

VILAS COUNTY **News-Review**

Eagle River Vindicator Established 1886
Eagle River Review 1890 ~ Vilas County News 1892

Publisher
Editor
Asst. Editor / Lifestyle Editor
Production Manager
Asst. Production Manager
Lead Production Technician
Photo Technician
Production Technician
Circulation Manager
Accounting Manager
Advertising Consultants

KURT KRUEGER
GARY RIDDERBUSCH
ERIC JOHNSON
JEAN DREW
TONI RUTHVEN
ELIZABETH BOULDEN
DAVID WERNER
ANDY VIRAMONTES
ELIZABETH SCHMIDT
GOLDIE ZARNOTH
DOUG ETTEN, CHRIS BOONE
NICOLE PETERSON, MARY JO ADAMOVICH

EDITORIAL

OPINION/COMMENTARY



JUDGED WISCONSIN'S
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
OF THE YEAR



Our View

State urges more caution as ATV death toll climbs

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported last week that the death toll related to operation of all-terrain and utility terrain vehicles hit 30 for the year, and that's as the popular fall riding season is just getting underway.

Because most crash victims were not wearing seat belts or helmets (at least 23 out of 30), the department is asking operators to think smarter when it comes to speed and the use of protective gear.

ATVs are by far the most dangerous of the two, with 23 of the fatalities, or 77%, involving the smaller and lighter units. Agency officials say rollover crashes due to excessive speed and collisions with fixed objects have caused nearly all of the fatalities this year.

One alarming statistic is that more than half of the fatal accidents occurred on a town road or county highway, which brings up another issue that the Wisconsin Legislature has not addressed.

Since the widespread legalization of ATV and UTV use on public roadways, lawmakers have failed to bring equality between motorists by requiring proof of insurance across the board.

It's been a few years since the Legislature passed a law mandating that motor vehicles in Wisconsin be insured to certain minimum levels. The minimum amount of liability coverage is \$10,000 for property damage, \$25,000 for the injury or death of one person and \$50,000 for the injury or death of more than one person.

DNR officials have confirmed there is no law mandating insurance for ATVs and UTVs that are being operated on road-based routes across the state, an issue that came to light the past five years as more municipalities opened their roadways to these recreational vehicles.

The problem with the state's oversight in not protecting roadway users from this new potential for accidents, injury and even death is mostly an equality issue. If mandated insurance was right for registered vehicles and their drivers, why is it not mandated for registered ATVs and UTVs that are using the same roadways?

Communities need a bank

It was terrible news recently for residents and community officials in Three Lakes that both of its banks announced they would be closing operations there in December.

Both BMO Harris and Nicolet National Bank, which recently merged with mBank, have made plans to close their branch banks in this Oneida County town.

We're hoping one of the two will reconsider after discovering that the end result will leave Three Lakes without a bank, a development that could stifle the economy, the town's image and future growth.

Just as vibrant communities need a school and a grocery store, they also need a bank.

Behind the editorial 'we'

Members of the Vilas County News-Review editorial board include Publisher Kurt Krueger, Editor Gary Ridderbusch, Assistant Editor Eric Johnson and reporter Doug Etten.

The pandemic yields a silver lining

DEFYING THE ODDS, U.S. households managed to add \$13.5 trillion in wealth last year, according to the Federal Reserve; the biggest increase in records going back three decades.

Americans are coming out of the pandemic buying, buoyed by savings and federal stimulus. The U.S. economy, turbo charged by stimulus worth almost \$6 trillion, is hungry for a wide range of goods produced here and around the world.

There is a delicate balance between causing a strong economic recovery and causing a wave of inflation which could make matters worse as the economy is flooded with watered-down currency. Many economists fear a wave of inflation is coming and they need to know what central banks are going to do.

While limiting outside activities during the pandemic, many Americans

People Make the Difference

By Byron McNutt



paid off credit card debt, saved more and refinanced into cheaper mortgages. They benefited from the government borrowing, lending and spending trillions of dollars to keep the economy from tanking.

