

Cars, Stars & Oktoberfest

The *Stateline Auto Show* in Land O' Lakes returns for its second year on Saturday, September 12th, bringing a full day of cars, celebrities, music, food and entertainment to Wisconsin's Northwoods. The *Auto Show*, *Oktoberfest*, and *Radar Run* are all free to attend.

The *Stateline Auto Show* will run from 9:00am-3:00pm and feature an exciting collection of classic, custom and specialty vehicles, along with famous movie and television cars, including the Original Batmobile, Batman's Motorcycle, the General Lee, and more.

This year's special guest is Tom Wopat, best known as Luke Duke from *The Dukes of Hazzard*. Wopat's career has spanned television, film, Broadway and music. Fans will have the opportunity to meet him from 11:00am-3:00pm during the *Auto Show* and again throughout the evening at *Oktoberfest*.

Adding to the excitement, Wopat is expected to climb behind the wheel of the legendary General Lee

for a lap at the Land O' Lakes Airport during the timed

Radar Run, hosted by the

Land O' Lakes Airport. The *Radar*

Run will take place from 9:00am-3:00pm. Bus shuttles will run

throughout the day between the *Auto Show* and *Radar Run*.

At 4:00pm, the celebration moves to The Snowflake for Land O' Lakes *Oktoberfest*, running until 10:00pm. The *Jim Pekol Polka Band* will kick off the entertainment at 4:30pm, followed by *Tom Wopat* at 6:30pm. Wopat, an accom-

plished recording artist who has performed at the Grand Ole Opry, will present a special mini-concert. *The Dukes of Hudson*, from Hudson, WI, will follow with a celebration of outlaw country, performing favorites associated with Hank Williams, Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings, and other country leg-

ends. Food and beverages will be available throughout *Oktoberfest*, including authentic German favorites from the Land O' Lakes VFW, BBQ from Northwoods Brewpub BBQ of Eau Claire, Northwoods favorites from the Pine Cone Express and sweets from Yort's Sip N' Scoops. Revolution Brewery

will offer a variety of beer, including non-alcoholic and gluten-free options, and seltzers.

The festivities will also include an official U.S. Steinhilfing Association competition, with separate men's and women's categories, along with an *Oktoberfest Best Dressed Costume Contest*. Guests are encouraged to break out their lederhosen and dirndls.

From iconic movie cars and the General Lee to Tom Wopat, live music, German food, beer and *Oktoberfest* competitions, September 12th promises a full day of free entertainment in Land O' Lakes.



Photo by Border Bulletin

Phelps Scarecrow Fest & Car Show

The 17th annual *Phelps Scarecrow Fest*, sponsored by the Phelps Woman's Club, will be held Saturday, September 19th from 10:00am-4:00pm. in downtown Phelps. Admission and parking are free. The festival will feature craft vendors, pumpkin chuckin', a *Quilt/Fine Arts Show*, children's activities, a fall



mum sale, food, beer, free chili, homemade wine tasting and live music. The festival also includes the *Spooktacular Car Show* featuring vintage and classic cars and motorcycles. Registration is from 8:00am-11:00am, with no entry fee or pre-reg-

istration required. The first 50 vehicles will receive a commemorative dash plaque. Voting runs from 11:00am-2:00pm, with trophies presented at 3:00pm. Awards include People's Choice Best of Show, Most Unique and Best Spooktacular Decor. Ray Sorenson and Marc Engberg will assist with parking and registration and are always happy to talk about cars and racing. Sorenson previously served as chief mechanic for INDYCAR legend Michael Andretti. For more than 20 years,

Sorenson and Engberg have worked together as team manager and chief mechanic, respectively, for Blackdog Racing in Lincolnshire, IL, racing Chevrolet and McLaren. Bring your classic, antique or favorite vehicle to the Phelps Lakefront Pines Park, across from the Phelps Post Office on Hwy E.

For *Car Show* questions, contact Ray Sorenson at ray@blackdogcars.com or Marc Engberg at marc@blackdogcars.com. For *Scarecrow Fest* information, visit phelpsscscarecrowfest.org, like us on Facebook, or call 715-522-0535.

Festival proceeds support Phelps community organizations, projects, food pantries, the Eleanor Ellis Public Library and local scholarships.

