

SO LONG, SCOOPS

Longtime owner John Wettstein talks about his health scare

DAN KITKOWSKI
EagleHerald Editor

MARINETTE — When you've owned successful businesses for nearly four decades — and never taken a vacation, much less a single day off — you don't stay home if you're a bit under the weather.

That was the thought process of John Wettstein, who along with his wife Beth, owned and operated Scoops Sports Cafe, 2000 Cleveland Ave., Marinette, since 1994.

Wettstein said he hadn't been feeling well a few days before Christmas. "I wouldn't admit to it, I just kept on working. It was Christmas and I had candy to sell," he said last week from his room at the Luther Home where he is undergoing physical therapy. "But I just kept on working and it finally took its toll."

Two days before Christmas, in the evening and alone at his business, Wettstein sat on a bench in his sports-themed cafe. He couldn't get up, so he called his brother-in-law and sister-in-law. The brother-in-law is Chris Lesperance, a veteran of the Marinette County Sheriff's Office who knows a thing or two about emergency situations.

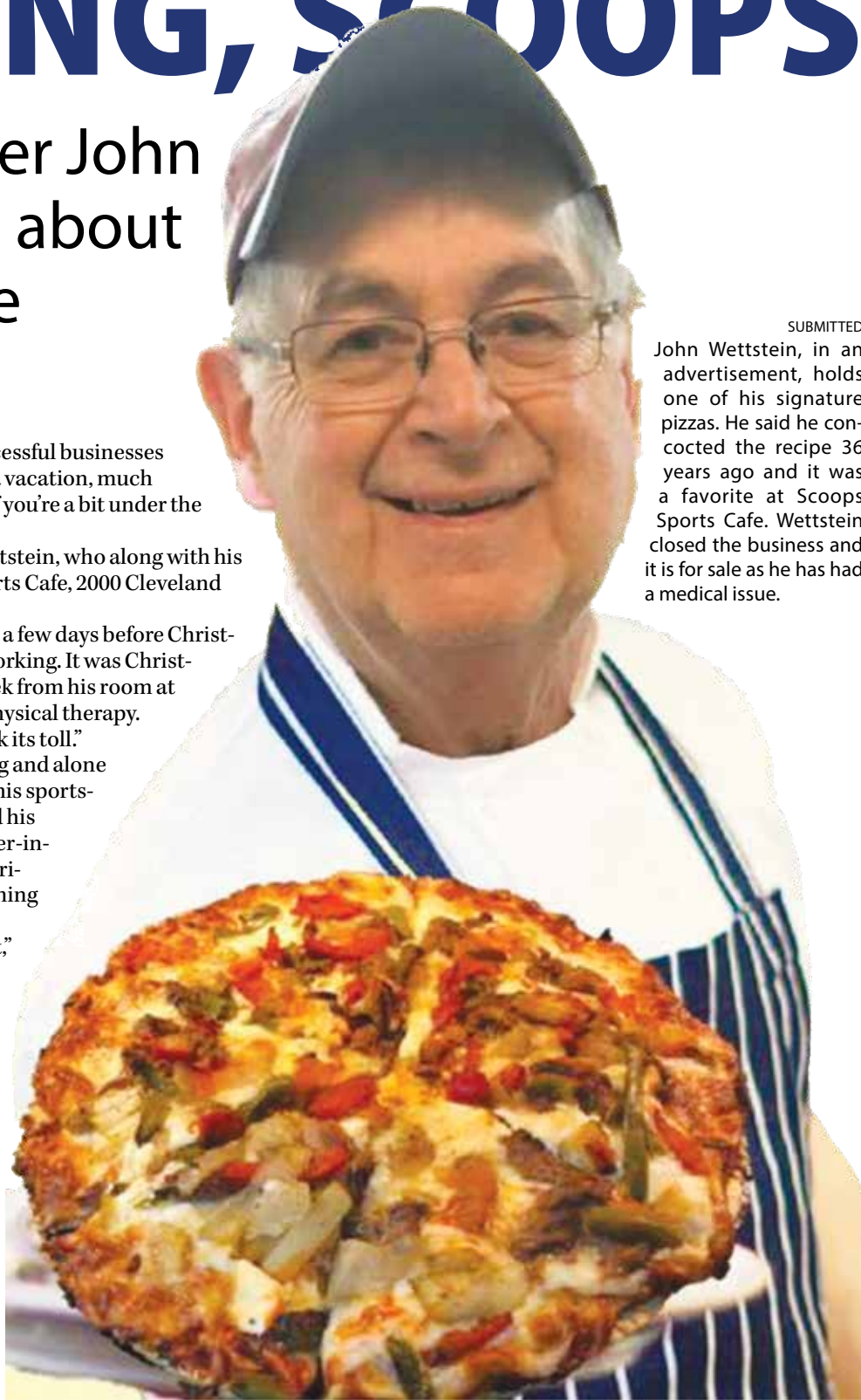
"They tried to get me up and they couldn't," Wettstein explained. "My legs were just nothing. They made me take an ambulance. Sitting on the bench ... it was kind of scary."

