



July 24th, 2015

Antigo Rates High in "Best Place to Start a Business in WI"

According to a recently released list, Northwoods entrepreneurs may want to look at Antigo if they are thinking about starting a business. The list, available [here](#), analyzed 118 places in Wisconsin and calculated scores based on business climate and the area's economic health - using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Antigo came in #19 on the list followed closely by Rhinelander at #21. Merrill ranks #57 and Wausau #66.

In similar news, [Forbes has listed](#) Wisconsin among the top states that are matching the needs of employers with educational programs offered by their high schools and technical colleges. In Wisconsin, our technical colleges have a 92 percent job placement rate for their graduates and our manufacturing industry continues to need skilled workers.

In the recently passed state budget, we included funding to continue this trend and help high school fab labs buy equipment for instructional and educational purposes. These fab labs, or fabrication laboratories, are high-technology workshops that are equipped with manufacturing components like 3D-printers, laser engravers, computer control routers, and plasma cutters. Students are able to gain hands-on experience on these machines and learn invaluable skills for the manufacturing industry. Manufacturing continues to remain a large industry in Wisconsin, and it is important that we prepare the next generation of workers with the skills they need to succeed.

Christening of the USS Little Rock

On Saturday, July 18, I was invited to the christening of the USS Little Rock (LCS-9) in Marinette. The Little Rock is a Freedom-class Littoral Combat Ship and is the ninth Littoral Combat Ship made for the U.S. Navy.



I watched the christening from the deck of the USS Milwaukee. Before the christening of the USS Little Rock, the Commanding Officer of the USS Milwaukee gave several individuals and me a tour of the ship.



I want to thank Commander Bridgewater for the tour and Judge Jim Morrison for arranging the tour. It was a great opportunity and a wonderful experience.

UW Colleges Announce Reform

Reform is coming to UW Colleges.

The two-year campuses have announced a new regional administrative structure that will help the colleges manage budget reductions. UW Colleges are made up of 13 campuses throughout the state and offer two-year liberal arts education. Students starting at one of the colleges are then able to transfer to one of the system's four-year universities without fear of loss of credits. The change will help the colleges avoid cutting instructional staff and keep the focus on educating students. This structure is not new to the colleges, as the Wausau and Marshfield campuses have been sharing administrative positions and functions already.

Under the plan, four regions will be created across the state. The northern region will consist of Marathon County, Marshfield/Wood County campuses, UW-Barron County, and UW-Marinette. The northeast region will include UW-Fox Valley, UW-Fond du Lac, and UW-Manitowoc; UW-Sheboygan, UW-Washington County and UW-Waukesha are grouped in the southeast and UW-Baraboo/Sauk County, UW-Richland and UW-Rock County will make up the southwest region. Each region will share an associate dean for academic affairs, associate dean for administration and finance, associate dean for student services, director of facilities, director of communications and director of continuing education.

UW Colleges should be lauded for their creative solution to a very difficult budget. They were able to reduce administration without cutting faculty, closing campuses and still offering pay increases for those administrators who will oversee the different regions. UW Colleges remained focused on instruction and developed a regional structure that could be a model for future education administration.

DNR Outdoor Report

The dog days of summer have arrived and park and forest campgrounds have been very busy with campers, hikers and bicyclist. With the warm and humid weather of the past week, recreational boating activity showed an increase on most northern waters and fishing pressure showed a bit of a decline with some generally windy conditions.

In the north, largemouth and smallmouth bass have been the species of interest for a lot of summer anglers lately and action could be termed very good. Both species have moved into their typical summer patterns, with largemouth taking up shop near firm overhead cover such as logs, stumps, reed beds or bog edges and smallmouth retreating close to mid-depth woody structure. Walleye action has started to become erratic, with variable success being reported at all different times of the day. Some musky anglers have been taking a break from fishing with the warmer water temperatures, but action has continued to be generally good, with those anglers still fishing reporting quite a few sightings and follows.

Fishing activity has been slow on Lake Winnebago, with temperatures ranging between 75-77 degrees, but a few anglers were catching low numbers of perch some small walleyes. Action on the Mississippi River has also been slow, with some success fishing for panfish with worms near logs and along the weed beds and a few walleyes caught on the main channel.

On Green Bay, anglers continued to have some success with walleye along the west shore off Oconto and farther south off Suamico and at the Green Bay metro ramp. Walleye anglers along the east shore were catching some fish off reefs and at Little Sturgeon Bay. Smallmouth bass anglers were reporting good results over the past week at Sturgeon Bay. On the lake side, anglers fishing from boats at Rowley's Bay had very high catch rates for smallmouth.

