

Ely Supports School Gardens

On the first day of school, Tuesday, September 1st, Kathy Hirvela, a member of the Ely Memorial

UCC Community Outreach Committee, presented a \$3,000 check to Land O' Lakes Elementary

School Principal Carie Nordine. The donation, proceeds from the church's *Rummage Sale*, will help

fund a new garden shed to store tools and supplies for the school's garden. Third and fourth grade

students and their teacher, Ms. Ivy Lapp, were on hand in the garden area for the presentation.



Photo by Bob Hughes

Migratory Birds of the Northwoods Program

The Land O' Lakes Fish and Game Club will host its final speaker program of 2026 on Tuesday, October 6th, at 6:30pm at Lowenwood, 5400 N. Black Oak Lake Road, Land O' Lakes. The program is free and open to the public.

Guest speaker Eric Margenau, a Wildlife Habitat Specialist with American Bird Conservancy (ABC) in Rhinelander, will present *Neotropical Migratory Birds of the Northwoods*.

Margenau will introduce ABC's bird conservation efforts and discuss neotropical migratory birds and their habitats in northern Wisconsin and Michigan's western Upper Peninsula. He will also offer ways individuals can improve their yards and larger properties to provide better bird habitat.

Margenau works with private landowners throughout northern Wisconsin on Golden-winged Warbler habitat projects through ABC's Regional Conservation Partnership Program with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Originally from Spooner, Margenau earned his master's degree from Alabama A&M University and his Ph.D. from West Virginia University, where he studied songbird responses to forest management. He enjoys Nordic skiing, hunting, hiking, and birding with his family.

Northwoods Singers Season Begins

Calling all singers! As summer fades and the first colors of fall begin to appear, the Northwoods Singers are preparing for another season of music and fun—and welcoming new voices.

Founded in 2004, the local choir brings together singers from throughout northern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula border communities. Under the direction of area conductor Dr. Pamalyn Lee, the group performs a mix of traditional and innovative vocal music and presents two holiday concerts each season.

The Singers will hold a potluck and short meeting Tuesday, September 22nd, at 5:30pm, at Ely Memorial Church in Land O' Lakes. Anyone interested in singing, meeting new people and having fun is welcome. Weekly rehearsals begin Tuesday, September 29th, at 6:00pm at Ely Memorial Church. New and returning singers are welcome. For more information, contact Susan at skrivichi@gmail.com.

Otterpohl Retires From HSB

After 36 years with Headwaters State Bank in Land O' Lakes, MaryEllen Otterpohl officially retired from the bank, where she most recently served as Managing Director/IT Administrator.

Customers, friends, and coworkers gathered at the bank to celebrate her retirement and wish her well in the next chapter of her life. Many customers have known MaryEllen throughout much of her 36-year career and shared fond memories and kind words as they said goodbye. Cupcakes and punch were served during the celebration. Happy Retirement MaryEllen!



Photo by Bob Hughes

BORDER BUSINESS • Mortgages & Real Estate 2

by Dale Kleffman



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

Part 2-continued from the September 4th issue...

When borrowing becomes more expensive, buyers qualify for smaller mortgages or become more cautious about how much they're willing to spend. That can affect showing activity, negotiations, and how quickly homes sell. For Northern Wisconsin sellers, pricing correctly becomes especially important in a higher-rate environment. Everyone knows we still have a fairly hot real estate market. It is interesting to watch some of the very overpriced items sit for extended

lengths of time. There is a difference between a realistically priced home and one that is obviously overpriced.

Buyers can easily compare listings online, and an overpriced property may sit while appropriately priced competing homes receive offers, often within days or hours of hitting the MLS. On the other hand, sellers with attractive, well-maintained properties shouldn't automatically assume higher rates mean there aren't buyers. People continue to relocate, retire, purchase vacation properties, and move for lifestyle reasons regardless of the interest-rate environment.

The key is understanding the local market rather than relying solely on national headlines. For now, the most reasonable expectation is that mortgage rates will remain relatively elevated and continue to fluctuate with infla-

tion, economic data, and Federal Reserve policy. A dramatic decline isn't impossible, but buyers shouldn't count on one.

Real estate has always been local, and Northern Wisconsin is no exception. Whether you're considering a year-round home, vacation property, lake home, acreage, or an investment, understanding both the local market and today's financing environment can help you make a much more confident decision. We have a lot of great realtors in Vilas County and working with one you feel comfortable with whether buying or selling makes sense.

