



Work proceeds on schedule for the new Oconto Falls Middle School under construction along County Road I.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Suspect who fled state returned to custody

Bullock's bond revoked and reset at \$1.5 million

BY WARREN BLUHM
News editor

A Suring man, arrested in Texas last month after he allegedly slipped out of his GPS ankle bracelet and fled from Oconto County authorities, is due back in court Sept. 6 for a preliminary hearing on the newest charge.

Michael James Bullock, 41, had been scheduled to stand trial beginning July 31 on two counts of the repeated sexual assault of a child, as well as several counts stemming from allegedly stationing a hidden camera in a bathroom and recording intimate video of a young woman showering.

Bullock was free after posting a total of \$40,000 cash bond, with a condition of his bail being that he wear the ankle bracelet at all times. The criminal complaint alleges that on July 2, the woman who owns the house where he was staying found the bracelet hanging from a hook in the bathroom.

Investigators said the inside of the bracelet was coated with a Vaseline-like substance, making it slippery. Bullock also left his cellphone behind and had run it

SUSPECT, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Michael James Bullock sits in Oconto County Circuit Court on Aug. 19 prior to a status conference, waiting for defense attorney Eric Steven Maciolek.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

Middle school construction still on schedule for 2025

BY WARREN BLUHM
News editor

Construction of the new Oconto Falls Middle School is moving along nicely and on target for the planned opening in fall 2025, school administrators and project managers told the Oconto Falls School Board Aug. 12.

Exterior brick for the building along County Road I is 90% complete and interior steel studs wall are 75% complete, said Mike David of Nexus Solutions, the consulting firm that is overseeing construction.

Interior masonry is finished, installation of interior drywall continues and painting of the drywall has begun, David said. Exterior window installation is finishing up, and a fire marshal was scheduled to make a first visit to the site the following day.

The project remains on schedule and work continues on interior mechanical piping and duct work, electrical, fire sprinklers and plumbing rough-ins.

Roof repair at Oconto Falls Elementary School (OFES), which also was included in the successful November 2022 capital referendum, will be completed by the start of the new school year, David said.

On a related note, Superintendent Dean Hess said school officials have experienced frustration in their efforts to have



An artist's rendition of the completed Oconto Falls Middle School, scheduled to open in time for the 2025-26 school year.

NEXUS SOLUTIONS

the speed limit reduced along County Road I near the new school. The building is on the other side of the county road from the high school and OFES.

Representatives from state said the 45 mph speed limit can't be reduced because there are not enough residential driveways along the road — and school and municipal driveways don't count toward the total, Hess said.

"I absolutely didn't understand that," he said. "If you think about if you use the

driveways to reduce speed because you think about people coming in and out of the driveway, there's going to be a lot more people coming out of the driveway of a school than out of one of our homes."

Hess said the school district will continue to work on the issue between now and next fall in the interest of children's safety.

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INSIDE

Oconto County Fair Junior Horse Show launches the week's events.

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Proposed library services plan rolled out

Three public hearings held to explain the funding changes

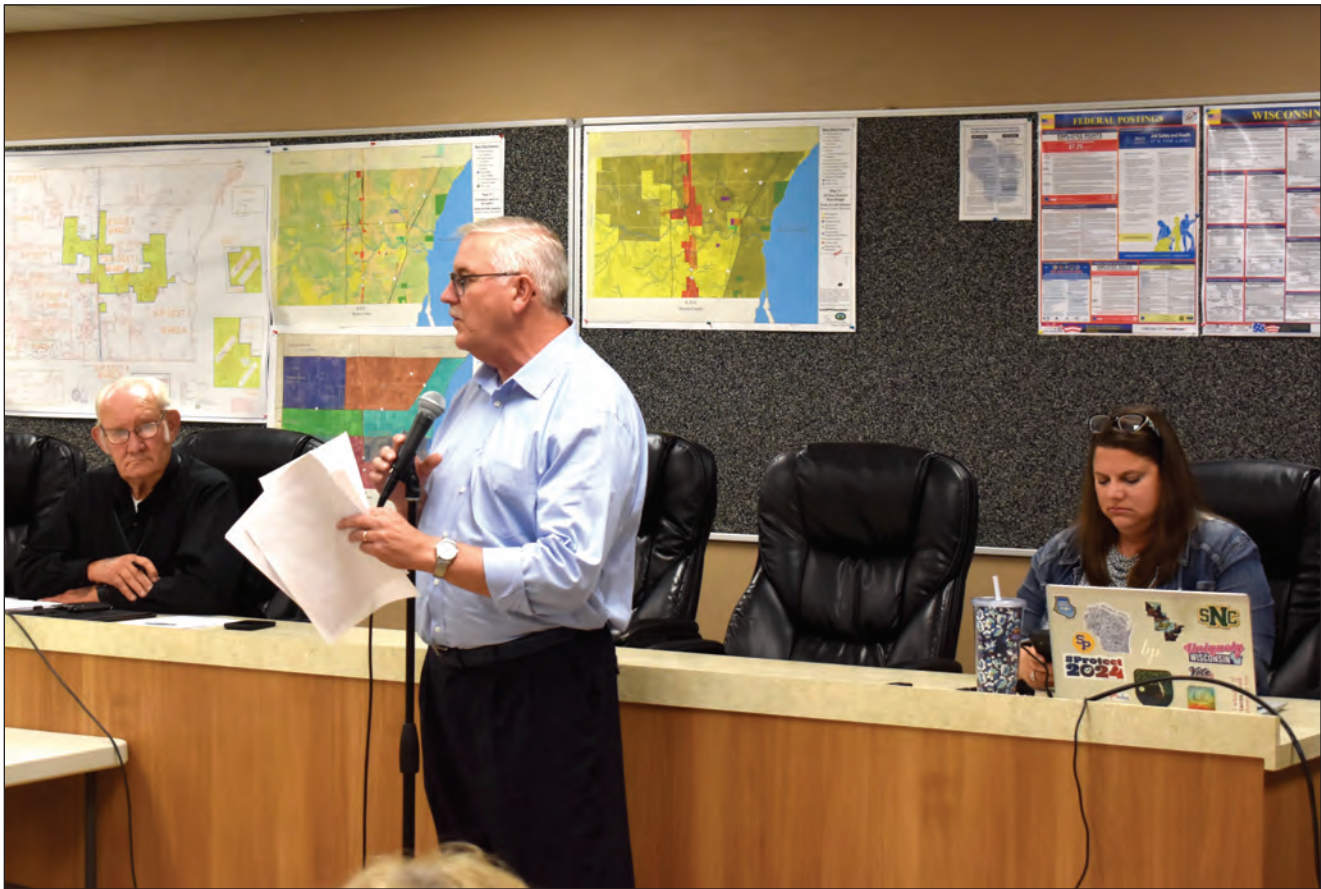
By **WARREN BLUHM**
News editor

Oconto County officials say the proposed new five-year library services plan creates a more fair funding system that takes some of the pressure off municipalities not currently served by libraries.

County Administrator Richard Heath, County Board Chairman Al Sleeter and County Clerk Kim Pytleski spoke at public hearings Aug. 15 and Aug. 20 in Gillett, Little Suamico and Lakewood to explain the revised plan, which was developed over the past 18 months by a special ad hoc committee.

Speaking at the Little Suamico Town Hall, Sleeter said the committee explored almost every avenue of funding the system, including a consolidated library system merging the six independent libraries, which didn't go over because the communities didn't want to relinquish local control of their libraries.

"I also realized it wasn't beneficial to the county to create another department," Sleeter said. "When you talk about a consolidated library system, then the county's involved in agreements or possession of all the buildings, all the employees, and you're basically expanding the government."



Oconto County Administrator Richard Heath addresses a public hearing on the county's five-year library services plan Aug. 15 at Little Suamico Town Hall. Also presenting are County Board Chairman Al Sleeter, left, and County Clerk Kim Pytleski.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

The focus turned to finding a more equitable way to collect and distribute the property tax for library purposes, he said.

"What we've come to here is, I think, a really good plan for the next five years to help level the playing field as far as the tax burden is concerned," Sleeter said.

Pytleski explained that three cities, two villages and

12 towns tax their residents directly for the services provided by the municipal or joint libraries in Oconto, Oconto Falls, Gillett, Lena, Suring and Lakewood. The other 11 towns and one village — considered "unlibrariated" because they are not part of those six local systems — pay taxes to the county to reimburse the libraries.

As more municipalities bought into the joint libraries in Lakewood, Lena and Suring over the past decade or so, the tax burden on the remaining unlibrariated municipalities grew larger, she said. The math involved with shifting to a consolidated county library actually increased the burden on those municipalities.

"One of the things that we were asked to consider is how do we give relief to towns, especially those that are unlibrariated, because they don't have a seat at the table," Pytleski said. "They

don't have a say in how libraries are run; they're not on the library boards."

An annual review is built into the new plan to avoid the funding imbalances that led to the need for an extended study, Pytleski said.

"Over the previous five years, there were changes to the structure of our library agreements, but there was no financial change to reflect when those changes occurred," she said. "That was something this new plan will take into consideration. It's written that it will be reviewed annually."

The new plan follows state statutes by providing local libraries with a minimum of 70% of the amount determined by dividing each library's operational expenses by the total number of loans reported, not including capital expenditures or federal funding. The committee found that the libraries in Oconto Falls, Gillett, Suring, Lena and Lakewood have been getting more than the minimum, while Farnsworth Public Library in Oconto was under that amount.

The county also pays Brown County — and, to a lesser extent, other neighboring counties — for services used by residents of the unlibrariated municipalities in those counties' libraries. In 2024, Oconto County budgeted \$457,035 to support the six local libraries and \$157,048 to other counties.

The proposed 2025 allocations have been adjusted to ensure compliance with the statutory minimum, according to a fact sheet prepared by the committee. The result is a reduction in the allocation for Oconto Falls (\$15,623), Lakes Country (\$10,344), Gillett (\$7,803), Suring (\$6,261) and Lena (\$5,534), and an increase of \$9,857 for Oconto.

The final five-year plan is expected to reach the full Oconto County Board for approval when it meets Sept. 19.

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Sheriff gets Gillett SRO contract

The Gillett School Board voted Aug. 15 to authorize administrators to finalize a contract with the Oconto County Sheriff's Department to hire a school resource officer for the district.

The vote was 5-2 with board members Nanette Mohr and Scott Buhrandt abstaining.

"I am excited to get underway discussing how the

Oconto County Sherriff's Department and the Gillett School District can partner around the SRO position to help support our school and community," said Superintendent Nathan Hanson.

Numerous community members spoke about the SRO position, Hanson said. Detective Jamie Kuhn, school resource officer for the Oconto Falls School

District; Deputy Jess Keplinger, the Suring SRO, and Sherriff Todd Skarban also had testimony in support of the new position. Gillett Police Chief Shane Breitenbach was also in attendance to show support.

The district will announce the position once details of the contract are worked out and a candidate is selected for the position, Hanson said.

SUSPECT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

through a factory reset, according to the complaint.

Two weeks later, the suspect was spotted at an RV park in Texas by a concerned citizen who happened to see an Oconto County Sheriff's Office social media post asking for information about Bullock's whereabouts.

When Bullock was brought back into an Oconto County courtroom on Aug. 5, Judge Michael Judge revoked his bail and set a new cash bond of \$1.5 million. During a brief follow-up appearance

Aug. 19, Judge scheduled a preliminary hearing for 10 a.m. Sept. 6.

The pending charges against Bullock allege that he sexually assaulted two women, who are now 19 and 26 years old, for several years each beginning when they were as young as about 7 and 10. In the case involving the hidden camera, he is charged with three counts each of invasion of privacy using a surveillance device and capturing an intimate representation of a victim younger than 18, in con-

nection with incidents that allegedly occurred when one of the young women was 17 years old.

Bullock also has a pending case in Kewaunee County, where he is charged with two counts of first-degree sexual assault of a child younger than 13 and a count of second-degree sexual assault of a child. A new complaint alleging felony bail jumping has also been filed in that county in connection with his flight to Texas.

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Reuss testing well water samples at county fair

Oconto County residents have the opportunity to bring a sample of their well water and have the nitrate quantity analyzed free of charge during this year's county fair.

The well water nitrate testing is being provided by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension and will be conducted by Scott Reuss, regional crops/soils educator.

Reuss will be on hand at the Oconto County Youth Fair in Gillett on Aug. 23 from noon to 6 p.m., at the Extension display, located adjacent to the fair office in the main exhibit building. Normal fair entrance procedures need to be followed by anyone wishing

to deliver a water sample for testing.

Water samples should be collected and transported in a sealed, clean container, although type of container should not affect the test values. Bring at least one cup of drinking water, preferably collected prior to any in-home treatment systems affecting it. The testing process takes only a few minutes to complete. The accompanying display will have maps showing past well water test results, the geological features that create groundwater contamination risk, and other information regarding various water quality concerns that homeowners may have.

Nitrates are very commonly found in the groundwater in our region due to sandy native soils. Human activities tend to lead to increasing nitrate content in groundwater, with shallow wells or sand points having a much higher chance of seeing elevated levels. Nitrates can become elevated to potentially dangerous levels due to nitrogen fertilizer leaching through the soil, septic systems, manure application, and other potential issues.

Samples should be labeled with the person's name and contact information. Pre-registration is not required, but for more information, contact Reuss at 715-732-7510, 715-701-0966 or scott.reuss@wisc.edu.

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Revised policy not a big change, school board says

State had already implemented rules regarding discrimination against transgender students

BY WARREN BLUHM
News editor

A policy revision regarding discrimination on the basis of sex caused some discussion at the Aug. 12 meeting of the Oconto Falls School Board, with school district officials and board members saying the written policy only reflects the district's current practices.

