

Mike's Supermarket to Close After 44 Years in Townsend



Pictured above from left to right are Clayton, Steve, Shelly and Carter Janesch

PHOTO CREDIT | SHELLY JANESCH

TOWNSEND – After serving the Townsend community for 44 years, the Janesch family has announced that Mike's Supermarket, located at 17887 State Highway 32 in Townsend, will close and the building will be sold.

The store's final day of business is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2026. Beginning Monday, October 5, store hours for the remainder of the month will be 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Tuesday through Saturday. Mike's Supermarket will discontinue its bakery operations after Saturday, October 3.

Mike Janesch's dream of owning a grocery store became a reality in June 1982 after he had worked for Kohl's Food Store since the age of 16. Mike and his wife, Marge, operated the Townsend store together while raising their two sons, John and Steve.

In 1997, Steve and his wife, Shelly,



Customers shop at Mike's Supermarket on an early fall day. After 44 years of serving Townsend and the surrounding communities, the store is tentatively scheduled to close on Saturday, October 31.

PHOTO CREDIT | BOB STRAZISHAR

returned to continue the family business. They also raised their sons, Clayton and Carter, around the store, where both continue to help whenever they can.

Throughout the years, members of the Janesch family worked alongside relatives, friends and employees while handling the many responsibilities of operating a small-town grocery store. Their days included ordering and stocking merchandise, scheduling employees, preparing advertisements, paying bills, hiring and training staff, and dealing with equipment breakdowns and internet outages.

The work brought long days, sleepless nights, quiet moments and periods of sheer chaos, but it also created plenty of laughter, treasured memories and lasting friendships.

The family said the decision to close was not an easy one. Their lives were

built around the daily demands of Mike's Supermarket, often requiring shortened vacations, missed family outings and less time with loved ones.

After operating the store for the past 29 years, Steve and Shelly said the time has come to find a better balance between work, family and friends. Following five years of trying to sell the business, the family decided to dissolve the grocery store and sell the building.

The property is listed with Tina Taylor of Integrity Realtors, LLC. Interested buyers may contact Taylor at ttaylor.integrity@gmail.com or 715-889-4824.

The store's equipment and shelving are not being sold separately at this time. If the building is sold, the family will first determine whether the buyer is interested in purchasing the equipment and shelving before deciding how to

proceed.

Although the closing brings sadness, the Janesch family remains grateful for the friendships, employees and community support that made the past 44 years so meaningful. They are also hopeful about what the future may hold for themselves and the building that has housed the longtime community business.

The Janesch family said they have been overwhelmed by the many kind words, expressions of support and well wishes they have received. They thanked their customers and the entire Townsend community for their support throughout the years.

The family plans to remain in the area and looks forward to continuing to see the friends and neighbors who have been part of their lives and the history of Mike's Supermarket.



Military veterans gathered at Firemen's Park in Wabeno for a steak dinner and evening activities following a well-deserved day of recognition, golf and fellowship.

PHOTO CREDIT | WABENO LIONS CLUB

Wabeno Lions Honor Veterans With Golf Outing and Dinner

WABENO – One hundred ten military veterans enjoyed a well-deserved day of recognition, golf, fellowship, food and prizes on Monday, August 31, 2026. Wabeno Lions Club member and veteran Chuck Enders organized the event, which included an opening ceremony and golf outing at Nicolet Country Club in Laona, followed by a steak dinner and activities at Firemen's Park in Wabeno.

The day began with a patriotic ceremony at Nicolet Country Club. The

Wabeno American Legion provided the color guard, while Wabeno Lion Gregg Tallier sang the national anthem as the flags were raised. Pastor Howard Neider delivered a heartfelt invocation.

Special recognition was given to Bernie Miller, a 101-year-old World War II Navy veteran, and Korean War veterans Jack Kloss and Harold

LIONS HONOR VETERANS, continued on page 7

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Crooked Lake/Mountain Lions Club Honors Members for Years of Service



Pictured from left are President Dave Jalszynski, Bonnie Campbell, Sandy Delebreau and Steve Groene. The Crooked Lake/Mountain Lions Club congratulates each recipient and thanks them for their continued service.

PHOTO CREDIT | CROOKED LAKE/MOUNTAIN LIONS CLUB

CROOKED LAKE – The Crooked Lake/Mountain Lions Club recently honored three longtime members for their dedication and many years of service to the organization and the surrounding community.

Club President Dave Jalszynski, pictured on the left, presented certificates of recognition to Bonnie Campbell for 10 years of service,

Sandy Delebreau for 20 years of service and Steve Groene for an impressive 40 years of service.

Campbell, Delebreau and Groene have each contributed their time and talents to support the club’s activities, fundraisers and community-service projects. Their commitment has helped the Lions Club continue

its mission of assisting others and making a positive difference throughout the area.

Together, the three honorees represent 70 years of service—an accomplishment that reflects their generosity, dependability and dedication to their community.

Next Publication:
October 23, 2026

Submit your ad or news stories by
October 16, 2026

Forest County ATV Association to Host Fall End-of-Season Poker Run Bash

CRANDON – The Forest County ATV Association will wrap up its riding season with a Fall End-of-Season Poker Run Bash on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Hollywood Hill Campground & Event Center, 10209 Kemp Lane in Crandon.

Participants may turn in their completed poker books between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. The celebration will also feature Chicken Sh*t Bingo, raffles, a 50/50 drawing, food, merchandise, music by Brad Shepherd and a variety of prizes.

Poker run winners will be announced at 4:00 pm, with prizes presented to the winning participants.

All money raised during the event will benefit the Forest County ATV Association’s building fund. Additional information is available at forestcountyatv.com or on Facebook at @ForestCountyATV.

PO Box 145 • Townsend, WI 54175-0145

Volume 1 - Number 6

CIRCULATION

Nicolet Express is a locally owned and operated publication that publishes 12 issues each year. It is direct mailed to all U.S. Postal Service residential and business customers in zip codes 54138 (Lakewood), 54541 (Laona), 54149 (Mountain), 54175 (Townsend), and 54566 (Wabeno). Each monthly issue is also available online at www.nicolet.express/pdf, promoted on social media, and distributed as physical copies at select outlets.

NEWS

Nicolet Express welcomes local interest stories. Stories and accompanying photos may be submitted by the deadline for consideration in the next issue. Articles are published as space allows and are also shared online at www.nicolet.express. Submissions may be emailed to news@nicolet.express for consideration.

ADVERTISING

The next issue of Nicolet Express will be in the mail on October 23, 2026 with the advertising deadline of October 16, 2026. Ad placements may be reserved up to six months in advance and you may upload your ad copy when reserving space or anytime before the deadline. If you need design assistance, we can help. For details, visit www.nicolet.express/ads or call 715-276-8001.