Register for Midwest Musky Classic

Registration is open for the 46th *Midwest Musky Classic* fishing tournament held October 2nd-4th in Phelps. Tournament fishing is on North and South Twin Lakes, Lac Vieux Desert, Big Sand Lake, and new this year also Long Lake and Kentuck Lake. The 1st place winner will take home \$1200 and a replica of the winning fish, 2nd place \$1000, and 3rd place \$800. Plus, cash prizes for *Big Fish of the Day* each day of the tournament. In the 2025 *Midwest Musky Classic* there were 11 musky caught with the winning fish measuring 49.25" caught on Lac Vieux Desert by Chuck Abitz from Rhinelander.

The *Midwest Musky Classic* is a fall fishing tradition with lots of anglers who have returned for many years, some for all 45 years of the tournament! What makes this tournament so special is that there are many groups of friends and relatives who come up north together to make a weekend out of it. It's a great opportunity to make it a new tradition or an annual reunion weekend with friends or relatives. The camaraderie among the anglers and the fun spirit of this tournament is incredibly unique and unmatched in fishing tournaments, making it second to none. You simply have to experience it for yourself!

Registration for the tournament is \$90 and includes entry to all 3 days of fishing, entry to *Big Fish of the Day* cash prizes for each day, tournament hat, and awards lunch. Tournament sweatshirts are also available for \$60. Register online at www.phelpswi.com/midwest-musky-classic/ or contact the Phelps Chamber of Commerce for a registration form at chamber-office@phelpswi.com or 715-545-3800.

Border Troubadours Presents Three Plays

On Thursday, September 10th, at 4:00pm, the Border Troubadours theatre troupe will perform three one-act plays to benefit LOLA Arts located at Land O' Lakes Pavillion Park at 6480 Chippewa Drive, Land O' Lakes. Original plays written specifically for the Border Troubadours are performed by the talented and energetic cast with familiar toe tapping rock 'n roll tunes played by the Border Troubadours band. "2 Women: Rewind, Recall, Reset", created by Director, Cindy Pesek, is a story of Northwoods women abandoned by their husbands due to their sudden deaths. What happens next? See for yourself! "Unhinged in Barcelona", follows Mary Pat and David in their trials and missteps while on a European vacation during Holy Week. Calamity and chaos ensue. Original play written by Cindy Pesek. "WPUD in Puddle Falls" created by troupe member, Kevin McSorley, is an uproarious depiction of a six o'clock newscast in Puddle Falls. The comic characters and clever script will keep you chuckling.

Free live performance for the public. The troupe's mission includes fundraising activities to support a variety of charities. All monetary donations collected at the event will directly support LOLA Arts. No reservations are needed. Please bring a lawn chair or use on-site table benches.



Border Troubadours cast members who performed the original one-act plays in May at Three Lakes Center for the Arts.

MI-TRALE Seeks Trail Help

MI-TRALE (Michigan Trails and Recreation Alliance of Land and the Environment) is seeking volunteers age 12 and older for its Fall Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup on Saturday, September 19th. Volunteers will meet at 9:00am at Stannard Township Hall, 14927 Hwy M-28 East in Bruce Crossing. The group maintains a two-mile stretch of M-28 east of the Bruce Crossing Fire Department. Safety instructions and equipment will be provided. About 6 volunteers are needed. If interested contact MI-TRALE through its Facebook page or email Tim Peacy at treewrangler906@yahoo.com with their name and number.

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KEEPING YOU POSTED •

by Karol Wilson

On June 9th, in New York, NY, the United States Postal Service issued the U.S. Flag Forever stamp in one design, in a pane of 20 stamps, a double-sided booklet of 20 stamps, and a coil of 100 stamps. The Postal Service™ continues its long tradition of honoring the U.S. flag as the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary. The photograph on this 2026 stamp, a knit interpretation of a 13-star flag, is from an iconic sweater introduced by Polo Ralph Lauren in 1989. The knit flag is also featured on the 2026 American Icons pane, an issuance curated for the Postal Service by Ralph Lauren. Beneath the flag on this mail use stamp are America's anniversary dates: 1776 and 2026, both in red, with a golden, five-pointed star between them. USPS art director Greg Breeding designed the stamp using a photograph from the Ralph Lauren Corporation.



