



# THE LAKELAND TIMES



## "OSCAR'S ON ICE" PHOTOS

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## Punzel resigns from Minocqua Police Department

Officer had been under investigation and on paid administrative leave

By Richard Moore  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Minocqua police officer Kaleb Punzel, who has been under paid suspension while the police department conducted an investigation into his conduct, has resigned.

His last day was May 4. Punzel said he was resigning to explore "other personal opportunities" after three years with the department. He requested that his accrued leave of PTO (paid time off), holiday, and compensatory time be paid in

full. Punzel was placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation into conduct stemming from an incident in the summer of 2020, in which the officer brushed aside repeated pleas for help by

a man who had been calling 911 to report that a female acquaintance could be in immediate danger.

The suspension came after *The Lakeland Times* published the first in a series of investiga-

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## Oneida County judge to retire this summer

By Heather Schaefer  
OF THE RIVER NEWS



Oneida County circuit judge Patrick O'Melia will retire effective Aug. 1, he announced in a May 4 letter to Oneida County Human Resources Director/Administrative Coordinator Lisa Charbarneau.

"After serving Oneida County for 18 years as the District Attorney and then serving Oneida County for 15 years as Judge for Branch I, as well as Deputy Chief Judge of the 9th Judicial District . . . I have come to the difficult decision to resign effective August 1, 2022," O'Melia wrote. "I have known many people who retired over the years. They would usually say, 'I won't miss the work, but I will miss the people who I worked with.' Like most clichés, truer words were never spoken. On the day-to-day basis, I will miss all of you, but I do intend to offer services as a Reserve Judge, so I am sure our paths will cross."

The news of O'Melia's forthcoming retirement leaves a judicial vacancy that Gov. Tony Evers will need to fill.

As of this writing, the governor's office had yet to send out a request for applications to fill the seat. O'Melia's term is due to expire in 2026.

Oneida County has long had two judgeships.

In 2007, O'Melia was appointed to succeed former Oneida County Circuit Judge Robert E. Kinney who had resigned the Branch I judgeship.

He was elected to the position in 2008 and has won re-election ever since.

Circuit judge Mike Bloom, who is also a former district attorney, has presided in Branch II since 2012, succeeding circuit judge Mark A. Mangerson.

The O'Melia family has been a fixture in the local legal community for over a century.

O'Melia's grandfather, A.J., founded the O'Melia, Schiek & McEldowney law firm in 1911. His father and uncle practiced at the firm and his brother, John F. O'Melia, is a partner.



DEAN HALL/LAKELAND TIMES

## CHEESY PERFORMANCE

Audience volunteer, eight-year-old Swayze Hoyer, helps out comedic magician Jonathan Burns with a trick involving slices of cheese during the "Mutts Gone Nuts" show on Saturday, April 30, at the Campanile Center for the Arts in Minocqua.

## Pilot program for combating elder abuse comes to Vilas County

By Kelly Holm  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

After Vilas County was one of six counties in the state chosen to participate in an anti-elder abuse pilot program, through the Wisconsin Department of Justice and UW-Green Bay, its adult protective services (APS) department is now holding training sessions for first responders on how to recognize the signs of caregiver abuse and neglect, as well as self-neglect, in older adults.

"It's the first time in the 32 years I've been

here at adult protective services that we were able to be part of a pilot project," APS social worker Donna Rosner said. "Our elderly demographics are high, close to 40 percent."

The program consists of a 2-hour training session, with a curriculum created by UW-Green Bay, designed to equip first responders to recognize and report suspected elder abuse when they are out on calls. The goal is for the training to eventually be offered in all 72 Wisconsin counties.

During the session,

first responders will receive information about physical, sexual, emotional and financial mistreatment, and the warning signs of such abuse and neglect — such as unclean physical and living conditions, passive behavior or a domineering caregiver, injuries or physical/chemical restraint, and unusual or extreme changes with respect to finance.

"We stress that we don't expect you to know, backwards and forwards, everything

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# Howard Young Medical Center offers new urgent care service

You can't always plan when you need health-care. Injuries and illness occur at the most inconvenient times when you are not able see your regular provider. With urgent care, you still have access quality care when and where you need it.

Howard Young Medical Center, part of Aspirus Health, is now offering urgent care, providing timely treatment for non-life-threatening illness and injuries. Urgent care is

available without an appointment, seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Emergency entrance.

"We always want to do what is best for our patients and be here when they need us. When you suddenly need care, it can be very distressing," said Heong P'ng, MD, an Aspirus Emergency Department Physician and Medical Director of Emergency Services at Howard Young Medical Center. "The urgent care option

provides people with the assurance they can receive the health care they need when they just can't wait."

