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OPINION/COMMENTARY

EDITORIAL



People

Make the Difference

JUDGED WISCONSIN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER



NATIONAL GENERAL EXCELLENCE THIRD PLACE, 2018

Our View

Three Lakes School OKs site plan for trap range

The Three Lakes School District gave unanimous approval last week to a site plan for the new school forest property on County Highway A, which will include a trapshooting course for the high school team and a walking path around the 40-acre property.

The land was purchased from the state four years ago but it took time for the school board and administration to work through legal questions, objections from some nearby property owners and the impacts of a global pandemic.

We are elated that the administration and board have followed through on the actions of former Three Lakes District Administrator Dr. George Karling, who was instrumental in the purchase of the land to give the trapshooting club a localized place to shoot.

There has been little talk of financial pressures regarding the \$106,000 project because the trap club has raised tens of thousands of dollars on its own the last six or seven years. The club has also received some generous in-kind donations for development of the Sugar Camp property.

The trap club will also be relying heavily on the Department of Natural Resources and other public sources for grants that involve education and the shooting sports. The club has already received thousands of dollars in support from Three Lakes Fish & Wildlife Improvement Association, a local nonprofit organization devoted to conservation and youth education.

As part of the school forest, the Highway A property will be another asset that aides the school district's outdoor curriculum. The school property and hundreds of adjacent state-owned acres include both forestlands and wetlands.

We applaud District Administrator Teri Maney, the current school board and supporting faculty who helped move this important project forward. Starting sometime in 2023, the trap club will no longer have to travel to Hiles for practice and shoots.

Victory for multiple use

The Vilas County Board of Supervisors has approved a 15-year forest management plan, protecting sustainable resources yet promoting aggressive forestry, diverse recreation and multiple-use management.

It's an important step in the county's responsibility to users and taxpayers, paving the way for state assistance with payroll supplements, forestry assistance, interest-free loans and grant opportunities.

The county forest is a huge asset for the county's tourism industry with its fishing sites, boat landings, trails and shooting range.

Behind the editorial 'we'

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

the Eagle River Review and The Three Lakes New

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The Rule of Law has become a blur

WE ARE A nation that believes in the Rule of Law. That premise means that we are subject to clearly defined laws and legal principles rather than the personal whims of powerful people, and that those laws apply equally to all people. No one can be above the law.

We have the right and are entitled to use the law for honorable purposes, but no one should have carte blanche freedom to misuse or abuse the law. There has to be a respect for the law to allow the system to work.

Has anyone misused and abused the local, state and federal judicial systems more than Donald Trump? Trump and his organization don't obey subpoenas, depositions, court orders, rulings and deadlines. Their arrogance and disdain isn't flattering or respectful.

Individuals aren't alone. Elected members of the U.S. Congress are constant-

By Byron McNutt ly bending and stretching loopholes in laws to fit their political needs. It's frustrating to watch orders by state attorneys general, state and

The system is being held in contempt. It isn't working and being respected when powerful individuals, elected leaders and corporations manipulate the laws to fit their narratives. If rulings don't go your way, attorneys simply ask for a different judge and claim the decision was politically motivated.

federal judges ignored, chal-

lenged and appealed.

These legal chess matches needlessly tie up the courts at great costs to taxpayers. Americans are suffering from anxiety because there are no absolutes. We've lost our moral authority. People are afraid the country is on the wrong path. They are afraid the problems are so chronic that they can't be fixed.

We can't and shouldn't try to change our past. It wasn't perfect, but it is what it is. At this rate, future generations will look at what is happening now and wonder how we could have been so foolish.

ONE WAY to make numbers come alive is through stories, which our brains process better than statistics. The key is to translate numbers into concrete, vivid, meaningful messages that are clear enough to make numbers unnecessary.

In their book "Making Numbers Count," authors Chip Heath and Karla Starr said "Math is no one's native tongue." The book takes a close look at the challenge of understanding and communicating numerical claims. Here are two examples of explaining complex images.

