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November 27, 2026

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FREE

Christmas Belles Help 140 Foster Kids

What began 26 years ago with six women exchanging Christmas cookies has grown into a holiday tradition that will bring Christmas gifts to 140 foster children in Vilas and Gogebic counties.

On November 12th, 76 Christmas Belles gathered at Ely Memorial Church in Land O' Lakes for their annual potluck dinner and gift assignments. Each Belle, including those unable to attend, was assigned a foster child to shop for and prepare gifts. Members also donated a large assortment of nonperishable food for the Land O' Lakes and Watersmeet food pantries.

Coordinator Valerie Hogan introduced the committee and recognized the many volunteers and businesses supporting the effort. Special donations included more than 180 dental care bags for the children, provided with supplies from Ideal Dental in Woodruff/Minocqua. Members also filled special requests for winter boots, ice skates, and other needed equipment.

The Christmas Belles also support foster youth pursuing education and employment. This year, $21,000 will be awarded to 10 young adults through the group's Education Awards program. Additional donations included $1,500 from local Mah Jong players and $500 from the Land O' Lakes American Legion Auxiliary.

Letters from children and foster parents who received gifts last year reminded members how much their efforts mean. In early December, hundreds of wrapped gifts will be delivered to social services offices in Vilas and Gogebic counties for distribution to foster families. New members are always welcome. For information, email nwxbelles@gmail.com.



Photo by Bob Hughes

(L-R): American Legion Auxiliary members Diane Achuff, Karen Dowd present donation checks to Christmas Belles Education Award members Kay Schroeder and Jennifer Greeneway and also to Christmas Belle Valerie Hogan.

Land O' Lakes Adds Colorful Mosaic Receptacles

Land O' Lakes has four new mosaic trash and recycling receptacles, thanks to a community collaboration led by the Land O' Lakes Public Art Committee. Funded in part by a Wisconsin Arts Board Creative Communities grant, the project brought together local students, artists, residents, businesses, and the Town of Land O' Lakes. Students from SOAR Charter School created mosaic designs, while Northland Pines technical education students helped design and build the metal receptacles. Local artists and volunteers completed the colorful mosaics using donated glass and ceramics.



Photo by Bob Hughes

The four receptacles are located at the Land O' Lakes Library, Headwaters State Bank, Musical Playground beside Town Hall, and Storybook Garden.

The project provides needed downtown trash and recycling facilities while combining public art, environmental awareness, and hands-on student learning. It also demonstrates what a small community can accomplish through teamwork and collaboration. The Public Art Committee also recognizes and honors Robert E. Guard's "Wisconsin Idea" as an ongoing inspiration for community involvement and shared learning. For more information, visit landolakeswi.gov/public-art.

KEEPING YOU POSTED•

by Karol Wilson



On September 25th, in Brookfield, WI, the United States Postal Service issued the Squirrels & Chipmunks in Snow Forever stamps, in four designs, in a double-sided booklet of 20 stamps. This 20-stamp booklet features photographs of two eastern chipmunks, an eastern gray squirrel, and an American red squirrel, each captured in snow. Art director Derry Noyes designed the stamps using existing photographs.

Holiday Concert & Chili Dinner

The Phelps School District invites the community to celebrate the holidays on Wednesday, December 16, with a free *Chili Dinner* beginning at 4:45pm, followed by a music program at 6:00pm.

This year's featured performance, *Twas the Night Before Christmas*, is a mini-musical based on the classic holiday poem attributed to Clement Clarke Moore. The concert will showcase the district's talent, featuring performances by all elementary and secondary handbell groups, bands, and choral ensembles.

All members of the surrounding communities are welcome and encouraged to attend this free holiday celebration.

Phelps *Christmas Tree Lighting*

The Phelps *Christmas Tree Lighting* will take place Saturday, December 5th, at the Phelps Community Center. Festivities begin at 4:00pm, with the tree lighting at 5:00pm. Families are invited to enjoy caroling, hot dogs, hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa.

The event is sponsored by the Phelps Woman's Club, Town of Phelps, Phelps Volunteer Fire Department, Phelps/Land O' Lakes Lions Club, Eleanor Ellis Public Library, Phelps Chamber of Commerce, Phelps School District, and Jon and Sheryl Ward.

