

## In Gays Mills ADRC brings senior meals

**By CHARLEY PREUSSER**  
The Gays Mills Village Board moved quickly over a few routine matters and a couple of new ideas at their Monday night meeting. In all, the public portion of the meeting took about 40 minutes.

The Director of the Kickapoo Culinary Center, Jill Riggs, updated the board on the changing situation at the shared-use kitchen. The Crawford County Aging and Disability Resource Center is getting ready to prepare senior meals in the kitchen five days per week, according to Riggs.

The director created a letter to all of the shared-use kitchen renters about the need for specific cleaning and maintenance that needs to be done when the kitchen is used. The letter was sent out with the monthly rental billing. It also advised clients about the daily use by ADRC in preparing senior meals.

**Working together**  
Riggs told the board that she let the kitchen renters know that the facility is a shared-use kitchen, and we all have to work together to make it function with the addition of the ADRC.

The coordinator of the kitchen said kitchen rentals are slowing a bit as winter approaches, and this will be good time for the ADRC to come into the kitchen.

The American Hazelnut Company and a bread company both used the kitchen frequently this fall.

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**THE NORTH CRAWFORD PLAYHOUSE** thanked everyone in the community who supported and attended 'Once Upon a Mattress,' their first musical production in three years. By all accounts, it was a rousing success. The Playhouse is embarking on an ambitious project to reinvigorate theatre in the district by investing in new lighting technology, constructing costume & prop storage, and expanding performance opportunities for students. The Playhouse welcomes donations for this project.

## Amidst heavy turnout Elections brings few surprises here

**By CHARLEY PREUSSER**  
The polling places were busy in Crawford County and the vote totals were high, but the results remained pretty much the same as expected with some notable exceptions.

Gays Mills resident Jayne Swiggum, a Democrat, running to represent the 96th District of the Wisconsin State Assembly lost to two-time Republican incumbent Loren Oldenburg by about 612 votes in Crawford County (3,821-3,209). Oldenburg also defeated Nurse Jayne in Vernon County by 1,311 votes (6,598-5,287).

In the portions of Monroe County within the 96th State Assembly District, Oldenburg was leading 3,366 to 1,465 with the City of Tomah and the Towns of Angelo, Wilton, Wells and Wellington not yet reported.

So the unofficial returns, without the aforementioned unreported municipalities, had Oldenburg defeating Swiggum 13,785 to 9,961.

It should be noted Swiggum did win some municipalities in the county including Gays Mills, Mt. Sterling and some wards in DeSoto. She also won the townships of Utica, Clayton and Freeman.

School referendums pass  
In another race of major interest in Crawford County, the North Crawford School District Referendums both passed by substantial margins. The capital improvement referendum, which authorized repairs to the school's roof and other needed improvements, passed 955-446, while the operations referendum that funded programs and needed staff passed 871-528.

Both referendums won in each of the nine municipalities where they were on the ballot.

In other races in Crawford County, Republican Derrick Van Orden defeated Democrat Brad Pfaff in the U.S. Congressional Third District election by the vote of 3,667 to 3,334. Republican incumbent U.S. Senator Ron Johnson defeated Democratic challenger Mandela Barnes in Crawford County by 3,797 to 3,179. The closest race in Crawford County was for Governor. Incumbent Democratic Governor Tony Evers lost to Republican challenger Tim Michels by the narrow margin of 57 votes 3,486 to 3,429.

One thing the clerks agreed upon was that voter participation was extremely high for a midterm election.

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Crawford County Election Results - General Election November 8, 2022								
Candidate	U.S. Congress District 3		United States Senate		Wisconsin Governor		96th State Assembly	
	Derrick Van Orden	Brad Pfaff	Ron Johnson	Mandela Barnes	Tim Michels	Tony Evers	Loren Oldenburg	Jayne Swiggum
Bridgeport Twp.	287	195	316	168	282	196	317	168
Clayton Twp.	222	247	226	242	209	252	224	249
Eastman Twp.	229	134	238	126	228	134	248	116
Freeman Twp.	192	210	199	202	186	214	199	205
Haney Twp.	79	63	80	61	79	62	73	71
Marietta Twp.	157	89	162	83	154	91	161	86
PdC Twp.	249	182	260	168	243	184	264	165
Scott Twp.	107	116	114	108	105	115	116	108
Seneca Twp.	248	215	257	206	232	222	269	196
Utica Twp.	142	177	149	172	135	185	140	183
Wauzeka Twp.	119	75	124	68	121	73	120	74
Bell Center	23	21	22	21	19	22	24	20
De Soto	12	17	12	17	11	17	14	15
Eastman	117	43	119	41	109	41	118	41
Ferryville	72	56	72	54	70	56	73	55
Gays Mills	120	116	121	116	114	117	116	124
Lynxville	34	31	34	30	31	32	36	29
Mt. Sterling	34	41	36	38	29	45	36	39
Soldiers Grove	130	107	130	103	116	115	127	111
Steuben	37	15	37	14	34	17	38	15
Wauzeka	144	127	148	121	135	130	141	129
City of PdC	913	1,057	941	1,020	844	1,109	967	1,010
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>3,667</b>	<b>3,334</b>	<b>3,797</b>	<b>3,179</b>	<b>3,486</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>3,821</b>	<b>3,209</b>

