



ENDING WITH A BANG

The graduating senior class at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School celebrated its commencement on July 24 with carefully-distanced placement of students and families—and a surprise burst of color at the end of the ceremony. **FOR MORE, SEE PAGE 6.**

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

Masks are required at Wittenberg Community Center

Until further notice masks, will be worn during business hours.

PAGE 2

ATV riders will be cruising on down the roads

Village of Wittenberg approves ATV/UTV routes.

PAGE 3

WIAA sports returning, but at later date

Several fall sports won't begin practicing until Sept. 7.

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Summer 2020 Fun Guide
TV listings and comics!

WITTENBERG
ENTERPRISE
& BIRNAMWOOD NEWS

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Wittenberg requires masks for community center

Limited staff means someone falling ill could compromise village operations

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

At the Wittenberg Village Board's July 21 meeting, the trustees addressed the issue of keeping their employees safe from exposure to illnesses during the pandemic.

Trustee David Timm made a motion that anyone coming in to the Wittenberg Community Center during business hours be required to wear a mask until further notice.

The village has three full-time and two part-time employees. According to Timm, if any one of the employees was unable to work for a long period of time, the village operations could be compromised. Each of the employees has a very specific job, and there is not a lot of crossover training between the employees to be able to handle long absences due to illness, he said.

Some community members raised concerns that this requirement was the start of a slippery slope

that would allow the board to later extend the mask requirement to all businesses and social venues.

Wittenberg resident Cindy Yaeger said, "I feel like this is just the start."

Village President William Switalla clarified that the board can't legally request masks to be worn throughout the village. He said making that a village-wide requirement is not his intention. "My only concern is for our employees," he said.

Shannon Seegmiller, Wittenberg, expressed concern that there might be repercussions for those who can't wear masks for health reasons or are just openly defiant of the requirement.

Trustee Sharon Beversdorf explained that people can access village services without coming into the building for face-to-face interactions with village employees. People have the option of dropping off payments in the 24-hour drop box, which gets checked many times dur-

ing business hours, or by paying bills online, she said.

Village Clerk Traci Matsche noted that many community members have already been using those options to keep themselves and the village employees safe. Residents are also able to contact the office by calling 715-253-6063 or sending an email to wittbrg@gmail.com. The village mailing address is P.O. Box 331, Wittenberg, WI 54499.

The motion passed unanimously, and the mask requirement went into effect immediately. Trustee Paul Yaeger was absent.

The board has been holding its meetings in the main room of the community center in order to accommodate social distancing recommendations. They agreed to continue holding the board meetings there rather than using the board room, which is more limited in space, until further notice.

The Wittenberg Community Center has business hours of Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to noon.

mnelson@newmedia-wi.com

Northcentral Technical College designs virtual labs to support student success

Instructional designers and faculty at Northcentral Technical College have been reimagining the future of science labs. The result is the creation of virtual lab simulations, built in-house, that give students the opportunity to learn at their own pace.

Through this collaboration, the team utilized backwards-design methodology, which allowed them to identify the knowledge, skills and abilities students need to be successful in their classes. Then, they designed custom learning solutions that met those needs.

"Virtual labs promote a high

level of student engagement and understanding, while not feeling overwhelming," said Penny Tesch, a science instructor at NTC. "This is a great recipe for student success."

Tesch leads students through modules where content and expectations are reviewed. Students read through materials and review diagrams. Then, students are able to experience virtual lab simulations where they can review videos, such as dissections, and have the opportunity for self-guided exploration where they are challenged with lab quiz questions to help them assess

their level of understanding.

"Building content in this way lets students hear about the content, read about the content and then interact with the content in a variety of ways," said Cadie Larson, an NTC instructional designer. "For example, the tissues lab allows the students to work with a microscope to view real tissue slides under a variety of magnifications."

Students enrolled in virtual science labs this summer have told Tesch that the user-friendly design has taken away their anxiety about online learning.

CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the Enterprise & News, and it wants to correct mistakes promptly. Call errors to our attention by phone at 715-526-2121, ext. 7018.



New map notes added road access within the village limits. Residents may utilize any road that brings them to the nearest approved road.

Wittenberg board votes to allow ATV/UTV access to some village roads

All downtown businesses can now be accessed

By MIRIAM NELSON
News Editor

The Wittenberg Village Board approved an ordinance allowing for all-terrain vehicles and utility task vehicles to use the village roads as designated on the revised route map proposed by Don Aanonsen, unofficial spokesperson for several enthusiasts. The ordinance includes the residential access law used for snowmobile access where residents may drive on any street as long as they are heading to the closest access route.

