



Clinic asks for books to help combat poverty, 8A

Bob Wanek shares some thoughts about living on the Yellow River, 2B

# SPOONER ADVOCATE



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

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FEATURED



Don't worry, local fans, the local Wisconsin Lumberjacks will return, says coach and team president. 1B

FEATURED



The Spooner cross country ski trails welcomed young Nordic skiers to a race competition. 4B, 5B

WEATHER RECORD

Day	Hi	Lo	Precip.
Dec. 30	22	-9	3.84" sn, precip
Dec. 31	22	-1	-
Jan. 1	18	5	-
Jan. 2	23	8	-
Jan. 3	28	17	-
Jan. 4	29	21	-
Jan. 5	30	5	.22" sn, precip

Weather record courtesy of the Spooner Ag Research Station or wunderground.com. Precipitation is measured at 8 a.m. daily.

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## ICE FISHING FUN DAY



BILL THORNLEY

AAA Sportshop's 15th annual Ice Fishing Funday on the Yellow River Flowage in Spooner was a lot of fun for happy and successful Logan Roseman, 9, of Webster. The excited child, one of about 25 on the ice, was all smiles as she displayed her sunfish. More on the annual Ice Fishing Fun Day is in Sports/Outdoors.

## 6th OWI nets prison time

BY JULIE HUSTVET  
jhustvet@spooneradvocate.com

SHELL LAKE- "You are a danger to the public, Robin, when you drink," Barron County Circuit Judge J. Michael Bitney told Robin Johnson during the defendant's sentencing for his sixth operating while intoxicated (OWI) conviction.

As District Attorney Aaron Marcoux described Johnson during the hearing, he is a productive person when sober, but when he "falls off the rails," he falls hard.

Bitney sentenced Johnson, 40, of Shell Lake on January

4 to three years in prison and three years of extended supervision for driving while drunk on June 5, 2019. It was one more year of prison than Marcoux, Johnson's attorney Joseph Schieffer, and the Department of Corrections had recommended.

A Wisconsin State Patrol trooper had pulled Johnson over in the town of Beaver Brook, but not before Johnson sped away from the trooper and passed another vehicle on a hill at a high speed, then eventually abruptly pulled

SEE OWI, 2A

## Cougar tracks tracked

BY FRANK ZUFALL  
Sawyer County Record

Evidence of another cougar has been found in the region.

On Tuesday, Dec. 29, retired wolf expert Adrian Wydeven, formerly with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and his wife, Sarah Boles, a part-time wolf tracker for the DNR, were called to a private woods south of Cable and west of Hwy. 63 to confirm the presence of cougar tracks.

When Wydeven and Boles arrived at the site they did,

indeed, find cougar tracks — round feline impressions 3 1/2 inches long and 3 3/4 inches wide. As the two followed the tracks they noticed the tracks merged with smaller feline tracks they identified as a bobcat.

"We had been tracking a cougar for about six-tenths of a mile at that point and came over this little high ground and were going toward the swamp, and all of a sudden it intersects the tracks of this bobcat,"

SEE COUGAR, 2A

## COVID-19 takes more lives in Washburn, Burnett counties; vaccine timeline noted

BY JULIE HUSTVET  
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A 13th Washburn County resident has passed away from a confirmed case of COVID-19.

That person was the second in two days, bringing the total of deaths related to COVID-19 in Washburn County to 13.

"We extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of this individual. Our thoughts are with them," the Washburn County Health Department said.

As of Tuesday, Jan. 5, the county had registered another 51 confirmed cases since December 28, eight days, for a total of 1,051, with 978 recovered and 60 still active. Another 70 cases were listed as "probable" — nine of those still active — and two people's deaths were listed as probably due to COVID-19.

The county's listing of active cases may be higher than what the state Department of Health Services lists in its

daily updates because the state department counts recovered cases based on time of onset, while the county department continues to see some cases because of hospitalization or because the disease has kept its hold beyond the 10 days.

Burnett County confirmed on Monday the loss of two more of its residents due to COVID-19 complications. Twenty-one of the county's residents have died from COVID-19 or its complications since the pandemic began.

The county has had 1,092 positive cases as of Tuesday, with 926 recovered and 130 being monitored.

Vaccine

The Washburn County Health Department has been getting questions about when the vaccine will be available to the broader public, and the department posted a graphic on its Facebook page that shows the following timeline for receiving the vaccination:

> Phase 1, December 2020

through spring 2021

- Group 1A, health care workers and long-term care staff and residents

- Group 1B, essential workers (undefined currently but may include public health and safety, transportation, communications, financial, food and agriculture, information technology, and other critical infrastructure services.

- Group 1C, Residents over 65 and individuals with underlying health conditions. Includes those who are considered at a higher risk for severe illness based on their age or health history.

- > Phase 2, spring through summer

- Remainder of Phase 1.

- Critical populations and general populations. "An announcement will be made when vaccine supplies reach a point that allows partners to begin taking appointments and providing COVID-19 vaccinations to community members."

- > Phase 3, summer and be-

yond

- Remainder of Phases 1 and 2

- Critical populations and general populations. "Vaccine distribution will be widespread and will be incorporated into preventative care."

This timeline may change if there are new recommendations, new vaccines approved, or more vaccine available sooner.

The county health department said it would update the public via Facebook, county website, and news releases to local papers and radio stations when additional groups are able to be vaccinated.

"Nursing homes/assisted living facilities are in group 1A and are in the process of getting and administering vaccine," the health department said. "We do not yet have a timeline for when vaccination of the next priority groups will begin. We will make several announcements as soon as we have new information."



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