Many white-collar employees were able to work from home, saving money by not commuting or eating out and saving on child care. They benefited from stimulus checks, expanded unemployment benefits, postponed mortgage and student loan payments.

Home values, stocks and retirement accounts soared in value. Those who continued to work, including es-

sential workers, often worked overtime while collecting the stimulus checks. The stock market was a driver of the household wealth gain, accounting for nearly half the total increase, said the Federal Reserve. More than 70% of the increase in household wealth went to the top 20% of income earners; about 30% went to the top 1%.

Not as fortunate were millions of lower-income workers. Millions of low-wage jobs were eliminated or will be slow to return as the economy recovers.

* * *

THE NEWS is not all

good. It's become all too clear that America can't build a sound economy on a foundation of unsustainable debt. According to Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) baseline projections, interest costs on the soaring debt will surpass spending for Social Security by 2045, and will consume nearly half of federal revenue in 2051.

It appears our financial train has run off the cliff and is free-falling. Our options are bad and worse. Cutting spending isn't a realistic political solution and raising taxes has its limits. What could go wrong?

We've been warned many times. In 1994, President Bill Clinton named the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform chaired by former Sens. Bob Kerrey, a Democrat, and John Danforth, a Republican, to study the fu-

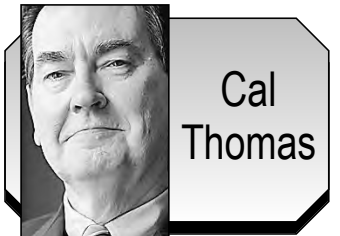
To McNUTT, Pg. 13B



Chain boardwalk gets plenty of use

The boardwalk and boat docking facility along Riverview Park in Eagle River was a popular spot Sept. 5, as dozens of boaters used the facility to attend Sausage Fest, a fundraiser for the Eagle River Lions Club. The boardwalk also serves those headed to downtown Eagle River.

—Staff Photo By GARY RIDDERBUSCH



The next attack

FOR 20 YEARS SINCE Sept. 11, 2001, U.S. presidents have been saying their antiterrorism policies have worked, as evidenced by no new attacks on America. While we should be grateful another attack hasn't occurred, past performance is no guarantee of future success. Fanatics are nothing but patient as we have seen in Afghanistan.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Mark Milley has said the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan could lead to civil war and the possible reconstitution of al-Qaida. That should come as no surprise as the goals of our enemies in the Middle East have been expressed openly for decades. Their actions have proven a commitment to killing Americans, and destabilizing democracies and their economies.

Underestimating one's enemy is always a fatal error as we saw Sept. 11. President Barack Obama once dismissed al-Qaida as the junior varsity team. In fact, they are the varsity. It is difficult to deter or destroy an ideology whose adherents are willing to die for its cause, especially when they believe they are carrying out orders from their god.

In its March 2015 issue, The Atlantic noted a New York Times story about confidential comments made by Maj. Gen. Michael Nagata; at the time, the Special Operations commander for the United States in the Middle East. Nagata reportedly admitted he had yet to figure out the appeal of one of many terrorist organizations. About the Islamic State, he said "We have not defeated the idea. We do not even understand the idea." Whose fault is that?

With their win in Afghanistan, terrorists by whatever name can only be further motivated to con-

To THOMAS, Pg. 13B

My time with ducks is coming

THE TOURISTS HAVE had their time. The summer homeowners have had their time. I don't begrudge them their time at all. Many of them are my friends and along with the new friends I meet each summer, I welcome them.

But there is a time coming and that time is mine. My time is reserved mostly for myself, whether it be in a duck blind, sitting on a deer stand or doing a walk-about for partridges.

My time is fast coming upon northern Wisconsin and parts farther west. I got a taste of it during the first 10 days of September, when Wisconsin's early teal and goose seasons opened.

I did not shoot a single bird of either species. Yet the time I spent sitting in a blind of cattails and alder brush was well spent. I had teal within easy range and never fired a shot. I had mallards and wood ducks



Trails & Tales By Will Maines

fly by, some of them deciding to land close to me. I may or may not be tempted to bring a few of them home beginning Sept. 26, when the regular duck season opens.