17th Annual PHELPS SCARECROW FEST

SATURDAY, SEPT 19
10am-4pm • Downtown Phelps
Sponsored by the Phelps Woman's Club

BALLOON MAN CAR SHOW
SNAG-A-BAG BOUTIQUE HOMEMADE WINE CONTEST
FOOD & BEVERAGES
PUMPKIN CHUNKIN CRAFT FAIR & FINE ARTS DISPLAY
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MUSIC, RAFFLES, & MORE!

September at LOLA
LAND O' LAKES ARTS
A Center for the Creative Spirit
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Songwriting Workshop
(Upstairs with Bobby Bullet)
Saturday, September 5 | 10AM-2PM | \$20

Creating Handmade Paper
(Downstairs with Linda Schroeder Golding)
Saturday, September 12 | 10AM-3PM | \$65

Coffee and Canvas: September Sunset
(Upstairs with Dr. Donna Murray-Tiedge)
Saturday, September 12 | 10AM-1PM | \$45

Acrylic Pumpkin or Witch Hat on Wood
(With Sue Schurch)
Thursday, September 17 (Downstairs) | 10AM-2PM | \$20
Friday, September 18 (Upstairs) | 10AM-2PM | \$20

Register: lolaarts.ludus.com 715.547.3950

BORDER HAPPENINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS • • •

★ Featured in this issue.

World Championship Off-Road

Races: Crandon, Sept 4-5.

Labor Day: Sept 7.

National Grandparents Day: Sept 13.

Tomahawk Fall Ride for MDA: Sept 17-20.

First Day of Autumn: Sept 22.

School Info: 2026-2027

NPSD:

No School: Sept 7.

Watersmeet:

No School: Sept 4 & 7.

* WI Deer Hunting Season:

-**Bow:** Sept 12-Jan 3, 2027.

* MI Deer Hunting Season:

-**Liberty Hunt & Early Antlerless Gun:** Sept 12-13.

*Please Check Hunting Schedule on DNR Websites to confirm dates before hunting.

CONOVER • • •

Sno-Buddies Brats & Beer Trail Fundraiser: Burnt Bridge, Sept 6, 11am-4pm.

Chain Skimmer Water Ski Show: Lake Pleasant, Tu/Th/Sa 7pm.

-**Labor Day Show:** Sept 5, 5pm.

Town Board Meetings:

Conover Center, 2nd Thurs, 6pm.

Conover Lions Club: info@conoverlions.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 1-5pm; Fri & Sun 8am-1pm. After 9/7: Wed 1-4pm; Sun 8am-1pm.

LAND O' LAKES • • •

Border Troubadours 3 Plays:

Pavilion, Sept 10, 4pm. ★

Outdoor Movie-Cars: The Snowflake, Sept 11. ★

Airport Radar Run: Airport, Sept 12, 9am-3pm. ★

Stateline Auto Show: Town Hall, Sept 12, 9am-3pm. ★

Oktoberfest: Snowflake, Sept 12, 4-10pm. ★

Bents Camp Music Series:

-**Old Pine Road:** Sept 5.

-**Howard Luedtke & the Blue Max Band:** Sept 6.

-**Bob Palmer:** Sept 7.

LIBRARY:

Mini Fall Book Sale & Raffle:

Sept 19, 10am-1pm.

Winged Wonders: Sept 30, 1-2pm.

Book Clubs:

-**The Brothers Karamazov:** Sept 8, 10am.

-**The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft & Her Daughter:**

Sept 14, 10:30am.

Adult Movie: 1 & 6:30pm.

-**The Devil Wears Prada 2:** Sept 17.

Storytime: 1st & 3rd Tues 10:30am.

Mah jongg: Tues 1-4pm. Text Deanie 715-367-1983 for info.

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.

LOLA PROGRAMS:

Songwriting: Sept 5, 10am-2pm.

Handmade Paper: Sept 12, 10am-3pm.

Coffee & Canvas: Sept 12, 10am-1pm.

Acrylic Pumpkin or Witch Hat on Wood: Sept 17 & 18, 10am-2pm.

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.

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

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

Tennis Jesters: Tennis Courts, M/W/F 9-11am. New Players Welcome.

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.

Northern Waters Museum: ★ Open Th/F/Sa 11am-3pm. Til 9/7.

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.

Farmers Market: Dawson's Pier, every Thur 8am-1pm.

