



EAGLE RIVER, WI 54521

Lifestyle

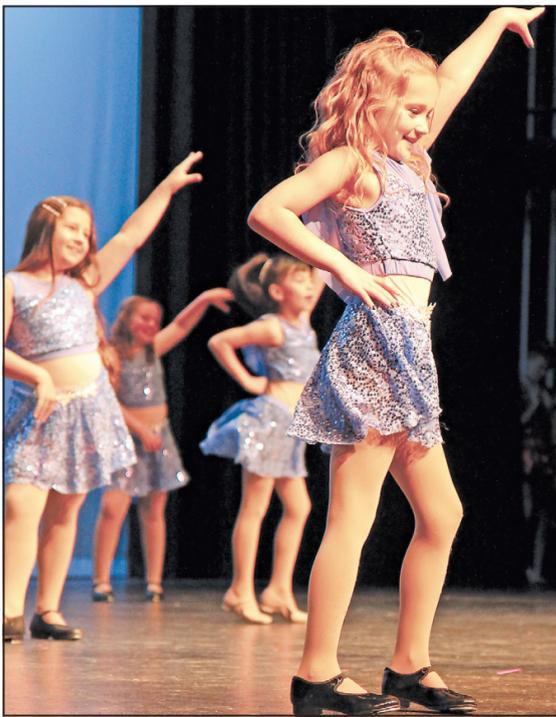
Section B

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Wednesday, April 19, 2023

DANCE RECITAL



DANCING DRAMATICS — The Chain O' Dance studio presented its third annual recital, "Dance on Demand," April 15, at the Northland Pines High School Auditorium. Performances were held at noon and 6:30 p.m. and entertained a full house at both shows. Approximately 180 dancers participated in the production directed by studio owner Leigha Siegmeier.

Above: The high school pointe class showcased a uniquely choreographed performance to Madonna's "Material Girl" song. **Below:** Charlee Otto, Charlotte Slavinski, Harper Prell and Gianna Marino shuffled their feet during "Let's Make It Happen" performed by the kindergarten class. **Left:** Drew Price and the second grade tap class were all smiles as they shook to the beat of "Great Divide" during performances.

—Staff Photos by STEPHANIE DYE



Revitalization program gears up for summer

With summer approaching, the Eagle River Revitalization Program (ERRP) is getting started on numerous projects taking place in Eagle River in the coming months.

ERRP is still seeking sponsors for some of the Artscape banners that adorn the streets of downtown Eagle River throughout the summer.

The final deadline to sponsor a banner has been extended until Thursday, April 20 and can be done by contacting ERRP Executive Director Karen Margelofsky at karen@eagleriverrevitalization.org or 715-477-0645 before the deadline. Plans are underway for the annual Artscape Banner Auction slated for Saturday, June 24, at Shotskis. Tickets will go on sale May 1.

Margelofsky also noted that vendors are still being sought for the Eagle River

Farmers Market which opens Wednesday, May 24. The first Sunday market of the season will be May 28. Items for the market can include home-grown fruits and vegetables, homemade crafts, nonprofit groups and entertainers.

The annual farmers market meeting will be held Wednesday, April 26, at 10 a.m. at city hall for those wishing to learn more.

Minocqua Popcorn in Eagle River will hold its grand reveal Tuesday, May 2, at 10 a.m. for the Main Street Makeover contest the business won. The business, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Main Street crew and Retailworks consultants, will perform the upgrades May 1 ahead of the unveiling.

An informational meeting

To ERRP, Pg. 2B

Earth Day Fair slated Saturday at Nicolet

The Northwoods Community Garden will hold an Earth Day Fair Saturday, April 22, from 1 to 6 p.m. in the Lake-side Center at Nicolet College.

The theme this year is "No Blue, No Green. Water, it's kind of important."

"With this theme we are putting an emphasis on the importance of water in the North Woods with speakers and discussions about quality, impact on health, contaminants, and much more," event co-chairs Patrick Burns and Ali Pichowski said in a statement. "The Earth is called the 'Blue Planet' for a reason, and we look forward to sharing more about how our small sliver of that 'blue' plays a role on a large and small scale."

The event is being held in partnership with Nicolet College, the School District of Rhinelander, WXPR and Art-Start.

The fair will feature a

number of environmentally-themed speakers, vendors and information booths. These will include The Northwoods Community Garden, Green Design Center, Northwoods Farm Fresh Atlas Business, D & L Enterprises, Oneida County Biking and Walking Trails Council, Rhinelander High School, Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association, Northwoods Land Trust, KC Refiller (formerly The Kindred Cottage), J North Unique Framing, and the Northwoods Homesteading Club, among others.

The fair will also feature a children's story time, live music, and a guided meditation session.

Admission is free, and food will be available for purchase by Jessica's Cucina and Lola's Lunch Box.

For more information, visit sustainabilitywoods.wixsite.com/earthdayfair.

Not that you asked, but...

By Eric Johnson



The write stuff

"THE POWER OF a handwritten letter is greater than ever. It's personal and deliberate and means more than an email or text ever will..."