Like many area school districts, Oconto Falls contracts with a company called Neola, which crafts "legally compliant and customizable policies and guidelines for school boards and staff," according to its website. The latest policy was an update of the policy regarding "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Program or Activities," based on recent revisions in federal Title IX rules.

Several states have filed lawsuits challenging the rule's provisions regarding discrimination against transgender students. A half-dozen residents expressed concerns that the new policy's language was too vague or could lead to biological males being permitted to use girls facilities or compete in girls sports.

Superintendent Dean Hess said that much of the way Oconto Falls has been doing business relative to

this topic is unaffected because the state of Wisconsin had already implemented rules against gender identity discrimination before the federal changes.

The school district has worked with all students and their families to ensure they have access and support, he said.

"We respect our students, and we want to ensure that all of our students have access to our programming and our activities," Hess said. "In the last nine years that I've been here at the district, we've not had any complaints; we have had situations, however, where we've worked with students and their parents when concerns have been brought forward relative to access to activities or programming."

The issues regarding bathrooms and locker rooms are not actually part of the legislation, he said.

"What the legislation is saying is that the expectation of a school district is that you are being thoughtful to all of your students, being respectful, and not being involved in discrimination and harassment based on sexual stereotypes, characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, orientation or identity," Hess said.

The district and the

school board's policy committee worked with Neola to understand the ramifications and get multiple perspectives on the new policy, which basically identifies how to handle any complaints that might come up, he said.

"This is really about trying to be thoughtful and respectful of all of our students," Hess said.

"What has been brought forward, the school district has been doing already, so it's not like we're implementing something that we have not already been doing," Board member Bryan Baumlner said.

Hess added that he has "no reason to believe that this board of education at this point is wanting to integrate bathrooms or locker rooms between children. I do believe it's the board's intent to continue what we have been doing as a district, which is when we have situations like this — as we stated earlier — we work with the student ... to try and come up with an alternative, and up to this point we've been successful at that."

While he's aware of "what could happen," Hess said the district's approach to date has worked fairly well.

"Thus far in Oconto Falls, the students and their

families have been appreciative of the work to try and provide them with an area that they could use the facilities and not feel uncomfortable and not make other people feel uncomfortable," he said. "I'm not going to say we're not going to run into challenges down the road. With that stated, I think that the work that we do here, the work we do every day, helps to lay the foundation for being in a

stronger place legally than if we don't."

President Clint Gardebrecht said the board takes the issue very seriously.

"I do appreciate everyone who came in to talk on the topic; it doesn't fall on deaf ears," Gardebrecht said. "I think the district has done a good job of, when unique circumstances come up, to ensure that we don't run into situations (and) we work it out with families

and resolve the situation where we don't put anyone at risk, regardless of who that person is."

The board unanimously approved the updated policy.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Aug. 17, on a 5-4 vote, rejected the Biden-Harris administration's request to be allowed to temporarily enforce most of the new Title IX rules while its appeals continued.

Defense attorney reappointed

BY WARREN BLUHM
News editor

An Oconto man accused of the repeated sexual assault of a young girl agreed Aug. 15 to have his former defense attorney reappointed to the case.

David SanRoman, 48, had asked that Michael Scholke be allowed to withdraw Aug. 5 even after Oconto County Judge Michael Judge warned that he is not inclined to postpone an Oct. 30 trial.

Scholke is the only candidate on the ballot to become the new Florence County district attorney to succeed Douglas Drexler, who is retiring. At the time, SanRoman agreed that Scholke should step aside as his attorney

because of the related time constraints.

At the follow-up hearing Aug. 15, SanRoman acknowledged issues reaching out for new counsel. Judge again advised the defendant that he intends to go forward with the trial because he has to balance the rights of the defendant with those of the alleged victim, who has endured a mistrial and several postponements since charges were first filed four years ago. Scholke has agreed to be reappointed, Judge said.

SanRoman is charged in Oconto County Circuit Court with two counts of first-degree sexual assault of a child under age 13, two counts of first-degree sexual assault of a child under age 12, and one count of second-

degree sexual assault of a child, all charging him as a persistent repeater, in connection with incidents that allegedly occurred from 2016 to 2020. He also faces two felony bail jumping charges in connection with incidents that allegedly happened Jan. 17, 2020, and Aug. 24, 2020.

The defendant has been in custody in lieu of \$250,000 cash bond since September 2020. The case went to trial in April 2020 but ended with a mistrial after a witness testified about a report that apparently had not been shared with the defense. The re-trial has been postponed four times already, including once when SanRoman asked that a previous attorney be replaced.

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It's fair time in Oconto County

Oconto County Youth Fair continues through Aug. 25 at Zippel Park in Gillett



Eden Beschta, of Willing Workers 4-H, puts her gelding through his paces Aug. 17 at the Oconto County Fair Youth Horse Show.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



Carston Beschta, of Willing Workers 4-H, holds the flag while Kate Pytleski sings the national anthem Aug. 17 to open the Oconto County Fair Youth Horse Show at Zippel Park in Gillett.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Zippel Park in Gillett has been bustling with activity this week in anticipation of the annual Oconto County Youth Fair.

As has been the case in recent years, the Oconto County Fair Junior Horse Show was staged Aug. 17, along with the shows for dogs, cats and small animals, with most of the main fair events and activities held Aug. 22-25.

Much of the schedule will be familiar to longtime fair attendees, with the various animal barns and shows, rides and games,

live music and a variety of horse and tractor pulls at the grandstand.

New this year are the long-awaited upgraded show ring and a swine show featuring exhibitors with special needs, scheduled after the Friday goat show at approximately 5 p.m.

The open class (non-animal) exhibits moved into the Exhibition Building on Monday and Tuesday, and the barns started filling up on Wednesday with check-ins and weigh-ins. The next three days consist of the various shows, beginning with

the pigs on Thursday morning.

The Friday grandstand event is a 4X4 tractor pull at 7 p.m. Aug. 23. On Saturday, a draft horse pull is scheduled at 9 a.m., and tractor pulls get underway at 6 p.m.

For exhibitors, the big events are the formal show at 7 p.m. Aug. 24, and the Livestock Sale of Champions Auction starts at noon Aug. 25.

Carnival rides are scheduled to operate 5:30-10 p.m. Thursday, noon to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.



Macie Reed, of Suring FFA, accepts the grand champion banner from Fairest of the Fair Grace Seefeldt after the halter judging at the Oconto County Fair Youth Horse Show on Aug. 17.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



The crowd waits for judging results Aug. 17 during the Oconto County Youth Horse Show.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



Bode Koenig, of Lena Rocketeers 4-H, approaches Judge Ashley Reeck with his gelding during the Oconto County Fair Youth Horse Show on Aug. 17.

WARREN BLUHM | NEW MEDIA



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9:00PM	PATIO SET & \$1,000 CASH
10:00PM	\$4,000 CASH WINNER
11:00PM	PATIO SET & \$1,000 CASH
12:00AM	\$5,000 CASH WINNER

Shawano ponders alternative revenue

Vehicle fees, stormwater utility, referendum among ideas

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Budget season is in full swing at Shawano City Hall, but officials are looking beyond 2025 as they try to sustain the current level of services to city residents. City Administrator Eddie Sheppard told the Shawano Common Council on Aug. 14 that revenue restraints are prompting officials to look at several other options to receive funding and deal with soaring costs on everything in recent years.

“On operations, we’re restricted, and that’s really been exacerbated over the last few years with increasing costs,” Sheppard said. “We’re a large consumer, so when things cost more, they cost more to us, as well. We’re really in a time where we need to identify alternative revenue streams to offset some of our operational costs.”

Shawano’s not alone with this problem, according to Sheppard, as municipalities everywhere are feeling the pinch. He suggested three things that would provide additional revenue not restricted by the state that would allow standard operations in the city to keep going.

Sheppard’s first suggestion was a vehicle registration fee that could be up to \$40 per vehicle.

“More and more cities are doing that,” Sheppard said. “In fact, there are currently 41 who have implemented vehicle registration fees as revenues to help offset their street maintenance work. I would anticipate that number to grow, if not double, in the next couple of years as municipalities are feeling the crunch.”

Sheppard said the funding could pay for things like snowplowing, pothole patchwork and more. He noted that street work, not counting capital projects, takes up about \$1 million in the city’s budget currently.

The second suggestion was developing a stormwater utility. Sheppard noted that the idea had been floated by the city before he came along, but the matter

is getting more attention as funding tightens.

“Why that’s relevant in our situation is because, when our city reaches 10,000 people, we have to operate under what is known as an MS-4 permit, which brings along a bunch of other requirements that are going to be costly for the city to address,” Sheppard said.

Among those requirements are paving alleys, pretreating stormwater before it hits the Wolf River and more. With those future costs, the current batch of money received from state aid and property taxes won’t cut it, Sheppard said.

“You can’t use it to offset anything that you’re doing now,” he said. “It’s only for costs above and beyond what we have today.”

The current population for Shawano is 9,236, according to the latest U.S. Census estimates released in May. However, with new homes being placed where the old Shawano Medical Center used to be, more new homes east of Shawano Community High School under construction and other projects designed to bring more people to live in the city, Shawano could reach 10,000 people in the future.

Even with all the new construction in the city, that’s not translating into more revenue, according to Sheppard. Shawano is expecting a maximum increase in the revenue limit of \$160,000 this year due to the state’s formula for determining levy limits.

Sheppard’s third suggestion was to have the city go out for an operational referendum, similar to what area school districts have been doing. The city would ask voters to allow it to exceed its revenue limit by a certain amount for several years and then would have to ask for a renewal at the end of the term, if necessary.

“We haven’t talked about that,” he said. “We haven’t seen a need for that because we’ve been able to manage our annual increases by being efficient and cutting costs where we can.”

However, the cost of doing business has exceeded what the city sees in annual revenue increases. Sheppard noted that the revenue increase is less than 1%, but inflation has increased costs by 3.8%.

He added the problem has prompted more municipalities to ask for an operational referendum. In the most recent August election, there were eight Wisconsin municipalities that had a referendum on the ballot, he said.

“In the past, referendums for operations would have seemed to be crazy,” Sheppard said. “Unfortunately, there are people who have exhausted all their other revenue options, and the only way they can continue manage their ongoing costs that are increasing for their people, and the materials they’re buying, and all the stuff they do on a daily basis is to ask the community to go outside that limit.”

Sheppard added that the city is expected to look over its operational budget in the next few weeks, and the suggestions he presented could be part of the discussion.

“We can no longer continue to hammer the levy for everything,” Sheppard said. “It’s in the city’s best interest to look at other alternatives to find revenues to soften that blow.”

Mayor Bruce Milavitz recommended the council members talk with people in their districts to look at what alternatives would work for them. He noted that while the city’s growth presents a lot of excitement, the restrictions on increasing funding hurts the city as it transitions into the future.

“We can’t take advantage,” Milavitz said. “Our services are stretched out on a larger base.”

Milavitz noted that Shawano is being seen as a test city for discussing alternative funding.

“We’re a perfect example of up-and-coming large growth, but our tax base is not able to keep up,” Milavitz said.

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Shopko Optical opens in Shawano

By **KEVIN PASSON**
Editor-in-Chief

Shopko Optical opened a new location in Shawano as the company continues to expand its operation of more than 140 stores in 13 states.

The store is located at 1056 E. Green Bay St. It provides eye exams, contact lens fittings and other

eye care services.

Shopko Optical is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Prospective patients can check insurance coverage and book an appointment online at www.shopko.com/eye-care/wi/shawano/store-304.

“We are thrilled to

join the Shawano community,” said Lukas Ruecker, Shopko Optical CEO.

“With this new location, we can better serve the needs of the community and continue to provide the patient-centric care that Shopko Optical is known for.”

Shawano’s Shopko Optical can be reached at 715-990-2054.



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Tyler and MacKenzie Stewart started their homestead near Tigerton in 2020, and when they saw their new home came with a lot of equipment to make syrup, they saw an opportunity to add some liquid assets to their future.

KAY REMINGER

Stewarts saps for syrup produced on homestead

Tigerton family tapping thousands of trees to keep business flowing

By KAY REMINGER
Correspondent

Tyler and MacKenzie Stewart, owners of The Stewart Homestead, are head over heels in love with maple syrup.

Growing up as a young boy, Tyler Stewart's family always tapped maple trees. When he went off to college, the Stewart family switched from a bucket/bag system to vacuum lines for efficiency. Between the families, there are now roughly 3,300 taps on vacuum line, with an additional 2,600 being added this year.

In 2020, Tyler and MacKenzie Stewart purchased the property, located at W15610 Fairmorr Road, Tigerton, where they currently reside. Between the taps on their own land as well as Tyler Stewart's family and local neighbors, they are now able to cook in much larger volume.

Offering various maple syrup products at the homestead such as regular, bourbon-barrel aged, various infused flavors, maple sugar, new maple coffee; all but the coffee are made at the homestead.

Graduating from UW-Platteville with a business administration degree, MacKenzie Stewart combined that with a double emphasis in sales and marketing communication.

"While I'm extremely thankful and proud of my degree, I'm the first to say that the experience I've gained in the actual sales/marketing fields have taught me more than I could have ever learned from my degree," she said.

With his own building and construction safety management degree from UW-Platteville, Tyler Stewart handles



Dozens of bottles filled with maple syrup sit at the homestead ready to be sold as the wall nearby states, "Life is too short for fake maple syrup."

KAY REMINGER

the blue collar grunt work end of their partnership. He's worked for others in the building industry right out of high school and decided this year to branch out on his own as a self-employed contractor.

"We're continuously looking for ways to make our processes better," Tyler Stewart said. "Whether that means upgrading our equipment or figuring out better systems for processes already in place,

we're always looking to improve."