## WDNR acts Rule-making for PFAS in groundwater begun

**By GILLIAN POMPLUN**  
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) re-started the process of developing a standard for PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated substances) in groundwater on Friday, Nov. 4. On that date, a public hearing was held to allow citizens to provide input. It was attended by about 20 members of the public, and of the 20 who testified, all spoke in support of WDNR developing the standard.

PFAS are a group of chemicals used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water. A recent review from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) outlines a host of health effects associated with PFAS exposure, including cancer, liver damage, decreased fertility, and increased risk of asthma and thyroid disease.

In March of 2022, after a prior rulemaking process, WDNR along with Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) proposed standards for municipal drinking water, surface waters that supply municipal drinking water systems, and groundwater. At a contentious meeting of the Natural Resources Board (NRB), standards for municipal water and surface waters were approved at 70 parts-per-trillion (ppt). This was a significantly higher level than the 20 ppt proposed by WDNR and DHS.

The board voted down establishing a standard for groundwater, which supplies drinking water to about 70

percent of residents in the state through private wells.

The 70 ppt standard adopted for municipal and surface waters was based on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) health advisory, which is not a regulatory standard, of 70 ppt. The health advisory is intended to provide Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and PFOS from drinking water.

In June of 2022, EPA issued an updated health advisory for PFAS. The updated advisory levels, which are based on new science and consider lifetime exposure, indicate that some negative health effects may occur with concentrations of PFOA or PFOS in water that are near zero and below EPA's ability to detect at this time.

EPA also announced in June that it was inviting states and territories to apply for \$1 billion – the first of \$5 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant funding – to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water, specifically in small or disadvantaged communities.

### Presentation

WDNR started the November 4 hearing with a brief presentation on why they were re-initiating the rule-making process. The presentation was provided by Ann Hirekatur, Public Hearing Officer, and Bruce Reineck, WDNR Groundwater Section Chief

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**HO-CHUNK LIBRARIAN Janet Rice** holds a photo of her great-great grandfather who bought land near LaCrescent and Brownsville, Minnesota. On that land, he offered a safe stop for Ho-Chunk people returning to their ancestral lands in Wisconsin and Illinois.

## At the KVR Janet Rice discusses Ho-Chunk homelands

**By GILLIAN POMPLUN**  
November is National Native American Heritage Month. And so this month, and every day, it is important to remember that we in the Driftless Region live on land that was inhabited by native people. In our area, those people were members of the Ho-Chunk Nation. And so, I bring to you the stories of Janet Rice, a member of the Bear Clan of the Ho-Chunk people.

Almost 30 people gathered to hear Rice's talk, 'Among my Homelands – Hear the Echoes of my Ancestors,' on October 15 at the Kickapoo

Valley Reserve. The talk was one in the series of Driftless Dialogues this fall.

Rice is the Ho-Chunk Emerita Librarian, and a member of the Ho-Chunk Bear Clan. She worked for 36 years as a librarian on the UW-Madison campus. In her 30-40 years of work, Rice reports learning a lot about Ho-Chunk history through her studies and research. Her focus is on American Indian resources, literature, culture, history and language preservation and revitalization.

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### Early deadline for Thanksgiving

The Independent-Scout will have an early deadline for the Thanksgiving issue of the paper. The deadline for news and display advertising will be 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18. The paper will be printed and mailed Tuesday, Nov. 22, so that it will reach local subscribers on Wednesday. The Office will be open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23, closed Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25.