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December 23, 2026	December 16, 2026
January 27, 2027	January 20, 2027
February 24, 2027	February 17, 2027
March 24, 2027	March 17, 2027
April 28, 2027	April 21, 2027
May 26, 2027	May 19, 2027
June 23, 2027	June 16, 2027
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September 22, 2027	September 15, 2027

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Crooked Lake Firefighters Brave Rain for Hose Testing

CROOKED LAKE – Members of the Crooked Lake Volunteer Fire Department recently gave up part of their morning on Saturday, September 19, 2026 to complete essential fire hose testing while dodging raindrops along the way.

Although hose testing may not be the most exciting task at the fire station, it plays an important role in keeping the department prepared. Each hose must be carefully inspected and tested to ensure it meets safety standards and is ready to perform reliably during fires and other emergencies.

The work requires time, teamwork and attention to detail, but regular testing helps protect both firefighters and the community members they serve.

The Crooked Lake Volunteer Fire Department expressed its appreciation to the members who volunteered their time and worked through the damp weather to complete the job. Their dedication behind the scenes helps ensure the department remains battle-ready whenever an emergency call comes in.



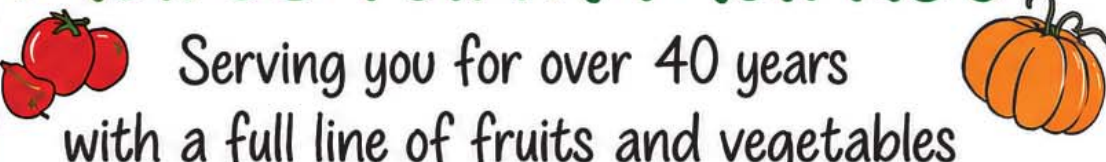
Regular hose testing requires teamwork and attention to detail to ensure equipment is safe, reliable and ready for emergencies.

PHOTO CREDIT | CROOKED LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



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Library Brings Community Together Through Lunch and Learn

LAKEWOOD – The Lakes Country Public Library offers much more than books. Library leaders and staff want area residents to know that it is also a welcoming gathering place where people can explore new interests, meet their neighbors and enjoy the company of others.

Years ago, Susan Wrzer recognized that opportunities for socializing are especially important in the Northwoods, where homes and communities can be separated by considerable distances. Her idea helped inspire the library’s Lunch and Learn program.

Held from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month, Lunch and Learn divides its time between social activities and an informative speaker presentation. Crafts, light refreshments and conversation fill the first hour, followed by an

interactive program featuring speakers who share their knowledge and experience.

Past presentations have addressed changes in health care, massage therapy, the local food pantry and thrift store, personal goal-setting, the U.S. Forest Service, flower arranging and local history. Together, the programs highlight the many people, organizations and resources that enrich life in the Northwoods.

More recently, the social hour has included a collaboration with Project Linus, an organization that provides handmade blankets to children in need. Participants of all skill levels can help assemble blanket sections, assist others or learn something new.

Guests are also encouraged to bring other craft projects while enjoying friendly conversation and companionship.

The library and its Community Connections coordinators are continually looking for new speakers and topics. Feedback surveys are available so participants can offer suggestions and help shape future programs.

Area residents are invited to stop by, join the activities and share their ideas. At its heart, Lunch and Learn is about bringing people, information and interaction together in a friendly community setting.

Lakes Country Public Library is located at 15235 State Highway 32 in Lakewood.

Lakes Country Public Library Search for New Director

LAKEWOOD – The Board of Trustees of Lakes Country Public Library is seeking a full-time Library Director for its renovated and expanded facility in Lakewood, a friendly small town in the scenic Wisconsin Northwoods about 90 minutes from Green Bay, Appleton or Wausau.

“We are looking for someone with a college degree, a love for learning, and a deep desire to make a meaningful difference,” says Board President Kathryn Chandler. “The Library Director position is an excellent way for you to utilize your education, talent, and skills while working in, for, and with our local community.”

Interested? Send cover letter, resume, and three references to directorsearch@lakescountrylibrary.org. The search will continue until the position is filled.



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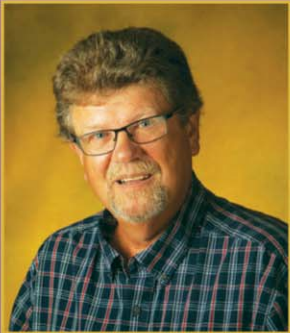
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Holt & Balcom Logging Camp Museum Reports Strong 2026 Season, Seeks Donations

By **KATHLEEN MARSH**
*Holt & Balcom Logging Camp Museum
Director*

LAKEWOOD - “The Holt & Balcom Logging Camp Museum has concluded a very successful 2026,” reports Assistant Museum Director Mae Treptow who conducts most of the

Summer Saturday public tours. “Increasing our online presence really helped. Lots of visitors said that if it wasn’t for our new Facebook page, they would never have known we existed.” Director Kathleen Marsh cited another key reason for attendance rising to its highest level since the Pandemic.

“Thanks to Nicolet Express we again have a direct way to tell people about the oldest logging camp sitting on its original site in America. It’s made a huge difference.” School Field Trips Director Bob Brown reports that 120 fourth graders and chaperones from area schools enjoyed their annual field trip to the camp where they experienced a hands-on trip to explore their heritage. “A huge shout out to Fred Axelrod, Tom Thielke, Jon Marsh, Norm Haggstrom, Dick Schaal, and Dave Zuleger for helping with the school tours,” Brown said. “The excitement and enthusiasm of the kids is contagious. It’s always a great experience for them and lots of fun for our dedicated volunteer staff.” In early summer Camp Manager Dave Zuleger completed minor repairs and much-needed painting. He also

managed to safely deter most of the resident bat population who use the bunk house as a warm weather home. Brown oversaw some badly needed restoration work in August. “As always, Schaut Carpentry under the leadership of Lloyd “Buddy” Schaut did an excellent job. An expert crew completed repair and replacement of a number of deteriorated outer wall logs. We want to express our appreciation to Buddy and his crew for their outstanding work.” “The downside of all this activity is that the school field trip and building funds are almost depleted,” says Marsh. “Donations of any size will be greatly appreciated. Checks made out to Holt & Balcom Logging Camp Museum may be mailed to H&B Director Kathleen Marsh, 16965 Nicolet Road, Townsend, WI 54175. Thank you!



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Kathleen Marsh (left) accepts a donation from Linda McKenna to help fund 2027 school field trip transportation.

