



## INDEX

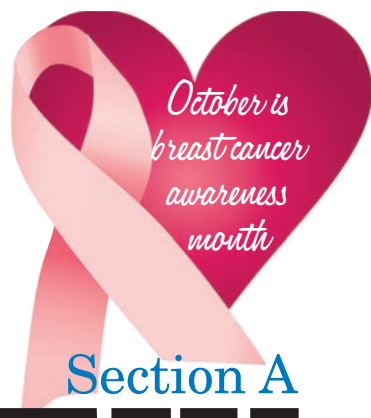
OPINION ..... 12B  
 SPORTS ..... 9A  
 OUTDOORS ..... 10B  
 LIFESTYLE ..... 1B  
 CLASSIFIEDS ..... 6A



## INSIDE

### Volleyball tourney starts next Tuesday

■ Area volleyball teams will start WIAA tourney action next week. Pgs. 9A & 11A



Section A

# VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW

\$1.75

VOL. 136, NO. 32

EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521 • (715) 479-4421 • vcnewsreview.com

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13, 2021

## State reps queried on elections, DNR

By ERIC JOHNSON  
NEWS-REVIEW ASST. EDITOR

Soliciting input and fielding questions from North Woods constituents, 12th District State Sen. Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) and 34th Assembly District State Rep. Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland) held an hour-long Vilas County listening session Oct. 8 at the Boulder Junction Community Center.

Issues voiced ranged from election integrity, redistricting and COVID-19 testing mandates for state employees to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issues and state-level impacts on local school curriculum.

"We're here to listen,

we're here to talk about any of the concerns that you have," Felzkowski told the assembled constituents. "We want to discuss the pressing issues that you have and the things you really want us to concentrate on."

Around 50 people were in attendance, with Swearingen and Felzkowski retaining about a third of the audience that packed a preceding one-hour listening session with Republican U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson.

"Fortunately for us, Sen. Johnson kind of kept the crowd here," Swearingen said. "We were happy to have the senator warm up the crowd for us. We kind of had a drawing card."

Felzkowski called turnout at the Boulder Junction legislative listening session

amazing, saying Johnson deserved a measure of credit for getting people to the event.

A member of the Committee on Finance and the state budget-writing Joint Committee on Finance, Felzkowski serves as chairwoman of the Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry, and vice chairwoman of the Committee on Natural Resources and Energy and the Committee on Government Operations, Legal Review and Consumer Protection.

Swearingen chairs the Committee on State Affairs and is vice chairman of the Committee on Tourism, in addition to serving on the Committee on Forestry,

To ISSUES, Pg. 8A



CRASH SITE — Authorities released a photo of the Sept. 28 airplane crash site in a swampy area in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest just

west of Butternut Lake in Forest County. Officials have not released the names of the three victims. See story on Page 2A. —Contributed Photo



JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER — Eagle River Area Fire Department Capt. Mick Draeger keeps a watchful eye for safety's sake as sixth-grader Hannah Forss practices using a dry chemical fire extin-

guisher during National Fire Prevention Week activities at Christ Lutheran School in Eagle River on Oct. 5.

—Staff Photo By ERIC JOHNSON

## Tennis club nears \$250,000 target

By MICHELLE DREW  
NEWS-REVIEW ASST. EDITOR

Since kicking off a hefty fundraising campaign last spring, members of the Greater Eagle River Tennis Association (GERTA) have been hard at work pounding the pavement and scaring up funds for the \$250,000 reconstruction project at the Eagle River tennis courts.

Taking part in community events such as Cranberry Fest as well as planning various fundraising events, GERTA President Sue Richmond said that the club is confident to start the reconstruction this fall.

"Through many generous donors, pledges of members, and the hard work of the

members at various fundraisers, we are confident to start the reconstruction this fall because we have reached \$210,000," said Richmond.

"We are so very close to our goal and believe that we will be able to meet the remainder by spring. We want to thank everyone who has so generously donated."

### Court disrepair

After Vilas County quit claimed the courts to GERTA a year ago, ensuring that any long-term projects funded by the club would be protected, members began

To GERTA, Pg. 2A

## Clothing program shopping to begin

By MICHELLE DREW  
NEWS-REVIEW ASST. EDITOR

Warm The Children (WTC), a program which provides winter clothing to qualified families and sponsored by the Vilas County News-Review, is ready to receive applications, announced WTC program coordinator, Toni Ruthven.

