



Get out!

Bayfield teacher wins for getting kids outside, **A3**

Shooting, scoring:

Washburn soccer undefeated with new coaching duo, **B1**



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Fire destroys historic Bayfield building, damages another



Firefighters pump water on the remains of an apartment building at 239 Manypenny Ave. in Bayfield. The structure, which dated to the early 1900s, was destroyed Saturday in a fire of undetermined origin, leaving eight residents homeless. Rick Olivo/Staff Photo

At least 14 people left homeless

BY RICK OLIVO
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One of the oldest buildings in Bayfield and one of its newest businesses burned Saturday in fires that sent smoke billowing across the city and Chequamegon Bay for much of the day.

An apartment building at the corner of Broad Street and Manypenny Avenue was destroyed by the blaze, leaving 14 residents homeless. The building was moved to that location around 1900, towed by teams of horses where it served as the New Brunswick Hotel, according to the Bayfield Heritage Association.

As it burned, it set afire an adjacent building that soon was to open as Broad Street Brokers, a real estate agency owned by three local women.

Firefighters were able to save that building, but not before it was damaged.

Bayfield Police Chief Matt Ladwig said the fire in the apartment building was



The fire badly damaged a neighboring building that soon was to open as a new real estate company, Broad Street Brokers.

reported to him by Officer Josh Novak at 1:10 p.m.

"He said the building was fully involved at that time," Ladwig said.

Novak entered the burning building to alert and evacuate residents and suffered smoke inhalation in the process. He was taken to Ashland's Memorial Medical Center as a precaution, as was a firefighter who

also suffered from smoke inhalation.

Ladwig praised Novak for risking his own life to save the lives of the people he is sworn to serve. He said police were not aware of anyone who remained missing after the blaze and he believed that Novak helped all occupants escape.

SEE FIRE PAGE A5

Coffee-roaster brings beans to Washburn

New biz and AdventureUs move into Big Top offices

BY RICK OLIVO
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Jared Trimbo for years has wanted to run his own coffee-roasting business.

He honed his craft at Big Water Coffee Roasters in Bayfield, but Big Waters shut down in 2018, leaving Trimbo to toast his beans at home for himself and a few friends.

During the COVID pandemic he took charge of home-schooling his three children while wife Amy Trimbo operated her Washburn business AdventureUs, a custom sewing, repair and manufacturing facility for a unique product — snow sleeves — that protects children's wrists when they play in the snow.

Jared wasn't getting any closer to his dream, but then several things started to come together.



Jared Trimbo works with his new coffee roaster at what soon will open as Full Keel Coffee in Washburn. (Rick Olivo/Staff Photo)

First the Big Top Chautauqua's move from their building at 101 W. Bayfield St. in Washburn to a new location just outside of Bayfield.

Jared looked at the empty building and saw the future.

At the same time Jared was dreaming of roasting coffee beans from around the world, wife Amy was facing a space shortage.

SEE COFFEE PAGE A5

Washburn Iron Works to begin \$1M expansion

Additional production capacity will add jobs

BY RICK OLIVO
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Washburn Iron Works is kicking off a \$1 million expansion project that will add more production space and allow the company to double its production and add jobs.

A pair of flatbeds trucks on Friday began unloading the steel girders that will be used to build the addition this summer, and co-owner Taylor Pearson was on hand to supervise the unloading.

Pearson said a number of factors have contributed to the firm's ability not just to survive but to prosper — even as 70% of America's foundry jobs and production have been lost to overseas competition since the 1980s.

"It's having really good staff over the years. We have a lot of really dedicated employees that have been with us for a long time," he said. "We also have had continuity of leadership over three generations."

That leadership began when Pearson's grandfather, Otto Rusch, established the firm in 1976, manufacturing and marketing cast iron kits to convert steel drums into wood-burning stoves.

The firm expanded and was eventually taken over by Taylor's parents, David and Raelyn Pearson. Now Taylor and his brother Cole are co-owners along with their parents.

They have gone far beyond the stove conversion kits. These days they produce iron castings for several industries.

"We make anywhere from a couple of parts a year to 25,000 parts, and we will cast 1,500 different parts a year," Pearson said.

Pearson said another part of the company's formula for success has been responsiveness to customer needs.

"We've also found a niche that works and we service that niche. We stay in the realm that makes us successful," he said.

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A Washburn Iron Works employee pours molten iron into a mold. The company's expansion will allow it to increase production by up to 100%. (File photo)

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