



Ladysmith News

Lady Smith

"Good news since 1895"



Vol. 122, Number 21

Ladysmith, Wisconsin 54848

Thursday, September 8, 2016

Hawkins Harvest Festival
Annual event now in 105th season Page A2

Exeland Trout Festival
Community celebrates Page A11

Weyerhaeuser Booster Days
Parade highlights weekend event Page A12

County zoning sets 21 restrictions

Conditions placed on Lake Flambeau campground plan

- Developer proposes 48 sites, bar, restaurant
- Opponents concerned about noise, traffic, safety
- Supporters say it would help county's economy

By Luke Klink

A two-hour public hearing on a proposed new 48-site RV campground, bar and restaurant development on Lake Flambeau Tuesday afternoon divided an audience of about 50 people nearly evenly between neighbors voicing concerns about the local impact and others supporting economic development.

Jason Rafko wants to develop 6.95 acres of land with 283 feet of frontage in the town of Dewey located immediately southwest of where the County I bridge crosses over the waterway. The proposed bar and restaurant would be accessed from an existing driveway on County I. Farther up the hillside from the lake, the proposed campground would be accessed off Lakeshore Drive.

The campground would feature 13 seasonal sites each measuring 35 feet-by-75 feet and 35 sites each measuring 35 feet by 50 feet. Each would have a connection to electricity, running water and septic holding tank. The "burger bar" would measure 34 feet by 28 feet, or 952 square feet with 35 seats. It would have an

attached 408 square foot deck set back 75 feet from the shoreline.

Prior to the hearing, members of the Rusk County Land Information and Zoning Committee toured the property, joined by those opposing and those supporting the proposal. They walked the site, which features thick woods and a steep hillside between upper and lower levels. The bar and restaurant would be built on the lower level and the campground on the upper level.

Rafko proposed a larger, denser development in late 2011, but shortly after the Rusk County Zoning Committee voted unanimously to deny the request to develop a then-proposed 84-site campground, bar and small restaurant at a different location in the town of Dewey also on Lake Flambeau. The committee ultimately deemed that development would not mesh with the residential characteristics of the area. That development was proposed for a 5.69 acre site east of the intersection of Leonhard Lane and Eagle Drive.

"It is just basically a different lo-

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CAMPGROUND PROPOSED — Developer Jason Rafko (foreground) points to where he wants to build a new bar and restaurant just off County I on Lake Flambeau. Members of the Rusk County Land Information and Zoning Committee toured the property in the rain on Tuesday morning this week. — News photo by Luke Klink



SCHOOLS IN SESSION — Students return for the first day of school at Ladysmith Middle and High School on Thursday, Sept. 1. The school, which now goes by a new and longer name, now houses grades six to 12 as the school district is currently studying its facility needs. The study could result in a permanent closure of one school as a cost-saving move. This year, Ladysmith Middle School is being left mostly shut down. — News photo by Luke Klink

State quarantine in Sawyer County

Emerald ash borer found near Radisson

By Luke Klink

Sawyer County has been put under quarantine after the emerald ash borer was found in the Radisson area last week. This marks the second most northern location the destructive beetle has been found in Wisconsin to date.

A single adult beetle was found in a monitoring trap set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service as part of its national survey for the emerald ash borer. The trap was set along North Eastlund Road in the town of Radisson.

"This new infestation is concerning, because it's getting to our northwoods, less than 20 miles from the Chequamegon National Forest and the adjoining Flambeau River State Forest. But it's not surprising, given the ease with which this pest can hitchhike with the help of humans," said

Brian Kuhn, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry in the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. "Fortunately, the infestation appears to be in a very early stage, with no damage apparent yet, and even though it's in a heavily wooded area, very few of the trees are ash."

Fortunately, the infestation appears to be in a very early stage.

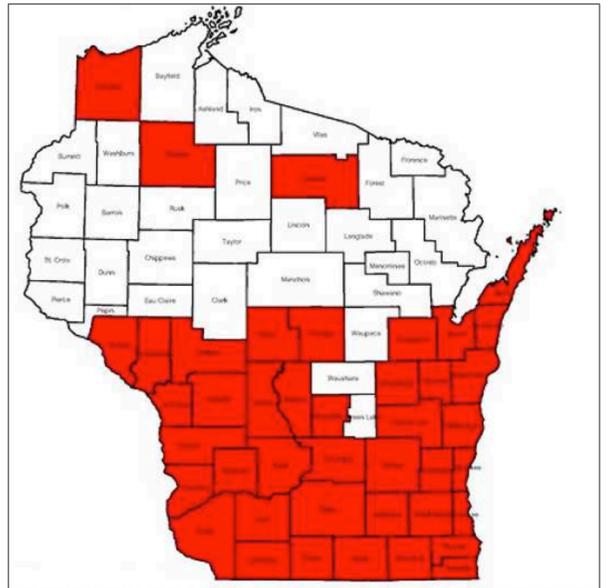
— Brian Kuhn, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

When an emerald ash borer finding is confirmed, the county will be quarantined. If the finding is located near neighboring counties, those counties also will be quarantined.

Only ash trees are susceptible to the emerald ash borer.

The quarantine will apply to all of Sawyer County. It prohibits ash wood products and hardwood firewood from being moved out of the county to areas that are not infested. For private citizens, this means they

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COUNTIES IN QUARANTINE — Sawyer County has been added to the list of quarantined counties after an emerald ash borer was found in a trap in the Radisson area. It is the second most northern discovery of the destructive beetle in Wisconsin.

County approves shoreland zoning ordinance

By Katherine Schulz

Work on the county shoreland ordinances that began in January came to fruition Aug. 30 when the Rusk County Board of Supervisors, meeting in regular session, passed a resolution bringing the county's shoreland zoning ordinances in sync with state standards mandated by the legislature. The resolution was proposed by the Land Information/Zoning Committee after eight months of

consideration culminating in a public hearing in July.

The county was working toward an Oct. 1 deadline to revise the ordinances as required by state law.

Not all changes are required by state law. At the public hearing, the issue that drew most comment was the new limit of one recreational vehicle per lot. Only one member of the public commented on that issue at Tuesday's meeting.

Duane Taylor, who operates the Wonder Spot Resort and Amacoy Golf Course and lives about five miles south of Bruce on Wis. 40, asked the board to divide the vote on the resolution into those parts required by state law and those parts not so required, and to refrain from limiting the number of campers per lot to less than three. State standards allow three campers per lot. Taylor argued that more campers

mean more people who are likely to spend more money in Rusk County.

Said Taylor, "Would it be terrible if we had too many people come onto a lake who might buy bagels or spend money in Rusk County? Be considerate. Be people-friendly. Leave this as it is."

The resolution, Revision to the Rusk County Code of Ordinances, allow three campers per lot.

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Clinic at Riverside New Fall Hours

Starting Monday, September 12, the Clinic at Riverside will have new fall hours!
The Clinic will be open from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm on Mondays.

To schedule an appointment, call 715-532-5561. Walk-ins accepted as schedules allow.

RUSK COUNTY
Memorial Hospital
Clinic at Riverside

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Weather forecast

<p>Wednesday</p>  <p>74°F / 62°F Scattered thunderstorms</p>	<p>Thursday</p>  <p>74°F / 54°F Clouds giving way to sun</p>	<p>Friday</p>  <p>74°F / 54°F A few thunderstorms possible</p>	<p>Saturday</p>  <p>67°F / 46°F Partly cloudy</p>	<p>Sunday</p>  <p>73°F / 55°F Sunny</p>	<p>Monday</p>  <p>73°F / 51°F A few clouds</p>
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