 - 20. Worn by exposure to the weather
 - 24. A body of traditions
 - 26. College students' ultimate goal
 - 28. Amino acid
 - 30. Nasal mucus
 - 32. US government entity
 - 34. Swinish
 - 35. Legislative body in Russia
 - 37. Grant an exemption to
 - 38. Put in advance
 - 40. Satisfy
 - 42. Felt
 - 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
 - 45. Witnesses
 - 47. Picnic invaders
 - 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
 - 50. Ancient person of Scotland
 - 51. Cheerless
 - 55. Unwell

See Breaking News?
E-MAIL BREAKING NEWS TIPS & PHOTOS



editor@iccpaonline.com

ANSWERS
ON
PAGE 16

WORD SCRAMBLE
Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to breathing.

HOTUM

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress born on November 8, 1988 in Arizona. I appeared on stage for the first time as a youth. I've played several prominent roles, and won my first Academy Award in 2016 in a musical romantic comedy film about pursuing dreams in Los Angeles and a second in 2023 for a dark comedy role.



L	W	R	R	Y	V	E	N	T	I	L	A	T	I	O	N	R	H	A	V
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W	P	Y	I	P	M	S	I	L	O	B	M	E	V	I	I	A	O	S	R
D	E	R	D	B	V	D	M	A	R	H	T	Y	S	C	L	E	A	D	D
I	A	T	A	W	L	A	U	T	T	E	A	U	H	C	D	M	I	X	I
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P	R	M	V	P	C	D	F	N	T	R	A	P	P	T	F	E	O	B	C
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C	A	R	B	O	N	D	I	O	X	I	D	E	X	I	M	I	M	N	G
M	D	Y	F	D	Y	S	P	N	E	A	G	P	A	B	A	E	N	P	A

WORDS

- AIRFLOW
- ALVEOLI
- APNEA
- ASTHMA
- BRONCHI
- CAPILLARIES
- CARBON DIOXIDE
- CILIA
- DIAPHRAGM
- DYSPNEA
- EMBOLISM
- GAS EXCHANGE
- HEMOGLOBIN
- HYPERCAPNIA
- HYPOXEMIA
- LUNGS
- OXYGEN
- PERFUSION
- PNEUMONIA
- RESPIRATION
- SPIROMETRY
- TIDAL VOLUME
- VENTILATION
- VITAL CAPACITY

Amery businesses take part in trick-or-treat event

By Devon Christensen | Reporter
AMERY – From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, the annual Business Trick-or-Treat event took place in Amery. The event was originally planned for Nov. 1, but after public criticism for the event being held after Halloween, the Amery Community Club decided to move the festivities to the weekend before. More than 40 businesses throughout Amery took part in handing out candy, including Acme Junk Company, Chet Johnson Drug, Pillar Bank, and Sweet Child of Mine. In addition to sweet treats, the Amery Area Library handed out books for all ages with the help of youth librarian Emma Novak. Several assisted living facilities in the area took part as well, with residents handing out treats.

The local business that possibly went

above and beyond, as they have for several years, was the Forest Inn. The outside of the hotel was decked out in spooky decorations, and children could pick out mystery treat bags, receive handfuls of candy, select a pumpkin from a makeshift patch to take home, and jump in an inflatable bounce house. Festivities continued inside the hotel, with costume contests, pumpkin carving, cotton candy, and several drawings for a free night stay in a Jacuzzi suite.

After a rainy morning, it was a great fall event for community members to get in some Halloween fun while wearing festive costumes. The community activities continued later that night with a spooky enchanted story trail at the school forest with surprises, guest readers and treats.



The Amery Police Department hands out candy to young children and their families on the walk down Amery's Main Street.



Two employees sit outside of Worn Again Thrift Store wearing matching Halloween onesies while handing out candy. - Photos by Devon Christensen



An employee at the Forest Inn helps children pick out mystery treat bags while dressed as Miss Argentina from the movie "Beetlejuice."



Youth librarian Emma Novak helps trick-or-treaters pick out free books to take home.

Amery VFW hosts Boo Bingo

By Devon Christensen | Reporter
AMERY – The VFW Post 7929 in Amery hosted Boo Bingo on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 25, to help community members get into the Halloween spirit. More than 50 Bingo players showed up to try their luck at winning big. Fifteen rounds were played, with the prize for the first 14 games being \$50. The final round was a "coverall" game, with a jackpot prize of \$500. Attendees enjoyed canned beverages from the bar while they played, and for those who came hungry, there was a lunch of sloppy joes, potato salad and chips available for purchase. Meat raffles also took place throughout the event and a costume contest added extra fun. Bingo players wore costumes such as pirates and clowns, with one woman

getting extra creative by dressing as the spice paprika.

The event took place in the current VFW building and acted as a fundraiser for the new building that has been under construction since January. Various events have taken place throughout the year to fundraise for the building, including meat raffles, the VFW's annual car show, and other Bingo events, as well as three summer parties with food, live music and raffles. Plans for the new building have been in the works for many years and it is a zero-debt build, making these fundraisers incredibly important to the project. Meat raffles will continue throughout the rest of the year to continue working toward the completion of the building.



Attendees look for B-7 on their Bingo cards. - Photo by Devon Christensen

Turtle Lake Library celebrates Halloween on a no-school day

By Devon Christensen | Reporter
TURTLE LAKE – The Turtle Lake Public Library hosted a Halloween party on the afternoon of Monday, Oct. 27. Since the Turtle Lake School District was closed due to a teacher in-service day, the library wanted to provide a free and fun event to coincide with the week's holiday. Several craft stations were set up throughout the library, with the highlight being a room for pumpkin painting. Children were able to select a free pumpkin and paint it using a large variety of colors, before taking it home with them. Other crafts included Halloween coloring sheets and a station to make a skeleton on paper using glue and cotton swabs. Children also had fun playing outdoor games, bobbing for apples, and trying on Halloween costumes provided by the library. Many children arrived in costumes of their own and even some librarians joined in on the costume fun. The event was put on with help from TACOS—Teen Advisory Council of Students—a youth-led group that helps to plan events. In addition to helping with the daytime event for young kids, the



A spooky librarian outside of the library is one of the many Halloween decorations. - Photos by Devon Christensen

TACOS also planned and led a "murder mystery night" later that day for teens.



A young boy wears his Halloween costume while painting a pumpkin.



A young girl paints a pumpkin.

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Free electronics recycling event held in Amery

By Devon Christensen | Reporter
AMERY – An e-recycling event took place in Amery on Thursday, Oct. 23. The goal of the event was to help participants safely and responsibly dispose of electronics, and the service was available free of charge to all area residents. Acceptable items included TVs, computer monitors, cell phones, kitchen appliances, vacuum cleaners and a long list of other electronics. Unacceptable items included vape pens, loose batteries and

light bulbs. The event was organized by Polk County in partnership with Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations, a company specializing in electronics recycling and environmental protection from e-waste and other pollutants. The week before, a similar event took place at the St. Croix Falls Recycling Center, which is open throughout the week for those in the area to dispose of appliances, paint, tires, mattresses, motor oil and more for various fees.



Recycled items are sorted into various boxes to then be loaded into trucks. - Photo by Devon Christensen

4-H Llama and Alpaca Project host open house

Submitted by Dianna DiCosimo
POLK COUNTY – It was a beautiful day for the open house for the 4-H Llama and Alpaca Project at the Polk County Fairgrounds on Sunday, Oct. 26. Audra of Osceola had the opportunity to take Julio, owned by Dianna Calzada of Amery, through a fun obstacle course, helped dress him for Halloween and had her picture taken with him. Audra is a member of the South Milltown 4-H Club

and will be participating in this year's Llama Alpaca Project as a Cloverbud. There is still time to sign up for the project, which teaches participants about llamas and alpacas and readies them for the llama/alpaca show at the Polk County Fair. You do not need to own a llama or alpaca to join. Contact one of the project leaders, Dianna Calzada, 715-222-4782, for more information.



The 4-H Llama and Alpaca Project held an open house on Oct. 26. – Photo provided



(L to R): Lions President Jim Olson presented a check to Toys for Tots coordinator Kathy (Daisy) Eckstrom.

