



EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521

# Lifestyle

Section B

(715) 479-4421

vcnewsreview.com

Wednesday, December 14, 2022



## Artscape seeking artists and sponsors

The Eagle River Revitalization Program (ERRP) is seeking local artists to submit original works of art for their public beautification Artscape banner program. The Artscape banners will adorn Wall and Railroad Streets throughout the summer and into the fall of 2023.

The artist's name, artwork title, description and artwork will not only be displayed on the banner but also in the walking tour brochure which is distributed in the community throughout the year.

Artwork with an application must be delivered to the ERRP office on or before Feb. 1, 2023, unless alternate arrangements are made.

Artists of all ages and abilities are encouraged to apply to receive an opportunity to have their artwork selected for the sponsor pool.

There is no cost for artists to participate and the artist will have their original artwork returned to them.

"We are excited to provide artists an avenue to have their artwork publicly displayed and to share their talents with the Eagle River community and its visitors," stated Karen Margelofsky, executive director of the EERP. "This is one of the non-profit organization's main fundraising programs that not only helps to beautify the city but also helps fund the flags, flowers, and municipal landscaping programs the organization provides."

Sponsorship for the program is also available for the 2023 season and sponsors will have the opportunity to choose a piece of art to sponsor.

Sponsors will receive name To ARTSCAPE, Pg. 6B

## ERRA now accepting year-end donations

The Eagle River Recreation Association (ERRA) has announced it is now accepting year-end donations from area supporters.

Monetary donations will go toward various efforts around the rink, according to ERRA Board President Kim Adamovich.

"It's no secret that the backdrop to many of our community's traditions, our Dome, is nearing 100 years old," Adamovich said. "Although we have faced challenges throughout the years, we continue to crush

To ERRA, Pg. 6B

## Northwoods Share to hold Christmas themed dinner

Northwoods Share will hold its free, in-person community dinner Tuesday, Dec. 20, at The Rock Mission Center in Eagle River.

This dinner will be Christmas themed, inviting attendees to join the holiday festivities and the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. with dinner served at 5:30 p.m. Appetizers will be available early.

The meal is sponsored and catered by Aspirus Eagle River Hospital. Beef tips, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, bread and butter and a dessert will be served.

This dinner will take place

in the dining room of the center and meals will no longer be provided in drive-thru or delivery formats.

A hand sanitation station will be located in the foyer of the front door of the center. There will be tables placed near the windows in the dining room that have limited chairs available for social distancing, while other spaces will have more normal seating. Anyone from the community is welcome to attend.

The Northwoods Share ministry will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 28 for Christmas break.

For more information, visit northwoodsshare.org.

**CHRISTMAS KICKOFF** – Riverview Park was packed with attendees for the holiday festivities on Dec. 3 when the annual Christmas Kickoff took place. The event was sponsored by the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce and featured Christmas caroling, hot dogs and cookies, bonfires and cocoa. Children were able to visit with Santa and the event was topped off with the lighting of the Christmas tree.

**Above:** Children spent time with Santa, expressing their wishes for the season.

**Right:** Decorated cookies were handed out to children during the event.

**Below:** Trinity Dye accepted a candy cane from Mrs. Claus as she wished her a Merry Christmas.

—Staff Photos by STEPHANIE DYE



## Not that you asked, but...

By Eric Johnson



### Sounds of the season

"MY FIRST MEMORY of singing, in general, was of a Christmas song. And then listening to Christmas music was really the first music I was ever connected to." — Author Christina Perri

With a lot of windshield time as I travel extensively across Wisconsin and northern Illinois these days, there's a plethora of hours to while away on my solitary road trips for both business and leisure travel.

I don't know about you, but I can stand only so much time rattling around in my head, having lively conversations with a trio of my constant companions — me, myself and I. Eventually tired of my own company, music then fills the gap.

A recent discovery was the fact that I can, at least this time of the year, travel across the breadth of Wisconsin and listen to non-stop Christmas music with the advent and fast rise of commercial radio's latest craze — dedicated non-stop All-Christmas music stations, with some stations making the seamless Nov. 1 segue from playing Bobby Pickett's 1962 classic "Monster Mash" and the "Ghostbusters" theme song to Brenda Lee's "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" and Bobby Helms' "Jingle Bell Rock" in a New York minute.

Driving around Wisconsin and south of the Cheddar Curtain in Flatland, I can punch in Stevens Point's

To JOHNSON, Pg. 2B

## Belles bring season's tidings to local foster care families

By MICHELLE DREW  
EDITOR

It looked like Santa had arrived in Eagle River Dec. 8 as a caravan of vehicles unloaded heaping black sacks full of colorfully wrapped gifts to the Vilas County Courthouse.

The gifts arrived thanks to efforts made by the Christmas Belles, a local charity organization that helps children and families in need over the holidays, by working with the Vilas County Social Services Department to provide Christmas gifts for children in foster and kinship placement under the department's care.

This year, the Belles were able to provide presents for 28 children in 14 families who are part of the Vilas County foster or kinship care programs. They also shop for children in Michigan's Gogebic County, and this year provided gifts to about

To BELLES, Pg. 2B



Christmas Belles shoppers and staff at Social Services gathered for a picture to display some of the many gifts for children ages 1 to 18 in

foster and kinship care through the Vilas County Social Services Department.

—Staff Photo By MICHELLE DREW



# LIFESTYLE

## Johnson: Too much of a good thing

FROM PAGE 1B

WSPT, Fort Atkinson's WSJY, Milwaukee's WRIT and Rockford's B103 and never miss a beat of Bing Crosby's "White Christmas," Burl Ives' "Holly, Jolly Christmas," and Nat King Cole crooning about the delights about chestnuts roasting on an open fire and Jack Frost nipping at your nose, both of which are highly-overrated in my book, although I do admittedly delight in yuletide carols being sung by a choir, and tiny tots with their eyes all aglow with the wonder of the Christmas season.

I come by my love of Christmas music honestly. Like Perri, my first singing memories were of Christmas songs, and listening to Christmas music was really the first music that I connected to.

For me, Hershey's Kiss-topped peanut butter blossom cookies are forever intertwined in my memory with my kindergarten Christmas concert in the school gym at Salem Lutheran in Milwaukee, singing "O Tannenbaum" in German, no small feat when you're five and you've barely got a grasp on the English language mother tongue.

"O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, wie treu sind deine Blätter. Du grünst nicht nur zur Sommerzeit, Nein auch im Winter, wenn es schneit. O

Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum, wie treu sind deine Blätter."

While that was the last time I sang "O Tannenbaum" in German, 52 years later candle-lit Christmas Eve worship services still find me singing "Silent Night" in German — at least on the first verse — lost in a warm, nostalgic reverie of singing "Stille Nacht" with my kindergarten classmates later in the evening in the balcony at Salem's candle-lit Christmas Eve service.

"Stille Nacht! Heil'ge Nacht! Alles schläft; einsam wacht. Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar. Holder Knab' im lockigen Haar. Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh! Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!"

