

VILAS COUNTY **News-Review**

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EDITORIAL

OPINION/COMMENTARY



JUDGED WISCONSIN'S
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
OF THE YEAR



Our View

That must-have road salt can hurt state resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is promoting a new effort to raise public awareness on the impacts of road salt on the state's drinking water, pets and freshwater ecosystems.

While nobody is suggesting that we forego the public safety benefits of salting ice- and snow-covered highways in winter, the agency in charge of protecting state resources is urging the most efficient and conservative use of road salt.

Right now the DNR monitors chloride loading results in 26 of the state's largest river systems. They say recent studies have shown a steep increase in chloride loads, from 600,000 tons annually in the early 2000s to nearly 800,000 tons per year by 2018.

More than 40 lakes and streams in Wisconsin have been designated as impaired by high salt concentrations. Nationwide, winter salt causes an estimated \$5 billion in damage to infrastructure each year, including bridges and road surfaces.

One of the biggest solutions to ensuring we don't oversalt roads is proper calibration equipment for the county highway trucks that road crews utilize to take care of all our major roads. They dump the biggest volume of salt and therefore, with a little tweaking, can conserve more salt in short order than that which comes from any other source.

Another big salt saver, one used in Vilas, Oneida and most counties, is the use of brine and pre-wetting road surfaces — both of which significantly reduce salt use.

But that's not all. Through its initiative, the DNR is encouraging homeowners to make sure their water softeners are using salt efficiently. They offer an on-line diagnostic tool on their website to test that equipment.

The agency is also pleading for some common sense on timely snow removal before it turns to ice and requires salting. And they are urging people to scatter the salt they use, saying a 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares.

Counties and towns can help the cause by identifying high-impact road drains that feed into rivers and lakes so that the salt runoff can be diverted or slowed to allow salt to seep out before affecting surface waters.

Years ago the town of Three Lakes discovered some of its downtown stormwater drainage was finding its way into Maple Lake, carrying salt and other pollutants into a body of otherwise clear, clean water. And they fixed the problem by diverting it elsewhere.

We are observing Wisconsin Salt Awareness Week, knowing chloride levels can have serious environmental and economic effects.

Behind the editorial 'we'

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

Lessons children have taught adults

LONGTIME FRIEND ARNIE DeLuca once attended a gathering when author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring children. Here are five of the winning entries.

• No. 1. A 4-year-old child, whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman, who had recently lost his wife, was sitting on the patio. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old man's yard, climbed onto his lap and just sat there.

When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy just said "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

• No. 2. Teacher Debbie Moon's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair color than the other members. One of her students suggested that

People Make the Difference

By Byron McNutt



he was adopted.

A little girl said "I know all about adoption, I was adopted." Another child asked "What does it mean to be adopted?"

"It means that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy," said the girl.

• No. 3. On my way home one day, I stopped to watch a Little League baseball game that was being played in a park near my home. As I sat down behind the baseline, I asked one of the girls what the score was.

She said "We're behind 14 to nothing," with a smile." I replied "I have to say you don't look very discouraged." "Discouraged? Why

should we be discouraged?" the little girl asked with a puzzled look on her face. "We haven't been up to bat yet."

• No. 4. Whenever I'm disappointed with my spot in life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott. Scott was trying out for a part in the school play. His mother told me that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen.

On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement. "Guess what, Mom. I've been chosen to clap and cheer," he shouted, saying those words that will remain

a lesson to me.

• No. 5. An eyewitness account from New York City, N.Y., on a cold day in December, some years ago stated a little boy, about 10 years old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, nearly barefooted, peering through the window and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said "My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window." The boy replied "I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes."

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little

To McNUTT, Pg. 13B



Falls provide winter scene

Bond Falls, located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, is a popular attraction in the summer and autumn months, but the falls provide a unique and beautiful experience in midwinter as well. Be ready for a hike to get to the scenic overlook, but the rushing water crowned with white snow against an evergreen backdrop is a spectacular view.