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

Community Rallies for 3Bear Races

The 2026 3Bear Races, held July 4th in Land O' Lakes, drew 235 participants for the 5K and Youth Fun Run and raised funds for two local projects.

The 3Bear 5K presented a \$3,000 check to the Great Headwaters Trails Foundation to support its efforts connecting eastern Vilas County to existing bike trails in the western part of the county. The Youth Fun Run also contributed \$500 to the Land O' Lakes Community Playground.

The annual races are hosted by Luoto's Fitness and supported by local sponsors, organizations, and approximately 30 community volunteers who help make the July 4th event possible.

Photo by Bob Hughes



Presenting the \$3,000 check are (L-R): Gary Meister, Laura VanValkenberg of the Great Headwaters Trails Foundation, and 3Bear Races Planning Team members Cheryl Pytlarz, Mary Dahms, Erin Luoto, and Rita Bogolub.

Phelps Changes School Transportation

The Phelps School District has changed its student transportation plan for the 2026-27 school year, offering families two options while reducing district costs.

Families who need district transportation will continue to have access to school-owned vans and district drivers. Other families may participate in a parental transportation program and receive reimbursement at the current IRS mileage rate of 76 cents per mile. Reimbursement will be provided through preloaded Shell gas cards in partnership with Shell Gas and the Phelps Convenience Center.

The district estimates the new transportation plan could save \$88,000 or more annually. Nearly half of Phelps families were already driving their children to school.

To provide additional flexibility, the school building will be open from 7:00am-5:00pm for

student supervision before and after the regular school day.

The district said the new plan

maintains transportation access while giving families more flexibility and reducing costs.

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BORDER HAPPENINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS • • •

★ Featured in this issue.

Tomahawk Fall Ride for MDA: Sept 18-20.
First Day of Autumn: Sept 22.
Fire Prevention Week: Oct 4-10.
Northwoods Art Tour: Oct 9-11, 10am-5pm.
Columbus Day: Oct 12.

School Info: 2026-2027
NPSD:
-Teacher In-Service: Oct 12.
Watersmeet:
-Conferences-1/2 day: Oct 14.

*** WI Deer Hunting Season:**
-Bow: Sept 12-Jan 3, 2027.
-Gun Hunt for disabled: Oct 3-11.
-Youth Deer Hunt: Oct 10-11.
*** MI Deer Hunting Season:**
-Bow: Oct 1-Nov 16, Dec 1-Jan 1, 2027.
 *Please Check Hunting Schedule on DNR Websites to confirm dates before hunting.

CONOVER • • •

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 1-4pm; Sun 8am-1pm.

LAND O' LAKES • • •

Fish & Game Migratory Birds:
 Lowenwood, Oct 6, 6:30pm. ★

LIBRARY:
Mini Fall Book Sale & Raffle: Sept 19, 10am-1pm.
Winged Wonders: Sept 30, 1-2pm.
Canine Search & Rescue: Oct 17, 10:30am.
ADRC Benefits: Oct 21, 12pm.
Book Clubs-Who is Government: Oct 12, 10:30am.
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:
Acrylic Pumpkin: Sept 18, 10am.
Zentangle Owl: Sept 22, 2pm.
Triple Twined Market Basket: Sept 24 & 25, 10am.
Songs for the 2nd Act: Sept 24, 6:30pm.
Stained Glass Stake: Oct 7 & 8, 10am.
Glass Bead Making: Oct 10 & 11, 9am.
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.

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.

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. ★

Midwest Musky Classic Tournament: Oct 2-4.

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:
 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.

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

BEYOND THE BORDER • • • BOULDER JUNCTION•
Colorama Dinner: Camp Manitowish, Sept 19, 6-8pm.

Lions Club Walleye Classic:
 Area lakes, Oct 3-4.

Hops & Shops: Oct 10, 2-5pm.

World Musky Tournament: Area Lakes, Oct 10-11.

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

Cranberry Fest: Fairgrounds, Oct 3-4, 9am-3pm. ★

HPCA-Ikons of Rock: NPHS, Oct 10, 7pm.

Three Eagle Half-Marathon & 5K: Three Eagle Trail, Oct 10.