— Actor Ashton Kutcher (1978-)

There's something special about receiving a handwritten letter in the mail.

Perhaps that's why I miss the nostalgic old school communication tradition so much.

Arrival of the mail, which used to regularly include such welcome, thought-filled treasures, was eagerly anticipated as a child and into my early adulthood.

But the daily mail drop, in ever-lengthening memory, has increasingly been a disappointing deluge of Monday-Saturday sadness — the dreaded duo of bills and junk mail — as letter-writing becomes an increasingly dying art.

Quite literally so, in recent decades, with the passing of the last great letter-writing generation.

My late Nana, who came of age in the years of the Great Depression and the days of twice-daily morning and afternoon mail deliveries of penny postcards and two- and three-cent first class letters delivered with lightning-speed efficiency, was the prolific poster child

To JOHNSON, Pg. 2B

Three Lakes business wins Main Street makeover contest

Downtown Three Lakes business The Brew Station is the winner of Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's (WEDC's) annual Main Street Place-Makeover Contest.

The business will receive design assistance and up to \$5,000 to create an outdoor patio space to grow their business.

The Brew Station beat out four other finalists and dozens of entrants from other downtowns to receive the prize. Applicant businesses were evaluated based on the potential of submitted projects to help the business grow and thrive, the visual impact a transformation of the space would have on the downtown, and the ability of the project to be completed within the time and budget available.

Opened last year, the business is the second in downtown for owners Dan and Gina Stehl. Located next door to their first business, The



The Brew Station in downtown Three Lakes will receive up to

\$5,000 to create an outdoor patio space. —STAFF PHOTO

Supply Station, The Brew Station is billed as a place where friends, adventurers and vacationers can share a drink. The business is focused on creating a family friendly

atmosphere that provides a much-needed gathering place in downtown.

Unlike many North Woods businesses, The Supply Station is open year-round,

and the business model was designed to intentionally complement other downtown businesses. The Brew Station accepts and even promotes carry-in food from downtown restaurants and hosts numerous community gatherings in their indoor space.

With their location in the heart of an outdoor-oriented community, the owners constantly heard from guests that outdoor gathering space was needed. Turning a rear parking area into an outdoor beer garden will allow customers year-round to enjoy themselves outdoors.

The new rear patio will create space for children to play, accommodate groups and events that aren't a good fit in the indoor space and allow guests with pets to visit.

The Stehls added they would also be utilizing the space to bring in food trucks and set up partnerships with

To MAKEOVER, Pg. 2B

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LIFESTYLE

Johnson FROM PAGE 1B

of letter-writing with her lengthy, newsy correspondence penned in her elegant, distinctive, flowing cursive.

She was a frequent flier customer at Milwaukee's Siekert & Baum stationary store and Daly's Pen Shop, both, like Nana, now gone.

How I long for those days when letters from Nana were a frequent treasure waiting to be discovered in my mail box.

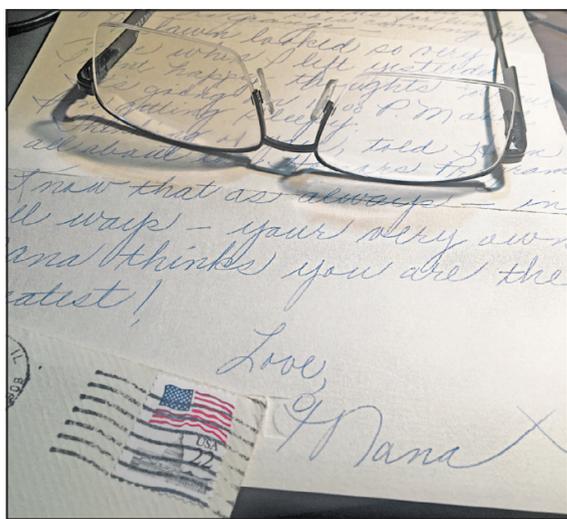
I was reminded of all this the other day when I happily happened across an April 1985 letter from Nana, sent on complimentary stationery from Chicago's Palmer House and Tower, a Hilton-owned hotel where she was having a Windy City vacation outing with her best friend and adventure travel companion Helen, who had ventured up from Covington, Ky. to take a city sightseeing bus tour and visit popular sites like the Chicago Art Museum and Adler Planetarium, among others.

Transcending time, it was like receiving her letter anew, hearing Nana's voice as I read it.

The envelope, addressed to "Mr. Eric Johnson," was a time capsule reminder of my sophomore year at Marquette University 38 years ago, when I was living in Room 937 at Schroeder Hall on North 13th Street in downtown Milwaukee.

"Dear Eric Allen! Lovely view of the Lake and all the white & pink crabs beginning to blossom ... Went to the Art Museum this morning. Saw a few Monet's and the paper-weight exhibit — Roman, Greek, Etruscan, some dating B.C. We sat in the lobby this evening and listened to a pianist and violinist — it was lovely ... One of the 'girls' we met on our '82 trip to the Canadian Rockies will meet us for lunch tomorrow. — she's coming up from La Grange ... It's going on 11:00 p.m. and I'm getting sleepy."