—Staff Photo By MICHELLE DREW



Woes of Biden, caused by Biden

Editor's note: Gary Franks is writing this week's column for the vacationing Robert Reich.

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN has taken the Democrat Party to new lows. The Democrats have lost 14 points in 12 months in a recent Gallop poll on who the American people want to run the country. Biden's and Vice President Kamala Harris' polling numbers are at historic lows for this time in their term.

How did we get here? In 2020, the Democrats were riding a wave. Their disdain for former President Donald Trump was their trump card. Nearly the entire media and social media platforms allied with them. It was going to be easy.

They just had to put someone on the stage that people were "comfortable" with and everybody knew the former vice president under former President Barack Obama.

Despite all the hoopla, the Democrats needed an extraordinarily strong Black turnout — enter Biden's announcement to pick a Black woman for the vice president early. With many choices, Rep. Karen Bass (California) would have been a better one. She had extensive legislative experience, including being Speaker of the House of the nation's largest state Legislature and chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus. She also was elected to Congress in 2010, but no. Biden went with a person who, upon arriving in Congress, seemed to have a singular mission of getting to the White House. Yet Harris could not gain a single delegate for president and bowed out before the race even

The normal scrutiny or the scrutiny that would usually accompany Republican Party selections for vice president — some of us remem-

To REICH, Pg. 13B

Confessions of a lousy shot

THIS LITTLE TREATISE could easily be called "Confessions of a Lousy Shot." It also could be called a tutorial in making excuses for being a lousy shot.

Yes, you heard it here first. I am a lousy shot; always have been, always will be.

I could write a book about all the inglorious misses I've managed while hunting ducks, ruffed grouse (still partridge in my book) and whatever else I have chased around for 60 years.

Now, every hunter who has ever fired a shot has at one time or another been a lousy shot. The good shots, the ones that more often than not hit what they are shooting at, don't make a habit of being lousy. They are minor leaguers in the lousy shot category.

Even such a renowned chaser of ducks and partridges, the bard of the Brule, Gordon MacQuarrie himself, admitted to being a lousy



Trails & Tales By Will Maines

shot in some of the memorable outdoor tales he wrote between the years of 1930 to '56.

In one story "The Little Flight," MacQuarrie told of the season he and the Honorable Mr. President of the Old Duck Hunters Association Inc. incorporated the most unusual duck blinds of his career.

They dug pits and sunk two barrels into a sandy beach of a small lake. One was a thoroughly cleaned barrel, the other a used pickle barrel that smelled like it was still filled with pickles in someone's general store.

Guess who drew the pickle barrel for a blind? Anyway,

during the course of a day's hunt, Mr. President shot duck after duck. MacQuarrie missed duck after duck, allowing that "I have missed ducks. I have missed ducks before and will miss them again, but seldom have I missed them like that."

It was so bad that Mr. President, after watching MacQuarrie miss yet another duck, called an early halt to the hunt "for fear you'll get the habit permanently."

Early in my hunting years, I tried to shoot right-handed, despite having nothing but blurs for vision out of my right eye. See, back in the '50s, there weren't many eye doctors in this part of north Wisconsin and because I never told anyone, not even my parents, that I was mostly blind in that eye, no one knew of my optical shortcomings.

Being an idiot, I tried to shoot right-handed. I would

To MAINES, Pg. 13B

VILAS COUNTY **NEWS-REVIEW**

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OPINION/COMMENTARY

Emergency protections needed for gray wolves

Dear Editor:

When gray wolves were restored to Yellowstone, our country began the process of restoring a decades-old wrong. In the years that have since passed, wolves in the northern Rockies have begun to recover. But recent actions by Montana and Idaho that seek to kill up to 90% of the wolves in their states threaten the future of this ongoing recovery.

Today, hunters in Montana can sit just feet outside of Yellowstone National Park and gun down as many as 10 wolves each. In Idaho, private contractors have been hired by the state to trap and shoot nearly all of the wolves in their borders. Montana will soon allow the use of deadly and indiscriminate neck snares that strangle the animal unfortunate enough to come across them.