MacKenzie Stewart said it helped to have others in western Shawano County to help them with the learning curve, crediting Ryan and Becky Hauser from Sweet Timber Maple in Tigerton and Andy and Kourtney Sippl from Sippl's Sugarbush in Birnamwood to work out

SYRUP, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CuddleCot helps family grieve loss of newborns

Couple raise money to get one in Shawano, other ThedaCare facilities

Angel and Garrett Carter have one wish — to grow their family.

To say they've gone through more anguish than a couple should to achieve that dream is an understatement. They've lost three babies to premature birth.

Married in 2017, the Carters were ready to start their family in 2019. Angel Carter's gynecologist cautioned it might be difficult for her to conceive because she had endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome.

Endometriosis is a disease in which tissue similar to the lining of the uterus grows outside the uterus. It can cause severe pain in the pelvis and make it harder to get pregnant. Polycystic ovary syndrome is a chronic hormonal condition that affects women of reproductive age and can cause cysts to develop on the ovaries.

After attempting for more than a year, their doctors suggested in vitro fertilization. The Carters agreed to try that option. Eggs were retrieved from Angel Carter's ovaries and readied for fertilization to become embryos.

In 2021, their second embryo transfer was successful, and Angel Carter was pregnant. After the first trimester (12 weeks), they began sharing their good news with family and friends and preparing a nursery. Tragedy struck at 21 weeks. Their first baby, a son they named Nolan, was born prematurely and lived for only about an hour.

"The hospital offered us the opportunity to use a CuddleCot to extend the time we could spend with our son," said Angel Carter. "We are forever grateful for that precious time."

A CuddleCot is a cooling pad that is placed in a bassinet and filters cold water at a consistent temperature to preserve the quality of the infant's body. It gives the baby's family more time to say goodbye to their child. For the Carters, having the extra time with their son was a gift they could barely comprehend.

Unfortunately, because of unusual medical problems, the Carters experienced similar losses with two more IVF pregnancies. A daughter, Brooklynn, was

CUDDLECOT, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

ONLINE

Anyone wanting to donate for CuddleCots can do so at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/a-wish-to-grantsupport-angel-garretts-cuddlecot-donation?qid=b1fed3c776b3c890a0802e9d9f46f91f>.



A CuddleCot is a cooling pad that is placed in a bassinet and filters cold water at a consistent temperature to preserve the quality of the infant's body. It gives the baby's family more time to say goodbye to their child.

CONTRIBUTED

Red-headed woodpecker regularly comes to visit

When people ask what is my favorite bird, it is like asking which is my favorite child. I have different choices for different reasons — perhaps their beauty, melodic singing or silly personality. One bird that I always include in my answer is the red-headed woodpecker.

I seldom saw red-headed woodpeckers until 15 years ago when I drove through Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. It is a 43,696-acre wonderland, in the middle of the state, with a wide variety of wildlife, plants and waterways that support an amazing 230 bird species.

On my first visit, I came upon an oak savanna, a combination of trees and open space, and quickly learned that this is where red-headed woodpeckers hang out. I counted not just one or two, but close to a dozen, as I slowly proceeded through the savanna. Hearing their raucous calls and watching their entertaining antics as they flew from snag to snag, I felt in awe of this magnificent bird.

Since then, I go to Necedah National Wildlife Refuge every summer, and these remarkable birds never disappoint. In fact, when I tell my family, “I’m going to get my red-headed woodpecker fix,” they know where I’m off to.

This year, something entirely new happened. It was late spring. I looked out my back window, and I couldn’t believe my eyes. There, on my suet feeder,



A red-headed woodpecker makes itself at home at a bird feeder in columnist Lisa Jansen’s backyard in Green Bay. Sightings of this type of woodpecker are on the rise in northeast Wisconsin.

LISA JANSEN



Lisa Jansen
Columnist

was a red-headed woodpecker, and it has been coming to my feeder almost every day since, and not only to my feeder. All around the state, people

are reporting red-headed woodpeckers, a first for most. Although it seems that it is great news, it makes me wonder why.

While the red-headed woodpecker is considered a common bird, its population has been declining at an average of 6% every year for the last 50 years. This is mostly due to habitat loss. According to avibirds.com, “Artificial

nest cavities, preservation of dead trees and establishment of new nesting sites are critical for supporting and potentially increasing the red-headed woodpecker population.”

Elena West, a University of Minnesota biologist, is studying red-headed woodpecker populations in Minnesota. She is using autonomous recording units, small devices you

strap to a tree to record sounds, and artificial intelligence to pick out recorded sounds, to learn where red-headed woodpecker populations are breeding successfully. Her findings will help drive habitat restoration and conservation efforts for the species.

Adult male and female red-headed woodpeckers look alike. They sport a completely red head, glossy black back with white wing patches, and a snow-white belly and rump. When they fly, the contrasting white and black really stand out, helping in their identification.

Red-headed woodpeckers have very unique feeding strategies. Like flycatchers, they perch on a branch, then take off into the air snatching insects mid-flight, then return to the same branch to eat their catch. This is called “sallying.”

They also eat nuts and fruits. They are one of only four woodpecker species known to store food. Even more impressive, they are the only woodpecker species that hides its cached food (in bark and wood) and the only woodpecker that defends its food stash from meddling birds and small mammals.

The red-headed woodpecker is both a “larder-hoarder” and a “scatter-hoarder.” When it finds a bunch of nuts, it will hide them all in one place (the larder), so that it can quickly collect the nuts before other nut-eaters come

along. Then later, it will move and store the nuts in many different scattered locations to prevent a competitor from stealing it all.

I have learned so much about my new backyard visitor. For starters, he is very territorial. He takes total control as to which birds can and cannot hang out at “my” feeders. For those he deems unworthy, he will chase not only away from the feeder, but also through the woods back and forth and all around, to ensure the poor outcast is totally aware it is unwelcome. When he does this, he is not only seen, but also heard.

He has a wide variety of calls including shrills and kwirrs, chirps and char-chars. The rolling kwirr is sweet, but some calls remind me of the guttural sounds I hear when I try to wake up my teenager in the morning.

Regardless of his feeding station dictatorship, I welcome him to my backyard. I watch as he gracefully maneuvers through the branches. I listen as he calls out, commanding all to hear. I admire him as he sallies for insects and defends his food stash. I revel in the flash of white and black as he flies. I become mesmerized by his crimson red head. I am once again in awe of this magnificent bird.

Lisa Jansen is a Wisconsin master naturalist, nature writer and award-winning photographer. She specializes in raising awareness of birds and butterflies of the Midwest.

SYRUP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

any issues.

“We wouldn’t be where we are today without them,” MacKenzie Stewart said. “Maple syrup is a craft and a tricky product to master. Knowledge and experience from other syrup producers is something we are extremely grateful for.”

The Stewarts noted a yearly inspection is needed to obtain their food processing permit, which allows them to bottle their product. Along with this inspection, a water test is performed yearly to ensure the safety of their water and a potential recall plan. The inspection includes an overall, deep look into their processes and facility.

“With producing a

“I think the biggest part is knowing that every drop of our product not only tells a story of hard work but also portrays a love of the land and where we live as well as how we’re utilizing that. We want people to know that when they enjoy our product they not only are tasting something sweet, they are experiencing a piece of our family and a little bit of the wilderness we call home.”

MACKENZIE STEWART, co-owner of the Stewart Homestead

product people consume, safety is something that is extremely important to us,” MacKenzie Stewart said. “We go through a lot of hoops to make sure that we’re doing everything correctly.”

Cooking everything themselves, they’re often in

need of a few helping hands during season. Tyler Stewart’s dad helps out during cooking, and the son helps the father with sap lines and season prep work.

“A couple of cousins and uncles add to the fun whenever they’re able to pitch in,” Tyler Stewart said.

Both work full-time. Tyler is a self-employed contractor, and MacKenzie is a marketing specialist at Marion Body Works. Married five years this September, the Stewarts have two children, daughter Mayven, 3, and son Abel, 6 months. The kids adapt well with

the craziness that comes each spring, typically with little Abel strapped on his mother’s back while she’s filling orders or chasing a 3-year-old around the sugar shack.

“Our days are crazy busy,” MacKenzie Stewart said. “Between working full-time, running two businesses and trying to raise two genuinely good kids, our home has become our safe place for our family of four.”

Long-range plans include expand selling to restaurants and retailers. Also, they’d like to remodel the syrup shack to make it more efficient. Almost tripling their production but working in the same footprint,

they are cramped.

“I think the biggest part is knowing that every drop of our product not only tells a story of hard work but also portrays a love of the land and where we live as well as how we’re utilizing that,” MacKenzie Stewart said. “We want people to know that when they enjoy our product they not only are tasting something sweet, they are experiencing a piece of our family and a little bit of the wilderness we call home. Family is so important to us.”

The Stewarts can be reached at 920-980-2408 or via their Facebook page at thestewarthomestead.llc. Their website is www.thestewarthomestead.com.

CUDLECOT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

stillborn at 20 weeks, and another son, Grant, was born at 25 weeks and lived for only 22 minutes.

For Brooklynn, the hospital’s CuddleCot was not working at the time, so the hospital used ice packs to prolong the time Angel and Garrett could spend with her. For Grant’s birth at ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah, a CuddleCot was available, and the Carters had extended time with their son.

As the couple began grieving their son, they knew the response from their friends and family would be extensive.

“When someone experiences a tragic loss, people often don’t know what to say, so they send gifts,” said Angel Carter. “The outpouring of support we received from family, friends and co-workers after our previous losses had been tremendous, but we didn’t need money or gift cards. We had all the

emotional and physical support we needed from our families.”

The Carters noted they just wanted time with their baby, and CuddleCot gave them that option.

“While we were at the hospital, one of our nurses mentioned that the CuddleCot supporting grant had been donated by a couple who’d also lost a daughter prematurely — ironically also named Brooklyn,” Angel Carter said. “That made

us wonder — what did a CuddleCot cost? Could we donate something like that in honor of our babies that would make an impact for other families? We decided to create a GoFundMe account. We wanted to do something that would give back to others.”

“We wanted to ‘pay it forward,’” Garrett Carter said. “Unfortunately, we are not the only parents who will go through an experience like this. If we

can do something to help someone else in the future, that’s what we were hoping for, and it’s a way for Nolan, Brooklynn and Grant to be remembered and acknowledged.”

A recent review shows the GoFundMe account has raised more than \$10,000. A Wish For Grant — Support Angel and Garrett’s CuddleCot Donation is still open and active.

Angel and Garrett Carter are now working with Morgan Fuller, re-

gional development director with the ThedaCare Family of Foundations, to determine the final use of their funds.

“For now, we know that our fund will provide a CuddleCot for ThedaCare hospitals in Berlin and Shawano, which previously didn’t have them,” Garrett Carter said. “We are also exploring possibly supporting a second CuddleCot for ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah.”

‘Recycled’ squirrel tails become fishing lures

Most of us have been recycling glass, plastic, cardboard, paper and other materials for decades.

An Antigo business that makes world-renowned fishing lures “recycles” squirrel and deer tails to dress their spinners.

It was a lucky brush with World War II vet Frank Velek back in 1951 that turned Sheldons Inc. founder Todd Sheldon’s bad fishing day on the Wolf River into a life-changing one. Velek had returned from Europe two years earlier and gave Sheldon a French-made Mepps spinner. Sheldon tied the lure onto his line and in two hours had four trout weighing more than 12 pounds. Word soon spread about the amazing lure, and Sheldon began ordering them for his Antigo bait shop directly from the Mepps factory in France.

The imported lure, invented by French engineer Andre Muelnart in 1938, continued to grow in popularity with fishermen on the Wolf and far beyond, catching multiple fish species as it still does today. Sheldon sold his bait shop in 1956 and formed Sheldons’ Inc., which today is run by his son, Mike Sheldon. Todd Sheldon died in 1995 at the age of 81.



Ross Bielema
Columnist

By 1960, United States sales of this bladed lure topped half a million, and the founder then set a goal of selling 3 million.

“My dad set that mark, because that was more than any lure had ever sold on this continent,” Mike Sheldon explained in a written history of the company available at www.mepps.com. “Our sales went sailing right past that goal.”

Another happy chance encounter with a young local angler turned a good lure into an even better one and created the demand for squirrel and deer tails.

The elder Sheldon had caught another creel of trout with his Mepps spinners in the early 1960s when he returned to his car. On the way, he chatted with a young boy who also caught a limit of trout, but his fish were much larger. The boy had added a small tuft of squirrel tail to the treble hook. Sheldon took the idea and ran with it, experimenting with both squirrel and deer tail dressings on his lures.



Sheldons’ Inc. of Antigo, creator of Mepps fishing lures, uses thousands of squirrel and deer tails each year to dress their famed spinners. Sheldons’ employee Judy Zupon of Antigo shows off a few of the dyed tails in the 50,000-square-foot factory.

ROSS BIELEMA

Some are used in their natural colors, while others are dyed blue, black, yellow and other colors. You can still buy them today with or without the tail dressing.

Sheldons’ continues to experiment with lure designs and colors, launching new products each year that will catch

fish and anglers alike. For example, they have added a plastic minnow body to the spinner that is offered in multiple minnow colors (called the Comet Mino, Aglia Long Mino and Black Fury Mino).

Their catalogs are full of tips on which colors and designs to use in varying types of water

and habitat.

Can’t decide which lures to buy because of the overwhelming color and size options? Pick up or order “Killer Kits,” which offer convenient six-packs of the most popular lures for panfish, trout, bass, salmon, walleye and even specific fishing areas, such as Alaska and Canada.