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: Sun 9am-12pm; Tu 8am-3pm; Th 12-6pm; Sat 8am-4pm.

PHELPS • • •

Scarecrow Fest: Downtown, Sept 19, 10am-4pm. ★

Spooklacular Vehicle Show: Sept 19. ★

Stone Valley Music Festival: Stone Valley, Sept 24-26.

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:

Congregational Church, Mon 1pm. Call 715-617-0308 for date.

Phelps Historical Museum: Hours: Tu/F/Sa 10am-2pm; Th 4-8pm.

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: Tu 12-3pm; Sat 9am-2pm. After 9/7: Sat 9am-12pm.

WATERSMEET • • •

ISCCW Golf Outing: LVD Golf Course, Sept 20, 10am. ★

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; Sun 8am-12pm. After 9/7 no Sundays.

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

BEYOND THE BORDER • • • BOULDER JUNCTION•

Fire & EMS Fall Fest: Fire Dept, Sept 12, 12-7pm.

Colorama Arts, Crafts Fair & Farmers Market: Sept 12, 9am-3pm.

Colorama Dinner: Camp Manitowish, Sept 19, 6-8pm.

EAGLE RIVER •

Sausage Fest: Riverview Park, Sept 6, 11am-4pm.

Labor Day Arts & Craft Show: Downtown, Sept 6, 10am-4pm.

Septimber Ride: Three Eagles Bike Trail/Tribute Brewery, Sept 12, 7am-3pm.

Pauls Pro Am Musky Classic: Hiawatha Lodge, Sept 19-20.

Bingo: Kalmar Ctr, Mon 6 & 7pm.

Pickleball: Riverview Park, Tu/Th/Sat 9am-12pm.

Farmers Market: Hwy 45, Wed 8:30am-1pm; Sun 8:30am-1pm.

OLSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY:

Writers Group: 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•

Duck Race & Summer Fest: Koller Park, Sept 6, 1:30-6pm.

Harvest Fest: Sept 19.

Free Music in the Park: Koller Park, Sun 4-6pm, unless noted. -**Allen Brothers:** Sept 6.

MINOCQUA•

No Frills Marathon: Bearskin Trail, Sept 6, 8am.

Prime Choice Craft Sale: Topry Park, Sept 26.

Beef-a-Rama: Torpy Park, Sept 26, 8am-4pm.

Rump Roast Run: Downtown, Sept 26, 9am-12pm.

Farmers Market: Visitors Bureau: Fri 8am-1pm.

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Next issue: September 18, 2026

Submissions by: September 5, 2026

HAPPENINGS

>> continued on page 4



NATURAL CONNECTIONS • Gems of Lake Superior

by Heaven Walker



Heaven Walker is a Naturalist & Education Director and works at the Cable Natural History Museum.

Northwoods Through the Lens

My hands moved slowly over the pebbled beach as the waves of Lake Superior gently lapped the shoreline. I had found a nice spot to sit, close enough to the waterline to gaze at the rocks being tumbled by the waves, but far enough back to have a dry place to sit. As I surveyed the pebbles around me, I spotted what I was looking for. The waxy, red-banded surface of an agate poked out from the shore, beckoning me to pick it up. Though I had found the treasure I was seeking, I was determined to find more during my time along the beach.

These beautiful Lake Superior gemstones are a fascination for many people, with their different patterns and stunning hues

of reds, oranges, and yellows. But their impressive looks aren't the only enticing thing about them. These agates have an incredible formation story that starts a billion years ago, when the ancient continent Laurentia, which would eventually become part of North America, began to tear itself apart.

Basaltic lava flows erupted from Earth's crust on a massive scale, spreading across the landscape. These iron-rich lava flows eventually cooled, creating the low basin full of volcanic rock that would become Lake Superior. These ancient lava-formed rocks were the birthplace of Lake Superior agates.

Inside the hardened lava were many gas pockets, called vesicles, formed by the sudden release of pressure as molten rock burst from Earth's surface. As the lava cooled, the gas bubbles hardened in place. Groundwater carrying silica, iron, and other dissolved minerals seeped through the volcanic rock and into the vesicles. As the water evaporated, a microcrystal rind of fine quartz particles formed in

the hollow areas. Over time, as the environment changed, so did the minerals seeping in, creating different colors of crystalline bands. This process continued until the vesicle was full. And there the agates sat in the volcanic bedrock of the Lake Superior Basin until the last ice age when glaciers broke them free.