Consider how we might describe the world's water: 97.5% is saltwater, the other 2.5% is freshwater, but 99% of that amount is trapped in glaciers, leaving only a small fraction that is actually drink-

The authors offer this visual analogy. Imagine a gallon jug filled with water and with three ice cubes next to it. The jug represents the earth's salt water, the ice cubes the glaciers and the drops melting off each ice cube is what's available for

To McNUTT, Pg. 11B



Spring melt floods forest

With the abundance of precipitation the North Woods has received this winter, ditches are overflowing and running into the wooded areas nearby. After the recent snowfall earlier this week, this winter is close to being one of the top five snowiest seasons on

—Staff Photo By MICHELLE DREW

Time to gobble, gobble

A FRIEND OF mine the other day exclaimed that there were only 260 days left until winter. Then, he said "Excuse me, there are zero days 'til winter." Winter or no winter, the calendar is inexorably counting down the days until my "spring" turkey season starts April 27.

I had hoped to have had two or three weeks of serious turkey scouting under my belt already, with several mornings of moving around from before dawn to a couple hours after, doing some calling and listening for gobblers

I guess I could have done that despite a snow cover that refuses to retreat and mornings in which my thermometer refused to read more than 30, but at my age the comfort of warm quilts and a late rising hour easily overrides the need for turkey scouting.

Snow and cold notwithstanding, I have done a number of scouting trips and I



am happy to announce that I have found a considerable number of turkeys; several of them long beards.

While contemplating where to first take a crack at finding a gobbler April 27, I can't help myself but think of my 35 years of turkey hunting, beginning with my first hunt in Missouri.

As is the case with my first Wisconsin buck, I will never forget every tiny detail of my first gobbler in Missouri. It was my second year of hunting there and the last day of that hunt.

I'd had a few close calls the year before and earlier that week, but all ended in failure. Of course, not due at all to my kindergarten level of turkey hunting experience and knowledge.

That last morning, one of the resident Missouri turkey hunting veterans in camp took me under his wing. We hunted over on Mrs. Scott's land several miles from camp.

Gobblers sounded off from the other side of a small river from us. We hustled to the stream, waded waist deep in water that felt like somewhere in the 35-degree range and crawled up a steep bank to where we could see a dozen or so birds out in a field.

He went to calling while I leaned my cheek on the stock of my 12-gauge. That time, his calling did the trick. Three long beards came toward us and though I was waiting for them to get a "little closer," my partner started hissing "Shoot, shoot."

I was in an awkward position, but I shot anyway. I missed. Suddenly, there were

To MAINES, Pg. 11B



Nuclear weapons and cranial winter

NUCLEAR SANITY: ULTIMATE or, God help us, immediate disarmament.

Nuclear insanity: ongoing development and deployment, endless investment and eventual, either accidental or intentional, use.

Sen. Ed Markey, D-Massachusetts, addressing Congress several weeks ago, made a heartfelt and powerful case for nuclear sanity; for a revamping of the system of mutually assured destruction, which gives certain national leaders "godlike powers known as sole authority to end life on the planet as we know it."

He went on. "We cannot 'uninvent' the atom, its military applications and technological know-how. The nuclear Pandora's box is sadly, forever opened. We must, however, do everything in our power to be able to look the next generation in the eve and say that we did everything in our power to avert the unfathomable, a nuclear war on this planet; and that includes supporting negotiations that not only end Russia's war in Ukraine, but also future negotiations to end the budding 21st-century nuclear arms race which is spinning out of control."

Until the other day, I thought all I needed to do was grasp the sanity of nuclear disarmament, help spread the word, and the world would eventually come around. Then, out of the blue, I stumbled upon the "rationality" of nuclear insanity and it shocked me into a new level of understanding. Suddenly, against my will, I'm starting to get it and ever since, I've been trying, psychologically, to duck and cover. This transcends geopolitics.