Frederic Senior/Community Center holds weekly Bingo

By Zach Zelinski | Reporter
FREDERIC – At the Frederic Senior/Community Center, members of the local community enjoyed rounds of Bingo on Sunday, Oct. 25. After the summer break, the center started hosting Sunday Bingo again in September. With their individual cards, contestants tried for cash prizes, attempting

to blot successive squares as they were called out by Lydell and Wendy Larson. To keep tabs of near-bingos, Larson encouraged participants to say "Show me the money!" when only a square away. For the first Bingo of the afternoon, Cindy Peer was awarded \$67. Attendees also enjoyed the provided light refreshments.



Lydell and Wendy Larson officiate rounds of Bingo at the Frederic Community and Senior Center. – Photo by Zach Zelinski

Webster Lions donate to Burnett County organizations

Submitted by Kathy Vandergon
WEBSTER – In keeping with their motto "We Serve," the Webster Lions Club recently donated to three organizations in Burnett County. Lions treasurer Norm Bickford and Lion Jean Bickford presented a check for \$500 to Deputy Bailey Mangen to be used for the Burnett County Sheriff's Office Shop with a Cop initiative. This annual program was created to help underprivileged children have a brighter holiday. The Lions also donated \$1,000 each to Burnett County

Interfaith Caregivers Christmas for Kids and Toys for Tots of Burnett County. As with Shop with a Cop, these two programs help make a Christmas for Burnett County's children who would not otherwise have gifts to open on Christmas Day. If you would like to donate or would just like more information about Christmas for Kids, please call 715-566-2326. Contact Kathy (Daisy) Eckstrom at eckstromkathy@gmail.com for information regarding Toys for Tots.



Webster Lions Treasurer Norm Bickford, right, and Lion Jean Bickford presented a check for \$500 to Deputy Bailey Mangen to be used for the Burnett County Sheriff's Office Shop with a Cop initiative. - Photos provided



Lions President Jim Olson presented a check to Interfaith Caregivers member Denny Blodgett, left.

Folk duo kicks off fall-winter series at Frederic Art Center

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter
FREDERIC – Ethan Bergstrom and Melissa Bauman performed a free indoor house concert Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Frederic Art Center, drawing locals for a set of rock ‘n’ roll-infused folk music. Light refreshments were available for purchase. The duo’s appearance marked the start of the venue’s fall-winter series, blending band favorites with new arrangements. Board member Tammy Seebach noted that it wasn’t the first time the artists had been at the venue. She shared, “No November event is set due to holidays, but December is in the works.” Future shows aim to be monthly, with artists desiring to play so long as the weather cooperates.



Ethan Bergstrom and Melissa Bauman play to a group of music enthusiasts on Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Frederic Art Center. - Photos by Sarah Beth Radomsky



Light refreshments were sold by board members.

Luck School makes space for craft fair amid local sports and festivities

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter
LUCK – Crafters and vendors filled Luck School on Saturday, Oct. 25, with handmade jewelry, baked goods, and wellness products during the annual Fall Craft and Vendor Sale, organized by the Roundabout Home and Community Education Club to fund local community efforts. The event, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., drew a modest crowd between youth basketball games and downtown Halloween activities. Organizers timed it with school athletics to attract spectators during breaks, while posters tied it to uptown events to reach a broader audience. “This is our second year here, and I’ll book it for next year by tonight,” said club president Jeanne Alling. The group rents the venue affordably, unlike the

\$1,500 fee elsewhere, and uses \$25 vendor table fees to fund donations, such as books for county Head Start programs. Some club members vended alongside guests offering Peruvian beads, Arizona-sourced gems, magnesium sprays for arthritis, home scents, and other goods. Attendance was steady but slow, Alling said. “It’s quiet now, but it’ll pick up after basketball and Halloween wrap up.” Past events rotated sites like Milltown Community Center and Centuria’s church, but Luck’s central Polk County location suits best, aided by newspaper promotion. This October slot avoids overlap with other Christmas-themed events later in the year, though next year’s pre-Halloween date may be adjusted to accommodate village plans.



Business picked up after downtown festivities ended and in between athletic activities at the school. - Photo by Sarah Beth Radomsky

Amery Scouts serve Saturday breakfast

By Devon Christensen | Reporter
AMERY – The Amery Scouts hosted a pancake breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 25, at the Congressional Church. The meal was a freewill donation, and the menu included pancakes, sausages, fruit salad and various beverages. The group holds a variety of fundraisers throughout the year, including serving other meals, hosting a food booth at the Amery Fall Festival, selling raffle tickets and offering Christmas wreaths during the holiday season. Proceeds from this particular fundraiser will go toward Scout Cora’s Eagle project. Cora plans to build

two vegetable planters for the church, and for finishing the project, Cora will become an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Scouts. The Scouts program in Amery begins with Cub Scouts, for children in grades kindergarten through fifth, then moves to Boy Scouts, which is for those in sixth grade and up. Activities include field trips, camping trips, chances to learn new skills, outdoor fun and more. The goal of the program is to make friends, learn skills, make memories and gain confidence and independence.



Several Scouts and their leaders pose for a picture while serving breakfast. - Photo by Devon Christensen

Classical guitarist Peter Fletcher performs at West Denmark

By Zach Zelinski | Reporter
WEST DENMARK – Classical guitarist Peter Fletcher held a performance at the West Denmark Lutheran Church on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 26. At the quiet and naturally lit venue, Fletcher showed off just as much technical skill as expression in the diverse pieces he performed. Fletcher began his performance career at age 15 and garnered a reputation for the passion and nuance with which he performed, debuting at Carnegie Hall in 2007 after studying at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. The first half of his program included arrangements of familiar tunes by Bach and Handel, highlighting a bright and unique sense of expression. After a brief intermission, the second half of the program delved into repertoire by 19th- and 20th-century composers, including those of Spanish guitar composers Albeniz and Tarrega. Fletcher introduced the pieces as he played them, explaining the context behind their composition and the decisions he made to play them best,



Peter Fletcher performs classical guitar pieces at West Denmark Lutheran Church. - Photo by Zach Zelinsk

including switching guitars for the program’s second half for a deeper sound. Fletcher met with audience members after the concert, some of whom were regular attendees to his performances, and sold CDs of his recorded performances, including his February release “In Concert.” The Luck Public Library helped sponsor the event.

Barley Jacks bring Americana sound to St. Croix Falls

By Zach Zelinski | Reporter
ST. CROIX FALLS – The Barley Jacks performed at The Historic Auditorium on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 25. Comprising professional musicians from Minnesota and Wisconsin, the Barley Jacks brought a unique blend of bluegrass and roots to the music they performed. Through a lively acoustic set, mainly of original material, the band offered unique anecdotes about many of the songs’ composition and encouraged audience sing-along near the end of the show. Brian Wicklund provided lead vocals for the majority of the setlist, while alternating between playing fiddle and mandolin. Wicklund also spoke about

the writing process that went into the band’s original songs, which often feature self-contained scenes or themes reflecting their musical content. Though bluegrass proves to be their sound’s main color, the setlist flexed influences from blues, rock, R&B, and Celtic music. Joel Arpin, on drums and cajon, was credited with a key rhythmic role as they covered the Brazilian standard “Tico-Tico.” The band often featured individual members with solo highlights. Guitarist and backup vocalist Mike Cramer soloed deftly and extensively, taking lead vocals on a song as well. Josh Granowski, on upright bass, often used a bow for slower, pronounced passages. The music was paired with notable

lightheartedness, as lyrics and explanations often came with an angle of fun. The setlist officially closed with “I’ve Just Seen a Face,” introduced by Wicklund as a song by “a great bluegrass band called The Beatles.” For their encore, however, the Barley Jacks launched into a sing-along of “Goodnight, Irene,” with a custom verse thanking those in attendance.



The Barley Jacks lead the audience at the St. Croix Falls Historic Auditorium through a sing-along encore.

End-of-season hike highlights Ice Age Trail’s fall colors

By Zach Zelinski | Reporter
FREDÉRIC – The Trap Rock Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance held an end-of-season hike along the Trade River segment of the trail on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 27. The annual hike highlights the vibrant fall colors along the trail, taking hikers along the 1.5-mile stretch south of Frederic, from the designated starting point on 150th Street to the chapter’s shed on 140th. Attendees also enjoyed a potluck after the hike, where the work of longtime trail adopters was commemorated.
Chapter coordinator Cheryl Whitman met participants at the shed before heading to 150th Street, as shuttles were organized to get hikers to the Trade River



The Trap Rock Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance enjoy a colorful autumn hike to round out the season. - Photo courtesy of Cheryl Whitman

segment’s outset. The Ice Age Trail is a state-spanning, 1,200-mile-long federally designated scenic trail, which the Alliance works not only to advocate for but maintain. The shed, host to the chapter’s supplies for these efforts, also hosted the potluck lunch that hikers enjoyed after the sightseeing and exercise. Progress toward completing the Mammoth Challenge, which Whitman helped kick off on Oct. 5 in St. Croix Falls, was also a topic of discussion, as hikers had the month of October to undertake the 45-mile challenge along any point in the trail.
The sunny weather lent itself well to both the appreciation of the autumn colors and to outdoor refreshment.

