



# THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS

## WHY WE'RE BLUE

The cover of *The Northwoods River News* has gone blue today to observe April as World Autism Awareness Month. More than 30 years ago, many might not have heard of autism. But today it is likely everyone knows someone who has been diagnosed with autism. Our front page this edition is blue once again this year to continue to spread the message of World Autism Awareness Month.



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## Election roundup: New town chairs in Newbold, Crescent, Stella

BY RIVER NEWS STAFF

While there was much attention focused on the Wisconsin supreme court election battle between Dan Kelly and Janet Protasiewicz, there were some changes as the result of contested races in local government elections in towns in the area.

The April 4 election saw chairperson changes for a few towns with contested races in the *Northwoods River News* coverage area.

Newbold is of those town boards with a new look town board coming out of the April election.

Town supervisor Dan Hess ran unopposed for town chairman and will take over for Dave Kroll, who decided not to run for another term.

There were four candidates for two of the four town supervisor seats.

Petra Pietrzak received the most votes with 485 while Scott Ridderbusch placed second with 404. Bradley White finished third with 368 votes and Steve Macheichok had 259.

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# A new era in state politics

## Protasiewicz sweeps by Kelly in state Supreme Court race; Schiek defeats Burns in solid win for Oneida County judge

By Richard Moore  
BY RICHARD MOORE

### News analysis

The liberal and Democratic-backed candidate for the state Supreme Court swept to a huge victory over her conservative opponent in Tuesday's spring election — likely a harbinger of things to come, as liberals recaptured the majority on the state's high court and Democrats won their fifth out of the last six major statewide races, this one going away.

Milwaukee County circuit judge Janet Protasiewicz defeated former

Supreme Court justice Daniel Kelly by a 56-to-44% margin, winning 1,021,370 votes to Kelly's 818,286 with almost all votes counted. Protasiewicz's victory gives liberals a 4-3 Supreme Court majority, the first majority they have had in 15 years.

In an important local judicial contest, in Oneida County, district attorney Michael Schiek scored a robust win over judge Mary Roth Burns, whom Gov. Tony Evers had appointed to fill out the term of Patrick O'Melia, who retired. Schiek won 6,636 votes to Burns's 5,697, or a margin of 54 to 46%.

The liberal Burns could not find any coattails with Protasiewicz's win,

scrapping out tiny victories in the city of Rhinelander and, surprisingly, in Woodruff, but lost handily in the rest of the Lakeland area and in Minocqua particularly, as well as in Sugar Camp and Three Lakes.

In fact, Burns collected almost 600 fewer votes in the county than Protasiewicz did, while Schiek came within 100 votes of Kelly's margin.

In the Supreme Court race, Protasiewicz said the results vindicated her belief that Wisconsinites were ready for common sense and fairness on the Supreme Court.

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# VOTE ELECTION RESULTS

## WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT



Janet PROTASIEWICZ  
**56%** ✓  
1,021,370 votes

Daniel KELLY  
**44%**  
818,286 votes



## ONEIDA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT



Mary Roth BURNS  
**46%**  
5,697 votes

Michael SCHIEK  
**54%** ✓  
6,636 votes



## NOTABLE TOWN RACES

### TOWN OF CRESCENT

**TOWN CHAIRPERSON**  
Robb Jensen 445  
Joel Knutson 421

**TOWN SUPER. NO. 2**  
Michael Pazdernik 455  
Steve Brich 314

### TOWN OF NEWBOLD

**TOWN SUPER. (2 SEATS)**  
Petra Pietrzak 485  
Scott Ridderbusch 404  
Bradley White 368  
Steve Macheichok 259

### TOWN OF MONICO

**TOWN SUPER. (2 SEATS)**  
Ben Briggs 79  
Nancy Fisher 41  
Catherine Fisher 35

### TOWN OF STELLA

**TOWN CHAIRPERSON**  
Kristen Hanneman 113  
David Brunette 109

### TOWN OF WOODBORO

**TOWN SUPER. (2 SEATS)**  
Bill Rudis 174  
Amanda Pontell 158  
Jeff Otto 104



# Pelican Forest easement resolution to return to county board in May

## Committee members bash proposed easement purchase

By Richard Moore  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Oneida County committee appointed to ensure that an accurate resolution opposing the planned DNR purchase of a 56,000-acre easement in the Pelican River Forest just about wrapped up its work this week, with committee members verbally slaying the proposed purchase as they did so.

The committee has been investigating the accuracy of a resolution opposing the easement purchase — there

were allegations that some of the resolution's preamble statements were inaccurate — as well as gathering information about the overall pros and cons of the purchase.

The county board formed the committee last month, directing it to return with a revised resolution to consider no later than the May meeting.

After hearing reports from committee members on assigned areas of research, the committee this week scheduled a May 1 meeting to finalize the resolution that will head to the board on May 16. That resolution could include new information based on committee research, in addition to correcting inaccuracies.

At one point during this week's

meeting, committee members considered fast-tracking the resolution to the county board in April, but finally settled on the May date after supervisor Steven Schreier — who was attending but is not a committee member — cautioned against it.

Schreier at first wondered whether the resolution could even be returned to the board before May, but the vote at the board was to bring it back by May, and Oneida County corporation counsel Mike Fugle advised that it could be considered by the board if it was on the agenda and the full board voted to hear it. Fugle explained that a vote might not even be necessary if it was on the agenda.

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