

## LIFESTYLE



7fifteen Motorworks' Troy Indy Special 007 caught the eye of famous car collector Jay Leno while displayed at a car show in Rhode Island. The fabrication team for the Indy Special

includes, from left, Dean Larson, Brad Maney (kneeling), Mike Maney, and owners Robert Kendall and John Kendall.

—Staff Photos By STEPHANIE DYE

# Three Lakes custom cars receive national recognition

By STEPHANIE DYE  
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Demanding presence with its sleek curves and luxurious appearance, the custom-built Troy Indy Special manufactured at 7fifteen Motorworks in Three Lakes has recently been gaining well-deserved national recognition.

Father-son team, Bob and John Kendall, owners of 7fifteen, created the business in 2019 that simply started with their shared passion for cars and a drive to contribute and support the local community.

"We owned the building and we knew we wanted to start a business that would provide jobs and economic growth within our community," said owner, John Kendall. "Our love for cars motivated us to seek out a business related to the automotive industry, and the 1959 Troy Roadster we purchased at a car auction ended up being the inspiration we needed."

The roadster, originally designed by Wally Troy, provided the duo with the base framework for the newly designed Troy Indy Special. The original roadster was 3D scanned by Scarbo Performance to supply the framework for the new design. The cars share roughly 70% similarity in bodywork.

"We set out to create a

hand-built, high-quality vehicle from the ground up," added John. "With the expertise and support from our crew, I think we have done just that."

The team is comprised of the car enthusiast owners, the Kendalls, brothers, Brad and Mike Maney and Dean Larson.

"These guys are really the entire reason we exist," said Bob of his team. "Brad and Mike have been working for me since they were teenagers. Their attention to detail is outstanding and their ingenuity towards creating these cars has put our company where it is today."

The total building process for one car, without custom options, takes approximately four months. The Troy Indy Special is built from the ground up at the company's facility in Three Lakes. Beginning with a TIG-welded space frame chassis, aluminum bodywork and innovative options on horsepower for the engine, 7fifteen creates a custom roadster uniquely capable of quick acceleration while boasting comfort.

Exterior and interior options offer premium cosmetic customization to finish off the vehicle and provide buyers a high-performance car lavished in tailored luxury, a unique quality that most car collectors seek.

The Kendalls themselves are avid car collectors. With



The Indy Special's custom spaceframe chassis is welded together at the manufacturing facility in Three Lakes.

approximately 45 cars in their personal collection, they opted for their company to offer a limited run of Troy Indy Special automobiles. Only 33 cars will be created on the first run, several of which have been sold and custom ordered.

Many other car collectors from across the country have noticed the Indy Special, including the well-known automotive enthusiast Jay Leno.

In September 2022, the team attended the Audrain Newport Concours & Motor Week event in Newport, Rhode Island with their Indy Special No. 007. Leno's show, "Jay Leno's Garage," was a big-name

sponsor for the event and Leno himself was participating by presenting awards at the show.

"The car did its job," John commented. "Jay Leno sought the vehicle out and spoke with my dad and I about the building process and finished roadster. Soon after, we were invited to California to be featured on his show."

By December, a black Indy Special was on its way to Burbank, Calif., where Bob and John would meet their roadster for filming.

"I was nervous," John said of the experience. "But Jay made the interview process effortless. He is phenomenal at what he does. He is humble and his down-to-earth mentality, especially towards cars, made everything about the filming easy."

Vehicle enthusiasts can check out the Troy Indy Special or watch the YouTube episode filmed with Leno on the company's website, 7fifteenmotorworks.com.

"It was truly an honor to be featured on an episode of 'Jay Leno's Garage' and a once-in-a-lifetime experience to be surrounded by one of the most extensive car collections in the world," added Bob.

The Kendall's collection still includes their original Troy Roadster find, as well as several other unique vehicles they have accumulated over the years. Many of their fondest memories include cars, including a car show tradition at Elkhart Lake and road trip adventure in a 1939 Alfa Romeo.

