



# THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS

## City deer hunt to begin in September

Local News, Page 3

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## Bond set in Oneida County overdose death case

By Heather Schaefer  
OF THE RIVER NEWS

A combination signature and surety bond in the amount of \$10,000 has been set for a 42-year-old La Crosse County woman charged with one count of first-degree reckless homicide-drug delivery in connection with the death of a 45-year-old Rhinelander man in late January.

Andrea Jean Walker of Bangor made a voluntary appearance in Oneida County Circuit Court Wednesday afternoon. A warrant for her arrest, issued on July 7, was quashed as a result of the voluntary appearance.

According to her attorney, Walker is on supervised electronic monitoring for the next three months while she completes a sentence handed down in La Crosse County. Given that, the attorney requested a signature bond in the Oneida County case.

Citing the gravity of the alleged offense, Oneida County district attorney Jillian Pfeifer requested some cash be posted.

See **Overdose** . . .  
page 15



## Two charged in human trafficking, solicitation investigation

By Heather Schaefer  
OF THE RIVER NEWS

Two local men are being held in the Oneida County jail, each on \$100,000 cash bail, in connection with mul-

tiplied felony charges related to human sex trafficking and solicitation of prostitutes.

In a criminal complaint filed on Aug. 16, Louis

Leroy Hallock, 62, of Harshaw, was charged with six counts of solicitation of prostitutes and one count of keeping a place of prostitution.

On Aug. 17, John Leo Hildebrand, 57, of Rhinelander, was charged with six counts of human trafficking.

See **Trafficking** . . . page 6



DRAKE WHITE-BERGEY / WISCONSIN WATCH

Sheila Lockwood holds a photo of her late son, Austin, in the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison. In 2018, Austin, 23, was riding in the passenger seat of a drunk driver's vehicle in Three Lakes. The driver smashed into a tree, killing Austin.

## Wisconsin's 'death grip with alcohol' is killing more residents

### Excessive alcohol use is taking a heavy toll in a state that celebrates its drinking culture

By Sarah Eichstadt &  
Anupras Mohapatra  
WISCONSIN WATCH

Blanketing the wall of an American-style dive bar in Prague: the Milwaukee Brewers, the Tavern League of Wisconsin and the iconic phrase "Drink Wisconsibly."

Not only does Wisconsin consistently rank among the U.S. states with the highest excessive drinking rates, its high alcohol consumption draws global recognition.

While many Wisconsinites take pride

in this reputation, alcohol is taking lives at unprecedented rates in the state.

In 2020, Wisconsinites died from alcohol-induced causes at a rate nearly 25% higher than the national rate. The rate tripled from 6.7 to 18.5 per 100,000 from 1999 to 2020.

Wisconsin is "locked in this weird death grip with alcohol," said John Eich, director of the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health. "There's a cultural level of acceptance of excessive drinking."

Despite challenges, some are pushing

back against permissive drinking laws and culture.

After a drunk driver killed her son in 2018, Sheila Lockwood started lobbying to reform laws in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

"I don't know what else to do with the pain other than trying to change something," Lockwood said. "If I can help somebody from going through this, then you just turn your pain into some sort of change."

See **Death Grip** . . . page 15