## In Soldiers Grove Veteran's Day event planned

The Soldiers Grove American Legion Post #220 invites the public to a Veteran's Day program at the Veteran's Memorial in the Soldiers Grove Village Park. The observance is planned for Friday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m.

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# DNR explains rule-making process, and citizens clamor for standards

PFAS from Page 1

"This presentation is designed to give public hearing participants an overview of why we have initiated this rule-making process, and what we intend as the scope of the process," Reineck said. "The next step after a final proposed scope is formulated, taking into account comments received, will be to take the scope to the NRB for approval."

Once the scope is approved by the NRB, WDNR will be moving into the rule drafting and economic impact analysis report. The proposed rule will then go through an external review, and any revisions will be made, before the draft rule goes to the NRB for approval. If approved, a public hearing on the rule will be scheduled. Following the public hearing, and any revisions, the final proposed rule will be sent to the NRB for final approval.

"Our preliminary proposed scope will be to establish numeric groundwater quality standards for PFAS," Reineck said. "This will include PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, and various 'GenX' chemicals. This process has been initiated by our department because of EPA's issuance of an updated health advisory for the chemicals."

Reineck explained that the purpose of this proposed rule-making process is to protect public health.

Potential adverse health effects for humans of PFOA and PFOS include increased cholesterol levels, decrease in antibody response to certain vaccines, and reduced fertility in women.

Potential adverse health effects of PFBS include increased risk of heart disease, infertility and high blood pressure disorders in pregnant women, including preeclampsia, and asthma among children. Studies in research animals found that high levels can cause damage to the liver and kidneys, alter blood chemistry and thyroid hormone levels, and affect development.

Potential adverse health effects of GenX chemicals include results from studies among research animals showing that high levels of

HFPO-DA affected blood and development, and causes kidney and liver damage. No studies have evaluated the effects among people.

The rule-making will take place under the NR-140 chapter of state statute for 'Groundwater Quality.' This statute applies to regulated entities/activities such as solid and hazardous wastes, spills and remediation sites, wastewater discharges, septic tanks, salt storage, pesticide applications, bottled water, Well Compensation Grant Program, and improved public health and welfare from reduction in exposure to bacterial contamination.

### Public comments

Doug Otzinger lives in Marinette County, and is the former mayor of Marinette, and a member of SOH2, a citizen's group in Marinette and Pesticide.

"I support WDNR's move to develop PFAS standards for groundwater," Otzinger said. "If we don't enact rules, then we won't be able to protect citizens and farmers from contaminated water, and could expose our children to irreparable harm. The EPA has issued a new health advisory level that basically says if we can detect any PFAS in water, then it is too much. However, EPA doesn't regulate groundwater qual-

ity, so it is imperative that WDNR do so."

Deborah Cronmiller is the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters, and she testified in support of the rule development process.

"Access to clean groundwater is a fundamental human right," Cronmiller stated. "Only WDNR can enact enforceable groundwater standards to protect us from PFAS contamination in our water, and I urge you to act ASAP."

Cronmiller pointed out that groundwater supplies drinking water for 70 percent of state residents from private wells, and also is crucial for agriculture and tourism. She said the WDNR must keep up with the evolving science on the adverse health impacts of PFAS, and must act before more wells are contaminated and more citizens have to be supplied with bottled water.

Peter Burress with Wisconsin Conservation Voters was the next person to provide testimony.

"Wisconsin has already taken some steps to protect citizens from PFAS, but we are still waiting for groundwater protections," Burress said. "Groundwater is one of the state's greatest treasures, and we are currently not protecting it."

Burress stated he is opposed to the current inaction, and pointed out that Wisconsin's 40-year legacy of protecting groundwater has been an inspiration to the nation.

"There is widespread support for development of a groundwater standard for PFAS, and there has never been an instance of an individual going out of business because regulations were implemented," Burress said. "Our state is lagging behind Minnesota and Michigan in grappling with this problem."

Cheryl Nenn with the Milwaukee Riverkeepers provided input.

"In the Milwaukee River basin, most citizens get their drinking water from groundwater," Nenn pointed out. "As we know, groundwater and surface water are connected, and contamination in the small watersheds eventually winds up in Lake Michigan, which supplies drinking water for 1,000s."

Lee Donahue, Second District Supervisor from the Town of Campbell in LaCrosse County, spoke on behalf of the town's 4,300 residents.