At the July 21 board meeting, Aanonsen corrected some misinformation he had given at the previous board

meeting when he stated that drivers 12 years old were eligible to operate any ATV/UTV as long as they had a certificate, wore a helmet and had no passengers. Aanonsen clarified that drivers have to be 16 years old with a valid driver's license to be on roads.

The board requested input from businesses and residents during the two weeks between board meetings, and most of those who responded were in favor of the ordinance.

Some residents had concerns about traffic on Mission Street. The map which had originally been proposed included access from Highway 29 outside of the village onto Robin Road, which turns into Mohawk Street and then into Mission Street. That route was eliminated.

Travel over highways is not allowed by state law, so connecting

routes between villages and townships is needed in order to travel across county lines. Aanonsen said he got permission from the town of Germania to approve access on County Road M so that road from the village line in Wittenberg to Tigerton is now open.

The town of Wittenberg will need to approve access along Grand Avenue from Rachel's Roadside Bar and Grill, W17298 Spruce Road, and the Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School, 400 W. Grand Ave.

Pete Hoekstra, a resident in the town of Wittenberg, spoke in favor of the proposal saying he had originally opposed ATV/UTV access in the town but had since changed his mind, citing the convenience for quick trips to local businesses.

"This will help every business in

the community. This is an extremely large emerging sport that will bring a lot of money into this area that is desperately needed," said Hugh McAloon, owner of Tavern Front.

No one at the meeting spoke against the proposed Ordinance 2020-01, which is the first ordinance of this year.

Village President William Switalla said there was always an opportunity to open up more roads if needed.

Speed limit is whatever is established in the village, with most roads being 25 mph.

The routes are open as the signage is already posted. Route maps are on the village website at villageofwittenberg.com on on the village of Wittenberg Facebook page.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fair is fair when it comes to mowing

To the editor:

Anyone driving on Waukechon Street may have observed tall plants, grass and weeds growing on the southwest corner property of Waukechon and Richmond Streets. According to City Ordinance 11.10: Control of weeds, grass and plants, this should not be allowed.

The city ordinance reads: "1. Mowing required. No person owning property within the city shall permit any weeds, grass or plants to grow to a height exceeding six inches. Any such weeds, grass or plants exceeding said height are hereby declared to be a nuisance. In order to prevent such growth, it shall be the duty of every property owner to mow or cause to be mowed upon his or her premises all such weeds, grass and plants exceeding six inches in height."

This is city of Shawano residential property, not zoned agriculture or industrial park and is not a field, as stated by City Administrator Eddie Sheppard. This property should not be exempt. It's an eyesore compared to the surrounding properties at this intersection which are in compliance with the ordinance.

If the city administration is going to allow these conditions to exist, then the ordinance should be eliminated. What's fair for one, should be fair for all. No exceptions.

Joe Skaleski, Shawano

100 days before the election are important

To the editor:

We are 100 days from the Nov. 3 election, and the stakes could not be higher. Our country suffers under the leadership of President Donald Trump and his bungled response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He has failed America and Americans. Trump has negatively affected other facets of our state. He has gutted Wisconsin industries, attacked its workers, forced farmers out of business, and attempted to strip us of our health care. We suffer due to his craven incompetence.

In addition, Republicans in the Wisconsin state legislature are of no

true help to the Wisconsin citizenry. At every chance they have blocked Gov. Tony Evers attempts to keep people safe. There have been over 46,000 COVID-19 cases and almost 900 deaths in the Badger State, but Speaker Robin Vos continues to push for early openings without following suggested guidelines. Most recently the Republicans held an in-person, indoor convention where masks were optional.

For the next 100 days Wisconsinites are committed to putting Joe Biden in the White House and putting an end to this corrupt, "me-seeking" administration. Now's our chance to build a safe, equitable country, a strong economy for all workers at all levels, and a state that will once again be a progressive stronghold.

Edward C. Johnson, Clintonville

Native Americans more vulnerable to COVID-19

To the editor:

In Wisconsin, Native Americans are facing extremely high rates of coronavirus and are at higher risk for hospitalization. Because of historic injustices that have built upon each other, Native Americans have been particularly vulnerable to the systematic failure of the government response to the pandemic.

After the GOP struck down Gov. Tony Evers' Safer at Home order, many tribes have put their own safety measures in place, and have had to put together a patchwork of support systems to minimize risk and exposure in their communities. Our state has neglected our Native American neighbors throughout history, and now as they face a particularly dangerous health crisis, we must do more to support them.