Gentle Yoga with Luck Community Ed

By Zach Zelinski | Reporter
LUCK – In the Luck School District’s new secondary gym, instructor Megan Hacker guided participants in a session of gentle yoga on the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 22. After dimming the lights and setting up flameless candle lights in front of each participant’s mat, the class eased through gentle stretches and poses to the sound of relaxing music.
Gentle yoga is the most easygoing of the trio of courses that Hacker instructs as part of Luck Community Education. She also offers a yoga sculpt course, featuring more intense activity, as well

as a flow yoga course, an intermediate option to build on core yoga principles. For this course, however, relaxation and meditative insight were key, especially as poses were held for longer periods to emphasize balance and focus.
Along with guidance on each pose, Hacker also gave advice on meditative strategies to approach this style of yoga. With breathing exercises and temple massages, relief and peace were key focuses during the class. The indoor session provided a moment of both activity and respite during a rainy afternoon.



Relaxing gentle yoga being enjoyed in the Luck gym. - Photo by Zach Zelinski

Amery Ale Works hosts Jayhden’s Journey fundraiser

By Devon Christensen | Reporter
AMERY – On Aug. 17, Amery resident and 2019 Amery High School graduate Jayhden Fleischauer was in a tragic motorcycle accident in St. Croix County. Following the accident, in which he sustained many broken bones and a traumatic brain injury, Fleischauer was in a coma and remains in the hospital for the foreseeable future. “He’s not quite in a coma anymore, but he’s not awake. What they call it is mild consciousness,” Fleischauer’s mother, Chastity Justice explained. Fleischauer is a father to a young daughter who turned three earlier this month and he also has a baby on the way due to arrive in March. Fleischauer’s fiancée and their family have been left with medical bills, a mortgage, and more financial burdens as they deal

with an unimaginable situation.
Fleischauer, who was previously at Regency Hospital in Golden Valley, Minnesota, was moved to a skilled nursing facility in Wisconsin on Oct. 22. His family is very excited to have him back in Wisconsin and to be able to visit him more easily without battling city traffic.
The transfer wasn’t the only exciting event for Fleischauer’s family that week, as just a few days prior, the Jayhden’s Journey benefit at Amery Ale Works was a huge success. Fleischauer’s mother has been a bartender at Amery Ale Works for four years and after her son’s accident, the owner, Jenna Johnson, offered to host and plan a benefit. Justice was hesitant at first, as she didn’t know if she wanted to be so public about their situation, but she later decided to let Johnson help with a

benefit and setting up a GoFundMe. “Jenna and my co-workers, we’re basically like family. I cannot believe the support from these guys and the time they put into it,” Justice expressed.
The event took place on the afternoon of Oct. 19 and had an amazing turnout. The barn and patio were packed, and employees struggled to find enough parking for so many attendees. The event included 130 raffle baskets filled with items like Packers gear, alcohol, decor, grills, coolers, and many other donated goods. Attendees were able to purchase wristbands for all-you-can-eat chili and pizza. Wristbands were also available for purchase for children. In addition to the unlimited food, they could decorate a pumpkin, have their face painted, and play on the inflatable

activities. The Roberts Brothers and Short SirKit provided live music on the patio, and the televisions inside showed the Packers game. Attendees were encouraged to wear a flannel shirt to the event and those who did so were entered to win a signed Packers football.
The GoFundMe has raised over \$12,000 and the benefit at Amery Ale Works added an additional \$20,000. The money will go toward the never-ending hospital bills and other needs of the family, as well as preparations already being made for when Fleischauer is able to come home, such as a ramp to their home’s front door. To learn more about Jayhden’s Journey and to read updates on his progress, search “Jayhden Fleischauer” at [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com)



Children play on the “Lagoon of Doom” inflatable. - Photo by Devon Christensen



The Roberts Brothers play live music.



A tent full of attendees wearing flannel shirts browse the raffle items. Everyone who wore a flannel shirt was entered to win a door prize.

Odds ‘N’ Ends HCE makes donation to Grantsburg Public Library

Submitted by Judy Marek
GRANTSBURG – Ann Swenson, a member of Odds ‘N’ Ends HCE (home and community education), presented a check to Daniel Clugson, assistant director at the Grantsburg Public Library, to celebrate HCE Week—Nov. 2-8. This donation will help support library programs for residents.
HCE is a statewide education organization that offers opportunities for social interaction and for sharing what is learned with others. Odds ‘N’ Ends members donate their time and support local needs and residents with the money they raise. Membership is open to all. If you would like more informa-

tion, please call Judy Marek at 715-689-2476.

RIGHT: Ann Swenson, a member of Odds ‘N’ Ends HCE presents a check to Daniel Clugson, assistant director at the Grantsburg Public Library. – Photo provided





THANK YOU

To all the brave men and women who serve in uniform today, we thank you for your commitment to preserving freedom at home and around the world. You are an inspiration to all of us, and you make us proud to be Americans. We salute you and your families.