Here's the beginning of a recent, miniscule Reuters

"The global market for nuclear missiles and bombs

To KOEHLER, Pg. 11B



SUBMIT LETTERS TO: News-Review Editor P.O. Box 1929 Eagle River, WI 54521

> See Letters Policy for guidelines

or erpub@nnex.net

A thank you note for your kindness

Letter to the Editor:

"Kindness is like snow — it beautifies everything it covers." —Khalil Gibran

On a blustery snowy day this past April 14, my son and his girlfriend whisked me off to the Craftsman in town to celebrate my birthday.

As the very friendly server greeted us, Mark told her it was my 83rd birthday, for everyone around to hear. I had no problem with the announcement as I am thankful for each year and each day, even if there was blizzard raging in mid-April. We enjoyed an incredible dinner and

service and eventually those around us quietly exited.

Our sever then informed us that one couple who had just left paid for our dinners anonymously and wished me a happy birthday. In the middle of a snowstorm, a devastating war, and all sorts of sad news, this generous act of kindness restored our faith in the goodness of humankind. I

will be sure to pay it forward. Thank you, whoever you are, for making an 83rd birth-

day an incredibly special day. Turning 83 is not so bad after all!

Barbara Zima Eagle River

Rules, regulations needed to stop climate change

Dear Editor:

What can one person do about climate change?

If you are one of the 74% of Americans that say we must do something soon to address climate change, you are factually-based and on the scientific side of this critical problem.

Methane is called a super-pollutant by the EPA for good reason. It disproportionately impacts climate

change in the near-term at 84 times more than CO2 per part in greenhouse gas impact for 10-20 years, and 24 times more impact for the remaining 100 years. Some call it the domino of the world's loss of sustainability.

So how are we doing? Ter-

Who are the worst emitters? They are a very few

To CLIMATE, Pg. 12B

McNutt FROM PAGE 10B

consumption. Fresh water is very precious.

Large numbers are troublesome. There are millions, billions, trillions and bajillions. Forget trillions, let's just take a look at billions.

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has a net worth of around \$200 billion. To convey that number's magnitude, the authors suggested that we imagine a staircase in

which each step represents \$100,000 in the bank.

Half of all Americans and nearly 90% of the world can't even reach the first step. After four steps, 75% of Americans drop out. By the 10th step, 90% drop out. To climb to Mr. Bezos' wealth-height would require nearly 2 mil-

To deploy another unit of measure: If you assume a leisurely climbing rate of 61 steps a minute, you would have to climb nine hours a day for two months to reach Mr. Bezos.

OPINION/COMMENTARY

Maines FROM PAGE 10B

two more gobblers flushing from just 20 yards to my left.

I don't know how they got there, but I wasted no time jumping up, swinging on one with a beard swaying beneath and letting drive. Down he came. It might not have been textbook but getting that 23 1/2-pound bird on the ground was one of the greatest hunting moments of

Since then, I have killed my fair share of turkeys. A couple of times I settled for jakes, rather than come home skunked. Some have been more memorable than others.

There was the gobbler I "guided" my late, good friend, Vern Wiggenhauser, to his first hunt ever on an Eau Claire-area farm. That bird

was one of three that flew down from roost and foolishly, as it turned out for one of them, made a beeline for the decoy I had 25 yards from us.

Reaching the fake, they began strutting, took turns pecking it and otherwise committed atrocities upon their plastic betrayer. Just like Missouri, there was a sting of hissed "shoot," admonitions — this time from me and eventually, Wiggenhauser finally shot.

I have never before, nor since, been part of such a celebration. There was more whooping, jumping up and down, hugging and back thumping than you could imagine.

A couple years later, the celebration wasn't quite the same for me and my friend, Jim. He spent two days, fruitless days, hunting from that same pine windrow where

Wiggenhauser got his bird.

