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LCPL Construction Underway



By Kathleen Marsh

After frustrating delays due to circumstances beyond their control, Lakes Country Public Library's Building & Expansion Committee reports that construction of the Lakewood Library's addition is speeding right along. Site preparation by RJM Construction went smoothly; Smith Concrete did an excellent job on the footings and slab; and Lakewood plumbing contractor DAMA deserves special recognition for timely and precise work.

Once the slab cured properly, RJM's framing crew set to work erecting the exterior and interior walls. Roof trusses were installed on November 28. BEC member Linda McKenna was all smiles as she watched the crane operator carefully guide each truss into place. "We are so excited to see the project finally taking shape," she said. "We anticipate ribbon-cutting will occur in late July."

As for financing the project, fundraising chair Kathleen Marsh reports that the BEC is within \$100,000 of its \$1.5 million goal, with the outstanding amount needed to cover FFE (furniture, fixtures, and equipment). "In the spirit of Christmas giving," she said, "I ask those who have already donated to consider another contribution. And to those who have waited, I urge you to become part of this historic achievement, a shining example of what we can do if we work together. When finished, this will be a first-class facility that provides 21st Century services our community needs and deserves. Your donation could be the one that puts us over the top."

Tax-deductible contributions can be made in person at the library, online at lakescountrylibrary.org or by sending a check to: LCPL; 15235 Hwy 32; Box 220, Lakewood, WI 54138. Naming rights are still available for a few of the rooms. Call Library Director Katie Essermann (715-276-9020) for more details.

Wabeno American Legion donates to the Christian Food Pantry



Scott Wycherley, center, of the Christian Food Pantry accepts a \$1,000 donation on behalf of the Wabeno American Legion Auxiliary Unit 44 from Karen Prueter, president, left, and Lorry Runge, Treasurer.

Donations, food stuff, etc, help the CFP assist anyone in our communities who needs help.

Conservation Corner

Conservation Corner is a weekly article produced by the Forest County Land & Water Conservation Department. For more information contact Steve Kircher, County Conservationist-Land Information/GIS Director, at 715-478-1387 or by e-mail at lcc@co.forest.wi.us.

Pruning Oak Trees in Winter: A Crucial Step to Preventing Oak Wilt

Oak trees are not only majestic additions to landscapes but also play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity. However, these iconic trees face a significant threat known as oak wilt, a deadly disease caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. Once infected, the

Continued on page 4

Wabeno Lions share Christmas with NuRoc Residents



Wabeno Lions Gregg and Barb Tallier presented a \$1,500 check to Stephanie Cooper, NuRoc Resident Activities Department. Stephanie and her department use this annual donation to check their list twice and Christmas shop for the residents.

A tentative date has been set for the Wabeno Lions to attend the NuRoc Christmas Party on December 22 at 10 a.m. The Lions and Santa will be there Christmas caroling and gift giving.

Submitted by Lion Clare Huisman and Lion Norma Johnson



Holiday Events this weekend

It will be a busy weekend for those shoppers who like to visit local events like bake sales, craft show and art shows. If you check out the area events page in this paper, you can get more details on the following events:

- **St. Luke's UMW Christmas Fair** at St. Lukes Methodist Church in Crandon, with baked goods, ornaments, crafts and more.
- **St. John Lutheran Church Bazaar & Bake Sale** in Laona, with crafts, baked goods, and a light lunch with carry outs.
- **Holiday Open House at the Betsy Popp Art Gallery** offering art for sale, prints, free gifts, door prizes and more.
- **Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale at St. Leonard's Church** in Laona offers baked goods, a spaghetti dinner on Thursday night and more.
- **Wabeno High School Craft Show** with handmade quilts, rugs and home decor.

Crandon Lions donate turkeys



The Crandon Lions bought 30 turkeys at Schaefer's IGA and donated them to NEWCAP for distributing to local families that can use assistance.

Above, Lion Gary Mueller, Alex Aull (the food pantry coordinator) and Larry Sommer pose with 450 lbs of donated turkeys.



By Mike Monte

Less deer were shot this year than last in the deer season. According to DNR stats, 92,000 deer were registered statewide. In 2022, 103,000 deer were registered statewide. This is a 16% decrease from last year, and it is 10% below the 5-year average.

Continued on page 14

Deer Gun Season 2023



Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting in Crandon

Just a reminder that the Forest County Christmas Parade, in Crandon, will be held on Friday, December 1st.

The parade will be on Lake Avenue and the Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place right after the parade at the Courthouse Square.

If you want to enter the parade, the lineup is at 5 p.m. on Lakeview St. in front of the Houle Apartments.

Come join the fun, meet Santa Claus and tell him what you want for Christmas. That is if you are a kid!

Get an early start on the festivities at the American Legion Chili Cookoff on Madison St. beginning at 4 p.m.

Holiday Book Sale supports Lakes Country Public Library

The Friends of Lakes Country Public Library located on Hwy 32 in Lakewood will host a book sale on Saturday, December 2nd from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Choose from a large selection of adult, young adult, and children's fiction and nonfiction books.

Other items you may purchase include movie DVDs, music CDs, and puzzles. A special table of holiday themed books, cookbooks, and puzzles will be available to purchase.

Proceeds from the sale will support the needs of the library during the building expansion project.

Rhineland Christmas Tree finds it home in the Capitol



Thanks to the Great Lakes Timber Professionals, this lovely balsam tree makes the state capitol building look very much in the Christmas Season. Cut in the City of Rhineland, as we mentioned last week, the tree was delivered and set up, and looks great. It is about 32 feet tall. These photos are courtesy of Rep. Callahan, who included them in his weekly newsletter.



Happy 25th Anniversary to Tricia's Bistro and Tricia's Treasures!
You are good for Crandon's Mainstreet!
See ad on page 2

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

AT TRICIA'S TREASURES
(Crandon Store Only)
December 9th - OPEN 9-6

IN-STORE SPECIALS!
TONS OF GIVE-AWAYS!
REFRESHMENTS

SANTA WILL BE HERE FROM 4:30 TO 6:00 PM

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--	--	--

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Wabeno Winterfest
★ Craft & Vendor Show ★
Food, Raffles & Bake Sale
Saturday, Dec. 2nd 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Kids visit w/ Santa: 12:00 - 1:30 pm
Wabeno High School Wabeno, WI
Sponsored by Wabeno Fire Department



Female Cardinal
Photo by Dave Thomas

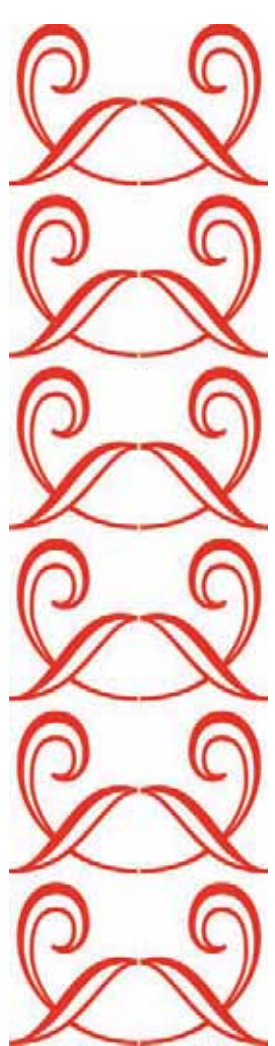
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IRS FINALIZES CHANGE TO FAMILY COVERAGE AFFORDABILITY RULES

New legislation has made it easier for individuals and families to secure affordable coverage through the marketplace, even if they are offered employer coverage. Coverage for family members is determined based on the cost of family coverage.

We would like to take this time to remind you, Open Enrollment is ending on December 15th for January 1st, 2023 coverage, but goes until January 15th for February 1st coverage.

Contact Cheri and she can help you secure health coverage based on your needs at NO CHARGE to you!