The Border SNOWFLAKE HUNT
find all that you can!
see back page for answer

Keeping You Posted–*Cover* • **Border Happenings**–*pg 2-3* • **Border Business**–*pg 2* • **Pastor's Window**–*pg 6*
Tipsy Housewife–*pg 7* • **Health & Wellness**–*pg 8* • **Classifieds**–*pg 8*

BORDER BUSINESS • The American Dream Part 2

by Dale Kleffman



Dale Kleffman is the Branch President and a Loan Advisor at Select One Mortgage in Land O' Lakes.

The American Dream has never promised equal outcomes. It has, however, been built on the belief that ordinary people have a reasonable opportunity to succeed through hard work, determination, and responsible risk-taking.

Today, that opportunity deserves a closer look. Growing pools of investment capital and modern financial markets have made it easier for those who already possess substantial wealth to acquire and expand businesses. Meanwhile, individuals relying primarily on a paycheck often face a much harder path to becoming business owners.

Investment is essential to a healthy economy. Investors provide capital, take risks, and help businesses grow. Small-business owners also benefit from tax deductions and other provisions. The question is whether our economic and tax systems unintentionally favor those who already have wealth while making it harder for others to build it.

For example, income earned through work or operating a business is often taxed differently than long-term investment gains. While there are legitimate reasons for these differences, we should ask whether our tax policies adequately reward the people who create new businesses, provide jobs, and build wealth through their own efforts.

This concern should reach across political lines. Whether discussing assistance to individuals or subsidies to corporations, we should consider whether policies encourage long-term independence or create continued reliance on outside support.

There is a place for helping people through difficult circumstances and encouraging worthwhile business investment. However, expanding access to capital and opportunity may accomplish more over the long term than simply providing additional assistance.

Imagine an economy where someone with a good idea, a sound business plan, and a willingness to work has a realistic opportunity to obtain financing and compete, even without substantial personal wealth.

The goal should not be to guarantee success or eliminate the possibility of failure. Risk is part of building a business, and not every venture will succeed. Instead, we should work toward an economy where opportunity is not increasingly reserved for those who already have money.

The question is not whether people should be allowed to become wealthy. It is whether we are preserving the opportunity for the next generation to do the same. That is what the American Dream has always been about.

Dale Kleffman has over 15 years of experience within the financial services, insurance, and mortgage industries and maintains an office in Land O' Lakes at 4259 CTH B. Dale Kleffman. NMLS #2093524. Select One Mortgage Inc, NMLS #201542

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BORDER HAPPENINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS • • •

Featured in this issue.

Small Business Saturday: Nov 28.
First Day of Winter: Dec 21.
Christmas: Dec 25.

School Info: 2026-2027
NPSD:
-Christmas Break: *Dec 23-Jan 1.*
Phelps:
-Christmas Break: *Dec 23-Jan 1.*
Watersmeet:
-Christmas Break: *Dec 18 (½ day) Jan 1.*

*** WI Deer Hunting Season:**
-Bow: Until Jan 3, 2027.
-Antlerless Hunt: *Dec 24-Jan 1, 2027.*
-Muzzleloader: Nov 30-Dec 9.
*** MI Deer Hunting Season:**
-Bow: *Dec 1-Jan 1.*
-Muzzleloading Zone 1: *Dec 4-6.*
-Late Antlerless Gun: *Dec 7-Jan 1, 2027.*
*Please Check Hunting Schedule on DNR Websites to confirm dates before hunting.

CONOVER • • •

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner:
Pioneer Lk Church, Dec 6, 4pm.

Town Board Meetings:
Conover Center, 2nd Thurs, 6pm.

HAPPENINGS
>> continued on page 3

Headwaters Council for the Performing Arts
~ presents ~


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Saturday, December 5
7:00pm
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Phelps Christmas Tree Lighting
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Saturday, December 5th
Festivities at 4pm
Tree Lighting at 5pm
Christmas caroling
Hot chocolate and hot dogs
Visit from Santa and treats for kids
at the Phelps Community Center
Ad provided by Phelps Womens Club

HAPPENINGS
>> continued from page 2

Conover Lions Club: info@conover-lions.com or www.conoverlions.com.

Conover Clerk's Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm. Events at www.townofconover.com/calendar.

Conover Post Office Window: Mon-Fri 8:45am-12:45pm & 2-4pm; Sat 9-11am.

Conover Chamber: M/Tu/W 9am-3pm. Th/Fr by appointment.

