

THE GAD REPORT

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 5 JUNE, 2017

85 MILE TORNADO KILLS 1, INJURES DOZENS

According to the National Weather Service, the tornado that tracked across several counties in Wisconsin was the longest in terms of continuous damage ever recorded in Wisconsin.

While there have been deadlier tornadoes recorded, in Colfax and the 1899 F5 in New Richmond that killed over 100, this storm was graded an EF3 with winds of 140mph.

The storm track from start to finish was along and just south of US Highway 8, beginning in far southeast Polk County and ending east of Conrath, along the Price/Taylor County line.

The storm began as an EF0, then increased in

strength as it tracked eastward, reaching EF3 levels north of Chetek, then weakening somewhat as it continued eastward.

Within moments of the winds and storms ending, chainsaws could be heard throughout the damage area, not much later, the Red Cross, and many local agencies set up shop to help victims of the tornado.

Among the groups stepping up to help was the RANWW Foundation. Partnering with the Indianhead Community Action Agency, our Foundation provided several thousand dollars to help victims with expenses and emergency housing as cleanup contin-

ues. Agencies and hundreds of volunteers have been clearing brush and downed trees, providing food and other resources for those affected. Wisconsin Emergency Management and the Wisconsin National Guard, along with several local emergency management agencies have all been involved in cleanup.

Campgrounds were particularly hard hit, just in front of their busy season, many will remain closed for the year as damage is assessed.

Banks in Barron and Rusk Counties are set up to take donations or you can contact the Red Cross.

EAU CLAIRE JUDGE PAUL LENZ TO STEP DOWN

Eau Claire County Judge Paul Lenz announced his retirement as judge after serving in that capacity for 23 years.

His last day on the bench will be on June 10th.

He has talked of retirement for some time, his

current term is July 30, 2018, but decided to retire now so a new judge can be seated. Judge William Gabler is also expected to retire next year.

Until Governor Walker acts on a replacement, replacement judges will take

over Lenz's case load. The person Walker appoints will be up for election to a full term on the bench in April 2018.

Lenz was elected to the bench in April of 1994.

HAVE YOU
GOTTEN OUR TEXT
MESSAGES?

Text REALTORS
to 30644
to get
alerts on
CALLS FOR ACTION

SIGN UP TODAY >



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of
REALTORS®



PAUL LENZ ANNOUNCES
RETIREMENT 1

LONGEST TORNADO IN
WISCONSIN HISTORY 1

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**RANWW IS ONE
OF TWO
ASSOCIATIONS IN
WISCONSIN WITH
A PLATINUM "R"!!
MAKE YOUR
RPAC
INVESTMENT
TODAY, CONTACT
BRUCE**

RANWW TO OFFER CANDIDATE TRAINING ACADEMY

RANWW will be offering a comprehensive one day workshop for anyone who is considering running for public office at the local, state or national level.

The Candidate Training Academy is administered by Cornerstone Solution under contract with NAR. It's a free service to the Association and will be held in the RANWW Conference Room on Thursday, October 26 from 8:30am until 4:30pm. Partici-

pation will be limited to the first 25 people who register. This is open to REALTORS®, affiliates and members of the public who are thinking about running for office.

All materials will be provided, and we are also extending an invitation to our neighboring Associations in case people there are interested.

Cornerstone Solution has a long history of developing strategies for political campaigns, from developing a message, to financing to executing Get Out The Vote and target audience.

With recent changes in federal, state and local campaign finance laws, it's vital to know everything involved in running a campaign.

Watch for further announcements.

ODDS & ENDS

Stanley Mayor Mike Henke for the past 5 years resigned last month. His last day was May 11.

The second WRA Call To Action on increases to K-12 education and property tax relief was sent to all members on May 30th. It only takes a few seconds to answer the call. All RANWW members

are strongly encouraged to respond to the call as soon as possible.

The St. Croix Meadows Greyhound track has sat empty since it closed in 2001. A developer wants to make an investment of nearly \$200 million to the site. In three phases, the developer would build a stadium and baseball

field for a Northwoods League team. Next, a brewery, hotel and other restaurants. Office space would utilize the existing building. Stores, additional offices and condos would make up phase three of the project which, if approved, would begin later this year and be completed in 2021.