Thankfully, leaders like Sen. Tammy Baldwin have urged congress to give more funding to tribal health facilities. Wisconsin should continue to push for substantive support as this virus takes its toll on vulnerable populations.

Ask Rep. Mike Gallagher to get on board. We have needs for more Native American resource assistance, right here in the Shawano-Menominee counties area. Call him at 920-301-4500.

Mary Arnold, Shawano

Send letters to wittenberg@newmedia-wi.com

PUBLIC RECORD

SHAWANO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

July 27
Deputies logged 50 incidents, including criminal damage to property reported at Cedar Park, 305 W. Park St. in Bonduel; drug complaints on U.S. Highway 45 in the Town of Grant and County Road T in the Town of Waukechon; a property theft on U.S. Highway 45 in The Town of Grant; injury accidents on County Road K in the Town of Waukechon and state Highway 29 in the Town of Richmond.

July 26
Deputies logged 35 incidents, including a 35-year-old man arrested for operating while intoxicated on Green Bay Street in Shawano; property theft complaints on Lake Drive and on Old Lake Road in the Town of Wescott and on Rollman Street in Bowler; a domestic disturbance on County Road F in the Town of Angelica.

July 25
Deputies logged 38 incidents, including criminal damage to property reported on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; property theft on state Highway 22 in the Town of Washington; disturbances on Main Street in Bowler, Old Keshena Road in the Town of Wescott and Richmond Street in Richmond.

July 24
Deputies logged 56 incidents, including a domestic disturbance on state Highway 55 in the Town of Angelica; a drug complaint on Country Lane in the Town of Washington; criminal damage to property on Lake Drive in the Town of Wescott; disturbances on Swan Acre Drive in the Town of Washington and state Highway 32 in the town of Angelica.

July 23
Deputies logged 48 incidents, including a 23-year-old woman cited for operating after revocation on County Road A in the town of Richmond; a 32-year-old woman cited for operating after revocation on Balsam Row Road in the town of Wescott; a robbery on Main Street in Bowler; a domestic disturbance on Pearl Street in Birnamwood.

July 22
Deputies logged 37 incidents, including domestic disturbances on Airport Drive in the Town of Wescott and Angle Road in the town of Pella; a drug complaint at the Ho-Chunk Casino, N7198 Highway 45, in the Town of Wittenberg; a property damage hit-and-run on County Road A in Gresham.

July 21
Deputies logged 37 incidents, including: a telephone scam complaint on Spruce Road in the Town of Belle Plaine; a

domestic disturbance on Lake Drive in the town of Wescott; an assault complaint on Cecil Street in Bonduel; disturbances on River Road in Shawano and Washington Street in Bonduel.

SHAWANO POLICE
DEPARTMENT

July 27
Police logged 24 incidents, including disturbances in the 1500 block of Estates Lane and 200 block of North Riverside Drive; a fraud complaint at CoVantage Credit Union, 911 E. Green Bay St.; property theft complaints on Briarwood Lane and the 300 block of West Green Bay Street.

July 26
Police logged 15 incidents, including intoxicated person complaints in the 1500 block of Estates Lane and 1200 block of East Green Bay Street; a vehicle reported vandalized in the 500 block of East Fifth Street; disturbances in the 300 block of Madison Way and 400 block of South Smalley Street.

July 25
Police logged 24 incidents, including a two-vehicle property damage accident in the 900 block of East Fifth Street; a truck reported stolen in the 600 block of South River Street; a disturbance in the 800 block of East Richmond Street.

July 24
Police logged 20 incidents, including

a disturbance at Kuckuk Park, 500 Oak Drive; a bike reported stolen in the 700 block of South Union Street; an attempted burglary reported in the 800 block of East Richmond Street.

July 23
Police logged 21 incidents, including a disturbance in the 800 block of East Richmond Street; a 27-year-old man cited for operating after revocation in the 400 block of East Green Bay Street; a drug complaint at McDonald's, 1202 E. Green Bay St.

July 22
Police logged 20 incidents, including assault complaints at Walmart, 1244 E. Green Bay St., and in the 200 block of North Riverside Drive; a shovel reported stolen in the 500 block of Prospect Circle; a drug complaint in the 1300 block of East Lieg Avenue; an attempted burglary reported in the 200 block of Mountain Bay Trail Drive; a disturbance at Memorial Park, 901 S. Lincoln St.