The Biden Administration has the tools to stop this slaughter. In August, the former director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under President Barack Obama wrote a Washington Post op-ed imploring Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and President Joe Biden to act and issue emergency protections for gray wolves. He outlined exactly how and why they must act.

Biden and Haaland are entrusted with the caretaking of our natural spaces and the species that live on them. Their inaction to date is inexcusable.

Please join me in writing to the Department of Interior at doi.gov and asking that they finally act to protect wolves in the northern Rockies before it is too late.

Michael Thomas Woodruff

Cranberry Island is a gem that should be preserved

Letter to the Editor:

We noted the letter from Scott Hanley in the Vilas County News-Review relative to Cranberry Island and its picnic area and wanted to add our family's support. We couldn't have said it better.

Our family members have been visiting Cranberry Lake and the Chain of Lakes for over 50 years. We have always appreciated the natural habitat and pristine environment of Cranberry Island. It is a gem that should be preserved.

On quiet days, kayakers, canoeists and paddle boarders skirt the island and enjoy the pristine setting, while hoping to spot the resident

eagles, loons, herons, otters, deer and turtles. On busy days, there can be 15 to 20 boats or more parked near the picnic area, enjoying the sandy beach, shallow water and the picnic area and facilities.

We don't know when or why Vilas County decided to establish the park on the island, but we think it was back in the first half of the 20th Century. The county had the foresight to set aside this piece of paradise, and we and many others have been the beneficiaries ever since.

We applaud their decision then and hope that the cur-

To CRANBERRY Pg. 14B

McNutt

FROM PAGE 12B

feet and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased them and also purchased him a pair of

winter shoes.

She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the back and said "You will be more comfortable now."

As she turned to go, the child caught her by the hand and looking into her face, tears in his eyes, asked her "Are you God's wife?"

Maines

FROM PAGE 12B

lean my cheek across the stock as far as I could to line up on a fleeing partridge or passing duck. As you might well expect, I missed almost everything I shot at.

The next year, after I finally revealed my eye problem to my parents, it was learned that it was too late for the vision to be corrected. The nerves to the eye had essentially disappeared, or something like that, and I was consigned to become a left-handed shooter.

After many more misses from that side, I complained to my dad that I should go back to the right side. It

got me nowhere. He simply grabbed my 20-gauge and killed three fast-flying bluebills with three shots while shooting left-handed. He probably had never shot left-handed before, but being very skilled at shooting, unlike his son, he could hit them from either side.

As the years went by, I solidified my position as a bona fide lousy shot. Oh, in 60 years I've had a few moments, a few shots of glory, but not enough to remove me from my professional status as a lousy shot.

Mallards crossing at 20 yards? Bang and generally all the mallards keep on flying. A Canada goose straight overhead at 30 yards? Same thing. There were times in desperation I even blazed away at

sitting ducks or partridges just so I might bring something home for supper, but even then, misses were more common than hits.

The guys with whom I share the little white house on the prairie every fall find it hard to even laugh at me anymore when they see me miss easy shots. A bored roll of the eyes or a half-hearted shrug of the shoulders is about all I get from them these days when they watch me miss yet another easy shot.