Conover Transfer Station Hours: Wed 1-4pm; Sun 8am-1pm.

LAND O' LAKES • • •

Black Friday Glow Party: Bent's Camp, Nov 27.

Ornament Workshop: Library, Nov 28, 11am-1pm.

Breakfast with Santa: Gateway Lodge, Nov 28, 8-11am.

Whobilation Christmas Celebration: Nov 28, 10am.

Christmas Craft Sale: School, Nov 28, 9am-2pm.

VFW Christmas Party: Dec 5, Apps 4pm, Dinner 6pm.

Holiday Art Bazaar & Open House: LOLA, Dec 6, 10am-4pm.

Town Christmas Tree Lighting: Town Hall, Dec 6, 3-5pm.

Singers Christmas Concert: Ely Church, Dec 13, 4pm.

Snowmobile Benefit Breakfast: Sunrise, Dec 12-13, 7:30-11am.

Make Music Day: Dec 21.

Snowmobile Safety Class: Town Hall, Dec 28, 8am-4pm. Email: sarah.lipa@gmail.com.

New Year's Eve Party: Gateway Lodge, Dec 31,10pm.

LIBRARY:
Cinnamon Roll Class: Dec 4, 11am.
Cinnamon Roll Baking: Dec 4, 11am.
Book Clubs:
-Books n' Brew:
-The Road to Tender Hearts: Brew's Pub, Dec 17, 6:30pm.
-Being Mortal: Dec 8, 10am.
-Survival of the Nicest: Dec 14, 10:30am.
Movie-*The Breadwinner:* Dec 10, 1pm.
Storytime: 1st & 3rd Tues 10:30am.
Mah jongg: Tues 1-4pm. Text Deanie 715-367-1983 for info.
Lego Club: 1st & 3rd Wed, 3:30-4:30pm.
Library Explorers-Homeschool: 2nd & 4th Thur, 10:30-11:30am.
Board Meetings: 2nd Wed, 9am.
Friends Library Mtg: 1st Thurs, 10am. May-Nov & Jan.
Open: M/Tu/Th/F, 10am-4pm; Wed 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-1pm. For more info call 715-547-6006.



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Next issue: December 11, 2026
Submissions by: November 28, 2026

LOLA PROGRAMS:
Wild Rice & Fanning Basket Presentation: Nov 27 & 29 5-7pm, Nov 28 12-2pm.
Snowman Stained Glass: Dec 2, 10am-4pm.
Watercolor Workshop-*Winter in Woods:* Dec 7-8, 10am-4pm.
Coffee & Canvas-*VanGogh Christmas:* Dec 12, 10am.
Lake Superior Rock Wrapping: Dec 20, 11am-3pm.
Rug Hookers: Mon 9am.
Watercolor Wed: Wed 10am-2pm.
Fiber Friday: Fri 10am-2pm.
Beading Friday: Fri 1-3pm.
****Classes at LOLA unless noted. Visit website or call 715-547-3950.

A.A. Meeting: Town Hall, Sun 2pm.

Pickleball: School, M & Th (except no school days) 3:35-6:30pm.

VFW Stateline Post 8400 Meetings: Veterans Center, last Mon, 6pm.

StateLine Auxiliary VFW 8400 Mtg: Veterans Center, 2nd Tu, 5pm.

Headwaters Food Pantry Pick-up: Olympic 76 St, 1st & 3rd Wed, 8:30-11:30am. 715-547-6060.

Planning & Beautification Meeting: Town Hall, 2nd Wed, 11am.

Town Board Meetings: Town Hall, 3rd Wed, 6pm.

Yoga: Town Hall, Thurs:
-Gentle/Chair: 9-10am.
-Hatha: 10:30-11:45am.

American Legion Post 464 Meets: Town Hall, 2nd Thurs, 6pm.

American Legion Auxiliary Mtg: Town Hall, 3rd Thurs, 4:30pm.

LOL Chamber Meeting: 3rd Thurs, 7:30am. Public welcome.

Qigong: Town Hall, Fri 9-10am.

LOL Town Hall Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-3pm.

LOL Chamber Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-2pm.

Post Office Window: M-F 9:30am-1pm & 2-4pm; Sat 9:30-11am.

Dump Hours: Tu 8am-3pm; Th 12-4pm; Sat 8am-4pm.