During the last glacial maximum, the Laurentide Ice Sheet covered much of Canada and the northern U.S., including the Lake Superior basin. The glaciers scraped and eroded the basin as they repeatedly grew and receded, exposing the agates inside. The glaciers acted like a giant rock tumbler, fracturing, roughly polishing, and distributing agates across the landscape. Because of this glacial movement, Lake Superior agates can be found throughout many Midwestern states.

While I have always loved find-

ing agates and observing the many different patterns they possess, I now appreciate the process that formed each Lake Superior agate I come across. These gems were a billion years in the making, forming in the ancient lava flows of the Mid-Continental Rift as groundwater slowly percolated into the vesicles and created their bands over millions of years. Finally, the agates were freed and distributed by the glaciers.

The agates we find today have had quite the journey. It is incredible to me that we can hold such a beautiful and ancient part of our geological past right in our hands. What a special treasure.



Photo by Heaven Walker

HAPPENINGS
continued from page 3 >>

PRESQUE ISLE •

Blood Drive: Community Center, Sept 5, 1-5:30pm.

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 •

Harvest Hoedown: Sept 26.

Farmers Market: Pioneer Park, Sat 8am-1pm.

SAYNER/STAR LAKE •

Colorama Weekend: Sept 25-27.

ST. GERMAIN •

Pints in the Park: Park, Sept 19, 12-4pm.

Car & Truck Show: Park, Sept 19, 9am-3pm.

Colorama: Park, Sept 19, 9am-3pm.

Totally Pawsome Wine Mixer:

Red Canoe, Sept 20.

ATV Fall Fest: Community Center, Sept 26.

Flea Market: Park, Mon 8am-3pm. Thru 9/7.

UPPER MICHIGAN •

MI-TRALE Free Senior Fall Color Tour: Sept 24.

Ewen Log Jamboree: Sept 25-26.

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

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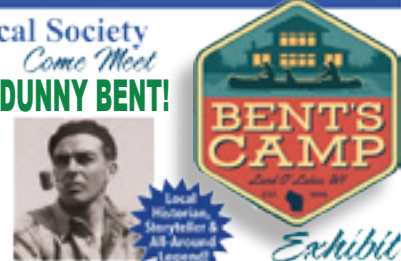
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Land O'Lakes Historical Society

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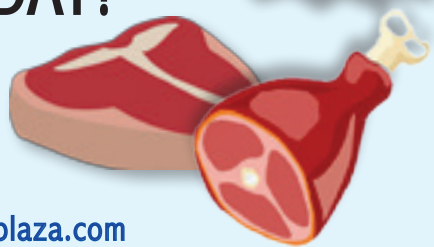
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New Pastor at St. John's in Phelps

Pastor Tim Biebert of Mercer recently accepted the call to serve as pastor at St. John's in Phelps, replacing Pastor Phil Gieschen, who retired.

Biebert has served in ministry for 42 years. A 1984 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, he served a dual parish in Ridgeland before spending 31 years at a large congregation in Neillsville, where he also oversaw a Lutheran elementary school, preschool, and daycare. He retired from full-time ministry in June.

Biebert said a serious car/train accident at age 9, in which his brother died and he was severely injured, helped shape his calling to ministry. "He brought me to the realization that I needed to share the Word of God with other people," he said.

Biebert and his wife have 8 children and 13 grandchildren. Their daughter, Grace, still lives with them but plans to attend Martin Luther College this fall to study to become a Lutheran elementary school teacher. Biebert enjoys fishing, hunting and cutting wood, and he and his wife also plan to travel to visit family around the country.

"My prayers for the future are to continue what Pastor Gieschen has done at St. John's—nurturing the faith life of those who are members, but also equipping them to share their faith with those in the community who may not have a church home," Biebert said.



Photo by Sharon Gifford
St. John's Lutheran Church in Phelps welcomes Pastor Tim Biebert as the new pastor.

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).