PHOTO CREDIT | JON MARSH

Self-Care Sundays at Potawatomi Recovery Resource Center

CRANDON – Forest County Potawatomi Health & Wellness Center Prevention will offer a new weekly program designed to encourage

movement, wellness and healthy self-care practices. Self-Care Sundays will be held every Sunday from 10:00 am to noon beginning October 4, 2026, at the Recovery Resource Center, 5460 Kak Yot Lane, Crandon. The weekly group will give participants an opportunity to get up and moving while exploring a variety of methods for caring for their physical and emotional well-being. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing. The program is open to everyone. Youth ages 16 and younger must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information, contact Sammi S. at 715-889-5780 or the Recovery Resource Center at 715-478-4350.



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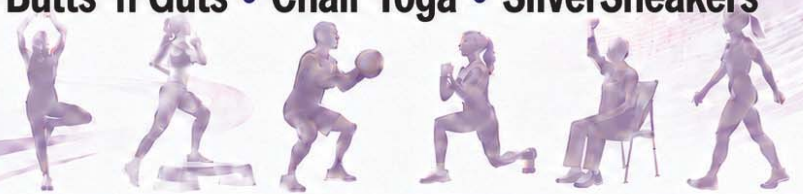
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Next Publication:
October 23, 2026

See page 2 for details on submitting news and ads

Wisconsin’s Original Snowbirds Begin Their Journey South

By **FRANK BURNS**
Correspondent

TOWNSEND – Each year there are two major bird migrations in and out of Wisconsin. The one in the Spring is so dramatic because all the new birds visit as the trees begin to leaf out and the insects hatch and fly into the air. Of all the birds that return to Wisconsin, not only do Warblers feed furiously for a day or so here and then move up North into their breeding grounds, they sing to each other and fill the air with their unique sounds. The other Warbler migration is very swift and occurs before the first snowflake in Autumn as the summer’s hatchlings have fledged and the insect population begins to dwindle. All the parenting responsibilities are complete and most of the birdsongs reduced to quick twitters and chirps. One or both of the parents leave Wisconsin first. Then the young follow suit guided by the sun and stars, the land, and their DNA. It is time for Warblers to rest in the warm South, sometimes as far as the Caribbean, Mexico, and South America.

A Warbler is a small, fast moving, insect eating, song bird. These little birds fly great distances on both journeys at the peril of their lives to answer some internal call to promulgate their species and to live lives that seem natural to them.

Here is the hard part: spotting them on their journey

Identification is very difficult. Besides finding them in a binocular field,

remembering a “new” bird’s color, underside, and wing patterns makes using a field guide minutes later a real challenge. Additionally, some Spring colors turn drabby in the Fall migration, and most of the young and females’ muted plumage appear to be similar.

For the most part, until you get really good at identifying or have plenty of hours of field experience, it’s best just to enjoy the moment because they have a mission and will be gone in the next moment. Literally, a wave of mixed warbler species migrating through a backyard may last less than two minutes.

In the September setting in The Old Man and the Sea, a warbler lands in Santiago’s boat. The old man is happy to see the bird, but it flits away moments later, and the man’s loneliness returns. He notices the unidentified bird continued its southward migration, perhaps heading to Santiago’s own fishing village or elsewhere in the Caribbean.

Once, on the opposite side of the calendar, I sat in a little Crab Cove under a Sea Grape tree with a Cuban couple on a public beach in the Florida Keys. They were celebrating “Sunday Morning” with some mimosas, and while I declined a glass they graciously offered, a Palm Warbler landed over our heads and “cheeped”. The man said there were thousands of “canaries” like that outside Havanna. The bird was probably resting from the overnight flight



Pictured above is a Black Throated Green Warbler.
PHOTO CREDIT | RYAN BRADY

from Cuba (less than 100 miles away) on its Spring migration northward.

Not everyone is an expert, neither am I

The thing that amazes people, and especially scientists, is that Fall migration fledglings know when and where to go. The conjectures are that the birds navigate by stars, the Sun, magnetic forces, weather, DNA, and/or instinct.

There are no warnings signs or announcements. They just go. Same with our Orioles, Hummingbirds, Wrens, waterfowl, and most Robins. With Warblers there are no deserted bird feeders or empty nests to indicate they have left. The local ones, which only made themselves occasionally visible during the Summer, become invisible. Sighting those from

Upper Michigan and Canada are fleeing at best. One blink, and they move on.

If you are curious about the number of birds migrating, check out the BirdCast Migration Dashboard developed by Cornell University to see how many birds moved through Wisconsin overnight. Warblers are among the migrators that fly under the cover of darkness to log most of their daily miles. NexGen radar stations across the country monitor these night flyers. An interesting side note is that when radar was first developed for wartime purposes, even the early equipment detected what observers called “Angels” because they could not correlate the signals to weather or aircraft. Eventually bird experts figured out they

were inflight birds!

The count includes all migrators, but angelic Warblers make up a significant percentage of it.

There are dozens of varieties of warblers that visit and pass through in the Lakewood Townsend area twice a year. We can help them out by turning some of our brighter lights off. Organizations like Lights Out Wisconsin and DarkSky Wisconsin have suggestions for reducing artificial light especially during peak nocturnal migrations. Ground

lighting may disorient and endanger warblers and other small birds. Their webpages are full of helpful information, and you can sign up for alerts as reminders to dim down during evening hours.

So, the next late Summer or Fall day you notice an unusual group of small flitting, but relatively noiseless birds passing in front of you, know that they are leaving for the South long before your neighbors, because, they are the original snowbirds.

CredibleMind Offers Forest County Residents Free Mental Health Resources

FOREST COUNTY – Forest County Public Health is encouraging county residents to take a few minutes to focus on their emotional well-being through CredibleMind, a free and confidential online mental health platform that will become available to the public Monday, September 28, 2026.

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, CredibleMind provides more than 10,000 topics and thousands of expert-reviewed resources designed to support mental and emotional wellness. Users can explore information related to stress, anxiety, depression, relationships, sleep and other concerns, making it easier to find relevant help whenever it is needed.

Residents are also invited to complete the platform’s Mental Health Check-In Assessment. The brief assessment helps participants better understand how they are doing emotionally in areas such as flourishing, anxiety and depression.

Anyone who creates an account and completes the assessment by Monday, October 26, 2026, will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card.

CredibleMind is free and open to everyone. Personal information—including participants’ names, email addresses and responses—will not be shared with the organization sponsoring the platform.

To get started, visit forestcounty.crediblemind.com.

