



# THE LAKELAND TIMES



## T-BIRDS BEAT HODAGS

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"THE VOICE OF THE NORTHWOODS SINCE 1891"

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## Cow T-boned by LUHS track team bus

### Coach bus with track team onboard has a bovine intervention in Portage County

By Brian Jopek  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The Lakeland Union High School (LUHS) cross country team, on its way back to Minocqua from a meet in Tomah the night of Friday, April 21, received a collective bump as the coach bus they were on hit a cow.

According to the incident report

from the Portage County Sheriff's Office, the report of the bus hitting the cow was received by the dispatch center just before 10 p.m. on April 21.

The report states the coach bus, a charter from Krug's Bus Service in Medford, was northbound on State Highway 134 when it struck the cow.

"The cow that was struck was

deceased and was in the northbound lane of (Hwy. 134)," the report states. "The cow (that was) struck had black and white coloration ... the driver and passengers were uninjured."

The report goes on to say a woman who lives nearby and owns dairy cattle told authorities the cow "likely was her cow since

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## Wisconsin Wildlife Federation holds wolf plan listening session in Prentice

By Beckie Gaskill  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Last weekend, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation held its second listening session regarding the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) draft wolf management plan. Past president Pat Quaintance said the DNR never had a true listening session where the voices of the north were heard. Largely, rural residents, who deal with wolves on a daily basis, felt quite differently about wolves than people in the southeastern corner of the state.

The first listening session took place in Solon Springs earlier this year. There were approximately 60 people

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BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES

## WALK-OFF WINNER

The Lakeland baseball team celebrates Garrett Tobias' walk-off hit in the seventh inning of their home debut against Tomahawk Thursday, April 27 at the Lakeland Union High School baseball field in Minocqua.

## Northwoods lakes in need of wind, rain for fishing opener

### Some lakes, flowages should be open

By Beckie Gaskill  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

With opening weekend of fishing just a few days away, lakes in the Northwoods are in need of wind and rain if many of them are to be ice free. According to Kurt Justice from Kurt's Island Sports, with the way the weather was cooperating a few weeks ago, he estimated lakes might be open by May 1. That did not happen, however as late season cold weather and heavy snow stopped the progression of any ice melting.

"The forecast for the week does have some 15 mile per hour winds gusting to 33," he said. "That will help. Well, it will help if it comes from the right direction and can catch an

ice edge."

Larger lakes such as Fence and Trout will likely still be iced in for opening weekend. However, some of the flowages are already showing signs of spring, with ice moving away from the shore and water moving under the ice. Small to mid-sized lakes should be open as fishing season kicks off, Justice said.

**Ice is unsafe**

Justice also warned against getting out on the ice to attempt any ice fishing on opening weekend. There have been years in the past when anglers were able to ice fish opening weekend, but that will not be the case this

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## Minocqua's committee on housing and labor preps for final report

### Committee to share 'findings' with town board May 16

By Trevor Greene  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Members of Minocqua's ad hoc committee on housing and labor met April 27 to discuss its final report and the recommendations it will include while presenting to the town board.

Housing for foreign exchange students, or J1 visa students, working in the Northwoods during the summer has been a focus of the committee. Committee members agreed at previous meetings it seems to be the "low hanging fruit" and a good place to start in mitigating the town's need for housing to support the lacking workforce of the local economy.

Some members of the community, however, have asked committee members why they would focus on J1 visa student housing when, in some business owners' eyes, seasonal workers wouldn't help them with their employment issues.

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# Track meat

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some of her cows had escaped their enclosure earlier that day” and that the woman told deputies “she had cows capable of jumping over” the property’s fence.

LUHS track coach Stephanie Strasburg said the team had been on the road for “a good hour.”

“Maybe almost an hour-and-a-half,” she said. “Kids were talking and laughing in the back of the bus and I was looking at the meet results on my phone.”

Strasburg said three other coaches were sitting in the front of the bus and she was in the second seat behind the driver.

“Everything kind of happened so fast,” she said. “I remember this great big smack or crack and I looked up right away and you could tell we hit something.”

Strasburg said she was afraid “we’d run over a car or something” and that one of the other coaches said he saw “a silhouette of something” in the road.