Back to School

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15)

It's every parent's favorite time of year, back to school time. Many of us have spent the preceding weeks getting our children ready for another productive school year. We've gotten them new clothes, fresh school supplies, and maybe even cleared off a space at home for them to do their homework. That is we've done everything we can to get them ready so that they can present themselves well before their teachers as one tested and approved. As one who does not need to be ashamed of the work they've turned in, so they can demonstrate that they can rightly handle the material they've been taught. But, are we ready to do the same before God?

In the Apostle Paul's letter to his dear friend Timothy, Paul encourages Timothy as a father

encourages a son. One of the things he encourages Timothy is that he tells him to do his best to present himself to God as one approved. That is, Timothy is to do his best to ensure that he presents himself to God as one who has made the grade and passed the test.

Paul wants Timothy to be able to stand before God on judgment day and not be ashamed of the work that he has done in God's name. In order to do that, Timothy must rightly handle the "Word of Truth" that is the Scriptures. Indeed, we must all ask ourselves, "Can I rightly handle the Word of Truth?"

In Ephesians 6, Paul refers to the Bible as the "Sword of the Spirit." Just like with a physical sword, handling the Sword of the Spirit takes practice in order to gain proficiency. If we are to be competent and confident in our handling of the Word of Truth, then we must work with it frequently and purposefully. You don't get good at handling a sword by leaving it hanging on the wall for decoration and you don't get good with your Bible by just letting it fill space on your bookshelf. You must read it and read it often. You

must seek to understand it well so that you can explain it to others. You must learn to rightly handle the Word of Truth.

One day we will all stand before God's throne. While we are justified on that day by our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we also want to know that we've done good work in Christ's name. We don't want to be ashamed of how we've handled the Word of Truth before others. We want to make the grade and stand as one approved. So friends, I encourage you to study hard, that way when a test comes you'll make the grade.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS • Train Your Brain

by Dr. Wendy Henrichs



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

Many psychologists and neuroscientists estimate that 95% of your 70,000 daily thoughts occur automatically, outside conscious awareness. While the exact percentage is debated, many reactions, beliefs, and emotional responses are driven by subconscious patterns. Unfortunately, these automatic thoughts often lean toward worry, fear, self-criticism, chronic stress, or “survival mode,” which can contribute to chronic health conditions like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, chronic pain, osteoporosis, some types of cancer, dementia, and obesity. The good news is that your brain is not fixed. Through neuroplasticity, it can be retrained and rewired to develop healthier thought patterns and move from “survival mode” toward repair, healing, and restoration. Here are five strategies to retrain your brain and improve your health and well-being.

1. Awareness: The first step in retraining your brain is to become aware of your subconscious thoughts. Most stress-producing thoughts happen so quickly that they are accepted as facts rather than interpretations. For example, a person who makes a mistake may automatically think, “I don’t do anything right.” This thought generates stress, anxiety, and self-doubt. By practicing mindfulness, you can learn to observe your thoughts without immediately reacting to them. Mindfulness, meditation, journaling, and self-reflection help bring hidden thought patterns into conscious awareness, making them easier to challenge and change.

2. Say no to negativity: The second step to retraining your brain is questioning negative beliefs which are often related to past experiences and consciously return to the present moment. Many stressful thoughts are based on assumptions formed from past experiences or worrying about something in the future rather than the present reality. Instead of believing every negative thought or worrying about the future, you can ask yourself, “Is this thought true now?” Or “Does worrying about something that has already

occurred or has not happened yet help me or hinder me?”. By questioning your negative thoughts, you have the opportunity to return to the moment. There is rarely stress at “this” moment.

3. Gratitude: The third step is focusing on gratitude and positive reinforcement. The human brain has a bias to sense danger. This was useful for survival in ancient environments but often creates unnecessary stress in modern life. By consciously acknowledging positive experiences, accomplishments, and sources of gratitude each day, you can gradually strengthen neural pathways associated with optimism and resilience. Over time, your brain becomes more likely to notice opportunities rather than threats.

4. Blue zone habits: Healthy habits also play a crucial role in reshaping subconscious thinking. Regular exercise releases endorphins and reduces stress hormones, helping create a calmer mental state. Adequate sleep improves emotional regulation and cognitive function, making it easier to challenge negative thoughts. Proper nutrition supports brain health and energy levels, while meaningful social connections provide emotional support and perspective. These lifestyle factors work

together to strengthen the brain’s ability to manage stress effectively. These healthy habits are also the cornerstone for the longest living populations in The Blue Zones.