When asked what his favorite car was, Bob answered in true car enthusiast style by simply saying, "all of them."



Dean Larson displays the manual for the Troy Indy Special. Larson was the lead writer for the book, spending countless hours creating a detailed informative guide for the car.

## Free tax services to be offered at library soon

Tax service aid will be offered on Wednesdays at the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library in Eagle River.

The service will begin Feb. 8 and continue each Wednesday until April 12. The library is located at 203 N. Main St.

in Eagle River.

Tax preparation is available for low-income households, with a focus on persons over the age of 50.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 715-479-3727.

## Federal government ends extra FoodShare benefits

The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2023 passed by Congress in late December 2022 will end a federal program that has been providing additional benefits to households enrolled in Wisconsin's FoodShare program.

February will be the last month families will receive the extra benefits.

FoodShare households have been receiving the maximum amount for their household size or \$95, whichever is more. In recent months, an average of approximately \$80 million has been distributed monthly to help almost 400,000 households across the state struggling to afford food.

"The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program that funds FoodShare is a crucial federal support to individuals and families, particularly in times like these when higher food prices are straining everyone's budgets, but especially those of our most vulnerable," said Department of Health Services Deputy Secretary Deb Standridge. "These additional funds provided to eligible Wisconsinites because of Covid have made a real difference. With Congress deciding to end these federal funds, community support for local resources like food pantries

and food banks will be more important than ever."

During the last two years, there have been historic federal cost of living increases.

"We expect the end of these extra benefits will impact not only individuals and families, but also retailers and farmers who accept benefits," said Stephanie Jung Dorfman, executive director of Feeding Wisconsin, a statewide association of six Feeding America food banks that serve the state's 72 counties. "During tough times, such as the pandemic and high inflation, FoodShare has been key to mitigating food insecurity. Regional food banks and local food distribution organizations will work to fill the gap, despite greater demand. Our network food banks and pantries are now gearing up to source and distribute enough food to ensure Wisconsinites have resources to turn to as they try to make ends meet."

Regular FoodShare benefit amounts are based on information like household size, income and expenses.

Anyone who needs additional nutritional support can call 211 or 877-947-2211 to find a local food pantry.

For more information, visit [dhs.wisconsin.gov](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov).

## Award FROM PAGE 1B

ents included the Vilas County News-Review and Prince of Peace for operation of its Backpack Program.

"This is the first time the Crimson FORK has been awarded to an individual," Pokrandt continued. "There could be no more deserving recipient than Betsy Spencer."

Spencer said she was humbled to be recognized with the award.

"And I am graciously accepting this on behalf of the entire Vilas Food Pantry family. I am privileged to have had the opportunity to serve," she added.

In addition to her help at the Vilas Food Pantry, Reach-Spencer has given her time to many other organizations in the North Woods. She acted as co-organizer for

Cranberry Fest volunteers for 19 years, spent six years on the Nicolet College Board of Trustees, and served for six years on the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce Board where she was president for two years.

She was also awarded title of Woman of the Year by the chamber in 2003, and spent more than 20 years volunteering as the commissioner for Eagle River Light and Water.

Individuals wishing to financially support the Vilas Food Pantry can mail a contribution to: Vilas Food Pantry, P.O. Box 761, Eagle River, WI 54521. Anyone who would like to volunteer their time at the pantry should contact Sandy Weber at [gandsweb@charter.net](mailto:gandsweb@charter.net).

FORK is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. To learn more about FORK's efforts to support children from food insecure homes, visit [feedourruralkids.org](http://feedourruralkids.org).

## Mule FROM PAGE 1B

as a Vodka buck.

The winners of the competition will be announced at 8:30 p.m.

The Mule is traditionally served in a copper cup and

participants will take home a souvenir copper mug commemorating the event.

Ticket cost is \$85 and tickets will not be available at the door.

Patrons must be at least 21 years old.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [eagle.river.org](http://eagle.river.org) or call 800-359-6315.

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