Hens came past Jim and a jake almost got close enough to pull the trigger. The third morning, I sat with Jim, but had no more luck bringing in a gobbler than he had.

Well into the morning, I took a hike across the field behind us and down a long hill over that way. Almost at the bottom, a loud gobble from back in the woods stopped me in my tracks.

My reaction was instant. I got back in the woods and set up against a huge oak. The calling began. Before I knew it, not only the first bird I heard gobbled, but another one as well.

Both were coming. Trying to steady my nerves, I decided I would shoot the first to reach me. I yelped, they gobbled. It took some tense moments. But then, a gobbler was there; close, but wisely hiding behind a big

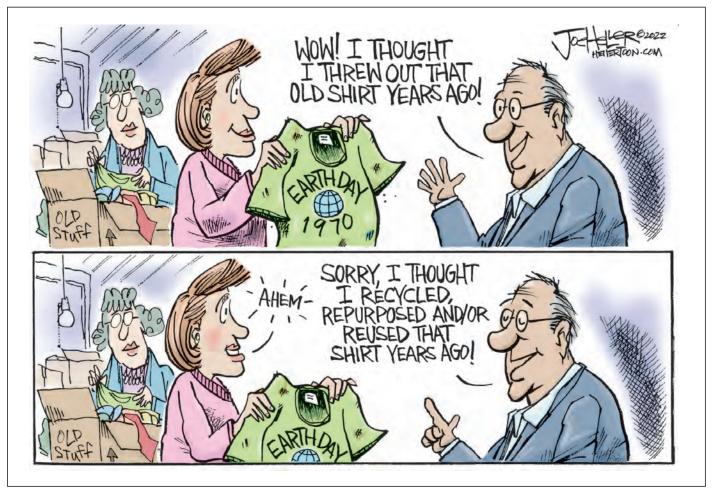
clump of brush.

We were in a standoff for a few minutes, but gobbles from the second gobbler announced his near presence so my big boy made his fatal move. Boom went my 12-gauge, down he went. At the time, my largest gobbler ever at 26 pounds, with a 10 1/2-inch beard and 1 3/4inch spurs.

Funny thing. When I got back up by Jim, there were no back thumps, hugs or jumps from Jim. Only a goodly number of good-natured expletives, which I knew were good-natured because of the big grin on his

This year? Who knows? Come snow, hell or high water, I will be out in our north Wisconsin woods trying to bring in one more gobbler for the grill or roasting pan.

Time will tell.



There are significant differences between ATVs and snowmobiles

Letter to the Editor:

Often, when discussing the advisability of allowing ATVs in Vilas County, one hears

were made about snowmobiles."

This statement is made to imply that ATVs will save the economies of Vilas County towns just as snowmobiles reasonable assumption?

Certainly there are some similarities between ATVs and snowmobiles. They are recreational vehicles powered by internal combustion

that "the same complaints did some time ago. Is that a engines and are ridden on both roads and trails. For the most part, they are trailered to places where it is legal, safer and/or more enjoyable to

To ATVS, Pg. 12B

= What Others Say

Leadership is key to a better Wisconsin

By Jim Wood Competitive Wisconsin Inc. STRATEGIC COUNSEL

For more than 40 years, Competitive Wisconsin Inc. (CWI), a nonpartisan collaborative organization, has been dedicated to identifying and helping public and private sector leaders address the major challenges affecting Wisconsin's quality of life and opportunity.

Wisconsin lacks the workforce and population we need to support and grow our economy, pay for essential public services and secure our future. On nearly any given day, for example, more than 100,000 job openings are going unfilled. And because the shortages are systemic (e.g., declining birth rates, aging workforce and low to negative in-migration) they can only be addressed in the foreseeable future by keeping the workers we already have and aggressively recruiting significantly more people to live and work in Wisconsin.

