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New Disc Golf Course Brings Outdoor Fun to Mosinee

New Project offers a fresh opportunity for kids and families to be active.

Local community member and middle school Physical Education and Health teacher Don Winter has taken the initiative to bring an exciting new recreational option to Mosinee by developing a brand-new disc golf course. Designed to provide a healthy, familyfriendly activity for kids and adults alike, the course is expected to open on May 7th.

Located at River Park, the course will feature 9 beginner holes thoughtfully laid out to challenge players while welcoming beginners. The purpose of this course is to create more opportunities for young people to stay active, spend time outdoors, and engage with others in their community. The course also provides a safe

place for kids to hang out.

"I wanted to give kids in Mosinee something fun and positive to do outside," said Don Winter, the project's lead. "Disc golf is a great way to enjoy nature, stay active, and spend quality time with friends or family. Plus, it's affordable and easy to learn."

The project has already received enthusiastic support from residents and community leaders. The Mosinee PTO, MAAC, and Mosinee Middle and High School have supported this program from the start.

Disc golf continues to grow in popularity across the U.S. thanks to its accessibility, low cost, and appeal to all ages. This course will add to the town's growing list of recreational amenities and is expected

to attract visitors from surrounding areas.

The course will be open to the public and free to play during park hours, but will close during events such as the Fourth of July Celebration, Log Jam Festival, and other major community events hosted near River Park. An opening day celebration (Ribbon

Cutting) is in the works and set for Wednesday, May 7th. We welcome anyone to come and celebrate this amazing and exciting opportunity for Mosinee community members.

For updates, volunteer opportunities, or if you are looking to donate, please contact Don Winter at dwinter@mosineeschools.org.

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MELISSA PIERICK, **DIRECTOR OF MARKETING** AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS,

ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

The Ice Age Trail Alliance proudly announces Jerry

Krause as the recipient of the 2025 Trail Steward of the Year Award. The announcement was made the Alliance's

See AWARD page 3



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Many people don't realize that Wisconsin and Michigan are not next-of-kin states. This means that spouses, adult children, parents of adult children, or other family members are not automatically authorized to make medical decisions for you. That's why all adults need to complete an Advance document Directive-a that specifies who you choose to be your Power of

Attorney for Healthcare.

A n Advance Directive allows you choose to who you want to m a k e medical decisions

for you if you're not able to make them for yourself," said Julie Barge, Advance



Care Planning Coordinator with Aspirus Health. "It also enables you to specify your wishes regarding care facility placement, and the type of treatment you want or don't want."

April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Daythe perfect time to complete an Advance Directive or to review your completed document and conversations about your wishes

Having an Advance Directive is a win-win-even if you live in a next-ofkin state, like Minnesota. Should the time ever come that you cannot make or communicate your own medical decisions, will have identified who vou want to make those decisions for you, and that person will know your wishes. They can be your voice. Research has shown that this reduces stress, guilt, and questioning whether the right decisions

See CARE page 3



WoodTrust Bank **Announces** New **Business Banker**

CHAD KANE, PRESIDENT, **WOODTRUST BANK**

WoodTrust Bank ("WoodTrust"), a leading provider of banking, and investment management services in central and northern Wisconsin since 1891, is pleased to announce the addition of Meredith Otte to its Business Banking team.

Otte Mrs. joined WoodTrust as Business Banking Vice President and will focus on expanding the bank's business and private banking footprint in the greater Wausau area. She will also oversee a book of existing commercial client relationships from WoodTrust's Dudley Tower office. Mrs. Otte carries over 17 years of banking experience and, with her deep understanding the financial needs businesses, she will be responsible for developing and managing commercial deposit relationships.

"Meredith shares our commitment to building lasting relationships with our business clients and supporting the local economy," said Jeff Meyers, SVP/Senior Loan Officer at WoodTrust Bank. "We are excited to have her on our team and we are confident her expertise will be a tremendous asset to our bank, clients, and the communities we serve.'



Meredith Otte © 2016 John R. Hartman

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CARE from page 2

were made. It can also prevent delays and costly legal expenses.

"If you don't have an Advance Directive that names your Power of Attorney for Healthcare, the case may go to court, which can delay treatment decisions and thousands of dollars," said Barge. "In addition, if your loved ones don't agree on your care plan, it can cause a lot of stress."

When choosing a health care agent or advocate, you need to consider who will honor your wishes, even if they don't agree with them. Who can handle stress and will be a good advocate for you? As life changes, a new document should be completed to reflect your current choices, values, and wishes.

Completing an advance directive may be easy for some and difficult for others. Aspirus offers free assistance with trained facilitators either in person, via phone, or virtually.