Next Publication:
October 23, 2026

See page 2 for details on submitting news and ads

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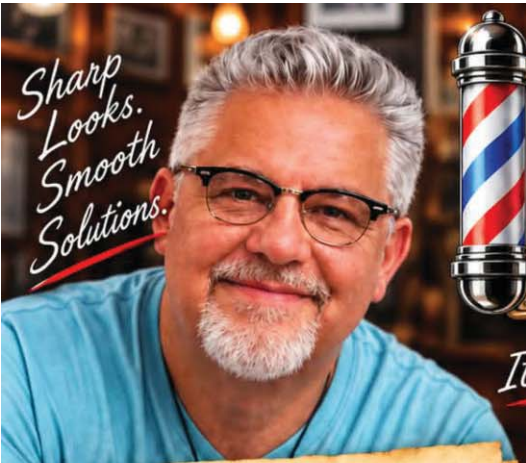
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LIONS HONOR VETERANS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Recnagel. The ceremony also honored the memories of recently deceased veterans Tom “Bergie” Berghuis and Norm Heberer.

Those gathered observed a moment of silence for veterans who lost their lives in foreign wars, prisoners of war and those missing in action, as well as

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the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The ceremony concluded with the playing of “Taps.”

Miller officially opened the golf outing by hitting a tee shot straight down the middle of the fairway. Skip Yaeger provided fireworks to signal the shotgun start.

The outing was noncompetitive, allowing each group to play by its own rules and enjoy a relaxed day on the course. Numerous hole prizes were awarded later that evening. The celebration concluded with drinks and a steak dinner served by the Wabeno Lions Club to veterans, their spouses and guests at Firemen’s Park. Approximately 135 meals were prepared and served by the club’s hardworking steak-fry and serving crews. Volunteers also handled setup, bartending, prize presentations and cleanup.

Tallier and Enders kept the evening moving as they presented golf and door prizes. Every veteran received a door prize sponsored by area service organizations, businesses and individuals.

The Wabeno Lions Club thanked the event’s sponsors: Laona Lions Club, Laona State Bank, Laona VFW, Lee Beverage and Randy Weigert, Nicolet Country Club, Potawatomi Carter Casino, Forest County Veterans Service Officer Robb Koplien, Wabeno Bowl and Rusty Harter, Wabeno American Legion, Wabeno Lions Club, and the Walbee Group and Brian Enders.

Individual donors included Gregg Tallier, Mark Coenen, Rob Schrader, Tom Barborich, Chuck Enders, Chris Witt, Tom Walkner and George Dexter.

The club also expressed its appreciation to the Lions members who helped make the event possible and offered a special thank-you to the veterans for their service and sacrifice.

Historic Military Vehicles of American Legion Post 44



WABENO – The two military vehicles pictured here are likely among the most recognizable historic vehicles in the area. After appearing for many years in parades throughout Wabeno, Townsend, Mountain, Suring and other communities, they have become a familiar part of Wabeno American Legion Sylvan Post 44 celebrations.

Both vehicles are Dodge trucks with military histories. The 1951 Dodge served as a troop carrier, while the 1949 Dodge was equipped to carry a machine gun for protection and combat operations.

The trucks were restored by the late Dirk VanDuzee, who served American Legion Post 44 as chaplain and membership officer. Following his passing, the vehicles were purchased from his wife, Mona VanDuzee, allowing them to continue appearing at parades, ceremonies and other community events.

The vehicles also represent an important chapter in the history of the Dodge brand. Brothers John Francis Dodge and Horace Elgin Dodge established their company in 1900, initially producing transmissions, engines and other automotive components. Their company became a major supplier to manufacturers such as Ford and Oldsmobile before the brothers began producing vehicles under their own name.

In 1914, Dodge introduced its first automobile, the Dodge Model 30-35 touring car, which featured a four-cylinder engine. During the years surrounding the two world wars, Dodge designed and manufactured thousands of military vehicles for branches of the United States armed forces.

Sadly, neither founder lived to witness the company’s lasting influence on the automobile industry or its significant contribution to the nation’s military. Both brothers died during the influenza pandemic of 1920. John Dodge passed away in January, followed by Horace Dodge in December.

Today, Wabeno American Legion Sylvan Post 44’s restored Dodge trucks offer more than a memorable presence in local parades. They serve as rolling pieces of American military and automotive history while helping the Legion honor those who served.

Gunless Poultry Shoot to Support Wabeno American Legion

SURING – The Wabeno American Legion Sylvan Post 44 will hold a Gunless Poultry Shoot on Saturday, October 17, 2026, at the Salty Anchor Bar & Grill, 12058 State Hwy 32, Suring. The event will begin at 1:00 pm.

Participants will have opportunities to win a variety of prizes, including steaks, pork chops, turkeys, hams, chicken and more. Despite its name, no firearms are involved in the event.

Proceeds will support local veterans and the programs of Wabeno American Legion Sylvan Post 44. Community members are encouraged to attend, enjoy the afternoon and help support area veterans.

For more information, contact Bob Johnson at 715-674-2123 or 715-889-3609.

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Hidden Bear Trail ATV Club Donates \$500 to Schoolhouse Kids Christmas Party



The Hidden Bear Trail ATV Club treasurer Brian Fitzpatrick presented a \$500 check to Clay Smith of the Schoolhouse Bar on Saturday, September 19, 2026 to support its annual Schoolhouse Kids Christmas Party.

PHOTO CREDIT | HIDDEN BEAR TRAIL ATV CLUB

MOUNTAIN – The Hidden Bear Trail ATV Club held its annual picnic and membership meeting at the Schoolhouse Bar in Mountain on Saturday, September 19, 2026. During the gathering, club treasurer Brian Fitzpatrick presented a \$500 check to Clay Smith of the Schoolhouse Bar to support its annual Schoolhouse

Kids Christmas Party. Held each December, the Christmas celebration provides every participating child with a gift. Families also receive food to help make their holiday season a little brighter. The donation reflects the ATV club’s continued commitment to supporting local families and giving back to the community.

Townsend Chili Cook-Off to Benefit Lakewood Townsend Ambulance

TOWNSEND – Northwoods chili cooks will have an opportunity to put their favorite recipes to the test during a Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at Townsend Town Hall, 16564 Elm St. Chili tasting will take place from noon to 2:00 pm. The cost is \$5 per person, which allows attendees to sample the entries and vote for their favorites. Prizes will be awarded to the top three chilis at 2:15 pm.

Contestants should deliver their entries between 11:00 and 11:30 am, when each cook will receive an assigned ballot number. Chili must be brought hot and ready to serve in a prewarmed six-quart slow cooker. Community members are encouraged to bring their appetites, families and friends for an afternoon of friendly competition and flavorful fun. All proceeds will benefit the Lakewood Townsend Ambulance.