Other states face similar challenges, and recruitment and retention of workers has become more competitive. More specifically, the

employment marketplace is now a "seller's" market in which younger workers want good jobs in vibrant communities, and employers and community leaders know they can't recruit the workers they need unless they are competitive when it comes to broadband, housing, early childhood care and education, health care, transportation, quality of life and opportunity, energy and rural revitalization.

The Covid pandemic exacerbated these challenges, intensified the competition and left Wisconsin communities struggling to keep up with the competition. Then, in April 2021, local governments in Wisconsin learned that they would be receiving more than \$3.2 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which meant that there would be an opportunity for Wisconsin communities and regions to invest the ARPA funds in strategic improvements that could leverage their existing resources and make Wisconsin more competitive in the pursuit for talent.

CWI feels strongly that the private sector must engage effectively with this

opportunity. We, like local elected officials and other community leaders, understand that vibrant communities are essential to our efforts to recruit and retain workers and grow our local economies.

CWI is currently working with leaders on an in-person and virtual action accelerator dedicated to determining and assessing early care and education options. CWI also is now developing an action accelerator focused on workforce transportation and will be developing collaborations on broadband, housing, health care, energy, community quality of life and opportunity, and rural resurgence in other locations around the state in the weeks ahead.

Jim Wood is chairman of Wood Communications Group (WCG), a strategic communications company specializing in organizing and facilitating public-private collaborations, strategic planning, issue management, leadership training and community relations. Prior to cofounding WCG in 1984 with his wife, Dawn, Jim's career included academic, governmental and policy development experience.

Koehler FROM PAGE 10B

should surpass \$126 billion within 10 years, up nearly 73% from 2020 levels, according to a report by Allied Market Research Monday, as Russian aggression in Ukraine spurs mili-

tary spending." There's a "global market" for nuclear missiles? You mean, like there's a market for oil, gold, bananas? I had always fathomed nukes solely as geopolitical, harbingers of hell, birthed by World War II and the Manhattan Project, forever entwined with the words Robert Oppenheimer quoted from the Bhagavad Gita when the world's first atomic bomb was dropped at Alamogordo, N.M., in July 1945. "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds."

But obviously somebody has to build them. There are more than 12,000 nuclear warheads here and there on planet Earth, with more coming. Just because their use is suicidal, that doesn't mean the builders shouldn't profit from them.

I had no choice but to visit the source of the Reuters article, the Allied Market Research report, which discussed the nuclear arms

market with such a creepycold objectivity, I started to sense the mental equivalent of nuclear winter. I started calling it cranial winter.

"There is expected to be a nuclear arms acquisition race by superpowers such as the United States and Russia, to accelerate business opportunism within coming years. In 2021, the United States and Russia had 5,550 and 6,255 nuclear warheads, and are expected to reach 6,380 and 6,734 in 2030 respectively. The expenditure done by major companies such as Lockheed Martin, BAE Systems, Airbus and Boeing toward research, development, management, conducting exhibitions and seminars to conduct importance and feasibility of nuclear weapons will encourage nations to increase their budget alloca-

And there you have it: the upside of World War III, Armageddon. There's money to be made in border disputes and superpower clashes; lots of money. Keep at it, boys.

As The Nation noted "In 2015, the defense industry mobilized a small army of at least 718 lobbyists and doled out more than \$67 million pressuring Congress for increased weapons spending generally."

Money makes the world

go around and if you can control its flow, you make the world go around or so it seems. And I confess, I'm not sure what the takeaway is on all this. As The Nation story pointed out, nuclear weapons contracts are welfare sated. The business model is called cost plus, that is "no matter how high cost overruns may be compared to original bids, contractors receive a guaranteed profit percentage above their costs. High profits are effectively guaranteed, no matter how inefficient or over-budget the project may become." and "The continuing pressure of Congressional Republicans for cuts in domestic social programs are a crucial mechanism that ensures federal tax dollars will be available for lucrative military contracts." Nuclear winter begins

with cranial winter, a coldly abstracted reality in which profit trumps sanity. Duck and cover won't save us.