715-478-2215
cwilson@robertsonryan.com
100 S Lake Avenue, Crandon, WI 54520
www.northwoodsinsurance.com

Wishing all of our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

AREA EVENTS

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
LCMS
Making Disciples for Life
Thru
Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone

1507 N Lake Ave, Worship Service
Crandon, WI 54520 Sundays at 10:30 am
Phone (715)478-3555 or (715)889-4610
All are welcome

Bazaar & Bake Sale
St. John Lutheran Church
5502 Beech Street, Laona
Friday, December 1st and
Saturday, December 2nd
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Crafts & white elephant items, baked goods and much more! Light lunch of soup, beverage and dessert will be served for \$6.00. Carry out available.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed

It's Bell Ringing time again for our neighbors in need of our help.

For every dollar that's donated, 86¢ stays here in Forest County!

To ring the Bell call 715-478-2683 or send donation to Box 251 Crandon, WI 54520



Craft Show: Wabeno High School. Handmade Quilts, Rugs & Home Decor. Saturday December 2nd. P35

THE LAST GIANT RED SHRIMP SALE of the YEAR!

Laona (Laona Bar & Grill)
Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:30 – 2
Argentine Red Shrimp, Unicorn, Salmon, Red Snapper, Haddock and other great seafoods.
COME AND GET 'EM YEE HAW!

St. Luke's UMW
CHRISTMAS FAIR!
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
301 S Lake St. Crandon, WI • 715-478-3797
Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 2023 • 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Treat yourself and a friend to a special Christmas cookie and hot chocolate! \$2.00
Shop for gifts, goodies, things for yourself!

Featuring:
Homemade Christmas Cookies Ornaments and Decorations
Homemade Christmas Breads Christmas Crafts
Homemade Candy Rada Cutlery

Christmas Craft & Flea Market.
Nashville Town Hall Hwy. 55 & B, Crandon.
Saturday Dec. 9th 10-3. Hand-crafted wood, knitted/crochet items, greeting cards, canned/baked goods, jewelry, household, tools, Christmas decor and much more.
New vendors Welcomed. Call 715-216-3579

Crooked Lake/Mountain Lions Food Drive



Members of the Crooked Lake/Mountain Lions club all brought food items to the October meeting. Lions Dar Berntson, Joan Schinktgen and Marilyn Seitzer then went shopping to purchase what was still needed. Shortly before Thanksgiving the items were taken to the Suring School District where 25 baskets of food were prepared for families in the area. Pictured getting ready to fill the boxes are from left to right, Social worker at Suring School Meagan Keplinger, Lions Cassie Zittlow, Joan Schinktgen and Dar Berntson.

Don & Ora Lea Bartels Charity Tournament donates to food pantry



Patty Bauman (purchase manager for the Christian Food Pantry) presented a \$1,000 check to the Christian Food Pantry president Scott Wycherley on behalf of the Don & Ora Lea Bartels Charity Tournament.

The outing was held September 11th 2023 at McCauslin Brook Golf & Country Club in Lakewood.



Physical therapists and Nicolet College students perform health assessments with Learning in Retirement members.

Nicolet College Learning in Retirement Partners with Students for Aging and Mobility Class

The Nicolet College Learning in Retirement (LIR) program partners with Medical Assistant students to address a growing concern within the aging population: the risk of falling and fall-related accidents. As individuals age, the likelihood of experiencing a fall increases, and these incidents can have a profound impact on quality of life. That's why Learning in Retirement collaborated with students for its Aging and Mobility class.

The recent Aging and Mobility class provided an opportunity for participants to measure their risk of falling and gain insight into preventive measures to help ensure their safety and well-being. Kurt Klemm, retired physical therapist and his daughter, Erin Nelson, DPT, also a physical therapist who works at Aspirus Eagle River, led participants through a series of simple tests commonly used in physical therapy. The students helped provide the exercises to assess balance, muscle strength, coordination, and overall mobility and empower LIR members to make informed decisions about their personal safety and mobility.

"Participating in activities like these builds a bond between our students and community members. Learning through service is one of our students' favorite ways to learn. Talking with participants of Learning in Retirement helps them understand more about what medical assistants can do. It was really a great experience for us to be given the opportunity to help," says Jolene Guenther, Medical Assistant program director and instructor.

The Aging and Mobility class is a unique opportunity for older adults to connect with students who are pursuing careers in healthcare. It provides a win-win scenario, as participants receive valuable insights into their own health, while students gain practical experience and make a positive impact on the community.

Margaret Barnes, president of Learning in Retirement, also expressed her enthusiasm for the program, saying, "This partnership exemplifies the spirit of collaboration that Learning in Retirement strives for. We are dedicated to providing meaningful and enriching experiences for our members, and the Aging and Mobility class is a wonderful addition to our program offerings. We believe it will greatly benefit our community members and inspire a sense of unity between generations."

If you or someone you know is interested in joining Learning in Retirement, please contact Nicolet College at 715-365-4544 or visit nicoletcollege.edu/lir.



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P36

For Old Times Sake



Around 1908, this old Forest County Courthouse was moved to make way for the new courthouse that was to be built. The old courthouse wasn't torn down, as the photo says, it was being moved. There is the mystery! Where was it moved to and what was it used for, and does it still exist in a shape we don't recognize? Years back Maury Hauser put in quite a bit of time trying to find this stuff out and came up with nothing!


GEORGE® by Mark Szorady

SNAIL IS SO SLOW!



12/4

OKAY, I'LL BITE... HOW SLOW IS HE?



HE'S SO SLOW, HE READS "USAYESTERDAY!"



MARK SZORADY

Conservation Corner Cont. from pg. 1

disease can spread rapidly, leading to the decline and death of the oak tree. One preventive measure that arborists and homeowners alike can take is pruning oak trees in winter.

Oak Wilt – Invasive Species Centre

Oak wilt is a vascular disease that affects the water-conducting vessels of oak trees, disrupting the flow of water and nutrients. The fungus is primarily spread by sap-feeding beetles attracted to fungal mats produced on infected trees. Additionally, the disease can be transmitted through root grafts between neighboring oak trees. Once an oak tree is infected, there is no cure, making prevention through proper tree care practices essential.

Pruning oak trees in winter is a key strategy in preventing the spread of oak wilt. Winter is the dormant season for many trees, including oaks, meaning they are not actively growing. This dormancy reduces the likelihood of attracting sap-feeding beetles that could transmit the disease during pruning.

Winter pruning should be performed during the dormant period, typically between November and March when the sap flow is minimal. Avoid pruning during the growing season, as fresh wounds attract sap-feeding beetles that could inadvertently spread the disease.

Tools used for pruning should be sterilized between cuts and between trees to prevent the transmission of the fungus. A mixture of 10% bleach or alcohol solution is effective in killing the oak wilt fungus. When pruning, prioritize the removal of dead or diseased branches, as these are more susceptible to oak wilt. Removing these materials reduces the risk of fungal infection and helps improve the overall health of the tree.

After pruning, seal the wounds with a tree wound dressing to prevent sap-feeding beetles from being attracted to the fresh cuts.

Proper wound care is crucial in reducing the risk of oak wilt transmission. For larger oak trees or extensive pruning needs, it's advisable to seek the assistance of a certified arborist. These professionals are trained to assess the health of oak trees and perform necessary pruning without compromising the tree's well-being.

In conclusion, pruning oak trees in winter is a proactive measure to protect these iconic trees from the devastating effects of oak wilt. By understanding the disease, following best practices for winter pruning, and taking necessary precautions, homeowners and arborists alike can contribute to the preservation of oak trees and the ecosystems they support.