Bingo: Kalmar Ctr, Mon 6 & 7pm.

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

OLSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY:
Bad Art: Sept 21, 4:30pm-7pm.
Retirement Tax Planning: Sept 23, 4:30-5:30pm.
Book Club-The Men of Copper Country: Sept 28, 4pm.

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•

Harvest Fest: Sept 19.

Scarecrow Contest: Community Center, Sept 28-Oct 9.

North Lakeland Discovery Center Programs:

-Bat Fest: Oct 17.
 More info at 715-543-2085 or www.DiscoveryCenter.net.

MERCER•

Pumpkin Run ATV/UTV Rally:
 Oct 8-11.

MINOCQUA•

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.

NWLT Fall Hike: Winter Park, Oct 5, 1-3pm. ★

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

PRESQUE ISLE •

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.

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.

Greater Wisconsin Musky Tournament: Area Lakes, Oct 3-4, 7am-12pm.

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.

National Clean Up Day
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Next issue: October 2, 2026
Submissions by: September 19, 2026



Ely Donates to Foster Kids Closet

Barb Agney, representing the Ely Memorial UCC Community Outreach Committee, presented a \$500 donation to Kelly Pyne, Vilas County Foster Care Coordinator, for the Foster Kids Closet. The funds came from proceeds of the church's *Rummage Sale*.

The committee also donated \$500 to the Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet (ISCCW).

Ely Memorial UCC Community Outreach Committee is seeking nonprofit organizations interested in applying for funding. Requests should include how the funds will be used and the expected timeline for completing the project or purchase. Submission of a request does not guarantee funding.

Applications should be mailed to Ely Memorial UCC, Attention: Community Outreach, PO Box 810, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540, by October 15th.



(L-R): Kelly Pyne receives check donation from Barb Agney of Ely Outreach Committee for Foster Closet.

Photo by Bob Hughes

Shelter Gets Major Donation

Sunshine For Humanity Homeless Shelter and Sober Living House has received a \$50,000 donation from Gregory Trudeau, a retired UW-Madison professor, to support its shelter and sober living programs.

Trudeau made the contribution through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from his IRA, a giving option available to individuals age 70½ and older. A QCD allows eligible retirees to make a direct charitable donation from an IRA, with the distribution generally excluded from taxable income. For those required to take annual Required Minimum Distributions, a QCD can also count toward that requirement.

The donation will help Sunshine For Humanity provide shelter, stability and support to individuals experiencing homelessness while strengthening its ability to meet community needs.



Photo provided by Sunshine for Humanity

(L-R): Debra Johnson CEO, Gregory Trudeau, Amanda Kollmann Assistant Director.

For more information about Sunshine For Humanity, visit SunshineForHumanity.com or call 715-477-2220.

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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 1

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1)

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.

By declaring that the Lord is his

shepherd, David naturally recognizes himself to be as a sheep under the Lord's care. It is because of this relationship David says, "I shall not want". Now, in saying this, David is not saying that he will never experience desires in his life. Rather, he is saying that because the Lord is caring for him, David knows that he will never be in want of those things that he truly needs. A shepherd knows the needs of his sheep. It is the shepherd's job to provide good food, clean water, and protection from predators. The sheep don't actually have to worry about these things since the shepherd handles it all. By trusting and following their shepherd the sheep can be at peace.

In John 10:14 Jesus tells us, *"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me."* For those who trust in Jesus as their savior, our relationship with Him is the same as David describes in Psalm 23. Since we have trusted in Jesus Christ, we shall not be in

want of what we truly need and we can be at peace. Now, you might think, "Hey, wait a minute Pastor Rob. I'm pretty sure we don't have to look too far to find Christians who are in need of life's necessities: food, shelter, healthcare, etc. How can you say Christians will not be in want of their true needs?"

Even though Jesus will usually meet our physical needs, His ultimate focus is on our spiritual needs. Because of His sacrificial death on the cross all those who follow Him will not be in want of a savior. They will not be in want of forgiveness for their sins. They will not be in want of eternal life and peace with God. Rather, they will be cared for by the Good Shepherd for all eternity. David recognized that his physical and spiritual needs were met by the Lord his shepherd. We too must recognize that the Good Shepherd Jesus goes beyond our physical needs and meets our spiritual needs. If we will follow the Good Shepherd, then we can know that He will care for us and we can be at peace.