July 21
Police logged 21 incidents, including a disturbance in the 1100 block of South Lafayette Street; a shoplifting complaint at Charlie's County Market, 521 S. Main St.; a disturbance in the 1200 block of East Green Bay Street; a 40-year-old woman cited for operating after revocation in the 1000 block of East Green Bay Street.

COURT NEWS

Recent proceedings in Shawano-Menominee County Circuit Court:

• Lorene K. Opperman, 55, of Gresham, was charged July 28 with a felony count of theft in a business setting. She could face a maximum six years in prison and \$10,000 fine if convicted. Opperman is scheduled

for an initial court appearance on Aug. 31.

• Amanda R. Sanapaw, 32, of Keshena, was charged July 24 with a felony count of possession of methamphetamine. She could face a maximum 3 1/2 years in prison and \$10,000 fine if convicted. Sanapaw

posted a \$1,500 cash bond set by Judge James Habeck and is due in court for an adjourned initial appearance Aug. 17.

• Kayla M. Childs, 32, of Shawano, was sentenced by Judge William Kussel Jr. on July 24 to two years' probation on a felony charge of

possession of cocaine.

• Dawn L. Haney, 32, of Keshena, was sentenced by Judge William Kussel Jr. on July 21 to two months in jail as a condition of two years' probation on a felony count of possession with intent to deliver marijuana.

Several people injured
in car versus semi crash

Several people were seriously injured Monday when a car crashed with a semi on state Highway 29 in the town of Richmond, according to the Shawano County Sheriff's Department.

Deputies were called to the crash scene at Highway 29 and Clark Drive about 9:30 p.m. after the driver of a car attempted to cross the highway in the path of an eastbound semi.

"Several people were ejected from the car, and numerous people with severe injuries were transported to

ThedaCare (in) Shawano," Lt. Jesse Sperberg said in a statement.

Four people were in the car, Sperberg said.

The driver of the car was identified as a 21-year-old Waunakee man. The semi was driven by a 33-year-old Wausau man.

No further information about the passengers or their conditions was available.

The sheriff's department said alcohol is believed to be a contributing factor in the crash.

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8	7	5	9	3	1	2	6	4



Unusual year brings unusual graduation

Wittenberg-Birnamwood celebrates Class of 2020

By **MIRIAM NELSON**
News Editor

To say it's been an unusual year for education is a bit of an understatement. In an effort to control the spread of the coronavirus, schools closed down in mid-March.

The senior class at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School had to adjust to school online — with no sports, prom, theater, band or the many other activities associated with school life.

“Our students lost out on one of the most important times of their lives during the spring and into the summer. Time spent with friends!” said WBHS Principal Bill Hass. “I believe that would have been the hardest part for most of our students.”

Graduation, usually held at the end of May, was postponed until July 24 when 58 of the 67 members

of the Class of 2020 participated in the commencement program.

Traditionally, the event is held in the high school gym, and the chairs on the court and the bleachers are packed with loved ones, happy to watch this rite of passage. In order to comply with the recommendations for social distancing, this year's event was held outside. The students were spread out on the bleachers. Each student was allowed six family members to watch from the football field in groups, but at a distance from other families.

Four years ago, the district moved away from the valedictorian and salutatorian designations to honor summa cum laude students. This, according to Superintendent Garrett Rogowski, recognizes great achievement and effort by all students who take rigorous coursework in every discipline.

The 2020 graduates receiving



A Wittenberg-Birnamwood graduate celebrates as he poses for a family picture after receiving his diploma at an outdoor ceremony on July 24.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

this honor are: Logan Balliett, son of Mike and Kristy Balliett; Karsyn

Delforge, daughter of Andrew and Stacey Delforge; Megan Gauderman, daughter of Tony and Melissa Gauderman; and Onnica Long, daughter of Michelle Long and the late Mike Long.

Delforge and Gauderman spoke at the ceremony.

“It's been a crazy, year and none of us could have seen this coming and it's been very disappointing not to be able to participate in things we look forward to in our senior year,” said Melissa Gauderman. “It felt so weird in May to not be finish with a graduation ceremony.”

Gauderman, who will be attending Northwestern Technical College this fall in the nursing program added that she thought it was very special to finally be able to experience the graduation ceremony with her classmates.

“This year ended up being the complete opposite of what I had



Families were placed in groups of six people, six feet apart on the football field of Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School for a COVID-careful graduation ceremony.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

always imagined in my mind,” said Delforge. “As seniors, we missed out on most of what makes our final year of high school so amazing.”

Delforge acknowledged that this year has been hard for her and many of her classmates, but she felt everyone was learning and growing from this experience.