Bids & Notices

Our Mission: We inspire confident, creative, and responsible individuals to develop their full potential.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WABENO AREA
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, December 6, 2023
High School Library - Wabeno Junior High / High School
6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Call Meeting to Order.
 - II. Roll Call – Verification of Quorum.
 - III. Verification of Meeting Notice (Compliance with Open Meeting Law Notification (Wis.Stats. 19.84(2))).
 - IV. Pledge of Allegiance.
 - V. Agenda Approval.
 - VI. Public Participation at Board Meetings - See Board Policy 0167.3.
 - a. Welcome and Guidelines for Public Comments (5 Minute Maximum per Person).
 - b. This is a listening session for the community to address the Board. The maximum time limit for this section is 30 minutes. The purpose of this segment of the meeting is for the Board to listen to the views of our community.
 - c. Public Participation.
 - VII. Approval of Minutes.
 - a. Approval of the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting on November 1, 2023.
 - b. Approval of the minutes of the Laona/Wabeno Co-op Meeting on November 13, 2023.
 - VIII. Approval of Vouchers and Payroll.
 - IX. Informational Items:
 - a. Bill Taylor, District Administrator, will present updates and information.
 - b. Bob Tucker, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, will present updates and information.
 - c. Tim Brauer, Elementary Principal, will present updates and information.
 - d. Shelly Dotson, Director of Pupil Services, will present updates and information.
 - e. Board Member Reports.
 - X. Action Items:
 - a. Discuss and take possible action on Annual Audit information from Kerber-Rose via phone.
 - b. Discuss and take possible action on Class of 2024 Senior Class Trip.
 - c. Discuss and take possible action on Building Act 143 reports.
 - d. Discuss and take possible action on resignation(s).
 - e. Discuss and take possible action hiring(s)
 - f. Discuss and take possible action on School Report Cards.
 - g. Discuss and take possible action on wrestling overnight trip.
 - h. Discuss and take possible action AGR plan.
 - i. Discuss and take possible action on Staff Handbook changes.
 - XI. Motion and roll call vote to go into closed session. Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c)(e)(f), the Board may convene in closed session for the purpose of :
 - a. District Administrator Evaluation compiling of information.
 - XII. Motion and roll call vote to return open session to announce or take action, if any, and if appropriate.
 - XIII. Discussion of Establishing Dates for Future Board Meetings and Establish Future Agenda Items. No substantive discussion will occur concerning future agenda items.
 - XIV. Adjourn.
- NOTE: THE AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS ALLOWED BY LAW.
Approved for Publication/Posting by:
District Administrator
Upon reasonable notice, the District shall make reasonable accommodation to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities through appropriate aids and services including the provision of informational material in an alternative format for a disabled person to be able to attend this meeting. For additional information or to request this service, contact the District Office at 715.473.2592.
Sent to:
Board of Education
Administrative Team
Pioneer and Lake/Forest Beacon Newspapers
The agenda as noted above was sent more than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting date. Due to this fact, the Agenda published in the newspaper(s) listed above may have been altered after delivery to the above listed newspaper(s). The most up to date Agenda information is also available on District Website: <https://www.wabeno.k12.wi.us/#>

WHAT'S TO EAT

LAONA SCHOOL DISTRICT BREAKFAST MENU DEC. 4-8

Mon. - Whole grain cereal, string cheese, peaches, juice
Tues. - Pancake on a stick, pineapple, juice
Wed. - Graham cracker, yogurt cup, peaches, juice
Thurs. - Mini pancakes, sausage, orange slices, juice
Fri. - Whole grain cereal, yogurt cup, mixed fruit, juice

LAONA SCHOOL DISTRICT LUNCH MENU DEC. 4-8

Mon. - Chicken nuggets, buttered noodles, corn, pineapple
Tues. - Grilled chicken, tomato soup, mixed vegetables, peaches, garden bar
Wed. - Deluxe hamburger, French fries, orange slices, cookie
Thurs. - Hot ham and cheese, baked beans, pears, baked chips, garden bar
Fri. - Chicken dumpling soup, bosco breadstick, strawberries, peas

Wabeno School Breakfast Menu Dec. 4 - 8

Monday - Assorted cereal, peaches, fruit juice, milk
Tuesday - Breakfast bites, hash brown patty, tropical fruit, fruit juice, milk
Wednesday -Cheese omelet, tator tots, mixed fruit, fruit juice, milk
Thursday - Pancakes, sausage links, banana, fruit juice, milk
Friday - W.G. cinnamon rolls, yogurt, strawberries, fruit juice, milk

Wabeno School Lunch Menu Dec. 4-8

Monday - Spaghetti, meat sauce / Marinara , California blend, garlic bread, grapes, garden bar, milk
Tuesday - Taco bar, Spanish rice, corn, pineapple tidbits, applesauce, garden bar, milk
Wednesday -Sloppy Joes, fries, mixed vegetables, oranges, garden bar, milk
Thursday - Popcorn chicken, buttered noodles, carrots, watermelon, garden bar, milk
Friday - Lasagna, garlic bread, California blend, apple slices, garden bar, milk

TOWN OF ARGONNE TAXPAYERS

Notice is hereby given to all taxpayers of the Town of Argonne that the first installment of the 2023 Taxes is due to the Town of Argonne by January 31, 2024.

If you want a receipt, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. If paying in person, below are the dates and times the office (located at town hall) will be open for tax collection:

Friday, December 22, 2023, 2:00PM- 6:00PM
Thursday, December 28, 2023, 4:00PM-6:00PM
Friday, January 12, 2024, 9:00AM-12:00PM
Friday, January 26, 2024, 9:00AM-12:00PM
Monday, January 29, 2024, 2:00PM-6:00PM

Please pay with check, or money order payable to the Town of Argonne, 8050 Schmidt Ln, Argonne WI 54511. If you pay in cash, it must be the exact amount. We are not able to accept credit card/debit card payments.

If you have any questions, please call 715-649-3222 or leave a message on the Town hall answering machine at 715-649-3550.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Submitted by Christie Schmidt,
Town of Argonne Treasurer
Dated November 27, 2023



A Call to Action Against Antibiotic Resistance

November 18-24 is U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week “Staying updated on vaccinations and maintaining hand hygiene are simple ways to prevent infections, reducing the need for antibiotics.”

Antibiotic resistance is on the rise globally. Every year, over 2.8 million people in the U.S. contract infections due to antibiotic resistance, resulting in more than 35,000 deaths.

Contrary to common misconceptions, antibiotic resistance does not refer to the body itself becoming resistant to antibiotics. Instead, it means that the microbes—specifically bacteria and fungi—present in the body have developed resistance to the drugs (antibiotics) that are being used to treat them. This poses a significant threat to public health, as it can lead to the inefficacy of antibiotics, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of spreading resistant strains.

Health experts are detecting antibiotic resistance locally, too.

Tristan O'Driscoll, Infectious Diseases Pharmacist and System Antimicrobial Stewardship Coordinator at Aspirus Health, notes, “We’re seeing infections more commonly now that in the past were rare.” As infections resistant to treatment become more common, addressing them becomes increasingly difficult, often requiring costly and less effective alternatives with added side effects.

O'Driscoll advocates for a cautious and precise approach to antibiotic usage to avoid unnecessary complications, side effects and the development of antibiotic resistance.

“It's important to take antibiotics as prescribed by your provider. Don't self-treat or take antibiotics that are left over from a previous prescription,” warns O'Driscoll. “If you think you have an infection, go to your doctor to have them diagnose it and prescribe proper treatment.”

Using antibiotics when necessary is crucial, but there are ways to avoid the need for them in the first place. O'Driscoll emphasizes, "Staying updated on vaccinations and maintaining hand hygiene are simple ways to prevent infections, reducing the need for antibiotics. This ensures that antibiotics will be effective when genuinely needed."

Empower yourself and your community in the fight against antibiotic resistance. By taking these simple yet impactful steps, you play a vital role in keeping us healthy now, preserving the effectiveness of antibiotics and safeguarding the health of future generations.

For more information on antibiotic awareness, visit <https://www.cdc.gov>.



TOWN OF ARGONNE MEETING NOTICE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING TOWN OF ARGONNE TOWN HALL 8842 BLACKBEAR AVE, ARGONNE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023, 7 PM AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of Agenda
- 3) Review of 2024 Budget and Expenditures
- 4) Approval of 2024 Budget
- 5) Adjournment

TOWN TAX LEVY MEETING AGENDA TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023, 7PM AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order of Special Meeting of Electors to Approve 2023 Tax Levy to be paid in 2024
 - 2) Adjournment
- *A full copy of the budget is posted at the town hall entrance



SPECIALTY

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Baldwin Pushes to Crack Down on Big Oil Mergers and Prevent Price Hikes at Pump for Wisconsinites

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Ahead of Thanksgiving and increased travel, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) joined her colleagues in pushing the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate and crack down on Big Oil mergers that greatly reduce competition and drive up gas prices at the pump for Wisconsin families.

