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INSIDE

Pines drops season opener to Merrill

Northland Pines started their season with a tough opponent. Full story on pg. 11A.

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WEDNESDAY, AUG. 24, 2022

Three districts prepare for Sept. 1 start date

Open houses start today

By MICHELLE DREW
EDITOR

The end of summer is approaching and parents and students in the Northland Pines, Three Lakes and Phelps school districts are preparing to head back to school for the 2022-'23 school year beginning Sept. 1.

Ahead of the first day, districts will host open houses where parents and students can visit the classrooms, meet teachers and drop off supplies.

Starting today, Wednesday, Aug. 24, Northland Pines will hold open houses at all of its schools across the district,

including those in St. Germain, Eagle River and Land O' Lakes, from noon to 7 p.m.

Appointments at elementary schools are required, and appointments for middle- and high-schoolers are recommended for students going into grades seven or nine, or those who are new to the district this year. All other students are welcome to drop in.

A second open house opportunity for Northland Pines Elementary schools will be held Monday, Aug. 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

District Administrator Scott Foster stated that Northland Pines so far has welcomed nine new, certified staff members to the district, and five paraprofessionals.

"In addition to this group we had some staff join us mid-year, last year and we

are excited for them to start with us at the beginning of the school year," he said. "We have also hired multiple custodians to add to our team. In addition we have multiple transfers between positions as well."

While the pandemic is winding down, Northland Pines has put forth some protocols for people who may become sick this year.

Foster said if a student or staff tests positive for Covid, they will complete a 10-day quarantine or isolate in the home for five days and return to school and all other activities on days six through 10 with a well-fitted mask that covers the mouth and nose.

Symptomatic students and staff should stay home, but may return to school as long as they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use

of fever-reducing medication and their symptoms are resolving, or if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis.

A negative test is recommended but not required for returning to school.

"We will not have a testing site this year, but we have signed up to get free at-home test kits that we can provide to families and staff," Foster said. "We will let families know if their child was around a positive case, however parents may opt out of getting these messages."

Besides coming back after day five of a positive test, it is the students' and staffs' choice to mask — there is no requirement from the district.

"As we have always done, we will monitor our plan, stu-

To SCHOOLS, Pg. 8A



Open houses are planned this week in three area districts so parents and students can drop off supplies, meet teachers and visit classrooms ahead of the Sept. 1 start. —STAFF PHOTO

Three Lakes school firmly approves referendum vote

By KERRY GRIEBENOW
THREE LAKES CORRESPONDENT

The Three Lakes School Board unanimously approved authorization for the district budget to exceed its revenue limits by \$4.25 million per year for the next five years, starting with the 2023-'24 school year for non-recurring purposes.

Board members subsequently unanimously approved setting up a referendum election for the district's electorate on Nov. 8 to vote on the referendum.

The school district is currently entering its final year of the previous five-year referendum which was initiated for the 2018-'19 school year.

In making its decision, the district considered staff salaries, health insurance costs, property valuations, transportation costs, utility increases and enrollment predictions

in establishing the amount of the referendum.

Despite this referendum showing a 37% increase over the previous referendum, it is the second smallest percentage increase in referendum funding requests for non-recurring purposes dating back to the 2006 district referendum.

The board noted that due to property valuations within the school district increasing over the past two years, the mill rate for this proposed referendum will be slightly less than the mill rate for the previous referendum, averaging \$5.11 per \$1,000 equalized valuation over five years, compared to a yearly average of \$5.71 per \$1,000 equalized valuation for the 2017 referendum.

The Three Lakes School Board unanimously approved authorization for the district budget to exceed its revenue limits by \$4.25 million per year for the next five years, starting with the 2023-'24 school year for non-recurring purposes.

To REFERENDUM Pg. 4A



RECORD ATTEMPT — Shotskis bar in Eagle River attempted to establish a new world record Aug. 20 for the world's longest "shot

ski." Turnout for the event was very good according to bar owner Jaime Riemer. See more photos on page 7A. —STAFF PHOTO

Scheduling issues continue to plague ERRA, Falcons

By CHRIS OATMAN
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Owners of the Wisconsin Windigo juniors hockey team had announced last week it was ready to adjust some game times slightly in hopes of helping to sew the divide between themselves, the Eagle River Recreation Association (ERRA) and the Eagle River Falcons and the Great Lakes Hockey League (GLHL).

It appears though the GLHL won't budge as league commissioner Pete Krueger said moving games times up an hour or so to allow for two games on the same night just isn't feasible.

"That's not going to fly

because I'm not going have my teams, like Fond du Lac, come up there to start a game at nine o'clock at night, not get done until midnight, and then drive home," Krueger said. "(The Windigo) did volunteer to move one game back during Pond Hockey, but the Falcons would still have to play the late game Friday night."

While it had first appeared last week there was some positive movement on issues arising from the contract between the ERRA and the Windigo, that optimism now seems

To ERRA, Pg. 2A

Klingenmeyer boats three muskies to top National Championship field

Tourney draws 1,156 anglers

By SARA CARIAS
ASST. EDITOR

Dave Klingenmeyer of Rockton, Ill., was the top angler and Scott Naylor of Oconomowoc was the luckiest ticket holder in the 36th annual National Championship Musky Open headquartered last weekend at the Vilas County Fairgrounds in Eagle River.

The catch-and-release tournament attracted 1,156 anglers who fished seven lake families throughout the area last Friday through Sunday.

A total of 147 tourna-

To MUSKIE, Pg. 10A



Scott Naylor of Oconomowoc won the grand prize Recon boat, Mercury outboard motor and trailer valued at more than \$50,000. Front row from left, are Larry Sladowski, Musky Clubs Alliance of Wisconsin president, and Naylor;

middle row, Debbie Pripke from Mercury Marine and Kim Emerson, Eagle River chamber director; and back row, Brian Siekierzynski, Premier Powersports & Marine owner; and John Johnson, from Recon. —STAFF PHOTO