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# VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW

Section A

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## Cranberry Fest returns this weekend

Nearly 40,000 expected for crafts, food, entertainment

BY MICHELLE DREW  
NEWS-REVIEW ASST. EDITOR

Cranberries — those tart, red berries that are Wisconsin's largest fruit crop export — will take center stage at the 41st annual Cranberry Fest in Eagle River this weekend.

"Join in the celebration of Wisconsin's largest fruit crop export by tasting cranberry-inspired foods, drinks and activities at the Vilas County Fairgrounds Saturday, Oct. 2 and Sunday, Oct. 3," said Kim Emerson, executive director of the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center.

Weather forecasts predict mostly sunny skies and temperatures in the high 60s for the expected crowd of more than 40,000 people. The open-air fest begins at 9 a.m. both days.

Making its return after the

cancellation of last year's event due to COVID, Emerson noted that she has seen great enthusiasm for the 2021 fest from many vendors, visitors and event volunteers.

Cranberry Fest features almost 300 arts and crafts vendors who will showcase home-created items alongside cranberry food sales, a bakery, family fun, entertainment, clothing sales and more.

In addition, activities will be held in downtown Eagle River from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, and cranberry marsh tours will be offered beginning Thursday, Sept. 30.

"There is something for everyone," Emerson said.

Details on all Cranberry Fest activities, including events in downtown Eagle River, are available in the Cranberry Country Crier, a special section in this newspaper and available at the

News-Review or chamber offices in Eagle River.

#### Berries for sale

This annual event, hosted by the Eagle River Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center, will offer more than 8,000 pounds of fresh, premium local cranberries to visitors, as well as Craisin™ berries to take home. Berries will be available for purchase at four locations throughout Eagle River — the Cranberry Fest grounds, the corner of Highway 70 East and Railroad Street at Holiday Stationstore, the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center at 201 N. Railroad St., and downtown Eagle River at the corner of Main and Wall streets.

#### Festival activities

The festival will begin Saturday morning with a pancake To FEST, Pg. 6A



A big draw of Cranberry Fest this weekend will be the nearly 300 craft vendors who set up shop at the Vilas fairgrounds. —STAFF PHOTO



WOUNDED WARRIOR — U.S. Army Veteran Dan Berryman shows off a nice muskie he caught on the Eagle River Chain of

Lakes during the Wounded Warriors in Action event last weekend. See story and more photos on Page 3A. —Contributed Photo

## Vilas panel rejects ethics complaint against director

BY KEN ANDERSON  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A Vilas County committee voted 3-2 last week following an investigation into an ethics complaint that found "no corroborating evidence" that would prompt further proceedings.

The administrators of seven county departments filed a memorandum to the Vilas County Executive & Legislative Committee Aug. 10, alleging five areas of concern against a county employee.

Though handled in closed session, a source who asked to remain anonymous identified all seven people involved in the dispute.

The complaint was filed by Susan Richmond of the Aging & Disability Resource

Center, Beth Soltow of the Clerk of Court office, Carolyn Scholl of the Land & Water department, Dawn Schmidt of Zoning department, Kate Gardner of Social Services department, Laurel Dreger of Public Health department and Cindy Burzinski of Tourism department, the source said.

It was filed against county Human Resource Director Richard Kipley, alleging "demeaning and condescending" comments were made to female department heads who were referred to as "queens" by the director, the source said. The administrators said it created the impression he does

To VILAS, Pg. 2A

## North sees increase in COVID-19 cases

BY GARY RIDDERBUSCH  
NEWS-REVIEW EDITOR

Vilas County continues to experience a significant increase in COVID-19 cases since Labor Day, according to a Vilas County Public Health Department official.

Laurel Dreger, health officer for Vilas County Public Health Department, said the county reported 27 new positive COVID-19 cases last Thursday, with 17 recovered cases since reporting Tuesday, Sept. 21. Vilas County has reported 49 total deaths linked to COVID-19.

Oneida County is reporting 180 probable cases, with 232 people in self-isolation and eight people hospitalized due to COVID-19.

There have been 78 deaths in Oneida County.

Dreger said the Vilas County Public Health Department is looking to the community to follow the recommended guidance (get vaccinated, wear a mask when appropriate, stay home when ill, practice personal hand hygiene and physical distancing) in order to slow the spread.

"We will attempt to follow up with individuals who test positive, review isolation recommendations and determine close contacts," said Dreger. "However, the response may be delayed

To COVID, Pg. 7A

## Warm The Children starts 25th year Fundraising goal set at \$80,000

BY MICHELLE DREW  
NEWS-REVIEW ASST. EDITOR

The Vilas County News-Review has reached a milestone as it gears up to sponsor its 25th annual, nationally-recognized Warm The Children program.

The program, with help from area volunteers and donors, seeks out families in need in the North Woods and provides new winter clothing for their children.

Participants will again shop at Glik's in Eagle River, along with the addition of Northland Clothing in Three Lakes. Shopping will begin Saturday, Oct. 30.

As in past years, there will be a 25% discount given off the regular price of the cloth-



ing to all Warm The Children shoppers to help stretch those dollars further. If sale prices are lower than the discounted prices, the lesser of the two costs will be honored.

Sophie Singleton, area manager at Glik's in Eagle River, said after the success of last year she is not changing the formula much for this shopping season.

"We are excited to have people come in and start shopping our new merchandise," Singleton said. "We will have all the newest fashions of kids' outdoor wear snowpants, jackets and gloves, as well as cold weather clothes including denim, sweatpants and sweatshirts."

New to the program this year is Northland Clothing in Three Lakes. Owner Jennifer Baumann said that after receiving input from people in town, she decided to take part in Warm The Children.

"A lot of local Three Lakes people donate to the program

so it is nice to see it in action in our own town," Baumann said. "We have followed Warm The Children but people in town requested that this year we get involved."

She said she has new items ordered but, due to slowed distribution, has her fingers crossed that everything arrives ahead of the Oct. 30 shopping date.

Baumann plans to be stocked with base layers, snowpants, jackets, boots, neck warmers, balaclavas and much more and said she looks forward to seeing shoppers.

#### Eligibility and sign-up

Parents and caregivers of children ages newborn through 17 who are residents

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