For now, just being at water's edge watching for ducks is enough to keep me happy. In case you didn't know it, I am a duck addict. There is no group to help people with this malady as there are for people with real problems. My group consists of ducks swimming, dabbling and feeding all around me, their wildness and beauty being all I need to maintain a healthy mindset.

I have been a duck addict almost my entire life and I make no apologies for my addiction. It began when I wasn't much more than a toddler sitting in the middle of my mother's kitchen floor on a chair plucking feathers into a 5-gallon bucket.

The mallards, wood ducks, teal, bluebills, ring-necks and an uncommon redhead or canvasback that my dad brought home from every hunt at Rice Lake or some other favored duck water near our house quickly put a lifelong hold of pure pleasure on me.

I hunted ducks with more passion than for any other wild game from the time the law first let me at the age of 12. I missed a lot more ducks than I hit, but I never despaired. Each one I did manage to hit erased the pain of the half-dozen or more I missed before get-

To MAINES, Pg. 13B

VILAS COUNTY **News-Review**

Consolidation of the Vilas County News, the Eagle River Review and The Three Lakes News

Published weekly by Eagle River Publications Inc. P.O. Box 1929, 425 W. Mill St. at Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521 erpub@nrex.net vcnnewsreview.com Publication #659480

Member of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and the National Newspaper Association Entered as periodical mail matter at the post office, Eagle River, WI 54521, under act of March 3, 1879. Published every Wednesday. Subscription price for a year: Vilas and Oneida counties only, \$55; rest of Wisconsin, \$63; out of state, \$75. Mail subscription to: Vilas County News-Review, P.O. Box 1929, Eagle River, WI 54521. Payable in advance. POSTMASTER: Send address changes, form 3579, to the Vilas County News-Review, P.O. Box 1929, Eagle River, WI 54521, phone 715-479-4421, fax 715-479-6242.



SUBMIT LETTERS TO:
 News-Review Editor
 P.O. Box 1929
 Eagle River, WI 54521
 or erpub@nnex.net

See Letters Policy
 for guidelines

OPINION/COMMENTARY

Maines FROM PAGE 12B

ting lucky.
 Each spring I would ride my bike on the back roads to check out where ducks were resting on ponds and lakes newly free of winter's ice. I would sit, sometimes for hours, watching ducks, knowing that I would catch "you know what" for skipping out on assigned chores.
 The chastisement was a small price to pay for an afternoon of watching drake wood ducks in full breeding plumage gliding silently on a small seasonal pond, and for time spent with mallard drakes showing off their resplendent green heads and chestnut breasts.
 In college, I hunted the Beef and Eau Claire rivers for ducks. Lucky to bring any home or not, the chance to maybe have a small flock

or two fly by in range during a few hours of sitting quietly at river's edge was enough to draw me back time after time.
 Then 29 years ago, my duck hunting addiction was opened to new horizons. Four of us headed west to North Dakota for the first time.
 We hunted. We saw new country. We found enough ducks to use up several boxes of shells apiece. We found geese, mostly snows and blues, by the thousands. Our combined take of geese wasn't a drop in a thimble compared to the flocks in fields we found where several thousand were feeding on the leavings of recently harvested wheat crops.
 I was hooked. I fell in love with the prairie country of North Dakota. I've been returning to the prairie potholes and sloughs every year since. For the

past 15 or so years, I have called a little white house on the prairie about 60 miles north of Devil's Lake home for a week or more.
 The time for me to head west is growing shorter and shorter, though not moving fast enough to suit me, until I once more point the nose of my truck westward.
 There I will open up the house, drive many miles to check out favorite potholes, visit with friends I have made there and make ready for a band of grungy duck hunters to join me.
 Together we will hunt ducks, shoot our fair share, eat many of them within hours after we get them and share a few dollops of the brown liquor from Canada that I have grown fond of.
 For the 12 days I plan on being in North Dakota, I will be in duck heaven. There will be no bounds to the peace and contentment I