Sylvan Post 44 Announces Annual Gun and Cash Raffle

WABENO – Wabeno American Legion Sylvan Post 44 will hold its annual Gun and Cash Raffle on Saturday, November 28, 2026. The drawing will begin at 1:00 pm at the Wabeno Legion Hall, 4494 N. Branch St., Wabeno. The raffle will award 15 prizes. Top prizes include a TriStar Setter 12-gauge over-under shotgun, a Ruger American .308 rifle, a Savage 6.5 Creedmoor stainless rifle with scope and a Henry 20-gauge single-shot shotgun. Cash prizes include \$350 for fifth

place, \$300 for sixth, \$250 for seventh, \$200 for eighth, \$150 for ninth and \$100 each for 10th through 15th place. Tickets cost \$2 each or three for \$5. Legion members and surrounding businesses have tickets available for purchase. Winners do not need to be present at the drawing. Participants must be at least 18 years old and meet all applicable federal and state requirements to own a firearm. Proceeds will help Sylvan Post 44 continue supporting veterans and community programs.



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FALL END-OF-SEASON POKER RUN BASH

All fundraising goes to the Building Fund!!!

Poker Run Bash Schedule

- 11-4: Turn in Poker Books, Chicken Shit Bingo, Great Prizes, Raffles, 50/50, Food & Merchandise, Music by Brad Shepherd
- 4:00: Poker Winners Announced w/ Prizes

SATURDAY, OCT 3RD
at Hollywood Hill Campground & Event Center
10209 Kemp Ln, Crandon, WI 54520



11am-4pm!

FORESTCOUNTYATV.COM  [@FORESTCOUNTYATV](https://www.facebook.com/FORESTCOUNTYATV)

Wabeno Area Players to Present Fast-Paced Comedy “Nana’s Naughty Knickers”

WABENO – The Wabeno Area Players will present “Nana’s Naughty Knickers,” a lighthearted, fast-paced comedy filled with colorful characters, unexpected surprises and plenty of laughs.

Performances will be held at 7:00 pm, Friday, October 2, and Saturday, October 3, 2026 with a 2:00 pm matinee Sunday, October 4, 2026. All performances will take place in the Nancy Volk Auditorium at Wabeno High School, 4325 N. Branch St., Wabeno.

The story follows Bridget, played by Maline Enders, as she moves into the New York City apartment of her strong and independent grandmother, played by Linda Harter. What Bridget expects to be a relaxing summer quickly becomes an unforgettable experience when she discovers that her grandmother has been operating an unusual—and potentially illegal—boutique selling handmade “naughty knickers” to senior citizens throughout the borough.

Adding to the chaos are Nana’s quirky, loyal and hard-of-hearing friend Vera, played by Susan Ferguson, and the high-strung landlord Schmidt, portrayed by Dennis Diny. Meanwhile, Bridget becomes smitten with Tom, a rookie neighborhood police officer played by Josh Jameson.

Other members of the colorful cast

include Margy Diny as Heather, a spirited woman searching for new employment opportunities; Lori Mattern as Clare, a socialite and valued client of Nana; Linda Boatright as Tompkins, the unseen doorman whose voice is heard over the intercom; and Boyd Monte as a delivery driver who cannot help but leer while making his rounds.

As Nana’s secret business begins to unravel, the audience is left wondering whether she will end up behind bars—and whether Bridget can handle all the unexpected commotion surrounding her.

“Nana’s Naughty Knickers” is directed by Carol Bartlein, with Linda Boatright serving as assistant director and Clare Huisman as line coach. The production’s elaborate set, an important part of the story, was designed and constructed by David Zuleger with assistance from a team of skilled volunteers. Wendy Richards created the production’s imaginative senior-citizen lingerie as its seamstress and designer.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. They may be purchased online at wabenoareaplayers.org by selecting “Buy Tickets.” Tickets will also be available at the door beginning one hour before each performance.

The show is rated PG-13 because its humor and themes may not be appropriate or easily understood by

young children. Audience members are invited to bring their friends and enjoy

an evening—or afternoon—of laughter with the Wabeno Area Players.



The Wabeno Area Players will present “Nana’s Naughty Knickers,” a lighthearted, fast-paced comedy featuring colorful characters, unexpected surprises and plenty of laughs, Oct. 2–4 in the Nancy Volk Auditorium at Wabeno High School. Pictured are members of the cast. Seated is Margy Diny. In the middle row, from left, are Josh Jameson, Maline Enders and Linda Harter. In the back row, from left, are Lori Mattern, Dennis Diny and Sue Ferguson.

PHOTO CREDIT | WABENO AREA PLAYERS

16th ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST



Sponsored by the Crooked Lake-Mountain Lions Club



Saturday, October 10, 2026 – 11:00 AM

Crooked Lake Community Center
15345 County Hwy W

MEAT RAFFLE BEGINS AT NOON

DINNER SERVED FROM NOON – 3:00 PM
(or until gone)

TABLES INSIDE – OUTSIDE – CARRY-OUT

ROAST PORK, German Side Dishes & Black Forest Cake Dessert

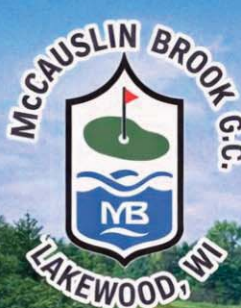
	Adults – \$13	Children 10 & under – \$6	Children 5 & under – Free	
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- ◆ Shop at the Outdoor Craft Area
- ◆ Free Pumpkin Decorating for Kids
- ◆ Free Hayrides Through Picturesque Crooked Lake
- ◆ Minnow Races for Young and Old
- ◆ Beer Garden w/Bratwurst