On Christmas Eve, at least for one verse of one hymn, the ancestral German mother tongue effortlessly and eagerly springs to my lips.

And at home as a child, my formative Christmases were steeped in the star-studded "A Very Merry Christmas" vinyl LP records that came home annually from shopping trips at the W.T. Grant Co. department store in my old Milwaukee neighborhood, where the emphasis now is less neighbor and more 'hood.

Hauling out the old Christmas LP's from Grants more than 50 years later, when life has come full circle and old school vinyl is retro hip, I



Thanks to the advent and fast spread of All-Christmas music radio stations, it's now possible to travel across the state and never miss a beat of holiday music. But how much is too much of a good thing? —Photo By Eric Johnson

still delight in Mahalia Jackson singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and Robert Goulet singing "O Holy Night."

But out on the roads, more than a month into the non-stop 24/7 Christmas music season, there really comes a time when it's too much of a good thing, a searing lesson I learned as an 11-year-old running happily amok at the sundae bar at Red Barn. Just because you can put every topping on an ice cream sundae doesn't mean you necessarily should, later paying for my wretched excesses.

Pulling an eight-hour shift spinning Christmas vinyl at WLUV in Rockford on Christmas Eve 1987, one of our two all-Christmas music days a year, was enough for me.

With station live feeds serving as background music for radio station offices, I can only imagine that the employees at these 24/7 Christmas music stations must be ready for a DJ to scrap the 3,982nd playing of Elvis Presley's "Blue Christmas" and throw Napo-

leon XIV's 1966 hit "They're Coming to Take Me Away" on the turntable after listing to The Jackson 5 singing "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" for the 3,759th time in five weeks.

"...and they're coming to take me away, ha ha, they're coming to take me away, ho ho, hee hee, ha ha, to the funny farm, where life is beautiful all the time and I'll be happy to see those nice young men in their clean white coats. And they're coming to take me away, ha haaaaa!"

As for me, having had my fill of Christmas musical cheer, I've punched the dial to anything but Christmas. Not being a Grinch. Just sayin'. Like Red Barn in 1976, too much of a good thing.

Thanks to the advent and fast spread of All-Christmas music radio stations, it's now possible to travel across the state and never miss a beat of holiday music. But how much is too much of a good thing?

Eric Johnson can be reached at [eric@fynorthwoods.com](mailto:eric@fynorthwoods.com).

## Red Cross looking for seasonal donations

The current year has been filled with crisis for families in Wisconsin, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (U.P.) and around the world, including a the first-ever national American Red Cross blood crisis.

"Whether a crisis is felt by an entire community or a single person, it turns lives upside down, especially for the most vulnerable," said American Red Cross Regional CEO and Southeast Wisconsin Chapter Executive Director Mark Thomas. "This holiday season, join us to provide help and hope for people in need during future emergencies by making a financial donation or by giving blood or platelets."

During the holidays, the public can visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) to make a financial donation or an appointment to give blood for patients in the U.S.

Individuals can also register for volunteer opportunities in their area, especially high-need roles at community blood drives and with disaster responses. Those opportunities can be found at [redcross.org/volunteertoday](http://redcross.org/volunteertoday).

American Red Cross data shows this year's extreme disasters in the U.S. are clear examples of the increasing frequency and intensity of the climate crisis. So far in 2022, 15 billion-dollar disasters have upended lives across the country. These statistics are more than twice the number of billion-dollar disasters that struck annually two decades ago.

For these and tens of thousands of other disasters in Wisconsin, the U.P. and across the

country, Red Cross volunteers have worked to provide shelter, food and care. Dozens of local volunteers were deployed to help after Hurricanes Ian and Fiona.

Locally, Red Cross volunteers have also provided relief after the rise in home fires typical during the colder months, bringing hope and essentials to nearly 500 people since just October, stated Thomas.

Internationally, the conflict in Ukraine has forced millions of people to flee for their lives.

According to American Red Cross officials, this year the American Red Cross provided humanitarian aid in more than 108 countries.

In January 2022, the Red Cross experienced its worst national blood shortage in over a decade.

Red Cross officials attribute this shortage to ongoing collection challenges and varied hospital demand during the pandemic. Patients in need of lifesaving blood transfusions relied on an outpouring of support from hundreds of thousands of generous blood donors to overcome the crisis.

"Every day, Red Cross blood donors are the lifeline for car accident victims, parents with complicated child-births, individuals battling cancer and people with sickle cell disease," Thomas added. "Individuals can save lives by making an appointment to give blood or platelets this holiday season."

To make an appointment or for more information on donations, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

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## Belles: Camaraderie, fellowship is key

FROM PAGE 1B

170 children, according to program organizer Corinne Duerkop.

To provide gifts for children in need, each Christmas Belle's participant is given the wish list of a child. She then shops and wraps for that child out of her own pocket. The women typically spend about \$60 to \$100 per child and the organization kicks in extra money for items needed

above that amount. "Items often include snow pants, jackets, boots and other clothing, but the shoppers are sure to include some toys and fun items as well because, well, because it's Christmas!" said Duerkop.

To keep the families' identity confidential, Social Services has set up a coding system that gathers basic information about the child including age, interests and wishes, and clothing sizes, so

shoppers know what to shop for. Items are then organized and coded by family so the correct gifts can be delivered to the correct family.

Duerkop said in addition to doing good for the community, the Belles also offer camaraderie and social opportunities for participating women. Yearly planning begins about two months in advance with a group meeting and potluck to get organized for the upcoming shopping season.

She noted that many of the women shop together, and once all gifts have been delivered to Social Service, they all go out for a celebratory breakfast.

"This is as close as you can get to feeling like a kid again at Christmas," Duerkop said of the experience.

The Christmas Belles began as a cookie exchange with six women in 1999, but expanded into a community program when one of the women decided to do something more meaningful than bake and eat cookies, Duerkop explained. Since that time, the group has expanded to what

it is today with more than 100 shoppers in the North Woods and Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

And the group is looking to expand its efforts in Vilas County with the help of more shoppers.

"We could cover more children in Vilas County if we had more women participating," Duerkop said.

For those who cannot commit to helping shop, the Belles also welcome monetary donations. These funds are used to help fund shopping for additional children above and beyond what participating women donate out of their own pockets.

"In addition to the child they are paired with, lots of the ladies will shop for additional children using the money raised by the group," Duerkop said. The group also receives grant money to help cover costs through Walmart.

Anyone who would like to join the program as a shopper or donate funds may contact Duerkop at 906-544-2425, Barb Benson at 715-891-5847, or email [nwxbelles@gmail.com](mailto:nwxbelles@gmail.com).

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**LIFESTYLE**

# Mercer author publishes third children's book

BY STEPHANIE DYE  
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Becoming a children's book author was never on the vision board for Eagle River native Becky Bettin. However, when her 4-year-old son, Ben, was interested in snowmobiling, she found it challenging to find a children's book that featured the topic.

