

VILAS COUNTY **News-Review**
Eagle River Vindicator Established 1886
Eagle River Review 1890 - Vilas County News 1892

Publisher KURT KRUEGER
Editor GARY RIDDERBUSCH
Asst. Editor MICHELLE DREW
Asst. Editor ERIC JOHNSON
Production Manager JEAN DREW
Asst. Production Manager TONI RUTHVEN
Photo Technician DAVID WERNER
Production Technician ANDY VIRAMONTES
Circulation Manager ELIZABETH SCHMIDT
Accounting Manager GOLDIE ZARNOTH
Advertising Consultants DOUG ETTEN, CHRIS BOONE
 NICOLE PETERSON, MARY JO ADAMOVICH



EDITORIAL

OPINION/COMMENTARY



JUDGED WISCONSIN'S
 WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
 OF THE YEAR



NATIONAL GENERAL EXCELLENCE
 THIRD PLACE, 2018
 SECOND PLACE, 2020

Our View

Community support vital to Warm The Children

This year marks the 25th straight year that this newspaper will be seeking donations in excess of \$65,000 to support the nationally-acclaimed Warm The Children program. The area's cold climate and challenging seasonal economy keeps the demand high.

The program is thriving in a decade of near-record need, a period when as many as 520 children have received new winter clothing each year. Our fundraising goal is the same as last year at \$80,000 though we've again increased the per-child stipend after serving slightly fewer children last year.

In a nutshell, the program locates impoverished families in the North Woods and provides up to \$190 in new, discounted winter clothing to each child — an increase of \$70 from traditional levels. Purchases are limited to clothing such as coats, footwear, mittens, scarves, sweaters, long underwear, snow pants and other basics.

Enthusiasm is high among our volunteer shoppers because not only is Glik's in Eagle River geared up to be a main clothing provider, we've added Northland Clothing Co. of Three Lakes as a shopping venue for its large selection of children's snowpants, jackets and boots.

Program coordinator Toni Ruthven, the Vilas County News-Review's assistant production manager, and other newspaper staff will help organize dozens of volunteer shoppers who take families to the stores to ensure the right winter clothing is purchased.

Because the community's need is so great, we are asking our readers, service clubs and businesses to help fund this vital public service. It is those who can afford to give and even many who couldn't who have kept this program going for more than two decades.

Monetary donations are tax-deductible and are accepted under the auspices of the Eagle River Rotary Club Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charity that partners with the News-Review every year. It is a fitting program for the Rotary to be involved with, an organization that promotes "Service Above Self."

It's important that donors know that every penny they give goes toward the purchase of winter clothing for the children. All administrative fees, bank fees and every other cost associated with the management of the program are borne by this newspaper.

Because of this program and the community's overwhelming support of it, the News-Review — your community newspaper — was recognized by the National Newspaper Association with a first-place award for Community Service in 2011, a third place in '14 and '15, and a second place in '19. The contest category included daily and weekly newspapers as one, regardless of size.

We can't think of a better Christmas gift than to provide for families in need by giving the basics of warm winter clothing. Warm hands, feet and bodies are something no person should go without, and that is especially true for children who don't always communicate their needs.

Behind the editorial 'we'

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

A reliable power grid is essential

THE UNITED STATES could get 37% of its electricity from solar power by 2035 and 44% by 2050 if the public and private sectors are willing to spend \$562 billion between 2022 and 2050, according to the Energy Department. At the present, the nation gets just 3%.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said the benefit from clean energy could be \$1.7 trillion making the investment worthwhile. It could employ as many as 1.5 million people in the process. To achieve these goals, the nation would need to double the amount of solar installed every year over the next four years as compared to 2020.

By comparison, the U.S. solar industry increased its existing solar capacity in 2020 by 20%, according to the Energy Dept. To meet the challenge, a solar farm the size of the world's current largest solar park

People Make the Difference

By Byron McNutt



would have to be installed roughly every day. Keep in mind that also would reduce valuable farmland.

The rush is on to develop wind and solar power which is taking resources away from the old reliable: coal and gas-fired generators and nuclear. Renewables have a place in the future, but trying to electrify everything would be a disaster, said the critics. There are consequences as there would be gaps that would make the old grids vulnerable.

We cannot tolerate a wealthy society with a weak electrical grid. If America wants to stay a world

leader, it must have a robust power grid that delivers cheap, abundant and reliable electricity all day, every day of the year, said Robert Bryce, author and research fellow at the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity.

America's power grid is in danger because of mismanagement and the push for clean renewables which is degrading the reliability of the present grid. This is important because the grid is the mother network for critical systems such as GPS, communications, traffic lights, water and wastewater treatment.