THANK YOU

Thank You To The Sponsors Of The 2025 Polk-Burnett Farm Bureau Harvest Party!

~~~~~ **GOLD** ~~~~~

Burnett Dairy Cooperative

Grosskreutz Crop Insurance

Rural Mutual Insurance

KS Dairy

Cushing Co-op

Midwest Machinery

Baribeau Implement

Compeer Financial

Bernard's Chrysler

Creeks Edge

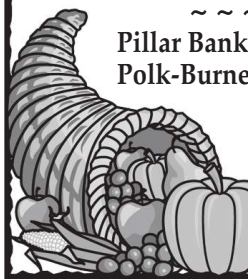
~~~~~ **SILVER** ~~~~~

~~~~~ **BRONZE** ~~~~~

Pillar Bank

Polk-Burnett Electric

Cargill



46351\_1 14Lp

### Delicious News All The Way Through!



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Inter-County  
**Leader**  
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Frederic, WI  
**715-327-4236**

### St. Peter's Lutheran Church

## SALE

Sat., Nov. 15, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**BRUNCH - Eat In Or To Go**  
Biscuits & Gravy, Ham & Cheese Egg Bake, Muffin Or Bar, Coffee, Milk & Orange Juice..... **\$9.00**

**Check Out All Our Sale Categories:**  
*Baked Goods (Including Kolaches)*  
*White Elephant (Including Clothing - Mainly Women's Sizes L & XL)*  
*Handmade Crafts*  
*Theme Baskets*  
*Kid's Fish Pond (Free For Fun Prizes For Your Kids!)*

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church - LCMC**  
1614 County Road B, Luck  
2 miles north of Luck on Hwy. 35 - turn on County Road B  
**We're the little white church on the hill!**  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

46376\_1 14L 4a.d

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEBSTER'S

## SENIOR CITIZEN + VETERANS breakfast



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST EVENT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND VETERANS OF ALL AGES.

BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED AT 8:30 A.M. AFTER SOCIAL HOUR, ATTENDEES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THE DISTRICT VETERANS DAY PROGRAM AT 9:30 A.M.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025**

**8:30 AM | MS/HS CAFETORIUM**  
**7564 ALDER ST W WEBSTER, WI. 54893**

ENGLISH MUFFIN BREAKFAST SANDWICH | FRESH FRUIT  
YOGURT PARFAIT | COOKIES | COFFEE | JUICE

PLEASE RSVP BY CALLING  
(715) 866-4282

46112\_1 13-14L 3-4a



## WATER AND SEWER OPERATOR

**Village of Grantsburg**

The Village of Grantsburg (pop. 1,302) located in Burnett County, Wisconsin, seeks a candidate for our full-time Water-Wastewater Operator/Crew Person Position.

This position is responsible for performing a variety of skilled and semi-skilled tasks under the Director of Public Works involving maintenance, operation and administration of the Water and Sewer Utility. This position is also responsible for duties outlined in the Crew Person job description and is responsible to participate in those activities when needed at the discretion of the Public Works Director.

Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent. Prefer experience with the operations of a municipal water and sewer system. Must have a CDL Driver's License. Must obtain and maintain Wisconsin DNR Water and Wastewater Operator certification within two years of hire. Pre-employment physical and drug/alcohol screening required. Wage dependent on qualifications. Excellent benefits.

Complete job description available at [www.villageofgrantsburg.gov](http://www.villageofgrantsburg.gov) or by calling the Village Office at 715-463-2405. Submit resume/application and references by November 21, 2025, to:

Village of Grantsburg  
316 S. Brad Street  
Grantsburg, Wisconsin 54840

Or email to:  
[office@villageofgrantsburg.gov](mailto:office@villageofgrantsburg.gov)

46140\_1 2-3a 13-14L

*The Village of Grantsburg is an Equal Opportunity Employer*



### Burnett County VFW Post 1256

## ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER & FUNDRAISER

**7664 East Main Street, Siren**  
**Friday, November 21**  
**4 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Adults \$10.00 • Children 12 & Under \$5.00**

**Takeout Available**  
**• SILENT AUCTION**

46326\_1 14-15L 4-5a



## Northwood Technical College

### Join Our Team!

Exciting Opportunities Available at Northwood Tech

**Hospitality Foundations Instructor**  
**New Richmond Campus (PT/Adjunct)**

Northwood Technical College is seeking a passionate, student-centered professional to lead a part-time Hospitality Foundations program designed for students with disabilities. You'll guide learners toward entry-level roles in hotels, restaurants, and resorts while creating inclusive, hands-on learning experiences.

**Mechatronics Basics Instructor**  
**New Richmond Campus (PT/LTE/Adjunct)**

Join our team at Northwood Technical College as an adjunct, limited-term Mechatronics Basics Instructor! *The instructor will be teaching at the Clayton High School for the 25-26 Academic year.* If you have a passion for teaching and a background in mechatronics, apply now to be part of our dynamic team!

**Learn more and apply online at:**  
<https://www.northwoodtech.edu/employment>



Northwood Tech is an Equal Opportunity/Access/Affirmative Action/Veterans/Disability Employer and Educator

TTY 711

46275\_1 3a.c.d.e 14L



### EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial 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.

1229\_1 8a-ettcp 19Lttc

# ATTENTION!

## HELP WANTED • REPORTER

The Inter-County Leader is looking for a **part-time reporter** to join our news staff.

This is an opportunity to work for the largest circulation weekly newspaper in Polk and Burnett counties.

The ideal candidate writes clearly, can develop relationships with sources, has the ability to take initiative and works well independently.

Responsibilities include researching and writing stories, taking photos for the newspaper plus capturing video and developing other content for our online and social media platforms.

Reporters need to be versatile, as they cover a wide variety of topics from local festivals to government and school meetings plus interviews with officials/political candidates.

The reporter will be covering stories mainly in Burnett County and occasionally Polk County.

Occasional weekend and evening hours required.  
Reliable transportation is a must.

**Send resume to:**



**Inter-County Cooperative Publishing Association**  
P.O. Box 490 • Frederic, WI 54837  
Attn.: Human Resources Dept.  
Fax 715-327-4870 • [kimtalmadge@iccpawi.com](mailto:kimtalmadge@iccpawi.com)

44425\_1 52Lttc 42a.b.dttc

## VILLAGE OF GRANTSBURG

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

## DEPUTY CLERK/TREASURER

**Status:** Full-time | Regular | On-site  
**Application Deadline:** November 21, 2025  
**Application Process:** Submit resumes to [office@villageofgrantsburg.gov](mailto:office@villageofgrantsburg.gov).

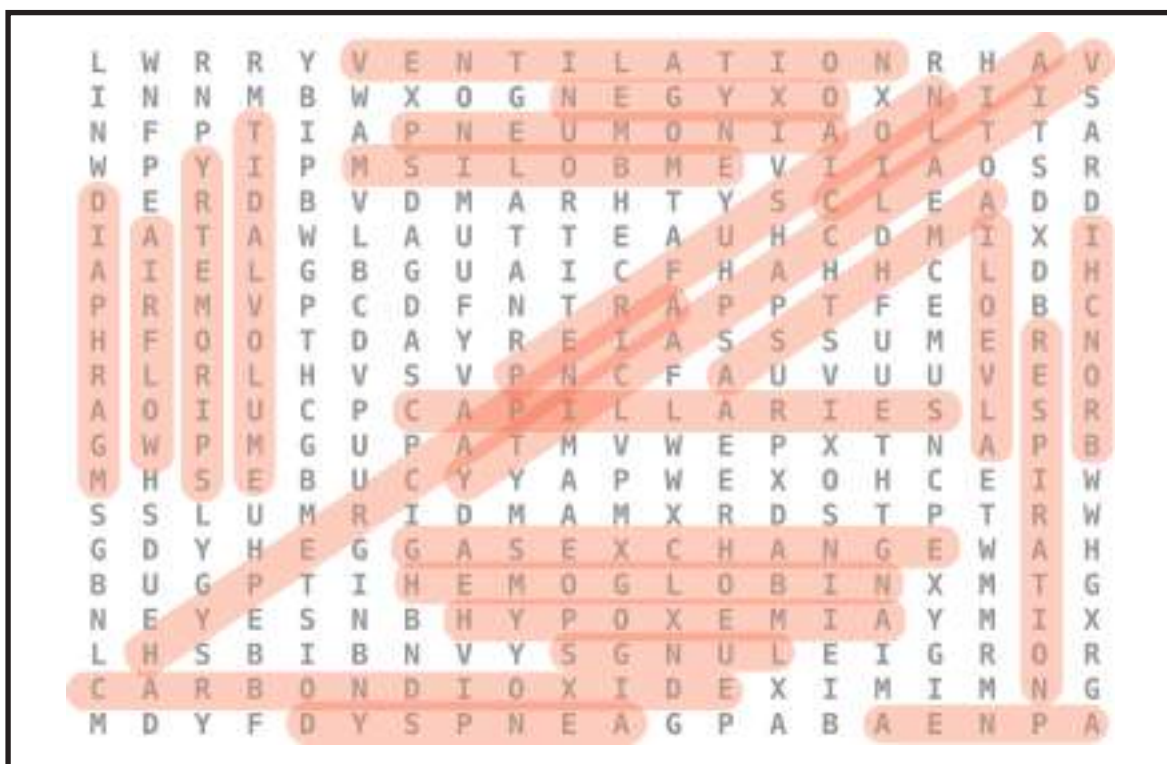
The Village of Grantsburg is seeking a dependable, detail-oriented, and adaptable Deputy Clerk/Treasurer to join our team. This position supports the daily operations of the Village office, including financial processing, licensing, elections, and public service. The ideal candidate can shift smoothly between diverse tasks, work independently, and maintain professionalism in a dynamic municipal environment.

**Position Overview:**  
The Deputy Clerk/Treasurer performs a variety of clerical, accounting, and administrative functions under the guidance of the Village Clerk/Treasurer and serves as a back-up for all statutory duties outlined in Wisconsin State Statutes §§61.25 and 61.26. This position interacts directly with residents, vendors, and elected officials while supporting Village operations, elections, and finances. The role requires strong organizational skills, attention to detail, and the ability to prioritize and manage multiple responsibilities with independence and accuracy.

**Qualifications:**

- High school diploma or equivalent; post-secondary coursework in business, accounting, or public administration preferred.
- Two years of relevant office or municipal experience, or equivalent education and training.
- Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Office and data management software.
- Knowledge of municipal functions, or willingness to learn.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Ability to work independently, manage competing priorities, and exercise sound judgment.

46139\_1 2-3a 13-14L



**Guess Who Answer:** Emma Stone

## CLIP SAVE

CLIP SAVE

**Attendees browse the baked goods, crafts and quilts. - Photo by Devon Christensen**

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## AMERY

**APPLE RIVER COMMUNITY CHURCH (EFCA)**,  
715-268-2176, appleriverchurch.org  
**BALSAM LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
715-268-9291, balsamlutheranchurch.org  