Bettin was a former Eagle River Derby Track Queen and met her husband, who was a semi-pro snowmobile racer at the time, during the Derby. Snowmobiling has always been a significant part of the couple's life, so it made sense that her son showed interest in the sport.

Snowmobiling is a North Woods favorite past time, so Bettin was shocked at the difficulty she was having when attempting to locate a book.

After an extenuated search without finding a book she needed, Bettin did something to remedy the situation — she wrote her first children's book, titled "My Snowmobile Adventure."

With advisement from her son and aid from friend and artist Zoe Botes who illustrated the book, her vision of a snowmobile book, written about her son's first ride with her husband, Brad, came to life. Bettin and Bates also published their second book together showcasing the adventure of taking a ride in a utility task vehicle.



Illustrator Emily Burchell (left) and author Becky Bettin created "The Snow-Mo-Book," a children's book that integrates learning with the popular winter sport. —Contributed Photos

Now, two years after her initial publication, Bettin has recently printed her

third book, "The Snow-Mo-Book," a hardcover edition that features an educational aspect.

"I wanted to expand my books into a different style of writing," said Bettin. "This book allowed me to teach the alphabet in a fun way, but still keep to the unique theme my first book maintained — the sport of snowmobiling."

Bettin's longtime friend and fellow mother, Emily Burchell, quickly became involved in the project and together the duo wrote and illustrated the book within an 18-month time frame.

"Emily is an amazing artist," Bettin commented about the illustrator. "Her ideas and drawings really brought the story to life."

With the first 2,000 copies printed, the book was released Dec. 1 and is cur-

rently available in time for the holiday gift giving season. All books ship locally from her home in Mercer.

"I am so grateful for the support from our families during this adventure," she added. "Without the inspiration from my two kids and support from my husband, I never would have been able to change this idea into a reality."

"The Snow-Mo-Book," along with Bettin's first two publications, are available for purchase locally at the Snowmobile Hall of Fame in St. Germain, To The Nines in Manitowish Waters, The Wampum Shop in Mercer and the Briar House in Rhinelander.

Editions of the books to purchase as well as more information, is available at [mysnomobileadventure.com](http://mysnomobileadventure.com).



Snowmobiling continues to be a fun family activity for Ben and his mother, Becky, during the winter months.

# Middle school honor students announced

Northland Pines Middle School has announced the students named to its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2022-'23 school year.

**Honors**

Eighth grade: Lilly Beitler, Bryan Droby, Ava Gaetano, Xavier Gaffny, Nolan Huelkamp, Maverick Janusiak, Miles Kirschbaum, Dylan Kleffman, Natalie Kohn, Kami Neff, Steven Nosarzewski, Alaina Peterson, Benjamin Plank, Avery Renkes, Ryan Rydeski, Emily Sauer, Iland Shepherdson, Mythus Sparks, Mathias Stamper, Olivia Stiemke, Tyler Vojta, Hudson Warner and Addison Zelten.

**High honors**

Eighth grade: Jack Albrecht, Griffin Beyer, Tucker Brock, Ryley Darr, Oscar Eliason, Layk Evenson-Mortag, Kaelyn Maloney, Wes McClelland, Ethan Miller, Easton Otto, Jacob Page, Liam Payne, Kayleigh Rulec, Wyatt Stebbeds and Oliver Weberg.

Seventh grade: Benjamin Braunel, Anna Chicka, Dane Felesena, Charlotte Frenz, Nicholas Hahn, Addyson Harsla, Sophie Hoffman, Sophia Kusick, Tatum Meier, Ava Meyer, McKenzie Moore, Lucy Nowak, Bristol Parling, Tyler Price, Emily Ritter, Sierra Starling, Isabella Stenschke and Gregory Zelten.

Seventh grade: Amber Arnold, Jordan Cain, Bentley Dolezal, Noah Duffek, Dreadon Dykas, Janaya Fixel, Aubrie Gosnell, Cheyenne Hyczyk, Jazek Jantzen, Natalie Jastrow, Morgan Keranen, Briley Lagueux, Jessica Linn, Nathan Miller, Brianna Smith, Kendal Sullivan, Kayden Trollan, Olin Weinand and Ryan Wielhouwer.

# Sheriff's office to host community blood drive

The "Battle of the Badges" blood drive is scheduled to kick off Wednesday, Dec. 21, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Vilas County Sheriff's Office located at 330 Court St. in Eagle River.

This blood drive will be held in partnership with The Community Blood Center.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old (or 16 years old with parental permission),

weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health and have a photo ID.

Donors are encouraged to eat a regular meal and drink plenty of fluids prior to giving blood.

Registration in advance is requested and can be scheduled with Chris Kamps at 715-479-3699.

For more information, visit [communityblood.org](http://communityblood.org).

# Aspirus to provide flu clinic at YMCA

Aspirus Health will offer 50 free flu shots at a vaccination clinic Thursday, Dec. 15, from 8 a.m. to noon at YMCA of the Northwoods, located at 2003 E. Winnebago St. in Rhinelander.

Flu vaccinations are available for individuals between the ages of 18 and 64 and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, but advance reservations are available by calling 715-362-9622.

Health experts are predicting this flu season to be particularly impactful. Professionals agree that the lower levels of cold and flu activity during the pandemic will mean the public has not been exposed to these illnesses as much over the past two years, and as a result, immune systems may be more susceptible.

"The number one thing people can do to minimize their risk of getting influenza is getting the flu shot," said Wendy Neuendank, RN for Aspirus Occupational

Health. "The benefit of preventing the flu outweighs many risks that people may worry about when getting the flu shot. If you have any concerns about the flu shot, talk to your medical provider or pharmacist."

Aspirus strongly encourages vaccinations for everyone six months and older as the best way to protect against the flu.

Representatives from Aspirus Health Plan will be available during the free flu clinic at the YMCA to share information and to answer questions individuals may have about health insurance.

Flu shots for those not eligible for the free vaccinations can be scheduled with Aspirus Rhinelander Clinic, located on Chippewa Drive, by calling 715-361-5480 or Aspirus Rhinelander Clinic, located on North Shore Drive, at 715-361-4700.

For more information, visit [aspirus.org](http://aspirus.org) or [ymcaofthenorthwoods.org](http://ymcaofthenorthwoods.org).



Students from Northland Pines School District performed at a statewide competition to close out the 2022 season. Along with

group recognition, many students won awards for their individual performances during the competition. —Contributed Photo

# Pines drama cast earns honors

With the participation in the Wisconsin Interscholastic Speech and Dramatic Arts Association's One Act Play Competition, the Northland Pines High School One Act play, directed by Jeffrey Libby, has come to a close for the season.

The statewide competition was held at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater on November 19.

The cast of the play received the All State Award for their production, commemorating their advancement and participation in the

state festival.

Additionally, the production earned the Outstanding Ensemble Award and the Outstanding Technical Theatre Award, which were awarded to Emma Hinton, Grace Indermuehle and Natalie Rozga.

The three individual performances worthy of recognition, receiving the Outstanding Acting Award at the competition, were Massa Justice as "Madame Genevieve", Owen Libby as "Mr. Clouds" and Emma Perry as "Gertrude."