See You Sunday ~ Pastor Rob.

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New Flag for School

Kathy and Tim Hirvela, representing the Land O’ Lakes VFW Auxiliary, presented Land O’ Lakes Elementary School Principal Carie Nordine with a new American flag donated by the Department of Wisconsin VFW Auxiliary as part of its Americanism Project.

Tim Hirvela and his grandsons, Joey and Alex, also demonstrated to students the proper way to fold and respectfully present the American flag.

Photo by Bob Hughes



Tim Hirvela and his grandsons along with LOL School Principal Carie Nordine.

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KEEPING YOU POSTED • *by Karol Wilson*

On June 9th, in New York, NY, the United States Postal Service issued the American Icons Forever stamps, in 13 designs, in a pane of 13 stamps. As we come together to celebrate the 250th birthday of our nation, the U.S. Postal Service presents a pane of 13 commemorative stamps curated by American fashion designer Ralph Lauren. Selected from his own unparalleled archive and from visuals that have inspired him, the images Ralph Lauren chose for the stamps embody our shared values and reflect the unique fabric of our nation: a U.S. flag in a rural setting, a baseball glove worn by Jackie Robinson, a teddy bear, a pickup truck, a dog, the Empire State Building, a barn, a sailboat, a Diné (Navajo) blanket, a lighthouse, a hamburger, wild horses, and a knit U.S. flag. Text on the back of the stamp pane highlights the significance of each image. Greg Breeding served as USPS art director for this issuance.



Phelps Daycare Welcomes New Assistant Teacher

The Phelps School Board recently hired Gabrielle Crawford as an assistant teacher at Phelps Daycare. Crawford, her husband and their two children live in Phelps. Established in 2015, the school-run daycare has earned a 5-Star rating through Wisconsin’s Young-Star Child Care Rating System. Director Lori Merkel said the center is excited to welcome Crawford and a student apprentice this school year. The apprentice, who is considering a career in early childhood education, will gain hands-on experience through the partnership with the school. Both the infant/toddler and preschool classrooms will continue using the Frog Street curriculum, which aligns with the Phelps School District’s early literacy program and helps provide a smooth transition into 4K and kindergarten.



Photo by Sharon Gifford

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A Big Sand Lake Wedding

Sarah Helen Gonsier and Daniel Maloney Raynard were married August 22, 2026, at Big Sand Lake Club in Phelps, surrounded by 180 family members and friends. Clear skies prevailed for most of the day, with one brief downpour arriving just after guests had safely moved beneath the reception tent. The rain quickly passed, and the celebration continued with a packed dance floor from the first song to the last. Guests praised the wedding, particularly the meal prepared by Executive Chef Stefano and the Big Sand Lake Club staff.

The celebration held special meaning for the groom's mother, Maggie Maloney Raynard, who has been coming to Big Sand Lake for more than 60 years. Now 17 years into her battle with cancer, Maggie watched her son marry the love of his life, shared a heartfelt speech and joined



Photo by Madison Dahlquist
(L-R): Maggie Raynard-mother of groom, Sarah Raynard-bride, Daniel Raynard-groom.

him for a special mother-son dance. The couple expressed their appreciation for Big Sand Lake Club and the surrounding communities of Eagle River, Land O' Lakes, Phelps and Rhinelander, as well as the local vendors who helped make their wedding day possible.

THE TIPSY HOUSEWIFE • Creamy Lemonade

by Chef April Lee



There is always this funny little stretch of time in the Northwoods when the calendar says fall, but the weather hasn't quite committed yet. You wake up to a chill in the air and might need a sweatshirt for that first cup of coffee outside. The leaves are beginning to turn, the evenings get darker earlier, and you can tell summer is packing its bags. Then suddenly it is two o'clock in the afternoon and you are hot. That is exactly the kind of weather that calls for one last really good pitcher of lemonade.

Recently, a friend was looking for something refreshing to make for a group of football players. She wanted something more exciting than bottled drinks, but easy enough for a crowd. I immediately thought of this creamy lemonade, loosely inspired by Brazilian-style lemonade, although mine is made a little differently.

The ingredient that makes

people raise an eyebrow is sweetened condensed milk. Trust me on this one. It gives the lemonade a creamy, almost dessert-like quality, while the fresh lemon keeps it tart and refreshing. It sounds richer than it actually tastes, especially poured over plenty of ice.