will feel. I have been saying for many years that during the time I am in North Dakota each year, it is the most beautiful and wonderful place in the world one could ever find.
 Some days I will shoot some of the ducks I hunt. Other days I will just watch them. I will greet beautiful sunrises each morning and say goodnight to burning sunsets each evening.
 We will eat duck breast strips with jalapeno slices wrapped in bacon some evenings; highlight one meal with duck breasts simmered in onions, sauerkraut and beer; dine one evening on duck breast enchiladas; and enjoy yet another with a casserole made of wild rice, celery, cream of mushroom soup, broccoli, cranberries, cashews, almonds and, of course, duck breast meat.
 Trust me, I am counting down the days and hours.

More records broken related to climate change

Letter to the Editor:
 Every year new records are broken relative to climate change and this year is no exception.
 The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration just today (Sept. 9) stated that this summer is the hottest on record.
 A few short weeks ago Hurricane Ida not only devastated Louisiana but caused record flooding in the Northeast. There were at least 60 deaths across eight states from this single storm.
 All-time heat records were set during June in the Pacific Northwest where Portland, Ore., averaged 112 degrees over three days. The West has also been experiencing the largest and most intense drought in the past 100 years. These conditions contributed to a near doubling of the acres burned during the first two-thirds of 2021 (4 million acres) compared to the same timeframe last year.
 In our area, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area closed for the first time in 45 years and several areas at Isle Royale National Park were also

closed in response to fires.
 How bad do things have to get before people act on climate change? And what can individuals do to affect this global problem?
 The most straightforward approach is to support a carbon fee, something 45 countries have already done. A carbon fee is in essence a payment made in exchange for a service. These types of payments bring out the "hidden" social costs of carbon created during the production of goods and services. In addition, some people believe we could start to see benefits in as little as nine months.
 So, let your representatives know that you support a carbon fee. Then support efforts of the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), citizensclimate.org, a national nonpartisan, nonprofit organization promoting the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act to reduce greenhouse gases.
 Reach out to one of the 24 chapters of CCL in Wisconsin (cclwi.org/local-chapters) to see ways to get involved.
 Peggy Burkman
 Washburn