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# The Almanac

This space is reserved for recurring events and services. Listings which are not updated or confirmed annually will be removed after one year. Call (715) 479-4421.

## December

W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

### Events

**GED PREPARATION** — Nicolet College classes are available at Olson Memorial Library in Eagle River, Mon. and Wed., from 9 a.m.-noon. Call (715) 365-4455 or 1-(800) 544-3039.

**NORTHWOODS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM** — Hands-on educational exhibits and programs. Fun for all ages. Prime ages 1-10. Call (715) 479-4623 or visit northwoodschildrensmuseum.com.

**PLUM LAKE LIBRARY** — Preschool Story Hour and Playgroup meets Wed. from 10-11 a.m. at the library in Sayner. Call (715) 542-2020.

**VILAS FOOD PANTRY** — Open Wed. from 8:30-10 a.m. and the first and third Tues. of each month from 3-5 p.m. in Eagle River. Call Sandy, (715) 479-9581.

### Health

**MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH HOT LINE:** For mothers in need of health and nutrition information, financial aid or advocacy. 24-hour hot line at 1-(800) 722-2295. mch-hotlines.org.

### Meetings

**BOOK CLUBS** — Olson Library Afternoon Book Club meets the second Thurs. of each month from 1-3 p.m.; and Facts and Fiction Book Discussion Club, second Monday of each month, 1-3 p.m. Contact the library at (715) 479-8070 for more information.

**CIVIL AIR PATROL** — Military-based organization for ages 12-18, located at Eagle River Union Airport, meets the second, third and fourth Sun. of each month. Contact public affairs officer at eagleirver-sqnpao@gmail.com.

**DOLL CLUB** — The Enchanted Doll Club meets the third Thurs. of each month at 1 p.m. at Kalmal Community Center. Call Judy Wainwright, (715) 482-9804.

**EAGLE RIVER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** — Meets the third Thurs. of each month at 5 p.m. at Walter E. Olson Memorial Library in Eagle River. Call Barb, (708) 805-3374.

**EASY EAGLES** — Meets every other Wed. at 11:30 a.m. at Chef Rene's at the Inn in Eagle River. Call Mike Erstad, (414) 840-3338.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** — Meets the first Thurs. of each month at 6 p.m. at St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church in Eagle River. Call Brian Habersetzer, (715) 477-1396.

**LAKELAND ART LEAGUE** — New members and visitors welcome. Call Eileen, (715) 358-3010. lakelandartleague.org or lakelandartleagueui@gmail.com.

**LIONS CLUB** — The Eagle River club meets the second Wed. of each month at 6:30 p.m. Call (715) 479-2666.

**LIONS CLUB** — The St. Germain Northwoods club meets the first Wed. of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Sayner. Call (715) 891-4061.

**LIONS CLUB** — The Three Lakes club meets the first Mon. of each month at 6:30 p.m. Call for details for place to meet. Call (715) 360-3751. threelakeslci@gmail.com.

**MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS** — Meets the first and third Fri. of each month Sept.-May from 9-11 a.m. at St. Germain Evangelical Free Church. Call (715) 522-0900.

**MUSKIES INC.** — The Headwaters Chapter meets the first Wed. of the month at the VFW in Eagle River. Call Bill, (715) 891-5574, to confirm.

**NAMI** — Meets Tues. and Thurs. from 12:15 to 2 p.m., on Zoom. Call Mary at (715) 362-8972, Linda at (715) 420-1700 or email northernlakescenter@gmail.com.

**NORTHLAND PINES MUSIC BOOSTERS** — Meets the second Thurs. of each month during the school year. Call Forrest Mann, (715) 479-4473.

**NORTHWOODS MEN OF FAITH** — Meets the second Sat. of each month at St. Germain Evangelical Free Church for a men's breakfast, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Free-will offering accepted, different speakers. Call (715) 479-2173.

**ROTARY CLUB** — The Eagle River club meets Thurs. at noon at Chef Rene's at the Inn in Eagle River. Visiting Rotarians are welcome.

**SERVE INC.** — Senior Eagle River Volunteer Enterprise (SERVE) meets the second Tues. of each month at 10:30 a.m. at Kalmal Community Center in Eagle River. Call Kalmal Center, (715) 337-2510.

**ST. GERMAIN PRIMETIMERS** — Meets the first Wed. of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the St. Germain Community Center. Call (715) 479-6550. stgermainprimetimers.org.

**ST. GERMAIN WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB** — Meets the third Tues. of each month at the St. Germain Community Center. Social hour at 11 a.m. Meeting at noon. Call Barb, (715) 479-6550.

**THREE LAKES CENTER FOR THE ARTS** — Meets monthly at the arts center in Three Lakes. Contact Collette at (715) 477-0001 or sorgel.lcfa@gmail.com.

**THREE LAKES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** — Meets the fourth Mon. of each month at 1 p.m. at Demmer Library in Three Lakes. Call Nancy Bailey, (715) 479-8971.

**THREE LAKES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** — Ask Your Genealogist, meets Thurs. from 2-4 p.m. at Demmer Memorial Library in Three Lakes. No appointments necessary.

**THREE LAKES WOMEN'S CLUB** — Meets the third Wed. of each month at 1 p.m. at the Reiter Center in Three Lakes. Contact Eileen at threelakeswomen@gmail.com.

**VFW** — Eagle River Post 8637 meets the fourth Thurs. of each month at 6 p.m. Call (715) 479-8810.

**VILAS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** — Meets the second Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at the Eagle River Fire Station. Call Fred Bouwman, (715) 546-3221. vcarc.net.

**VILAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS** — Meetings are held at various locations and times. Call Shirley Egan, (715) 891-1771.

### Recreation

**BADGER BRIDGE** — Duplicate — Meets Mon. at noon, at Kalmal Community Center in Eagle River. Call Bob Dow, (414) 758-6411.

**DUPLICATE BRIDGE** — Meets Thurs. at 12:30 p.m., at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Eagle River. Call (715) 546-8306.

**CRIBBAGE/SCRABBLE** — Meets Wed. at 12:30 p.m. at Kalmal Community Center in Eagle River. Groups playing any other board or card games welcome. Call Kalmal Center, (715) 337-2510.

**HAPPY HATTERS** — Meets the last Wed. of each month at 9 a.m. at the Eye on Entrepreneurs building in Eagle River to make hats for distribution to patients and newborns at local hospitals. Call Bonnie Kegley, (715) 617-0130.

**HEART AND SOUL QUILTERS** — Meets Wed. from 9 a.m. to noon at Kalmal Community Center in Eagle River. All ages welcome, beginner or advanced. Call Cheryl Brienfeldt, (920) 973-5489.

**ISLAND CASINO TRIPS** — Monthly. For details, call (715) 337-2510.

**KNITTING CLUB** — Northwoods Knitters and Purlers meets the fourth Mon. of each month at the Woodruff Town Hall in Woodruff. Call Carol Clauser, (715) 453-8055.