The letter to FTC Chair Lina Khan urges the FTC to closely review two newly-proposed mergers by the two largest oil companies in the United States. ExxonMobil's proposed \$60 billion acquisition of Pioneer Natural Resources and Chevron's proposed \$53 billion acquisition of Hess Corporation are two of the largest petroleum deals in American history.

"Exxon's and Chevron's operations downstream would enable them to redirect Pioneer's and Hess's crude supply to themselves, away from (and possibly to the detriment of) their midstream competitors," wrote the Senators. "These new market dynamics could result in price hikes for midstream customers, and such added costs are often passed downstream to retail customers, including drivers at gas stations."

Americans have felt the negative effects of unchecked Big Oil mergers for decades. A wave of nearly 3,000 mergers in the 1990s caused the number of major American energy companies to plummet, creating a Big Oil oligopoly in which oil companies have continued to see increasing profits, and consumers are left with higher gas prices.

"By 2005, due to the wave of mergers, the top five controlled 55 percent of the market, and the largest ten had 81.4 percent. This increase in concentration enabled the largest players to manipulate the industry by withholding supply in order to drive up prices, and since most of the firms were also vertically integrated, they benefited from higher prices at the retail level, as well," the Senators continued.

Senator Baldwin has pushed to hold Big Oil accountable and keep prices at the pump down for Wisconsin families. Earlier this year, she introduced legislation to crack down on Big Oil price gouging by clawing back windfall profits from the five biggest producers to deliver relief for consumers in the form of rebates.

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*Merry Christmas
from the Flannerys*

DNR offers free tree seedlings to WI 4th graders for arbor day 2024

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is offering free tree seedlings to every fourth-grade student in Wisconsin as part of the department's annual Arbor Day tree planting program.

Wisconsin fourth grade principals, teachers and those who homeschool can now place seedling orders and coordinate delivery by completing the 2024 Arbor Day application by March 15, 2024.

Planting seedlings from state nurseries is a great way to celebrate Arbor Day (April 26, 2024) which is dedicated to increasing the number of trees across the country to help improve the environment. By ordering seedlings, you can help.

Through its fourth grade Arbor Day tree planting program, the DNR provides interactive education to Wisconsin students around the importance of trees within our environment. Annually, the DNR provides approximately 50,000 free tree seedlings to fourth-grade students throughout the state.

Seedlings come protected to keep backpacks clean and shipments include educational information on how to best plant and care for seedlings and trees.

"Trees provide a variety of benefits to both people and the planet. They give off oxygen, trap carbon dioxide, feed and provide shelter for furry forest creatures and provide materials to build a variety of essential household items," said Heather Berklund, DNR Chief State Forester. "This program enables us to bring forest education directly to the hands of students and teach them about the importance of trees and of managing and restoring our forests."

In 2021, Gov. Tony Evers signed an Executive Order pledging to protect and restore Wisconsin's forestland by planting 75 million trees by 2030 as part of the U.S. Chapter of the Global Trillion Trees Initiative.

Arbor Day is a holiday during which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant trees. The holiday originated in Nebraska in 1872 and is now celebrated nationally. Wisconsin's Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April and is usually linked with Earth Day.

For more ways to celebrate this important holiday, visit the DNR's Arbor Day webpage.

For Old Times Sake



This lovely old photo was taken between 1908 and February of 1912. How do we know that? Because it was in the Opera House in Crandon, and that lovely big building only lasted between those years as it was taken by fire. In that short time, however, much fun was had at the Opera House.

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Paul Bunyan Riders and Red Arrow graduate 29 DNR Snowmobile Safety Course Students.



The Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club and the Red Arrow Snowmobile-ATV Club held a DNR Snowmobile Safety Course on November 4th. The class was held at the Townsend Town Hall and attracted students from multiple Wisconsin Counties. Lead Instructor was Brian Fitzpatrick. Instructors Diane Fitzpatrick, Jim Wisneski, Sandy Wagner, and Rick Van Asten led the one-day classroom course, and were extremely pleased with the attentiveness and participation of the students. It was clearly obvious that the students had prepared for the class. DNR Conservation Warden Jamin Leuzzo provided a slide presentation that addressed relevant information as identified in the Wisconsin Snowmobile Laws (LE-201).

29 students passed the exam and have successfully completed the DNR Snowmobile Safety Course. Class participants included: Morgan Arnoldussen, Talulah Banie, Gaven Bastian, Julian Benzschawel, Ayla Cumber, Dominic DiMaggio, Carter Hochkammer, Connor Ingram, Parker Jenerou, Danielle Lehman, Bryant Magnin, Allison Malueg, Logan Nikolai, Reilly Ouradnik, Pryce Peterson, Quinn Pick, Madilyn Powers, Taylor Powers, Teagan Powers, Mikalah Powers, Maverick Reynolds, Waylon Rine, Cara Sauter, Corinne Sauter, Dominic Treichel, Colin VanVonderer, Kolton Voigt, Ella Wallace, and Ashlyn Wickman.

Individuals born after January 1, 1985, must complete the course to drive a snowmobile legally in Wisconsin. An on-line version is available through the DNR for students at least 16 years of age. However, all students are encouraged to take the classroom version for better insight into the sport. Instructors stressed the importance of the reading the Owner's Manual for their sled and reading Wisconsin Snowmobile Laws (LE-201).

Congratulations to all the graduates and their parents who encouraged them to take the course. The Paul Bunyan Riders Snowmobile Club has been serving the Lakewood area for over 50 years.

The Red Arrow Snowmobile-ATV Club has been serving the Townsend area since 1968.

For additional information on each club visit our websites: paulbunyanriders.com and redarrowtownsend.com or visit us on Facebook.

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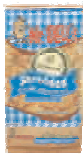
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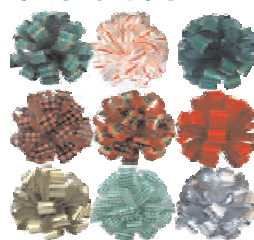
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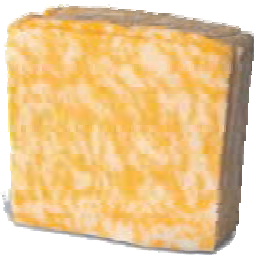
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Points

\$10.89

Death Notices

James Daniel Gunderson, 82 of Crandon, transcended to Heaven in his home on November 27, 2023. Jim was surrounded by his family and loving wife Marilyn.

He is survived by his wife, Marilyn Gunderson; six children: daughter, Catherine and Bill Waterstradt of Vancouver, Canada; son, James Jr. and Helen (Ruby) Gunderson of Green Bay; daughter, Lauren and Tony Vergara of Temecula, CA; daughter, Mary Kay and Steve Naughton of Phoenix, AZ; daughter, Lisa and Doug Wenman of Boulder Junction, WI; and son, Richard and Michelle (Kuehn) Gunderson from Crandon. He has 12 beautiful grandchildren, Christina and Dylan Waterstradt, JD, Olivia and Malen Gunderson, Matthew Mullins, Alyssa and Ben Thome, David James, Anike and Carissa Gunderson, Jacob Knorr, Blayze Khuen, Gracie and Noah Gunderson; and three great-grandchildren, Nolan, Paisley and Everly. He is also survived by his sisters, Joan, Marilyn, Diane and Barb; his brother, Danny; and many wonderful in-laws, nieces and nephews.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, Daniel and Doris (Menard) Gunderson; brother, Richard Gunderson; and sister, RoseMary Harmer.

Jim was born on December 31, 1940, in the beautiful city of Eau Claire, WI. Jim was delighted with being born on the 31st, the last day of the year. His family always laughed when Jim would tell them that New Year's Eve was really his birthday party. Jim loved sharing memories of his childhood by taking his children to Eau Claire, to visit his childhood home, going to the park and catching foul balls where the Bears, a Class C farm team for the Braves, played and telling us all about watching Hank Aaron play. What thrilled Jim the most about these family vacations was walking his children across the tall train bridges, that during hot summer days as a young child, he used to jump off of into the Chippewa River to swim.