**ELIM LUTHERAN – Range**,  
715-268-7799, elimlutheranchurchrange.org  
**JOURNEY CHURCH (Baptist)**,  
715-268-2223, journeychurch.city  
**NEW LIFE COMMUNITY**  
715-268-6989, amerynewlifechurch.org  
ST. JOSEPH (Catholic), 715-268-7717,  
stjosephamery.org  
**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
715-268-7283,  
redeemerlutheranchurch-amery.com

## BALSAM LAKE

**EAST BALSAM BAPTIST**  
715-857-5411, eastbalsam.org  
**FAITH LUTHERAN**  
715-485-3800, faithlutheranbl.com  
**GEORGETOWN LUTHERAN**  
715-857-5580, georgetownlutheran.net  
**OUR LADY OF THE LAKES (Catholic)**  
715-405-2253, ourladyofthelakes.ws

## BARRONETT

**BARRONETT LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
715-671-3197, 776 Prospect Ave.  
**TIMBERLAND RINGEBU FREE CHURCH**  
715-468-4403, 20805 CTH H

## CENTURIA

**HOLY TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
715-485-3363, htslumc@gmail.com  
**JOY LUTHERAN**  
715-646-2357, joylutheranwi.org  
**NORTH VALLEY LUTHERAN**  
715-825-3559, nvlch.org  
**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN**  
715-483-3401, 350 Michigan Ave.

## CLAYTON

**HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX**  
715-948-2493, htocclayton.org

## DANBURY

**DANBURY UNITED METHODIST**  
715-866-8646  
**FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
715-656-4010, 7535 Peet St.  
**OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP (Catholic)**  
715-866-7321, 7586 Main St. E.  
**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH – Markville, Minn.**  
715-244-3403

## DRESSER

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN**  
715-755-2562, bethesdalutheran.ws  
**EL SALEM/TWIN FALLS CHRISTIAN CENTER**  
715-755-3133, estfcc.org  
**NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**  
715-201-2295, newlifechristiancommunity.org  
**PEACE LUTHERAN (ELCA)**  
715-755-2515, plcdresser.org  
**ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
715-553-1800  
**WORD OF LIFE CHURCH**  
(meeting in homes), 715-755-3048

## FREDERIC

**CLAM FALLS LUTHERAN (AALC)**  
715-349-5346, 3380 65th St.  
**CROSSWALK COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
715-327-8767, crosswalkcommunity.org  
**GRACE LUTHERAN – West Sweden**  
651-707-6684, 3446 CTH W, Facebook:  
Zion-Grace Lutheran Parish  
**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN (Missouri Synod)**  
715-307-4448, 201 1st Ave. S.



## LEWIS MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST

715-866-8646, Pastor Chul Kikim  
**PILGRIM LUTHERAN**  
715-327-8012, bplutheran.org  
**SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST**  
715-327-4956, fredericadventistchurch.org  
**ST. DOMINIC (Catholic)**  
715-327-8119, sd-ic.org  
**ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
715-327-4436, htslumc@gmail.com,  
100 Linden St. W.

## TRADE LAKE BAPTIST

715-327-8402, tradelakebaptistchurch.org  
**ZION LUTHERAN – Trade Lake**  
715-327-8384, 11840 CTH Z  
Facebook: Zion-Grace Lutheran Parish

## GRANTSBURG

**BETHANY LUTHERAN – Branstad**  
715-463-5746, blcgrantsburg.org  
**CALVARY COVENANT – Alpha**  
715-689-2541, calvarycovenantgrantsburg.org  
**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
715-463-2624, upperstcroixparish.org/grantsburg  
**FAITH LUTHERAN**  
715-463-5388, myfaithlutheran.org  
**GRACE BAPTIST**  
715-463-5699, gracechurchgrantsburg.org  
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (Catholic)**  
715-327-8119, sd-ic.org  
**LIVING HOPE CHURCH (Baptist)**  
715-463-5794, living-hope-church.org  
**NEW HOPE LUTHERAN**  
715-463-5700, newhopelutheranchurch.org  
**TRADE RIVER EVANGELICAL FREE**  
715-488-2296, traderiverefc.org  
**WOOD RIVER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
715-463-2792, 22780 S. Williams Rd.

## LUCK

**ATLAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
715-463-2624, upperstcroixparish.org  
**BONE LAKE LUTHERAN**  
715-472-2535 or 715-472-8153, bllc@lakeland.ws  
**FAITH FELLOWSHIP**  
715-483-9202 or 715-475-7666  
faithfellowshipluck.com  
**LUCK LUTHERAN**  
715-472-2605, lucklutheran.org  
**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN (LCMC) – North Luck**  
715-472-8190, 1614 270th Ave.  
**TRINITY LUTHERAN (ELCA) – McKinley**  
715-857-5580, trinitylutheranchurchmckinley.com  
**WEST DENMARK LUTHERAN**  
715-307-3927, westdenmark.org  
**ZION LUTHERAN (LCMC) – Bone Lake**  
715-472-8660, zionlutheranbonelake.org

## MILLTOWN

**FIRST BAPTIST**  
715-825-3186, milltownbaptist.org  
**GRACE & TRUTH FELLOWSHIP**  
651-323-4253, 110 Main St. W.  
**MILLTOWN HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH**  
763-913-8257, 113 Main St. W.

## OSCEOLA

**ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (Catholic) – East Farmington**  
715-247-3310, 265 Hwy. 35  
**GRACE CHURCH OF OSCEOLA (Baptist)**  
715-294-4222 or 715-755-3454, fbcosceola.com  
**HOPE EVANGELICAL FREE**  
715-294-2112, hefrc.org  
**OSCEOLA COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
715-294-4332, occnow.org  
**OSCEOLA MEDICAL CENTER SPIRITUAL CARE**  
715-294-5645  
myomc.org/specialtyserve1chapel.php  
**OSCEOLA UNITED METHODIST**  
715-755-2275  
osceolaunitedmethodistchurch.weebly.com  
**ST. JOSEPH (Catholic)**  
715-294-2243, osceolacatholic.org  
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN (WELS)**  
715-294-2828, trinity.osceola.com  
**WEST IMMANUEL LUTHERAN (ELCA)**  
715-294-2936, westimmanuel.org  
**ZION LUTHERAN (WELS) – East Farmington**  
715-294-3489, 252 Hwy. 35

## SARONA

**LONG LAKE LUTHERAN**  
715-354-3804, llchurch.com  
**SARONA METHODIST**  
715-924-4660, P.O. Box 22, 5316 Klein St.  
chetekumc.org, Facebook  
**ST. CATHERINE'S (Catholic)**  
715-468-7850, W5262 CTH D

## SHELL LAKE

**LAKE PARK ALLIANCE**  
715-468-2734, 53 3rd St.  
**LAKEVIEW UNITED METHODIST – Hertel**  
715-635-3227, 23980 CTH X  
**NORTHWOODS BAPTIST**  
715-468-2177, northwoods baptist.net  
**SALEM LUTHERAN (ELCA)**  
715-468-7718, 803 2nd St., slsalemlutheran.org  
**SHELL LAKE FULL GOSPEL**  
715-468-2895, slfgchurch.com  
**SHELL LAKE UNITED METHODIST**  
715-468-2405  
**ST. JOSEPH'S (Catholic)**  
715-635-3105, 502 N. 2nd St.

## SIREN

**ADVENTURE CHURCH (Assembly of God)**  
715-349-5750, adventurechurchsiren.com  
**BETHANY LUTHERAN**  
715-349-5280, bplutheran.com  
**FIRST BAPTIST – Falun**  
715-689-2125, fbcfalun.org  
**SIREN COVENANT**  
715-349-5601, sirencovenantchurch.org  
**TRINITY LUTHERAN – Falun**  
715-689-2271, tlcfalun.com

## SPOONER

**BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN (WELS)**  
715-635-7672, bsclspooner.com  
**CHRIST LUTHERAN (LCMS) – Trego**  
715-466-4516, Christ Lutheran of Lampson  
**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
715-635-3496, welcomevalley.com/spooner  
**CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN**  
715-635-9222, cornerstonechurchspooner.com  
**FAITH LUTHERAN (Missouri Synod)**  
715-635-8167, faithspooner.com

## FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL

715-635-8386, Facebook  
**NAMEKAGON CONGREGATIONAL**  
715-635-2903, earlucc.com  
**SPOONER BAPTIST**  
715-635-2277, spoonerbaptist.com  
**SPOONER UNITED METHODIST**  
715-635-3227, spoonerumc.org  
**SPOONER WESLEYAN**  
715-635-2768, spoonerwesleyan.org  
**ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL**  
715-635-8475, Facebook  
**ST. FRANCIS de SALES (Catholic)**  
715-635-3105, we3churches.org  
**TREGO COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
715-635-8402, tregocommunitychurch.com  
**TRINITY LUTHERAN**  
715-635-3603, trinityspooner.org

## ST. CROIX FALLS

**ALLIANCE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY**  
715-483-1100, stcroixalliance.com  
**EUREKA BAPTIST**  
715-483-9464, eurekabapchurch.com  
**FIRST LUTHERAN – Cushing**  
715-648-5323, cushingparish.com  
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**  
715-483-3550, firstpresbyterianscf.org  
**LAKETOWN LUTHERAN – Cushing**  
715-575-4371, laketownlutheran@gmail.com.  
**REDEEMER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN (Wisconsin Synod)**  
608-397-3346, redeemerstjohns.com  
**RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH LIGHTHOUSE**  
715-483-5378, rvccighthouse.org  
**SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN (Missouri Synod)**  
715-483-1186, shepherdofthevalleyscf.org  
**ST. CROIX FALLS UNITED METHODIST**  
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**ST. CROIX UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**  
scuuf.org  
**WOLF CREEK UNITED METHODIST**  
850-217-7188, 2417 River Rd., Facebook, Youtube