**MAHJONGG** — Meets Thurs. at 11:30 a.m., at Kalmal Community Center in Eagle River. A 2021 card is required. Experience preferred. Want to learn mahjongg? Call Joy Vandenhuevel, (715) 573-8836.

**NORTHWOODS CARVERS** — Meets Wed. at 12:30 p.m. at Kalmal Community Center in Eagle River. All ages welcome, beginner or advanced. Call John Modjewski, (715) 479-6093.

**NORTHWOODS SCALE MODEL PHANATICS** — Meets second Sat. of each month at 3:30 p.m. at 3824 Tecumseh Lane in Eagle River. Scale modeling of all types. Learn how to build, or improve skills. Call Tom, (715) 479-4988.

**NORTHWOODS SINGERS** — Meets Tues. at 6 p.m. at Ely Memorial Church in Land O' Lakes. New singers welcome. Call Bill Morgan, (847) 254-9623.

**NORTHWOODS UKERS** — Meets Fri., 1:30-3 p.m. at Warehouse Art Center, 107 S. Railroad St. in Eagle River. New members welcome; free.



Making big shopping decisions at Three Lakes' Secret Santa Workshop. —Photo By Jennifer West

**OUTDOOR WOMEN'S GROUP** — Activities are held monthly. Call Deb Stolze, (715) 480-4188.

**PICKLEBALL** — For times of open play and beginner lessons at Riverview Park, visit eagleirverpickleball.org. Call Judy, (715) 337-2003.

**PINES COMMUNITY WELLNESS CENTER** — Hours, Mon.-Fri., 5:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., 7 a.m.-noon. Office hours, Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call (715) 479-4473.

**REDDY FOR ANYTHING** — St. Germain-area Red Hat group. Meets the third Wed. of each month for breakfast. New members welcome. Call Barb, (715) 479-6550.

**SCARLETT O' HATTERS OF THE NORTHWOODS, EAGLE RIVER AREA RED HAT GROUP** — Meets first Thurs. of each month for lunch at various area restaurants. New members welcome. Call Jan, (715) 479-6707.

**SHEEPHEAD** — Meets Tues. at 12:30 p.m., at Kalmal Community Center in Eagle River. Call (715) 337-2510.

**SQUARE DANCE LESSONS** — For fun and fellowship; lessons start at various times of the year. Open to singles and couples. Call Judy, (715) 337-2003.

**SQUARE DANCING** — Held first and third Sun. of each month from 2:40-3 p.m. at Woodruff Community Center. Open to singles and couples. Call Judy, (715) 337-2003.

### Support Groups

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** — Closed discussion meeting, Mon., 7 p.m., First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eagle River; open big book study, Tues., 7 p.m., First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eagle River; closed discussion meeting, Wednesday, 5 p.m., Kalmal Community Center, Eagle River; closed discussion meeting, Fri., 7 p.m., First Congregational United Church of Christ, Eagle River; closed discussion meeting, Tues., 7:30 p.m., St. Theresa Catholic Church, Three Lakes; closed discussion meeting, Thurs., 7 p.m., St. Germain Community United Church of Christ; closed step meeting, Sun., 2 p.m., Land O' Lakes Town Hall, northwoodsaa.org.

**CANCER SUPPORT** — Meets the second Thurs. of each month at 10 a.m. at James Beck Cancer Center at Ascension St. Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander. Call (715) 361-2027.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT** — Meets the third Thurs. of each month from 10:30-noon at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Eagle River. Call Amie, (715) 479-3625.

**CARITAS OF EAGLE RIVER** — Interfaith outreach center, open Wed. from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Eagle River. Call Janon, (715) 480-5683.

**GENERAL CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP** — The Aging and Disability Resource Center of Vilas County's program, meets the third Thurs. of each month from 10:30-11:30 a.m., online. Caregivers

will need to have access to a computer or iPad and have internet access. Minimal computer skills are necessary. Call Amie, (715) 479-3625.

**GRIEF SUPPORT** — Healing Hearts, a free group helping participants process grief through creative means, meets the first Tues. of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Old School Arts & Learning Center in Rhinelander. Call 1-(800) 643-4663.

**GRIEF SUPPORT** — Open to any adult experiencing grief, meets the second Thurs. of each month from 1-2:30 p.m. at Ascension At Home in Arbor Vitae. Call 1-(800) 234-3542.

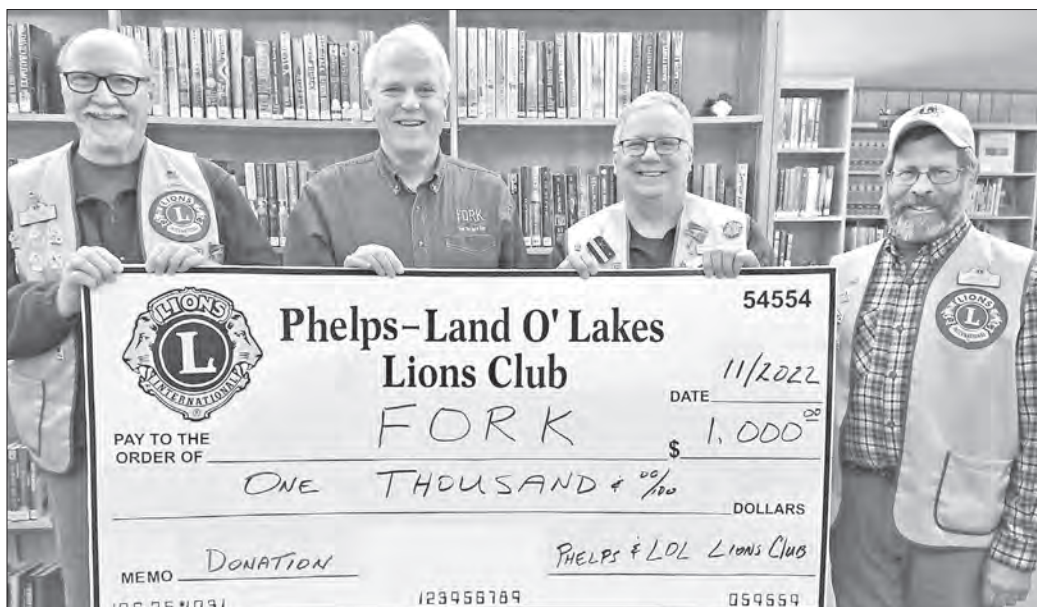
**GRIEF SUPPORT** — Open to any adult experiencing grief, meets the third Tues. of each month from 1-3 p.m. at Ascension At Home in Rhinelander. Call 1-(800) 643-4663.

**MENTAL-HEALTH SUPPORT** — Open to anyone affected by mental illness. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)-Northern Lakes Chapter meets twice weekly at Trinity Lutheran Church in Rhinelander. Call NAMI, (715) 420-1700 or Mick, (715) 369-4740.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** — Call 1-(866) 310-9077.

