



# THE LAKELAND TIMES



## ICE SHOW PHOTOS

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# Opening Weekend!



## Opening of fishing season Saturday, May 7, 2022

DEAN HALL/LAKELAND TIMES

## Most lakes will be open water

By **Beckie Gaskill**  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The fishing season opener is this weekend, with many anglers anxious to get out and try their luck on some open water.

"I think it's going to be a really good opener," said Jeff Smith from J&J Sports. "If we get a couple warmer nights, it's going to be really good. The walleye should be spawning right away. People should catch a lot of fish." Smith expected good action from both walleye and northern, with a bit

more uncertainty surrounding panfish. With the latest possible opener this year, on May 7, his thoughts were positive and he said he was looking forward to a good weekend of fishing.

While most lakes are expected to be mostly ice-free by the weekend, it may not be the case for all of them. The bigger, deeper lakes like Trout and Fence Lakes may still have ice opening weekend. However, there should be ample choices for anglers looking to wet a line on opening weekend.

### Safety

Safety should always be top of mind when heading out onto the water, or even fishing from shore. Water temperatures this time of year can be dangerously cold. For that reason, especially when fishing from a boat, where anglers will likely be in deeper water, wearing a personal flotation device is recommended. While cold water can cause hypothermia, most people who go into the water when it is cold do not succumb to hypothermia, but drowning. When entering cold water, humans experience a gasp reflex. Because it is a reflex, it is difficult to control. A gasp while underwater can

fill the lungs with water, turning a bad situation worse in a hurry, especially if the person is alone. Wearing a personal flotation device, whether that be a Coast Guard-approved life jacket or a Coast Guard-approved float coat, will help the person float back to the surface where they have a better chance of clearing the water from their lungs and finding their way back to safety.

Boaters should also have a length of rope and a throw cushion within easy reach at all times. Not only is this the law, but it can be used to throw to someone who has fallen in, rendering life-saving aid to that per-

son.

Boaters should also check over their equipment and their watercraft to make sure everything is in working order. Storing boats for winter can mean rodents eating wiring, lower unit issues, and a host of other unfortunate things. Boaters should go through their equipment to find any of those issues before heading out on the water.

If a boater should become stranded on the lake, having a fully charged cellphone will be helpful. Even with a cellphone, however, there may be many places where there is no cellphone

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## Minocqua fire department seeks \$1.4 million for new truck

By **Randy Louis**  
FOR THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Minocqua town board was presented Tuesday with a budget proposal from fire chief Luke Taylor for a new fire truck.

He was there with members of a committee made up of Minocqua firefighters researching the matter.

"We're here tonight to work with you to get the best equipment for our community while also being good stewards of the taxpayer dollars," Taylor said.

The preliminary budget proposal is \$1.4 million that would allow the fire department to purchase a pumper truck with aerial, traditionally known as a ladder truck.

It would replace the department's primary truck, a 2003 Pierce pumper.

Taylor cited information the Na-

tional Fire Protection Agency, which issues federal guidelines regarding fire department maintenance and safety, stating "the primary engine must be refurbished or replaced within 20-25 years of being in service."

With lead times on commercial vehicles being 24 months out, the proposition is to purchase the truck by the end of 2022 in order to have the unit in service by 2025.

The push to obtain a new truck sooner rather than later comes, Taylor said, with many facets, among those fire engine prices have increased 26% since 2018, safety for firefighters which in turn lowers compensation claims and the dwindling number of volunteers posing issues for many local fire departments.

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## Plan commission approves annexation and rezoning for Trig's project

### Property is zoned industrial, not residential

By **Jamie Taylor**  
OF THE RIVER NEWS

A request from the owner of the Trig's grocery store chain to annex three parcels of land he owns in the Town of Pelican into the City of Rhinelander, next to a parcel zoned industrial that once housed a Trig's bakery, cleared the city's planning commission Tuesday on a 4-3 vote.

The request from T.A. Solberg was tabled at the April 5 plan commission meeting after seven residents who live near the property

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