5. Consistency is the key: Consistency is essential. Retraining your brain is not an overnight process. Just as years of repeated thoughts created existing patterns, new patterns require daily practice and reinforcement. Small actions, repeated consistently, gradually rewire your neural connections and create lasting change. Each time you choose awareness over reactivity, self-compassion over self-criticism, or gratitude over worry, you strengthen healthier mental habits.

While much of what you think may occur automatically, you are not powerless over your mind. Through mindfulness, challenging negative beliefs and returning to the present moment, practicing gratitude, maintaining healthy habits, and remaining consistent, you can retrain your brain to reduce stress, send the signals for healing, and create a more balanced, positive outlook. Your subconscious mind can be reshaped, and with patience and effort, lasting mental, physical, and emotional transformation is possible. Remember, it is never too late to make a Shift in Health.

Phelps School Welcomes New Staff

The Phelps School District welcomes two new staff members for the 2026-27 school year: Candy Loppnow, who joins the district as a custodian, and Megan Mielke, the new history teacher.

Loppnow, a mother of three, has worked in the area for many years. In her free time, she enjoys kayaking, camping, visiting waterfalls, and exploring lighthouses. She said she is excited to find a position she enjoys while becoming part of the Phelps school team.

Mielke graduated from UW-Stevens Point in May 2025 with a bachelor’s degree in history and social studies education. After graduating, she worked as a substitute teacher at Bay Port High School in Suamico/Howard.

An avid outdoors enthusiast, Mielke enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, and walking, along with reading, video games, and painting. She recently moved to the area after spending summers fishing and camping around Vilas County and Phelps. Mielke said she is excited about the opportunity to teach in a small community and considers the move both a professional and personal opportunity.



Photo by Sharon Gifford

(L-R): Candy Loppnow and Megan Mielke.

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

Part One

If you're thinking about buying or selling a home in Northern Wisconsin or Michigan's UP, there's a good chance mortgage rates are somewhere near the top of your list of concerns.

After several years of higher borrowing costs, many potential buyers have been waiting for mortgage rates to come back down. As we move through the second half of 2026, however, the picture is becoming clearer: mortgage rates may remain elevated for a while longer, and waiting for dramatically lower rates may not necessarily be the best strategy for every buyer. Mortgage and bond markets like stability and certainty as much as anything – something a lot of the world doesn't have much off right now.

As of August 13th, the average 30-year fixed mortgage rate was approximately 6.67%, according to Freddie Mac. The average 15-year fixed mortgage was about 5.96%.

Those rates are considerably higher than the historically low rates buyers became accustomed to earlier this decade. But the important question isn't where rates have been—it's where they may be headed next. Earlier forecasts had predicted mortgage rates would gradually decline during 2026. Recent economic developments have made that outlook less certain.

Inflation remains above the Federal Reserve's 2% goal, and the Federal Reserve held its bench-

mark federal funds rate at 3.50% to 3.75% at its July meeting. The Fed specifically cited continued inflation pressures and economic uncertainty in its decision. Mortgage rates don't move directly with the Federal Reserve's rate, but expectations surrounding inflation, economic growth and Federal Reserve policy have a major influence on the bond market—and therefore mortgage rates.

The Mortgage Bankers Association recently said it expects mortgage rates to average close to 6.5% for the foreseeable future. That suggests buyers shouldn't necessarily plan around the assumption that 5% mortgages are right around the corner. If you asked me a year or two ago where rates would be heading towards fall of 2026 it would be lower than where they are now, and I think most predictors would have been in the same camp.

Rates could certainly decline if inflation cools or the economy slows. But they could also remain in the mid-6% range—or temporarily move higher—if inflation proves stubborn.

Northern Wisconsin and the UP are different from many larger housing markets. Buyers here aren't simply choosing between a different neighborhood or floorplan. They're often comparing year-round homes, lake properties, cabins, recreational properties, acreage, and homes that may eventually become retirement residences. Inventory can often be difficult to come by and can also vary dramatically depending on location and property type.