**NORTHWOODS AREA PARKINSON'S DISEASE SUPPORT** — Call Denny Leith, (715) 358-2207 or Norma Semling, (715) 545-3414.

**SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE SUPPORT** — Meets the third Sat. of each month from 10 a.m. to noon at Curran Building in Rhinelander. Meetings are free and open to the public. Call Sue Mackowski, (715) 275-5399 or Tina Werres, (715) 499-3002.



HELPING KIDS — The Phelps Land O' Lakes Lions Club recently donated \$1,000 to the Feed Our Rural Kids (FORK) program. Pictured above, from left, Lion Rollie Alger, FORK representative Perry Pokrandt, Lion Steve Chandler and Lion Brian Blank. —Photo By Sharon Gifford

**Library Corner**  
 203 N. Main St., Eagle River, WI 54521  
 Tel: 715-479-8070 | Fax: 715-479-2435

The Walter E. Olson Memorial Library invites children to come to the library to Read to a Dog Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. The program is held the second Wednesday of the month.

The next Memory Café is scheduled Monday, Dec. 19, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The monthly program takes place the third Monday of each month. The next program will be Jan. 16.

The Northwoods Ukers will present a holiday sing-along Monday, Dec. 19 at 5:30 p.m. Music, refreshments and a visit from Santa will be part of the event.

The Fact and Fiction Book Group will meet Monday, Jan. 9, 2023, at 1 p.m.

The Afternoon Book Group will meet Thursday, Jan. 12, 2023, at 1 p.m.

The library hosts a variety of activities each week that are free to the public.

Nicolet College Academic Success hours at the library are held Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon; ukulele practice takes place each Monday from 2:30 to 4 p.m.; Story Time with Ms. Tori takes place Tuesdays at 10 a.m. where

youths and their grown-ups can drop in for stories, songs and fun, and then at 4 p.m., the Olson Memorial Library Chess Club meets. The group is open to players of all levels, from age 5 to 105. Aunt Gracie's Sewing Circle is held Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m.

On a monthly basis, the library hosts various groups and programs.

The Eagle River Genealogical Society meets the third Thursday of each month with the next meeting on Dec. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m.; Memory Café is offered the third Monday of the month; Compassus Grief Support Group meets the first Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.; and Mending Day takes place the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon.

On the third Wednesday, the Department of Workforce Development Job Assistance is held from 9 to 11 a.m.; and Read to a Dog is held the second Wednesday.

Ongoing book sales are available in the lobby of the library.

Business hours are Mondays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m.

to 5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The library is open for in-person and curbside service. Wi-Fi and digital services are available at all times.

For more information, contact the library at 715-479-8070 or olsonlibrary@gmail.com, or visit olsonlibrary.org.

### PRACTICE DEMOCRACY. READ YOUR LEGAL NOTICES.

The reason publication of legal notices is required in newspapers is YOU, the citizen. In a democracy, the government is required to inform you of the public business, because you and your neighbors are the basis of government.

These notices provide essential information about all local government entities, including schools, cities, villages and counties.

A democracy is a system of checks and balances. Your right to be informed is a check on government. Public notices shed light on the actions of all governmental bodies, but it's up to you, the citizen, to read them and obtain more information on the actions that have an impact on you.

### THEY'RE CRUCIAL TO DEMOCRACY.

**Holiday OPEN HOUSE**  
 Join us for Scrumptious Snacks, Sweets and Sips!  
**Thursday, December 15th**  
 10am-3pm  
 at both branches

Eagle River & Rhinelander  
 715-365-4800 · ripco.org

Federally Insured by NCUA



# LIFESTYLE

# BACKWARD GLANCES

Compiled by  
Jon Eichman



**MUSIC AND MEALS** — The Madrigal Singers from Northland Pines High school performed at the Our Savior Church Congregational Christmas luncheon held at the Eagle Waters Resort. The event was sponsored by the Martha Society of Our Savior and attended by 58 members. A mite contribution was taken during the luncheon to help fund mission grants.

**Above:** Kate Jensen conducts the choir singers during the luncheon.

**Left:** Committee members that organized the luncheon are, from left, Donna Liedtke, Sue Kurth, Carol Johnson, Teri Kressin, Dawn Shantz and Diana Sell.

—Photos By Sharon Gifford

## Life insurance program available for veterans

By TAMMY JAVENKOSKI  
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-REVIEW

On Jan. 1, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs will open enrollment for Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) — the first new VA life insurance program for veterans in more than 50 years — which will extend VALife access to millions of veterans.

VALife will provide up to \$40,000 of whole life insurance for all veterans, age 80 or younger, with service-connected disabilities rated from 0-100%. Acceptance in the program is guaranteed and no medical underwriting is required.

VALife can be completed online and veterans will receive instant decisions. Veterans will also be able to perform self-service functions, including electronic payments and beneficiary updates.

VALife will increase veteran access to life insurance in the following ways:

- There is no time limit to apply. VA's existing life insurance program for service-disabled veterans, called Service Disabled Veterans Insurance (SDVI), required most veterans to apply for insurance within two years of receiving their disability rating. VALife has no such time constraint for veterans aged 80 and under.

- There is no health requirement to apply. Under SDVI, veterans had to be in good health except for their service-connected conditions.

VALife has no medical evaluation tied to it.

- Veterans are eligible for more coverage than before. Under SDVI, most veterans could only receive up to \$10,000 of coverage. Under VALife, all veterans are eligible for up to \$40,000 of coverage.

VALife premium rates are competitive with, or better than, similar coverage available in the private sector and \$40,000 of coverage is more coverage than other like-products offered.

The policy will build cash value after the first two years of coverage when the face value goes into effect. If a veteran passes away during this two-year waiting period, the named beneficiary will receive all premiums paid plus interest. Unlike SDVI, veterans will not be able to get a waiver for their premiums.

Veterans currently enrolled in SDVI will have the option to keep their current coverage or switch to VALife. These veterans can apply for VALife

at any time after enrollment opens; however, if they apply between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2025, they can also retain coverage under SDVI during the two-year waiting period for the VALife death benefit to go into effect.

Veterans will no longer be able to apply for SDVI after VALife launches; however, eligible veterans still have the opportunity to apply for the program until Dec. 31.

For more information on the program or to see the monthly premium costs, go to [benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp).

County Veterans Service Officer Tammy Javenkoski and Assistant County Veterans Service Officer Jason Dailey can be reached at 715-369-6127 or [cvso@co.oneida.wi.us](mailto:cvso@co.oneida.wi.us). The office can also be contacted via Facebook at [Facebook.com/oneidacvso](https://www.facebook.com/oneidacvso) or at [co.oneida.wi.us/departments/vs/](https://co.oneida.wi.us/departments/vs/).

*Tammy Javenkoski is the Veterans Service officer for Oneida County.*

## Warm for Winter clothing event scheduled Dec. 17

The next Warm for Winter event will be held Saturday, Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. until noon at Friendly Village located across from CoVantage Credit Union at 900 Boyce Dr. in Rhinelander.

Warm clothes of all sizes including bedding, footwear, toys and books will be avail-

able free of charge.

