

**SOLAR**  
FROM PAGE 1

stated. Daigle Brothers Inc., located at 727 Southgate Dr., Tomahawk, will use a \$341,850.00 grant to install a small solar electric array.

USDA said the project is expected to save the business \$24,463.00 per year, replacing 437,991 kilowatt hours – 100% of the business's energy use – per year, which is enough energy to power 40 homes.

Foley's Forest Products LLC, N11541 Roberts Rd., Tomahawk, will use a \$29,880.00 grant to install a small solar electric array, which is expected to save the business \$3,637.00 per year.

"It will replace 30,060 kilowatt hours (31% of the business's energy use) per year, which is enough energy to power two homes," USDA said.

REAP dollars were also allocated to projects in Merrill, Wausau, Hayward, Rice Lake and other Wisconsin communities.

"Today's announcement showcases the variety of rural people and businesses using programs like REAP to save money on their energy costs that can then be reinvested in their operations," Lassa stated. "This not only strengthens their business, but helps sustain and build the local economy."

In Wisconsin, since 2021, USDA has announced more than \$14.5 million through REAP in 140 renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements that will help rural business own-

ers' lower energy costs, generate new income and strengthen their resiliency of operations.

Daigle Brothers and Foley's are not the first Tomahawk businesses to receive REAP funding. Last month, USDA announced that \$11,300.00 had been allocated to Northwoods Community Realty LLC to install a solar electric array.

Last year, Tomahawk Terminal Company LLC and Sunset Acres LLC each received REAP grant dollars.

USDA said it is continuing to accept REAP applications and will hold funding competitions quarterly through Monday, Sept. 30. The funding includes a dedicated portion for underutilized renewable energy technologies.

For additional information, contact a local energy coordinator ([www.tinyurl.com/yw6busj4](http://www.tinyurl.com/yw6busj4)).

**About USDA Rural Development**

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to "help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas."

"This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, tribal and high-poverty areas," USDA said.

For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov/wi](http://www.rd.usda.gov/wi).

**Democrat Andi Rich enters 12th Senate District race**  
**Incumbent Republican Mary Felzkowski seeking reelection**

BY JALEN MAKI  
TOMAHAWK LEADER  
EDITOR



Rich

**NORTHERN WISCONSIN** – A new candidate has entered the race for Wisconsin's 12th Senate District.

Andi Rich, a Marinette native, on Monday, April 22 announced that she will run as a Democrat in November's General Election.

Incumbent State Senator Mary Felzkowski (R-Tomahawk) last month said she will seek her second four-year State Senate term.

Felzkowski and Rich are currently the only candidates running to represent the 12th Senate District, which covers all of Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marinette, Oneida and Vilas Counties, as well as parts of Oconto, Marathon and Shawano Counties.

A release from Rich's campaign said she was born and raised in Marinette County. Rich graduated from Marinette High School in 2001 and graduated with honors from Lakeland College, majoring in business administration and marketing.

Rich obtained a Wisconsin General Contractor's License so she could open her own construction company

and has since shifted to insurance adjusting, according to the release.

"She is running to bring commonsense back to Madison – fighting to remove the forever chemicals contaminating our drinking water, working to support and fund our rural public schools and advocating for our local economy by supporting our roads, bridges and Main Street economies across the 12th District," the release stated.

The release said Rich is "committed to getting results," citing "Madison's inability to act to provide basic governmental services, at the expense of thousands of Wisconsinites."

"There are hundreds of families in the 12th District that cannot turn on their tap and safely drink their water," Rich stated. "This

isn't a new problem – it's one that's existed for years, and Madison has done nothing to fix it."

Felzkowski is the Chair of the Committee on Insurance and Small Business and serves as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Financial Institutions and Sporting Heritage. She is also a member of the Committees on Finance and Health, and serves on the Joint Committee on Finance and the Joint Legislative Council.

"If we cannot rely on our state government to provide something as basic as clean water, what can we expect them to do?" Rich stated. "I'm running because these issues aren't Democratic or Republican. The Northwoods deserve more and better representation than what we're getting."

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**Letters to the Editor Policy**

Letters to the Editor must include the writer's full name, address and other contact information (only your name and town of residence will appear in print and online). We will not accept a letter from an unidentified source. Letters should be no more than 500 words and may appear in our weekly print issue. Letters may be edited by our staff for length, clarity and facts.

The Tomahawk Leader will only print letters that address a specific issue or article that may be of interest to the bulk of our readers.

Letters can be submitted to [leadernews@mmclocal.com](mailto:leadernews@mmclocal.com) or Tomahawk Leader, 24 W. Rives St., Rhinelander, Wis., 54501. We will not print letters that:

- Contain potentially libelous material. Libel is any malicious, unsubstantiated or untrue statement about someone that damages their reputation. Submissions must have facts to back up all claims.
- Support discrimination on any grounds. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination based on age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, race, religion or culture.
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- Make explicit or implied threats. This includes personal attacks, intimidation, bullying or threats of harm against a person or organization.
- Contain copyrighted material or that have been printed in another publication. All letters must be an original writing by the signer and exclusive to the Tomahawk Leader.
- Identify another person, unless that person has given their explicit consent. We assume that any person identified in a letter has consented to be mentioned in the letter.

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