

Oconto County

FAIR

August
21-24
2025



OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD

Published Friday, August 15, 2025



Specializing
in all your
Land Title
Needs!

Visit us at
www.halltitle.com

Shawano
504 E. Green Bay St.
Shawano, WI 54166
scrl@halltitle.com

Oconto
361 Badger Ct.
Oconto, WI 54153
ocrl@halltitle.com

Ph (920) 835-5733
Fax (920) 835-5101



It's suppertime for some of the stars of the Oconto County Youth Fair.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

There's something for everyone at the Oconto County Youth Fair

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

It's an Oconto County tradition that's been going strong for almost 90 years. The Oconto County Youth Fair is scheduled for Thursday through Sunday, Aug. 21-24, at Zippel Park in Gillett. The park has hosted the fair since its inception, according to Cindy Arndt, secretary of the fair's board of directors.

"This will be our 84th year, and it's always been at Zippel Park," she said. "The Zippel family created and left that land, and the only thing they asked is we aren't allowed to charge admission to the fair. That's part of being able to use those grounds. We have to come up with other creative ways to raise money to keep the fair going. We rely heavily on all of our sponsors."

Thousands of county residents from children to senior citizens have exhibited their animals and other items over those 8 1/2 decades, according to Arndt.

"It has brought many youths into the arena to show their animals and other exhibits," she said. "It gives kids the opportunity to step out, get their feet wet and get into dealing with the public and speaking in public. I was a 4-H leader for 10 years, and when I would go to school conferences, the teachers would always say, 'When kids have to speak, we can always pick out a 4-H kid, because they're able to get up in front of a group at a young age and be able to speak.'"

Although visitors to this



Contestants line up during the exhibitor/animal formal show at the 2024 Oconto County Youth Fair.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

year's fair will see some familiar attractions, such as the midway carnival, there will also be new things to see. Those new features will begin Aug. 20, the day before the fair's official opening day. "We will have food trucks, in and we'll have a mariachi band playing and mechanical bull riding," Arndt said. "Food

trucks will be there at 4:30 and the rest of the stuff starts at 6 and goes until 9. We've never done that before. "The only food vendors that we actually have on the property are with the carnival. (The food trucks) is something new we're trying to do this year. The local 4-H association out of

PREVIEW, CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

PREVIEW, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Oconto County has a food stand, as well as the Lions Club and the Gillett Civic Club.”

Organizers always try to find something for children as well as adults.

“We have a group that’s doing magic tricks,” Arndt said. “We have a gentleman, Randy Peterson, who’s coming to sing. We have bingo on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.”

Christman Amusements of Wautoma will provide midway rides at this year’s fair.

“I think this is only their third year of doing that, and they’re always well-received by the community,” Arndt said.

Presale tickets at a discounted price of \$20 for carnival rides are available at Peshtigo National Bank branches in Gillett and Oconto Falls; N.E.W. Credit Union branches in Oconto Falls and Suring; and Gillett Handi-Works in Gillett.

Wristband hours are 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 21; noon to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Aug. 22-23; and noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 24.

Weather can play a role in attendance, and Arndt said it’s too early to tell if that will be the case this year.

“If it’s really hot or a rain event that’s going to last a few hours, that does affect attendance,” she said. “We can’t house everything that kids take to the



The midway is a popular spot in Zippel Park during the Oconto County Youth Fair, scheduled for Aug. 21-24 this year.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

fair. We will have the horse show and cat and dog show on Saturday, Aug. 16, for people who would like to come and check that out.”

Exhibitors put a lot of work into their fair projects, especially farm animals.

“It’s not just a summer project, these are year-round projects with a lot of work, a lot of sweat and tears,” Arndt said. “We don’t just limit this

to just 4-H or FFA kids. We do have an open class for juniors, an open class for anyone 20 years and older and a nursing home category. We have a group who makes a quilt and enters it in the veterans category. Names are drawn and the quilts are given to veterans.”

This year’s fair will also include a swine show with special guests.

“We will have a swine

show for special needs people,” she said. “They get to follow a mentor all day on Aug. 21 and see what they do. At 5 p.m., they’re going to show a swine themselves. It’s not going to be something they own, it’s probably going to be one of their mentors. Some of these children have ADHD or have special needs, so we try to keep the lights low and don’t clap until everything’s done so they

feel comfortable going into the ring.”

