

Happy HOLIDAYS

Granton
Greenwood

from the
TRG

Loyal
Spencer

Tribune Record Gleaner

WARM WISHES TO YOU AND YOURS

From our family to yours, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



Scott Schmidt, Agent
409 E Division St.
Neillsville, WI 54456
(715) 743-2211
sschmid1@amfam.com



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VALORIE BRECHT/STAFF PHOTO

Ring in the season

Loyal Elementary students jingle bells for their Christmas concert held last Friday in the Loyal High School gym. Audience members enjoyed such classics as "Jingle Bells," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," "Joy to the World" and "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas". Shown are (l-r) Grace, Cole, Paisley, Logan and Onyx. (Per district policy, only first names were given.) For more photos from the concert, see page 20.

Winter storm leads to widespread power outages

By Valorie Brecht

Last week's winter storm system packed a powerful punch, leading to downed power lines and widespread outages.

The area got slammed with freezing rain Tuesday night, followed by the season's first major snowfall Wednesday night and another round of snowfall Thursday night. As of 9:39 Thursday morning, about 71,000 Wisconsinites were without power, including thousands in Clark County.

The number of Xcel Energy customers without power peaked at about 30,000 in northwest Wisconsin mid-Thursday morning. This included 4,800 customers in Xcel's west-central region, with outages in Granton, Chili, Neillsville, Colby, Abbotsford, Dorchester and the surrounding rural areas.

Clark Electric, which serves customers in Clark County and five surrounding counties, also reported widespread outages. The company had about 1,400 customers without power at the peak of the outages, with the majority of those in Clark County, including customers in Neillsville, Stanley and rural Greenwood. As of 12:12 p.m. Friday, 331 customers in Clark County were still waiting for their power to be restored.

"Most of the snow has been pretty heavy and wet. So the snow weighs down the tree branches and they fall on lines. We've had a lot of lines down and poles down," said Christine Ouellette of Xcel Energy.

As one example, a tree fell on Highway 98 west of Spencer around noon Wednesday. The village crew went to clean up the tree and while they were working, another tree fell on the road. At 3:10 p.m. Thursday, village administrator Paul Hensch reported that about 35 percent of the village had lost power over the last 24 hours and about 250 customers were without power at that point.

The storm also disrupted emergency communications. Power was lost in Neillsville. Xcel Energy reported an outage for the city of Neillsville starting at approximately 7 a.m. Thursday. As a result, the Clark County Courthouse closed to the public for the day. The courthouse has an emergency generator, but that failed around 9:45 a.m., so the sheriff's office dispatch center had to reroute 911 calls to surrounding counties. At around 11:30 a.m., the power came back on. However, unfortunately that was not the last outage the sheriff's office would have to contend with that day. Power was again lost from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m., per data from Xcel. The dispatch center again had to reroute calls.

Clark Electric CEO Tim Stewart said the last time he had seen power outages of this magnitude was a year to the day earlier. Eight tornadoes touched down in west-central Wisconsin on Dec. 15, 2021, including two EF-2s (wind speeds of 111-135 miles per hour) near Neillsville and one near Stanley. By midnight the night of the storm, approximately 3,450 Clark Electric customers were without power.

While last week's storm did not cause as much

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Public Service Commission requests feedback on broadband map

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC or Commission) is encouraging individuals to identify inaccuracies and challenge the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) draft of the national broadband map by Jan. 13. Since unveiling the pre-production draft of the new broadband in November, the FCC has called on consumers, state, local and Tribal government entities, and other stakeholders can help verify the accuracy of the data.

The new map is the most granular and up-to-date federal map of where broadband is and is not available across the country. The FCC's new broadband maps will be used to determine the allocation of Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) funds that Wisconsin will receive to build broadband infrastructure.

The new map is available at <https://broadbandmap.gov/>. Residents can type their address and check the map. If the information is inaccurate, residents can submit a challenge by filling out the Availability Challenge Form. Instructions are available at How to Submit an Availabil-

ity Challenge on the FCC website.

"An accurate map that shows broadband access in our state is critical to ensure Wisconsin receives our fair share of federal funding," said PSC Chairperson Rebecca Cameron Valcq. "Local leaders and members of the public know their communities best, which is why we are earnestly calling on them to get involved in the broadband mapping challenge process. It's time to badger the FCC and secure this funding."

On Dec. 12, Gov. Tony Evers and PSC Chairperson Valcq announced the state will receive more than \$5 million to begin planning for the deployment and adoption of affordable, equitable, and reliable high-speed internet in Wisconsin through the BEAD and Digital Equity Act, under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Wisconsin could expect an allocation of \$700 million to \$1.1 billion for broadband expansion under BEAD.

The PSC's Wisconsin Broadband Office is available to answer questions and share resources at PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov.



2023 Special Event & Wedding Guide

Large formatted guide will include articles and tips for the future couple

Inserted into five newspapers on **Jan. 25 & 26, 2023**

- Courier Sentinel
- Star News
- Tribune-Phonograph
- The Record-Review
- Tribune Record Gleaner

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Tuesday,
January 10

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Storm, from page 1

damage as the freak storm system a year ago, it still caused significant problems.