To keep the world from

warming more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, global energy consumption would have to fall 7% over the next decade, according to the International Energy Agency.

Blackouts are deadly and those events are happening more frequently, such as the ones in Texas, California and Louisiana. The Energy Department said major electric disturbances and unusual occurrences between 2000 and '20 jumped 13-fold.

Wealthy countries could eliminate almost all emissions, but it wouldn't matter if China, India and other low-income countries continue to industrialize. China's greenhouse gas emissions in 2019 exceeded those of all countries in the developed world combined.

Some unfortunate facts: the solar industry is highly dependent on materials and

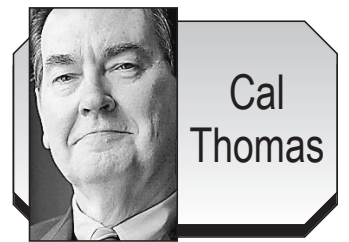
To McNUTT, Pg. 13B



Turkeys search for tasty acorns

Wild turkeys are active now, searching for acorns, nuts, seeds and berries before cold weather arrives. Turkeys like oak forest stands at this time, where they scratch in the leaf litter for acorns. This male, or jake, turkey fed across a small field surrounded by oak trees.

—Staff Photo By GARY RIDDERBUSCH



Stamp out the postal service

IT IS A metaphor for what is occurring at seemingly all levels of our country and culture. The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has announced it will slow service for first-class mail and periodicals while temporarily increasing prices on all commercial and retail domestic packages because of the holidays. It's probably good the announcement did not come through the mail or it might have been delayed.

How much of a delay will depend on our zip codes? It sounds a little discriminatory. A map developed by The Washington Post allows you to enter your zip code and you are then informed how many additional days you can expect to wait for your bills, ads, catalogues and personal letters, assuming anyone but maybe Grandma writes letters these days.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy displayed a gift for the obvious when he said the postal service's problems are serious, but he is optimistic they can be solved. He said he has a 10 year plan, which sounds a bit like the old Soviet and Chinese centralized planning systems, which failed.

Part of the problem has been the huge amount of money USPS sets aside for pensions and other benefits for postal employees. DeJoy thinks one way to save money is for retirees to be allowed to switch to Medicare, a program that is already living on borrowed financial time and expected to run out of money in the "not too distant" future.

What a difference a few decades make. I remember receiving letters from my parents as a child in camp with a 3-cent stamp on them. They were promptly delivered. In the days leading up to Christmas, we re-

To THOMAS, Pg. 13B

It was too 'daggone' hot

TOO DAGGONE HOT; in three words, that would about sum up my days of duck hunting in North Dakota this year.

For the 29th time, I pointed the nose of my truck west a few days before the North Dakota duck season opened, got the little white house on the prairie opened up and stocked with all the food a hungry gang of duck hunters would need, and scouted out all the old familiar ponds and sloughs which have provided me with untold numbers of ducks, geese and memories.

Heading north and west on the way to Egeland, N.D., population 28 as of the 2010 census, I counted off the miles and hours until, once again, I was home at heaven on Earth. Superior and Duluth, Minn., are my first major mile markers, telling me I am truly on my way.

For the next four hours, I tick off tiny villages, bigger



Trails & Tales

By Will Maines

towns and small cities. Once north of Duluth there is Floodwood, Minn., followed by Grand Rapids, Minn., and Deer River, Minn., as I turn due west.

Across Minnesota, each town I pass through, those like Cass Lake, Bemidji, Bagley, McIntosh, Fosston, Crookston and many others, means I am one step closer to North Dakota as each fades in the rearview mirror.

Mecca is Grand Forks, for that means I am in North Dakota, and from there to Devils Lake, N.D., towns like Michigan, N.D., and Lakota, N.D., are my marker posts. The prairie

ponds dotting the way along Highway 2 give me my first taste of duck and goose sightings.

The eve of duck season, my gang, a small gathering of four this year, pulled their trucks up to the doorstep of the little white house. Much profound talk ensued throughout the evening. The rock pile "Plots" pond, big south lake, Calio sloughs, Highway 20 "s" curve ponds, all were discussed as possible opening day hot spots.

We had a night down in the 40s for good sleeping before the magic morning arrived. Leaving the house in the dark, my son, Brooks, and I were greeted with dense fog. It's amazing how disoriented a person can get when he can't see 2 feet in front of his nose, but we did successfully make it to the rock pile pond.

It was well after shooting hours started before we

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@nnex.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.