The sale of champions is scheduled for noon on Aug. 24, the final day of the fair.

Local businesses, organizations and individuals purchase the animals.

“All the qualifying animals will be sold,” Arndt said. “That’s one of the last big things that will close out the fair.”

Other scheduled events

include a truck pull on Aug. 22 and a tractor pull on Aug. 23.

Planning has already started for next year’s fair, according to Arndt.

“We’ve already done some of the things for next year like booking a couple of bands,” she said. “It’s an all-year thing. We try to get our judges in January or February so we have everything ready by the time it comes for the fair.”

Arndt is unsure of how many people attend the fair each year, but estimated crowds to be in the thousands.

“Since we can’t charge admission, it’s kind of hard to say for sure how many come,” she said. “I saw more people starting to come back out again in the last three years.”

Arndt joined the fair’s board of directors last October, but is no stranger to attending the event.

“I was a 4-Her from age 8-18,” she said. “I’m 68, and I’ve probably only missed four.”

She said there’s a good reason to visit the fair.

“I think it’s checking out what the youths of the county have done and seeing the different exhibits that come in,” she said. “You meet your neighbor, have a chat, maybe you haven’t seen that person in awhile. I think it’s just a great place to come, have a good time and enjoy the company that’s there.”

GOOD LUCK
TO ALL FAIR
PARTICIPANTS!

K M Zahn Insurance Agency

13716 Poplar, Ln • PO Box 252

Mountain, WI 54149

715-276-9870

www.kmzahninsurance.com

karen@kmzahninsurance.com



Erie
Insurance®

Above all in SERVICE™

Auto • Home • Business • Life

S1041 Not all companies are licensed or operate in all states. Not all products are offered in all states. Go to erieinsurance.com for company licensure and territory information.



Proud sponsor of the Oconto County Youth Fair

OCONTO ELECTRIC
CEE
COOPERATIVE

Committed to our communities since 1937

7479 REA Rd • Oconto Falls, WI

PH: 920-846-2816 | www.ocontoelectric.com

2025 Oconto County Fair Event Calendar

Saturday, August 16	
8:00am	Small Animal/Caged Bird Registration
8:30am	Small Animal/Caged Bird Show
9:00am	Horse Show
9:00am	Cat/Dog Show Registration
9:30am	Cat Show
Immediately After the Cat Show (approximately 10:00-10:15 am)	Dog Show

Monday, August 18	
4:00pm-7:00pm	Open Class Exhibits (Non-Animal) Check In

Tuesday, August 19	
9:00am-11:00am	Open Class Exhibits (Non-Animal) Check In
1:00pm - Until Completed	Open Class Judging (Non-Animal)
1:00pm-8:00pm (Dinner Break 4:30-5:00 pm)	Junior Class Check-In/Judging (Non-Animal)

Wednesday, August 20	
9:00am-1:00pm	Junior Class (Sheep, Goats, Swine, Beef) Check In
3:00pm-8:00pm	Junior Class (Poultry and Rabbit) Check In
1:30pm-4:30pm	Weigh Ins (Starting with Hogs, Sheep, Goats and Beef to follow)
5:00pm - Until Completed	Ultrasounds 1) Beef, 2) Hogs 3) Goats 4) Sheep
Food trucks: 4:30 to ? 6:00pm to 9:00pm	Food Trucks, Mariachi Band and Mech bull riding

Thursday, August 21	
9:00am	Swine Show
	Sheep to Follow Swine Show
1:00pm-5:00pm	Junior Class (Dairy) Check In



Prizes wait to be won along the midway at the 2024 Oconto County Youth Fair. FILE | NEW MEDIA

3:00pm to 5:00 pm	Stray Bales (in front of the expo building)
5:00pm	Special Swine Show
6:00pm	Opening Ceremony (in front of the expo building)
6:30pm-10:30pm	Homegrown Band (Beerstand)
7:00pm	AG Olympics

"Agricultural, Construction & Turf Equipment"

SINCE 1946

BEAVER MACHINE INC

(888) 700-0807 SALES AND SERVICE

www.beavermachineinc.com 241 Double R Rd • Coleman, WI 54112

Kubota

NEW HOLLAND AGRICULTURE

CASE IH AGRICULTURE

(888) 700-0807

www.beavermachineinc.com

We Make ALL of Your CARPETING Dreams a Reality!