Farther south on Lake Michigan, anglers at the Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Two Rivers piers have been doing well

over the past week, catching a mix of chinook, rainbows, and brown trout. Trollers out of Algoma and Kewaunee were catching between five and seven fish, typically a mix chinook and rainbows with an occasional lake trout. Despite rough waves Friday morning and a thunderstorm on Saturday, the Two Rivers Fishing Derby concluded Sunday with the largest fish registered a 20.9-pound king salmon. A Salmon-A-Rama fishing tournament also brought out good numbers of anglers at Milwaukee with a 25.58-pound lake trout winning the grand prize on the final day.

Ducks are entering into their eclipse plumage phase, when they have much duller than normal plumage and help keep them hidden from predators while they are without fully working flight feathers. Luna, cercropia, and sphinx moths are being noticed on the forest edges and gardens. Monarch butterflies seem to be in abundance this year.

Blueberries are ripening in the north. Cedar waxwings have been seen stripping Juneberry plants of its early fruit. Jewel weed, wild bergamot, culver's root, and bluebell are all blooming in the north, while many yellow flowers are showing off blooms in the prairies, including yellow coneflower, some goldenrod, and sunflowers.

Outdoor skills from birding and cooking to hunting and hiking will be taught by Department of Natural Resources staff and expert volunteers during the Horicon Marsh Outdoor Skills Day on July 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Horicon Marsh Visitor and Education Center. No registration is required and the program is free to the public.

Flags at Half-Staff

You may have noticed flags across the state of Wisconsin being flown at half-staff this week.

These flags have been flown at half-staff as a mark of respect for Sergeant Carson Holmquist of the United States Marine Corps who lost his life in a tragic shooting in Tennessee while serving his country last week. Sergeant Holmquist was a native of Wisconsin and made the ultimate sacrifice on July 16. Flags will continue to be flown at half-staff until sunset on the day of his funeral.

Governor Walker has also signed Executive Order 170 which will allow flags to be flown at half-staff in Lincoln County on Saturday, July 25, 2015, in memory of Lincoln County Highway Department employee Marcus Wydeven.

Please keep the families of Sergeant Holmquist and Marcus Wydeven in your thoughts and prayers over the weekend.

See the order [here](#)

Calendar of Events

Upcoming Events

Start Date		Location
July 24	Wine in the Woods...And Beer By the Bog	Manitowish Waters
July 25	Brewfest	Minocqua
July 25	Kentuck Day Festival	Crandon
July 25	Ride for Rescue	Crivitz

July 25	<u>Summer Classics/Art Impressions</u>	Land O'Lakes
July 25	<u>Wienerfest North</u>	Lakewood
July 22-26	<u>Lincoln County Fair</u>	Merrill
July 24-26	<u>Antique and Classic Wooden Boat Show</u>	Minocqua
July 26	<u>Annual Auto Show & Craft Market</u>	Conover
July 26	<u>Gun Show & Car Show</u>	Manitowish Waters
July 29 - Aug. 2	<u>Langlade County Youth Fair</u>	Antigo
July 30 - Aug. 1	<u>Pig in the Pines Ribfest</u>	St. Germain
July 30 - Aug. 2	<u>Oneida County Fair</u>	Rhineland
August 1	<u>Forest Fest</u>	Eagle River
August 1	<u>Normal Park Craft Festival</u>	Merrill
August 1	<u>Phelps Fireman's Picnic & Pig Roast</u>	Phelps
August 1	<u>Lakes Country Arts and Crafts Show</u>	Lakewood
August 1 - 2	<u>Firemen's Picnic and Summerfest</u>	Arbor Vitae
August 1 - 2	<u>Wabeno Art & Music Festival</u>	Wabeno
August 2	<u>Fireman's Picnic & Parade</u>	Presque Isle
August 2	<u>Sayner/Star Lake Street Fair</u>	Sayner
August 5 - 8	<u>Antique Outboard and Motor Show</u>	Tomahawk
August 6	<u>After Look Delight Craft Show</u>	Minocqua
August 8	<u>Antigo Tater Trot</u>	Antigo
August 8	<u>Boulder Junction History Day</u>	Boulder Junction
August 8	<u>Minocqua Triathlon</u>	Woodruff

August 8	Open Studio/Garden Walk	Phelps
August 8	Ride with Leinie Bike Ride	Land O'Lakes
August 8	Thrilla on the Grilla	Tomahawk
August 8	Annual Little Hearts for Life Corn Roast	Oconto Falls
August 9	Musky Jamboree	Boulder Junction
August 9 - 15	Northern Woods & Waters Bicycle Tour	Three Lakes
August 11	Krazy Day	Minocqua
August 13	Crazy Daze	Merrill
August 13 - 16	Vilas County Fair	Eagle River
August 15	Gleason Mud Bogs	Gleason
August 15 - 16	Oconto County Fair	Gillett

As always, if you have any comments or thoughts regarding the subjects of this e-update, please feel free to contact me.

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