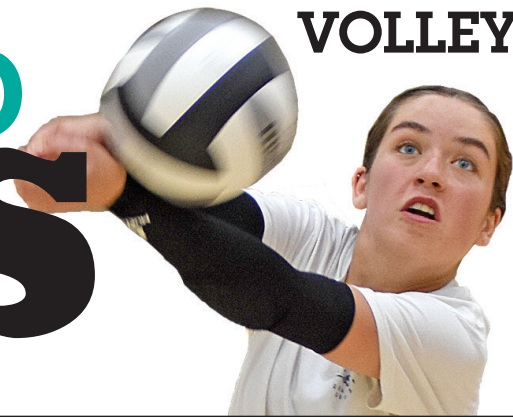




# THE LAKELAND TIMES



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## Bangstad revocation hearing adjourned abruptly

Timmons  
shuts down  
meeting, citing  
wayward  
testimony

By Richard Moore  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

At a contentious public hearing Wednesday that descended into chaos, the Oneida County planning and development committee abruptly adjourned without taking any action on the possible revocation of Minocqua Brewing Company's (MBC) administrative review permit (ARP).

Acting committee chairman Mike Timmons adjourned the meeting in the middle of MBC owner Kirk Bangstad's testimony, after Timmons repeatedly warned Bangstad to stick to the issues of his alleged permit violations and possible revocation, after stating that Bangstad's testimony about property history and other businesses were not relevant to the issue at hand.

At one point, Timmons admonished Bangstad "one more time"; Timmons then  
*See Meeting... page 43*

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## The U.S. Vaccine Court: A stacked deck against the victims of vaccines?

Despite billions paid, critics say program works against the vaccine-injured

News analysis

Part 1 of a  
five-part series

By Richard Moore  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Most Americans are unaware of the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, or the vaccine court,

as it is commonly known, one of the only ways victims and the families of victims can receive compensation for vaccine-related injuries and deaths.

At least most were unaware until tens of thousands of people reported being injured by Covid vaccines and began seeking redress.

Covid vaccines aren't actually covered under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVIC), but those alleged Covid-related injuries have focused the spotlight once

again on the NVIC and overall vaccination injuries. The truth is, most victims or their families never receive compensation.

To government lawyers, that's as it should be. Though the program was supposed to offer a no-fault alternative to civil litigation — the trade off is that pharmaceutical companies can't be held civilly liable for vaccine injuries — and to serve up quick and

*See Victims... page 19*



TREVOR GREENE/LAKELAND TIMES

## A 'PLANTASTIC' EVENT

Kandace Lynn hands Laura Fiala and her daughter Amelia, left, a plant they bought during the inaugural GardenFest event at the Aspirus Seasons of Life Hospice House on Saturday, July 22, in Woodruff.

## Florida company interested in establishing a 'solar farm' at Lakeland Airport

Blue Lake Road property in Minocqua belongs to the airport

By Brian Jopek  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

A Florida company has indicated interest in installing a solar energy system at the Lakeland Airport in Arbor Vitae.

Airport administrator Jon Schmitz made the four-member Lakeland Airport commission aware of the contact he'd received from Miami-based Origis Energy at the commission's July 20 meeting.

The commission looked at an overhead photo of the airport provided by the company, showing the north south and east west runways.

The photo highlighted "Option A" as an area south of the north-south runway with the "Option B" in the eastern end of the east-west runway.

The first option, Schmitz said, was some-

*See Solar Farm... page 19*

## LUHS board takes action to move forward with community complex upgrades

LUHS gets  
new director  
of special  
education and  
pupil services

By Trevor Greene  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

After a lengthy discussion at its monthly meeting Monday, Lakeland Union High School's (LUHS) board of education decided to take action and move the district's community complex project forward.

District administrator Bob Smudde said at prior meetings he has continued to work with Stevens Point-based civil engineering and landscape architecture firm Point of Beginning (POB) on the project, which was originally approved by the board in the early to mid-2010s.

The community complex project has been whittled down since the board took up the task again that include upgrades centered around the district's bleachers, press box, bathrooms, concession stand and tennis courts.

*See LUHS... page 21*



# LUHS

From page 1

Smudde and POB owner Scott Groholski presented to the board a spread sheet they developed, detailing price estimates and different options with regard to the project.