Congratulations To All Fair Participants!

Luxurious Soft Carpet with Built-In Stain Resistance

Hardwood & Vinyl Flooring

Vinyl & Ceramic Tile

All Flooring

Matt Young, Owner

Fully Insured Free Estimates

Serving the Surrounding Area for 20+ Years

www.allflooring.us • 920-598-0272

Offering The BEST in Sales and Installation!



Local youths learned the secrets for a winning show day at the Oconto County Youth Fair Goat Clinic in late July. Cheer them on at the goat show at 3 p.m. Aug. 22. CONTRIBUTED

2025 Oconto County Fair Event Calendar

Friday, August 22

9:00am	Rabbit Show
10:00am	Beef Show
12:30pm	Randy Peterson Music for Kids
2:00pm	Mischief and Magic Show
3:00pm	Goat Show
3:00pm-7:00pm	Ken and Kris Band (Beerstand)
4:00pm	Rabbit Kiddie Showmanship
5:00-6:30 pm	Truck Pull Registration
5:00pm	Randy Peterson Music for Kids
6:30pm	Mischief and Magic Show
7:00pm	4x4 Truck Pulls
8:00pm-12:00am	PettyCash (Beerstand)

Saturday, August 23

9:00am	Dairy Show
9:00am-12:00pm	Cake Registration (Expo Hall)
9:00am	Poultry Show
9:00am	Draft Horse Pull
10:00am	Mischief and Magic Show
12:30pm	Randy Peterson Music for Kids
2:00pm	Mischief and Magic Show
3:00pm	Cake Auction
3:00pm-7:00pm	JD Pickers (Beerstand)
4:00pm	Poultry Kiddie Showmanship
4:00pm-5:00pm	Tractor Registration
5:00pm	Mischief and Magic Show
6:00pm	Tractor Pulls
6:30pm	Randy Peterson Music for Kids
7:00pm	Exhibitor/Animal Formal Show
8:00 pm-12:00 am	Boom Box (Beerstand)



Hometown lending.

For over a century, we’ve supported our communities with quality financial products and services.

- Agricultural financing • Country living financing
- Crop & life insurance • Tax & accounting services

GreenStone is a proud supporter of the Oconto County Fair

Call us in Coleman today
at 920-897-4046



The Best of Luck to All
Fair Participants

- Salt Delivery - Bottle Water Delivery
- Drinking Water Systems
- Free Water Analysis • Water Softeners & Filters
- Commercial - Industrial - Residential

Oconto County
Culligan®

better water. pure and simple.®

5675 O’Malley Ln., Abrams
920-826-2350
Open 8-4 M-F • www.ocontoculligan.com



Bradin Bjelland showed young exhibitors how to get there beef animals ready for show day during a clinic at the fairgrounds July 24. Watch the exhibitors put their skills to the test at 9 a.m. Aug. 23. CONTRIBUTED

Animals + carnival rides = Oconto County Youth Fair



Children enjoy the roller coaster near the 4-H food stand at the 2024 Oconto County Youth Fair.

FILE | NEW MEDIA



UNITED

Plumbing & Heating

Good Luck to all Fair Participants!

Your Local Plumbing Experts!

Thank you to all of our customers for your patronage!

(920) 846-2689 Email: Uph38@yahoo.com Fax: (920) 848-2689



Your Free Community Connection to Essential Supports & Services
Toll-Free: 1-855-492-ARDC (2372)

Serving Shawano, Oconto and Menominee Counties and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community!

GOOD LUCK TO ALL FAIR PARTICIPANTS!
Your Connection to Disability and Senior Services

The Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Wolf River Region provides no-cost information and assistance about services that help the elderly and people with disabilities. Our professional staff will help connect you and your family with the services that can help you. We can provide consultation at one of our offices, over the phone, in your own home or at another community location.

Some of the free disability and senior services the ARDC offers include:

- Information and assistance to help maintain independent living through supportive services
- Access to private-pay or publicly funded long-term care options
- Details on prevention and early intervention programs
- Connection to services you can apply for such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Foodshare and Medicaid



Senn

HOMETOWN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

SPECIALIZING IN: AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • FARM

237 N MAIN OCONTO FALLS, WI 54154
(920) 848-2341



FARMOWNERS INSURANCE SPECIALISTS

WWW.SENNHOMETOWNINS.COM

GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE FAIR PARTICIPANTS!