Kudos to cemetery cleanup volunteers

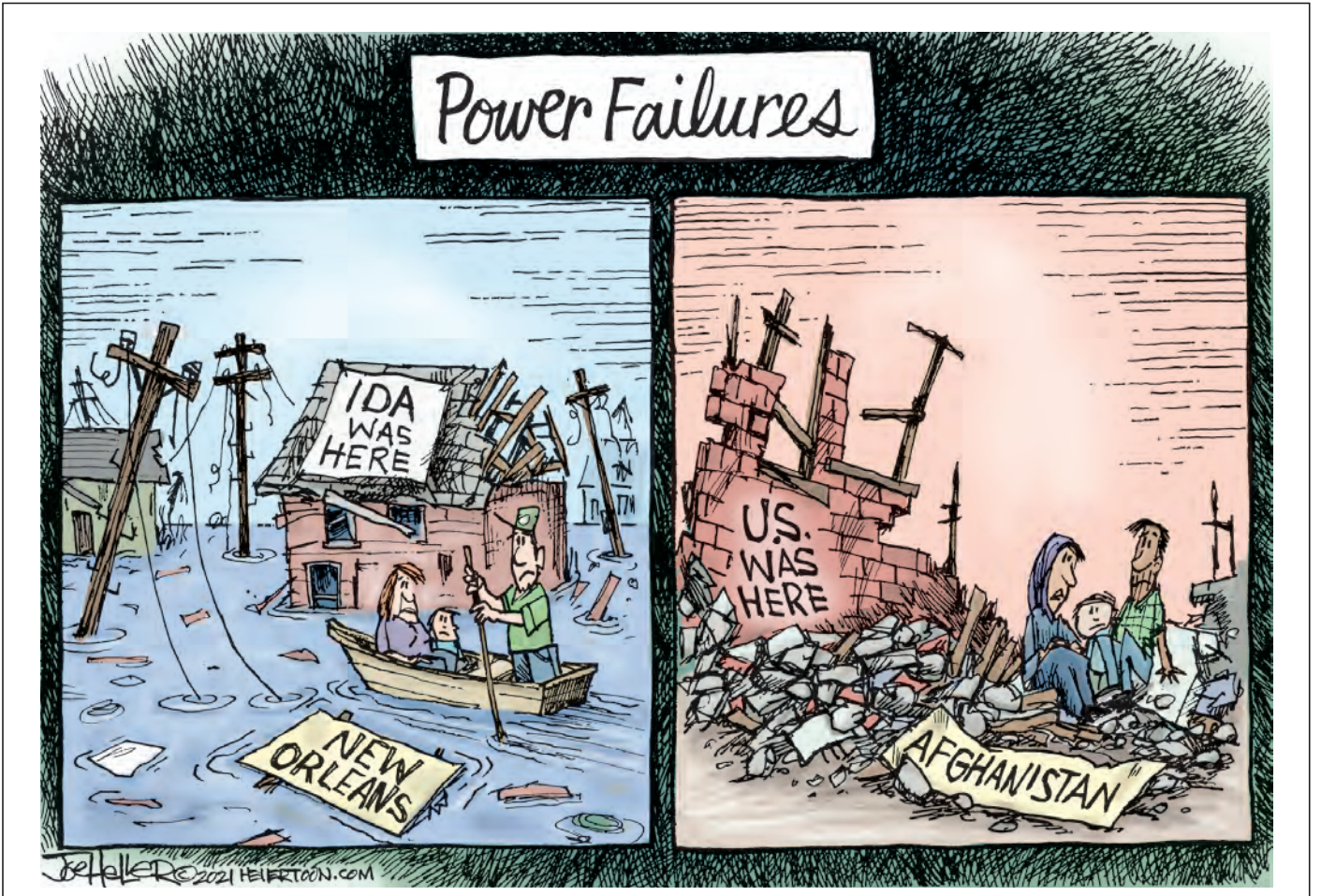
Letter to the Editor:
 Eagle River Cemetery Board would like to recognize the following groups who helped clean up trees and brush after the big storm this summer: Girl

Scouts, Boy Scouts, Mark Clure, Eagle River city crew and the many other individuals who stopped to help out.
 Barb Leveille
 Eagle River Cemetery Board Secretary

McNutt FROM PAGE 12B

ture of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.
 There was a near unanimous agreement that the entitlements were on an unsustainable trajectory, but reforms were impossible because of politics. At that time, the budget deficit was \$203 billion and the national debt was \$3.4 trillion.
 Today, the nonpartisan CBO estimated annual budget deficits will exceed

\$1 trillion and will be near \$2 trillion in 10 years. The national debt is approaching \$30 trillion, with no end in sight. The unfunded liabilities for Social Security and Medicare are approaching \$70 trillion. The shortage is skyrocketing.
 An Ipsos poll taken in late April found that 75% of Americans believe too much debt can hurt the economy. Despite the urgency of the problem, Kerry and Danforth said nearly every elected official in Washington is an original cosponsor of the "do nothing" plan.



Reader does own research on 'Pfizer' vaccine

Dear Editor:
 The sole purpose of this letter is to disseminate vital researched information our rulers are not telling us.
 The nation was informed on Aug. 23 that the "Pfizer" vaccine for COVID-19 had just been given full Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval, having graduated from its initial Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to full licensing.

Under a government-declared public emergency with PREP Act designation such as the current pandemic, fully licensed vaccines are allowed to be backed by the same limited liability protections as the experimental vaccine that was fast-tracked and first authorized for emergency use only. Consequently, any liability compensation for either vaccine classification is of "last resort" and excludes pain, suffering, emotional distress, or similar damages.
 On the day of approval, President Joe Biden singled out the vaccine-hesitant community waiting for what

he dubbed the "gold standard of FDA approval" by announcing, "The moment you've been waiting for is here. Please get vaccinated today."
 Then, Dr. Fauci said in a recent television interview, "Now that we have the full stamp of approval for the Pfizer vaccine, we are definitely going to see mandating." And according to the FDA press release, "The vaccine has been known as the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, and will now be marketed as COMIRNATY, for the prevention of COVID-19."
 However, irrefutable offi-