Wettstein was diagnosed with sepsis, which is defined as a serious condition resulting from the presence of harmful microorganisms in the blood or other tissues and the body's response to their presence, potentially leading to the malfunctioning of various organs, shock and death.

Yes, it was serious.

Wettstein said doctors told him sepsis often originates from a cut on the body. "I

More **SCOOPS** | A2



SUBMITTED
John Wettstein, in an advertisement, holds one of his signature pizzas. He said he concocted the recipe 36 years ago and it was a favorite at Scoops Sports Cafe. Wettstein closed the business and it is for sale as he has had a medical issue.

GOTTALENT?

Auditions scheduled for area event.

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SPORTS

Bulldog boys rout Maroons.

PAGE A16

Good morning, **Jarod Markiewicz!**
Thank you for subscribing to the EagleHerald

DEATHS

None reported.

TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH LOW

29 | **21**

Mostly cloudy, slight chance of snow

More on A7

PFAS study shows concentration levels

Tyco reps defend action taken by the company

ERIN NOHA
EagleHerald Staff Writer

MARINETTE — Little River had the highest PFAS concentrations compared to Menominee and Peshtigo rivers,

according to a recent study conducted by UW-Madison researchers.

The study also revealed that the activated carbon treatment system near the Luther Home in Marinette "remains ineffective." Researchers obtained samples from two sites near the system — one upstream from the system and one downstream in Ditch B, which the system treats.

"We told them that before they ever built it," said Doug Oitzinger, an alderman on the Marinette Common Council and member of Save Our Water SOH2O, an activist group. "This is too small."

In September, JCI unveiled its \$25 million Groundwater Extraction & Treatment System (GETS) — not to be confused with the activated carbon treatment system behind