As a child Jim attended a St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Elementary School in Eau Claire, where he loved listening to daily mass, which was spoken in Latin. Jim and his mother Doris shared a strong faith in God. Jim attended Regis High School in Eau Claire, where he was an excellent student and served as class president. After high school Jim joined and served in the Army from January 1959 to October 1962. Jim spent most of service time in Germany. Jim absolutely loved working on and driving his tank during his time in Germany.

After Jim had fulfilled his military commitment, he relocated to Kenosha, WI and worked for American Motors. In Kenosha, he met the love of his life, Marilyn Statezny. They married on March 3, 1965. Wanting to raise their family in the country with lots of land, they moved to Crandon, WI, shortly after the birth of their first child.

Jim and Marilyn remained in Crandon for 58 years, raising their six children, making many great memories and crazy stories that will be retold for many years. Jim loved being a husband and a father. Jim was a devout Catholic and served as an usher at St Joseph's Church in Crandon for many years.

Jim was also passionate about racing and the American Legion. Jim began racing dragsters with his brother Dick while living in Kenosha. When Jim and his family moved to Crandon, he started racing stock car, taking his young family every weekend to the Tomahawk Speedway. With his love of speed and fast trucks, he got into off-road racing. Jim raced in the very first Brush Run 101 and for many years after. During his racing years Jim discovered his real passion, creating fast trucks, not racing them. Throughout the years Jim became known for his ability to build top performing off road trucks. He worked with many famous race car drivers with the likes of Curt Leduc, Jack Flannery, the Kincaid's, Jason Baldwin, Walker & Evan Evans, Jimmy Johnson, and Carl Renezard plus many more. During this time in Jim's life, he earned the nickname "The Boss." Racing took Jim and his family all over the United States, Canada, and Mexico

Jim was a very patriotic man. In December of 2005, Jim became the Commander of the American Legion Post #94. During his time as commander, he worked relentlessly to grow the local American Legion membership from a few members to well over a hundred members. Under his guidance, the Legion was significant in helping many different programs and individuals throughout the community such as meals for the elderly, providing local scholarships, creating a new youth center, a disaster response team and volunteering throughout the community for different events. His proudest moment was being instrumental in the purchase and remodel of the current American Legion Hall.

Jim truly lived life to its fullest. Throughout his life he consistently continued to move forward in all areas of his life and be the best father, husband, grandpa, great grandpa a family could ever ask for. Jim will be incredibly missed by all who knew him. His passing will leave a huge hole in his family's lives. The family is proud of Jim and all that he accomplished in his years on earth.

Jim's final wish was to not have a public funeral service.



Sharleen Mueller, 82, of Howards Grove, passed away peacefully on November 24, 2023 with her husband at her side. She was born on February 6, 1941 to the late Henry and Imogene (Ninmer) Dexheimer. She grew up in Kiel and graduated from Kiel High School with the Class of 1959. After graduation she went to St. Luke's Nursing School in Milwaukee.

On June 24, 1961 she was united in marriage to Donald Henry Muller at St. Johns United Church of Christ in Kiel.

She worked as an x-ray technician at Medical Arts Building in Sheboygan and retired in 1994.

Sharleen had a strong faith and was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Howards Grove.

She was a huge Elvis fan. She enjoyed nature especially spending time at Donnie's family resorts Mueller's Pine Grove Resort on Pickerel Lake and Mueller's East Shore Resort on Rolling Stone Lake. She loved fishing, bowling and traveling. Sharleen was very social and liked to go out to dinner with friends. Her pride and joy were her children and grandchildren, spending time with them creating lasting memories was a favorite past time of hers.

Sharleen is survived by her husband of 62 years, Donnie, her grandchildren; Brianne (Isaiah) Noll, Christian Mueller-Ackley, and Autumn Mueller-Ackley, great-grandchildren; Pax and Artemis Noll, Elsie Johnson and 1 great-grandson on the way. She is further survived by her sisters Sharon Laack and Diana Nett, sisters-in-law; Georgene Dexheimer, Doris Mueller and Darcy Mueller and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, son Dean Mueller, daughter Michelle (Tim) Mueller-Ackley, brother Dennis Dexheimer, and brothers-in-law Robert Laack, Hubert Nett, Carl Mueller and Glenn Mueller.

A funeral service for Sharleen will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 12:00 pm at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 441 Millersville Ave, Howards Grove. The family will greet relatives and friends from 10:00 am until the time of the service at the CHURCH. She will be laid to rest in St. Paul's Cemetery.

Please visit our website to share your stories and leave your condolences for the family www.zimmerfuneralhome.com.



A note from the four busmen (Mike, Christ, Bob & Kevin) ...

This month we have two special dates for special trips this month. On December 1, we will be taking a trip to watch the Crandon Tree Lighting and on December 7, we will be taking a bus to Appleton for anyone who wants to partake in some Christmas shopping (weather permitting of course).

Please let us know if there are any special trips on your bucket list and we will see if we can make it happen.

Please call 715-784-1497 if you would like to join us for these trips or for any other rides you'd like to attend.

Tuesday and Thursday Trips

Forest County to Rhinelander, Antigo and Iron Mountain. We will pick you up at your home sometime between 8 and 9 a.m. and typically arrive at the destination town around 9:45. Walmart is a popular stop but we will attempt to take you wherever you wish. Then...LUNCH!!! (Optional) We talk about where to eat and all riders are encouraged to voice their opinion. Then return home, arriving between 1:00 and 2:00 most days.

Friday, December 1: Crandon Tree Lighting

Tuesday, December 5: Rhinelander

Thursday, December 7: Appleton (weather permitting)

Tuesday, December 12: Iron Mountain

Thursday, December 14: Rhinelander

Tuesday, December 19: Antigo

Thursday, December 21: Iron Mountain

Tuesday, December 26: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thursday, December 28: Rhinelander

Forest County Commission on Aging Nutrition Program



SENIOR MEALS

CRANDON, WABENO, LAONA

Monday - Dec. 4 - Beef vegetable stew, biscuit, whole kernel corn, tossed romaine/spinach salad, dressing, cookie

Monday - Dec. 11 - Ham on marble rye with romaine and tomato slice, mayo, minestrone soup, crackers, peach slice

CRANDON, WABENO, LAONA, ARMSTRONG CREEK

Tuesday - Dec. 5 - Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, 3-bean salad, rye bread, ambrosia fruit salad

Tuesday - Dec. 12 - Seasoned baked fish, parsley buttered potatoes, tartar sauce, carrots, rye bread, diced mixed fruit

CRANDON, LAONA, ARMSTRONG CREEK, WABENO

Wednesday - Dec. 6 - Chicken florentine penne pasta, broccoli, mandarin oranges, banana & vanilla pudding

Wednesday - Dec. 13 - Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, squash, rye bread, pineapple, chocolate cake

ALVIN (Alvin now serving at 12:00 p.m.)

Thursday - Dec. 7 - Chicken noodle soup, toasted cheese sandwich, coleslaw, banana, cupcake

Thursday - Dec. 14 - Shepherd's pie, broccoli salad, biscuit, cookie

Please register with Commission on Aging - 478-3256.

Crandon site is at 715-478-3040. Serving at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Alvin nutrition site manager Tammy Wolfe is at 715-545-3323.

Laona site manager Peggy Alderton at 715-889-3116 (cell). Meal served at 12:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Wabeno site manager Linda McEwen at 715-889-0123 (cell). Meal served at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Armstrong Creek site manager Sharon Giles at 715-674-3532 (home). Meal served at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday.

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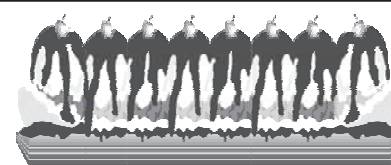
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Sen. Baldwin & others urge a plan to protect life in Gaza

Today, U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Tim Kaine (D-VA), and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) led their colleagues in urging President Biden to work with Israel and international partners to implement a plan that will protect innocent civilian life in Gaza, deliver sustained humanitarian aid, and work toward the long term goals of ending Hamas's threat, bringing hostages home, and achieving sustainable peace in the region through a two-state solution. In the letter to President Biden, the senators call for the protection of civilians and civilian sites, the opening of the Kerem Shalom border crossing, and access to prompt medical attention for civilians injured to help address the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

“As you and your administration work with Israel and international partners to secure the release of hostages and respond to the terror attack on Israel, we join you in your urgent call for humanitarian assistance for Palestinian civilians in Gaza. We encourage you to work with international partners to achieve expeditious implementation of a plan for sustained humanitarian aid in Gaza. We hope you'll join us in encouraging our ally Israel to take immediate steps to help provide critical humanitarian aid to the innocent civilians in Gaza, including re-opening the Kerem Shalom border crossing to allow life-saving water, food, and fuel to reach vulnerable civilians,” the senators wrote.