“By that time, it was just too late,” she said. “You could tell we’d run over it almost the length of the bus.”

The bus driver, Strasburg said, pulled over to the side of the road.

“We were like ‘Oh my gosh! What did we just hit?’” she said. “We were all pretty much staying in our seats. Some of the kids were moving to the front of the bus but we weren’t letting them get past us. Then, there was an instant smell of ... barn.”

Strasburg said the bus’s windshield wasn’t shattered but heavily cracked.

“The front panel by where you get on the bus was blown out,” she said. “You could see a hole to the outside there. Wires and everything sticking out and there was the cow’s guts on the windshield and it was definitely on the inside where the bus driver was, all over his seat and all over the coach in front of me and it kind of went down the aisle a little bit.”

Strasburg said people made sure they were OK and the bus driver was OK.

“I thought ‘Oh, my gosh, is he in shock?’” she said. “Everything leading up to the cow getting hit ... it didn’t seem like we were cruising excessively fast.”

Strasburg said she could see how something like that could happen in that part of Wisconsin and as far as the bus, she said it was probably a good thing it was a coach bus that hit the cow instead of a school bus.

“I think they’re a little bigger than a regular school bus or personal vehicles,” she said, a reference to her and other coaches at times having to transport LUHS athletes to some

games and matches this school year because of a shortage of bus drivers.

“It was about a two hour delay,” Strasburg said. “They ended up getting another coach bus and driver (from Medford) and transferred our equipment from one bus to the other.”

She said the team, aboard the replacement bus, arrived at LUHS at around 1:45 Saturday morning.

“I think our original arrival time was supposed to be 11:35 or so Friday night,” Strasburg said. “Everyone seemed in really good spirits.”

Outside of one student who complained of headaches after the incident and who she said she advised him what to look for as far as concussion protocol, there wasn’t anything she noticed at all.

Strasburg’s weekend was just beginning; she said she had a teenager to help get ready for the LUHS junior prom Saturday and a part of Sunday was spent cleaning track equipment that was in the cargo area of the bus when the cow was hit.

Some of the cow’s entrails and other matter made its way into the cargo area as the bus rolled over it.

“It did break the bottom of the bus,” Strasburg said. “Where the equipment was stored underneath.”

The bulk of the track team’s matches are on the road with only

“I remember this great big smack or crack and I looked up right away and you could tell we hit something.”

Stephanie Strasburg  
LUHS track coach



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The post-cow hit photo of the front of the coach bus taking the Lakeland Union High School track team back to Minocqua from a meet in Tomah on April 21.

one more meet at LUHS on May 16.

The hope, of course, is it doesn’t happen again.

“It’s kind of comical but then it’s kinda not,” Strasburg said. “I feel bad for whoever lost their cow and kudos to the driver. If we had hit the cow with any other part of the bus, who knows? It could have maybe tipped us a little bit.”

“We are very thankful that no one was hurt,” Barb Krug with Krug’s Bus Service told *The Lakeland Times* in an email. “All the students and coaches cooperated so well while waiting for another motor-coach to get them home.”

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## Ice

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year, he said.

The ice on most lakes is simply not good ice. While the recent snow made ice conditions look favorable, it is poor quality ice and anglers should not trust it.

“The ice if porous and it’s not safe,” he said. “I can’t emphasize it enough.”

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DEAN HALL/LAKELAND TIMES

A pair of American bald eagles land on a mostly frozen Lake Minocqua on Thursday, April 27.

## Presque Isle

31st  
Annual  
Walleye



May 19th,  
20th &  
21st, 2023  
Registration  
Fee: \$50.00  
Per Person

Registered Angler’s can pick their packets up at The Outpost café from 9am to 11am on that Friday May 19th Angler’s can also register the day of, at The Outpost Café from 9am to 11am

If you would like a registration form, contact the Presque Isle Chamber office at:  
[chamber@presqueisle.com](mailto:chamber@presqueisle.com)  
or call 715-686-2910

### REGISTRATION INCLUDES

- Commemorative Tournament Ball Cap
- Sunday Fish Fry Lunch @ 11:30 am Presque Isle Community Center
- Free entry in Raffle Prize Giveaways (on Sunday, must be present to win)