

Joseph shows both good, bad in upset over Penn State

SPORTS, C1



This layer cake is heavy on the vanilla, but far from plain

LIVELY

Tuesday, September 29, 2026 • A Lee Enterprises, Incorporated Newspaper — Majority shareholder, David Hoffmann, Hoffmann Media Group • wiscnews.com/bdc

ON WISCONSIN | VILAS COUNTY

PAVED PARADISE



BARRY ADAMS PHOTOS, STATE JOURNAL

The Heart of Vilas County Bike Trail System is 52 miles of paved trail, much of it through stands of pine in the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.

Forested bike trails a huge draw to Wisconsin’s Northwoods

BOULDER JUNCTION — The packing list for the trip Up North last month was pretty typical. We had a few books, a cooler of food, bug spray, sunscreen and a pickup truck pulling a boat filled with fishing gear.

We also brought our bicycles to explore, for the first time and certainly not the last, part of what has become a bona fide hit and economic boon for this part of northern Wisconsin.

These aren’t mountain bike trails. They’re blacktop, and they wind through stands of pine, over rivers and past inviting lakes in the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.

What began in 1994 as a few miles of bike trail here has grown into the Heart of Vilas County Bike Trail System, a 52-mile network of trails from St. Germain in southern Vilas County to Mercer



BARRY ADAMS

Please see ADAMS, Page A3



Shops that sell, repair and rent bikes, like Coontail Adventures in Boulder Junction, are capitalizing on the more than 160,000 bicyclists a year who come to ride the Heart of Vilas County Bike Trail System.

Warmer falls mean tornado risk could run longer

BLAISE MESA Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

It has been one of Wisconsin’s most active tornado years on record with 48 documented tornadoes, the second-highest total since 1950.

That total includes the devastating twister that tore through the Fox Cities in late July, which caused extensive damage

across multiple communities. Now, as fall brings cooler weather to Wisconsin, many storm-weary residents are likely wondering if tornado season has finally come to an end.

Amanda Latham, a climate outreach specialist for the Wisconsin State Climatology Office, told the Journal Sentinel that lower temperatures in the fall generally

mean Wisconsin sees fewer tornadoes and severe thunderstorms.

Since 1950, Wisconsin has had a total of 30 tornadoes during the month of October. From 1991 to 2020, Wisconsin has averaged eight tornadoes in June, six in July and four in August. In September, the average is one, and by October, it falls below one.

Latham cautioned that tornadoes can

still happen later in the year even if they’re uncommon. Michaela Heeren, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Milwaukee/Sullivan, agreed.

“Tornado season is more of a statistical thing,” Heeren said. “Tornadoes can happen at any time.”

Please see TORNADOES, Page A3

GET THE FULL BENEFITS OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTION!

Activate your digital account to get updated stories, videos, and hundreds of additional puzzles and comics. Visit wiscnews.com/activate and download our app for the E-edition and breaking news on the go!

Weather Showers around in the p.m. High: 71 Low: 61 Forecast: A8

Inside			
CLASSIFIEDS	C8	OBITUARIES	A2
COMMUNITY	A2	OPINION	A6-7
LEGALS	C7	SPORTS	C1