My friend was skeptical—downright nervous about serving it, actually. The football players drank every drop and promptly requested a double batch next time. That is usually a pretty good recipe review.

The recipe is easy to adjust, too. Add more lemon if you like things tart, or more condensed milk if you prefer it sweeter. Make it ahead and keep it cold until you are ready to serve.

And if the football players are not invited, the adults can add a little vodka or white rum to their glasses. Makes: About 8 servings.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup fresh lemon juice
- 5 cups very cold water
- 1-14 ounce can sweetened condensed milk



Photo by April Lee

- Ice, for serving
- Fresh lemon slices, optional

Instructions:

1. Add lemon juice and cold water to a large pitcher and stir well.
2. Pour in the sweetened condensed milk, whisk or stir until completely combined.
3. Taste the lemonade. Add a little more lemon juice if you prefer it tart, or a little more sweetened condensed milk if you want it sweeter and creamier.
4. Refrigerate until very cold.
5. Fill glasses generously with ice and pour the lemonade over the top.
6. Garnish with fresh lemon slices if you are feeling fancy.

Tipsy Tip: For an adult version, add vodka or white rum to individual glasses rather than the entire pitcher. September in the Northwoods can give you sweatshirt weather in the morning and lemonade weather by afternoon. I figure we might as well enjoy both while we still can.

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

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Join NWLT for a Fall Hike

Northwoods Land Trust (NWLT) is delighted to announce it will host *Hike the Heights* open to everyone at Minocqua Winter Park on Monday, October 5th from 1:00pm-3:00pm. During the event, guests will hike a 5km/3mi loop that visits the two highest points at the popular winter recreation facility. This trail is located within the 3,195-acre conservation easement currently held with Northwoods Land Trust, on land owned and managed by the Minocqua Winter Park Foundation.

At this time of year, bugs should be at a minimum and fall colors should be nearing their maximum! The scenic overlook on Squirrel Hill provides a great panoramic view, which is fairly uncommon in the heavily forested, fairly flat part of northern Wisconsin. Participants should be able to see parts of the Yukon and Squirrel River along with wetland and forest habitat types from various vantage points along the trail. This hike is rated as strenuous due to the vertical relief encountered.

The event is free to attend. Registration is required by going online to www.northwoodslandtrust.org and clicking on 'News & Events' to sign up, or by emailing Troy Walters at troy@northwoodslandtrust.org. Further trip details will be provided upon registration.

Northwoods Land Trust permanently conserves natural shorelands, woodlands, and other natural resources to benefit present and future generations in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Iron, Price, and Langlade Counties. Visit <https://northwoodslandtrust.org/> for more about land conservation services available to private landowners, protected lands, and future events.



Photo provided by NWLT

Stoneline Valley Music Festival

The 3rd annual *Stoneline Valley Music Festival* just northeast of Phelps is returning this September 24th-26th. Two and a half days of music featuring 26 bands of a variety of genres including folk rock, americana, bluegrass, country rock, and indie rock will be gracing the Northwoods' premier natural amphitheater. Cuisine from some of the area's best food trucks and local and specialty craft beer, wine, and seltzers will be available for purchase. Steven Vetter, Stoneline Valley owner, said, "There's a lot of hype buzzing around Stoneline 3.0 this year. I think our lineup even exceeded our own expectations and what we offer is continuing to grow. We have 4 more artists than last year, more food trucks, around 20 ven-

dors, and we're really excited to bring some more art to the event that will create fun photo opportunities. We're also upgrading the famous hay mountain with two tunnels running through it and adding more fun for the kids. Last year unfortunately we could not have the stage down in the natural amphitheater due to a wet season, so we're stoked that we're bringing it back down where it belongs to amplify the beautiful sound throughout the valley. Our biggest project this year has been building a massive roof over the pavilion deck which will bring more protection from the elements for all events we hold at Stoneline. Get your tickets to see how we're growing and enjoy a beautiful family friendly Fall

music festival! " Two day tickets are \$140, single day passes are \$70 and after 5:00pm the price is \$40 for the evening. The September 24th Thursday evening Pre-Party ticket is \$35 and includes 4 bands on the large pavilion deck, the Dublin's Paddy Wagon food truck, the pavilion bar, and early camping. Car, tent, and RV camping is free with your ticket and there is general parking available for those just staying for the day. Visit stonelinevalley.com for more info and to purchase your tickets. Ten percent of the 2-day tickets are dedicated to the nonprofit Tim Tebow Foundation to aid in the fight against child trafficking. Stoneline Valley is located at 4902 Old 70 Road and the contact information is 715-891-7203 and info@stonelinevalley.com.