Sheldons’ acquired the French Mepps operation in 1972, and added Louisiana-based plastic lure giant Mister Twister to the fold in 1982. Sales of the new Mister Twister Sassy Shad contributed greatly to the company’s skyrocketing growth, and Sheldons’ continues to remain a top lure manufacturer.

Although high-grade French components like metal blades and hooks are used for assembly, Mepps lures are all hand-assembled, packaged and shipped from Antigo by the company’s 30 employees in the 50,000-square-foot factory and world headquarters, explained communications director Nik Kolbeck.

Hunters from all 50 states contribute red, gray and fox squirrel tails as well as deer tails. The tails are sorted and graded by size and color, washed in bags inside a washing machine and

then dyed or used in their natural state to dress the treble or single hooks. Hunters receive 12-25 cents per tail, depending on size and species. If you agree to trade for lures, you will receive double the value. Mepps will cover your normal shipping costs if you ship 50 or more at a time (go to www.mepps.com/squirrel-tail for full details).

Cindy Kielman, a 38-year employee who used to work from home for Sheldons’ before coming to the factory, is the default squirrel tail expert. She urges hunters not to wrap their tails in plastic because the moisture will rot them. She’s seen many nasty arrivals that included bugs and other issues. Freezing tails with the bones in (never strip the bones or they are worthless) is the best way to store them before shipping. Keep them straight and salt the cut end generously.

Feel free to call this friendly Langlade County business at 800-637-7700 if you have any questions about their world-renowned lures or the fine art of recycling tails.

Ross Bielema is a freelance writer from New London and owner of Wolf River Concealed Carry LLC. Readers can contact him at ross@wolfriverccw.com.



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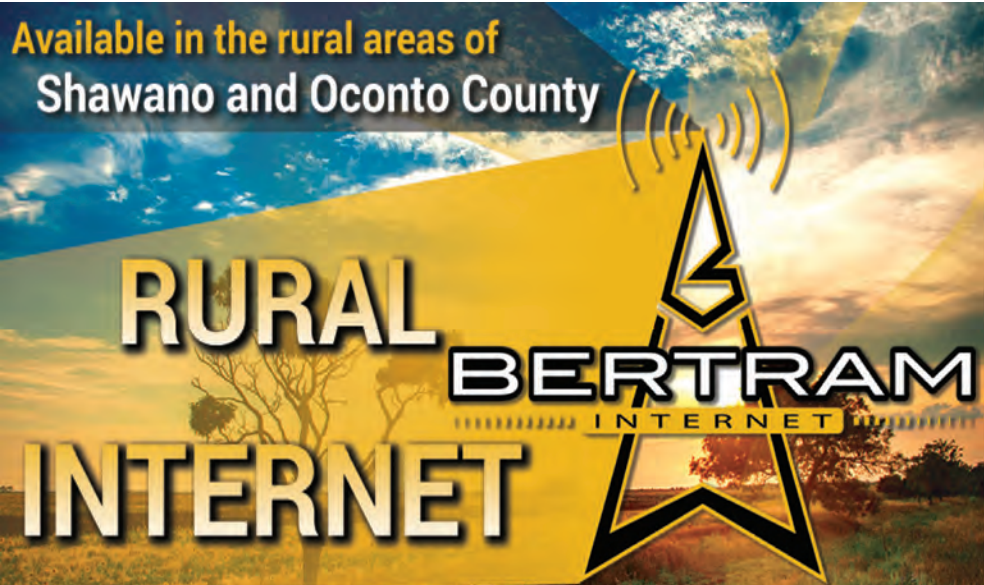
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Headstones event looks at Korean War veterans

The Shawano County Historical Society and the Shawano Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Shawano American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War, and AMVETS, will be presenting another program in the Headstones series on the Shawano veterans of the

Korean War at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Shawano. Starting in front of the chapel, historical society representatives will give a brief talk on the cause of the war and then bring to life five Shawano veterans who fought in that war, including Orline

Heling, Fredrick Melhorn, Oliver W. Hottenstein, Orle S. Bergner and Floyd Hartwig. Docents will tell their stories by these lantern-lit gravesites so the public can understand what it was like to fight in this war to stop communism and free the South Korean

people. The evening will with a 21-gun salute, blowing of “Taps,” and handing a folded American flag to a veteran’s widow. Afterward, the chapel will open for people to see a display of artifacts from the time period. The event is 1½ hours.

Dennis Bohm, AMVETS Post 10 commander, presents \$5,000 to Shawano County Historical Society representatives, from left, Tom Aumann, Headstones program chairman; Jesse Borlen, historical society president; and Headstones program volunteers Stacie Robbins and Amy Casetta. The donation comes from the post’s honor guard fund, and the funds will be used to honor military veterans through programming and displays, such as the Headstones series.

CONTRIBUTED



CMN announces Next-Gen Mini-Grant Program winners

The College of Menominee Nation (CMN), in collaboration with Indigenous Advise LLC, announces the recipients of the 2024 Next-Gen Mini-Grant Program. This initiative, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, aims to empower tribal communities in Wisconsin by supporting projects focused on natural resources, sustainable foods and nutrition. The Next-Gen Mini-Grant Program, with a total of \$60,000 allocated for 2024, seeks to enhance food

sovereignty, promote sustainable practices and build capacity in Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences within the 12 Native American tribes of Wisconsin. This year, the program awarded 12 mini-grants to several projects from six of Wisconsin’s 11 federally-recognized tribal communities. For a detailed list of the 2024 winners and summaries of their projects, visit <https://www.menominee.edu/nextgen-grants>. Among the recipients

are: • Ancient Roots Homestead in Bowler is dedicated to researching and preserving traditional Indigenous gardening practices, seed saving and food preservation techniques. Through workshops, community partnerships and hands-on experiences, they aim to reconnect community members with ancestral knowledge, emphasizing sustainable living and cultural preservation. By fostering intergenerational learning and promoting

traditional trade routes, Ancient Roots Homestead seeks to inspire others to embrace self-sufficiency and honor their heritage for future generations. • Sterling Schreiber Jr. operates a sustainable agriculture business on the Stockbridge-Munsee Indian Reservation, focusing on local produce and honey sales, including to the Tribal Elder Food Box Program. The mission emphasizes small-scale agricultural practices to enhance food sovereignty

and security within tribal communities. Through the Northern Climate Honey-bee Improvement Initiative, he aims to breed local honeybee queens adapted to northern climates without medications or chemicals, promoting resilience and supporting backyard beekeeping among community members. “The response to the Next-Gen Mini-Grant Program has been incredibly positive,” said Geraldine Sanapaw, College of Menominee Nation chief

academic officer and Next-Gen principal investigator. “The diversity and creativity of the projects submitted highlight the commitment of our tribal communities to food sovereignty and sustainability.” The selected projects were evaluated based on their relevance to program goals, clarity and feasibility of the project plan, potential community impact, sustainability, budget justification and level of community involvement and support.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, AUG. 23

GILLET: Oconto County Youth Fair, 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., Zippel Park. Beef show 10 a.m., carnival rides noon to 10 p.m., Ken and Kris Band 3-7 p.m., 4x4 truck pulls 7 p.m., Rapid Transit band 7-11 p.m.

SHAWANO: Smalley Beach Bash, 2-7 p.m., Smalley Park, 211 Riverside Park. Food trucks, giant inflatables, DJ/karaoke, tubing with the Shawano Ski Sharks, Popsicles with Shawano area police, crafts with the Shawano Library.

TIGERTON: Lumberjack Days, 6 p.m., Community Park, 236 Pine St. Bean bag tournament 6 p.m., kids Hot Wheel races 6:30 p.m.

SURING: Recovery Talking Circle, 6-8 p.m. South Branch Community Center, W1281 County Road M.

SATURDAY, AUG. 24

SHAWANO: FRESH Project Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to noon, Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St.

SHIOCTON: Clay Shoot Fundraiser for Navarino Nature Center, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., J&H Game Farm, W5810 J&H Road. Shooter prizes, raffle items, food available at J&H headquarters. \$30 fee, reentry \$20. Registration online at www.navarino.org/sporting-clay-shoot or at the door.

GILLET: Oconto County Youth Fair, 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., Zippel Park. Dairy show 9 a.m., draft horse pull 9 a.m., carnival rides noon to 10 p.m., cake auction 3 p.m., music by Leo G 3:30-6:30 p.m., tractor pulls 6 p.m., exhibitor/formal show 7 p.m., music by Jordan Blanchard 8-11:30 p.m.

TIGERTON: Lumberjack Days, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Community Park, 236 Pine St. Strongman/Woman Contest 2 p.m., kids’ bike giveaway and activities, free corn roast, bean bag tournament 10 a.m. Live music with Tim Brandt 2 p.m. and Cousin Lou and the Redeux 6 p.m. Lumberjack Princess crowned between bands, approximately 5:30 p.m. Food and refreshments, bucket raffles, 5 p.m. drawing.

NAVARINO: Mushroom Hike with

Wisconsin Mycological Society, 10 a.m. to noon, Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Free to members, \$5 non-members; registration required at navarino.org or 715-758-6999.

OCONTO: Pig Roast for Veterans Memorial, 1 p.m., Patriot’s Pub and Grub, 126 Huron Ave. Meat and three sides (beans, slaw and macaroni/potato salad) \$20.

SHAWANO: Naberhood Block Party, 5:30-8 p.m., 214 S. Main St. Foocoustics.

SHAWANO: Stock car racing, 6-10 p.m., Shawano Speedway, 990 E. Green Bay St. Admission \$12 17 and up, \$6 12-16, free 11 and younger with paid adult.

SUNDAY, AUG. 25

SHAWANO: Zurko Promotions Flea Market, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. \$2 admission.

BONDUEL: Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to noon, Mill and Pond streets. Local produce, artisanals, handmade crafts from the Bonduel area.

CECIL: Sacred Heart Catholic Church golf outing, 11 a.m., Golden Sands Golf Course, 300 Nabor Road. Four-person scramble, shotgun start 1 p.m. \$90 per person includes 18 holes, cart, buffet dinner, two drink tickets and 20 raffle tickets. Buffet dinner only, \$30. Register at 715-526-2023.

TIGERTON: Lumberjack Days, 1-6 p.m., Community Park, 236 Pine St. Parade 1 p.m., lumberjack contest 2 p.m., kids’ activities, touch-a-truck, live music with The Drovers 2-6 p.m., \$1,000 raffle, drawing 6 p.m.

GILLET: Oconto County Youth Fair, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Zippel Park. Kiddie showmanship 10 a.m., Livestock Sale of Champions noon, carnival rides noon to 4 p.m., TNT Polka Band noon to 3 p.m.

MONDAY, AUG. 26

SHAWANO: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, Room 4, 100 W. Presbyterian St. Information: Dallas Gast, 715-701-

5388 or dallasgast8@gmail.com.

TUESDAY, AUG. 27

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto County Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., Highland Square.

KESHENA: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. Omaeqnomenewak Wetohkatikamek Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28

SHAWANO: Shawano County Fair, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 990 E. Green Bay St. Opening ceremonies 6 p.m., tractor and truck pulls 6:30 p.m. Bingo, carnival rides, animal auctions, live music.

NEOPIT: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. The Circle House, W6715 Shawpokasic St. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

THURSDAY, AUG. 29

SHAWANO: Shawano County Fair, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 990 E. Green Bay St. Beer and wine judging 6 p.m., Fireworks Over the Fair 8:30 p.m. Bingo, carnival rides, animal auctions, live music.

GILLET: Community Market, 5-7 p.m., Gillett Public Library, 200-204 E. Main St.

SHAWANO: Thursdayz at Franklin, 6-8:30 p.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Music with Star Six Nine.

BOWLER: Native American Talking Circle, 7-9 p.m., Mohican Family Center, N8605 Oak St. Information: Yvonne Burr, 715-326-0891.

FRIDAY, AUG. 30

SURING: Rummage Sale, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 206 N. Burk St.

SURING: Friends of the Suring Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Village Hall Learning Center, 604 E. Main St. Brat fry 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

SURING: 94th annual Labor Day

Celebration, 5-11 p.m., Veterans Memorial Park. WUMPA 4x4 Truck Pull 7 p.m., music, food and refreshments.

SHAWANO: Shawano County Fair, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., 990 E. Green Bay St. Decorated cake auction 5 p.m., livestock auction 6:30 p.m. Bingo, carnival rides, animal auctions, live music.

LITTLE SUAMICO: Little Suamico Days, 5-11 p.m., Town Recreation Park, 1015 County Road J. Softball tournament, music, food, games and activities. All proceeds benefit Little Suamico Recreation Association.

SURING: Recovery Talking Circle, 6-8 p.m. South Branch Community Center, W1281 County Road M.

SATURDAY, AUG. 31

BONDUEL: Amish Consignment and Quilt Auction, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., N4310 Hill Road. Selling in multiple rings: quilts, furniture, crafts, horse-related tack, tools, maple syrup. lawn art, poly furniture, fall mums and more. Quilt preview 7:30-10 a.m., Crafts start 8:30 a.m. Field auction 9 a.m., quilt auction 10 a.m. Furniture noon. Bake sale 8 a.m. and lunch stand available.

SHAWANO: FRESH Project Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to noon, Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St.

SURING: 94th annual Labor Day Celebration, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Veterans Memorial Park. Buy Sell Swap on Ehlinger Street 8 a.m., Chili Cook-Off at Suring Fire Department 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Farm and NEW Hot Farm Tractor Pulls 7 p.m., music, food and refreshments.

SURING: Rummage Sale, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mount Olive Lutheran Church, 206 N. Burk St.

SURING: Friends of the Suring Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Village Hall Learning Center, 604 E. Main St. Brat fry 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

SHAWANO: Shawano County Fair, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., 990 E. Green Bay St. Kiddie tractor pull noon, Dairy Futurity Show 7 p.m. Bingo, carnival rides, animal auctions, live music.