It may be confusing whether to choose urgent care or an Emergency Department. Urgent care is for problems that need to be treated right away but are non-life-threatening. This includes conditions such as allergies, pink eye, rashes, upper respiratory infections, strains and sprains, ear infections, insect bites, cuts,

or other minor illnesses. Urgent care can also perform minor procedures, provide basic lab tests and imaging to help provide an accurate diagnosis and determine proper treatment.

Injuries that require rapid or advanced treatment should be treated at an emergency room in a hospital setting where a higher level of care is available. When in doubt, do not hesitate to call 911, especially for suspected cases of stroke, heart attack or

head trauma.

The benefits of urgent care extend beyond expanded access. Visitors to urgent care will typically have a shorter wait time than at an emergency room and will usually have a less expensive cost of visit with lower insurance co-pays.

"The addition of urgent care at Howard Young Medical Center shows a commitment by Aspirus to increase services and provide reliable care to our local

community and the thousands of visitors that visit the Northwoods every year," said Dr. P'ng. "It is a valuable extension of the emergency care Howard Young Medical Center has been proudly providing in the Northwoods for over 45 years".

For more information about urgent care at Howard Young Medical Center, located at 240 Maple Street in Woodruff, visit aspirus.org/urgentcare.

## Pilot

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about elder abuse (in order to make a report)," Rosner said. "If you suspect it, call us."

Elder abuse investigations can include APS home visits and interviews, as well as reviews of

medical and financial records. They may result in offers of voluntary care services, emergency actions for protective placement and services, or referrals to law enforcement and regulatory agencies.

"We've already gotten a couple calls already, since the training started, from EMS," Rosner said.

So far, the training has already been conducted three times in Vilas County, with the fourth to take place May 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Phelps Community Center. Participants will earn two hours of continuing education units (CEUs) for completing it.

Kelly Holm may be reached at [kellyholm@lakelandtimes.com](mailto:kellyholm@lakelandtimes.com).

## Punzel

From page 1

tory articles about the incident. In the incident, Punzel arrested the man for drunken driving — that was dismissed but he was convicted of reckless driving-endangering safety — but refused to head to a nearby residence where the man said his acquaintance was being held and was in danger.

Neither did Punzel relay any sense of urgency to other responding officers or in his communications with police dispatch, records obtained in an open records request showed.

The woman that the 911 caller was worried about subsequently said she was sexually assaulted during the time Punzel was dismissing the seriousness of the threat, and filed a notice of claim against the town of Minocqua, the Minocqua Police Department, Punzel, and the man she alleged to have assaulted her.

It took police more than 90 minutes after the man's first 911 call for police to arrive at the residence.

Richard Moore is the author of the forthcoming "Storyfinding: From the Journey to the Story" and can be reached at [richardmoorebooks.com](http://richardmoorebooks.com).





### TIPS FOR DRIVING SAFELY IN WORK ZONES

- Expect the unexpected
- Slow down
- Don't tailgate
- Pay attention to work zone signs
- Obey flaggers
- Stay alert
- Minimize distractions
- Be patient and stay calm

## LEGAL NOTICES

### TOWN OF LITTLE RICE ONEIDA COUNTY STATE OF WISCONSIN NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

A special town board meeting will be held May 17, 2022, 4 p.m., to consider a resolution to create a new extension of Little Rice Dam Road, at the Little Rice Town Hall, 3737 County Road Y, Tomahawk, WI. A copy of a scale map of the land to be affected is on file with the Town Clerk.

Dated this 26th day of April, 2022.  
96827

19,21,23 WNAJLP

### NOTICE TOWN OF WOODRUFF ACCEPTING BIDS FOR RESURFACING ROAD PROJECTS

The Town of Woodruff will be accepting sealed bids road projects for the 2022 season. Complete specifications and arrangements for site tour can be made at the Town Office during regular hours Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or by calling 715-356-9421. **Site inspection is required for bid acceptance.**

#### ALL BIDS SHALL BE SEALED AND MARKED: 2022 ROAD PROJECTS 2022 Road work

**Pulverize and repave work:**  
Einer Lane 960' length – 18' wide  
Balsam St. N. 1100' length –24' wide  
Pine St. 750' length – 22' wide  
Hemlock St. 200' length –51' wide  
Birch St. 270' length – 20' wide

Sealed bids will be accepted at the Woodruff Town Office during normal business hours until 3 p.m. on Monday, May 23, 2022. Bids can be mailed to P.O. Box 560, Woodruff, WI 54568, hand-delivered to the office, or placed in the secure drop box outside the town hall lobby, 1418 1st Ave., Woodruff.