cial FDA documentation explicitly states otherwise regarding the manufacturing and approval level of the original Pfizer-BioNTech partnership vaccine commonly known to Americans as simply "Pfizer."
 In a 13-page letter exclusively to Pfizer Inc. the FDA in part wrote, "On Aug. 23, 2021, FDA approved the license application submitted by BioNTech Manufacturing for COMIRNATY. FDA is reissuing the Aug. 12 letter of authorization in its entirety to clarify that the EUA will remain in place for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19."
 To VACCINE, Pg. 14B

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks

BY REP. TOM TIFFANY

Editor's note: This column was submitted to the Vilas County News-Review after the deadline for the Sept. 8 issue. Because of the historic significance of Sept. 11, 2011, it is being printed in the Sept. 15 issue.

For 20 years, we have remembered and honored the brave first responders, who Sept. 11, 2001, selflessly ran up the towers and through the Pentagon helping people escape the collapsing inferno coming down upon them.
 We remember the brave passengers of United Airlines Flight 93, who selflessly gave their lives to divert the aircraft from its intended target, the U.S. Capitol building, saving thousands of lives and preventing the certain catastrophe that would've



TOM TIFFANY

ensued.
 The 2,977 people killed, and the more than 6,000 wounded were innocent bystanders and victims of radical Islamic beliefs that aimed to destroy Western society.
 As our nation was aggrieved without provocation, our men and women in uniform responded with force and determination to

hold those responsible accountable, and restore human dignity and respect to nations otherwise devoid of this virtue. And so, began our fight against terrorism.
 This year, as we remember the brave men and women who perished Sept. 11, we also are confronted with a flood of emotions and anger surrounding our unorganized withdrawal from Afghanistan.
 We will remember the 13 brave warriors that we lost Aug. 26, as they tried to make the best out of the situation their leadership put them in. These two events, Sept. 11 and our withdrawal, are inextricably connected as one set the conditions for the other.
 As we witness the tragedies unfold on our screens, many pundits have questioned the purpose of our extended stay, others have argued we

To 9/11, Pg. 14B

Thomas FROM PAGE 12B

duct new attacks. What might those look like? From experience, we know they prefer the big event, such as crashing airliners into buildings and blowing up high-value targets. There are other options when big targets are not vulnerable.
 Lone suicide bomber incidents also can strike fear into a nation especially if they are sustained and coordinated.
 In 2003, Tom Clancy wrote "The Teeth of the Tiger" about terrorists who sneak across the U.S.-Mexico border and in coordinated attacks shoot up suburban shopping malls. Fear of terrorists slipping over the border is not fiction, but of growing concern.
 Small-scale attacks, undetectable in advance, have been occurring since Sept. 11. Two recent incidents demonstrate what we're up

against.
 The Sunday before the last American military planes left Kabul, a gunman shot and killed a Lyft driver in Garland, Texas. He then drove to a nearby police station and began shooting at people inside. The gunman was identified as Imran Ali Rasheed. The police killed him.
 The FBI said Rasheed may have been inspired by a foreign terrorist organization to commit these crimes. Ya think? Suspected terrorists are crossing our southern border at unprecedented level, according to the outgoing U.S. Border Patrol chief. In New Zealand, a man named Ahamed Aathill Mohamed Samsudeen stabbed seven people inside a store where he had bought a knife. Police shot and killed him. Authorities drew the obvious conclusion, calling it a terrorist attack.
 Who knows how many, if any, terrorists are among the thousands of Afghan

refugees now pouring into America? The Joe Biden administration claimed the vetting system should weed out anyone who means us harm, but there are no guarantees, and the radicals can be expected to lie and perhaps even have forged papers.
 After turning back German Gen. Erwin Rommel's forces in what Winston Churchill called the Battle of Egypt, Churchill famously said "Now, this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end, but it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."
 Given the commitment and resourcefulness of this modern enemy, I'm not sure we are even at the end of the beginning.
 Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com. His new book is "America's Expiration Date: The Fall of Empires and Superpowers and the Future of the United States."