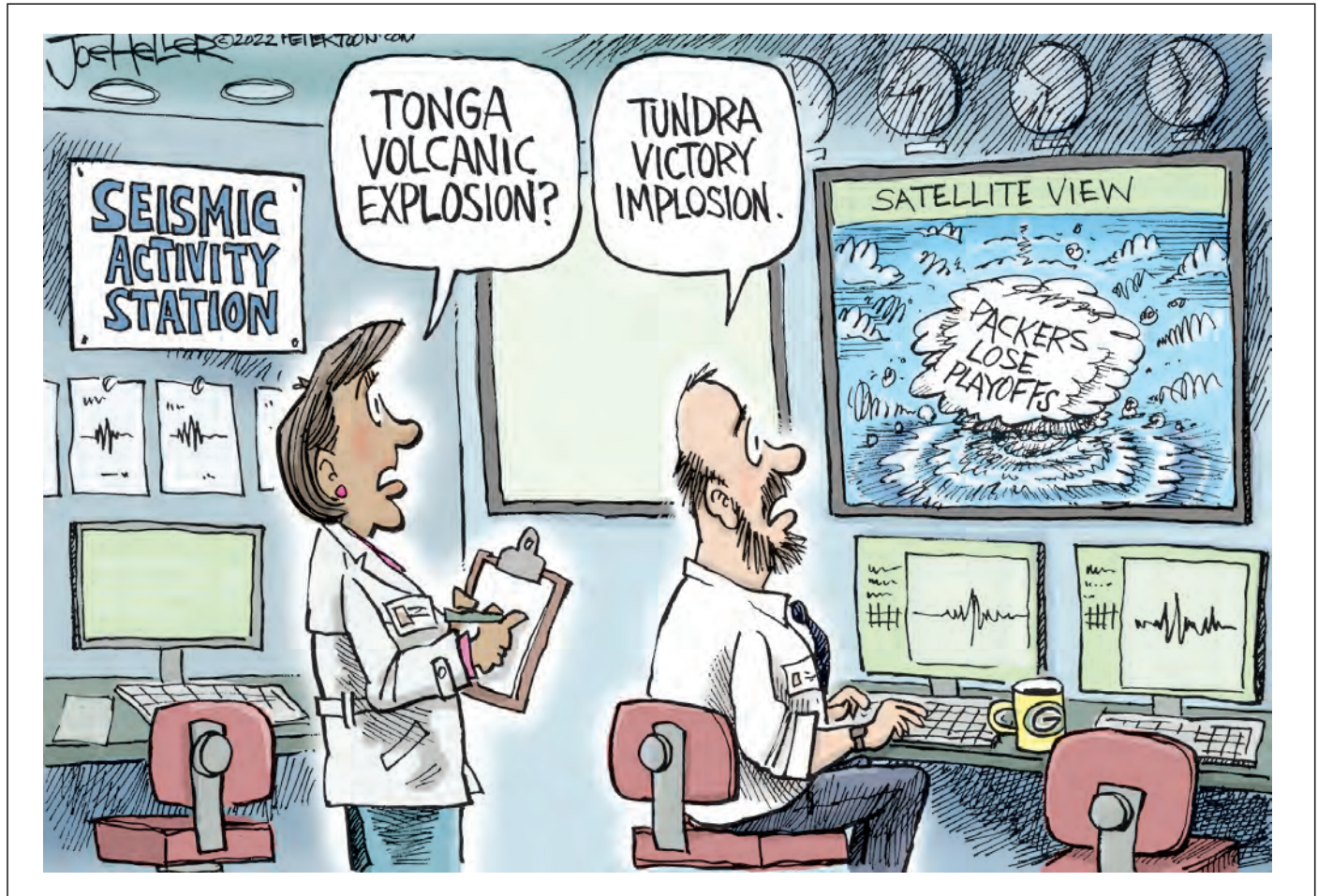
Like all lousy shots, I revel in the few fantastic ones I make. Don't tell my hunting companions, but there have been times I've embellished the shooting prowess I displayed in hitting three ducks in a row, a feat none of them witnessed. They ask "How

come there are no shells left in your pockets if you only shot three times?" Somehow, they never believe me when I say I accidentally left the rest of my shells at the house.

Red squirrels who invade my bird feeders are brazen about sitting motionless on a pine branch while I shoot at them. Nine out of 10 times they run away laughing.

You might think I'd have taken some shooting lessons somewhere along the way in an attempt to become at least a mediocre or even a fair shot, but hey, I've worked hard for 60 years to establish myself as a lousy shot and never have I ever considered giving up my reputation.

That might be why my wife and I get most of our meat from the supermarket.



Carbon tax powerful tool to combat climate change

Letter to the Editor:

Extreme weather in Vancouver has caused flooding and mudslides cutting them off from the rest of Canada. Drought has greatly reduced Utah's Great Salt Lake to a fraction of its former size. Wildfires out west have killed giant sequoias impacting nearly a fifth of this Earth's largest trees.