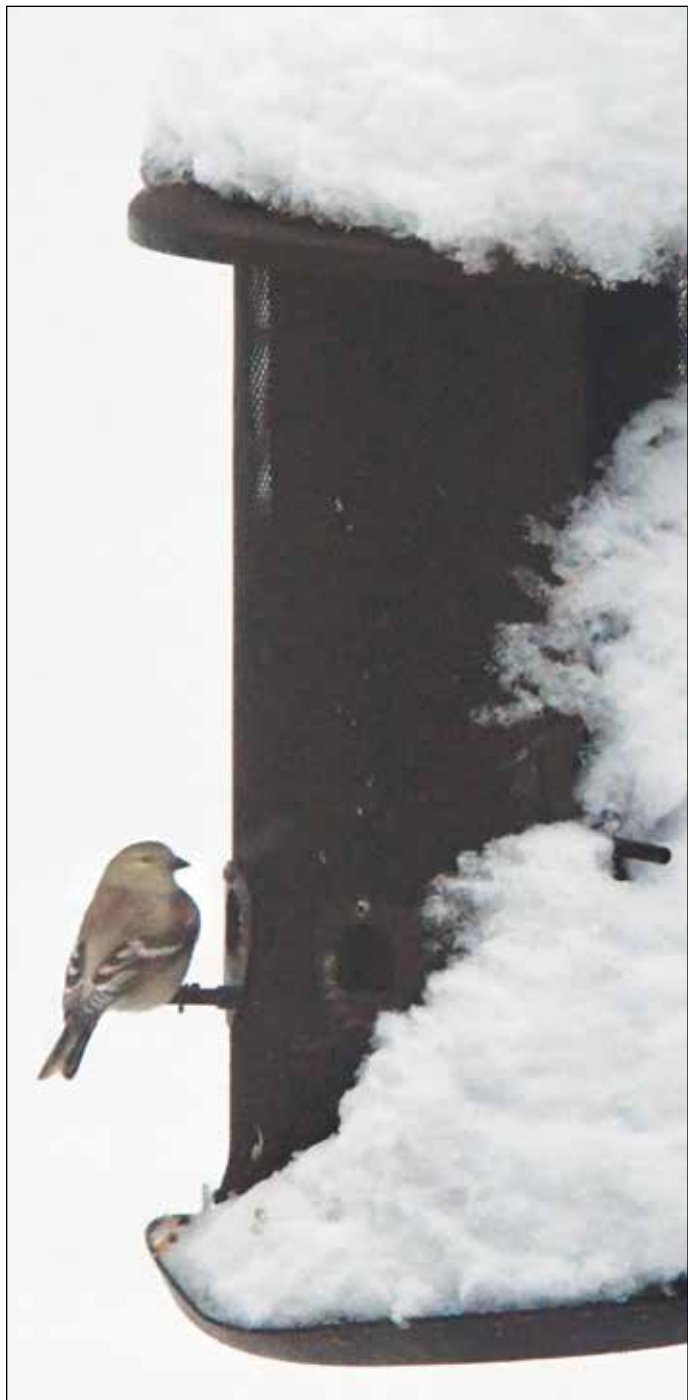
the Northland Lutheran Retirement Community — to reduce the amount of PFAS in the contaminated groundwater before it reached the surface waters, including the bay of Green Bay, said Kathleen Cantillon, director of environmental communications and issue management at JCI.

"Tyco has stepped up and

More **PFAS** | A3

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COLD MEAL



EAGLEHERALD CONTRIBUTOR/PAUL WILLIAMS

A finch looks to battle cold as it dines at a feeder recently in Porterfield.

'Our Community Talent Show' raises funds

Proceeds go to arts, music at Menominee schools

ERIN NOHA
EagleHerald Staff Writer

MENOMINEE — The Beatles. Prince. Led Zeppelin. And you.

The Marinette Menominee Rotary and the Menominee Kiwanis Club will host "Our Community Talent Show" at 7 p.m. on Feb. 18 at Blesch Auditorium, 1200 11th Ave., Menominee.

People can audition on a first-come, first-serve basis on Saturday, Feb. 4, from noon to 4 p.m. at Blesch Auditorium, with a sign-up sheet at the location. Microphones and speakers will be provided. But it's not open to just musicians — those accordion skills could be put to good use.

"We would love a true variety of acts — if you can juggle, tell jokes, if you're in a dance troupe, a musician, a singer, a band, a piano player or really good at duck calling," said Vince Baron, president of the Rotary.

The talent show has room for 20 acts, with 10 slots for students and 10 reserved for

adults of any age. The talent show will benefit the Menominee Area Public Schools (MAPS) arts and music programs with a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, a silent art auction and concessions.

William Ragnone, band and choir teacher at the Menominee Junior/Senior High School, said equipment replacements are the No. 1 thing they need.

"We've got a lot of stuff that's in rough shape that we could update," Ragnone said, mentioning a 50-year-old concert tuba. "I want to make sure they have the ability to play."

