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# THE NORTHWOODS RIVER NEWS

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## O'Melia, Burns vie for Oneida County judgeship

By Richard Moore  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Earlier this year, during the spring primary season, *The Lakeland Times* asked the candidates for Oneida County circuit judge — incumbent judge Mary Roth Burns and Oneida County district attorney Michael Schiek — a set of the same questions and both responded in timely fashion. (Oneida County corporation counsel Mike Fugle also answered the questions but has been eliminated from the race.) Burns answered the questions one-by-one; Schiek combined his answers in an in-sum statement. We thought readers would like to refresh themselves with both candidates before they head to the polls next Tuesday:

### Oneida County judge Mary Roth Burns

**What about your career experience most qualifies you for position of circuit court judge? Or, related, of all your skill sets, what is the most important that you could bring — or do bring — to the bench as a judge?**

I am the only candidate

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## FIRE DESTROYS RHINELANDER RESTAURANT



HEATHER SCHAEFER/RIVER NEWS

Firefighters from three departments responded to R&T's Dinky Diner (230 Thayer Street) Tuesday evening, March 28, 2023, after black smoke was reported coming from the back of the building. Firefighters were on scene for several hours containing the fire and ensuring it did not spread to neighboring buildings. The building, constructed in 1896 and the former home of the Sportsman's Cafe, is a total loss, according to Rhinelander Fire Chief Brian Tonnancour.

## Dinky Diner 'a total loss'

By Heather Schaefer  
OF THE RIVER NEWS

A historic building that housed a well-loved Rhinelander eatery was destroyed by fire Tuesday evening. R&T's Dinky Diner is a considered "a total loss," Rhinelander Fire Chief Brian Tonnancour said Wednesday. The cause of the fire is under investigation, he added. Rhinelander firefighters were called to the restaurant, located at 230 Thayer St., just before 6 p.m. Tuesday as dark smoke could be seen billowing from the back of the building. They were soon joined by firefighters from the Pine Lake and Pelican fire

departments who responded to a request for mutual aid. Almost immediately a crowd began to gather in the area known for decades as the hollow, home of the city's "hobo jungle" in the Depression era. Friends and customers embraced the diner's owners, Rick Covin and Terrie Bowman, and offered words of support while watching the fire crews work to contain the fire. Covin stated they had closed for the day at approximately 2 p.m. and no one was inside the restaurant at the time. The building dates back to 1896, he said.

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RENEE DRASZKIEWICZ/RIVER NEWS

A friend embraces Terrie Bowman and Rick Covin, owners of R & T's Dinky Diner, as firefighters worked to contain a fire inside the restaurant Tuesday evening, March 28, 2023.

## PFAS issue shadows race for Stella town chair

By Heather Schaefer  
OF THE RIVER NEWS

The discovery of high levels of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination in the drinking water in the Town of Stella in late 2022 has upended the lives of a number of local families and motivated both candidates for town chairperson to seek election.

Kristen Hanneman is running for town chair to help

her fellow townspeople navigate the challenges associated with PFAS. At the same time, current town chair David Brunette is seeking to retain the office he's held for nearly four decades as the town faces some of its most difficult days.

Voters will make their choice on Tuesday, April 4. Hanneman, who would be the first woman to serve as town chairperson in Stella, has experience in municipal

government having served as treasurer for the City of Eagle River. She is also currently employed as state and local government auditor. A resident of Stella since 2008, Hanneman noted that her family has been directly impacted by the PFAS contamination. "What piqued my interest (in running for town chair) was the PFAS issue we're having out here and wanting to be more involved with the

process and making sure that we see progress," she said. "My family is directly affected by the PFAS issue so to me it's really important." Like her neighbors, Hanneman said she learned her well had dangerous levels of PFAS after it was tested as part of a statewide well testing project conducted by the DNR. "It's absolutely terrible," she said of the contamination. "It's

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# Stella

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something I don't think any of us expected. It was not on any of our radar and now it's in our faces. It's a concern the whole community has."

"It's been an ordeal," she added.

PFAS, per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products including non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays and certain types of firefighting foam. These contaminants have made their

way into the environment through accidental spills of PFAS-containing materials, discharges of PFAS-containing wastewater to treatment plants and certain types of firefighting foams, according to the DNR. These chemicals are known to accumulate in the human body, posing several risks to human health including certain cancers, liver damage and decreased fertility.

According to the DNR, some of the results from Stella are the highest seen anywhere in the state.

"Some of the numbers that came back we're just absolutely shocking," Hanne-

man said. "It's just really sad."

Given her experience working in local government and knowledge of municipal budgeting, Hanneman said she believes she can be an effective advocate for the town's taxpayers.

"A different perspective might benefit the community," she said, adding that her opponent has served as chairman for nearly four decades.

For his part, Brunette said he believes someone with experience should oversee things while the community grapples with PFAS.

"I want to see the town through this," he said, noting that he was instrumental in

ensuring the affected households received water deliveries so they have clean water on hand to drink.

He also said he's anxious for the DNR to release the results of its most recent PFAS testing in the town.