Recent tornadoes in Kentucky (yes, tornadoes in December) have cost numerous lives and significant damage. In Turkey, storms resulted in many fatalities. Islands in the South Pacific are disappearing due to ocean levels rising.

We can't say every weath-

er event is caused by climate change but scientists have concluded that the frequency and magnitude of these events can be attributable to the warming of the planet.

Sadly, our representatives in Congress have done little to attack the problem, and the increasing use of fossil fuels is polluting our atmosphere with carbon dioxide. The majority of the American public is demanding action. This includes both conservatives and liberals.

There is talk in the Senate of creating a carbon tax which would increase the cost of fossil fuels to pay for the cost of climate pollution. It would be a powerful tool in combating climate change and if coupled with a rebate or dividend, issued back to all Americans, would not create a negative economic result. Taxing carbon would drive innovation in green technologies.

If you are concerned about the effects of climate change

and want to learn more about how to combat it, please go to citizensclimatelobby.org for more information. Then give your representatives a call and tell them that pricing carbon is instrumental in minimizing the effects of climate change.

7th District Congressman Tom Tiffany

(202) 225-3365
 3rd District Congressman Ron Kind (202) 225-5506
 Sen. Ron Johnson (202) 224-5323
 Sen. Tammy Baldwin (202) 224-5653
 Michael Pesko
 Rice Lake

Ice castle sparks awe in Floridians

Dear Editor:

We have been keeping informed of our town via the News-Review and internet.

What wonderful news to hear that the ice castle is being constructed this season.

A huge thank you to the Eagle River Volunteer Fire Department and all the loyal townspeople that are helping with this magical feat.

What a tribute to Jack Thomas and the awesome community we so cherish.

We cannot wait to see the

finished product, knowing it will be as breathtaking as previous years.

I have been sharing my home pride with my fellow residents in Florida that are in awe of not only the work conditions but the ice castle itself.

Thank you all again for allowing me to share what small community living is all about.

Mike and Kathy Fanning
 Eagle River and Fort Myers, Fla.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

School choice options are changing

By ANDREW CAMPANELLA



ANDREW CAMPANELLA

private school tuition. Wisconsin students who meet certain income limits or students with special needs may qualify for state-run scholarship programs. Plus, a growing number of Wisconsin families are choosing homeschooling.

A second game changer since when we were children is that there's now more community support for making school choices. There also are more resources for parents to help them find schools and learning environments that meet their children's needs. I've worked in kindergarten through 12th-grade education for more than 15 years. Over that time, I've seen dozens of parent-focused organizations spring up to shine a spotlight on learning options in local communities. From helping parents find scholarships to private

To SCHOOL, Pg. 14B

Reich

FROM PAGE 12B

ber the criticism of Dan Quayle, former President George H.W. Bush's choice in 1988 — was dismissed. Quayle was constantly hounded by the mainstream media as being a lightweight, yet he had 12 years of legislative experience as a congressman and senator.

With the selection of Harris and Biden, the Democrats and mainstream media were giddy. All was good, yet, we got a near 80-year-old in the White House, top House Democrat leadership in their 80s and an 80-year-old (Majority Whip James Clyburn) anointing Biden in the primaries and an unseasoned vice presidential candidate. For me, these were ominous signs for concern.

But they had ousted Trump. All was going to be

good. After all, Covid-19 was killing people.

Well, at this point, Biden has had far more Covid-related deaths than his predecessor and that is with three vaccines. Now, he is fumbling the delivery of test kits and just recently advocated for more protective masks.

In that vein, is there anyone in America other than the aforementioned leaders and their supporters who would not agree that Obama and Trump would have been impeached and possibly removed from office had they bungled Afghanistan like Biden managed to do?

Unfortunately, we may not have seen the full ramifications of that debacle. No one has been held accountable for it. So the buck stops with Biden. Here's what went wrong: 13 dead Americans; the appearance of being chased out of Afghanistan, weakening American leadership (reputation erosion);

an errant drone attack that killed American supporters; and more than \$50 billion worth of American military equipment left behind, which could be used against us.