LITTLE SUAMICO: Little Suamico Days, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Town Recreation Park, 1015 County Road J. Softball tournament, music, food, games and activities. Children’s area 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., gun raffle drawing 5 p.m. followed by military appreciation ceremony, fireworks at dusk. All proceeds benefit Little Suamico Recreation Association.

TOWNSEND: Corn Roast Fundraiser, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Old Town Hall, 17767 State Highway 32. Supports Red Arrow Snowmobile-ATV Club. ATV/UTV parade 10:30 a.m. from clubhouse, 16712 Hummingbird Lane, to Old Town Hall, followed by meat raffles, 50/50 raffles, win big raffle, food, beverages and free sweet corn.

SHAWANO: Stock car racing – Championship Night, 6-10 p.m., Shawano Speedway, 990 E. Green Bay St. Admission \$12 17 and up, \$6 12-16, free 11 and younger with paid adult.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1

SHAWANO: Zurko Promotions Flea Market, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. \$2 admission.

BONDUEL: Farmers Market, 8 a.m. to noon, Mill and Pond streets. Local produce, artisanals, handmade crafts from the Bonduel area.

SURING: 94th annual Labor Day Celebration, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., Veterans Memorial Park. Demolition derby noon, fireworks 8:30 p.m., music, food and refreshments.

SHAWANO: Shawano County Fair, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., 990 E. Green Bay St. Demolition derby 1 p.m. Bingo, carnival rides, animal auctions, live music.

MONDAY, SEPT. 2

SURING: 94th annual Labor Day Celebration, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Veterans Memorial Park. Parade 10 a.m., music, food and refreshments.

SHAWANO: Shawano County Fair, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 990 E. Green Bay St. Small animal auction 10 a.m., trailer races 1 p.m. Bingo, carnival rides, animal auctions, live music.

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Shawano Ski Sharks bring an end to their 2024 season



The Shawano Ski Sharks water ski team ended its 2024 run with a final show Aug. 14 at Smalley Park in Shawano. The Ski Sharks also broke a team record, with a little help from water skiers on other teams. In that last show, skiers decided to go out with a bang, putting up the largest pyramid in the nearly 50-year history of the team. The successful year included hosting and winning three first-place awards at the National Ski Show Association Division 2 tournament held Aug. 2-4 on the Wolf River. The Ski Sharks also earned a second-place finish at the Wisconsin State Tournament held July 18-21 on Lake Wazeecha at Red Sand Beach at South Wood County Park near Wisconsin Rapids. Hosted by the Wisconsin Rapids Aqua Skiers, the competition featured more than two dozen teams.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA



High school football season kicks off Aug. 23

A few local high school sports teams have already started competitive play, with the opening night for football coming Aug. 23. Five teams will take to

the field for non-conference action, with all games beginning at 7 p.m. Scheduled games include Shawano hosting Denmark, Bonduel hosting

Wittenberg-Birnamwood, Pulaski hosting Oconomowoc and Oconto Falls traveling to Oconto. Local teams playing 8-player football will first

play Aug. 29, again with all games starting at 7 p.m. On the schedule are Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas at Niagara, Suring at Wausaukee and Menomi-

nee Nation at Wabeno/Laona. Playing at 7 p.m Aug. 30 will be Gillett playing host to Three Lakes/Phelps and Marion/Tigerton hosting

Alma Center Lincoln at Marion. Bowler/Gresham, set to play in the 8-player Mideast Conference, has no schedule posted.

Lena/St. Thomas coaches hope for return to playoffs

Coaches with the Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Titans football program hope to return to the playoffs this fall, following a perfect 8-0 record in the Peninsula Conference last year. Their only defeat was at the hands of Three Lakes in the playoffs. Graduating last year were state all-star linemen Anthony Seefeldt and Colton Skrobel, all-regional linebacker Logan

Graef and all around utility player Dylan Dyer. "These seniors were our anchors on both offense and defense," Dale Lange, who is a co-head coach along with Eddy Huberty. Filling those shoes this year will be returning all-conference first team defensive lineman Colton Miller, second team lineman Lucas Heimke and

defensive back Ty Shallow, along with linebackers Calvin Peters, Max Peterson and Caleb Schlosser. "On the offensive side, all-conference honorable mention lineman Tug Paidl will be the anchor with strong support from Colton Miller at tight end and center Cooper Demmith," Lange said. "Balancing out the line work will be Tim Benser and Blake Behnke. Our

backfield will be filled with two all-conference second team running backs Calvin Peters and Ty Shallow, with Lucas Heimke and Luke Koslowsky also seeing action." Other players filling the building blocks and most likely seeing action are Mason Spice, Roger Cruz and Sam Peterson in the backfield. Filling other positions will be Zander Thompson, Hunter Brief,

Jake Farley, Dominic Paggels and Eddy Kropp. "To be successful, we will need several of our younger players to step up and challenge for some starting positions," Lange said. "We are very balanced with good numbers at all grade levels and will have nice numbers at our JV level." Under a new WIAA realignment plan, Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas and the

other Peninsula Conference teams are now in the Across the Bay Conference (Algoma, Gibraltar, Gillett, NEW Lutheran, Sevastopol, Suring and Lena/St. Thomas). The Titans open the season at 7 p.m. Aug.29 at Niagara. The Titans have been a co-op team for the last 21 seasons and are in their 11th season as an 8-player team.

BADGER AMATEUR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Little Falls, Eland advance to semifinals

Clintonville, Scandinavia will also meet

BY NEW MEDIA STAFF

The semifinals in the Badger Amateur Baseball Association have been set following a series of close games Aug. 18.

In the semifinals, Little Falls will travel to Eland and Clintonville will be at Scandinavia, with both games beginning at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 25.

Little Falls 3 Caroline 0

In the West Division final, it was Little Falls shutting out Caroline 3-0.

Chris Dunn was the winning pitcher, lasting nine innings, striking out 13 and allowing three hits.

Klay Barkow was on the losing end. He pitched 7

1/3 innings while striking out eight, walking five and giving up three hits.

For Little Falls, Cam Gruenwald hit 2-for-3 with a home run, and Parker Gullixon was 1-for-4.

Mike Weatherwax led Caroline hitters, going 2-for-3 at the plate. Tyler Marquardt was 1-for-4.

Clintonville 9 Neopit 8

Clintonville snuck past Neopit 9-8 in the East Division final. Aaron Hoffman pitched only two innings in the win, giving up four runs on three hits.

Clintonville pounded out 12 hits.

Hunter Vollmer was 2-for-4 with a solo home run, and Brock Smejkal was 2-for-5 with an RBI. Turner Doornink hit 2-for-5, and Jaden Doornink hit 2-for-3.

Neopit had eight hits.

Walker Miller was 2-for-2, with each hit being a two-run homer. Daylen

Corn was also 2-for-2, while Wendell Waukau was 1-for-4 with a three-run home run.

Eland 6 Antigo/Polar 2

A pair of Eland batters racked up three home runs as Eland defeated Antigo/Polar 6-2 in the North Division final. Winning on the mound was Tyler Nelson, while Eli Flieshman took the loss.

For Eland, Charlie Woida hit 2-for-4 with a pair of home runs, and Ryan Richter also had a home run. Tyler Nelson hit 2-for-4 with a double.

Antigo/Polar's Wesley Rivera had a home run.

Scandinavia 4 New London 3

In the South Central Division final, Scandinavia outlasted New London 4-3.

Scandinavia scored two runs with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning to advance.



Brett Swedberg (3) finishes second at the WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour King of the Park at Angell Park Speedway in Sun Prairie on Aug. 11.

C-MARQ PHOTOGRAPHY

Swedberg takes second in Sun Prairie

Anvelink leads in Dirt Kings standings

Mike Mullen was crowned King of the WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour King of the Park at Angell Park Speedway in Sun Prairie on Aug. 11.

Mullen and Brad Mueller led the field to the green flag, with Mullen taking the lead from the start. Shawa-

no's Brett Swedberg battled with Mueller for second, eventually taking the position for good on lap four.

The only caution of the night came on lap six, erasing Mullen's advantage over Swedberg. On the restart, Mullen maintained his lead with Swedberg, Mueller, Mitch McGrath and Bonduel's Nick Anvelink rounded out the top five.

Mullen continued to pace the field and pulled ahead to a 1.685-second lead over Swedberg at the halfway point. As the leaders approached

the tail end of the field, Swedberg closed the gap to 0.476 seconds with 10 laps remaining.

Mullen went on to win his sixth WABAM Dirt Kings Late Model Tour race of his career and his second win of the 2024 season.

Swedberg was second followed by McGrath, Anvelink and Sunoco Race Fuels Rookie Chris Oertel.

After round 10 of 16, Anvelink leads in the standings with 360 points, followed by Swedberg with 320 and Lukas Postl with 222.

DAIRYLAND BASEBALL

Hortonville, Waupaca advance to title game

Hortonville and Waupaca will meet at 1:30 p.m. Aug. 25 in Hortonville for the Dairyland Baseball grand championship.

Both teams advanced with wins Aug. 18.

Waupaca defeated Hofa Park 7-1, and Hortonville topped Navarino 4-1 in their semifinal games.

The Navarino Rangers

jumped out to an early lead on Brett Krull's solo home run in the top of the first.

Navarino then stranded eight runners over the next four innings as Hortonville hit a home run of their own in the bottom of the fifth.

The Stars then utilized clutch hitting to add three

runs in the bottom of the sixth. Navarino put the first two runners on in the ninth but failed to plate a run.

Spencer Dauphinee was sharp on the mound only allowing one run on one hit through five innings. James Mutchie picks up the loss as Mike Nomplegi threw 2 1/3 innings.

Girls golf season underway

Pulaski's golf team placed seventh out of seven teams Aug. 16 at the Hilly Haven Golf Course in De Pere in the first Fox River Classic Conference meet of the 2024 season.

The Red Raiders carded a 210, with first-place De Pere at 158.

Scores for Pulaski were 49, 51, 53 and 57.

Junior Morgan Schuh carded a 59.

Bay Conference Mini-Meet No. 1

Shawano golfers kicked off their season Aug. 15 at the Bay Conference Mini-Meet No. 1 at Lake Breeze Golf Course in Winneconne.

The Hawks carded a 196, one stroke behind Seymour.

Bonduel placed sixth out of the seven teams with a 233. Oconto did not complete the meet.

The Hawks were led by senior Sophia Eggert with a 43. She was followed by

senior Lily Glysch with a 46, senior Del Kunze with a 52 and junior Madelyn Moesch with a 55.

Sophomore Grace Pen-sis carded a 62.

Bonduel was led by senior Raina Dworniczak with a 52, followed by sophomore Paige Wolf with a 54, junior Morgan Staszak with a 55 and sophomore Quinn Hartla-ben with a 72.

Junior Ella Thornbor-row carded a 91.

Sharp-tailed grouse hunting season remains closed for 2024

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that although the spring population survey results indicate a slight increase, the sharp-tailed grouse hunting season remains closed for 2024. Permits and applications will not be available or accepted this year.

The recommendation to keep the sharp-tailed grouse hunting season

closed follows the spring 2024 survey data review, historical data trends and scientific models.

This will be the sixth year the season has been closed. Although fall permits will not be issued this year, sharp-tailed grouse will retain their status as a game species, per state law.

Those passionate about Wisconsin's historical

tradition of sharp-tailed grouse hunting should be encouraged by the significant partnerships in the northwestern part of the state and the positive impact those partnerships have on the barrens habitat critical to sharp-tailed grouse populations.

More information is available at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/hunt/sharptailgrouse>.

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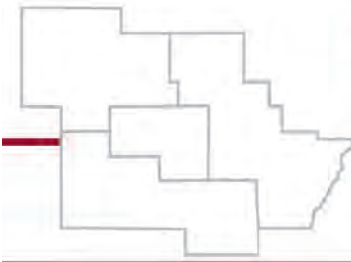
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Services

WCAN (Wisconsin Community Ad Network) and/or the member publications review ads to the best of their ability. Unfortunately, many unscrupulous people are ready to take your money! PLEASE BE CAREFUL ANSWERING ANY AD THAT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! For more information, or to file a complaint regarding an ad, please contact The Department of Trade, Agriculture & Consumer Protection 1-800-422-7128 (WCAN)

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GARAGE/ESTATE SALES

Huge Garage Sale! Labor Day Weekend Aug. 30, 31 & Sept. 1 N5705 East Channel Drive Shawano Rain or Shine! Miscellaneous items Galore

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FOR SALE: Pulverized Topsoil \$20.00 per yard 920-826-5673

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1330 E Lieg Ave 2 bedrooms Great location Parking avail. Starting at \$775 + deposit Pete 715-218-5731

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Please contact Kody at 920-604-1801.