PHELPS • • •

Breakfast with Santa: Great Escape, Nov 28, 8am-12pm.

Holiday Tree Lighting: Community Center, Dec 5, 4-6pm.

Holiday Chili Dinner: School, Dec 16, 4:45pm.

LIBRARY:
Storytime: Tues 2pm.
Hours: M/Tu/Th/F 10am-4pm; Wed 2-6pm; Sat 10am-1pm.
For more info call 715-545-2887.

Phelps Women's Club Meeting: Community Center, Mon 1pm. Call 715-617-0308 for date.

Phelps Historical Museum: By Appointment. Call Pauleyn 715-617-5551 for info.

Phelps Chamber Meeting: Community Center, 3rd Tues, 5pm.

Phelps Town Board Meeting: Community Center, 2nd Wed, 6pm.

Phelps/LOL Lions Club: 3rd Thur 6pm. Rollie Alger at 715-545-2711 or Brian Blank at 262-302-0458.

Phelps Chamber Office Hours: M/Tu/W/F 9am-3pm.

Phelps Post Office Window: Mon-Fri 8am-12:15pm & 2:15-4pm; Sat 9-11am.

Phelps Town Hall Hours: Mon-Thurs 9am-12pm and 1-3pm.

Phelps Transfer Station Hours: Sat 9am-12pm.

WATERSMEET • • •

Ottawa Visitors Ctr: M-F 8am-4pm.

A.A. Meeting: Spiritual Center; Tues/Thur/Sat 7pm. (All Open Topic) Call 906-366-0067 for more info.

ISCCW Meeting: Town Hall, 2nd Tues, 9am.

Town Board Meeting: Town Hall, 3rd Wed 4:30pm.

Planning Commission Meeting: Town Hall, 1st Thur, 5:30pm.

American Legion Post 417: Community Center, last Thur, 5pm.

Watersmeet Town Hall Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-11:30am, 12-3pm. Visit www.watersmeetmi.gov.

Transfer Station Hours: M/T/Th/F/Sat 8am–4pm.

Watersmeet Post Office Window: Mon-Fri 9:30am-12:30pm & 1:30-4pm; Sat 9:15-10:45am.

BEYOND THE BORDER • • •
BOULDER JUNCTION•

Arts & Craft Show: Community Center, Nov 27, 10am-4pm.

Cookie Walk: Acorn Lodge, Nov 27, 4pm.

Christmas Walk: Downtown, Nov 27, 4-8pm.

EAGLE RIVER •

Christmas Kickoff: Riverview Park, Dec 5, 4-6:30pm.

Celtic Angels Christmas: Dec 5, 7pm.

Singers Christmas Concert: Prince of Peace Church, Dec 6, 4pm.

Sleigh Rides: Rocking W Stables, Dec 12-Jan 2,2027 10am-8pm.

Bingo: Kalmar Ctr, Mon 6 & 7pm.

OLSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY:
Angel Tree Toy Donation: Until Dec 18.
Academic Success: M/W 9am-12pm.
Writers Group: Alternating Mon 1-3pm.
Memory Cafe: 2nd Mon, 10am.
Ukulele Jam: Mon 2-3:30pm.
Genealogical Society Meeting: 1st Mon 4:30-6:30pm.
Storytime: Tues 10am.
Grief Support: 1st Thurs 1pm.
Free Mending: 1st Sat 10am-12pm.
Hours: M 9am-7pm; T-Th 9am-6pm; F 9am-5pm; Sa 9am-3pm.
For more info 715-479-8070.

MANITOWISH WATERS •

Small Town Christmas: Koller Park, Dec 4, 3-6pm.

Mani-Wish Christmas: Little Bohemia Lodge, Dec 5, 5pm.

North Lakeland Discovery Center Programs: For more info at 715-543-2085 or www.DiscoveryCenter.net.
-Winter Family Play Day: Dec 30, 11am-2pm.

MINOCQUA •

Christmas Gift & Craft Fair: LUHS, Nov 28, 9am-3pm.

Christmas Kick Off & Elf Hunt: Downtown, Nov 28.

PRESQUE ISLE •

Olde Time Community Christmas Celebration: Pipke Park, Dec 11, 5-8pm.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS:
Fiber Arts: 1st & 3rd Tu 12-3pm.
Story Club: 1st & 3rd Wed,10am.
American MahJongg: Fri 1-3pm.
Hours: M/W 9-6; T/Th/S 9-12; F 9-3.
Call for more info 715-686-7613.