"We go through the form and answer your questions," said Barge. "We can help you think about scenarios you may not have thought about and discuss what your wishes would be. The document is then scanned into your medical record, you keep the original, and we can make copies for you at no charge.'

Advance care planning kits are available in our clinics, hospitals, and at aspirus.org/ advance-directives. You may also request a kit be mailed to you by calling our Aspirus Customer Contact Center at 800-847-4707.

AWARD from page 1



Annual Conference Awards and Recognition Ceremony on Saturday, April 12.

The Trail Steward of the Year Award honors individuals whose work in any phase of Trail management contributes in "an extraordinary manner" to the development and care of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. It celebrates excellence in Trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, landowner and partner relations, and stewardship work.

Over the past year, Krause, who lives in Weston, contributed more than 800 volunteer hours to Trailrelated activities-more than 600 of which were devoted to Trail maintenance. Whether working quietly behind the scenes as a tool manager and segment maintainer for the Central Moraines Chapter of the Alliance or stepping up to support major construction efforts across the state, Krause's commitment has left a lasting impact.

"Jerry is the kind of volunteer every organization dreams of: humble, dependable, and skilled," Luke Kloberdanz, **Executive Director and CEO** of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. "He shows up early, stays late, and brings a quiet leadership that inspires everyone around him."

Krause is a go-to resource complex Trail construction projects arise. His craftsmanship and technical know-how ensure projects are completed to the highest standards.

He has led multiple Eagle Scout projects and worked closely with two WisCorps crews over the past year, sharing his expertise and

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instilling Trail values in the next generation of conservation stewards.

Beyond construction and maintenance, Krause is a trusted presence for staff and volunteers alike. Just a phone call away, he routinely arrives early to prep projects and sticks around after the work is done to tie up loose endsoften serving as a reliable, on-the-ground partner when staff is unavailable.

In addition to volunteering for the Alliance and creating and maintaining the Trail, Krause is also an Ice Age Trail Thousand Miler: he

completed the entire Ice Age Trail by section hiking it in





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Editorial

715-574-0890

Natasha Winkler

nwinkler@mmclocal.com

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Celebrate Earth Day With Monk Botanical Gardens! Get outside on little spring cleaning with for as long you can! Contact

us! You can clean up trails, pick up litter, do some raking, and more. Come out for a full two-hour shift (9-Tuesday, April 22, to do a 11 am, 1-3 pm) or drop by

sign up!

Board of Directors Position Open! Community Center of Hope board members guide the pantry to be sustainable and continue to help those who need it. Time commitment is 1-2 hours per month, with a preferred threeyear commitment. CCH is especially interested in candidates with experience technology, finance, planning, strategic nutrition. Connect with Amy at (715) 907-2576 or director@cchope.net apply.

Great Opportunity For Students! The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Northwoods is looking for volunteers to help staff their new office. Tasks include answering phone calls and emails, along with other support needs. If you are interested, please reach out to Tracy at info@naminorthwoods.org or (715) 432-0180. Ages 16+.

Are You A Singer Or Musician? North Shore At Home hospice is looking for a music therapy volunteer. This service helps our patients express themselves, find comfort, and improve their well-being through the power of music. Your talent and compassion can bring joy and healing to our community! Training provided. Contact Sara at (414) 885-0909 or info@ nshorehc.com to join the

Megan at (715) 261-6309 or info@monkgardens.org to

When to Speak and When to Act Dear Reader,

In a world overwhelmed by noise, wisdom is too often drowned out. Today, everything fights for our attention-headlines, outrage, sirens, enginesclamoring for dominance in an already crowded space.

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Art of Influence:

In this chaos, many feel pressure to shout louder. interrupt more forcefully, leap ahead to be seen. But true influence works differently. The wisest among us understand that what is unseen often holds more power than what demands the spotlight. They are the chess masters-not scrambling for control of the moment, but calculating how to shape the future.

Yet there are moments when even the masters must overturn the board.

We are living through an era where democratic norms are fraying, truth is under siege, and bad actors-some loud, some disturbingly quiet—are working to undermine the pillars of liberty, justice, and human dignity.

There are times for quiet

discernment. But there are also moments when justice demands noise, when liberty demands defiance, and when democracy demands bold, public commitment. History does not look kindly on bystanders. It remembers those who spoke when it mattered-those who showed up, stood firm, and refused to let the worst instincts of humanity go unchallenged.

This is not about political partisanship. It is about moral responsibility. It's about whether we believe that truth still matters. That freedom is still worth defending. That the common good still exists.

So ask yourself: What do I stand for? And what will I no longer stand by and watch?

