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ISABELLA COUNTY

Reindeer Farm welcomes guests for last day of the season

By Sarah Wright
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Community members came out to Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm for the last day of their season.

Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm is a family owned and operated farm that allows guests to view the farm's many reindeer as well as other animals. The farm also has a wide variety of food, merchandise and other activities that guests can enjoy.

The farm's last day of the season took place on Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Santa hours took



place from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. with a 30 minute break at 5 p.m.

The next season for Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm will re-

convene later in 2024.

For more information, visit rooftopreindeer.com.



Guests can view many animals, including reindeer, at Rooftop Landing Reindeer Farm.

SARAH WRIGHT - THE MORNING SUN

MID-MICHIGAN



POL FARM SPINOFF DEBUTS ON NAT GEO WILD

Endeavor sprouts from pandemic restrictions

By Sue Knickerbocker Field
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Charles Pol is used to being busy.

For more than a decade, Charles, son of Isabella County veterinarian Jan Pol and co-star of Nat Geo Wild's wildly popular "The Incredible Dr. Pol," has worked both in front of and behind the cameras.

In the years since Charles produced the sizzler — a film industry term for a demo reel — that led to the cable network's top rated series, he also married his childhood friend Beth Oakes, and the couple are raising children Abigail and Silas.

Then Covid-19 hit.

Unlike his father, Charles was not an essential worker and was left with a lot of time on his hands.

Spending the extra time with family, Charles took on more household tasks like shopping for groceries.

Seeing aisle after aisle of empty shelves, wondering how bad shortages might get, Charles decided to take control of his destiny.

Three years ago, Charles brought to his father the idea of farming on the land where he was raised, and another series was born.

"The Incredible Pol Farm" debuts on Nat Geo Wild Jan. 6 at 10 p.m.

Episode one, "A Farm is Born," follows Charles and his brother-in-law, Ben Reinhold, as they plant hayseed "under the watchful eye" of the elder Pol, while the family adopts a puppy for the 350-acre farm that evolves in front of the cameras.

After the network picked up the show, Charles and relatives first built a water tower, then production began in the spring of 2022, finishing last summer.

Fifteen episodes are scheduled to air on Saturday nights after the 9 p.m. "Incredible Dr. Pol."

As the farm continues to develop, Charles now has 12 sheep, three steer, bees, chickens, peacocks and a farm dog in addition to the family's pets.

Whether the series is a hit isn't a concern for Charles, who intends to farm the land to provide for his family regardless, and he isn't alone

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PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

ABOVE: Charles Pol and Ben Reinhold try to connect the hydraulic hose from the no-till-drill to the tractor in order to seed the next day.

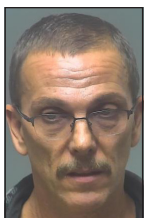
ISABELLA COUNTY

Hearing postponed for man facing murder, attempted murder charges

By Sue Knickerbocker Field
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A hearing to determine whether a Lake man should face trial on murder and attempted murder charges has been postponed.

Allen Leroy Sprague's preliminary hearing set for Dec. 28 was rescheduled to Jan. 10 at 1:15 p.m. in Isabella County Trial Judge Sara Spencer-Noggle's Mt. Pleasant courtroom.



Sprague, 54, of northwestern Isabella County, is charged with one count of open murder in connection with the death of Dylon Edward Dean Andras and the attempted murder of Ted Treloar in Coldwater Township Oct. 25. Isabella County Prosecutor David Barberi originally charged Sprague with reckless driving causing death, failing to stop at an at-fault accident causing death and assault with a dangerous weapon but in November amended the criminal complaint to include the more serious charges.

An open count of murder means the prosecutor leaves the question of degree, if any, to the jury and potentially carries a maximum sentence of life without the possibility of parole.

Attempted murder is punishable by any number of years up to and including life.

Sprague, 54, remains in the Isabella County Jail without bond.

Sprague is accused of killing Andras after chasing him and Treloar while the two were riding dirt bikes in the 7000 block of West Stevenson Lake Road in Coldwater Township, according to court records.

Sprague told police he and his girlfriend, who previously had a relationship with Andras, were

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My Go-To Place for Pain Relief

After coping with debilitating back pain for years, Jeff Lumsden is glad he connected with MyMichigan's Spine and Pain Program after moving back to Michigan. While in Florida, he had multiple X-rays with several different doctors and was frustrated by poor communication and prescription-heavy solutions. Now that he's been working with MyMichigan's pain specialists for two years now, his chronic back pain is finally under control and he's back to enjoying the outdoors and very optimistic about the future.

"The team really listens and works with me as an individual rather than just offering canned, generic treatments."

For more information about MyMichigan's Spine and Pain Program, visit mymichigan.org/spineandpain.