Suring Automotive



19X94
and Hardware

Suring Auto & Hardware
223 Heasley Street in Suring
PHONE NUMBER: 920-842-4648



Riders spin on the Roundup with the Tornado sparkling in the background at the 2024 fair.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

OCONTO FALLS AUTO SUPPLY

Formerly Kozak's



CARQUEST AUTO PARTS

BEST OF
OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD
2024

COME CELEBRATE THE 2025 OCONTO COUNTY FAIR!

**"WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU IN
ALL YOUR AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS!"**

**110 E. HIGHLAND AVENUE,
OCONTO FALLS, WI
920-846-2803**





PESHTIGO NATIONAL BANK

PESHTIGO • MARINETTE • COLEMAN • GILLETT
OCONTO FALLS • ANTIGO • GREEN BAY

*Supporting Hard Work
& Tradition at the
Oconto County Youth
Fair!*

BUSINESS BANKING

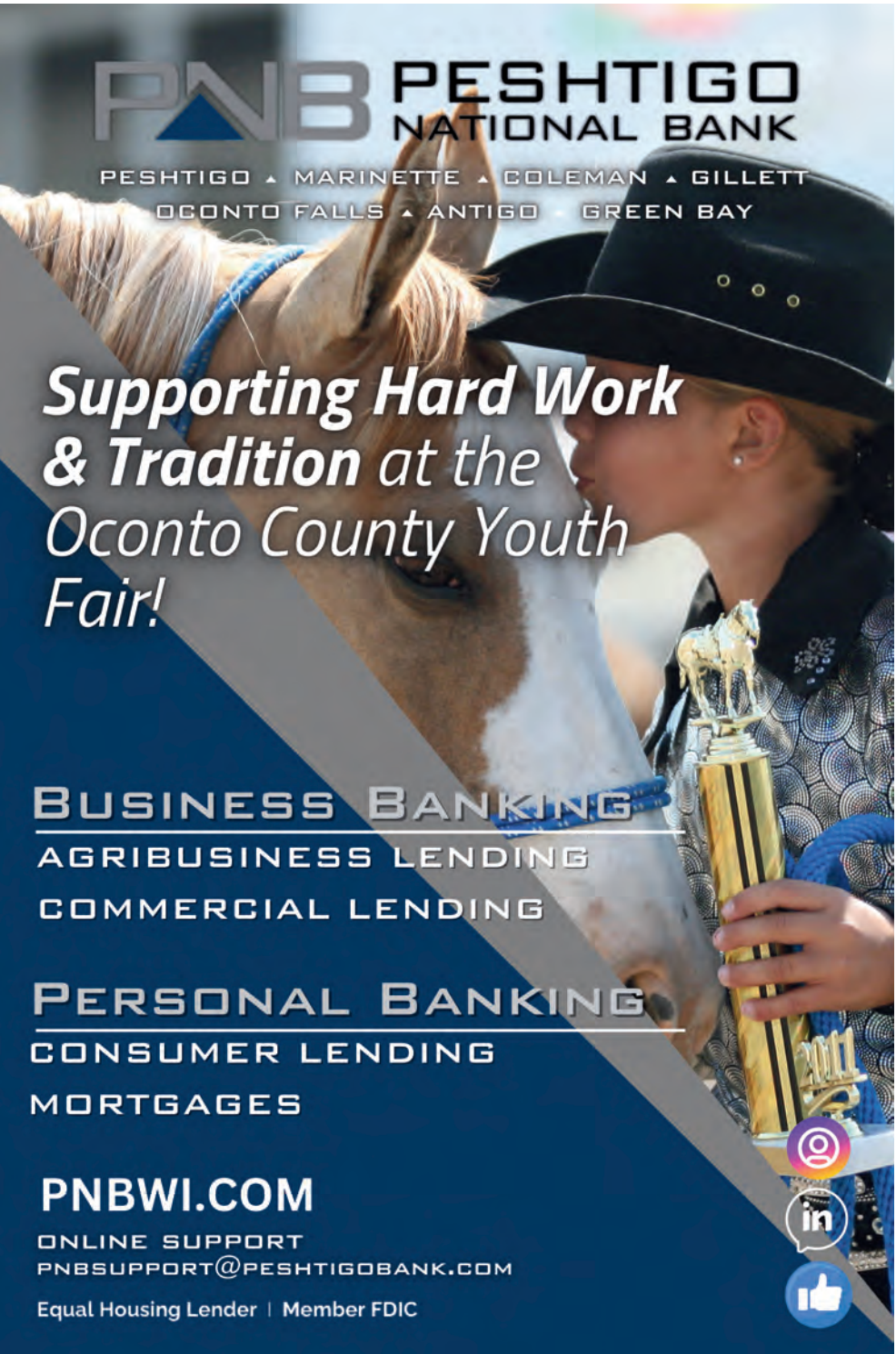
AGRIBUSINESS LENDING
COMMERCIAL LENDING

PERSONAL BANKING

CONSUMER LENDING
MORTGAGES

PNBWI.COM
ONLINE SUPPORT
PNBSUPPORT@PESHTIGOBANK.COM
Equal Housing Lender | Member FDIC







Grace Seefeldt is the 2025 Fairest of the Fair for the Oconto County Youth Fair. CONTRIBUTED

Seefeldt to serve as Fairest of the Fair

Grace Seefeldt is the 2025 Fairest of the Fair for the Oconto County Youth Fair. She graduated from Lena High School, where she was a member of Lena FFA, 4-H, National Honor Society and cheerleading squad, along with being a manager for wrestling and baseball. She is now a student at South Dakota State University and is a member of the Pre-Vet Club, Collegiate Cattlemen's and Agriculture LLC. Seefeldt is the daughter of Dale and Becky Seefeldt.

Oconto Falls Insurance Center
Phone: 920-846-3316

113 N. Main Street
Oconto Falls, WI 54154



Facebook: Gillett Sno & ATV Riders
Email: gillettsnoatvridders@gmail.com

New members welcome!
Member meetings 2nd Wednesday of every month