Earlier this month, the agency announced it was expanding the testing area from 1 mile from the town hall to 2.5 miles from the town hall. Fifty-six residents and two summer camps received letters from the agency advising of the availability of the free well testing.

Brunette is hopeful the results of this latest round of testing will answer the ques-

tion of just how pervasive the contamination is in Stella.

"Hopefully that will give us a pretty good idea where the (PFAS) concentrations are," he said.

Having served as chair for 38 years, Brunette is the only town chairman many Stells residents have ever known. Ultimately, the longtime public servant said it comes down to not wanting to leave his neighbors in the lurch at a time when support is vital.

"I'm always available to take calls and I've always been there for them," he said.

*Heather Schaefer may be reached at heather@rivernews.com.*

# LEGAL NOTICES

## OC

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accounting for the defendant's affirmative defenses. Because the term "violent crime" would be defined by the legislature by law, what it means could evolve over time depending on legislative enactments.

A "no" vote on Question 2 would vote not to amend Wis. Const. art. I, § 8(2) to expand the factors a court considers in imposing monetary bail.

### 2023 ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION

**Relating to:** providing for an advisory referendum on the question of requiring able-bodied, childless adults to look for work in order to receive taxpayer-funded welfare benefits.

**Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That** the following question be submitted, for advisory purposes only, to the voters

of this state at the spring election to be held in April 2023:

"Shall able-bodied, childless adults be required to look for work in order to receive taxpayer-funded welfare benefits?"

### EXPLANATION

*Explanatory statement regarding Question 3, the advisory question:* This is an advisory referendum and would not change Wisconsin law. Wisconsin and federal law currently define various programs available to those with financial need based on criteria such as age, familial status, and disability, among other criteria. Most of those programs are limited to children, families with children, pregnant women, disabled persons, or those 65 or older, who Wisconsin law does not consider "able-bodied" for public assistance purposes. See, e.g., Wis. Stat. § 49.79(1)(am) (defining age limits for "able-bodied" under food stamp program).

Two programs currently available to "able-bodied, childless adults" are Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus medical assistance program and the FoodShare program, also known as SNAP or food stamps. However, those programs are subject to certain federal requirements and restric-

tions that either would be inconsistent with the requirement about which the referendum asks or, in some cases, already include such a requirement.

BadgerCare Plus's medical assistance program is subject to federal Medicaid restrictions, and federal law does not allow for work-based requirements for such programs absent a federal waiver. See 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(a)(10)(A). Currently, there is no federal waiver in force that would allow Wisconsin to impose work requirements on this program. Wisconsin's FoodShare statute contains requirements that able-bodied, childless adults be employed or participate in an employment and training program, see Wis. Stat. § 49.79(9), but that requirement has been suspended by the federal government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A "yes" vote on Question 3, the advisory referendum, would make no change to Wisconsin law.

A "no" vote on Question 3, the advisory referendum, also would make no change to Wisconsin law.