SAND MINE & PROCESSOR APPROVED

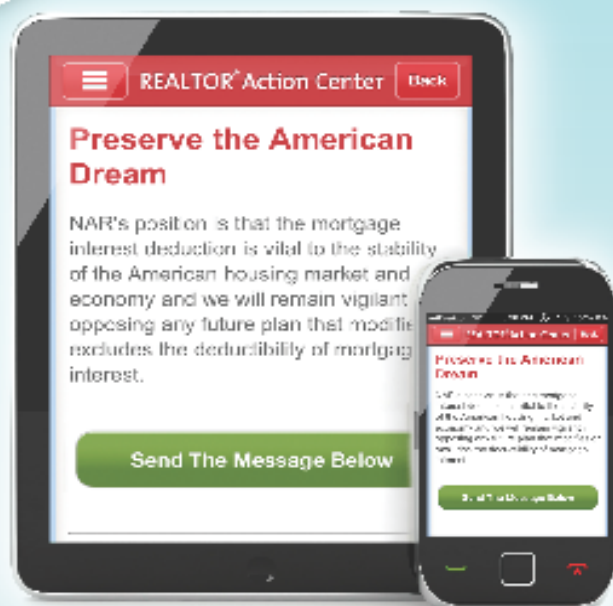
A sand processing facility that would take 16 acres of wetlands in northern Monroe County to process and ship frac sand from a mine in Jackson County received approval from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

As part of the agreement, which still needs approval from the Army Corps of En-

gineers, the company will protect 643 acres of wetlands. The DNR notes that this is the first time wetland preservation is being used to preserve parts of the same wetland. The fact that the company wants to preserve over 640 acres and only use 16 was part of the reason the DNR approved the plan. The project will cost over \$65 million and will employ over 100 people.

The Corps decision will come sometime this summer.

The Jackson County Board of Adjustment approved a second sand screener for Taylor Frac. They will add dust collectors when they receive DNR permits for their increased sand storage.



WHERE WILL YOU BE WHEN YOU GET THE CALL FOR ACTION?

As a busy professional on the go your **lifeline to clients and your office is your phone**. Fewer and fewer of us are tied to a traditional desktop or laptop anymore to complete the functions of our work. Smartphones and tablets are how we increasingly manage our information and daily tasks.

THE REALTOR® ACTION CENTER MOBILE APP – DON'T JUST GET IT – USE IT! DOWNLOAD AND LOGIN TODAY

The REALTOR® Action Center mobile app contains a host of features to help you VOTE, ACT and INVEST on the go:

★ **MOBILE ADVOCACY**

When there is a Call for Action you will **receive a standard push notification** alerting you. The new mobile action alert format will make your participation a snap. **No forms to fill out. Shorter, easier** summaries of the issue and why your action is important.

★ **ACTION PROFILES**

The app will contain a summary of your REALTOR® Party engagement. A list of open action items, actions you have already taken, your current year's RPAC investment amount, and more.

★ **INVEST IN RPAC**

Through the REALTOR® Party mobile app you can easily make an investment in RPAC on your mobile phone. To help you plan your investment amount, your action profile displays your total amount invested year to date.

★ **ADVOCACY REPORTS**

Track how your state and local associations **are doing in terms of their advocacy efforts**. Help us reach our annual 15% goal!

★ **SURVEYS**

Take important REALTOR® Party surveys on your phone.

★ **REALTOR® PARTY TRACKER**

Learn how your state and local association is using NAR programs to build political strength in your own backyard. Find out what tools and programs NAR is providing your association and how much money those programs cost.

To download, text "App" to 30644 and remember to login!

MONDOVI DEVELOPER FACES ACTION FROM CITY

The City of Mondovi has filed a lawsuit against North Creek Developers for \$500,000 over the developers failure to reimburse the city for improvements made in a city TIF district.

TIF 2 was developed by the city in August of 2005 to be used as residential or industrial development, later that year, the three members of North Creek Developers bought 40 acres in the TIF with the intention of develop-

ing single family housing. With 63 lots to work with, the developer only constructed eight homes and four duplexes within the TIF with a guaranteed value of each home at a minimum of \$175,000.

The developer agreed to the city that the development would generate more than enough tax to pay back the \$1.5 million investment the city made

in infrastructure costs, also homes within the TIF were valued at less than the promised \$175,000.

The city states that the current amount owed to the city is \$515,788 plus interest and attorney fees.

There is no court date yet, and the developer has until the end of June to respond to the charges.

"A YEAR OF REPLENISHMENT" CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

Now is the time to make an investment in your business.