RHINELANDER •

Parade of Lights: Hodag Park, Dec 1-Jan 1, 5-9pm.

SAYNER/STAR LAKE •

Christmas Downtown: Nov 28-29, 10am-5pm.

Hometown Holiday Celebration: Community Center, Dec 5, 4-9pm.

ST. GERMAIN •

Tree Lighting Celebration: Downtown, Nov 28, 4pm.

Holiday Marketplace: Community Center, Dec 5, 9am-3pm.

Jingle Bell 3K Run/Walk/Roll/Pull: Park, Dec 5, 10am.

UPPER MICHIGAN •

Hometown Christmas: Ontonagon, Dec 5-6.

MI-TRALE Meeting: Stannard Town Hall-Bruce Crossing, 1st Mon 7pm.

Land O' Lakes Schools Honor Veterans

Land O' Lakes Elementary and SOAR School held their annual *Veterans Day Program*, honoring local veterans with music, performances and special presentations. Principal Carie Nordine welcomed those attending, especially the veterans, before the VFW Post 8400 Honor Guard presented the colors. The school band and several singing groups performed, including a medley of Armed Forces anthems. Veteran Chris Cichy shared a Veterans Day message, followed by Brandon Konnow, a serving National Reserve Officer, who offered a lighter look at military service and veterans. The program also included a demonstration of the proper folding of the American flag and a flag routine performed by younger students. Paul Salzgiver sounded *Taps before the Honor Guard* retired the colors. Nordine closed the program, recognizing those who attended to honor the nation's veterans.



Photo by Bob Hughes

Young students perform a patriotic flag routine during their Veterans Day Program.

Veterans Service Honors Military Working Dogs

Veterans, family members, and congregation members gathered November 8th at the Phelps Congregational Church for its annual *Veterans Day Service*. This year's program honored all veterans and those currently serving, with a special focus on Military Working Dogs (MWDs).

Following the presentation of colors, Pledge of Allegiance, and Armed Forces medley, veterans received poppies in recognition of their service. Sharon Caskey read the Veterans Prayer, and Mak Holcombe recited *In Flanders Fields*, the 1915 poem by Canadian physician and soldier John McCrae.The program featured presentations on the training and service of MWD. Maria Jesinski and Diane Achuff shared information about preparing dogs for military service, while Leanne Theis told the story of Lucca, a courageous military working dog. Caskey also read an account of the mission to capture Osama Bin Laden, highlighting the important role played by Cairo, a military working dog.

Many retired military working dogs go on to live with their former handlers. Donations from the service benefited the Warrior Dog Foundation and Patriot K9s of Wisconsin. Veterans and congregation members were invited to breakfast following the service.

Around the Libraries

News and happenings from area libraries

Land O' Lakes Library



The Land O' Lakes Library will host its annual Family Ornament Workshop on Saturday, November 28th, from 11:00am-1:00pm, with crafts for all ages.

The Friends of the Library Quilt Raffle features a handmade Northwoods wall hanging. Tickets are $5 each or five for $20, with the drawing November 28th.

Upcoming programs include a Cinnamon Roll Making Class with Dottie Reeder on December 4th at 11:00am (registration required); the movie "The Breadwinner" on December 10th at 1:00pm; and a complimentary Qigong Class on December 11th from 10:00am-11:00am.

Library Explorers, for children ages 4-8, meets December 17th from 10:30am-11:30am (registration required).

Regular programs include Read n' Play Storytime on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 10:30am; and Mah Jongg every Tuesday from 1:00-4:00pm; and Lego Club for 4K-Grade 4 on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 3:30pm-4:30pm. Call the library for information or registration.

Open: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm; Wed 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-1pm • landolakeslibrary.org • 715-547-6006

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Joke of the Day

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Lions Screen Students Vision

The Phelps and Land O' Lakes Lions Clubs recently conducted vision screenings for K4 through eighth-grade students at Phelps Grade and Middle School. Using a Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screener, Lions members were able to check each child's vision in just seconds. The screening identifies potential vision concerns, allowing parents or guardians to seek further evaluation from an optometrist if needed.

