

Moose Lake News

By Jim Onarheim

Fishing during the year 2025 was a very successful year for myself and most of the people that I have recently talked to. Some of the people had good success on Moose Lake this past summer, and a few did not. But as we all know that is fishing.

The annual Moose Lake Fire Fest which is always the First Saturday in August always brings together many dedicated volunteers. This fundraiser was a great success again this year by raising a large amount of money for the Round Lake Fire Department. Volunteers are already planning the 2026 event. Speaking of the Round Lake Fire Department, our fires for this fall have been down. Medical calls in our township have kept our First Responders busy. Mostly vehicle accidents including cars and ATV's and now snowmobiles. The Round Lake Fire Department has an excellent group of Firefighters and Emergency Medical Responders. If you meet up with a First Responder or Firefighter, take time to thank them.

Another interesting thing that happened in December was Christina's Y-Pines had the fourth annual All for the Kids Christmas event. This event was supported by the Hayward Schools, Pastor Gary of the Spider Lake Church, and many area businesses. Fifty less fortunate kids from our area were made happy this Christmas with gifts from Santa. This was all made possible because of the generosity of many area businesses and people. Support this year came from Blain's Farm and Fleet in Rice Lake. Hayward businesses, Kwik Trip, Coop's Pizza, Lynn Marie Candy, Mc Donalds, Dairy Queen, Ace Hardware, and many Moose Lake area residents. Many area residents assisted with many things over the past month that needed to be done preparing for this wonderful event. Money had to be raised, presents had to be purchased and wrapped. Some of this money was raised on November 30 by having 23 Basket Raffles at Y-Pines. One of the items that was put in twelve of the baskets came from Tito's, which is a company that bottles Vodka. This was well received by several adults. If you happen to see Bill O'brien, thank him for being one of Santa's helpers.

On New Years Day, Deerfoot Lodge, which is located on the Chippewa Flowage hosted their annual Polar Plunge where 50 + people jumped in the ice-cold water of the Chippewa Flowage. You may have seen the photos in last week's paper. This is a fundraising event to help raise money for the Youth Conservation Alliance (YCA) annual Kids fishing tournament on Father's Day weekend on Round Lake. Round Lake was chosen because of the wide variety of fish that the kids can catch.

Amanda Wilson, owner of Deer Foot Resort, felt that the YCA was an excellent organization to support. Over the last two years Amanda has done a wonderful job in promoting her event. Each person that participated was asked to pay an entry fee of \$10.

The Plunge started at 10 AM and ended at 2 PM. It took place on the west side of Amanda's Deerfoot Resort. They cut an opening through the ice of approximately five feet by six feet in size. The ice was one foot thick, so we had good solid ice in that area. The depth of the water was only four feet deep. They laid carpet around the edge of the hole to make it safe for contestants from slipping and getting hurt. There was a ladder set up on one side of the opening so contestants could exit the water as soon as possible. After getting out of the water contestants would immediately go to a large portable sauna that

was on a trailer parked only fifty feet away. Temperatures inside the sauna were around one hundred degrees. Amanda covered everything very well as far as safety. The use of the Sauna was donated from Ben Welnak who owns Northwoodssaunas.com. She also had seven members of the Round Lake Fire department standing by in case someone needed our assistance. Rob Sparhawk, Mark Gritzmacher, Chief Mike Schmidt, Kevin Bushnick, Colin Dassow, Tyler Ficek, and myself. We had an ambulance available for transport if needed and two firefighters dressed in special suits that gave them protection from the freezing water if they needed to go in for a rescue. Amanda also had a couple of Ice Fishing tents set up on the ice with heaters in them. This was for the use of the contestants if they wanted to keep warm prior to their jump in the lake.

Amanda was highly organized with the setting up of this event. The result is that Deerfoot Resort raised \$1000. This money was all donated to the YCA to help offset some of the expenses for the Father's Day weekend, kids fishing event for this year. A Big Thank You goes out to Deerfoot Resort and Amanda Wilson. She told me they will do it again next year on January 1, 2027. Mark your calendar!

The 2026 YCA Kids event that we have been referring to is being held on June 19 & 20th, Father's Day Weekend. If you are interested in this event here is what you have to do. 1) Register for the event. 2) Fish as much or as little as you want Friday & Saturday. 3) Keep track of your fish. (Measure them, take a picture, and release the fish back into the lake). We always encourage "catch & release" because we always want big fish in our lakes.

To REGISTER: E-mail Kevin Bushnick at: kbushnick@theyca.org or call 847-987-3622 with the names and ages of the kids participating. This program is for kids of all ages and is FREE. Final awards and recognition will be held Saturday evening after dinner on June 20, around 7:30 PM at the Grand Pines Hotel and Lodge. This is a multi-species fishing program with awards being given out for ten categories. We will have many professional guides participating so if you need a guide, please let me know, especially if you are a first-time participant. We will "hook" you up.

Pool League is back in action after taking off for Christmas. We have three evenings of pool to report to you. December 18th. The first-place winners were Darryl Enk and his partner Dane Resh. Second place winners were Bill Stednitz and Laura Gilkey. Scott Gilkey and Mike Williams won the TP prize. January 1st had a total of four teams playing against each other. In the end Mark Burton and Joan Linahon took home the first prize. Second place went to Mike Williams and me Jim O. The TP prize was given to Jack Brown and Darryl Enk. This past Thursday the 8th of January we had 6 teams playing pool. First place went to Jeff Williams and Brad Daywitt. Second place was won by Bruce Vanfleet and Mike Williams. The TP award was given to Dane Resh and Jim Onarheim. This week pool will be on Thursday January 15th at 6 PM at Christina's Y Pines. Everyone is welcome.

Birthday greetings this week are extended to the following people. Terry Barnhill and Bob McCarthy both have birthdays on the 31st of December. I am sorry that we missed them last week. January birthdays we have Ella Carlson on the 6th. Ric Miller and Jeff Stonehouse both have birthdays on the 7th of January, Steve Walburg on the 20th, Mike Haegle on the 23rd, Mike Ross on the 26th, Tracy Sanders and Joan Bajek Runice both have birthdays on the 27th of January. We have two anniversaries for this week's news. One couple that we missed last week was Chuck and Val Steidinger on the 31st of December. This month Tom

and Zanna McFerson have their anniversary on the 10th of January and Emerson and Dorthea Haegle on the 23rd. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to everyone, especially those that we may have accidentally missed.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy your week. Please send your items of interest to my e-mail address at emta984@gmail.com or call my landline at 715-462-4448 or my cell at 715-577-8880. Moose Lake Improvement association website is <http://mliahaywardwi.org> The Town of Round Lake Web site is <https://www.townofroundlakewi.org> and the Round Lake Fire Department website is <https://townofroundlakefire-rescue.org> JO.