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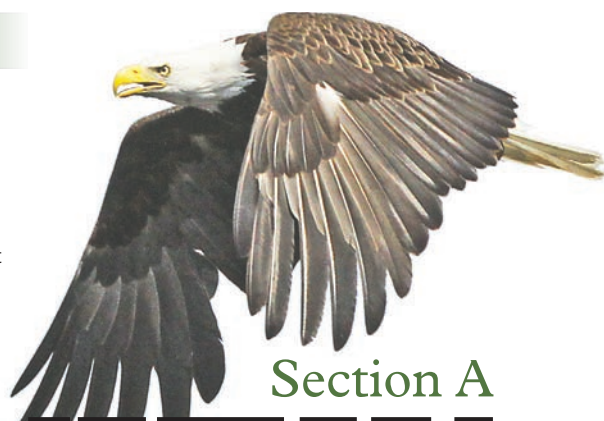
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### Three Lakes grad sinks \$5,000 shot

■ Cole Melton made a basket to win Forward Bank's half-court challenge. Story on pg 9A.



Section A

# VILAS COUNTY NEWS-REVIEW

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1, 2023

## Five snowmobile fatalities reported in Vilas, Oneida

### Two additional deaths this month in the state

By MICHELLE DREW  
EDITOR

January was a deadly month for snowmobile riders in the North Woods, with five fatalities related to riding snowmobiles reported by officials at the Vilas and Oneida county sheriff's offices and Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Late last week, fatalities were reported taking place in the towns of Phelps, Newbold, Nokomis, and Arbor Vitae, with another death the previous week on private property in Vilas County.

According to Chief Deputy Patrick Schmidt with the Vilas County Sheriff's Office, a 911 call was received Jan. 26 at 2:27 p.m. regarding a 59-year-old female from the Phelps area who had struck a tree.

Officers at the scene identified the snowmobile had gone off the trail and struck a tree on a trail near marker 920 in the town of Phelps. Schmidt said that life-saving efforts were unsuccessful and the operator was pronounced deceased. The name of the deceased has not been released pending notification of the family.

Assisting with the investigation was the Vilas County Sheriff's Office, Phelps Fire Department and Ambulance, Vilas County Medical Examiner, and DNR.

Oneida County Sheriff's Captain Tyler Young report-

ed the death of 57-year-old Michael J. Green of Oak Lawn, Ill., on Jan. 26.

According to a release from the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, staff responded to a call of a snowmobile accident near the intersection of Highway 47 and Bridge Road in the town of Newbold.

Young stated in a press release that upon arrival, deputies were able to determine that a group of snowmobiles were crossing Highway 47 from east to west when the last snowmobile in the group was struck by a pickup truck traveling southbound.

As a result of the collision, the 57-year-old male operator of the snowmobile was pronounced deceased at the scene. The vehicle operator was treated for minor injuries at the scene by the Rhine-

lander Fire Department and released from the scene.

The portion of Highway 47 where the accident occurred was closed for several hours after DNR officials requested a reconstruction of the accident by Wisconsin State Patrol.

The Oneida County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Newbold Fire Department, Wisconsin State Patrol, Rhinelander Fire Department, DNR, Oneida County Highway Department, and the Oneida County Medical Examiner's Department.

Another fatality occurred Jan. 27 at approximately 11:10 p.m. in the town of Nokomis on Trail 51 south of intersection 300 near the intersection

To DEATHS, Pg. 2A



Y'GOTTA REGATTA —Pitlik's Resort hosted its winter regatta last weekend drawing hundreds of participants out despite chilly temperatures. More photos on pg. 1B. —STAFF PHOTO



FRIGID FLYING — Jumpers braved frigid temperatures and icy waters at the inaugural Bigfoot Plunge held Saturday on Big Stone Lake in Three Lakes to support the Three Lakes Fire Department. More photos on pg. 7A. —Staff Photo By RACHEL WOOD

Lake in Three Lakes to support the Three Lakes Fire Department. More photos on pg. 7A. —Staff Photo By RACHEL WOOD

## Downtown historic district proposed at recent meeting

By MICHELLE DREW  
EDITOR

The first step toward the possibility of establishing a historic district in downtown Eagle River was taken at a recent meeting put on by representatives from the Eagle River Historical Society (ERHS), Eagle River Revitalization Program (ERRP) and Wisconsin Historical Society.

Having a historical district can provide great benefits to towns, including special tax credits to property owners, property value increases and a boost in tourism, according to Elizabeth Hilton, National Register coordinator for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), part of the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS).

Hilton explained that the National Register is an official list of significant places including historic districts to individual sites or houses, archaeological sites, and any place that has historical significance within the state. It (WHS).

Hilton led the meeting

virtually after the snowy conditions Jan. 19 prevented her from driving from Madison to attend in person. She works closely with local government, consultants, historical societies and individual property owners to coordinate eligible properties from the application process all the way through the final approval and listing with the National Parks Service.

Hilton explained that the National Register is an official list of significant places including historic districts to individual sites or houses, archaeological sites, and any place that has historical significance within the state. It (WHS).

To HISTORIC, Pg. 4A

## Special event set Saturday in lieu of canceled bikini run

By JACKI GOEBEL  
ST. GERMAIN CORRESPONDENT

ST. GERMAIN—Although the 2023 annual Hiller's Radar Run was canceled due to poor ice conditions, a special event to promote the hard work of the women and men who take part in and support the Knockers Bikini Run will be held Saturday, Feb. 4, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the St. Germain Community Center.

The bikini races have always been a big attraction of the radar run weekend activities, raising thousands of dollars to support breast cancer survivors.

According to Radar Run Director Amy Greenberg, the Feb. 4 event allows the players to turn in the donations

they have worked all year to raise, and to honor them for their hard work.

The event will include local musicians, a bonfire and concessions. Lakeland Powersports, a large supporter of Hiller's Radar Run, is sponsoring the event and will have merchandise available. Polaris ambassadors will be present.

The bikini run is an event where participants sign up, raise funds throughout the year, then race in their swimwear on snowmobiles at speeds more than 100 mph. This race has gathered large

To BIKINI Pg. 8A

## Sled dog races return to Land O' Lakes

By STEPHANIE DYE  
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

The 42nd annual Three Bear Sled Dog Races are scheduled to return to Land O' Lakes for a weekend of racing and fun Feb. 4 and 5.

In addition, many organizations, businesses and volunteers have planned numerous community activities throughout the town to compliment the event.

Race organizer Jeff Lewison, along with the sled dog race committee, has spent the last few months finalizing details for the thrilling weekend of dog races.

"There is a lot of planning, organizing and trail building that goes into the event," explained Lewison. "The committee is very grateful for the assistance of numerous volunteers and

To SLED DOG, Pg. 6A



Recent snowfall bodes well for spectators and race fans to attend the 42nd running of the

Three Bear Sled Dog Races this weekend in Land O' Lakes. —STAFF PHOTO