Trump and Obama would have been impeached. However, Biden got a mulligan.

The question is trust. Can we trust Biden's judgment, competence and willingness to make his statements match the facts? Biden must give us reasons to do so.

He should take on the tough challenges Americans face instead of trying to give Americans "free stuff" all the time. Yes, Americans getting free stuff will poll well, but haven't Americans done just fine without more proposed free stuff? Yes, they have.

There's plenty to do. Mr. Biden, as you hit the reset button, remember that your greatest success, the Infrastructure Bill, came when you worked with Republicans.

NEWS

Application period open thru Feb. 4 to be Alice in Dairyland

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) invites individuals with a passion for promoting agriculture to apply for the 75th Alice in Dairyland position through Feb. 4.

Alice in Dairyland travels extensively throughout the state promoting Wisconsin's agriculture industry and its impact on the state economy.

Applicants should have

an interest in Wisconsin agriculture, at least three years of experience, education or training in communications, marketing, education or public relations, and public speaking experience. Applicants must also be female Wisconsin residents and at least 21 years old.

This one-year, full-time contractual position starts July 5. The chosen candidate will travel extensive-

ly throughout the state and be required to have weekly in-person office time at DATCP's Madison office.

Questions about the position or application process can be directed to Alice in Dairyland Program Director Debbie Gegare at (608) 224-5116 or debbie.gegare@wisconsin.gov. More information about the Alice in Dairyland program is available at aliceindairyland.com.

READER OPINION

School: Online schooling an option

FROM PAGE 13B

schools, helping figure out the process of transferring to public school outside of their zone to offering bilingual application assistance, grassroots organizations are cutting the stress out of school searching.

You can visit schoolchoice-week.com to find community organizations in Wisconsin. Keep in mind that parents cite "word of mouth" as a key factor in what school they choose. This means you have the power to help others in Eagle River by sharing your own school experiences.

Third, a plethora of online learning environments have developed since our school days. These online schooling options are more comprehensive and focused than the emergency remote learning that many families experienced during the pandemic. For example, Wisconsin offers several free, full-time online learning options for students

like Wisconsin Connections Academy, Wisconsin Virtual Learning, Wisconsin Virtual Academy, Destinations Career Academy of Wisconsin and iForward. Besides official online schooling, resources like schoolhouse.world offer free support to supplement in-person learning.

All of these changes to kindergarten through 12th-grade education are reasons for hope. With more options, Eagle River parents have more opportunities to find a free or inexpensive education personalized to their unique children.

If you are considering a new or different environment for your daughter or son for the next school year, though, the time to start evaluating your options is now. *Don't wait.* Begin the school search process during National School Choice Week, Jan. 23-29, when 579 schools and homeschool groups in Wisconsin will be working together to raise awareness of

opportunity in kindergarten through 12th-grade education. You won't regret it and your children will thank you.

Andrew Campanella is president of National School Choice Week and author of "The School Choice Roadmap."

Cranberry FROM PAGE 12B

rent Vilas County managers will find a way to continue to preserve this property. With all the current emphasis on lake management, habitat protection, and shoreline restoration, we hope both residents and visitors will support maintaining this forest as it is — a natural habitat for the enjoyment of all.

As Mr. Hanley wrote, "Once it's gone, it's gone forever."

The Baier Family Milwaukee



Talent Tuesdays Tuesday, February 1, 9-11 a.m. Marshfield Medical Center - Minocqua

(9601 Townline Road entrance)

Stop in and talk with recruiters and connect with hiring managers. No appointment necessary.

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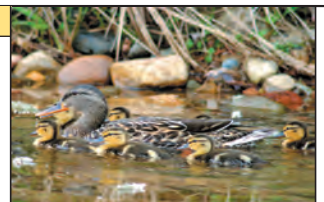


Marshfield Clinic Health System

For a full list of open positions or to apply online visit: marshfieldclinic.org/careers

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