

AV-W custodian creates carpet art and classroom smiles

Jake Schexnaydre
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

They say that cleanliness is next to godliness, but what if there was an art form specifically for that sentiment?

Custodian Will Foss at Arbor Vitae Woodruff Elementary School has made a hobby out of making artwork in one of the classrooms every morning, using only a vacuum cleaner and a large carpet.

For this past holiday season, he made several pieces of carpet art work in the classroom of K-8 Spanish teacher Lauren Beversdorf. These pictures include a snowman, a penguin, and a Christmas stocking.

Foss has been making carpet art ever since the beginning of the 2022 school year at AV-W Elementary. He initially drew sunrises and sunsets on the classroom carpet, but over time, his designs would get more intricate.

Every time he does it, he gets quite a few positive reactions from the students. Some of them would take a peek into the classroom to see what's on the rug, even though they don't have a class there.

"Every day that I walk in," Lauren Beversdorf said, "I almost scream someday, because I'm like, 'Oh, my gosh!' in surprise of what he did that day."

Foss hasn't said too much about the construction process, as he felt explaining all of the details about it would, in his own words, "take away a bit of the magic." However, he does keep the process simple.

"I just kind of think of what I might want to do for the day," Foss explained. "I try and either find an

image or think about what I want to do, and I just draw it."

To begin making the image, he vacuums it as any custodian would. Although, when he does it, he makes sure that the fabric is pulled over to one side. Next, he draws the image he has in mind as he vacuums in the opposite direction. When describing the process, he compared this to flipping over multi-colored sequins.

Lauren Beversdorf and her students have always been delighted with his designs. She describes him as "one of the kindest, most hard-working, and genuine human beings."

"It's awesome because it's not always sunny here in the Northwoods, and it's almost like I get to walk into my classroom, and there's my sun-



JAKE SCHEXNAYDRE/
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AV-W Elementary School custodian Will Foss.



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AV-W Elementary School Spanish teacher Lauren Beversdorf.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOGRAPHS

Vacuum drawing of a snowman.

"It's awesome because it's not always sunny here in the Northwoods, and it's almost like I get to walk into my classroom and there's my sunshine for the day."

Lauren Beversdorf, AV-W Elementary Spanish teacher

shine for the day," Beversdorf explained.

When asked if he could see himself continuing to make carpet art for a long time, Beversdorf responded, "I hope it doesn't put pressure on him, to feel like he has to,

but it's exciting that he does it."

As for Foss, his response was simple, "As long as the rug stands and they'll allow me to, I will."

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Vacuum drawing of a penguin.



Vacuum drawing of a Christmas stocking, with a kitten inside and the caption "Merry Xmas!" on top.

AREA EVENTS CALENDAR

Want to submit an event to the calendar? Email editor@lakelandtimes.com

Tuesday, Jan. 17

MANITOWISH WATERS: OJIBWE STORYTELLING SERIES GATHERING AND DISCUSSION- 7 to 8 p.m., North Lakeland Discovery Center, Bobcat cabin. In Ojibwe culture, winter is storytelling season. Join Valerie Barber, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe, along with the North Lakeland Discovery Center, as we partner with the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHA) and the Manitowish Waters Historical Society (MWHS) to bring you a viewing gathering opportunity of the 2023 Ojibwe Storytelling Series. A Discovery Center Naturalist and members of the MWHS will be on campus streaming these weekly sessions featuring Ojibwe storytellers and will be around afterwards to discuss each event. Free. Pre-registration is re-

quired by 1/15/23. Info: Licia@DiscoveryCenter.Net.

Wed., Jan. 18

MINOCQUA: STORYTIME- 10 a.m., Minocqua Public Library. StoryTime includes stories, finger plays, flannel boards, songs, and more for children ages 0-4 and their caregivers.

Thursday, Jan. 19

MANITOWISH WATERS: WINTER SPA WORKSHOP- 6 to 8 p.m., Short winter days and dry air can take a toll on us. It's important to take time for yourself and do something fun! Join Naturalist Licia for a few hours of self-care and make some fun products to take home with you! Set up as stations, we will spend the evening making a winter-scented candle, balsam

sachets, foot soak and lip balm/cuticle cream. Space is limited and pre-registration is required by 1/15. \$30/member of NLDC or MWHS and \$35/non-member. Info: call 715-543-2085 or visit www.discoverycenter.net.

MINOCQUA: WIGGLE, GIGGLE AND SHAKE- 10 to 11 a.m., Minocqua Public Library. Children's Wisconsin staff will offer Wiggle, Giggle and Shake for children ages 0-4 and their caregivers who are invited to sing, dance and play in the library's program room. Info: call 715-356-4437.

EAGLE RIVER: ENCHANTED DOLL CLUB- 1 p.m., Kalmar Center. Program on teddy bears and dolls made by the Steiff toy company of Germany. Learn about the history and evolution of the teddy bear. Info: call Sally Young 715-356-9399 or Judy

Wainwright 715-482-9804.

Friday, Jan. 20

ARBOR VITAE: CROSS COUNTRY CRUISERS WINTERFEST 2023 - 4 to 9 p.m., Cross Country Cruisers Clubhouse and Barn, 1503 Helminski Road. Food, beverages, music, raffles, silent auction, groomer rides, antique snowmobile display & much more fun planned for you! Help support our local snowmobile club keep our snow equipment and trails some of the best in Wisconsin!

Saturday, Jan. 21

ARBOR VITAE: CROSS COUNTRY CRUISERS WINTERFEST 2023 - Noon, Cross Country Cruisers Clubhouse and Barn, 1503 Helminski Road. Food, beverages, music, raffles, silent auc-

tion, groomer rides, antique snowmobile display & much more fun planned for you! Help support our local snowmobile club keep our snow equipment and trails some of the best in Wisconsin!

WISCONSIN: FREE FISHING WEEKEND- All day Saturday and Sunday. On Free Fishing Weekend you can drill a hole and drop a line without a fishing license, trout stamp or salmon stamp. While you can fish without a license, all fishing regulations remain in effect, including seasons, bag limits and length limits. Info: visit www.dnr.wisconsin.gov.

MINOCQUA: LEGO CLUB- 10 a.m. to noon. Minocqua Public Library. Free build or participate in fun challenges! Info: call 715-356-4437.

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