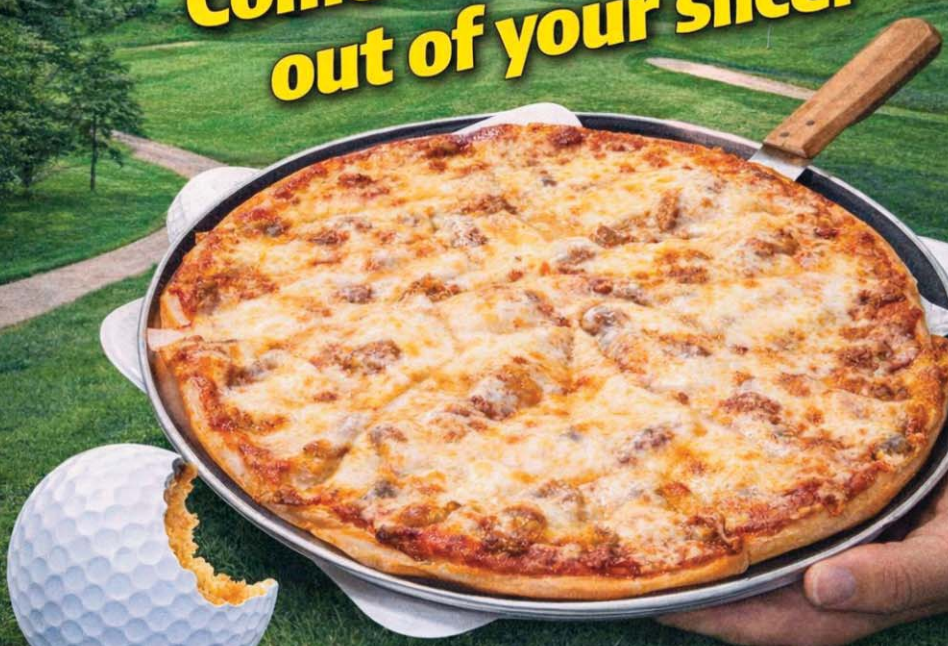


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Friday 4-9
Saturday 4-8
Sunday 2:30-8

17067 Clubhouse Lane, Lakewood, Wisconsin 54138
715-276-7623 Call for pick up orders!

Bethel Baptist Church to Host Special Meetings

WABENO – Bethel Baptist Church in Wabeno will host a series of special meetings Oct. 18–22, 2026, featuring guest speaker and itinerant preacher Dr. Jeremy Frazor.

The meetings will begin Sunday, October 18, at 9:00 am and continue nightly at 6:00 pm through Thursday, October 22.

Each evening will include special music, a Bible message and a special children’s program.

Frazor, along with his family and ministry team, travels throughout the year ministering at churches, camps and schools. Known as a dynamic and engaging speaker, he frequently draws large crowds to his presentations.

The week will conclude Thursday with “Cola Wars,” a special activity for teenagers scheduled from 5:30 to 8:30 pm.

Bethel Baptist Church is located at 1761 East Ave. in Wabeno. For additional information, contact Pastor Larson at 715-610-1420.

Blackwell to Celebrate America’s 250th Birthday with Wellness Walk

BLACKWELL – The Town of Blackwell will bring community members together to celebrate America’s 250th birthday with a special wellness walk on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

Registration will begin at 10:00 am at the Blackwell Town Hall, 3696 Flanner Lane. Following registration, participants will leave from the town hall parking lot and proceed east along the Rat River Recreational Trail.

In addition to offering residents an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and take part in a healthy activity, the event will feature patriotic games along the trail. Lunch and refreshments will be served following the walk, giving participants an opportunity to gather and visit with neighbors.

The celebration will also benefit American Legion Post 44 in Wabeno. Cash donations will be accepted during the event, and the Town of Blackwell will match the total amount contributed.

The matching contribution will allow every donation to have twice the impact in supporting the local American Legion post and its service to veterans and the surrounding community.

Residents, families and visitors are invited to participate in the wellness walk, enjoy the patriotic activities and help Blackwell commemorate the nation’s 250th birthday while supporting a local veterans organization.

Snowmobile Safety Class Scheduled in Riverview

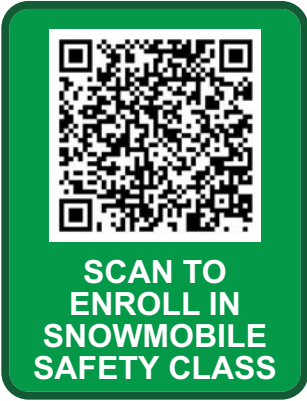
RIVERVIEW – A snowmobile safety class will be held Saturday, October 10, 2026 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Riverview Community Center, 15152 Island Lake Road.

The class will cover Wisconsin snowmobile laws and regulations, safe riding techniques, trail safety and etiquette, and environmental awareness. Participants must pass a test to earn their Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Snowmobile Safety Certificate.

The certification is required for anyone born on or after January 1, 1985, who is at least 12 years old and wishes to operate a snowmobile in Wisconsin.

To enroll online, scan the QR code to visit the Wisconsin DNR website, click “Enroll” then select “Course Type: Snowmobile” and “County: Oconto”.

For additional information, contact lead safety instructor Susan Bessert at 920-621-8340 or bessertnow@yahoo.com.



Upcoming Area American Red Cross Blood Drives

TOWNSEND/WABENO – The American Red Cross will hold a community blood drive on Monday, October 19, 2026, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at Townsend Town Hall, 16564 Elm St., Townsend and on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm at Wabeno High School, 4325 N Branch St., Wabeno.

Community members are encouraged to donate blood and help maintain a reliable supply for patients in need. Each donation can make an important difference for individuals undergoing surgery, receiving cancer treatments, recovering from serious injuries or managing chronic illnesses.

Those who donate will receive a \$10 gift card by email and 200 bonus points toward American Red Cross Donor Rewards. Appointments are encouraged to help keep the donation process running smoothly. To make an appointment online, visit redcrossblood.org and enter zip code 54175 for the Townsend Town Hall blood drive or enter zip code 54566 for the Wabeno High School blood drive.

Crooked Trails ATV Club Plans Family Fun Fest and Poker Run Finale

CROOKED LAKE – The Crooked Trails ATV Club will bring together family activities, entertainment, prizes and trail-focused fun during its Family Fun Fest & Summer Long Poker Run Finale on Saturday, September 26, 2026.

The event will be held from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Crooked Lake Sportsman’s Club, 15514 County Highway W, Crivitz. The public is welcome to attend.

A featured attraction will be a G-scale train display presented by the Wisconsin Garden Railway Society. The miniature railway is expected to be a highlight for families and train enthusiasts.

Activities for all ages will include basket raffles, face painting, coins in the sand for children, food and beverages, and music by DJ Jay Cruz. The Wisconsin ATV Association Welcome Center will also be available during the event.

The celebration will mark the conclusion of the club’s Summer Long Poker Run. Participating riders are reminded to complete and submit their poker run books by the September 26 finale.

The club’s 2026 raffle drawing will take place at 3:00 pm. The raffle features 18 prizes, led by a 7½-by-16-foot Stealth enclosed trailer purchased from Mirsberger Trailers. The trailer includes extra height, a beaver tail and an 82-inch door.

Additional prizes include a Toro TimeCutter zero-turn mower with a 42-inch deck and commercial-grade 22-horsepower V-twin engine; an ATV/UTV wheel and tire package purchased from TWL; and a Milwaukee M18 Fuel string trimmer, blower and hedge trimmer kit purchased from Cornwell Tools.