The senators continued, “We are concerned that increased and prolonged suffering in Gaza is not only intolerable for Palestinian civilians there but will also negatively impact the security of Israeli civilians by exacerbating existing tensions and eroding regional alliances.”

The senators concluded, “This conflict will not be solved by force alone. Preservation of and respect for innocent life is both morally right and the best hope for a long-term strategy to accomplish security, stability, and peace in the region.”

In addition to Senators Baldwin, Kaine, and Van Hollen, Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Peter Welch (D-VT), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Ed Markey (D-MA), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) also signed the letter.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED
The Forest County Highway Department is accepting applications for a full time position. This position would be involved with all road maintenance functions of the Highway Department.

Applicants must have a valid drivers license, a clean driving record, with a CDL endorsement, and be able to pass a physical, audiogram, and D.O.T. drug screen. Applications may be obtained at the Highway offices located at 5350 County Road “W” Crandon, Wisconsin, or off the Forest County web site.

Starting Wage \$22.46 per hour, with an excellent benefit package.

All interested parties must file a new job application to be given consideration.

Applications will be accepted until 3:00 P.M. December 12, 2023.

By Order of the Forest County Highway Committee:
Mark Chrisman, Highway Commissioner

Baldwin says Wisconsin selected as a Tech Hub

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) announced that Wisconsin has been designated by the Biden Administration as a Regional Technology Hub (Tech Hub), an initiative created by the Baldwin-supported CHIPS and Science Act. Additionally, Wisconsin is receiving a \$350,000 planning grant to execute its Biohealth Tech Hub strategy. Working with stakeholders across the state, Senator Baldwin has advocated to bring a Tech Hub to Wisconsin, supporting Wisconsin's application to invest in the Badger State's growing personalized medicine and biohealth technology industry.

“Wisconsin has a long and proud tradition of innovation, and bringing a Tech Hub to Wisconsin will help us continue that legacy into the future. With world class research institutions, a strong pipeline of talent, and cutting-edge Made in Wisconsin manufacturing, our state is well positioned to drive innovation in biohealth and personalized medicine, pioneering technologies that have the potential to improve access to affordable care, better diagnose and treat patients, and save lives,” said Senator Baldwin. “I am proud to have helped create and support the Tech Hub program and know that bringing one to Wisconsin will create more opportunities for our businesses and workers. I am committed to continuing to work with our consortium partners to make this reality, strengthening Wisconsin's competitive edge in an industry that will only grow in the future.”

In September, BioForward Wisconsin, along with a consortium of 15 public and private partners organized by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), submitted Wisconsin's application for a Tech Hub to bolster the state as a leader in personalized medicine and biohealth technology. The Tech Hub designation and \$350,000 planning grant announced today validate Wisconsin's potential for rapid technology-led economic growth in biohealth. Planning grant funding will be utilized to build upon the consortium's comprehensive regional strategy to grow Wisconsin's Tech Hub, helping to create a corresponding implementation plan and a workforce strategy informed by global experts, best practices, and regional stakeholders.

Out of hundreds of applications, the U.S. Economic Development Association (EDA) today announced 31 designees across the country, including Wisconsin's Biohealth Tech Hub. Additionally, BioForward Wisconsin was awarded a strategy development grant to accelerate the development of its proposal. Following the designee announcement, EDA will also offer an additional grant application to make at least 5 implementation awards ranging from \$20 million to \$70 million to designated EDA Tech Hubs.

Senator Baldwin voted to create the Tech Hubs program in the CHIPS and Science Act, and as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, she worked to secure \$500 million in funding to initiate the program in the FY2023 budget. In September, she penned a letter of support for Wisconsin's application for a Tech Hub focused on biohealth. Senator Baldwin also gathered consortium partners in August to rally support for Wisconsin's application, hosting events in Madison and Milwaukee this August to highlight Wisconsin's strong biohealth industry and Tech Hub application.

“The Regional Tech Hub designation confirms what we already know about Wisconsin: when it comes to bringing together the best in research and development, cutting-edge manufacturing, highly skilled and educated workers, and a commitment to relentless improvement, no state is better prepared to lead the way,” said Missy Hughes, secretary and CEO of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC). “This is a huge win in creating an economy for all, where everyone has the opportunity to live healthy, prosperous lives.”

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2023 bear season results show drop in total harvest and hunter success rates

The DNR announced preliminary results for the 2023 bear season. The 2023 bear season harvest is well below the recent annual average of approximately 4,000 harvested bears, representing the lowest yearly bear harvest since 2008.

Wisconsin bear hunters harvested 2,922 bears during the 2023 black bear season, a marked decrease from the 4,009 bears taken by hunters last year. This decline was observed across the state, as the bear harvest fell short of respective targets in all management zones.

Similarly, statewide hunter success dropped to 23%, down from the recent 5-year average statewide hunter success rate of 32%. Hunter success rates in individual zones varied from about 60% in Zone A to about 5% in Zones E and F.

"This fall saw a remarkably high acorn crop across much of the state, and this abundance of natural food typically results in reduced hunter success rates as hunters' baits are less effective," said Randy Johnson, DNR Large Carnivore Specialist. "Almost all of the anecdotal reports I heard from bear hunters this fall mentioned the incredible abundance of acorns and other natural foods in the woods. It is difficult to predict when these bumper acorn crops will occur, but when they do, the impact on bear hunting is unmistakable."

Harvest data indicates Zones A and B, in the northern and northeastern parts of the state, were less impacted than other areas, with hunter success rates closer to average at 59% and 50%, respectively. Zone C, located in the central part of the state, fell well short of its harvest target, with below-average hunter success rates as well. Similarly, in the northwestern area of the state, Zone D saw well below-average harvest and hunter-success rates. The drop in Zone D is likely due, at least in part, to recent management actions intended to reduce bear populations in this area, combined with the abundance of natural foods available this fall. Finally, Zones E and F, encompassing most of the state's southern areas, saw declines in average hunter success rates and total harvest.

Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day in Wisconsin

Slow down and give space to snowplow drivers

Governor Tony Evers has proclaimed Monday, November 27 as Snowplow Driver Appreciation Day in Wisconsin to remind motorists to give snowplow drivers plenty of space to complete their jobs safely. In partnership with the Wisconsin County Highway Association (WCHA), the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) urges drivers to slow down and be alert on Wisconsin roads this winter.

“Wisconsin’s snowplow drivers work long hours in tough conditions to keep roads clear and safe every winter season,” WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson said. “We applaud them for their dedication to safety and service, and also ask that drivers do their part to keep our roadways safe. Eliminate distractions when driving, always give snowplows room to work and, when possible, avoid travel during major storms.”

For more than 100 years, Wisconsin has maintained a unique partnership with the state’s 72 county highway departments. During the winter, county highway workers help keep interstate, U.S. and state highways safe by providing snow plowing, salting and liquid brine applications. WisDOT works with Wisconsin counties year-round to establish best practices and test new tools for safety and efficiency.

“Wisconsin winter weather can wreak havoc on travel plans,” WCHA Executive Director Patrick Vander Sanden said. “Snowplow drivers take their work very seriously including overnight, weekends and holidays so that we can all continue to get to work, school and all the places we need to be. Please be attentive and patient whenever driving in the winter and give plows room to work – it’s the best way to say thank you.”

Wisconsin allows flashing green warning lights on county or municipal maintenance vehicles – in addition to red or amber lights. The green warning lights are meant to increase safety, enhance driver awareness and improve visibility of maintenance vehicles.

Motorists can thank Wisconsin snowplow drivers by staying safe on the road this winter.