<p><b>Judicial Justice of the Supreme Court</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Janet C. Protasiewicz Daniel Kelly</p> <p><b>Circuit Court Judge Branch 1</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Mary Burns Michael W. Schiek</p> <p><b>Municipal Town of Cassian</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Patty Francoeur <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Richard Herman John Schaub Write-In</p> <p><b>Town of Crescent</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Joel F. Knutson Robb Jensen <b>Town Board Supervisor 1</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Kyla Waksmanski <b>Town Board Supervisor 2</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Michael E. Pazdernik Steve Brich <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Tracy Hartman <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Carla Fletcher</p> <p><b>Town of Enterprise</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Leonard Guth III <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Arnold Schauer Scott Krueger <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Jonathan Sommer <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Robert Vlies</p> <p><b>Town of Hazelhurst</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Ted Cushing <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Gilbert L. Kettner Paul Fuhrman <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Christy Myshchysyn <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Carla Murdoff - Burke</p> <p><b>Town of Lake Tomahawk</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> George DeMet <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Stephanie M. Sowatzka Lenore Lopez <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Sharon Lintereur <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Michele Breheim</p> <p><b>Town of Little Rice</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Steven Margitan <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> James H. Treu Write-In</p>	<p><b>Town of Lynne</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Jeff Viegut <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Scott Sattler Write-In <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Write-In <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Mary Krueger</p> <p><b>Town of Minocqua</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Mark Hartzheim <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Ryan Domaszek Billy Fried John Thompson Sue Heil <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Roben Haggart</p> <p><b>Town of Monico</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Robert Briggs <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Ben Briggs Catherine Fisher Nancy Fisher <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Barbara M. Henderson <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Debra Stefanik</p> <p><b>Town of Newbold</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Dan Hess <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Petra Pietrzak Steve Macheichok Scott Ridderbusch Bradley White <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Kim Gauthier <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Jodie Hess</p> <p><b>Town of Nokomis</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Gary Luedke <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Bette Stillman Brian Schmidt <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Wendy Smith <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Judi L. Asmondy</p> <p><b>Town of Pelican</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Dave Hollands <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> James Cates Walter Dahlquist Jr. <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Mike Ring <b>Town Constable</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Write-In</p>	<p><b>Town of Piehl</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Joe Dessellier <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Keyanna Houg Frank Kleszczewski Carl Hansen <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Bryan Kalliokoski <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Mary Krueger Josh Zdroik</p> <p><b>Town of Pine Lake</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Jim Flory <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Jennifer Cordy Brian Gehrig <b>Constable</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Jake Nitzel</p> <p><b>Town of Schoepke</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Robert Mott <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Charles Moore Kelly Kraetsch <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Julie Taylor <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Ann Palubicki Veronica Duvall</p> <p><b>Town of Stella</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> David Brunette Kristen M. Hanneman <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Richard L. Hirman Jerome Pokorny <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Stacy Schickert <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Kathleen Baker</p> <p><b>Town of Sugar Camp</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Scott L. Holewinski <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Paul Sowinski Chris Rhode <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Lauren Sowinski <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Lisa Jolin</p> <p><b>Town of Three Lakes (wards 1-4)</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Brian Slizewski Roger Brisk <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Jeffrey Boehm Matt Olkowski <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Lanae Kowalski</p> <p><b>Three Lakes Sanitary District Sanitary District Commissioner (Part of Ward 3)</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Doug Wallschlaeger</p>	<p><b>Town of Woodboro</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Phil Kriesel <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for no more than 2</b> Bill Rudis Amanda Pentell Jeff Otto <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Judith May <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Joann Beltz</p> <p><b>Town of Woodruff</b> <b>Chairperson</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Mike Timmons <b>Town Board Supervisor</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Corky Sheppard Melissa Bucklew <b>Town Clerk</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Julie Huotari <b>Town Treasurer</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Melanie Litter</p> <p><b>School District Elcho School District School Board Member at Large</b> <b>Vote for not more than 3</b> David Visser Brenda Riemer Paul Eighmy</p> <p><b>School District of Lakeland Union High School Board Member MHLT Area Representative (Towns of Minocqua, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk, &amp; Cassian)</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Shawn Umland Bob Collins <b>School Board Member at Large Representative</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Heidi Fink Lisa Nomm Bob Collins John R. Glomski <b>M-H-L-T (Minocqua J1) School Board Member At-Large</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Jennifer Domaszek Jay Christgau</p> <p><b>School District of Northland Pines School Board Member Area A Seat: City of Eagle River, Towns of Cloverland, Lincoln, Washington</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Chris Petreikis Amy Hartwig</p> <p><b>School District of Northland Pines School Board Member Area B Seat: Town of Conover</b> <b>Vote for not more than 1</b> Jennifer Payne Lauren Goehe</p> <p><b>School District of Northland Pines School Board Member Area E Seat: Towns of St. Germain &amp; Newbold</b> <b>Vote for not more than 1</b> Daphne Kerchmar Chelsea Romaker</p> <p><b>School District of Prentice School Board Member from the Town of Hackett</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Randy R. Erickson</p> <p><b>School Board Member from the Town of Knox</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Helen Palmquist</p>	<p><b>School Board Member from the Town of Spirit</b> <b>Vote for 1</b> Darrell E. Pierson Jesse Rhody <b>School District of Rhinelander School Board Member</b> <b>Vote for not more than 3</b> Duane J. Frey Merlin Van Buren Mike Roberts</p> <p><b>Three Lakes School District School Board Member</b> <b>Vote for not more than 1</b> Stacey Klein</p> <p><b>Tomahawk School District School Board Member:</b> <b>At Large: Apportioned areas of the Townships of King and Harrison</b> <b>Vote for not more than 1</b> David Long</p> <p><b>School Board Member: From the Apportioned areas of the Townships of Bradley, Birch, Skawan, Tomahawk, Rock Falls</b> <b>Vote for not more than 2</b> Ron Zimmerman Kay Kissinger Wolf</p> <p><b>Referendum State</b> <b>Question 1: "Conditions of release before conviction.</b> Shall section 8 (2) of article I of the constitution be amended to allow a court to impose on an accused person being released before conviction conditions that are designed to protect the community from serious harm?" Yes No</p> <p><b>Question 2: "Cash bail before conviction.</b> Shall section 8 (2) of article I of the constitution be amended to allow a court to impose cash bail on a person accused of a violent crime based on the totality of the circumstances, including the accused's previous convictions for a violent crime, the probability that the accused will fail to appear, the need to protect the community from serious harm and prevent witness intimidation, and potential affirmative defenses?" Yes No</p> <p><b>Question 3: "Shall able-bodied, childless adults be required to look for work in order to receive taxpayer-funded welfare benefits?"</b> Yes No</p> <p><b>Municipal Town of Minocqua</b> Question: Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Town of Minocqua for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2024, is limited to 1.265%, which results in a levy of \$4,336,130. Shall the Town of Minocqua be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2024, for the purpose of maintaining existing levels of service for police, fire, public works, and operating expenses for maintaining infrastructure, equipment, and facilities by a total of 9.225%, which results in a levy of \$4,736,130, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$400,000 for each fiscal year going forward? Yes No</p>
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