Over the decades, there were hundreds of letters from Nana like this one, chronicling the this-and-that of



Treasured old school snail mail hand-written letters bring memories alive again in ways that transitory communication mediums like phone calls, emails, texts, tweets and video chats can't. An April 1985 letter from columnist Eric Johnson's "Nana," grandmother Edith S. Aschauer (1914-2010), brought back memories, comfort and encouragement 38 years after it was written. —Photo By Eric Johnson

everyday life in her breezy, flowing writing style.

The forsythia, lilacs and roses blooming in the yard. Picking fresh rhubarb and asparagus in the garden. Dining at the Linden Room at Marshall Field's with her friends Edna and Beulah. The procession of birds visiting the feeders and bird bath outside the large dinette windows. Doing her "marketing" at Sentry and Kohl's Food Fair in "The Grove." Catching a play at the Sunset Playhouse. Shopping trips to Gimbel's, Boston Store and Chapman's, with an occasional quick bite at Gimbel's Tasty Town restaurant. Sunday services at Elm Grove Lutheran. Childhood memories of growing up on Milwaukee's then-Germanic near north side — riding the streetcars to the A&P supermarket, Brewers games at Borchert Field, or Schuster's department store.

I saved all my letters from Nana, moving the box of treasured handwritten letters from town to town and state to state over the decades. The addresses on the envelopes trace a long, winding trail of my life — Milwaukee, Racine, Milwaukee, Rockford and Evanston, Ill., Toledo, Ohio and Sheboygan Falls — and always found my mail-

box wherever I moved.

I treasure these old hand-written letters, as the words on the page come alive anew.

Culturally, we lost a lot when people stopped writing old school snail mail letters in favor of the transitory, instantaneous telecommunication marvels of phone calls, emails, texts, tweets and FaceTime video chats.

As I discovered anew with Nana's letters, the intimate communication medium of the tactile, hand-written word is among the most significant memories a person can leave behind.

It had been a challenging week when I ran across Nana's letter.

As Nana closed her "Wed. Eve" letter back in 1985, "Thinking of you ... Know that as always — in all ways — your very own Nana thinks you are the greatest! Love, XO Nana XO."

Little did she know it at the time, but her letter would bring a smile to my face — and some much needed comfort and encouragement — in the here-and-now of 2023, long after her passing. You can't re-read a phone call.

Eric Johnson can be reached at eric@fynorthwoods.com.



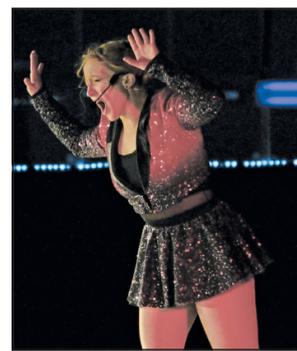
MIXED EMOTIONS — The Silver Blades Ice Show was held April 15 and 16 at the Eagle River Ice Arena to showcase skaters' power, skills and choreography. Skaters of all ages took part in the program with the theme "Mixed Emotions." Some scenes from the show include:

Above: Learn to Skate performed to "Happy Together" by the Turtles.

Below: Senior Alyssa Imse not only skated but also sang an original song she wrote for her performance titled "Emotions Unheard."

Left: Basic 1 skaters entertained to "I Feel Good" by James Brown.

—Staff Photos
By MICHELLE DREW



ERRP FROM PAGE 1B

on the possibility of a historic district being established in Eagle River is planned Wednesday, May 3, at 8 a.m. at the Eye on Entrepreneur building on First Street. The

public is invited to attend the meeting to learn more.

Volunteers will put new flags on the flagpoles which will go up in town in May, and Margelofsky noted there are still snow globes for sale at local shops as well as the ERRP office, located in the Eagle River City Hall building.

ERRP also is starting up

a fundraising campaign for community playgrounds at Riverview Park and Gremban/Lions Park. More details on these efforts will be announced at a later date.

For more information on ERRP or to volunteer or donate funds, visit eagleriverrevitalization.org or contact Margelofsky at the information above.

Makeover FROM PAGE 1B

local restaurants to generate more business throughout Three Lakes.

The Brew Station beat out Eagle River business Mary Kate's Wine Bar in the contest.

Three Lakes joined WEDC's Connect Communities program in 2021. The community is striving to rebound from a 2019 fire, which destroyed a signature

downtown hotel and restaurant and the loss of two additional restaurants during the pandemic.

The Brew Station will work closely with WEDC staff and placemaking and landscape design consultants from Ayres Associates on a patio plan that meets the needs of their customers and creates a welcoming atmosphere for visitors. The transformed space will be formally unveiled during a public celebration later this summer.

In its second year, the place-makeover contest is

an initiative of the Wisconsin Main Street Program, a comprehensive revitalization program overseen by WEDC and designed to promote the historic and economic redevelopment of traditional business districts in Wisconsin.

The 2022 Place-Makeover focused on public rather than private spaces, and helped Lake Mills re-imagine an alleyway into the Legendary Lane pedestrian walkway.

For more information on the Wisconsin Main Street Program, visit wedc.org/mainstreet.



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