"We were having a pretty good year in terms of outages and were actually on track for our best year in five years until this came along," said Stewart. "We had crews out since Tuesday evening... Our crews have to be rotated so they stay safe. As the power has been restored in one area, another line will trip off, so it's been slow going. There's definitely a lot of branches and trees on the road."

Preparation for power outages

A storm like this reminds consumers how much they depend on electricity and the need to plan ahead in the event the unexpected happens.

People should call the power company if their power goes out. They should avoid going near downed lines and assume the line is live. It is also important to keep one's natural gas meter clear as well as keeping the sidewalk and driveway clear of snow.

"People should have a preparedness kit ready ahead of time in case the power goes

out... The kit should include flashlights, radios and things like that," said Stewart.

Other tips include avoiding opening the refrigerator as much as possible, so cold foods stay cold, and having candles, lanterns or another non-electric light source.

"If you're going to use a generator, make sure it's hooked up properly and properly vented," said Stewart. "If it requires a double-throw switch, make sure its operational and working correctly."

People should take care when using space heaters. They should make sure the heater has the label showing it is listed by a recognized testing laboratory and read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels. Never leave a space heater unattended. The power companies also ask for the public's patience as they work to restore power.

"Our crews work extremely hard in less-than-ideal conditions. We understand it's not fun to have the power out. But we will get the power restored as quickly as possible — that's our goal and our crews work very hard to do that," said Ouellette.



VALORIE BRECHT/STAFF PHOTO

Last week's storm left the outdoors dressed in white like a Winter Wonderland, but also resulted in heavy-laden tree branches that weighed down on power lines, like these near Spencer.



Weezer

Clark County Humane Society Adopt-A-Pet

W3296 St Hwy 73, PO Box 127, Neillsville WI 54456
715-743-4550 • www.cchs-petshelter.org

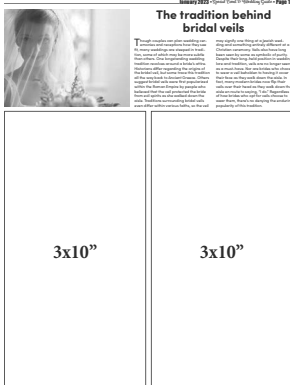
Open hours: M, W, F & Sat. 12 - 3 p.m. • State License # (268235-DS)

Meet Weezer, the CCHS Pet of the Week! Weezer is about five months old and is a very sweet girl who weighs 6.3 pounds. She has a pretty short-haired Brown Tabby coat with beautiful markings and stripings. Weezer came to CCHS with her friends Itty Bitty, Boots and Miss Kitty when there were just too many stray kitties hanging around her previous home. Weezer really loves to be with people and would love a new family of her very own. She is quite adorable with a fun-loving and affectionate personality. She'd love to have new friends to play with and then a soft, cozy spot to snuggle in for cat naps. If you're looking for love and snuggles, Weezer is your girl! You can submit your adoption application on our website: www.cchs-petshelter.org/applying-to-adopt.



If you are interested in sponsoring the CCHS Adopt-A-Pet ad, please call 715-223-2342.

2023 Special Event & Wedding Guide



Reach 12,500 Homes By Advertising In Our Larger Formatted

Guide which includes articles and tips for the future couple

Inserted In Our Five Newspapers On

January 25 & 26, 2023

- Courier Sentinel
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- The Record-Review
- Tribune Record Gleaner

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Courier Sentinel

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TRIBUNE-PHONOGRAPH
TRIBUNE RECORD GLEANER
TP Printing Company, Inc.
715-223-2342

GREENWOOD AREA LIBRARY

"A Place to Branch Out" www.greenwoodpubliclibrary.org

Current Hours: Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm

We will be closed from Dec. 23-26.

Dec. 27-30: Kids stop in to make a New Year's Noise Maker

Jan. 2: Closed

Jan. 9: Branching Out Book Club, 6:30 pm

Jan. 13: Recipe Round Up, 11 am

Free coloring pages and a new January Scavenger Hunt!

EARLY HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Newspapers for December 28 & 29, 2022

- CLASSIFIED & DISPLAY Deadline For All Newspapers Fri., Dec. 23 at 2 p.m.

Shoppers for December 26 & 27, 2022

- West Central WI Shopper & Star News Shopper **DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED** Deadline: Wed., Dec. 21 at 3 p.m.
- Central WI Shopper **DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED** Deadline..... Thurs., Dec. 22 at Noon

Newspapers for January 4 & 5, 2023

- CLASSIFIED & DISPLAY Deadline For All Newspapers Fri., Dec. 30 at 2 p.m.

Shoppers for January 2 & 3, 2023

- West Central WI Shopper & Star News Shopper **DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED** Deadline: Wed., Dec. 28 at 3 p.m.
- Central WI Shopper **DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED** Deadline..... Thurs., Dec. 29 at Noon

Closed Monday, December 26
Closed Monday, January 2

If you have any questions, please call an advertising representative for more details.

TP Printing Co., Inc.

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