"I think the biggest thing I've learned from this difficult time is that life never goes to plan, so it's really important to enjoy as much of the present as possible," she said. "You never know when everything you planned to happen one way will go the complete opposite."

Rogowski was grateful that the Class of 2020 lead by example and demonstrated the kind of integrity and class they showed throughout their school experience at WBHS.

"I know they will be successful in their post-secondary pursuits and will represent our district proudly as they continue their journeys in life," said Rogowski.

The graduation ceremony was broadcast via livestream as an option for families and friends to watch.



Lauren Bahr adjusts her cap in the breeze after accepting her diploma at the Wittenberg-Birnhamwood graduation ceremony on July 24.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA



Summa cum laude graduate Karsyn Delforge is escorted off the field after the graduation ceremony. The students received flowers and met family and friends at the track surrounding the football field, then marched out. Delforge delivered one of the commencement speeches at the ceremony on July 24.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA



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Tribe, state seek info on missing Menominee cases

Task force forming to look into violence against Native Americans

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and the state of Wisconsin came together July 22 to plead for information related to some of the tribe's missing person cases.

Police agencies in Keshena and Shawano have reported putting in a lot of man hours searching for Katelyn Kelley, a 22-year-old Menominee woman who has been missing for over a month. Tribal and state officials told media and members of the community about the anguish that the family is going through, waiting and hoping for her safe return.

However, there are three other families on the Menominee Reservation that have been waiting much longer for their missing kin to be found and for justice to be served. At a press conference at tribal headquarters, officials highlighted all of the cases, with one dating back 40 years.

"I wish we didn't have to be here," said Joan Delabreau, tribal chairwoman, "but I think it's warranted."

Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul announced at the press conference the formation of a task force to raise awareness about missing and murdered indigenous women and how Native Americans are most often victimized by violence.

Delabreau also announced the Menominee Tribal Legislature was offering a \$5,000 reward for anyone who provides information that leads to the return of either Kelley or Robert Lyons, a Menominee man who disappeared on the reservation in June 2017.

Law enforcement are also continuing to search of Lisa Ninham, who went missing in 1980, as well as the killer of Rae Tourtillott, whose body was recovered by Menominee Tribal Police and the FBI in April 1987. The FBI is offering a \$15,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of her killer.

"The Menominee Tribal Legislature knows that it needs to help to keep these cases in the forefront, and that's why they approved offering rewards in the cases of Robert Lyons and Katelyn Kelley in the amount of \$5,000 each," Delabreau said. "We had \$5,000 set up



Menominee Tribal Chairwoman Joan Delabreau announces the rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone responsible for the disappearances of Katelyn Kelley and Robert Lyons as posters for the two Menominee people are displayed nearby during a press conference Wednesday at Menominee Tribal Headquarters in Keshena.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

for (the case of) Rae Tourtillott."

Delabreau noted she plans to get legislative support for a \$5,000 reward in Ninham's case, as well. She said that there has been no information regarding Ninham's disappearance since 2016.

A factor that has muddled the investigative waters is figuring out which law enforcement agency needs to take the lead when a report of a missing or murdered tribal member is made, according to Delabreau.

"One of the things that impacts missing and murdered indigenous women and men is jurisdiction," Delabreau said. "You would think that jurisdiction would be a simple thing for the Menominee because there is no state jurisdiction — it is just us and the federal government."

In Kelley's case, there has been a need for the Shawano Police Department to get involved, as a lead has indicated she was last seen in her home in the city around 3 a.m. on June 17, which was several hours after some-

one saw her near Keshena on County Road VV around 10 p.m. on June 16.

Tribal Police Chief Richard Nacotee said that the two departments have spent many hours pursuing leads in the search for Kelley, including evenings and weekends. However, the tribal police are also pursuing leads in the other cases.

"We hold this to a high priority when it comes to missing and murdered indigenous persons," Nacotee said. "We don't want people to think that we forgot that these cases are still there."

Nacotee noted that, after a gathering dedicated to Tourtillott in 2019, more tips were relayed to his department about her case.

Delabreau encouraged family members to be vigilant and to demand answers from law enforcement about their loved ones.

"You need to be informed from all of those jurisdictions as to the status of your case and the whereabouts of your loved ones," Delabreau said. "Thank-

fully, in this case, jurisdiction has been working out relatively smooth."

Kaul told the family members of the missing and murder tribal members that they should not give up, because the law enforcement agencies continue to pursue leads on some of the cases.