Anyone who is in need of items is welcome and no income limits are required.

Volunteers will continue to work throughout the month to sort and organize donations.

Future giveaways will be held on the last Saturday of each month through March 2023.

For more information, contact Jan Leschke at 715-362-7157.

### BADGER BRIDGE IN EAGLE RIVER

Results of 12/5/22

North-South, first place, Dave Tarsi and Mark Melchiori; second, Marge Kleszczewski and David DeRoche; third, Shele Fawcett and Marie Andersen.

East-West, first place, Bob Dow and Jerry Baerenwald; second, Sharon Sanborn and Connie Scharp; third, Jo Ann O'Brien and Larry O'Brien.

*Bridge is played Mondays from 12:30 to 4 p.m. at Kalmr Senior Center in Eagle River and is open to the public. For information, call Ed Stoeber, club manager, at 715-362-8933.*



Paul Jorgensen proudly prepared a 50 lb. box of Russet Bakers potatoes that were high in demand in this 1962 News-Review archived photo.

the holiday season.

### 50 Years Ago - 1972

Closing the deer season for two years to improve numbers was proposed at a Land O' Lakes Fish and Game club meeting ... The Eagle River Recreation Association arranged for Paul and Nancy Pepp of the Madison skating school to work with the skating program over the winter ... The first ride for the Northern Lights Snowmobile Club took place followed by beer and brats on Big Lake in Three lakes.

### 60 Years Ago - 1962

A new potato industry gadget, the electric sizer was installed at Oneida Farms Inc. ... An albino deer was a frequent guest at Jessie and Johnny's Bar in Boulder Junction ... Wisconsin's Chapter of the National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation announced the sale of "Cards for Research" for the holiday season and funds were donated to care and research.

### 70 Years Ago - 1952

A meeting was held by Eagle

River town officials to form a State League Hockey promotion surrounding growing interest in the sport's expansion ... A "Penny Parade" was held to raise funds for the Lakeland hospital in Woodruff ... Mrs. Fern Brook frantically discovered a small garter snake around her garden, covered in snow on a 38 degree day...

### 80 Years Ago - 1942

Mystery surrounded the finding of an abandoned car of Leland Timmerer who authorities searched for, for days with no answers as to his whereabouts ... Civilian defense volunteers were notified that there would be no more drill until after the holidays ... Vilas County was deemed number one under the Wisconsin Civilian Defense program during World War II.

*Due to the poor condition of the bound volumes of old newspapers used to compile Backward Glances, we will only include 90 and 100 years ago as the quality of the books allow.*

## Informational programs set in Iron River to benefit vets

The Oscar G. Johnson Veteran Affairs Medical Center (OGJVAMC) will host an informational townhall Thursday, Dec. 15, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Bay de Noc Community College West Campus in Iron Mountain, Mich.

The townhall will focus on the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, a new law that expands veteran affairs health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances.

Thousands of veterans, their families and survivors in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin have the potential to be positively impacted by this landmark legislation.

This event is part of a

national PACT Act Week of Action.

The evening will feature a 30-minute speaking program, including information from OGJVAMC Enrollment and Eligibility, the Dickinson County Veteran Service Officer and the Veterans Benefits Administration. Iron Mountain Veteran Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) executive leadership will be present and there will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions following the presentation.

This event will also be live streamed on the Iron Mountain VAMC Facebook page.

The goal of the townhall is to help Veterans understand how the PACT Act will possibly expand their health care and benefits as well as how to

access those options.

The OGJVAMC will also host two events Saturday, Dec. 17 and Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the primary care waiting room. Staff and veteran service officers will assist veterans, their families and survivors with healthcare eligibility and enrollment, offer toxic exposure screenings and explain the benefits claims process.

To learn more about the PACT Act, contact Veterans Affairs at 800-MyVA411 or visit [va.gov/pact](https://va.gov/pact).

For more information, contact Public Affairs Officer Robert Wollenberg at 800-215-8262, ext. 32018 or Veteran Experience Officer Tim Ellison at 800-215-8262, ext. 32593.

### More Than A Meal Café

The Rock Mission Center  
Serving at noon  
Sponsored by ADR of Vilas County

Reservations or cancellations MUST be made 24 hours in advance. Call Jennie Johnson at 715-891-1221 to reserve or cancel a meal. All meals served with 1% milk and coffee. Lighter substitute available in place of main entrée: Grilled-chicken salad. Donations are accepted. No one will be denied service because of inability to contribute.

**MON., DEC. 19**  
Chicken and rice casserole  
Corn and black bean salad  
Sliced pears  
Fresh grapes

**TUES., DEC. 20**  
Pulled pork on a bun  
Scalloped potatoes  
Creamy coleslaw  
Honey bee fruit salad

**WED., DEC. 21**  
Beef stroganoff  
Mashed potatoes

Broccoli & cauliflower  
Biscuit  
Carrot cake

### Christmas Celebration

**THURS. DEC. 22**  
Spaghetti and meat sauce  
Mixed greens  
Garlic breadstick  
Mandarin oranges  
Banana cake

**FRI. DEC. 23**  
Closed in observance of  
Christmas Eve

Make your list

Check it twice

Then come in for our advice!

**Grandma's Toy Box Eagle Craft & Hobby**  
Downtown Eagle River (715)-477-2227 Open every day at 10:00a.m  
Santa shops here!



## LIFESTYLE

### Holiday festivities set at Hodag Park

Hodag Park in Rhinelander will be illuminated in a festive display of holiday lights this Christmas season.

Individuals can celebrate nightly while the lights are on from 5 to 9 p.m. from now until Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023.

Newly added this year is the addition of holiday music and warming bonfires along the lakeside walking path. The lights can also be viewed from the comfort of a vehicle by taking the lighted driving path through the tunnel of lights.

There are collection areas for food and/or monetary donations at the end of the driving path and other locations at the park. Donations

support area food pantries and utilized to improve event success for years to come.

Portable restrooms are available for guest use throughout the park.

Additional activities in the pavilion will take place the weekend of Dec. 16 and 17, from 5 to 8 p.m. including a visit with Santa and photos by Jack Flint, and concessions. Outside the pavilion, there will be holiday music and a warming bonfire.

A New Years Day fireworks display will take place Jan. 1, 2023, beginning at 7 p.m. Individuals are encouraged to arrive early to allow time for parking.

### Amber Beth to perform this Friday at Warehouse

Local singer and Army veteran Amber Beth will perform at The Warehouse Arts Center Friday, Dec. 16, from 7 to 9 p.m.

This family-friendly event is part of The Warehouse's weekly Friday music series and is free to the public.

Beth draws her musical inspiration from a variety of artists, said organizers. Attendees may hear influence from musicians like Patsy Cline, Shania Twain, Jo Dee Messina and Lizzo. Her vocal range is revealed in multiple genres, from uplifting and cheerful to soulful and seductive.

Originally from the North Woods, she currently resides in Woodruff with her husband and three young children.