A total of 40 students were screened, with three referred for follow-up care. Lions Brian Blank and Steve Chandler participated in the screenings. Blank said he enjoyed visiting with the students and hearing their stories about Halloween costumes and candy. Second-grade teacher Pam Klessig also expressed appreciation to the club for providing the screenings, noting how vital vision testing is for students.



Photo provided by Sharon Gifford

Lion Rollie Alger testing a student vision.

MI-TRALE Trail Counts Top 1.1 Million

In 2015, MI-TRALE (Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment) set out to answer one question: How many ATVs use its trails in Michigan's Western Upper Peninsula?

At the time, MI-TRALE maintained about 290 miles of DNR-designated trails but had no accurate traffic counts. The organization installed its first two trail counters in late 2015, recording more than 60,000 recreational vehicles in 2016 and nearly 70,000 in 2017. As the trail system grew, so did the number of counters. By 2020, MI-TRALE had eight counters, increasing to nine in 2025. Traffic counts reached 139,903 in 2021 and 198,685 in 2025. Through November 2026, counters had recorded another 163,253 visits. With a recent $7,500 Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative grant and support from Pat's Motor Sports in Greenland, MI, MI-TRALE installed nine additional counters in October. The organization can now monitor all of the more than 315 miles of DNR-designated trails it maintains.

The data helps MI-TRALE plan trail maintenance and identify peak riding days and times, while also helping local businesses and services develop marketing strategies. Since 2016, a total of 1,195,369 recreational vehicles have been counted on MI-TRALE-managed trails. MI-TRALE invites everyone to enjoy the Western UP trails: Ride safely, ride right and ride with your lights on!



Photo provided by MI-TRALE

Phelps *Breakfast with Santa* Fundraiser

There will be a *Breakfast with Santa* fundraiser event on Saturday, November 28th, from 8:00am-12:00pm, at the Great Escape Resort located at 2510 HWY 17 in Phelps. Tickets can be bought the day of and are $15 for an adult plate and $5 for the kids plate. The breakfast includes scrambled eggs, sausages, pancakes, hash browns, and a beverage. There will be raffle baskets, a goodie bag, and activities for the kids. All donations will go to Northwoods Children's Museum of Eagle River.

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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Scandinavian Cooking Class

Dottie Reeder recently hosted another popular cooking class at the Land O' Lakes Library, featuring Scandinavian Bites. The class offered ideas for appetizers and treats perfect for Thanksgiving and the upcoming holiday season. Participants prepared Hot Almond Citrus Punch, Marinated Cucumber Salad, Smoked Salmon Tea Sandwiches, Norwegian Silver Dollar Pancakes, and Cranberry Oatmeal Cookies. The class was filled, as many of Dottie's cooking classes are, and ended with everyone gathering to enjoy the dishes they had prepared.



Photo by Bob Hughes

Dottie Reeder (back row on right) joins participants in her *Scandinavian Bites Cooking Class* at the Land O' Lakes Library.

From the PASTOR'S WINDOW • *by Pastor Rob Yerks*



Rob Yerks serves as the pastor of Watersmeet Bible Church. He is a graduate of Contenders Discipleship Initiative (CDI).

The Good Shepherd - Part 6

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." (Psalm 23:5)

The 23rd Psalm is one of the most recognized and beloved passages in all of the Scriptures. Throughout the centuries, Christians everywhere have taken great comfort in these verses. This song was written approximately three-thousand years ago by King David; a man who was a shepherd by trade. However, even though a great deal of time has passed and the world is a much different place now, modern Christians can still take great encouragement and comfort in these verses. These benefits are most impactful when we consider them in the light of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

After being brought through the valley of the shadow of death we see that David's Shepherd has blessings waiting for him on the other side. However, these blessings may leave us as modern American readers with a few questions. Why would I want a table surrounded by my enemies? Why would I want oil poured on my head? Why is God pouring so much into my cup that it's spilling all over the nice table that He just prepared for me? Thankfully, the answers to these questions are reasonable and speak greatly of the wonderful blessings that our Good Shepherd Christ has for those who follow Him.

When God prepares a table in the presence of David's enemies it is important to note that while the enemies are present for this sumptuous banquet, they are not invited to partake in it. Essentially, David's enemies have to sit there and watch as God richly blessed David; which as you could imagine would make them boil in their own hatred. For example, the king of Persia honors Mordecai in the presence of his enemy Haman in Esther 6.