Baron reached out to him out of the blue with this "awesome opportunity," Ragnone said. He wants to make sure kids aren't turned away from music by not having an instrument to play or not having one that works. He said he'd also like to take kids to events to foster music appreciation.

"I'd like to start going on some trips and participating in some other events in our area," Ragnone said.

But choir and band are more than concerts and sheet music. For some students, bonding in these classes may remain one of their most memorable experiences in high school.

"We have our curriculum

and the side of what I do, and then the community that exists in the band and choir where they have a safe place," Ragnone said.

Baron reflected on music appreciation, saying it hit him hard when he did his first talent show in third grade. His friend's dad wrote a song for the elementary school, and they performed it in front of everybody. He also recalled another talent show where he first heard "Smells Like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana.

The ability to see the impact that arts can have on a child is as "easy as 1-2-3," to quote the Jackson 5.

"The first song we learn is ABC," Baron said. "Music and education are pretty important."

Tickets for "Our Community Talent Show" are \$12 at the door and \$10 in advance at Wind Rose North, 427 10th Ave., Menominee. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a silent art auction before the event.

People can call Baron at 906-290-0402 or email baronvin@gmail.com with audition questions or monetary and art donations. Visit the Marinette Menominee Rotary Facebook page for more information: <https://bit.ly/CommunityTalentShow>.

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PFAS/ from A1

taken responsibility, investing tens of millions of dollars to address the PFAS from our historic operations at our Fire Technology Center in Marinette," Cantillon said. "We have built an expansive Groundwater Treatment System (GETS) that is already achieving thorough PFAS removal in the water treated; we have excavated soils with aggregated PFAS; and we've worked in partnership with neighbors to accelerate the delivery to them of their preferred long-term drinking water solutions."

The EagleHerald previously reported the report's primary finding, which was that a large plume of PFAS from Johnson Controls Inc. (JCI)/Tyco is present in the bay of Green bay through groundwater movement. The study, funded by a grant from

the Wisconsin Sea Grant College Program, also found that PFAS associated with the facility is linked to streams near some agricultural fields. The study was conducted by Christy Remucal, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The study used a fingerprinting method to relink a PFAS fingerprint even after it's been changed. The PFAS they studied was fluorotelomer-derived Aqueous Film Forming foam (AFFF), whose contamination sites are "less common and poorly studied," according to the document. JCI/Tyco is a fluorotelomer AFFF manufacturer.

The higher concentration in Little River agrees with previous observations that larger rivers tend to have lower PFAS concentrations than small or highly impacted rivers, according to the

study.

The differences may also represent different "residence times within the plume" and the fact that the Little River might be impacted by other PFAS sources (for example, precipitation or drainage from upstream biosolids-impacted fields), the study said.

The study further notes that since a critical concern tends to be water contamination that affects human and ecosystem health, aqueous measurements are most relevant for PFAS fingerprinting in complex sites. The study also conducted soil samples. However, it did not conduct groundwater samples, Cantillon said.

"The study appears to be incomplete as it mixes apples and oranges," Cantillon told the EagleHerald in early January. "For example, it only fingerprinted surface water but then somehow makes

conclusions about groundwater. In addition, the study authors are looking at specific PFAS chemicals that are also found in countless industrial uses and products."

Alyssa Sellwood, DNR Complex Site Project Manager, said that it's JCI/Tyco's responsibility to address PFAS issues.

"It is their responsibility to be looking more systematically or scientifically through an investigation process," Sellwood said. "What that looks like will play out over time. They are responsible for those actions."

Cindy Boyle, chair of the Town of Peshtigo Board of Supervisors and town resident, said that JCI/Tyco might be concerned with regulators first.

"Why are they prioritizing these creeks over people's drinking water in their homes?" Boyle

said. "Those creeks feed directly into the Great Lakes, governed by the Clean Water Act, governed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Their first risk area wasn't me. It wasn't people's health."

It was the concern over breaching the Clean Water Act and contaminating the largest freshwater source in the country."

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