"The people in law enforcement are dedicated to these cases. They're not going to give up on them," Kaul said.

Delabreau said she wants the cycle of Native American people disappearing without a trace to end and said the tribal legislature would do what is needed to help.

"We don't want these cases to get any colder than they already are," Delabreau said. "We want to continue to move forward, and we hope our actions in this case can bring some closure and whereabouts information that you may think is significant, but to our police, it may be important."

Murder, mystery and recipes make for delicious read

This heat has made me do almost anything to avoid cooking or baking, but I do love to eat. So, when I found "Raspberry Danish Murder"



JAN JONES

by Joanne Fluke, I grabbed it. I knew the story line would be good and recipes delicious and easy.

First, let me say that there was no back story to set the scene for this book. The events and characters just appear, but it still works.

Hannah Swensen Barton owns The Cookie Jar, a café and bakery in Lake Eden, Minnesota. She is helped by her partner Lisa, her Aunt Nancy, friend Marge and her sister Michelle. All love to bake and are constantly working up new recipes for cookies and bars.

She also has close friends to rely on. Police Chief Mike and local dentist Norman are like family to both

Hannah and Michelle.

When Hannah and KCOW television's new cameraman Ross Barton met, it was love at first sight. They soon married and began a life together. But two weeks ago, Ross simply disappeared. No note, no calls, no indication of where he was going or why.

With no sign of foul play, Hannah is sure he will return soon. But in the back of her mind, Hannah knows there is much more to his disappearance than meets the eye. The Lake Eden police agree and have asked Hannah to tell people that Ross is on a special assignment somewhere unknown while they search for clues.

Apparently, Hannah has a history of investigating and solving crimes, so Mike and his deputy Lonnie include her in everything. Since Ross has been gone, his assistant PK has been filling in and helping Michelle with PSAs for the school play.

One morning, PK stops at The Cookie Jar to ask for a ride, but the sisters insist that he take Ross's car, as they just discovered that he left

AT A GLANCE

BOOK: "Raspberry Danish Murder"

AUTHOR: Joanne Fluke

PUBLISHER: Kensington Books

PUBLISHED: Feb. 27, 2018

PAGES: 385

it for them to use. Later that day, they listen in horror as PK tries to drive while under the influence of some strong drug. As he drives, he tells them that he ate some candy that had been sent to Ross, and he's sure it was drugged. PK dies in the subsequent crash, and his death is quickly ruled a homicide.

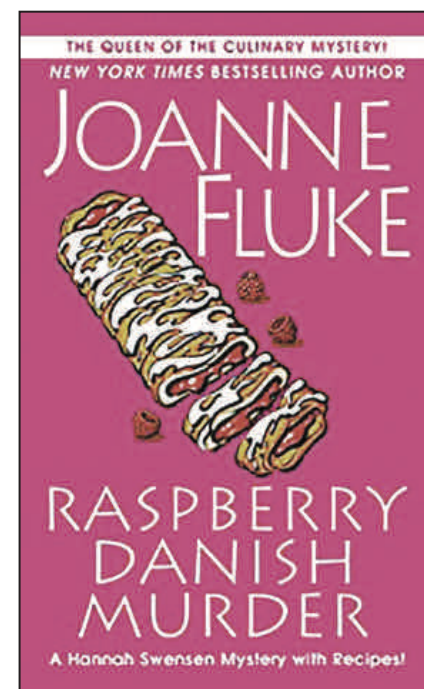
No one wants to say it, but they all wonder if the candy was meant for Ross.

Things become more complicated when Hannah learns that Ross has given her several large bank accounts plus a safe deposit box filled with cash and a storage unit key.

Through some real digging, they learn the real name of PK's former fiancée, Pinkie, but hopes are dashed when they find that Pinkie killed herself only weeks before PK's death.

The mark of a good investigator is the ability to notice the little things. During a Christmas gift convention, Hannah meets a man named Gary. He says he's selling handmade ornaments, but she finds a "Made in China" sticker on one.

Later, she notes that his black Jeep was once bright pink. Pinkie drove a pink Jeep and had a brother named Gary. Now the pieces begin to fit. Gary believed that PK broke Pinkie's heart and pushed her to



commit suicide, so he poisoned the candy.

Everyone is relieved that the case is solved, but Hannah still has no hint of why Ross left or where he went.

She's not surprised when Mike and Norman drop by but is totally unprepared for what they have found out about Ross and his disappearance. Sadly, the book ends there.

Now I have to find "Chocolate Cream Pie Murder" to see what happens next.