KCG LLC

Excavating & Material

The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

HAPPY DAY: Very much so

by Billie Truitt

- ACROSS
- 1 Isaac's second son

6 Greet the villain

10 Con game

14 Alumni

19 Higher than

20 Marine predator

21 Low-pitched brass

22 Variety show

23 Saudi Arabia neighbor

24 Fleecy fiber

25 Both ___ (you and me)

26 20-Across habitat

27 Informal language

28 Very happy

31 Build on (to)

33 Aromatherapy array

34 Baba of folklore

35 Very happy

41 All-is-inevitable believer

46 Intrude

47 Remove stitches from

49 Court order

50 "Gloria in excelsis ___" (carol line)

51 Actress Falco

52 Roundish hairstyle

54 Endorse online

56 Fire extinguisher output

57 Very happy

62 Fruit drink suffix

63 Leaf in a library

64 Close securely

65 Conflicted

66 Twilight series author

68 PR specialist

71 Monarch's domain

75 Frost or Angelou

78 When some NBA games end

79 Part of a.m.

82 Neckline shape

83 Very happy

88 Political coalition

89 Lariat

90 Davis Cup org.

91 Tenant's payment

92 "Don't ___ stranger"

93 Rabbit's relative

94 Lariat

97 Taken care of

99 Cyrano de ___

101 Very happy

103 Repurposed cloth scrap

104 Fuzzy fruit

106 Olive of comics

107 Very happy

114 Knitter's loops

119 Exodus high point

120 Texter's "Seize the day"

121 Sand castle's downfall

122 Salsa ingredient

123 Not vacant

124 Sound stage accessory

125 Isaac's first son

126 Actress Swinton

127 Wise advisers

128 Stylist's supplies

129 Clammy

130 High-priced

DOWN

1 Crow cousins

2 Eve's second son

3 Deep sleep

4 Bakery fixture

5 Language of eastern India

6 "That's weird"

7 Stylist's appliance

8 Macbeth, for one

9 Old West hangouts

10 Pub perch

11 Dress shirt folds

12 Border on

13 Squish, as spuds

14 Warn, as a Westie would

15 Flinch

16 Declare firmly

17 Double, as citizenship

18 Email button

29 Toll road

30 Erode

32 "You're welcome," in Mexico

35 What a felon might be on

36 Table salt extra

37 Expression of surprise

38 Seat for a tot

39 Cleans out completely

40 "___ pronounce you..."

41 IMHO cousin

42 Insider's vocabulary

43 Adored celebrity

44 Sunken treasure sites

45 Huck's pal

48 "There was no other option for us"

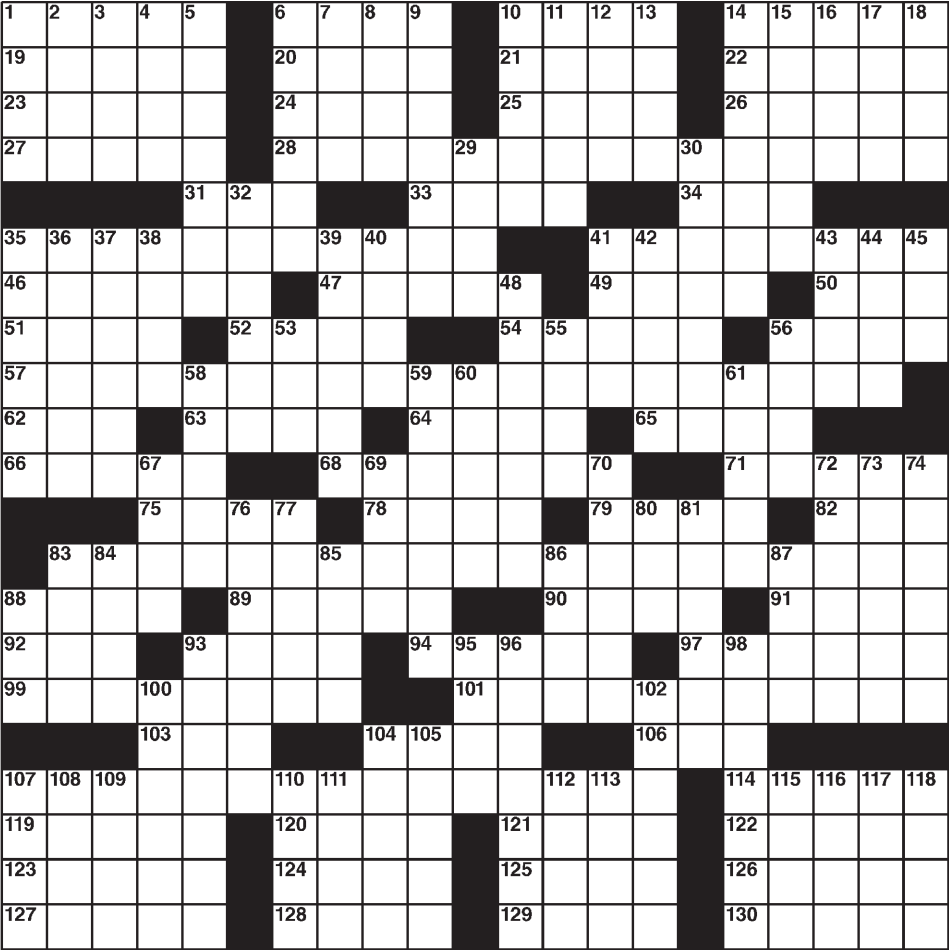
53 Visibility obstacle

55 D-Day French city

56 First-rate

58 It's usually smaller than a smock

59 Will have to face



- 60 Typical opera hero

61 Stop: Fr.

67 Grand-scale tale

69 Four-legged pen patrons

70 Salad selection

72 Olay alternative

73 Makeshift shelter

74 Economics Nobel Robert

76 Expand

77 Small crown

80 DC ballplayer

81 Of no great literary merit

83 Very happy emotion

84 Surf sound

85 Tiny bit of a min.

86 Video meeting option

87 City near Provo

88 Marketplace trust org.

93 Film villains

95 "___ you one!"

96 Took flight

98 Sorts of fish traps

100 Stop from squeaking

102 Build some muscle

104 Kardashian sister

105 Denny's alternatives

107 Pharoah-era goddess

108 Vessel of 1492

109 Close-fitting

110 Big Apple force

111 Conservative Brit

112 Consulate issuance

113 Wax-coated cheese

115 Part of BTU

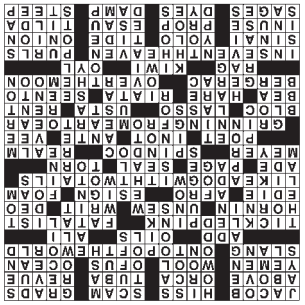
116 Exasperate

117 Miner's strike

118 Clothing fastener

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Four new Century Farms in Oconto County

Four area properties were honored recently at the Wisconsin State with Century Properties Award. These are properties that have been in their families for at least 100 years.

The Wisconsin State Fair began honoring multi-generational farmsteads in celebration of Wisconsin Centennial in 1948. Since then, 10,000 properties have been honored as centennial (100 years) and over 900 properties honored as sesquicentennial (150 years). Oconto County currently has 125 century and three sesquicentennial properties.

This year's honorees are the Burdosh Family in Abrams settled in 1918, the Fischer Family in Gillett settled in 1882, the Ladwig family in Gillett settled in 1915, and the Smyth family in Lakewood settled in 1919.

Next deadline for applications is March 1, 2025. Applications are available online and at the Century Farm display at the fair.

The Oconto County Youth Fair will be honoring these recipients Aug. 22 during the opening ceremony of the fair.



The Fischer family farm in the Town of Gillett has been in the family since 1882.

JOAN DENIS



The Ladwig farm in the Town of Gillett was first settled in 1915.

JOAN DENIS



The Town of Lakewood's newest Century Farm is the Smyth property, settled in 1919.

JOAN DENIS



The Burdosh family has owned this farm in the Town of Abrams since 1918.

JOAN DENIS

Golf outing supports memorial



Katie Ruechel, owner of the South Chase Saloon, sponsored a golf outing at the Patriot Golf Course on Aug. 10 to benefit the Oconto County Veterans Memorial. The event raised \$8,897 for the memorial, located across from Oconto's Copperfest Park, which aims to honor more than 4,000 Oconto County veterans who have served dating back to the Revolutionary War, as well as future veterans. Several workers from the saloon volunteered at the outing, which was also sponsored by Operation Zero, Saputo Cheese, Glovers Bar and Grill, Chase'n Maple Construction and Mac Attack.

CONTRIBUTED

Hillside Assembly announces fall activities

Hillside Assembly of God Church in Gillett will begin a new year of youth and children's programs on Wednesday evenings beginning Sept. 4, kicking off with a special open house event at 6:30 p.m. with prizes, games, hot dogs and ice cream.

Royal Rangers is a boys' program for ages 3-18. Boys learn practical lessons from the Bible with a variety of themes including camping, sports, lifesaving, first aid, etc. This program

has transitioned into a new expanded program with more themes and opportunities to grow.

Impact Girls Club is for girls of the same age group and teaches practical lessons from the Bible with various themes that girls can relate to including the following topics: making the right choices, fitness, attitude, peer pressure, family, accountability and self-esteem, just to name a few. There are also fun activities with each lesson.

Both groups can earn rewards and have opportunities for extra curricular activities.

The Hillside youth group Switch also meets on Wednesday nights and includes an opportunity to make new friends, hear practical messages from the Bible, sing contemporary Christian music with the youth band and just have fun with other teens.

For adults, there is a Bible study entitled "Bible Engagement Project" start-

ing with session 7:1 "Encountering Jesus." The first class begins on Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Men and women will be a combined class.

The church is located at 5890 State Highway 22 in Gillett. For more information or to register online, go to www.hillsidefamilynight.org. Those who register by Aug. 30 will be entered for additional prizes.

A bus ministry is available this fall; participants can get ride information by Sept. 1 at 920-855-2962.

OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of Aug. 15

- A four-day jury trial starting March 4, 2025, was scheduled for Thomas Edward Wolf, 58, Oconto Falls, on a charge of homicide by the intoxicated use of a motor vehicle in connection with a crash Aug. 3, 2022, that claimed the life of Bart Erdman, 60, also of Oconto Falls. Judge Michael Judge scheduled a status conference for Dec. 12 and ruled that any pre-trial motions must be filed by Jan. 1.

- A final pre-trial conference was held for the Aug. 27-29 jury trial scheduled for Peter J. VanHulle, 35, Oconto, on a charge of second-degree recklessly endangering safety, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 23, 2023.

- A Jan. 23-24 jury trial was scheduled for Joey E. Kingsley, 43, Oconto, on charges of resisting an officer and causing substantial bodily harm and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in connection

with an incident that allegedly occurred April 23. Judge scheduled a final pre-trial conference for Jan. 2.

- A bench warrant was issued for Antonio Wells, 31, Manitowoc, after he failed to make his initial appearance on six counts of felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor charge of driving without a valid license, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 25.

- A bench warrant was authorized for George E. Gernon, 41, Cudahy, after he failed to appear for a status conference on charges of possession of narcotic drugs, possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred June 6, 2022.

- Kaitlyn L. Torrez, 28, Tigerton, pleaded not guilty to possession of THC (second or subsequent offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 27.

Judge Jay Conley scheduled a plea and sentencing hearing for Sept. 18.

- A \$5,000 signature bond was set for Tanner A. Friebe, 23, Suring, after he was charged with two counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of operating while revoked and violating an ignition interlock device order, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 24, as well as two counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor counts of operating while revoked and violating an ignition interlock device order, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred May 22. Conley adjourned his initial appearance until Sept. 12 to coincide with a status conference in a 2023 case in which a deferred prosecution agreement was approved for a charge of possession of methamphetamine.

- An \$850 cash bond was set for Eric J. Hujet, 46, Oconto, after he was charged

with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense), in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred July 5. His initial appearance was adjourned until Sept. 12.

Proceedings of Aug. 12

- Fernando Sifuentes Guerrero, 37, Krakow, pleaded no contest to misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that occurred Jan. 8. A felony charge was dismissed but read into the record in a plea agreement. Conley imposed and stayed jail sentences and placed him on one year of probation with conditions.

- Dennis D. Miller, 66, Green Bay, pleaded no contest to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence (fourth offense), in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 2, 2023. Conley scheduled sentencing for Oct. 14 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

Find the latest local news at newmedia-wi.com

OBITUARIES

Sharon L. Ziereis

Sharon L. Ziereis, 86, of Oconto Falls (formerly of Gillett), passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024.

Sharon was born on April 7, 1938, to the late Clarence and Inez (Sonderegger) Langfeldt in La Farge. With her brothers, Gary and Keith, Sharon played the piano accordion in their band, the Sharon Lee Rhythmettes. She graduated from Wausau High School and later St. Mary's Hospital Nursing Program in 1960.

Sharon worked at Clintonville Memorial Hospital where she met her future



husband, Charles "Chuck" Ziereis, while he was a patient. They were married

on May 20, 1961, at St. Rose Catholic Church in Clintonville. Over the years, the couple relocated a few times for work before settling in Gillett in the mid 1980s. Sharon retired from Employer's Health in 1993.

For many years, Sharon was a "snow bird" to Florida with her best friend,

Jalane Okray. She was a very talented crafter, making stained glass art, wood carvings, pine needle baskets, sewing and knitting. Sharon greatly enjoyed reading, spending time with her family, and taking care of her grandchildren.

She was an active member of the Red Hatters Group of Oconto Falls. Sharon was a member of St. Michael Catholic Church in Suring for many years and most recently a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Oconto Falls, where she was a member of Parish Council of Catholic Women.

Sharon is survived by her children, Mike (Kathy) Ziereis and Marcie (Terry) Schuettelpelz; grandchildren, Dana Schuettelpelz, Brandon (special friend Stephanie) Hubbartt, Danielle Hubbartt and Jacob (Noelle) Ziereis; four great-grandchildren, Madyson, Charlotte, Hudson and Callan; brother, Keith (Susan) Langfeldt. She is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Chuck, in 1993; brother, Gary Langfeldt; infant siblings, Lyle and Midgie.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, at St. Michael Catholic Church in Suring from 9 a.m. until the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Antonion De Los Santos officiating.

Gruetzmacher Funeral Home in Suring is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be expressed at www.gruetzmacherfuneralhome.com.

The family would like to thank the staffs of Unity Hospice and Cornerstone Caregiving of Marinette for the excellent care and compassion offered to Sha-

ron and her family during their time of need.

In lieu of flowers, Sharon asked that trees be planted in her memory or donations made to her memorial fund.



Elroy W. Peters

Elroy W. Peters, 87, Abrams, died Saturday morning, Aug. 10, 2024, at home.