Other prizes include a four-foot poly glider bench purchased by Jeff Runge, a Stihl BG 56 C-E handheld blower donated by Kimps Hardware, a Blackstone Adventure Ready camping griddle donated by Bailey’s Pour Haus and a two-person golf outing with a cart donated by McCauslin Brook Golf Course.

The ninth through 18th prizes will award a combined \$1,350 in cash, made possible through donations from area businesses and supporters.

Raffle tickets cost \$20 each, with 2,700 tickets printed. Winners do not need to be present.

Organizers invite community members to enjoy the activities, support area businesses and organizations, and help the club continue its work maintaining and improving local ATV trails.

“Ride. Have Fun. Support Our Trails!” Event posters were donated by Coldwell Banker Bartels Real Estate.

wabeno area PLAYERS

PRESENTS

KATHERINE DISAVINO

A COMEDY BY

NANA'S

Naughty

KNICKERS

2026

OCTOBER 2 - 3 @ 7PM

OCTOBER 4 @ 2PM

NANCY VOLK AUDITORIUM

WABENO HIGH SCHOOL | 4325 BRANCH ST | WABENO, WI 54566

\$15 / Adults

\$10 / Students

FOR TICKETS VISIT

WABENOAREAPLAYERS.ORG

OR SCAN QR CODE

CONTACT INFO:

715.473.5466 / 715.889.0306

wabenoareaplayers@gmail.com / www.wabenoareaplayers.org

@wabenoareaplayers / @wabenoarea



EVENT CALENDAR



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS ONLINE

Saturday, September 26

CROOKED LAKE – The Crooked Trails ATV Club will bring together family activities, entertainment, prizes and trail-focused fun during its Family Fun Fest & Summer Long Poker Run Finale. The event will be held from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Crooked Lake Sportsman’s Club, 15514 County Highway W, Crivitz. The public is welcome to attend.

Friday, October 2

WABENO – The hilarious comedy “Nana’s Naughty Knickers” will take the stage October 2, 3 and 4, 2026, in the Nancy Volk Auditorium, 4325 North Branch St., Wabeno. Tickets are on sale now at wabenoareaplayers.org. Click “Buy Tickets” to make a reservation.

Saturday, October 3

BLACKWELL – The Town of Blackwell will bring community members together to celebrate

America’s 250th birthday with a special wellness walk. Registration will begin at 10:00 am at the Blackwell Town Hall, 3696 Flanner Lane. Following registration, participants will leave from the town hall parking lot and proceed east along the Rat River Recreational Trail.

CRANDON – The Forest County ATV Association will wrap up its riding season with a Fall End-of-Season Poker Run Bash from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Hollywood Hill Campground & Event Center, 10209 Kemp Lane in Crandon. Participants may turn in their completed poker books between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Sunday, October 4

CRANDON – Forest County Potawatomi Health & Wellness Center Prevention offers a weekly program designed to encourage movement, wellness and healthy self-care practices. Self-Care Sundays will be held every Sunday from 10:00 am to noon at the

Recovery Resource Center, 5460 Kak Yot Lane, Crandon.

Saturday, October 10

CROOKED LAKE – The Crooked Lake/Mountain Lions Club will host its 16th Annual Oktoberfest at the Crooked Lake Community Center, 15345 County Highway W. The festivities will begin at 11:00 am and feature activities and entertainment for the entire family. The event’s main meal will feature roast pork accompanied by stuffing, sauerkraut, applesauce, German potato salad, baby red potatoes, red cabbage, rye bread and Black Forest cake.

RIVERVIEW – A snowmobile safety class will be held from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Riverview Community Center, 15152 Island Lake Road. The class will cover Wisconsin snowmobile laws and regulations, safe riding techniques, trail safety and etiquette, and environmental awareness. Participants must pass a test to earn their Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Snowmobile Safety Certificate. For additional information, contact lead safety instructor Susan Bessert at 920-621-8340.

TOWNSEND – Northwoods chili cooks will have an opportunity to put their favorite recipes to the test during a Chili Cook-Off at Townsend Town Hall, 16564 Elm St. Chili tasting will take place from noon to 2:00 pm. The cost is \$5 per person, which allows attendees to sample the entries and vote for their favorites. Prizes will be awarded to the top three chilis at 2:15 pm.

Friday, October 16

GILLETT – The Gillett Area Chamber of Commerce invites residents, businesses and visitors to celebrate the completion of a highway improvement project and the opening of a new playground during a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The free, family-friendly celebration will be held from 4:30 to 6:00 pm at Zippel Park, near North McKenzie Avenue and East Park Street in Gillett.

Saturday, October 17

MOUNTAIN – The Dusty Trails ATV Club will be hosting a Meat Raffle at Skinny Dave’s located at 12848 State Hwy 32/64, Mountain. The event will begin at 12:00 noon. The proceeds from the meat raffle will support the Dusty Trails ATV Club in their efforts to build a dedicated facility for their equipment. This new building will enhance the club’s operations and enable them to continue serving their members and the community for many years to come.

SURING – The Wabeno American Legion Sylvan Post 44 will hold a Gunless Poultry Shoot at the Salty Anchor Bar & Grill, 12058 State Hwy 32, Suring. The event will begin at 1:00 pm.

WABENO – The Big Easel Gallery & Bistro Bistro, located at 1784 Maple Ave, will be hosting an exciting dinner concert, featuring the talented musician Shannon Hauser. The evening will begin with a delicious dinner served at 5:00 pm, followed by a live concert performance. For more information or to reserve your spot for the dinner and concert, please call 715-889-1179.

Sunday, October 18

WABENO – Bethel Baptist Church in Wabeno will host a series of special meetings Oct. 18–22, 2026, featuring guest speaker and itinerant preacher Dr. Jeremy Frazor. The meetings will begin Sun., Oct. 18, at 9:00 am and continue nightly at 6:00 pm through Thurs., Oct. 22. Bethel Baptist Church is

located at 1761 East Ave. in Wabeno. For additional information, contact Pastor Larson at 715-610-1420.

Monday, October 19

TOWNSEND – The American Red Cross will hold a community blood drive on from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at Townsend Town Hall, 16564 Elm St., Townsend. To make an appointment online, visit redcrossblood.org.

Wednesday, October 21

WABENO – The American Red Cross will hold a community blood drive from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm at Wabeno High School, 4325 N Branch St., Wabeno. To make an appointment online, visit redcrossblood.org.