"Our groundwater has been contaminated for years and no one told us," Donahue said. "Health impacts of PFAS contamination include premature birth, thyroid dis-

ease and more, and this can lead to costly healthcare interventions. Every child deserves safe water, and we need to protect our groundwater for unborn children as well."

Donahue said that without a standard for PFAS contamination in groundwater, innocent infants continue to be poisoned in the womb, which she pointed out, should be the safest place for them. She also pointed out that contamination also threatens wildlife, which is important to hunters and anglers.

"Our state has other groundwater standards, and it's time to add a standard for PFAS," Donahue said.

Gillian Pomplun raised the potential contamination of surface and groundwater from the Bell Center landfill in Crawford County. The landfill was sited in a sand terrace south of the Village of Bell Center and Sand Creek, a Class I trout stream, and just uphill from the WDNR Kickapoo River Wildlife Area. It was originally intended for municipal waste, but was used to inter industrial waste from the 3M corporation as well. That waste, according to an eyewitness, included bales of Thinsulate and Scotchbrite.

"Though WDNR unfortunately owns the property where the landfill is located,

and has taken heroic steps to cap and seed the site, that waste continues to sit there in sand," Pomplun said. "We owe it to residents of the Village of Bell Center, who get their drinking water from private wells, anglers fishing for trout in Sand Creek, and anglers and hunters who recreate in the Kickapoo River Wildlife Area, to conduct testing to determine if there is PFAS contamination."

Pomplun pointed out that only the 3M Corporation knows where all these small sites may be scattered across rural areas. The company Lead Free Enterprises, which operated the landfill in Bell Center when industrial waste was interred there, also operated a landfill in Bridgeport in rural Prairie du Chien, and landfills scattered across northeast Iowa.

Pomplun pointed out that such industrial waste sites in small, impoverished rural areas is an environmental equity issue.

Jeffrey LaMont is a retired professor of Environmental Studies and the co-founder of SOH20.

"I live in the plume of PFAS contamination from the Tyco Corporation and I support this proposed scope for the rule-making process," LaMont stated.

## Cybersecurity: staring down social engineering by hackers

By MIKE MOEN

In a digital world, employers often require some form of cybersecurity training. A local government official in Wisconsin is encouraging people not to let the helpful tips fade from memories.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and federal officials say nearly 50 percent of American adults have had their personal information exposed by cyber criminals. But Tim Lemmers, information-technology manager for the Milwaukee suburb of Greenfield, said a lot of the threats that reach individuals don't come from system hacks, but rather from social engineering.

"People who are trying to hack your environments, they're getting your information, they're looking you

up, looking up the street you lived on, your first pet's name," he said. "And they're trying to use that kind of information to target you specifically, to get you to click on a thing - where they can steal your information and then pose as you."

He said a key prevention tool is paying close attention to your emails, to spot someone sending a message that looks official but contains a harmful link. Grammatical errors in messages are red flags. And by placing the computer mouse over the link without clicking on it, you can see where the message actually is coming from.

Lemmers said all it takes is one bad click to send an IT department scrambling. He noted that everyone has some personal information some-

where on the internet, and it's impossible to scrub it all. Another important shield is password maintenance.

"Make sure you change them regularly," he said. "And by regularly, depending on how important the website is - you know, if it's your Netflix account, maybe every six months, maybe once a year. If it's your banking information, maybe change that a little more often."

If you're going to use words, he said long phrases of interconnected words can make a difference. A mix of upper-case and lower-case letters, along with special characters, can also make passwords stronger. Federal data also show that 600,000 Facebook accounts are hacked each day.

Wisconsin News Connection

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**Grandpa and Lucy**  
 A Story About Love & Dementia

**See it Live!**

**Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022 at 7 p.m.**  
 Lone Rock Community Library  
 234 N Broadway St, Lone Rock, WI 53556

**Friday, Nov. 18, 2022 at 4 p.m.**  
 Prairie du Chien Library

For more information call the ADRC at 877-794-2372

**SYNOPSIS**  
 Grandpa, Lucy, & Lucy's older sister Edie are a family that plays together, until... things started to change. Things forgotten, things lost...and found. Hide and seek has changed. A story of resilience. But some adjustments are harder than others. Grandpa's story, Lucy & Edie's story. A Story of Love & Dementia.

**ABOUT THE SHOW**  
 Inspired by a children's book written by a high school student, CLIMB Theatre's stage adaptation of Grandpa and Lucy, Grandpa and Lucy: A Story about Love & Dementia, connects an intergenerational audience from kids to elders.

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