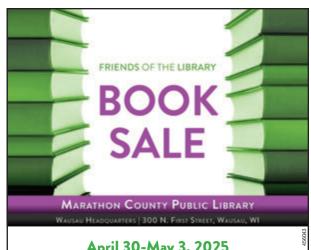
Sometimes, the most powerful act is a whisper of reason. Other times, it's a roar of resistance. The art of influence is knowing which the moment requires-and having the courage to give it.

PATRICK J. WOOD

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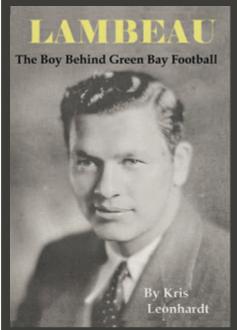


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of dedication that will inspire fans and readers alike. If you love football, community and tales of grit, this book is a must-read.

The story of the beginning of the Green Bay Packers and the life of Earl Louis "Curly" Lambeau are so intertwined that it is hard to imagine one without the other.

From the streets of Green Bay, Lambeau developed a passion for football and grew that yearning into a football team that would exist long past his lifetime.

Like the Packers, Lambeau's story is a tale of adversity and challenge, but also a story of triumph and perseverance. While his personal life and professional career were wrought with challenge, his legacy continues to resonate in the Green Bay

community, including a massive structure along Lombardi Avenue that shines a light on his contribution to the professional team.

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How to Prepare for a Lengthy **Renovation Project**



Home renovations can increase resale value and outfit spaces to make them more accommodating to residents. Homeowners interested in remodeling projects understand that such undertakings are often a lengthy process. But the time spent waiting often is well worth it when the work is done and the finished product looks just as homeowners imagined.

Depending on the scope and scale of a project, home renovations can take anywhere from a day or two for minor cosmetic changes to nine months for a major project. The lender RenoFi says projects like remodeling a kitchen or bathroom have a lot of moving parts, including plumbing and electrical work, structural changes, flooring, and installation of appliances. Due to that complexity, such projects may take six to 12 weeks. A home addition can take

months. Homeowners weary of such lengthy undertakings can implement strategies to make conditions at home more manageable.

Get a rough estimate funding.

detailed estimates that include labor and building materials. Then start saving and stash money away for the project so you're not caught offguard later on.

A recent survey of home renovation industry

professionals conducted by Fixr.com found

that creating indoor spaces outdoors was

renovations in 2022. Sixty-two percent of

renovation-minded homeowners surveyed

indicated outdoor dining areas are their

most sought-after living space. In addition, 41

percent of respondents felt outdoor kitchens

were their biggest priority. The survey found

that certain outdoor living space features

were especially popular, none more so than

comfortable outdoor furniture. Firepits,

outdoor fireplaces, swimming pools, hot

tubs, and outdoor connectivity were some

additional popular features among

homeowners focused on their

outdoor living spaces.

biggest priority regarding

homeowners'

Remove any extraneous items from the room or rooms that will be remodeled. Although it will be an added expense, it is a good idea to rent a storage unit or have a storage pod placed in the driveway or yard for the duration of the project. Move items that will not be needed into the unit. This will get them out of the way and protect them from damage.

Consider starting warm weather. Contractors will be going in and out of the home each day, and doors and windows may need to be propped open. Schedule a project during those months when temperatures are more comfortable. If the project involves limited access to the kitchen to cook, utilizing an outdoor grill or kitchen is much easier when the weather is pleasant.

Stay with relatives. some have no issues living in a residence during a renovation, others may find the work simply inconvenient distracting to be around. Time away from the property can help manage stress, and prevent kids, pets and others from getting in the way of work.

Safeguard sensitive items. Take inventory of items in the home and catalog them for insurance purposes. This way you're covered in the case of damage or theft. Remove documents, like birth certificates, insurance passports, policies, and other private papers, and keep them in a safety deposit box or fireproof safe.

Home renovations may stretch on for weeks or months. However, with preparation, adequate homeowners can see such projects through without facing too much adversity.







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Tips to Renovate on a Budget

Renovations the house require an investment of time and considerable often of money. amounts Findings from the 2024 U.S. Houzz & Home Study show that home renovations are becoming more expensive. The median renovation spending for homeowners has gone up 60 percent since 2020. Angi, a home services website, reports the average renovation cost for homes between 1,250 and 1,600 square feet is \$51,772, but the final cost of home renovations depends on the scope of the project.

Homeowners who are conserving funds can rest assured that it is possible make meaningful changes both inside and outside a home without breaking the bank. Here are some ways to renovate a home on a budget.

