



THE LAKELAND TIMES



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"THE VOICE OF THE NORTHWOODS SINCE 1891"

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Lakeland comes **ALIVE**

What's happening in entertainment in the Northwoods

OCT. 2

Nolium

Black Bear Bar
9 p.m.

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DEAN HALL/LAKELAND TIMES

Macy Cakans rocks out to the Whitehouse Players from atop of her friend's shoulders at the Lakeland Noon Rotary Club's beer garden stage during Beef-A-Rama on Saturday, Sept. 25 in Minocqua.

56th annual Beef-A-Rama exceeded expectations despite low volunteer turnout

By Trevor Greene
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Minocqua's Beef-A-Rama was back in 2021 for the 56th time this past weekend. For the event to be a success, there were some hurdles that needed

to be cleared.

"To be perfectly honest, this year we were just trying to make sure the event happened; happened safely and effectively," Minocqua Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Krystal Westfahl said. "Though we were

trying to make it every year bigger and better, I think we were really just trying to make sure that we got through this event all in one piece," she said.

Westfahl explained for Beef-A-Rama to even happen this year, the event commit-

tee — which is made up of several area businesses and organizations — had to consider aspects which differ from the past.

"Obviously there's a worker shortage in town, as

See **Success** . . . page 16

Record drug overdoses, seizures as drugs pour through southern border

Hess: The worst I've seen it in 30 years

News analysis

By Richard Moore
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Around the country — and the Northwoods and Oneida County are no exception — drug seizures, arrests, and overdoses are at record levels for the most dangerous drugs, with methamphetamine and fentanyl seizures leading the way, and heroin close behind.

Pandemic-related lockdowns and stresses are partly to blame. Provisional CDC data shows that drug overdose deaths reached a record high of 92,452 in 2020, more than 20,000 deaths higher than 2019's total of 71,130, which was also a record high.

But the pandemic is only partly

to blame. Drug overdose deaths, as well as arrests and seizures, have been marching upward for years, driven in large part by the increasing use of methamphetamine and now fentanyl.

According to a new study published just this past week by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), overdose deaths involving methamphetamine nearly tripled between 2015 and 2019 among people ages 18-64 in the United States.

Published in JAMA Psychiatry, the study concluded that increases in higher-risk patterns of methamphetamine use, such as increases in methamphetamine use disorder, frequent use, and the simultaneous use of other drugs, especially fen-

See **Drugs** . . . page 51

LUHS discusses COVID updates, votes to increase substitute teacher pay

Kelly Holm

OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Lakeland Union High School principal Chad Gauerke remotely addressed the LUHS board on Monday, Sept. 27, with recent COVID-19 statistics in comparison to those taken slightly over a year ago.

As of Saturday, Sept. 25, 15 members of the LUHS community — students and staff — were in isolation due to COVID-19 symptoms, with 12 quarantined due to close contact. On Sept. 15, 2020, the number of students and staff in isolation was also 15, with 56 in quarantine. The infection rate in September 2020 was 0.17%, compared to this year's rate of 0.71%.

"Obviously there's a lot of unknowns

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