Those of us who want a future have some serious negotiating to do, not with Russia, but with Congress, ourselves.

Robert Koehler is an award-winning, Chicago, Ill.based journalist and nationally syndicated writer. Readers can contact Koehler at koehlercw@ gmail.com or visit commonwonders.com. He also appears on the Voices of Peace radio.

READER OPINION

Tiffany not permitted to vote for constituents

Dear Editor:

Poor Tom Tiffany. The U.S. House just passed a \$42 billion bill to replenish the depleted Restaurant Revitalization Fund, with strong support from the restaurant industry, but our congressman couldn't vote for it.

It was an opportunity to help struggling small businesses hit by pandemic-related revenue losses. The original fund was part of the American Rescue Plan, which also included an expansion of the Child Tax Credit, a benefit that reached 61 million children and cut child poverty by 30% while it was in effect.

Tom couldn't vote for that, either. It's not that he didn't



want to vote for them. He was not permitted to.

He will likely never have permission to vote for a bill that benefits his constituents — as long as that bill is sponsored by the opposing party. But, it's not Tom's party that is withholding permission. It's an ex-president. Tom knows he's being watched. If he doesn't show sufficient effort to resist or obstruct the other party's agenda, the ex-president will be displeased. One slip and Tom might be facing a primary where the ex-president has endorsed someone else as his party's candidate.

It's not just Tiffany, either. You'd be hard-pressed to find a Republican running for Congress who isn't frightened of getting on the wrong side of the former president for fear of a primary challenge. Perhaps that shouldn't come as a surprise when you consider that in 2020 the GOP platform was scrapped and essentially replaced with "whatever Trump wants."

Jim Bootz Couderay

ATVS: Use in summer vs. winter matters

FROM PAGE 11B

But there are very significant differences as well.

Snowmobiles are designed to be ridden on snow and thus are used during the winter while ATVs are primarily designed to be ridden off road during warmer months. The time of year when they are used is the biggest reason that the balance between positive and negative effects is dramatically different for the ATVs as compared to snowmobiles.

Specific to our part of Vilas County:

1.We are flooded with tourists during the summer. We have heard a number of business owners say they have all the business they can handle during the summers. We are setting records dramatically higher than previous highs for room tax (our most accurate measure of tourism) and our campgrounds are normally fully occupied. A shortage of people to work for businesses has become a much bigger problem for most businesses than finding new customers.

During the winter, some of what they seek. these same businesses have been able to stay open only because of snowmobilers; at least in the past. Other businesses do well all year, even in the late winter after snowmobile trails are closed.

2. Many people find loud internal combustion engines unpleasant to hear and smell. The more there are and the closer they are, the more of a negative they present to those not using them. There are far fewer people in Vilas County during the winter to be bothered by snowmobiles and they tend to be out of doors less. When home, they have their windows closed. For these reasons, snowmobiles disturb far fewer people and to a lesser degree than ATVs.

3. Because snowmobiles require snow and the further north you go the longer the snow season, Vilas County has an inherent advantage in attracting snowmobilers as compared to counties (and states) to the south. On the other hand, ATVs have a longer season the further south

4. Tourists are most often here to enjoy a natural experience in a pristine area. The campers, hikers, bikers, kayakers, etc. will be subjected to less of that to the extent they find themselves interacting with ATVs. If their experience becomes diminished, they will be looking for other areas where they can get more of

School Meals

5. Many people tell us that one of the major reasons they come to our area is that ATVs are not allowed. Surprisingly, that is even true of some avid advocates of ATVs. It turns out that while they love riding their machines, they prefer to be away from the negatives when they are not actively using those machines.