The anointing of a head with oil was a special symbol in ancient Israel. It was used to symbolize one who was set apart and uniquely blessed. So, for the Lord to anoint David's head with oil was to bless him and set him apart for future blessings.

The cup running over is not that God is a lousy waiter, but rather it shows how generous His blessings are. God is not stingy or begrudging with His blessings for David, but rather He is eager to give them to the point where they are overwhelming.

God will honor David in the sight of his enemies. He will set David apart for blessings, and those blessings will be overwhelming. The same is true for all who follow the Good Shepherd Jesus Christ. One day we will follow our Good Shepherd through the valley of the shadow of death. After that, we too will be honored in the sight of those who hate us. We too will be set apart for wonderful blessings in Heaven, and those blessings will be absolutely overwhelming.

See You Sunday ~ Pastor Rob.
Pastoryerks@gmail.com, 906-358-4744.

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Northwoods Singers Bring Holiday Music to the Community

The Northwoods Singers will present two holiday concerts titled *Sing The Light of Christmas*, celebrating hope, unity, and the joy of the season through choral music.

Directed by Dr. Pamalyn Lee, the chorus includes adults from Wisconsin's Northwoods and the U.P. Concerts will be held December 6th at 4:00pm at Prince of Peace Church in Eagle River and December 13th at 4:00pm at Ely Memorial Church in Land O' Lakes.

Musical accompaniment will include Linda Brainard on piano, Beth Hassler on violin and viola, Connie Pellman on flute, Mark Hovel on guitar, and a percussion team led by Sue Omdahl featuring thirteen instruments.

A free-will offering will be collected, and refreshments will be served following each concert. For more information, email Susan at skrivichi@gmail.com.





THE TIPSY HOUSEWIFE • Dinner Under $9

by Chef April Lee



April Lee Wiencek is a Chef, Social Media Influencer, & Food Blogger from Chicago and part time in Watersmeet.

When the Northwoods evenings turn dark before supper, there's nothing better than having dinner slowly cooking in the oven. This week, it was boneless country-style pork ribs. I paid just $8.78 for a little over 2lbs, and served with soft onions, pan juices, and stuffing, it felt like Sunday dinner.

Look for boneless pork shoulder country ribs in the fresh pork case near the chops and roasts. Choose a package with a little marbling for tender, flavorful meat. If you can't find them, ask the meat counter for boneless country-style ribs cut from the shoulder.

The surprise seasoning is tarragon. Its slight licorice flavor pairs nicely with pork and adds something special to the onion juices. Don't have tarragon? Thyme works, too. And if you have leftovers, pile the pork and onions onto a toasted roll with a little gravy for another delicious meal. My favorite reason to buy the bigger package. Makes: 4 servings.

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds boneless country-style pork ribs cut from the shoulder
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 teaspoons garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon dried tarragon
- 2 tablespoons of soy sauce
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1/2 cup water

Instructions:

1. Heat the oven to 350°F.
2. Arrange pork single layer in a 9"x13" glass baking dish. Drizzle with olive oil and season all sides with garlic salt, pepper, paprika, tarragon, and soy sauce. Scatter onion over the top. Pour water down the side of the dish and cover tightly with foil.
3. Bake for about 90 minutes, taking a quick look at the 45-minute mark. Thickness and oven temperature can affect the timing. The thickest piece should reach at least 145°F, and a fork should slide in easily. If the meat still feels firm, cover and check again in 10-15 minutes. Rest the pork for at least 3 minutes before serving.
4. Spoon onions and juices over stuffing, mashed potatoes, or rice.



Photo by April Lee

For extra gravy, skim the fat from the drippings and add enough water to make 1½ cups of liquid. Stir in 1/2 teaspoon roasted chicken Better Than Bouillon. Melt 2 tablespoons of unsalted butter in a saucepan, whisk in 2 tablespoons flour and cook for a minute. Slowly whisk in the liquid and simmer until thickened, about 3-5 minutes. Stir in the onions and taste before adding more bouillon.

If you'd rather use the slow cooker, start with fully thawed pork and the same ingredients. Cook covered on low for 6-8 hours or high for 3-4 hours, checking for tenderness and temperature at the early end.

April Lee Wiencek, The Tipsy Housewife is a Chef, Social Media Influencer, & Food Blogger from Chicago that spends lots of time in Watersmeet. Check out her blog at thetipsyhouswife.org, follow on Instagram @thetipsyhousewife, or TheTipsy Housewife.org for recipes.