"Estimates are built to be fluffy," Smudde said of the different "base" options that ranged from \$2.9 to \$3.1 million.

Before the board took action and approved Smudde's recommendation, it almost capped the project for it not to exceed \$3.7 million.

It didn't however, at the suggestion of board member Barry Seidel, because the board agreed it didn't make sense to cap the project when costs have yet to be determined.

The options included in Smudde's recommendation that the board approved include an enclosed steel bleacher system, concrete underneath the bleachers, a pre-fabricated press box, restrooms underneath the bleachers, replacement and update of the field lights and the construction of a storage building.

Smudde told *The Lakeland Times* Tuesday the estimates vary, but the estimated price of his recommendation is between \$3.2 to \$3.5 million.

"That's not gonna be what the cost is, the bids will lower, but it was right in that \$3.2 to \$3.5 range," he said. "We can accept or deny any bid when they come in. So we can accept the bids that meet the price that we're willing to pay ... but I assure you it will not be over \$3.7. I won't allow it."

"So we can accept the bids that meet the price that we're willing to pay ... but I assure you it will not be over \$3.7 (million)."

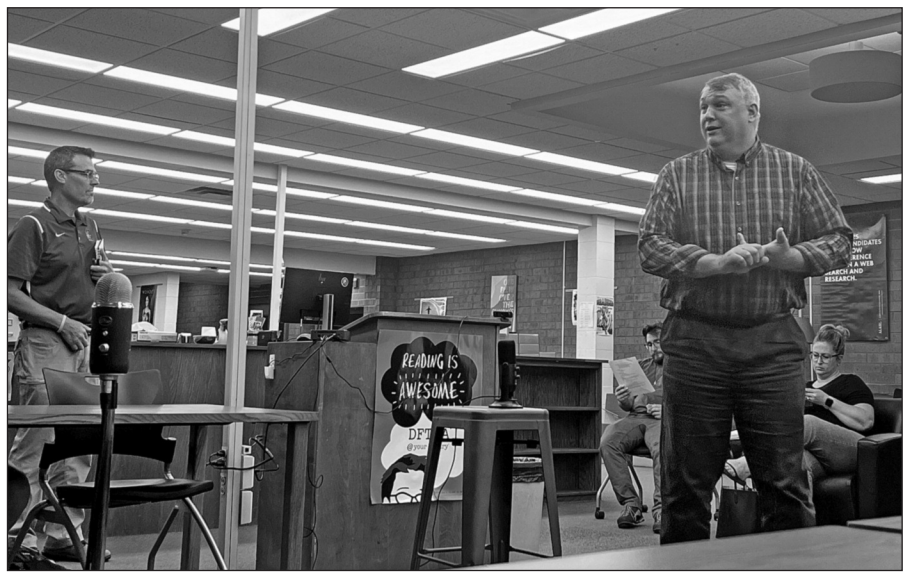
**Bob Smudde**  
LUHS district administrator

Smudde said next steps include him meeting with Groholski again to create a game plan in order to advertise for bids.

"Right now, I am trying to plan on a replacement and upgrade of our facilities that the school can plan on and finance itself," he said. "If, for some reason, more money is injected into the system, we will use the money in the honor of whatever those persons want to support."

### New director of special education and pupil services

The board also at its meeting Monday approved the hire of Jen Savel, formerly the instructional coach for the Arbor Vitae-Woodruff (AV-W) school district, after it reconvened following a



TREVOR GREENE/LAKELAND TIMES

Lakeland Union High School district administrator Bob Smudde, right, and Stevens Point-based Point of Beginning owner Scott Groholski, left, present to the district's board of education different price estimates for the community complex project on Monday, July 24, in Minocqua.

closed session discussion.

Savel was a special education teacher at AV-W and the Verona Area School District. She holds both a bachelor's degree and master's degree in education, as well, and has obtained a Wisconsin administrator license.

Savel is replacing Rebecca Jablonski as the director of special education and pupil services.

Smudde said Jablonski took a dif-

ferent job.

"She found something better (for herself) and we found someone who fits our team well," he said. "So it works out."

The decision by the board to hire Savel was an easy one, Smudde indicated, because "she's gonna make us better."

Trevor Greene may be reached via email at [trevorgreene@lakelandtimes.com](mailto:trevorgreene@lakelandtimes.com).

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