LIFESTYLE



RELAXING DAY — A calm lake and a pier are the perfect setting for a relaxing afternoon in the North Woods. With fall approaching, trees will be turning colors soon. —Photo By Pete Moline

READER OPINION

9/11: Be thankful for our first responders

FROM PAGE 13B

should've remained longer and many have forgotten our veterans and service members who poured blood, sweat and tears into Afghanistan over the last 20 years.

The tragedies of these events have left permanent scars on the families and friends who lost loved ones Sept. 11, as well as the families, friends and service members who fought and died protecting our nation from the terror network who perpetrated these crimes and ultimately altered the trajectory of the world.

As you've likely heard, there is concern for evacuating translators and other refugees from Afghanistan. American citizens were left stranded in Afghanistan, their safety left to the whims of their Taliban hosts who seemingly have prevented an orderly evacuation through force and terror.

Today, we are still unsure of how many of our citizens still remain behind enemy lines. Although the situation is dire and still unfolding, history will judge the decisions made to end this era and we pray that we never endure another terrorist attack on our soil.

One thing remains certain, however, the memory of Sept. 11 and our disjointed withdrawal from Afghanistan will always occupy the same space in our minds, for better or worse.

Regardless of how we feel about those events, we must never forget the emotions the latter has evoked in our veterans, active-duty members, Gold Star families and survivors. Just as the first responders, family members and friends of the victims of Sept. 11 mourn and honor, another class of warrior will be mourned.

To our first responders, families and friends of the victims of Sept. 11, we will never forget the horrific events of that infamous day

and we mourn your loss as a country. Although most of us will never completely understand the grief and heartbreak that you carry with you, we remain grateful for the inspirational strength and vigor you have demonstrated since that fateful day.

We remain thankful to our first responders and law enforcement who faithfully and selflessly perform their daily duties to ensure that we remain safe. Without your sacrifices, our nation would be of a different fabric.

To our veterans, service members, Gold Star families and friends, thank you.

This day of mourning, we

honor the memories of the victims of Sept. 11 as well as those who gave their lives defending this nation. My family and I, my staff, and our nation remain committed to your success and are forever in your debt.

As we close this chapter in Afghanistan, we must remain vigilant for there are those that still seek to do us harm. I am confident that our next generation of warriors will be just as devoted, competent and proficient as the ones before them.

We will never forget. God bless and God speed.

Tom Tiffany is the congressman for the 7th District.

Vaccine: FROM PAGE 13B

vaccine for the previously authorized indication and uses. COMIRNATY is the same formulation as Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and can be used interchangeably with Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to provide the COVID-19 vaccination series. COMIRNATY is now licensed. There remains a significant amount of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine that was manufactured and labeled in accordance with this emergency use authorization. This authorization thus remains in place with respect to that product for the previously-authorized indication and uses."

This troubling, contradictory disclosure addressed to Pfizer clearly means that the significant remaining amount of experimental "Pfizer" vaccine that first debuted under emergency use authorization in December will continue to be administered uninterrupted even after the same formulation becomes available under the FDA-approved COMIRNATY brand name.

Logically, this then means that the original and current Pfizer-BioNTech's EUA pa-

tient consent form remains unchanged and should equally apply to COMIRNATY since it is admittedly the same product.

That said, the first paragraph of the consent form states, "The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is an unapproved vaccine that may prevent COVID-19." Later it states, "Serious and unexpected side effects may occur. Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is still being studied in clinical trials. Report vaccine side effects to FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)."

Yet, what has never been available to the public in an expectedly effortless manner prior to vaccination is vital decision-making information from the VAERS government website that totals such data of reported side effects on a revised weekly basis.

Thankfully, however, there is such an invaluable resource created by a group of selfless concerned citizens that neither accepts donations nor solicits fees: open-

vaers.com.
Frank Gabl
Prospect Heights, Ill

READER OPINION

ATVs on roads a real concern

Letter to the Editor:

The failed attempt of Presque Isle town board, in collusion with Vilas County board, to allow ATVs on county highways, was underhanded and just plain stupid.