## TAYLORS FALLS, MINN.

**FIRST BAPTIST**  
651-465-6792, 661 West St.  
**FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN**  
651-465-5265, tflutheran.org  
**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER – Shafer**  
651-465-7345, stjoseph Taylorsfalls.org  
**ST. JOSEPH (Catholic)**  
651-465-7345, stjoseph Taylorsfalls.org  
**TAYLORS FALLS UNITED METHODIST**  
651-242-6046, taylorsfalls sumc.com

## WEBSTER

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
715-866-7157, burnettcountycocf.com  
**CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH – A&H**  
715-635-4816, 28509 CTH H  
**FIRST BAPTIST**  
864-607-5606, websterbaptist.org  
**GRACE UNITED METHODIST**  
715-866-8646  
**HOLY CROSS FELLOWSHIP**  
651-413-1898, 5558 Hwy. 70  
**LAKESIDE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN (ELCA)**  
715-635-7791, lakesidelutheranwi.com  
**OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN (LCMS)**  
Vicar Joshua Henry  
715-866-7191, ourredeemerwebster.com  
**SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS & MARY (Catholic) – A&H**  
715-866-7321, 28450 CTH H  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Catholic)**  
715-866-7321, 26455 Muskey Ave. S.  
**YELLOW LAKE LUTHERAN**  
715-349-8281, yellowlakelutheranchurch.org

*Church listings sponsored by the following area businesses:*

### STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES

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Phone 715-866-7131

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### HOPKINS SAND & GRAVEL, INC.

Sand, Gravel, Ready-Mix,  
Concrete, Black Dirt, Dozer Work,  
Landscaping &  
Septic Tanks Installed  
Hwy. 35 North  
Webster, Wis.  
Phone 715-866-4157  
M.P.R.S. #03059



# Students of the Week



## Frederic

**Audrey Goodmanson** is in fourth grade and the daughter of TJ and Michelle Goodmanson. Audrey has four siblings and a horse named Josey. Audrey is a responsible student who works hard and is known for her kindness. Her favorite subject is social studies and she enjoys reading fantasy books. Her favorite food is pizza. Audrey enjoys spending time with her horse. When she grows up, she would like to be an actress. Congratulations, Audrey!



**Baelor Knauber** is in sixth grade and the son of Trisha and Tony Knauber. Baelor is engaged in math class and contributes to discussions. He does an excellent job demonstrating his understanding on homework and quizzes. He takes the time to help classmates who may not understand the math methods yet. Baelor is involved in baseball, football and baseball. Outside of school he does farm work and hunts. Congratulations, Baelor!



**Oliver French** is a freshman and the son of Brenda McClay and Aaron French. Oliver has been pushing himself and achieving great things in band. He asks when he needs clarification on his parts and has been working hard. Oliver recently took the initiative to renew his library book without being prompted. This is greatly appreciated and widely left undone. Oliver is involved in band and he enjoys gaming, fishing and eating. Congratulations, Oliver!



## Grantsburg

**Greyson Sando** is Grantsburg Elementary School's student of the week. He is in second grade and the son of Justin and Bethani Sando. Greyson is recognized for being responsible, hardworking and kind to others. He always gives his best effort, lends a helping hand and is a wonderful friend to everyone in class. Congratulations, Greyson!



**Spencer Thalín** is Grantsburg Middle School's student of the week. He is in fourth grade and the son of Melisa and Bryan. Spencer had an incredible start to the school year. He is a great leader in the classroom. He has been rocking reading this year averaging 1-1/2 hours of reading a night. Spencer's favorite class is math. He is involved in football and would like to be a football player when he grows up. Congratulations, Spencer! Keep up all the hard work!



**Avery Kwolek** is a freshman and the daughter of Jeremy Kwolek and Natalie Tankersley. Avery enjoys art class and puts forth a really great effort each day! She is imaginative, kind and respectful. She is off to a wonderful start gaining confidence while improving her drawing and painting skills. Avery is her class president and involved in Hope Squad, volleyball, softball and gymnastics. Her future plans are to work in the medical field. Congratulations, Avery!



## Luck

**Elsie Byl** is in fourth grade and the daughter of Ashley and Ryan Byl. Elsie is a wonderful, genuine and caring student who is a true friend to all. She is always looking for more ways to challenge herself with her schoolwork and never backs down to challenges. She is involved in basketball and softball. Outside of school, Elsie enjoys reading books, doing math problems, playing the piano and walking the dog. Congratulations, Elsie!



**Ryker Johnson** is Luck Middle School's student of the week. He is in seventh grade and the son of Abby and Ryan Johnson. Ryker has shown great perseverance and a positive attitude in class. He is a natural leader who leads his classmates in the right direction when they need help. He wants what is best for his class and is always willing to go the extra mile. Ryker is a competitive student in everything he does. He participates in football, baseball and track. Congratulations, Ryker!



**Bailey Loberg** is a senior and the daughter of Kami Loberg. Bailey is an outstanding student whose leadership, work ethic and positive attitude shine in all she does. A dedicated FFA member, she takes initiative, organizes events, and mentors younger students with enthusiasm. Bailey leads by example—arriving early, helping others and taking on extra responsibilities. She is a true role model and an asset to the school and community. Congratulations, Bailey!



## Shell Lake

**Andrew Nelson** is Shell Lake Elementary School's student of the week. Andrew is kind and respectful. He shows empathy for others and is willing to go out of his way to help anyone in need. His positive attitude brightens the day of his classmates and teachers. Andrew can always be found following the Laker Way! Congratulations, Andrew!



**Gavin Johnson** is Shell Lake Middle School's student of the week. His teachers appreciate his quiet and steady demeanor with consistent hard work and strong performance in the classroom. He is off to a tremendous start to his eighth-grade year. Congratulations, Gavin! Keep up the excellent work!



**Alexandra Battistella** is Shell Lake High School's student of the week. She enriches our school culture by broadening our understanding of Italian culture and is a very helpful and eager learner. Alexandra displays a kind, respectful and warm personality and we are super glad she is a part of the Laker community this year. Congratulations, Alexandra!



## Siren

**Cain** is Siren Elementary School's student of the week. Cain is in fifth grade and is a very hardworking boy and a quiet leader. He is always eager to learn and work hard. He has a clever sense of humor, which makes his teacher smile. Cain's favorite subject is math. He also likes playing football and video games, wrestling and fishing. Cain has not decided what he wants to be when he grows up, but he will be successful at whatever he chooses to do. Congratulations, Cain!



**Ivy** is Siren Middle School's student of the week. She is a dedicated student who brings a unique mix of energy, creativity and compassion to everything she does. Ivy is a talented athlete and plays on the volleyball team, where she shows teamwork and determination on the court. She enjoys the calming hobbies of crocheting and canoeing—a perfect balance of creativity and outdoor adventure! After she graduates, she plans to become a psychiatrist. Congratulations, Ivy! Way to go!



**Landan** is Siren High School's student of the week. He is a senior and is doing great in school this year. He is getting good grades, is involved in football, and is a teacher's assistant. Outside of school, Landan likes working with his dad and has a passion for mechanic work. He plans to attend a trade school for mechanics and work in the field. His dream car is a 1997 Dodge Dakota. He also likes to fish, hang out with friends, and go for drives. Congratulations, Landan! Great work!



## St. Croix Falls

**Declan Buelow** is St. Croix Falls Elementary School's student of the week. Declan is an enthusiastic learner and is always willing to share his knowledge. He enjoys playing with his dogs and watching the "Moana" movies. At school, he loves writing about nocturnal animals like honey badgers. When he grows up, Declan would like to be a demi-god like Maui from the movie "Moana." Congratulations, Declan!