Before traveling, visit 511wi.gov to check road conditions, live video from traffic cameras and possible incidents. Download the 511 Wisconsin mobile app to “know before you go.”

Buckle up, phone down. Every trip, every time.

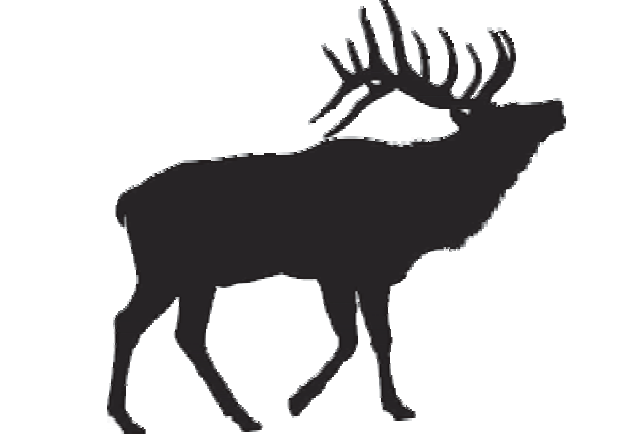
Watch the road ahead and allow plenty of following distance.

Most traffic crashes in winter are caused by drivers going too fast for conditions. Posted speed limits apply when travel conditions are ideal. Drivers are advised to slow down when roads are slick or visibility is reduced.

Stay at least 200 feet behind a working snowplow. Make sure that you can see the plow’s mirrors to ensure the driver can see you.

If you must pass, be careful. Snowplows often create a cloud of snow that can obscure vision. Remember that road conditions in front of the plow will likely be worse. Don’t be over-confident if you operate a four-wheel or all-wheel-drive vehicle. They still require a considerable distance to stop on slick roadways.

During major winter storms, postpone or cancel your trip. Stranded motorists and vehicles become hazards that interfere with snow removal efforts.



DNR celebrates successful 2023 elk hunting season

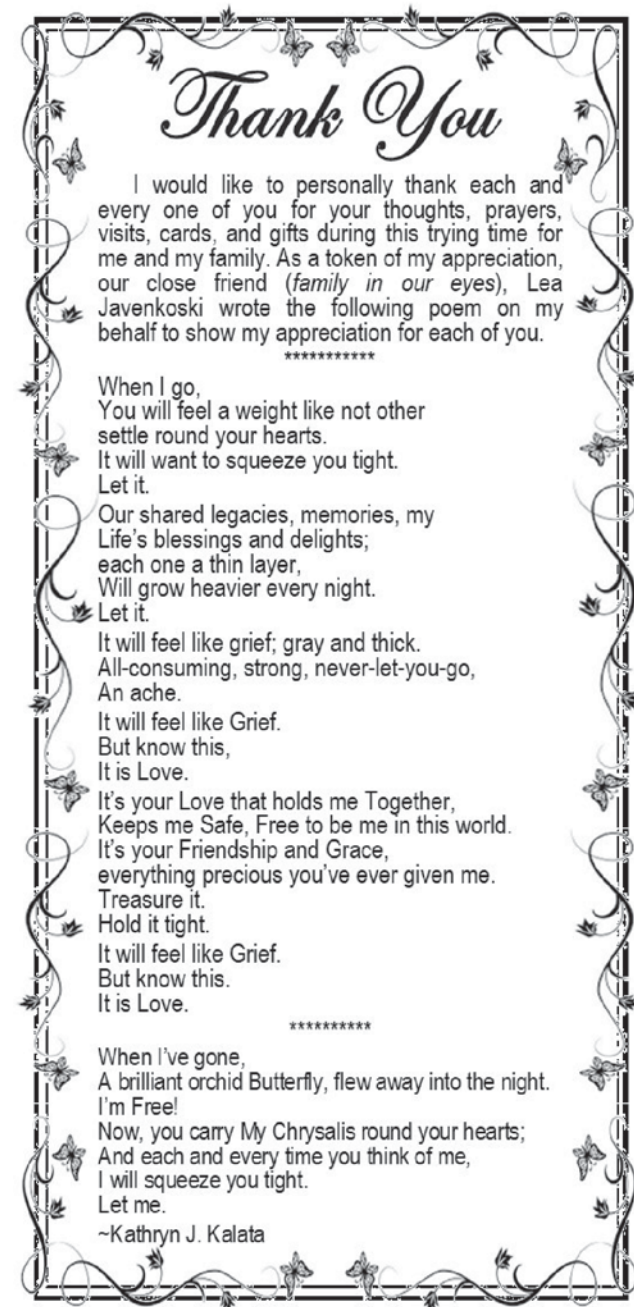
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is celebrating a successful elk hunting season. The state’s sixth elk hunting season opened Saturday, Oct. 14 and closed Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, as a result of all four state licensed hunters filling their harvest authorizations.

The four hunters who participated in this year’s hunt were selected at random from a pool of 21,312 Wisconsin resident applicants. One hunter successfully harvested a bull elk in the first weekend of the season. The second was harvested during the first week. The third elk was harvested at the end of October, about two weeks before the end of the first open period. The final harvest occurred on the last day of the first hunting period.

“It’s exciting that we have the opportunity in Wisconsin to pursue elk in our home state,” said Josh Spiegel, DNR Wildlife Biologist. “Every hunter’s experience is unique each year, and this year’s hunters definitely lived up to that standard.”

Congrats to all our elk hunters this season.

Thank Yous and Personals



Deer Season 2023 Cont. from pg. 1

To most of the hunters who hunt this area, a year without snow is a tough year. Deer are harder to see without that nice white background, and they certainly don't leave as many visible tracks.

An observation I made while hunting is the light numbers of hunters in the woods near Argonne, where I usually hunt. It was obvious that there were fewer cars at some of the hunting camps in the area than in other hunting seasons. My son Brian and I also noticed that no shots were fired in the area.

While talking to friends from Sagola, Michigan, they made the same observation. There were fewer hunters in the woods, fewer vehicles parked at camps in the area, and very few shots fired.

Looking back through the decades, there were more deer in the Forest County area, and that does coincide with more clearcut aspen and balsam logging and more young tree growth as a result. Much of the national forest lands in this area have grown into mature hardwood forests after being logged lightly through the years. Good for timber growth, but not necessarily good for wildlife habitat.

Growing up here, you had the idea that all the deer were here in the Northwoods. You had people coming to hunt here every deer season. As you got older and more traveled, you realized that there were lots more deer downstate than here, but you couldn't just hunt wherever you wanted. The land was all private, not national or county forest like here in the north.

Time will tell with deer hunting. The stats show that fewer people are deer hunting than in years past. It isn't as popular with downstaters or even with many here in the Northwoods. Having a warm season with no snow doesn't help get people interested either.

Preliminary figures show hunters registered 173,942 deer during the 2023 gun deer season, including 85,390 antlered and 88,552 antlerless deer. Compared to 2022, the total firearm deer harvest was down 17.6% statewide, with the antlered harvest down 14.7% and the antlerless harvest down 20.3%.

Forest County stats show that in 2022, there were 994 bucks registered, and in 2023, that number went down to 748.

Oconto County had 654 antlered and 254 antlerless harvested in 2022 and that number in 2023 was 475 antlered and 119 antlerless.

Langlade registered 1,621 bucks and 1,107 does in 2022, and dropped to 1,307 bucks and 899 does in 2023.

Oneida totaled 1,192 bucks in '22 and 762 does, and in '23 the count went to 1,040 bucks and 429 does.

We can blame the DNR, the weather or anything else we can think of, but it wasn't a great year for seeing deer in the woods without a snow background, and there appears to be less people interested in hunting whitetails.

Our Appreciation & Thanks

We extend our deepest appreciation to our amazing immediate family, cherished extended family, compassionate friends, and thoughtful neighbors who have been a source of strength and solace during this challenging time as my husband undergoes hospice care. Your prayers, well wishes, heartfelt cards, thoughtful gifts, comforting visits, reassuring phone calls, warm hugs, and genuine smiles have enveloped us in love.