"We've already received a request for an application which can be found in the News-Review and North Woods Trader publications, and in the front entry of the News-Review building," Ruthven said.

In regards to volunteer shoppers, Ruthven said she is excited about the coming season.

"The calls have been made and though some messages were left on answering machines, as of now, we have half of our shoppers returning. We also received a

request from someone who wants to join the program this year," she said. "Our shoppers truly are amazing and we appreciate each and every one of them. They are an important part of this program."

Donations are starting to trickle in and WTC has reached 45% of its fundraising goal.

Ruthven also said that every cent received goes to purchase warm winter clothing for area children.

"The News-Review picks up all administrative fees and every donation, no matter how large or small is greatly appreciated," she said.

For more information about the program or to become a volunteer shopper,

To WTC, Pg. 4A

## Man and machine Veteran reunited with helicopter in Eagle River

By ERIC JOHNSON  
NEWS-REVIEW ASST. EDITOR

Veterans getting together are nothing new, whether it's informal gatherings at the local American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post, or the convergence offered by major regional, state and national conventions and reunion gatherings.

But an Oct. 2 reunion in Eagle River put a new twist on veteran reunions as California resident Rick Throckmorton, a Vietnam War veteran, was reunited after 50 years with his trusty old Cobra helicopter, a patriotic longtime Eagle River fixture on loan from the Michigan-based U.S. Army Armament Com-

To CHOPPER, Pg. 7A



Howard "Rusty" Wolf, right, commander of Legion Post 114, welcomed U.S. Army Vietnam

War veteran Rick Throckmorton to the Veterans Center in Eagle River. —STAFF PHOTO

# NEWS

## Chopper: Throckmorton flies over 800 missions in Vietnam

FROM PAGE 1A

mand.

Cancellation of the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association's annual reunion in Savannah, Ga., offered Throckmorton the opportunity to venture north for a different sort of reunion — man and machine.

"You get affection for it — it never failed on me," he said of his assigned Cobra, dubbed "151" for the last three digits of its identification number. "I had my name on it for awhile. If it was your ship, you were assigned to it, you got your name on it."

Throckmorton first learned a year ago that "151" still existed after talking to his former co-pilot and gunner, retired Army Chief Warrant Officer 5 Wendell Mock.

"I said, 'I wonder what happened to our old ship,'" he recalled. "We flew it together a whole year. He looked it up and found it. It was here in Eagle River."

### Stirring old memories

Oklahoma born and California-raised, Throckmorton was drafted by the Army in 1964 right out of Hueneme High School in Oxnard, Calif.

"My dad, Carl Throckmorton, was a World War II 101st Airborne guy, so when I got the draft notice I went to him and said, 'What do you think I ought to do?'" he recalled. "He said, 'Well, if you're going to get drafted, you're going to be in the infantry and you're going right straight to Vietnam.' He remembered that he walked all over Europe until the end of the war and he said, 'The damn artillery boys had tanks, they had trucks, they had hot showers, they had hot food.' He said, 'If I were you, I'd join the artillery.' And so I did. I went down and enlisted, rather than get drafted."

After attending Field Artillery Officer Candidate School and becoming a second lieutenant, Throckmorton's first service in Vietnam was as an artillery forward observer with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, walking the hot, humid jungles of Vietnam.

"My dad's prophecy didn't quite come true, as I walked all over Vietnam for nine months," he recalled. "Being a light infantryman, we didn't have helicopters at all. We walked."

Later making his first flight on an air-conditioned chopper, sitting up front in the cockpit as an officer on the 150-mile mission flight to Saigon, he asked the artillery brass-pinned co-pilot how he became an Army

aviator.

"It was the first time I'd been cool in months, the Vietnam jungles and all that," he recalled. "I tapped him on the shoulder and said, 'How'd you get to be a pilot?' He said just two words — 'I asked.' So as soon as the Battle of Tet was over in 1968 and we got back to the big base, I went right to the personnel unit and said, 'I want to go to flight school.'"

After finishing his current tour of duty, the Army sent Throckmorton stateside to learn aviation, with primary helicopter training at Fort Wolters, Texas, and advanced helicopter training in Savannah, Ga., at Hunter Army Airfield, where he also became Cobra-qualified.

Sent back to Vietnam, he soon found himself piloting "151" during his 12-month tenure as its primary pilot from April 1970 to April 1971, logging more than 1,100 flight hours on some 800 hazardous duty missions flown over Vietnam for the 101st Airborne Division.