To learn Hannah's history, I'll need to read "Christmas Cake Murder," too. It is a good dilemma to have.

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Some people make shopping a joyful experience

Being out and about and shopping is an experience I haven't participated in for quite some time. I've had the occasional trip to the grocery store and the gas station, but those trips didn't involve a lot of decision-making or searching.

Last weekend, I found myself wandering the aisles of a chain store with a wedding registry in hand, trying to find a gift for my first cousin once removed. I could have written my cousin's daughter, but that's not nearly as much fun. I'm also the goofy relative who likes to address them that way when wishing them a happy birthday. I have a fair amount of cousins with children, so I get to bandy about that phrase quite a bit.

I love the registry programs because they manage disappointment so well. Every item listed is an item wanted, needed or longed for; whatever you pick off the list is going to be appreciated. I'm not much of a gift giver and anyone who



MIRIAM NELSON

doing."

Shopping has never been a relaxing or pleasant experience for me, and it's not getting better as I age. Bifocals, although a great invention, are not really all that helpful when you have to turn your neck up to see a product that is out of reach because you're also too short to read the tag and find you're still too far away to see the fine print.

Angels come when you least expect them, and you never know what they're going to look like. Mine was

has received a gift from me that I selected while left to my own devices knows I take the words "interesting" and "unique" as complements, instead of code for, "She really doesn't know what she's

a tall, willowy gal with energy and youth on her side. She could easily reach the desired items, matching the numbers closely to the registry and handing them to me so that I could pretend I did all the work as I placed them in my shopping cart. She also just "popped down" a few aisles over to retrieve another item that was on the list but not in the same area.

It had been a long day at work for me, and it was hot, muggy and miserable outside. So even though the shopping trip needed to get done, I had not looked forward to the actual task. She made my day by just doing her job with a smile on her face. I made sure to let her know how much I appreciated her help and her positive attitude.

Having worked for years at the Mall of America, I know all too well the fatigue of stocking the shelves, answering questions and providing great customer service. For me,

it was like being on stage for eight hours and going home a very tired employee. I always loved the customers who appreciated my help, so I make it a point to let people know when they are doing an exceptional job.

While at the register, admiring the items pulled together with the help of my new best friend, I asked to speak with the manager on duty. When she came, I told her the employee's name and what she did and how much it meant to me to have such a pleasant shopping experience.

You never know what managers will do with that information, so I was quite pleased to hear it acknowledged over the intercom for the helpful employee to hear! That's how you build customer loyalty, and that's how you make it easy for people to love their jobs.

Miriam Nelson is the news editor of the Wittenberg Enterprise & Birnamwood News. Readers can contact her at mnelson@newmedia-wi.com

PSC votes to extend the utility disconnection moratorium

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) has agreed to extend the moratorium on utility residential customer disconnections and refusal of service for nonpayment until Sept. 1.

The additional time will allow PSC staff to collect more data and information from utilities on their disconnection plans, allow for comment from customer organizations, and monitor further the spread of COVID-19 in the state.

The move comes as COVID-19 positive cases in Wisconsin have more than doubled since the commission met in June to order the

end of the moratorium.

"We continue to closely monitor COVID-19 and its impact on utility customers in Wisconsin. The data has shown that the coronavirus has ballooned since our discussion on June 11," said PSC Chairwoman Rebecca Cameron Valcq. "It is our obligation to strike a balance to ensure the financial health of utilities, but also ensure customer safeguards are in place. It is our role to provide clarity to utilities, but be nimble enough to press the pause button when it is in the public interest to do so. We must press the pause button today on utility disconnections as the risk to public health is

far greater today than it was a month ago, while the financial impact to utilities has been minimal."

In light of the extension, the PSC is still strongly urging customers to seek a payment plan with their utility or apply for energy assistance to avoid a large debt and possible disconnection when the moratorium ends.

If customers are having difficulty paying their energy bills, they may

be eligible for assistance from the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP). To determine eligibility or find out where to apply for assistance, go to <http://homeenergyplus.wi.gov> or call 866-HEATWIS.

If customers cannot reach an agreement with their utility, they are urged to contact the PSC by calling 800-225-7729, or by filing a complaint on the PSC website.

BIRTHS

• Jared and Callie Johnson, Weston, welcomed a daughter, Ruby Lynn, on June 24 at 9:55 p.m., she weighed 7 pounds 10 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.

• Mitchell and Savannah Resch, Eland, welcomed a son, Jax Anthony, on July 11 at 9:04 p.m., he weighed 8 pounds 7 ounces and was 22 inches long.