Bids will be opened and reviewed at the town board meeting May 24, 5:30 p.m.  
Questions can be addressed to Dave Meier, Road Department at 715-356-6811.

The Town Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids or accept the bid that would be most advantageous to the town with the final decision being made in the timeframe necessary for complete review.

/s/ Julie Huotari  
Woodruff Town Clerk  
107260

22,23 WNAJLP

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL BIOREACTOR REMOVAL

The Landfill Venture Group (LVG) is seeking proposals from qualified parties to submit a proposal to remove the existing decommissioned bioreactor at the Highway G Landfill located at 7001 County Highway G, Eagle River, WI 54521. Interested parties should contact the Highway G Landfill office at 715-479-2938 to obtain a request for proposal package. Proposals are due no later than 3:00 pm Central Time on May 17, 2022 to Highway G Landfill office.  
90145

21,23 WNAJLP

### NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW TOWN OF HAZELHURST

The Town of Hazelhurst, Oneida County Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., Community Center Conference Room for the purpose of calling the Board of Review into session during the 30 day period beginning on the 2nd Monday of May, pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 70.47 (1). Due to the fact that the assessment roll is not completed at this time, it is anticipated that the Board of Review will be adjourned until Tuesday, July 12, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Christy Myshchysyn  
Hazelhurst Town Clerk  
107304

23 WNAJLP

### NOTICE REQUEST FOR BIDS TOWN OF WINCHESTER VILAS COUNTY

The Town of Winchester will be accepting sealed bids for the epoxy "sealcoating" of the Fire Department truck bay floor (approximately 4500 square feet). Bid specifications can be obtained by calling Town Supervisor Jeff Whitney @ 331-444-9185. Sealed bids may be mailed or delivered to the town office until 6:00 p.m. on Monday, June 6th, 2022. Bids will be opened and read aloud at the Monthly Town Board Meeting on Monday, June 6th, 2022, 6:00 p.m. at the Winchester Town Hall.

The Town Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in bidding, and to accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the Town.

Bids may be mailed or delivered to:  
Town of Winchester  
FD Epoxy Flooring  
7228 County Road W  
Winchester, WI 54557

Jeff Whitney  
Town Supervisor  
107302

22,23,24,25,26,27 WNAJLP

### NOTICE TO ROAD CONTRACTORS Town of Newbold

The Town of Newbold will be accepting proposals for the Resurfacing of Flannery Lake Road and River Road, and the chip sealing of various town roads.

Information is available from the Director of Public Works, Mark Fetzer at 715-277-2432 or 715-499-5728.

Sealed bids for these projects will be accepted by the Newbold Public Works Dept., 6704 Bridge Road, Rhinelander, WI 54501 until 2 p.m., May 26, 2022 or at the Town Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on the same date.

Proposals will be considered at the Newbold Town Board meeting on May 26, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. Location: Newbold Fire Station 4588 Hwy 47, Rhinelander, WI 54501.

The Town of Newbold reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and will accept the proposal most advantageous to the Town.

Noticed this 5th day of May, 2022 by Kim Gauthier, Newbold Town Clerk  
107309

23,25 WNAJLP

### NOTICE HYDRANT FLUSHING

Weather permitting, fire hydrants in Minocqua, Woodruff, and Arbor Vitae will be flushed on Monday, May 16th, Tuesday, May 17th, and Wednesday, May 18th, and finishing in the early morning hours of May 19th, 2021.

Hydrants located south of Old Hwy 70, Minocqua will be flushed on Monday, May 16th, 2022 and hydrants located north of Old Hwy 70, Minocqua and all hydrants in Woodruff and Arbor Vitae will be flushed on Tuesday, May 17th, and Wednesday, May 18th, 2022.

Flushing will begin at approximately 10:00 P.M. in the evening and will continue until approximately 8:00 A.M. the following day.

If weather conditions should not allow work to be accomplished on the above scheduled dates, the schedule will be advanced one week to May 23RD, 24th, 25th & 26th, 2022.

Flushing stirs up the sediment in the water mains and residents may experience some brown water during this time. Those who do are advised to run the cold water tap closest to their water meter for 10 to 15 minutes. If the water still appears brown, please call our office at 715-356-4454.

LAKELAND SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 1 Wilbur Peters,  
Superintendent  
107271

21,23 WNAJLP