That makes trying to perfectly "time" mortgage rates particularly difficult. A great property on the right lake, in the right

neighborhood or with the acreage you've been looking for, may not be available six months or a year from now. For buyers who find the right property and can comfortably afford the payment at today's rate, purchasing now makes sense. In the mortgage and real estate world we say you marry the house/property, you only date the interest rate. Remember that a mortgage rate isn't necessarily permanent. If rates decline substantially in the future, refinancing may be an option. The purchase price you negotiate today, however, is permanent.

There's another side to falling mortgage rates that buyers sometimes overlook. Many potential buyers across the country have delayed purchasing because of higher rates. If mortgage rates eventually fall significantly, some of those buyers are likely to return to the market. That can increase competition. In desirable Northern Wisconsin markets—particularly lake homes, recreational properties and homes with limited comparable inventory—additional buyers could potentially place upward pressure on prices. So a buyer waiting for a lower interest rate could eventually receive that lower rate but face a higher purchase price or more competition for the property. Another reason why the decision should be based on the entire transaction rather than the mortgage rate alone.

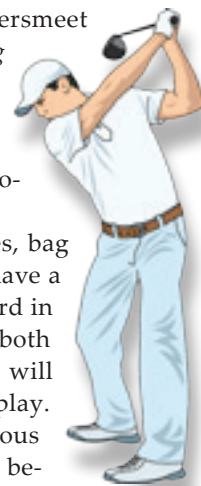
Part 2 will be published in the next (September 18th) issue.

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

ISCCW Announces Golf Outing

The Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW) announces the 2nd annual *Golf Outing* on Sunday, September 20th, at 10:00am at the Lac View Desert (LVD) Golf Course. This will be a fun event designed as a fundraiser to support the organization's ongoing efforts in protecting local waters from invasive species.

For just \$75, individuals will receive green fees, bag lunch, and casino free play tickets. Golfers will have a chance to compete for a \$10,000 hole-in-one reward in addition to a closest to the pin and long putt for both men and women. An award ceremony and raffle will be held in the clubhouse immediately following play. This should prove to be a great event at a gorgeous course with beautiful fall colors near peak. To become a sponsor or register for golf visit www.isccw.org.



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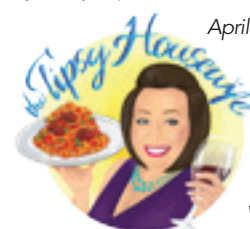
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THE TIPSY HOUSEWIFE • Summer Salad

by Chef April Lee



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

One of my favorite things about summer in the Northwoods is visiting the St. Germain Flea Market and coming home with more than I planned to buy. This week, I found everything I needed for one of my favorite simple summer salads: ripe tomatoes, crisp cucumbers, and the most incredible sweet onion.

We were having friends over for steak, and I had been craving an old-fashioned cucumber, tomato, and onion salad. When I saw all that beautiful produce, dinner practically planned itself.

The onion was what really caught my attention. It was huge, crisp, juicy and so mild I could eat it raw. Lately, I've had terrible luck with grocery store onions. They're often soft or rotten inside, or so pungent they overpower everything else.

These sweet onions were completely different. Their mild flavor made them perfect for eating raw.

The tomatoes were just as good. I chose big, beefsteak-style tomatoes that were ripe but still firm. I leave the seeds in because their juices become part of the dressing. After a few hours in the refrigerator, the tomatoes release their juices, the cucumbers soak up the dressing, and the onions mellow.

I served it with steak, but would be good with burgers, brats, grilled chicken, or pork chops. Sometimes the best summer recipes start with a trip to the flea market and vegetables that actually taste like vegetables.

Ingredients:

- 3 large beefsteak-style tomatoes, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 8 mini cucumbers, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 very large sweet onion, sliced
- 2 packets Good Seasons Italian Dressing Mix
- Rice vinegar, avocado oil, and water, amounts as directed on dressing packet
- 2 teaspoons dried dill



Photo by April Lee

- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- Salt, if needed

Instructions:

1. Prepare one packet of Italian dressing according to the package directions, using rice vinegar and avocado oil. Whisk the second dry seasoning packet into prepared dressing along with dill and black pepper. Let dressing sit for a few minutes, then whisk again.
2. Combine tomatoes, cucumbers, and onion in a large bowl. Pour dressing over the vegetables and toss gently.
3. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours. The salad is even better the next day.
4. Before serving, toss again, and taste. Wait until this point to add additional salt, as the flavor becomes more seasoned as the vegetables sit in the dressing.

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