6. ATVs/UTVs rut trails, spread invasive species and interfere with wildlife during their breeding season. Snowmobiles have very little or none of these negatives because they are used in the winter when the earth is frozen, seeds are mostly covered by snow and few animals are

producing young.

Bottom line is that Vilas County is highly attractive to snowmobilers at the time when their presence is most needed by the businesses and least likely to have negative consequences. Vilas County is less unique for ATV tourists. And those ATV tourists arrive when they are needed less by the businesses and are most likely to bother other tourists and residents.

If Vilas County desires to maximize tourism, it is not only wise to leave some towns ATV free; it is consistent with the principles of our democ-

Steve Halverson **Boulder Junction**

Climate: FROM PAGE 11B

oil drillers, according to a recent Stanford study. They used new tech to pinpoint methane emission by the wellhead. (apple.news/A_CTbP_ ryT3-Ri7L4DoNZhg)

"Most methane is leaked from a handful of sources. In their study, the researchers found that fewer than 4% of surveyed sites produced half of all methane emissions observed. These are the super-emitters."

At relatively low cost and speedy correction this can be ended. What is stopping us?

In November 2021 the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy issued a new report: U.S. Methane Emissions Reduc-

wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ US-Methane-Emissions-Reduction-Action-Plan-1.pdf). They make it clear we must make this a priority and act quickly. The problem is that rules and regulations to enforce correction are not in place. You likely know the reason why. The needed rules were issued by the Obama Administration but pulled by the Trump Administration before the enactment time-

tion Policy (whitehouse.gov/

What can one person do to address climate change? This November, vote as if your life depends on it. It does.

Dave Carroll Grantsburg

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JEEDS YO

This year, we are running a special publication that will honor all the men and women who are serving our country or who have served within the past year. We need your help to honor today's heroes — if you are an active member of the military or have a family member or friend who serves, we want to hear from you!



Scott P. Horant

Scott is a 1999 graduate of Northland Pines High School. He has been in the Air Force for 18 years.

During his career he has been a crew chief on F-16 fighters and a flight engineer on the C5 cargo planes. He has been stationed at Luke AFB in Arizona, Cannon AFB in New Mexico, Dover AFB in Delaware, and Travis AFB in California. He also spent a year at Kunsan AFB in

Scott, his wife, Beth, and daughter, Penelope, currently are stationed at the NATO base in Geilenkirchen, Germany. He is serving in a NATO squadron and is a flight engineer on E3 AWACS planes. He is a master sergeant.

He is the son of Leo and Mary Kay Horant

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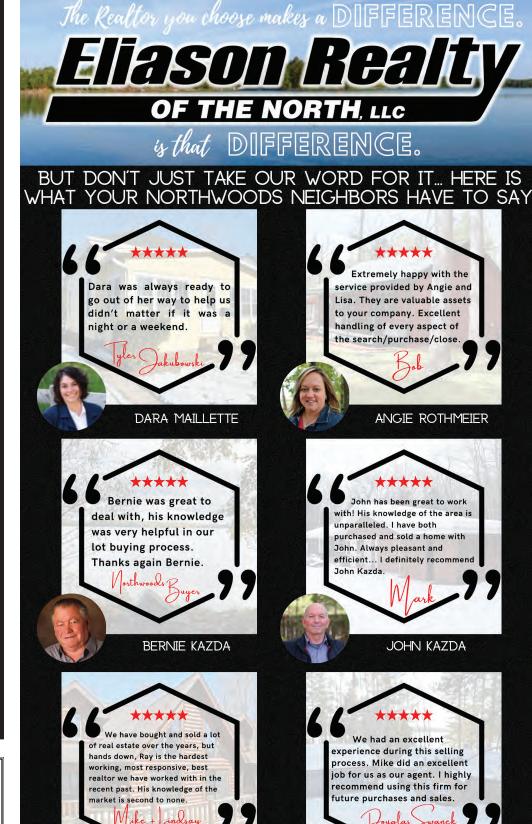
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