Any board member is elected to represent all the people, not just a special interest group. It's stupid because it involves putting children on high-speed county highways.

Some facts you can look up . . . I did:

- According to the Department of Natural Resources, the number of ATV crashes has doubled from 2020 when 38 people were killed.

- Wisconsin is sixth in the nation when it comes to ATV fatalities.

- However, Wisconsin is number one when it comes to the number of DUIs per capita, according to the U.S. Bureau of Statistics. Yes, we are the drunkest state in the union. Green Bay is first among cities . . . go figure.

- Two thirds, or about 66%, of ATV crashes are on roads. Speed and alcohol are usually involved.

Here comes the hard part, the issue of liability insurance or the State Financial Responsibility Law.

In Wisconsin, you have to be able to prove "financial responsibility" in the event of an uninsured auto, or even motorcycle, accident. For most of us, this is an insurance policy. Not so with ATVs and other recreational

vehicles allowed (with our children) on our highways. According to the Vilas County sheriff's recreational officer, Jason Molle, "liability insurance is not required for ATVs." So much for financial responsibility.

According to the office of the State Commissioner of Insurance, "Wisconsin drivers are required to have an automobile insurance policy in force." In other words, be "financially responsible." However, "Though some states have laws that require liability insurance for ATVs, Wisconsin does not."

Sounds like a "capricious

and arbitrary" lawsuit about to happen. These vehicles belong out in the woods, not on 55-mph highways, and everyone knows it.

What it comes down to is this: Because an ATV driver is operating a recreational vehicle, he is exempt from having to prove "financial responsibility" or having a liability insurance policy.

Sure, you can always sue, but because you are the one with the insurance, you are on the hook for both of these things and probably the legal fees to boot.

Bill Boscamp
Land O' Lakes

How soon we forget

Letter to the Editor:

I searched the Sept. 8 edition of the Vilas County News-Review for any mention of a 9/11 remembrance ceremony scheduled to be hosted by a local municipality, law enforcement agency or fire department that I could attend.

If there was any mention of one, I somehow missed it during my three scans of the paper. I did find the column by Byron McNutt.

My takeaway from his column aligned with my observation of the deep divide of our great nation on numerous fronts. A Google search for local 9/11 ceremonies also failed to produce any results.

What a contrast to 20 years ago when we came together in unity to honor the victims and heroes of the attack on America as one voice. Now we are so divided over politics, COVID-19, race, religion, and school curriculum, among other deeply held tenets, I am fearful any lessons learned in the aftermath of the attacks will be lost to the ages.

How sad.
Greg Wenzel
Watersmeet, Mich.

(Editor's note: We were not made aware of any local observances, though the Eagle River Area Fire Department had a display in front of the fire station Sept. 11).



Need a website?

Or if you have a site and are tired of not being found online, we can help!

- 5-Page Custom Design w/mobile optimization: \$899
- 10-Page Custom Design w/mobile optimization: \$1,499

- ✓ We create all your content
- ✓ We do all the work
- ✓ Your website will be SEO'd
- ✓ E-Commerce sites available
- ✓ Virtually unlimited updates for one low monthly hosting and maintenance fee — \$69.99

Call a sales rep today to get started!

Doug Etten • NiCole Peterson • Kurt Krueger
Phone: 715.479.4421



Powered by DHI Digital



www.dhidigital.com

VILAS COUNTY
NEWS-REVIEW
EAGLE RIVER PUBLICATIONS, INC.



King Quarry
est. 1952

Distinctive Stone Authority



- **LARGEST VARIETY OF STONE VENEER**
- **HEARTHES, SILLS, CAPS**

- **DECORATIVE AGGS & MULCH**
- **LANDSCAPE MATERIALS**
- **HARDSCAPE PRODUCTS**
- **PREMIUM TOPSOIL & COMPOST**

**870 ADAMS ROAD
EAGLE RIVER, OFF 45 N**

**KINGQUARRY.COM
715.479.1517**