



EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/JOSH LACY

The future USS Cleveland, LCS 31, slides into the Menominee River Saturday at Finantieri Marinette Marine. The launch is the last side-style launch at the shipyard and the last planned vessel in the 31-ship Littoral Combat Ship fleet.

# CLASS AND SPLASH

## Future USS Cleveland christened, launched at FMM


**DAN KITKOWSKI**  
EagleHerald Senior Reporter

MARINETTE — Cleveland rocks. It's also got a little bounce and a whole lot of splash.

The future USS Cleveland, Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) 31, was christened and launched Saturday at Fincantieri Marinette Marine. About 3,000 invited guests — including dignitaries, shipyard officials, employees, retirees, the ship's assigned crew and other Navy personnel — gathered inside the shipyard on warm, sunny spring day

The ship's sponsor, Robyn Modly, christened the ship shortly before 11:30 a.m. with a successful swing of a sparkling wine bottle on the bow. Moments later, the ship was launched into the Menominee River. Modly is the wife of Thomas Modly, former acting secretary of the U.S. Navy.

The future USS Cleveland is the 16th



**LCS-31 SPECIFICATIONS**

Following are some vital statistics for the future USS Cleveland.

- Length: 387.6 feet
- Beam (overall): 57.7 feet
- Draft: 14.1 feet
- Full load displacement: 3,500 metric tons
- Propulsion: Combined diesel and gas turbine with steerable water jet propulsion
- Speed: Greater than 40 knots
- Core crew: 50; accommodations for 98 sailors
- Flight deck: More than 1.5 times that of traditional surface combatants

EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/PAUL WILLIAMS

Robyn Modly, sponsor of the future USS Cleveland, christens the ship by smashing a bottle of sparkling wine on the bow. Modly is the wife of Thomas Modly, former acting secretary of the U.S. Navy.

Freedom-variant LCS and the 31st in the class. It also is the last side launch that will take place at FMM.

“It's an end of an era, these side launches are visibly spectacular and they're a lot of fun to do,” said FMM Chief Executive Officer Mark Vandroff. “It's the way people have put ships into the water for literally thousands of years

— with basically the same technology. We're a modern shipyard and we have to adapt to the way of the future.”

A ship lift that is under construction is a key component to the future, Vandroff said.

“Once that's done we will be able to

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### SPORTS

Zembra zips into Menominee HOF.

A20

Good morning, **Ann Buscher!**  
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### DEATHS

**Walker, Linda** Veronica

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### TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH LOW  
**40 | 30**

Cloudy with a mix of rain and snow.

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