Our 2017 campaign theme is "A Year Of Replenishment". The reason for the title is simple, we have very few local races this spring, and no elections in November. That affords up the opportunity to build up our members Direct Giver ac-

counts for an anticipated huge political year in 2018, with a U.S. Senate seat, the Governor and other constitutional offices including a Supreme Court justice, all 99 Assembly seats and half of the State Senate, including all three of our Associations' Senators. There will also be local races for school boards, city councils, county and town boards and more.



NEW PAVILLION BEING DISCUSSED

Mondovi Park Board is working on a number of concepts to improve their Mirror Lake Park facilities.

The park board is working with engineers to determine if the pavilion at Mirror Lake park can be moved to a different location, and if so, what kind of design that building would look like. Discussion

surrounded having bathrooms, but also having hookups to put a sink, countertops and power.

Of concern to the neighbors across the street was where the building would go, and who would have a diminished view of the lake.

If a new structure is built with bathrooms, the DNR would need to be involved. If a

design for the pavilion can be reached, it could be put out to bid this fall and be ready next summer.

Aging playground equipment was also a target of discussion as was the depth of the lake, which in many parts, was only one to three feet deep and has algae blooms in the summer months.



WRA LEGISLATIVE ★ ALERT ★

A look at how current WRA-supported legislation is moving and making progress toward preserving and protecting a healthy real estate economy.

Gov. Walker's Proposal to Eliminate the Forestry Tax



The proposed 2017-19 state budget would end the state portion of the property tax levy, thereby permanently lowering property taxes by approximately \$90 million per year. The state forestry tax, which increases each time a property's value increases, would no longer be imposed on Wisconsin property owners.

Background:

The governor's budget removes funding for the state forestry program from the property tax and replaces it with general purpose revenues in the amount of \$180 million over two years to ensure continued funding for the important forestry program.

The new funding will protect state payments to the forestry account in the conservation fund.

Ending the state-levied property tax will save the median value homeowner approximately \$27 per year today and more in the future as home values increase.

What's in play:

Proposal: The WRA supports the elimination of the state forestry property tax and will work with the legislature to see this proposal signed into law with the passage of the state budget later this year.

Bill status:

Introduced.



The WRA engages in advocacy on behalf of REALTORS® and property owners through a variety of programs including:





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"OUR MISSION IS TO HELP OUR
MEMBERS BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN
REAL ESTATE"

The REALTORS® Association of Northwestern Wisconsin is the largest association in terms of area, stretching from Millston, Whitehall and Fountain City to the south all the way to Cable in Bayfield County to the north. We are the fourth largest of the 19 Associations in terms of membership. Your Association covers 355 units of local government, monitoring a wide variety of issues that can and do affect you. In addition to local government, your GAD also monitor issues at the state and national level that will have a direct or indirect impact on housing and the industry, as well as legislation that can affect the consumer. Your Government Affairs Director works with members and affiliates to raise investment dollars for RPAC that help to support elected officials that support your business. RANWW is one of only three REALTOR® Association's in Wisconsin that have their own PAC, which was started 38 years ago to support candidates at the local and state level. We maintain a Facebook page, called "The GADabouts", that aims to keep you up to date on political issues that will affect your business. Your GAD also produces a periodic government affairs program posted on our YouTube channel, RANWWTV!!

MY THOUGHTS—BY BRUCE KING

I've been a trained storm chaser for 40 years now. From short lived tornadoes to the July 15, 1980 wind-storm, I've chased them, reported on them, and shot video of them. When my daughter called me on May 16th, asking me if I knew what was happening in Barron County, I had just returned to my hotel in Washington DC for the start of NARs Legislative meetings.

I started accessing information on my phone, and watching coverage of what was happening. I fired off texts to John Flor and Dan Lawler, who were there with

me, letting them know and asking them if they have listings in the affected area. The next morning, I was with Stacey McKinney and Brenda Barnhardt, who put the Foundation to work, providing thousands of dollars for those affected by the storm with emergency housing expenses.

I've seen a lot in my years of chasing storms, but a tornado with a track of over 80 miles is one for the history books. It should also give you pause to have an emergency plan in place where you live and also where you work. As was evidenced from Bar-

ron to north of Chetek, Cameron and on to Conrath, a tornado can change your life in a matter of seconds, planning ahead by keeping important documents in one place, and a backup set in a safety deposit box at the bank are good starts, backing up your computer and keeping that in an off site location is also a good way to retrieve what you need in case disaster strikes.

As the cleanup continues and families start to rebuild, reach out to local organizations and find ways for you to lend a hand, drop off clothes or make a cash donation.