(September meeting - Schoolhouse Bar,
Mountain & October meeting - Blue Spruce, Spruce)

This is our upcoming event

END OF SEASON EVENT

WHERE: Gillett Sno & ATV Riders Clubhouse
6021 Klaus Lake Rd, Gillett

WHEN: Saturday, Oct 11th, 2025

- Bean Bag Tournament - Registration 11:00
Noon Start (Boards and Bags provided) bring a partner.
- Meat Raffles, Bucket Raffles, and 50/50's all day.
- Walk around gun raffle
**If you are not eligible to own a firearm, you may not participate in any gun raffle.
- Summer Poker Run hands drawn from 3pm - 5pm
- Bucket prizes drawn at 5:30
- Serving Burgers, Brats, Beer, and Soda

SUMMER LONG POKER RUN 2025

LIST OF STOPS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 172-9Mile All Sports Resort | Roxy & Rosie's Bar & Grill |
| 192 Animal's Bear Trail Inn | Remi's Reel Em' Inn |
| 228 Arrowhead Saloon | Sandy Corners Bar & Grill |
| 242 Blue Spruce | 196 Schoolhouse Bar & Grill |
| Bullpen | 210 Skinny Dave's Bar |
| Club 32 | 222 South Shore Pub & Grill |
| Gillett R-Store | 247 Spirits of Gillett |
| 243 Gillett Shell | Take A Chance In Advance |
| 234 Legends Trailside | 174 The Olive Pit |
| OJ's Midtown Restaurant | The Shop |
| 238 Old Smahin Bar | 180 Thunder Lake Bar&Grill |
| Old Still Saloon | 182 Wheel Inn |
| 130 Old Town Bar & Restaurant | Wildfire Trails Bar |
| 136 Phill's Philling Station | Woody's Bar and Gril |
| Randy's Place Bar & Bowl | 227 Wouters' |

Rules

- \$10 per Poker Hand payed at event
- Pay out based on entries
- 5 Stops gets you 5 cards for poker hand
- A card for every 5 stops after 5
- Up to 10 cards for all 30 stops
- Starts as soon as trails are open

Poker run ends at Club Building October 11, 2025
6021 Klaus Lake Rd Gillett, WI 54124
Poker Hand Drawing 3pm-5pm

Check Facebook page for more info on event
#s on stops are the #s on Oconto County trail