**Oakley Gibson** is St. Croix Falls Middle School's student of the week. Oakley is a wonderful person who puts tremendous effort into his classroom work and goes above and beyond demonstrating kindness to others and helping in the classroom. Congratulations, Oakley!



**Garrett Dagestad** is St. Croix Falls High School's student of the week. He is a sophomore and the son of Jeremy and Tifanie Dagestad. Garrett has a great attitude toward school and always has a smile on his face. He is a good example of a student/athlete leader. Garrett is involved in FFA, football, wrestling and baseball. He plans to attend college in the future and play college football. Congratulations, Garrett!



## Unity

**Henrik Olson** is Unity Elementary School's student of the week. He is in second grade and the son of Ingrid Olson. Henrik is always giving his best effort in everything he does. He tries hard, stays focused and never gives up when there are challenges. Henrik is always ready to help his peers and brings positivity to the classroom every day! Congratulations, Henrik! Keep up the great work!



**Noah Wilson** is Unity Middle School's student of the week. He is in fifth grade and has shown amazing, quiet leadership already this year. Noah does high-quality work, takes his time, and makes sure it's done right the first time. His writing is often used as an example for others. He is generous with his time and materials and helps his peers without being asked to. Congratulations, Noah! Great job!



**Breeyn Nelson** is a junior who has truly distinguished herself this year through her dedication, curiosity and involvement. She is an active member of Science Olympiad, student council, the school play and the tennis team. Breeyn is a joy to teach. She consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic, asks insightful questions and engages deeply with new material. Her commitment to both academics and extracurricular activities shows her passion for learning. Congratulations, Breeyn!



## Webster

**Allison Holdt** is the daughter of Wendy and Brett Holdt. Allison is super caring, kind and respectful to all her friends and teachers. She is always prepared for class and tries her best even when things get hard. Allison's favorite time at school is lunch because she gets to eat delicious food. When not at school, she likes to sleep in, jump on the trampoline and ride horses. Allison wants to be a vet and barrel racer when she grows up because she loves horses so much. Congratulations, Allison!



**Lylah Dagestad** is in sixth grade and the daughter of Samantha French and Josh Dagestad. Lylah is having a great year! She has done an impressive job of consistently advocating for herself. She is kind and helpful. Lylah is actively involved in volleyball, softball, basketball and the school musical, showcasing her dedication to and enthusiasm for the Webster School District. Her favorite subject is ELA because she thinks the stories they read are interesting. Congratulations, Lylah!



**Morgan Hunter** is a senior and the daughter of Joel and Tiffany Hunter. Morgan is a great leader and a real go-getter. She helps her classmates and helps run the Tiger Tech website. She carries herself as a leader and a mentor for her fellow classmates. She is a very genuine and fun person to be around. Morgan participates in business club and forensics and is president of SkillsUSA. She earned a gold medal in forensics. She plans to attend college for business management. Congratulations, Morgan!



## Congratulations, students, from these area businesses and organizations:

Burnett Medical Center  
Grantsburg  
Coldwell-Banker Dave McNulty  
Shell Lake  
Country Store  
Grantsburg  
Daeffler's Quality Meats  
Frederic  
Earth Energy Systems Co.  
Siren  
Frandsen Bank & Trust  
Luck  
K-Wood Truss Rafters  
Grantsburg  
Lakes Gas  
Frederic  
Northwest Insurance  
Agency LLC - Rual Mutual  
Balsam Lake  
NW Wisconsin Electric Co.  
Grantsburg  
Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op  
Centuria  
Sandbar on 70  
Webster

Shell Lake State Bank  
Shell Lake  
Siren Chamber of Commerce  
Siren Dental  
Siren  
Starwire Technologies  
Siren  
State Farm Insurance,  
Corey Arnold  
Frederic  
Sterling Bank  
Luck  
Subway  
Frederic, Grantsburg,  
Siren & Balsam Lake  
Suzy Q's Snowshoe Tavern  
Cushing  
Tangen Drug  
St. Croix Falls  
Wayne's Foods Plus  
Luck, Webster & Danbury  
Wolter's Shoreview  
Yacht & Supper Club  
Amery

# We are proud of you!

# SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS

By Sarah Beth Radomsky | Reporter

Thanks for checking out this week's School Snapshots section in the Inter-County Leader where we feature various school-related photographs taken across the area in the past week or so. We welcome our member readers to submit their own photos for

consideration. Please email them to us at [editor@iccpaonline.com](mailto:editor@iccpaonline.com), with the subject line "School Snapshots." Be sure to include your name and where your photo was taken.



At Webster during National School Bus Safety Week, it was shared that earlier this year, Mrs. Nagel and Mr. Lisdahl guided young students through essential bus safety drills, including lessons on safety steps such as staying seated, using kind words, respecting personal space and listening to the driver. - Photo courtesy of School District of Webster



First-graders at Siren Elementary play tic-tac-toe using sight words, making spelling practice both fun and engaging. - Photo courtesy of School District of Siren



The Witches trio—Mia, Zoey, and Jameson—win the "That's a Wrap!" Halloween Hustle challenge by wrapping a mummy with toilet paper, earning candy corn points for their efforts. - Photo courtesy of School District of Grantsburg



Jaylynn, Jo and Tegan represented Frederic Middle School in sixth through eighth grades by submitting essays to the VFW's Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, sharing their views on patriotism. - Photo courtesy of Frederic School District



Frederic 4K students eagerly request more Aaron Reynolds's "Creepy" books right after storytime, showing strong enthusiasm for the series. - Photo courtesy of Frederic School District



Machine Woods students put their skills to the test, crafting bedside and pedestal tables and designing Halloween silhouettes for the Enchanted Trail; this crew turns out impressive work in and out of the shop. - Photo courtesy of School District of Amery



Three Unity Eagles were recognized in the Good Deeds Program for integrity, honor, and courage through the district's partnership with the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Each received signed certificates from Sheriff Waak and Mrs. Wallace, along with custom challenge coins. Pictured: one honoree with Mrs. Wallace. - Photo courtesy of Unity School District



Third-graders at Luck use 20 straws and four feet of tape in a classroom activity to design custom stands to hoist and steady their hefty Halloween pumpkins. - Photo courtesy of Luck Public Schools



**TEACHERS MAKE OUR WORLD A BETTER PLACE**  
Thanks to the dedicated educators who help our community's kids learn, thrive, succeed and create a better future!

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**NOVEMBER**  
**THURSDAY/6**  
**Shell Lake**  
• **Blood drive** at Shell Lake High School, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Make appt. to donate, redcrossblood.org, 800-733-2767.

**Siren**  
• **Caregiver support group** at Bethany Lutheran Church, 10-11:30 a.m. Call to register, 877-485-2372.  
• **Burnett County Democrats monthly meeting** at the Siren Community Senior Center, 6-8 p.m. **Social time** at 6 p.m., **meeting** from 6:30-8 p.m. NOTE NEW DATE AND LOCATION, burnettcountymocrats.org.

**FRIDAY/7**  
**Balsam Lake**  
• **Blood drive** at Unity High School, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Make appt. to donate, redcrossblood.org, 800-733-2767.

**Falun**  
• **Free bread distribution** at Trinity Lutheran Church, 8 a.m.  
**Frederic**  
• **Amish Pizza Dinner and Bake Sale** at Sandy Acres Greenhouse, 3-7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Frederic Amish School, 715-653-4130.

**Luck**  
• **Prayer for America’s turning point** at Faith Fellowship Church, 7 p.m., 715-475-7666.  
• **First Friday Flick** at the Luck Historical Society and Museum, 1-3 p.m., sites.google.com/view/lahsmuseum/.  