She has been performing since grade school and has continued to participate in musical groups over the years as a choral singer. Beth attributes her passion to singing and overcoming shyness to auditioning for "The Voice!" She said she believes that music is powerful and can heal.

This performance will be livestreamed from The Warehouse's Facebook page.

For more information, visit [eagleriverart.com](http://eagleriverart.com).

### At-home Covid tests available thru DHS

In both 2020 and 2021, statistics show that Covid cases surged during the colder months.

As cold weather returns, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) reminds Wisconsinites of the available programs for accessing self-tests and treatment.

All Wisconsinites are encouraged by health professionals to utilize these services to keep themselves and those around them safe this holiday season.

Residents can order free at-home rapid Covid tests and have them delivered directly to their residence through the state-supported "Say Yes! COVID Test" program, which is partially funded through the American Rescue Plan Act.

All Wisconsin households are eligible to place an order

every month for one free test kit that contains five rapid antigen Covid tests.

Households can place an order for test kits starting the 1st of every month, including households that have already received an initial order of test kits since the launch of this program in September.

"The Say Yes! COVID Test program gives Wisconsinites the ability to test and know their results within minutes at-home," said DHS Secretary-designee Karen Timberlake. "Knowing whether you have Covid is essential to preventing the spread of the virus. Once you know your test results, you can make decisions that will keep your loved ones safe."

To order a test kit or for more information, visit [sayyescovidhometest.org](http://sayyescovidhometest.org).



Fourth- through sixth-grade students learn the ins and outs of a sewing machine in the after-school "Learn to Sew" course.

Participating students have expressed great interest in learning the new skills. —Contributed Photos

## Northland Pines students gain lifelong skills at sewing class

By KARLA ZYHOWSKI  
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Chris Fuller, a sixth-grade math teacher at Eagle River Elementary School, loves sewing and wanted to introduce students to the productive, fun and lifelong skill. So, she created the popular after-school Learn To Sew class.

Her endeavor taught the fourth- through sixth-grade students who participated in the class how to operate a sewing machine, do basic mending and create unique, hand-made projects such as nine-patch pillows, tote bags, fleece loop scarves, pillowcases and fabric bowls.

Fuller has been a teacher for more than 25 years, eight of which have been spent in Eagle River.

She was taught how to sew when she was 9 years old by her mother.

"Learning to sew involves planning and perseverance, hand-eye coordination, creativity and

math skills," Fuller said.

Knowing that many students had never seen a sewing machine before, she wanted to help change that, and the community also joined to become an active part of the project.

An enthusiastic group of volunteers from the Cranberry Country Quilters Guild, based in Eagle River, stepped up to offer hands-on help. In addition, St. Peter's Thrift Shop Annex also helped the program by donating several used irons and ironing boards.

Cranberry Country Quilters Guild volunteer Beth Moore said she found her experience helping the students especially rewarding, saying it was wonderful to see students who had never been near a sewing machine start out using a needle with no thread to get used to how the machine operates.

Step by step, their sewing skills grew stronger.

Moore recalled talking with one student who told her parents she wanted a sewing machine for Christ-

mas. "My brother wants a video game console, why shouldn't I ask for a sewing machine?" the student relayed to Moore.

She also noticed the students were disappointed when the class came to an end in November.

"It was wonderful to see

the joy on their faces, especially when they're posing with their finished projects," Fuller said.

Fuller has taught the Learn to Sew class for three years now, although it did take a break during Covid. The class runs from September through November.



Instructor Chris Fuller and Northland Pines student Paisley Logan display some of their completed projects.

### Snowshoe hike set for New Year's Eve

Trees For Tomorrow (TFT) will host a New Year's Eve Candlelight Hike to be held Saturday, Dec. 31, from 5:30-8 p.m.

This seasonal event will begin at the TFT historic campus and is a self-guided hike through the facility's forest trail.

The half-mile hike is self-guided, which will allow participants to take advantage of the trail for several hours.

This will provide the opportunity to hike the path as many times as they would like. Luminaries will light the entire path throughout the forest.

The trail will be packed so snowshoes are optional but encouraged, as the trail can become slippery later in the event.

"It's a truly magical night," says program coordinator Bethany Heft. "When we started hosting this event a few years ago I was thrilled with the turn out! Who could think of a better way to bring in the new year than being outside in the great Northwoods?"

There will be a bonfire after the hike. One hot drink, a choice between tea or hot chocolate, and a kit to roast a s'more over the fire is included in the price of admission.

Cost for the event is \$5 per person and free for children ages five and younger.

Registration is appreciated but not necessary. A registration table will be set up in front of the main education hall the evening of the program that can also accommodate walk-in guests.

Temperatures generally drop after the sun sets and participants are encouraged to consider the weather carefully and dress appropriately. Indoor restrooms and the gift shop will be available for the duration of the program.

The "Nature Adventure - Winter Wildlife Tracking" event that had been scheduled for Dec. 17 will no longer take place.

To register or for more information, visit [treesfortomorrow.com](http://treesfortomorrow.com).

### Artscape FROM PAGE 1B

recognition on the banner, in the brochure, at the auction, on social media, on the ERRP website and will also receive a sponsor plaque displaying the artwork which they sponsored.

For more information, visit [eagleriverrevitalization.org](http://eagleriverrevitalization.org), email [karen@eagleriverrevitalization.org](mailto:karen@eagleriverrevitalization.org) or call 715-477-0645.

### ERRA: FROM PAGE 1B

goals through a plethora of successful initiatives, including fundraising."

Adamovich noted that the rink is fueled by tireless volunteers, coaches, donors and support systems that share one common goal — to win by creating a fun, safe and healthy environment for all skaters.

Those who donate funds to this campaign will be recognized by the ERRA placing their name under a special donor list on the website as

### December art exhibit on display

The Boulder Junction Public Library invites the public to view its December Art in the Library exhibit featuring "Life in the Northwoods" photography by Mike and Marsha Crowley.

Their artwork will be on display throughout the library during regular business hours.

The Crowleys retired and moved to Northern Wisconsin in 1998. The couple always loved taking photos of wild-

life and scenery and with the abundance of beautiful places in the North Woods and so much wildlife around, they always had something to photograph.

According to organizers, the Life in the Northwoods Facebook page has thousands

of followers from all over the world and the Crowleys' photography has also been featured in Our Wisconsin magazine, Lake Superior Magazine and the Our Wisconsin calendar.

For more information, call 715-385-2050 or email [info@boulderjunction.wislib.org](mailto:info@boulderjunction.wislib.org).

### Indoor farmers market offered in Rhinelander

An indoor farmers market is currently being held Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon at the YMCA of the Northwoods in Rhinelander.

This market provides the area an opportunity to purchase local products throughout the winter.

"The community has been supporting the farmers market all summer," said Marilyn Duschl of the YMCA. "The indoor market gives them the opportunity to continue to buy locally grown and produced products."

Depending on weekly vendor attendance, prod-

ucts being sold may include chicken eggs, root crops, mixed vegetables, pumpkins, apples, jams, jellies, salsa, relish and pickles, honey, homemade breads, and cheese.

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