Thursday, October 29

MOUNTAIN – Mountain Sweet Street Trick-or-Treat from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Bill Lazansky Community Center, 13412 Hwy 32 & 64. Those interested in handing out treats to children are invited to arrive between 5:00 and 5:15 pm. Participants are encouraged to dress in the Halloween spirit. Attendees are encouraged to bring a donation.

Saturday, October 31

TOWNSEND – The McCaslin Lions Club will host a community Trunk or Treat event from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Townsend Town Hall, 16564 Elm St.

All listed events are subject to change without notice. If you have an event that you would like to share, please send your information to info@nicolet.express or call 715-276-8001.

ESTATE SALE

October 8, 9 & 10, 2026
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

16751 Forest Hill Dr.
Townsend, WI 54175
715-216-4862



BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH WABENO

Bethel Baptist Church exists to tell the world about salvation found in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

9:00 am Sunday Worship
10:45 am Sunday School
6:00 pm Wednesday Bible Study

1761 East Ave, Wabeno WI 54566
715-610-1420

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Pearson, WI 54462



Worship Service with Holy Communion
Sundays at 9:45am



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Lakes Country Public Library



- Free WIFI 24/7
- Free Puzzle Exchange
- Meeting Rooms
- Local History Room
- Teen Zone
- Children’s Room
- 5 Desktop Computers for Public Use
- Faxing & Printing
- Family Computer Station (Pack-N-Play available for those who need to work with a young child)
- Programming for All Ages (Stop in or Check out our website for more information)

Scan the QR code to view or print our monthly calendar of events at Lakes Country Public Library!



15235 State Highway 32 | Lakewood
715-276-9020
Hours: 9-5 Mon-Fri | 9-8 Wed | 9-1 Sat
lakescountrylibrary.org

Northwoods Bible Fellowship Church



Preaching Christ the Way, in the Nicolet!

9:00 am Sunday Adult & Youth Bible Studies
10:00 am Sunday Worship Service
6:30 pm Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study
Numerous other Bible Studies available each week

15253 Long St., Lakewood, WI 715-850-2904

HELP BLACKWELL CELEBRATE AMERICA’S 250TH BIRTHDAY WELLNESS WALK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026

Registration begins at 10:00 a.m.
Blackwell Town Hall, 3696 Flanner Lane

Walk east along the Rat River Recreational Trail

PATRIOTIC GAMES ON THE TRAIL!

Lunch and refreshments afterward

Cash donations support
American Legion Post 44, Wabeno

THE TOWN OF BLACKWELL WILL MATCH ALL MONEY CONTRIBUTED.



Trinity Lutheran Wabeno

1741 Forest Ave., Wabeno
Sunday Service at 9:30 AM

Risen Savior Lutheran

13825 State Hwy 32, Mountain
Saturday Service at 6:30 PM

Pastor Michael Willitz

608-294-8940
pr.willitz@gmail.com

Church Office:

715-473-5633
trinitylcrslc@gmail.com



trinityrisensavior.com

Crooked Lake/Mountain Lions Club to Host Oktoberfest

CROOKED LAKE – The Crooked Lake/Mountain Lions Club will host its 16th Annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 10, 2026, at the Crooked Lake Community Center, 15345 County Highway W.

The festivities will begin at 11:00 am

and feature activities and entertainment for the entire family. Guests can browse items offered by local crafters, enjoy music by our favorite local disc jockey – Whitey and participate in a meat raffle.

Children can take part in minnow

races, while wagon rides through town will offer visitors another way to enjoy the autumn celebration.

The event’s main meal will feature roast pork accompanied by stuffing, sauerkraut, applesauce, German potato salad, baby red potatoes, red cabbage, rye bread and Black Forest cake. Dinner prices are Adults – \$13, children age 10 and under – \$6, and children 5 and under – free. Community members and visitors are invited to attend and enjoy a day of food, activities and fall fun.

Townsend Fire Department Open House

Mountain Sweet Street Trick-or-Treat

TOWNSEND – The Townsend Fire Department will welcome the community to an open house on Saturday, October 10, 2026, from noon

to 3:00 pm at 17937 Front Street (Highway 32) in Townsend.

Visitors can meet department members, take photos and learn about fire safety through demonstrations and information displays. Children can visit with Sparky the Fire Pup, decorate pumpkins and enjoy games. Door prizes will also be offered.

The department invites visitors to stop by the Chili Cook-Off at Townsend Town Hall while they are in town.

MOUNTAIN – Mountain Sweet Street Trick-or-Treat will be held Thursday, October 29, 2026, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Bill Lazansky Community Center, 13412 Hwy 32 & 64, Mountain.

People, businesses and groups interested in handing out treats to children are invited to arrive between 5:00 and 5:15 pm. Participants are encouraged to dress in the Halloween spirit.

The event will again include a food drive for the local food pantry, sponsored by Thrivent Financial. Attendees are encouraged to bring a donation.

Mountain Sweet Street is sponsored by the Mountain Area Business Association and the Friends of the Mountain Fire Department.

For more information about Mountain Sweet Street Trick-or-Treat, contact Gail Golden at 920-676-0754.

Youth Pumpkin Hunt in Mountain

MOUNTAIN – The Mountain Historical Society will host a Youth Pumpkin Hunt at 12:30 pm on Saturday, October 31, 2026, at the historic Green Lake Park Pavilion, located at 13322 State Highway 32/64 in Mountain.

During the Halloween event, young participants will search throughout the park for five hidden pumpkins. The children who discover the pumpkins will each receive a special prize. Every participating child will also receive a small gift, ensuring that everyone leaves with something to remember the afternoon.

Families can warm up with complimentary hot cocoa and enjoy cookies while spending time together at the park. The event is free and open to area youth, but all children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Youth Pumpkin Hunt offers families an opportunity to celebrate Halloween outdoors while enjoying the autumn scenery and historic surroundings of Green Lake Park. Organizers encourage participants to arrive on time so they are ready when the hunt begins.

The Mountain Historical Society invites local families and visitors to take part in this fun and festive community tradition while enjoying an authentic Mountain experience. For more information, call 715-276-1486.

Family-Friendly Trunk or Treat in Townsend

TOWNSEND – The McCaslin Lions Club will host a community Trunk or Treat event from 4:00 to 6:00 pm Saturday, October 31, 2026, at Townsend Town Hall, 16564 Elm St. in Townsend.

Families are invited to enjoy an evening of free candy, creatively decorated vehicle trunks and Halloween fun. Children are encouraged to wear their favorite costumes while collecting treats in a festive, family-friendly setting.

The event is free and open to everyone. Through activities such as Trunk or Treat, the McCaslin Lions Club continues its mission of bringing the community together through service and fun.



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