When Is a Sick Day the Right Choice?

As another school year begins, families are getting back into routines and facing the occasional sick day. One of the toughest decisions

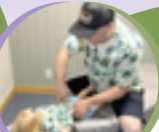
for parents is knowing when a child is too sick for school. A good rule is to ask whether the child feels well enough to make it through a normal

school day. Children should generally stay home with a fever of 100.4°F or higher, vomiting, significant diarrhea, or worsening symptoms. They should also follow school guidelines for returning after a contagious illness. A mild runny nose, small cough, or slight sore throat does not necessarily require staying home if the child otherwise feels well and can participate normally. Keeping sick children home allows them to rest and recover while helping prevent illness from spreading through classrooms, school buses, and the community. In a small community, this simple step can help protect other students, families, and school staff. When in doubt, check your school's health policy or consult your child's healthcare provider. Sometimes a day of rest is all a child needs to recover and return to school ready to learn.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS • We Gather Together

by Dr. Doug Tansor



Dr. Doug specializes in full family and pet chiropractic services at Up North Wellness Center in Land O' Lakes.

The boys and I spend a lot of time reading on a daily basis. They love going to the library to pick out a stack of books. For the most part, they pick 6-8 books that catch their eye. The book *We Gather Together* by Wendy Pfeffer couldn't have been picked at a better time. This book explains how different animals use autumn to prepare for the upcoming winter including chipmunks, foxes, bears, and beavers. The book also explains how the tilt of the earth as it moves around the sun impacts the change of seasons and the amount of daylight we have on any given day. (Spoiler alert, our days are sadly getting much shorter. Winter is definitely coming.) The book goes on to describe how different ancient cultures worked day and night through autumn to gather food to store for the winter. And how many cultures have specific days and holidays to celebrate after working through harvest season. Just last week the boys were invited to one of our patient's houses to pick apples. It was a perfect sunny afternoon and the boys happily pulled apples from the trees, rubbed them on their shirts, and took big juicy bites. We truly are

lucky to live in such a beautiful place with people who are so willing to share what they have with their neighbors. A few days after picking an entire bucket of apples, we spent the afternoon canning cinnamon applesauce. Earlier in the month, we also canned tomato sauce. There's something to be said about slowing down and preserving your own food. Watching the boys play in the sink washing the tomatoes and apples while listening to my wife tell stories about canning with her grandma growing up, I'm truly grateful to get to experience these moments with my own family.

Living in the far northern hemisphere the book *We Gather Together* comments on how cargo planes, ships, and trucks make for little need to stockpile food for winter as animals do. Food is often brought from the southern hemisphere where it's summer. Modern day conveniences are great, but oftentimes food that has to travel far distances isn't as tasty as the fresh local produce we can pick up at the farmers market during the summer. Opening a jar of homemade canned applesauce or tomatoes in the dead of winter just brings you back to the sunny day picking apples with a neighbor. It warms your heart. And let's be honest, it tastes better than the canned applesauce and tomatoes from the grocery store.

Showing my boys the process of bringing fresh fruits and veggies home and how we only have a short time to eat the food before it goes bad and then introduc-



Photo by Doug Tansor

ing them to how we can preserve food to eat later- not only through freezing zucchini bread, but also through canning has been such a fun experience. I'm looking forward to making grape jelly in the next couple weeks. And also looking forward to those tasty grape pbj sandwiches after shoveling snow this winter. Have a happy fall, I hope that you also get to gather with the people you love and share quiet simple moments with them.

Dr. Doug has owned and operated a family practice since 2014 specializing in full family chiropractic care, as well as treating high caliber athletes such as NHL, NFL, and UFC competitors. Dr. Doug also is certified in animal chiropractic and loves working with senior pets (dogs, cats, and horses). Doug's family has had a home in Land O' Lakes since the early 50's and he has grown up spending many summers in the Northwoods of Wisconsin.

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