In particular, we would like to express our gratitude to Bill Belland and Scott Reeves, our exceptional neighbors. Their kindness knows no bounds they not only took care of our yard work this fall but also stepped in to tackle unexpected challenges with unwavering support.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the compassionate souls at St. Leonard's Catholic Church in Laona, including Fr. Cerkas, Fr. Polumari, Mary Verich, Fr. Kennedy from St. Joseph's in Crandon and the entire parish community. Your prayers, visits, sacraments and touching gesture of offering Mass for Otto has provided solace and a sense of peace to our family.

The outpouring of support from each one of you has brought comfort and warmth to our hearts during this difficult time.

With heartfelt thanks,
Otto & Mary Hoepner and family

Guarding Against Pneumonia

“The most fundamental preventive measure for everyone is good hygiene.”

WAUSAU, Wis. – Pneumonia is a serious lung infection that can affect anyone, from babies to the elderly, and it can be very dangerous. According to the American Lung Association (ALA), more than a million people are hospitalized, and over 50,000 lives are claimed by pneumonia each year.

Pneumonia, as described by Samuel Staehling, MD, Aspirus Wausau Family Medicine Resident, is an infection of the lung tissue, specifically impacting the delicate structures involved in the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide. This infection is primarily caused by pathogens, such as bacteria, viruses, or fungi, which are commonly spread through the inhalation of these microorganisms.

Dr. Staehling highlights the populations most vulnerable to pneumonia: "The biggest risk for contracting pneumonia is posed to older adults, very young children, hospitalized patients, immunocompromised individuals, and those with chronic comorbidities like lung disease, heart disease, or diabetes."

Dr. Staehling underscores the link between viral upper respiratory infections and the development of pneumonia. He explains how these infections can weaken the immune system, particularly in the lungs, making individuals more susceptible to pneumonia.

However, there are proactive steps that everyone can take to reduce their risk. "The most fundamental preventive measure for everyone is good hygiene, emphasizing proper handwashing and the use of alcohol-based sanitizers."

Vaccination has also proven to be a powerful tool in the fight against pneumonia. Dr. Staehling notes that there are pneumonia vaccines available, which are commonly administered to children and older adults. These vaccines play a vital role in preventing pneumonia, especially in high-risk groups.

Dr. Staehling also recommends maintaining a strong immune system through healthy habits to bolster one's defenses against the condition. Getting sufficient sleep, eating a balanced diet, and engaging in regular physical activity can all contribute to a robust immune response.


Sometimes getting sick is inevitable, though. Recognizing signs of pneumonia is essential for early diagnosis and treatment. Dr. Staehling outlines common symptoms:

- A productive cough (producing phlegm), which distinguishes it from a dry viral cough
- Chest pain, particularly when breathing or coughing
- Elevated fever, chills, and sweats, more severe than typical respiratory infections
- Shortness of breath, which may necessitate oxygen therapy

Dr. Staehling advises, "If breathing becomes extremely difficult, requiring additional oxygen support, it's a clear indication to seek medical attention. Likewise, persistent high fever, the presence of productive green phlegm or pus in your cough should prompt a visit to a health care professional."

It's important to know that pneumonia can be serious, but there are ways to protect yourself and get treatment if you need it. Talk to your primary care provider to learn more about your individual risk factors and recommended preventative measures.

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Spring turkey harvest applications due December 10

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds wild turkey hunters that applications for the 2024 spring season are due by 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 10, 2023.

Hunters can apply for harvest authorizations or purchase preference points toward future drawings through Go Wild or an authorized license agent.

Turkey harvest authorizations are issued through a preference-based drawing system. More information on the turkey preference drawing is available in the Turkey Frequently Asked Questions.

Applicants may choose up to two time period and zone combinations that they would like to hunt. As a third choice, applicants may choose one zone in which they will accept a harvest authorization for any period. This third choice can be the same zone as the first and/or second choice. The second and third choices are optional, but applicants are encouraged to submit additional choices to maximize their likelihood of drawing a harvest authorization.

The spring harvest authorization drawing takes place in late January. Successful applicants are notified by mail after the drawing results are finalized. Application status can also be checked through Go Wild, at a DNR service center or by calling 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463). Applicants not selected will receive a preference point that will increase their chances of drawing a harvest authorization the following spring season.

Any harvest authorizations not awarded in the drawing will be available for purchase as bonus harvest authorizations. Bonus harvest authorizations will cost \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents.

All turkey hunters must possess a valid spring turkey license and a wild turkey stamp when they acquire their spring turkey harvest authorization. A 2024 spring turkey license is \$15 for Wisconsin residents and \$60 for non-residents. The 2024 wild turkey stamp is \$5.25. Licenses will go on sale March 1, 2024.

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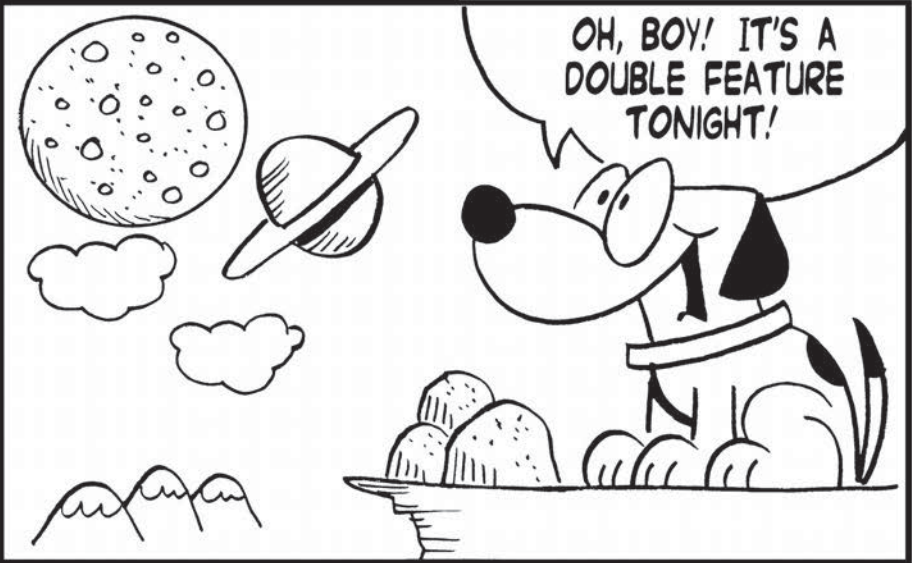
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CLOSED SATURDAY, DEC. 2 FOR PRIVATE PARTY

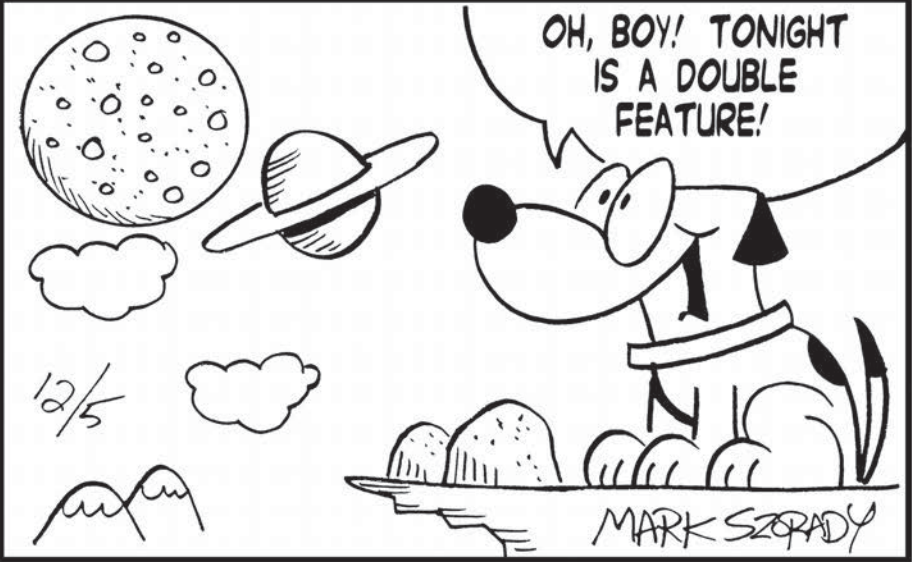


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By Mark Szorady



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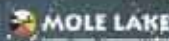


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