Create a budget and don't waver. Figure out exactly what you can

and then make that your maximum dollars spent. Research comparable projects in your area and be honest about whether you can afford the renovation as-is or if you must adapt ideas to fit your price. Make sure to build in a cushion of around 15 to 20 percent for any unforeseen expenses that may arise once a renovation is underway.

Maximize an existing floor plan. This Old House suggests looking for ways to maximize your current layout before you invest in major renovations like an expansion. Bring in a designer with an eye for utilizing space. For example, see how you might be able to replace shelves with pull-out drawers in the kitchen. Moving furniture around or rethinking floor plans also can help to lower costs.

Balance DIY with contractors.

You can save money by tackling some projects yourself, but only if you are confident in your renovation skills. Rather than risk making costly mistakes and having

to redo things, hire well-vetted professionals but ask if there's any DIY work you can do to cut costs.

Check clearance and resale stores. Shop discount stores building materials to save money. For example, if a builder ordered too many cabinets they may offer them to Habitat for ReStores, Humanity which are nonprofit home improvement stores and donation centers. Checking the clearance of other stores may yield with considerable savings on items needed for a renovation. Warehouse

can show you what a renovation can look like. This is advantageous to

designers who is a relatively inexpensive tool that can transform walls and more. A good flooring hardwood

company can buff out a



coating

instead of an entirely new floor. Kitchen cabinets can be resurfaced instead of replaced as well.

Finding ways to perform home renovations on a budget may require some creative thinking, but it's possible to get results at the right price point.

retailers like Costco or Sam's Club also can be great places to find certain improvement materials and furnishings.

Take advantage of free services. Certain stores may offer things like free consultations

the products, even if it's not mandatory. Resurface instead of redo. Certain items can be made to look new

with minimal effort. Paint

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4 Things to Know About **Kitchen Renovations**



often are described as the most popular room in a home, and that's not mere conjecture. A 2022 survey from House Digest asked participants to identify the room they consider most important in their homes, and roughly 41 percent chose the kitchen.

Residents tend congregate in kitchens in the morning and then

again in the evening when meals are prepared and, in homes without formal dining rooms, eaten. With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's no wonder that the 2022 U.S. Houzz & Home Study: Renovation Trends found kitchens to be the most popular interior room to upgrade. With so many people interested kitchen renovations, the

following things four homeowners should know about these popular improvement projects.

1. Expect to spend some money. Most home improvement projects require significant financial investment, but kitchen renovations are among the more expensive undertakings. The overall cost of a

project will depend on a host of variables unique to each home, including homeowners'

preferences, HomeAdvisor estimated the average kitchen remodel in 2023 between \$14,611 and \$41,432. Homeowners considering upscale kitchen remodel may receive six figure estimates for such projects.

2. Expect a good return on investment. If sticker shock settles in when receiving an initial kitchen remodel estimate, perhaps it can help homeowners to know that such a project may provide a strong return on investment (ROI). According to Remodeling magazine's "2024 Cost vs. Value Report," a minor kitchen remodel provides a 96 percent ROI. A major

kitchen remodel midrange (49 percent) and a major kitchen remodel upscale (38 percent) did not provide as notable a ROI.

3. Expect the project to take some time. Kitchens are large rooms with a lot of components, so renovating these spaces can take some time. Estimates vary depending on the size of the room, the scale of the remodel and the materials chosen, but Angi reports a kitchen remodel for most homes takes six weeks to four months. That's a sizable window, and it reflects likelihood that unforeseen issues like supply chain interruptions or the discovery of mold will arise at some point during the renovation. Though it's impossible to determine precisely how long a project will take before it begins, homeowners renovating

their kitchens may want to plan for the project to take two months if not longer.

4. Expect to use your kitchen during renovation. If the timeline of a renovation is scary, homeowners should know they will likely be able to use their kitchen even after the project begins. Though the room might not remain a popular gathering space once the work starts, Angi notes kitchens are typically out of commission for around six weeks during a renovation. That still requires some preplanning in relation to meals, but it also suggests homeowners won't be without a kitchen for months on end.

Kitchen renovations are popular projects. Homeowners who know what to expect before such projects commence can make it through a renovation more smoothly.



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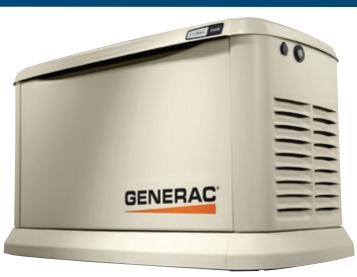


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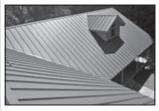
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