Holiday Tips!

2) Simmer cinnamon sticks, orange peels and cloves in a pot of water for a natural holiday fragrance.

3) Prepare and freeze cookie dough ahead of time to bake fresh cookies whenever company stops by.



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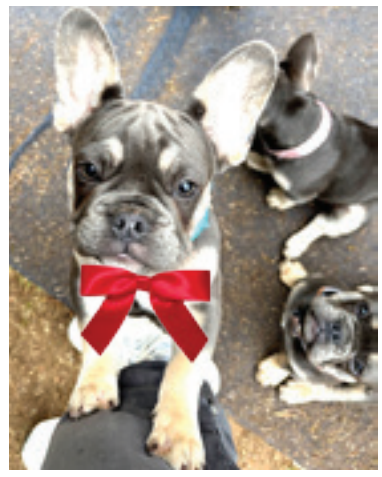

SNOWFLAKE HUNT COUNT: 54

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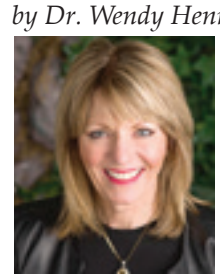
HEALTH & WELLNESS • Shovel Smarter

by Dr. Wendy Henrichs



Dr. Wendy M. Henrichs is a Board Certified Chiropractic Pediatrician and Nutrition Counselor at Timber Land Chiropractic.

The first significant snowfall of the season will soon be here, and it often brings excitement, but it can also bring an increase in back injuries, muscle strains, and even heart-related emergencies. Every winter, we see patients whose pain began with a single afternoon of snow shoveling. Fortunately, many of these injuries can be prevented with a few simple precautions.

Before heading outside, take a few minutes to warm up. Snow shoveling is a vigorous physical activity, and jumping into it with cold muscles increases the risk of injury. March in place, do gentle stretches, or take a short walk to get blood flowing to your muscles.

Choosing the right shovel makes a difference. A lightweight ergonomic handle shovel can reduce strain on your back and shoulders. Use a smaller shovel and move smaller amounts of snow at a time. While it may seem more efficient to lift a large load, this often leads to muscle strains and disc injuries.

Proper body mechanics are critical. When lifting snow, bend at your knees and hips rather than your waist. Keep your back as straight as possible and hold the shovel close to your body. Avoid twisting while lifting or throwing snow. Instead, turn your entire body by moving your feet. Twisting under load is one of the most common causes of lower back injuries.

Whenever possible, push the snow rather than lifting it. Pushing requires less effort and places significantly less stress on the spine. If the snow is wet and heavy, remove it in layers rather than trying to clear it all at once.

Pace yourself and take frequent breaks. Snow shoveling can elevate your heart rate and blood pressure quickly, especially in chilly weather. If you become short of breath, dizzy, excessively fatigued, or experience chest discomfort, stop immediately and seek medical attention.

Hydration is important in winter. People underestimate how much fluid they lose while working in cold weather. Drinking water before and after shoveling can help prevent muscle fatigue and cramping.

If you have a history of back problems, heart disease, high blood pressure, or limited physical conditioning, consider alternatives like a snow blower or a snow removal service. A few dollars spent on prevention can save weeks of pain and recovery.

If you do experience soreness after shoveling, apply ice to reduce inflammation during the first 24 hours and continue gentle movement as tolerated. Persistent pain, numbness, tingling, or pain radiating into the legs should be evaluated by your chiropractor.

Winter is meant to be enjoyed. By warming up, using proper lifting techniques, and listening to your body, you can keep your driveway clear and your spine healthy all season long. When it comes to snow shoveling, working smarter is far more important than working harder. Remember, it is never too late to make a Shift in Health.

Dr. Wendy Henrichs of Timber Land Chiropractic provides comprehensive chiropractic care among other services including pregnancy care, pediatric care, post-concussion and sports injuries, FX 635 Laser, Zerona fat loss laser, nutrition counseling and wellness services. Dr. Wendy is a board-certified Chiropractic Pediatrician and Nutrition Counselor. Timber Land Chiropractic is located at 1 E. Courtney St. Rhinelander. More info, 715-362-4852 or www.timberlandchiropractic.com, Instagram @drwendyhenrichs, LinkedIn, and Facebook.



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