Serving in the 101st Airborne is something of a family tradition. Throckmorton is the second generation to serve in the 101st, following in the footsteps of his father, a paratrooper who landed on D-Day.

Throckmorton's second son, Jonathan, injured on a night mission serving with the 101st Airborne in Bosnia, today is a high school automotive technology teacher.

"Triple Eagles they call us," said the veteran, who turned 75 on June 1.

During his tour piloting "151," Throckmorton was the senior member of the flight crew, serving with 18- and 19-year-old "kids."

"We all were kids — I was the 'old man' at 24," he recalled.

Throckmorton received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award honors in October 2019 in recognition of his 50 years as a military and civil aviator.

At the time, the single-engine Bell AH-1 Cobra attack helicopter was "the king helicopter" for the U.S. Army, according to Throckmorton.

"We didn't work for the aviation boys, we worked for division artillery command, so every mission we went on was an attack mission — every single one," he said. "As a consequence, a lot of the guys didn't come back, or they came back slung underneath a Chinook, or they came back on a Huey if they survived it."

For Throckmorton, "turning the throttle off and coming out alive" was the ultimate accomplishment of

every hazardous duty mission.

He said the helicopter always took off "armed to the teeth" for its missions.

A full munitions flight load for "151" included four large rocket pods housing 76 6-pound warhead rockets, 6,000 7.62-millimeter machine gun rounds, and 350 rounds of 40-millimeter grenades.

"We'd shoot the entire load," he recalled of the flight missions. "Nobody liked to bring the bullets back. Nobody wanted to come back loaded."

Over his year at the controls of "151," he recalls more than a few harrowing incidents in which he lived to tell the tale — having the control hydraulics shot out, losing a tail rotor, and having the protective canopy next to his head shot off.

Throckmorton was served well by "151," saying the helicopter "never failed" him, always getting him safely back to home base.

The Cobra, first put into active military service in February 1970 under pilot Clint "Lurch" Miller, was piloted by "Johnny G." Turpin after Throckmorton.

Drawn together as veterans with a common bond of piloting "151," Throckmorton said the trio kept in contact for decades following the war.

Turpin passed away at age 58 of cancer in October 2006, buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas.

Miller is now afflicted with Alzheimer's.

Both Throckmorton and "151" would eventually move on.

Serving on active duty with the Army from 1964-'74, Throckmorton subsequently served in the California National Guard, retiring as a full colonel in 1995 as 40th Division Artillery commander.

After returning to civilian life, he stayed in aviation, flying commercial helicopters, and later, along with his wife, Phyllis, founding Oxnard-based Aspen Helicopters Inc., which he today serves as executive vice president and director of operations.

In 1980, the year they got



California U.S. Army Vietnam War veteran Rick Throckmorton sat in his Cobra attack helicopter "151" during his 12-month 1970-'71 posting as its assigned pilot. —Submitted Photo

married, the Throckmortons also launched Aspen, now in its 41st year.

"We bought our first helicopter and started Aspen as the first two employees," he recalled. "I flew and she handled the administration, billing and so on."

Helicopter aviation, he said, has been good to him over the years, from his formative Army days to his current position overseeing a fleet of 19 helicopters and airplanes in service across the U.S. in a variety of capacities, ranging from cargo hauling, passenger service and surveying to infrared and laser mapping, wildland firefighting, and aerial filming for IMAX movies.

"I got into flying by luck, you might say," Throckmorton said. "Growing up in Oklahoma and California, I came from a poor family of laborers. I never dreamed I'd ever be a pilot. The Army trained me to be a pilot, and it gave me a job afterward."

Along with building their business, the Throckmortons also began building their family — son, Jonathan, and firstborn son, Chad, an animal science professor at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The Throckmortons now have seven grandchildren. After the Vietnam War,

American Legion Post 114 commander Howard "Rusty" Wolf said "151" was reassigned to Germany before coming stateside in the 1980s for a few years of service with the Wisconsin National Guard's 147th Aviation Company D in Madison.

Supplanted by the next generation of Army utility transport and air assault helicopters, first by Bell Iroquois "Hueys" and later by Sikorsky Black Hawks, idled Cobra "151" then came under the jurisdiction of U.S. Armament Command.

In the early 1990s, Wolf said Post 114 requested permission to install a Cobra on outside its hall, then located on Highway 45 south of Eagle River. After consolidating its quarters with VFW Post 8637, the Cobra was remounted at its current location five years ago.