**Shell Lake**  
• **Youth Mental Health First Aid training** at the Washburn County Services building, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For adults working with or caring for youth ages 12-18. To register, contact jbuchman@co.washburn.wi.us or 715-468-4747.

**SATURDAY/8**  
**Balsam Lake**  
• **Spaghetti dinner benefit for Feed My Neighbor food pantry** at Our Lady of the Lakes Church, 4-6 p.m. Freewill offering.

**Cushing**  
• **Annual Venison Feed** at the community center, 4 p.m. Serving hamburgers, scalloped potatoes, baked beans and coleslaw. **Prize drawings and raffles.** Adults \$10, kids under 10 \$5. Benefiting the Cushing Fire Department, 715-825-4582.

**Frederic**  
• **Local author Jerry Marek will discuss his new political fantasy book and share tips on online self-publishing** at the library, 10 a.m., fredericlibrary.org.

**Hinckley, Minn.**  
• **47th annual Christmas craft and vendor fair** at Hinckley-Finlayson High School, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Start your Christmas shopping early.

**Osceola**  
• **Annual lutefisk dinner and bake sale** at West Immanuel Lutheran Church, 10:15 a.m.-4 p.m. Adults \$24, ages 6-12 \$15, five and under are free. To-go meals available for \$15. By reservation only at westimmanuel.org/lutefiskdinner.

**Sarona**  
• **Monthly Little Explorers program** at Hunt Hill Nature Center for kids ages 3-6, 10-11:30 a.m. Registration required for child and accompanying adult. Limited to 35 attendees, hunthill.org/little-explorers/.

**Webster**  
• **Second Saturday movie** at the library, 3 p.m. Snacks provided. Register on the library website: websterlib.org.

**SUNDAY/9**  
**Frederic**  
• **Bingo** at the senior/community center, 2-3:30 p.m. Must be 18 or older. Door opens at 1:30 p.m.

**St. Croix Falls**  
• **St. Croix Valley Food Alliance Winter Farmers Market** at Abrahamson Nurseries, noon-3 p.m. **Local farm fresh food, art, coffee, live music and more,** scvfoodalliance.org/winter-farmers-markets.

**MONDAY/10**  
**Amery**  
• **Learn about the “SAVE Act: and your voting rights with speaker Karrie Weaver, attorney and chief elections inspector,** at the community center, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Presented by the League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley, lwwstcroixvalley.org/events.

**Balsam Lake**  
• **Indianhead Barbershop Chorus meets** at the Justice Center for practice, 7 p.m., 715-475-7666.

**Frederic**  
• **Grief support group** at Crosswalk Community Church, 6:30-8 p.m. A GriefShare group offering help and encouragement after the death of a loved one, griefshare.org.

**St. Croix Falls**  
• **Knit and Crochet group** at the library, 6-8 p.m. Bring a project or start a new one. We would be happy to teach new crafters! Bring some yarn and needles or a hook, stcroixfallslibrary.org.

**TUESDAY/11**  
**Dresser**  
• **Lions Club meeting** at the Dresser Community Center, 7 p.m.

**Lewis**  
• **Blood drive** at VFW Post 10232, noon-6 p.m. Make appt. to donate, redcrossblood.org, 800-733-2767.

Coming Events

SUBMIT YOUR COMING EVENTS ONLINE TO: [www.leadericcpa.com/contact](http://www.leadericcpa.com/contact)

We list cultural events, fundraisers, benefits, monthly meetings, free meals, and the like, for schools, nonprofit organizations, churches, libraries, community organizations, clubs, support groups, etc. We occasionally list events of community/family interest that are sponsored by a business. Events are listed as space permits and at the discretion of the editor. Please submit your event online, by phone or in person by 10 a.m. on Monday to get it listed in that Wednesday’s paper.

“Grasshopper”

by Shay, 12

This was my first time getting used to taking pictures of something this tiny. I think it turned out good. If you have a good attitude you can do anything.

*In A New Light is a therapeutic nature photography program at Northwest Passage. It emphasizes skilled expressive arts training and nature immersion, ultimately empowering youth to define themselves by their strengths rather than their weaknesses.*

**Luck**  
• **TOPS meeting** at the senior center, 3:30 p.m.  
**Online**  
• **Northwoods MS Connection Group, multiple sclerosis support group monthly meeting,** 6-7:30 p.m., 763-742-8572, dianewhitcraft@gmail.com..  
**THURSDAY/13**  
**Dresser**  
• **St. Croix Health quarterly alumni luncheon** at Village Pizzeria, 11 a.m. Volunteers, alumni and present staff are welcome.

**Grantsburg**  
• **Grantsburg Lions meat raffle** at T-Dawgs, 6 p.m. Proceeds to benefit Grantsburg High School’s “The Closet.”

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**St. Croix Falls**  
• **Polk County Democrats monthly meeting** at the American Legion Hall, 6-8 p.m., polkcountywisconsin democrats.org.  
• **Finding Florence: Dreams of a River and the Sea** at The Historic Auditorium, 6 p.m. A presentation exploring the life and legacy of Florence Baker Riegel, a pioneering conservationist, community health advocate, and lifelong resident of St. Croix Falls. This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP in advance at bit.ly/3Llc3YY.  
• **Open Mic Night** at WHAT Art School, 6:30-9 p.m. A night of creativity, community, and expression. Share music, poetry, or a short story, all voices and all styles welcome. Each performer has 10-15 minutes to share their work. Arrive 15 minutes early to sign up for a spot - space fills quickly. Come to perform, listen, and connect with fellow artists. Free admission.

**FRIDAY/14**  
**Falun**  
• **Free bread distribution** at Trinity Lutheran Church, 8 a.m.  
**Luck**  
• **Prayer for America’s turning point** at Faith Fellowship Church, 7 p.m., 715-475-7666.

**Siren**  
• **Free soup and fellowship** at the Burnett County VFW Post, 1 p.m. Hosted by the Post and Trinity Lutheran Church of Falun.

**St. Croix Falls**  
• **Turkey Bingo** at the American Legion, 5:30-8:30 p.m. **Dinner** at 5:30 for \$12. **Bingo** at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by Edina Realty and the St. Croix Falls American Legion.

**SATURDAY/15**  
**Balsam Lake**  
• **Annual holiday bazaar** at Georgetown Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **Homemade crafts and baked goods. Silent auction and raffle baskets.** Chili and corn bread lunch for \$5.  
**Centuria**  
• **Holiday craft and bake sale** at North Valley Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

**St. Croix Falls**  
• **The Belfast Cowboys** at The Historic Auditorium, 7-9 p.m. **A Minneapolis favorite, this nine-piece, horn-driven band specializes in the music of Van Morrison along with their originals.** Tickets are \$38-\$44 at thehistoricauditorium.com/events.

**SUNDAY/16**  
**Frederic**  
• **Bingo** at the senior/community center, 2-3:30 p.m. Must be 18 or older. Door opens at 1:30 p.m.

**St. Croix Falls**  
• **Community Drum Circle** at the library, 1-3 p.m. Free admission, drums provided, all ages and all levels are welcome, from beginner to expert, stcroix fallslibrary.org/events.  
• **Breakfast** at American Legion Post #143, 8-11 a.m.

**MONDAY/17**  
**Amery**  
• **Apple River Quilt Guild meeting** at the community center, 6 p.m. Visitors and new members are welcome.

**Balsam Lake**  
• **Indianhead Barbershop Chorus meets** at the Justice Center for practice, 7 p.m., 715-475-7666.

**Frederic**  
• **Grief support group** at Crosswalk Community Church, 6:30-8 p.m. A GriefShare group offering help and encouragement after the death of a loved one, griefshare.org.

**Grantsburg**  
• **Soup and soul** at the senior center, 6 p.m., 715-469-2767.

**TUESDAY/18**  
**Centuria**  
• **Recovering Together Cafe from the Mental Health Task Force of Polk County** for those looking for support during recovery. Held at Joy Lutheran Church, the third Tuesday of each month, 5-7 p.m. Free child care, a meal and \$20 gas card. Register by phone or email, 715-554-4397 or director@mentalhealthpolk.org.

**Clam Falls**  
• **Coffee hour** at Clam Falls Lutheran Church, 9 a.m. Everyone welcome.

**Dresser**  
• **Caregiver support group** at Peace Lutheran Church, 2-3:30 p.m. Call 877-485-2372 to register.

**Luck**  
• **TOPS meeting** at the senior center, 3:30 p.m.

**St. Croix Falls**  
• **Ice Age Trail work morning,** 8:30 a.m. Email for details and locations, traprockchapter@iceagetrailorg.

**WEDNESDAY/19**  
**Spooner**  
• **Blood drive** at the Spooner Civic Center, noon-6 p.m. Make appt. to donate, redcrossblood.org, 800-733-2767.

**THURSDAY/20**  
**Cushing**  
• **Sterling Eureka and Laketown Historical Society monthly meeting** at Cushing Museum, 5:30 p.m., sites.google.com/view/selhs.