Job Posting Village of Eland

The Village of Eland is looking to hire 1 person for full-year general maintenance in the Village. Applicants should have knowledge of lawn & garden tools, be able to provide maintenance on municipal buildings/assets, be able to work unsupervised, take direction well, be trustworthy, and able to attend Village Board meetings once a month. Experience is a plus. Must be 18 or over and have a valid driver's license. Municipal applicants will be looked at first. Wages are set at \$12.00 an hour, and mileage is set at current IRS rates.

Applications can be found at the Eland Post Office or picked up from the Village Clerk. Please send application and cover letter to: Applications-Village of Eland, P.O. Box 65, Eland, WI 54427. Applications are due to the Clerk, no later than Sunday August 2, 2020.

Marnie Osterbrink, Clerk
Village of Eland

WNAXLP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST AND CANVASS

Notice is hereby given the public testing of the DS-200 Precinct Tabulating Equipment and the AutoMARK marking device being used in municipalities within Marathon County-Fall Primary Election, Tuesday, August 11, 2020 is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2020. Municipalities within Marathon County will be publicly testing the DS-200 Tabulating Equipment and AutoMARK at the Municipal Clerk's Office in conjunction with the County Clerk's Office. Contact the Municipal Clerk for their scheduled time for testing.

The Marathon County Canvass Board will be canvassing election materials from the Tuesday, August 11, 2020 Fall Primary Election on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. at Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau, Assembly Room and Tuesday, August 18, 2020 to complete the canvass, including any rehabilitated Provisional Ballots.

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Moment in the sun

Festival asks visitors to stay six sunflower leaves apart

By **CAROL RYCZEK**
Editor-in-chief

In any other year, 13 might not be a lucky number.

In 2020, the ability to walk through acres of brightly blooming sunflowers made thousands of visitors feel lucky indeed.

This year marks the 13th year of sunflower production and the fifth year for the Bergsbaken Sunflower Festival, a three-day event held at their farm at W2095 County Road E, Cecil.

The farm is operated by the families of Lee Bergsbaken and his

brother, Dale. This year, the families planted 270 acres of sunflowers, an average acreage for the operation. The flowers are grown for oil and birdseed.

Seeds and oil are sold at the farm. Someday, the operation may develop a commercial kitchen for processing oil, but for now, the law allows it to be sold from the farm, and several visitors were seen talking out with both bundles of flowers and bottles of oil, Lee Bergsbaken said.

Once a year, the families set up tents, clear a field for parking, and allow the public to walk through the fields awash in yellow. In other years, the event included food, wagon rides and pick-your-own blooms. This year, Bergsbaken said, the families scaled back. Only packaged foods were served and family members picked flowers for the public, instead giving them the tools to cut stems



Aiden Phatsalisaeng gets a ride through the sunflower fields on the shoulders of big brother Alexander Phatsalisaeng as the family made its way through the fields at Bergsbaken Farms near Cecil on Saturday.

CAROL RYCZEK | NEW MEDIA

themselves.

Signs along the walk provided in-

formation about the crop, and also reminded visitors that a sunflower leaf can grow 12 inches long, so standing 6 sunflower leaves apart provided the correct measure for social distancing.

"Everybody enjoys themselves. It's heartwarming to see people take the time to come out. There's a lot of kids running around, a really family feeling," Bergsbaken said.

Sunflowers usually have 70 days before planting and their peak bloom, he said, and the farm schedules the festival when the big yellow heads are most likely to be open. Last year, a wet June postponed the peak, but they had the event anyway.

"You order the tents — last year we had polka bands — so it's got to be that weekend," he said.

The flowers are perfect this year, he said.

cryczek@newmedia-wi.com



Shari and Dale Bergsbaken, members of the family-owned Bergsbaken Farms, collect bundles of sunflowers for visitors to buy at their annual sunflower festival on Saturday. In other years, visitors were allowed to pick their own flowers, but this year's festival saw some changes due to COVID-19.

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Angie Kang, left, receives a gift of sunflowers from her sister, Lexi Kang, at the Bergsbaken Farms Sunflower Festival in Cecil on Saturday. The Green Bay sisters attended twice this year, with each sister receiving a bouquet.

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Hailey Kaminecki and Trent Cagnon, Oconto Falls, try to get their dog, Cali, to pose for a photo at the entrance to the sunflower field walk. This year, wagon rides through the field were reserved for the visitors who would not take the walk and visitors were encouraged to stay six "sunflower leaves" apart.

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