### Reunited

Throckmorton called the reunion of man and machine after 50 years apart "hard to describe."

"It was interesting to see it again," he said. "It certainly brings back memories, both good and bad. My co-pilot guy, Stevie, took a couple rounds in it through his legs, hurt him pretty bad. You remember that. And having the canopy shot off over my head when a bullet came through the dash. In the photo I have this huge smile. I don't know if it was because I made it back alive or it was funny as hell."

Throckmorton said he was glad to see that "151" was also a survivor.

"It could've had another fate — chopped up, melted away and made into something else," he noted. "It was nice to have a chance to see it again and think about when I flew it."

Throckmorton said he and Phyllis were appreciative of the hospitality offered by the American Legion and VFW.

"We've been treated real nice," he said. "We'll do everything we can to come back and visit. The trip was really great."

### DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Madison, Wisconsin

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Invitation for Bids on the NORTHERN HIGHLAND-AMERICAN LEGION STATE FOREST Fall 2021

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Division of Forestry Financial Specialist, Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest, at the Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters, 4125 Forest Headquarters Road, Boulder Junction, WI 54512, until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 3, 2021 for the 20 tracts. These tracts comprise a total of 2906 acres.

A timber sale prospectus and detailed information including maps of each tract, as well as required bid forms and copies of sample contract forms, can be obtained by contacting the Division of Forestry Financial Specialist at the Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters (715) 904-1169. All timber sales and associated forms are also located on our website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/StateForests/nhal>.

Bids must be submitted on department "Timber Sale Bid" forms. Contractors who wish to bid on more than one tract must submit separate bids and separate envelopes for each tract. The department reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the bid opening will be "CLOSED" to the public and logging contractors. Bids will be opened by DNR Forestry staff at the Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters at 1:30 p.m. November 3, 2021.

We will follow our traditional procedures and open and award bids in a random fashion. If you have an interest in joining the bid opening via conference call:

- Please dial 1-608-316-9000.
- Once connected, use passcode 4140261# to join the conference call.
- For contractors wishing to withdraw a bid, there will be time given prior to each sale/tract being opened/announced to allow that to happen. We will do our best to be flexible and fair during this unique situation.

These lands are Third Party Certified.

#### BID BOND POLICY

There is no bid bond required. However, winning bidders will have up to 6 weeks from the date of the bid opening to submit an acceptable performance bond to the department. If the winning bidder fails to submit an acceptable performance bond within the allotted timeframe, the bidder shall be required to forfeit to the department an amount equal to 10% of the total bid amount. Failure to forfeit the 10% penalty will result in the bidder being considered ineligible to bid on any state timber sales for a two-year period.

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Natural Resources  
For the Secretary  
Preston D. Cole  
By: Thomas D. Shockley  
NH-AL State Forestry Supervisor

5648

WNAXLP

### LEASE SPACE AVAILABLE

413 W. Pine Street, Eagle River

Prime location, high traffic area, located on Hwys. 45/17/70. Three (3) private offices, total of 640 sq. ft., plus common area. Private and common area entrances. Charter Spectrum internet and phone available. \$850/month, includes utilities.

Call 800-404-4496

5854

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(Three Weeks, 10/13-10/27/21)  
STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CIRCUIT COURT, VILAS COUNTY

— PROBATE —

Notice to Creditors  
(Informal Administration)  
Case No. 21-PR-43

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
RONALD WALLACE SCHLENZ DOD: 1-11-21

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 1-17-1936 and date of death 1-11-2021, was domiciled in Vilas County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 5433 Spider Lake Road, Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin 54545.
3. All interested persons waived notice.
4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is January 14, 2022.
5. A claim may be filed at the Vilas County Courthouse, 330 Court Street, Eagle River, Wisconsin, Probate Office.

/s/ Dawn Halverson  
Probate Registrar  
October 1, 2021

Nick G. Cirilli  
Cirilli Law Offices, S.C.  
116 E. Davenport Street  
Rhinelander WI 54501  
715-369-3443  
Bar Number 1101541  
5659

WNAXLP



### Driveways to Highways

- Asphalt Paving • Road Construction • Aggregate Crushing
- Infrared Patching • Excavating/GPS Sitework
- Tennis/Basketball Courts • Cracksealing
- Sealcoating • Chipsealing

Telephone: (715) 479-7488 or (800) 379-7488

Fax (715) 479-7436

8075 Highway D • Eagle River, WI 54521

[www.pitlikandwick.com](http://www.pitlikandwick.com)