He was born Sept. 16, 1936, in Green Bay to William and Elsie (Behnke) Peters. Elroy grew up in Abrams where he attended elementary school, graduating from Oconto Falls High School with the class of 1954.

Following graduation, he worked on the Green Bay and Western Railroad for five years. On Dec. 28, 1959, he entered the U.S. Air Force and served for four years during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Upon his honorable discharge from the military, Elroy went to work for Fair-



munt Foods in Green Bay and continued to operate the family farm.

He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church. Upon his retirement on March 14, 1998, he enjoyed riding his bicycle on the Wisconsin State Trail system and parts of Minnesota, especially the Red Cedar and Chippewa trails in western Wisconsin and putting on as many as 150 miles per week.

Survivors are one

brother, the Rev. Carl (Marlene) Peters, Green Bay; six nieces and nephews; 13 great-nieces and great-nephews; and 16 great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, the Rev. Earl (Sharon) Peters.

Private burial services will take place in Brookside Cemetery in the Town of Pensaukee.

Jones Funeral Service in Oconto Falls is serving the Peters family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial funds may be sent to Rawhide Youth Services, E7475 Rawhide Road, New London, WI 54961.

Jeanette "Jean" Frost, 82, Shawano, passed away early Thursday afternoon, Aug. 8, 2024, at a Green Bay care facility.

A memorial service was held Tuesday,

Aug. 20, 2024, at Malcore (West) Funeral Home, 1530 W. Mason St., Green Bay.

Visit www.malcorefuneralhome.com for a full obituary.

Judy A. Rosenow

Judy A. Rosenow, 77, of Embarrass, passed away on

Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024. Eberhardt-Stevenson

Funeral Home and Crematory, Clintonville.

www.newmedia-wi.com

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
Oconto County, WI
SUBSTATION SITE DESIGN

General Notice

CITY OF OCONTO FALLS is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

SUBSTATION SITE DESIGN
Project #16374013

The City of Oconto Falls will receive and accept bids ONLY through QuestCDN.com via the online electronic bid service (QuestvBid) for the construction of Substation Site Design until September 5th, 2024 at 1:00 pm. All bids will be downloaded and publicly read aloud during a virtual public bid opening that will be held at the day and time of the bid closing. All plan holders will receive information via Quest on how to join the virtual meeting prior to the bid opening.

The Project includes the following Work:

Approximately 2,400 CY excavation, 6,500 SY topsoil placement and grading including seeding and erosion control mat and the placement of densely graded base for the substation site. The project also includes the installation of storm sewer improvements and construction of a pond consisting of approximately 140 LF of RCP storm sewer, 1 manhole, and 5 endwalls, 900 CY clay pond liner and an outlet structure.

The anticipated substantial completion date is October 14, 2024 for the gravel driveway and storm sewer and final completion date for final site grading, pond grading, and site restoration is November 1, 2024.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website: www.questcdn.com

Bidding Documents are available for download from QuestCDN at www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$45 by inputting Quest eBidDoc #9259496 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN at 952-233-1632 or contact by email at info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with the digital project information. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with QuestCDN as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. QuestCDN requires the bidding documents to be downloaded from the site in order to submit a bid in the Vbid system. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through QuestCDN. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than QuestCDN.

Instructions to Bidders.

No proposal will be accepted unless accompanied by a certified check or bid bond equal to at least 5% of the amount bid, payable to the Owner as a guarantee that, if the bid is accepted, the bidder will execute and file the proper contract and bond within 15 days after the award of the contract. The certified check or bid bond will be returned to the bidder as soon as the contract is signed, and if after 15 days the bidder shall fail to do so, the certified check or bid bond shall be forfeited to the Owner as liquidated damages.

No bidder may withdraw their bid within 60 days after the actual date of the opening thereof. The minimum wages to be paid on the project shall be in accordance with the wage rate scale established by local wage rates.

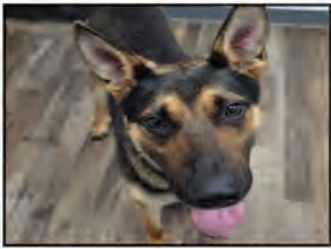
Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids.

Published by the authority of the City of Oconto Falls.

CONSULTING ENGINEER:

MSA Professional Services, Inc.
1500 N. Casaloma Drive, Suite 100
Appleton, WI 54913
Dan Rammer, PE
(920) 931-0095

WNAXLP



RUFUS

Rufus - Meet Rufus. He is a 2 year old German Shepherd looking for his forever home. He is an energetic young dog. He has done well meeting new people. Rufus is not fit for a home with small dogs or cats. Please contact the shelter to set up a meet and greet.



KITTENS

Kittens - There is no shortage of kittens available at Oconto Area Humane Society. If you are interested in welcoming a new member to the family, reach out to set up a meet and greet.



WORKING CATS

Working Cats- We have working cats available for adoption. All OAHS working cats can be adopted for a 'name your price' adoption fee. All outdoor cats are spayed/neutered and vaccinated.

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Oconto Falls
Hours: 8-5
Monday - Friday

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Chris
Walters Jr.**



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Oconto Area Humane Society
and Animal Shelter • 920-835-1738

150 S. Katch Drive, Oconto
To make an appointment, call the shelter or
email ocontoareahumane@gmail.com

Please see all adoptable pets at www.ocontoareahumane.org. Supporting homeless pets is one of the best acts of kindness.

Legals
WNAXLP

ee29c64d
08/16/24, 08/23/24
CITY OF GILLETT
Proposal Request
Council Chambers – Municipal
Building
150 N McKenzie Ave – Gillett, WI 54124

PUBLIC NOTICE:
Notice is hereby given that the City of Gillett Utilities has requested proposals for engineering for the Highway 22 project of water and sewer replacement. City of Gillett Utilities will meet for a Public Information Meeting to open the sealed bids on Monday, August 26, 2024 at 5:30 pm at Gillett City Hall, Council Chambers, 150 N McKenzie Ave, Gillett, WI. This meeting is open to the public. Chelsea Anderson, Clerk Treasurer
WNAXLP

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715-526-6188

4168b877
08/23/24, 08/30/24
CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given, that The City of Oconto Falls Ordinance Committee will hold a Public Hearing on September 10, 2024 at 5:30 PM in the Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 500 North Chestnut Avenue, Oconto Falls, Wisconsin. The purpose of this hearing is for the consideration of:

- Public Hearing NO. 1 at 5:30pm Ordinance 24-008 Amend Ch 480-83 Accessory Structure-Sheds
- Public Hearing NO. 2 immediately following NO.1 estimated 5:35pm Ordinance 24-009 Amend Ch 465-4 One Way Streets Designated
- Public Hearing NO. 3 immediately following NO. 2 estimated time 5:40pm. Ordinance 24-010 Amend Ch 348 Nuisances.

All residents of the City of Oconto Falls are encouraged to attend. The meeting room is handicapped accessible. A copy of proposed ordinances can be picked up at the Municipal Building. Persons needing additional accommodations should contact City Hall at (920) 846-4505.

90190495
08/09/24, 08/16/24, 08/23/24, 08/30/24, 09/06/24, 09/13/24
STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT
COURT SHAWANO COUNTY
COVANTAGE CREDIT UNION
PO BOX 107
ANTIGO, WI 54409

Plaintiff, Case No. 23-CV-168
vs. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

ALLEN A. REED
N5784 GREEN VALLEY RD.
OCONTO FALLS, WI 54154
JAIME L. REED
N5784 GREEN VALLEY RD.
OCONTO FALLS, WI 54154
Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that by virtue of a judgment of foreclosure entered on January 15, 2024 in the amount of \$33,422.19 the Sheriff will sell the described premises at public auction as follows:
TIME: October 9, 2024 at 9:00 am
TERMS: Pursuant to said judgment, 10% of the successful bid must be paid to the sheriff at the sale in cash, cashier's check or certified funds, payable to the Shawano County Clerk of Courts. (Personal checks cannot and will not be accepted). The balance of the successful bid must be paid to the clerk of courts in cash, cashier's check or certified funds no later than ten days after the court's confirmation for the sale or else the 10% down payment is forfeited to the plaintiff. The property is sold 'as is' and subject to all liens and encumbrances. PLACE: Shawano County Courthouse, main lobby 311 N. Main Street in Shawano, WI 54166 in Shawano County

DESCRIPTION: LOT 1 OF CERTIFIED SURVEY MAP NO. 1281 RECORDED IN VOLUME 4 OF CERTIFIED SURVEYS, PAGES 375-376 AS DOCUMENT NO. 479516, BEING BLOCK 6 OF THE PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF GREEN VALLEY, LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST OF THE SOUTHWEST, SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 18 EAST, TOWN OF GREEN VALLEY, SHAWANO COUNTY, WISCONSIN. THIS IS NOT A PURCHASE MONEY MORTGAGE THIS IS THE HOMESTEAD OF MORTGAGOR PROPERTY ADDRESS: N5784 Green Valley Road Oconto Falls, WI 54154 DATED: 7/30/2024
Galanis, Pollack, Jacobs & Johnson, S.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff
413 N. 2 nd Street, Suite 150 Milwaukee, WI 53203 414-271-5400

WNAXLP

Steffen, Benson, Behnke win primaries

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

In the 4th Assembly District, state Rep. David Steffen, R-Howard, defeated Darwin Behnke in the Republican primary Aug. 13, while Jane Benson outpolled Alexia Unertl on the Democratic side.

The districtwide unofficial numbers showed Steffen with 6,098 votes to Behnke's 3,043, while Benson had 3,515 votes and Unertl 958.

There were Republican primaries in two of the other three districts that include parts of Oconto County.

• Republican Rep. Elijah Behnke defeated incumbent Rep. Peter Schmidt in the 6th Assembly District, 4,842 (58.6%) to 3,421 (41.4%).

After district boundary lines were redrawn due to the 2020 Census results, Behnke opted to move into the 6th District and take on Schmidt rather than stay in the 4th District and take on incumbent David Steffen.

"I want to extend my appreciation to my family, friends, volunteers and voters for their support.



ELIJAH BEHNKE

wonderful people with a voice in Madison," Schmidt said. "I will continue to be involved in the farming and church communities as well as civic affairs. I wish Elijah the very best, and I encourage him to always keep the hard working families of this area foremost in his mind when serving in the Legislature."

Behnke will face off against Democrat Shirley Hinze, who was unopposed in her primary.

• Republican Rep. Calvin Callahan easily brushed aside a primary challenger to head on to the November general election.

Callahan received 6,865 votes (84.7%), outdistancing challenger Todd Mayr, who picked up 1,238 votes

(15.3%). Elizabeth McCrank was unopposed in the Democratic primary and will take on Callahan in the general election.

• Longtime incumbent state Rep. Jeffrey Mursau did not have a primary in the 36th Assembly District. He will face Democrat Ben Murray, who also was unopposed in the primary.

• In the 2nd Senate District, Republican Eric Wimberger will face off in November against Democrat Kelly Peterson. Both were unopposed in the Aug. 13 primary.

• Incumbent 12th District Republican Sen. Mary Felzkowski is challenged by Democrat Andi Rich in the 12th Senate District. Neither had a primary opponent.

• With Mike Gallagher exiting Congress earlier this year, the 8th Congressional District became an open seat for the 2024 election.

Tony Wied won the Republican nomination, defeating Roger Roth and Andre Jacque. Wied earned 41.33% of all GOP votes, compared to 33.85%

for Roth and 24.82% for Jacque.

"I'm overwhelmed by the support shown to our campaign by the people of Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District," Wied said. "I want to thank the voters for entrusting me with this honor. I won't let them down. I look forward to delivering the change we need in Washington to lower everyday costs, secure the southern border and reign in reckless government spending."

Wied will face Democrat Kristin Lyerly in November. Lyerly was unopposed in the Democratic primary.

• Both proposed amendments to the Wisconsin Constitution failed statewide.

The first question, which said the legislature may not delegate its sole power to determine how moneys shall be appropriated, failed statewide with 703,461 votes (57.4%) against and 521,122 (42.6%) in favor.

The second question, which would have prohibited the governor from allocating any federal moneys the governor accepts on behalf of the state without the approval of the legislature by joint resolution or as provided by legislative rule, failed with 705,591 (57.5%) against and 520,778 (42.5%) in favor. Oconto County voters



ERIC HOVDE

disagreed with the statewide referendum results, with both state constitutional amendments passing locally by comfortable margins. The tally for question 1 was 5,698 yes, 3,544 no; for question 2, 5,781 yes, 3,502 no.

• Eric Hovde easily won the Republican primary for U.S. Senate. He garnered 86.3% of the statewide vote, compared to 7.4% for Charles Barman and 6.3% for Rejani Raveendran.

Hovde won Menominee County with 104 votes, compared to 17 for Barman and 7 for Raveendran. In Oconto County, Hovde had 5,289, Barman had 520 and Raveendran had 374. Shawano County Republicans favored Hovde with 4,967 votes, with Barnam getting 666 and Raveendran getting 394.

Hovde will face Sen. Tammy Baldwin in November. She was unopposed in the Democratic primary.

• Oconto County Clerk Kim Pytleski's office reported that 10,179 people voted in the Aug. 13 primary election, a 32% turnout of eligible voters.

2024 Town of Lena Open Book and Board of Review

Lena Town Hall, 6087 Goatsville Road

OPEN BOOK

Pursuant to Sec. 70.45 Wis Stats. Town of Lena 2024 Assessment Roll will be open for review Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM. M&O Survey & Assessor Services will be present or you may schedule an appointment with them if needed at (920) 897-2681.

BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Review for the Town of Lena will convene on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 from 6:00-8:00 PM., at the Lena Town Hall at 6087 Goatsville Road. Please be advised of the following requirements to appear before the board of review and procedural requirements if appearing before the board:

- No person will be allowed to appear before the board of review, to testify to the board by telephone, or to contest the amount of any assessment of real or personal property if the person has refused a reasonable written request by certified mail of the assessor to enter onto property to conduct an exterior view of the real or personal property being assessed.
- After the first meeting of the board of review and before the board's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the board of review may contact or provide information to a member of the board about the person's objection, except at a session of the board.
- The board of review may not hear an objection to the amount or valuation of property unless, at least 48 hours before the board's first scheduled meeting, the objector provides to the board's clerk written or oral notice of an intent to file an objection, except that upon a showing of good cause and the submission of a written objection, the board shall waive that requirement during the first 2 hours of the board's first scheduled meeting, and the board may waive that requirement up to the end of the 5th day of the session or up to the end of the final day of the session if the session is less than 5 days with proof of extraordinary circumstances for failure to meet the 48-hour notice requirement and failure to appear before the board of review during the first 2 hours of the first scheduled meeting.
- Objections to the amount or valuation of property shall first be made in writing and filed with the clerk of the board of review within the first 2 hours of the board's first scheduled meeting, except that, upon evidence of extraordinary circumstances, the board may waive that requirement up to the end of the 5th day of the session or up to the end of the final day of the session if the session is less than 5 days. The board may require objections to the amount or valuation of property to be submitted on forms approved by the Department of Revenue, and the board shall require that any forms include stated valuations of the property in question. Persons who own land and improvements to that land may object to the aggregate valuation of that land and improvements to that land, but no person who owns land and improvements to that land may object only to the valuation of that land or only to the valuation of improvements to that land. No person may be allowed in any action or proceedings to question the amount or valuation of property unless the written objection has been filed and that person in good faith presented evidence to the board in support of the objections and made full disclosure before the board, under oath, of all of that person's property liable to assessment in the district and the value of that property. The requirement that objections be in writing may be waived by express action of the board.
- When appearing before the board of review, the objecting person shall specify in writing the person's estimate of the value of the land and of the improvements that are the subject of the person's objection and specify the information that the person used to arrive at that estimate.
- No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone, or object to a valuation if that valuation was made by the assessor or the objector using the income method of valuation, unless no later than 7 days before the first meeting of the board of review the person supplies the assessor with all the information about income and expenses, as specified in the assessor's manual under s. 73.03 (2a), Wis. stats., that the assessor requests.
- The board shall hear upon oath, by telephone, all ill or disabled persons who present to the board a letter from a physician, surgeon, or osteopath that confirms their illness or disability. No other persons may testify by telephone.
- No person may appear before the board of review, testify to the board by telephone, or contest the amount of any assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the board, or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed under s. 70.47 (3) (a), Wis. stats., that person provides to the clerk of the board of review notice as to whether the person will ask for the removal of a member of the board of review and, if so, which member, and provides a reasonable estimate of the length of time the hearing will take.

Notice is hereby given this 16th day of August 2024.

Lena Town Clerk
Dawn VanArk

WNAXLP

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IN 3 DAYS OR LESS.

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TAILORED TO YOUR STYLE AND NEEDS.

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18 MONTHS ON ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCES

*WITH MINIMUM SPEND; SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. **WITH CREDIT APPROVAL. MINIMUM MONTHLY PAYMENT REQUIRED. SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.



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AUGUST 24TH

11 AM TO 3 PM

Brats, Hamburgers, and refreshments.



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STORE HOURS: Mon-Fri 7:00am - 7:00pm

Deli Closing at 6:00 pm**

Sat 8:00am-5:30pm Sun 8:00am - 1:00pm

HSBS PHARMACY HOURS:

MON-FRI 9:00AM - 5:30PM

These prices good August 26th thru September 2nd

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MONDAY SEPT 2ND
8:00AM-1:00PM

Cedar Crest Ice Cream



\$4.99

Asst Variety
1.5Qt

Doritos



**BUY ONE
GET ONE
FREE**

Asst Variety
6-10.75oz

Puff's
Family Pack
Tissues

\$1.99

124-
180ct

Baby Gold
Potatoes



\$1.69

3lb Bag

Crazy Fresh
Salsas

\$4.99

Asst
Variety
14oz

Local Yellow or
Zucchini Squash



\$1.29

lb

Black or Red
Plums

\$2.29

lb

Honeycrisp
Apples



99¢

lb

Prairie Farms
Sour Cream



\$1.99

16oz

Daisy
Sour Cream
Regular or Light

\$2.29

16oz

Philadelphia
Cream Cheese
Regular or Light



\$1.99

8oz

Merkt's
Cheese Spread

\$3.99

Asst
Variety
12.9oz

Keebler
Cheez-Its, Club,
Toasted, or Town
House Crackers



2/\$6

Asst Variety
8-13.7oz

Bush's
Baked Beans

\$2.29

Asst
Variety
22-28oz

DOT's
Pretzels



\$4.99

Asst Variety
16oz

Jet Puffed
Marshmallows



\$1.29

Asst Variety
7-12oz

Sweet Baby Ray's
BBQ Sauce

2/\$3

Asst
Variety
14-18oz

Kellogg's
Pop Tarts



2/\$6

Asst Variety
13.5oz

Betty Crocker
Suddenly Pasta
Salad

2/\$4

Asst
Variety
6.2-8.3oz

Food Club
Whipped
Topping



99¢

Asst Variety
8oz

Yoplait
Yogurt

59¢

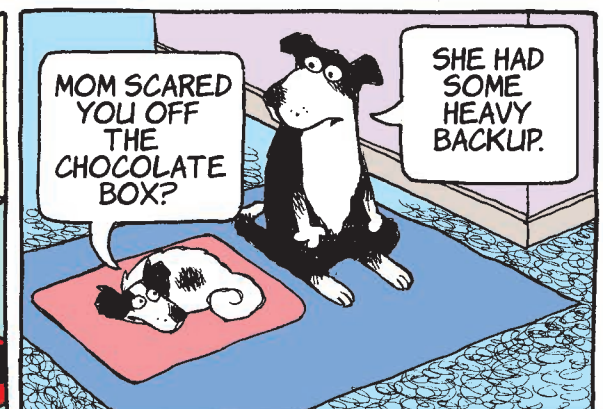
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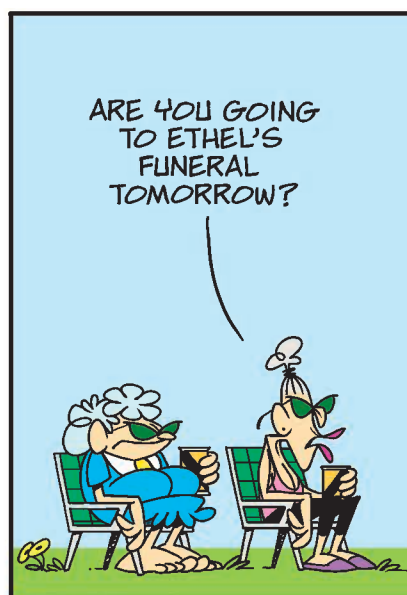
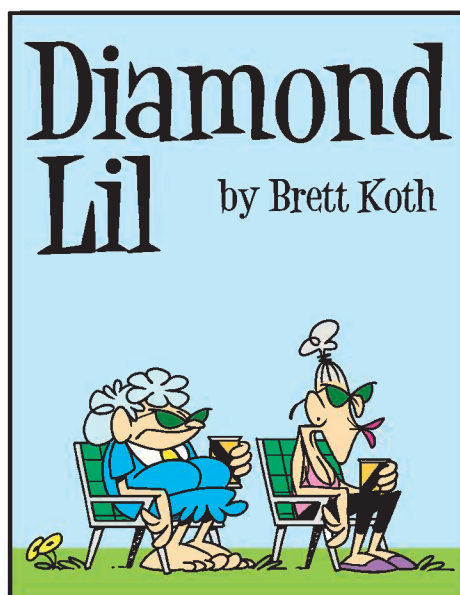
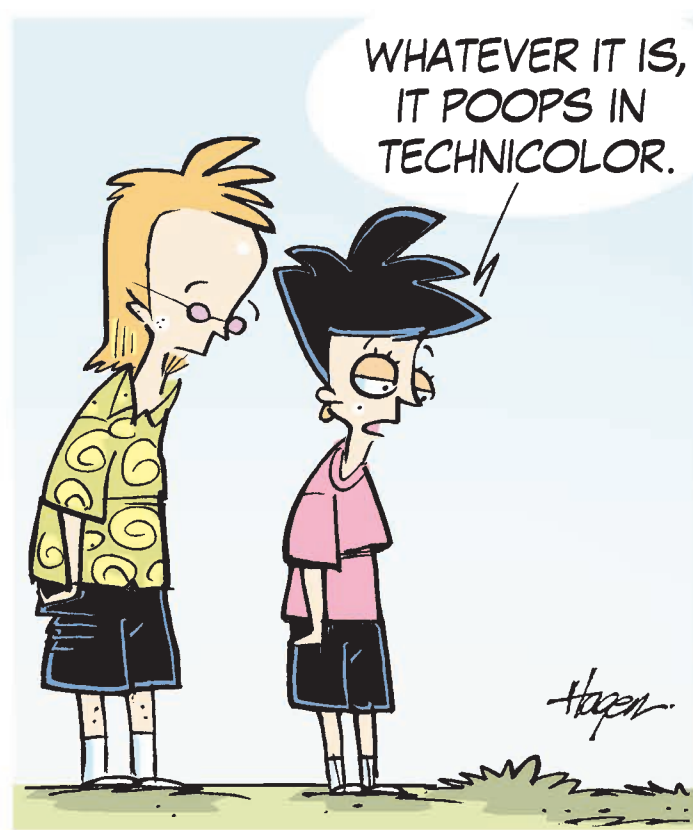
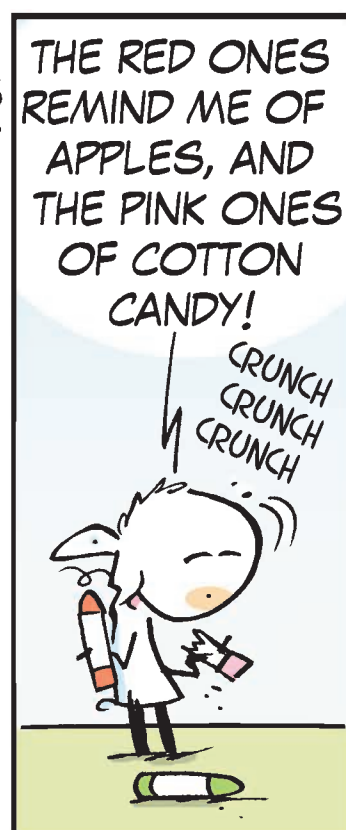
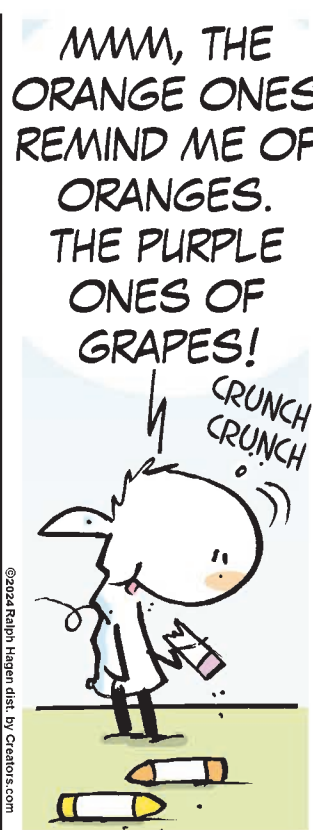
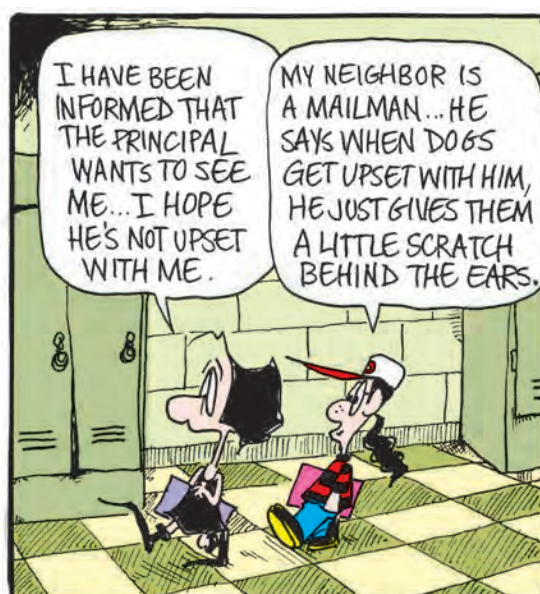
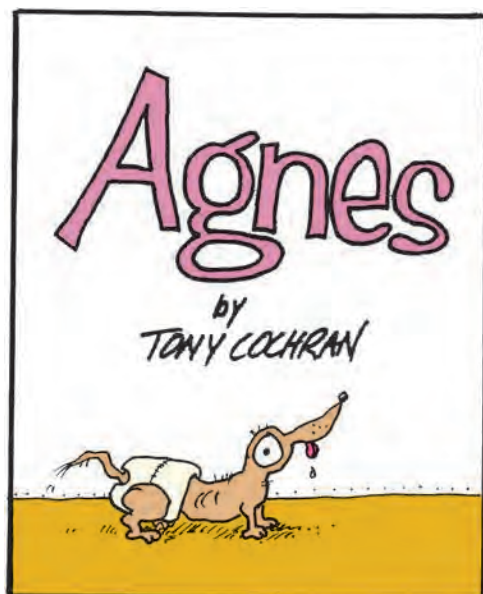
Bomb Pops



\$2.99

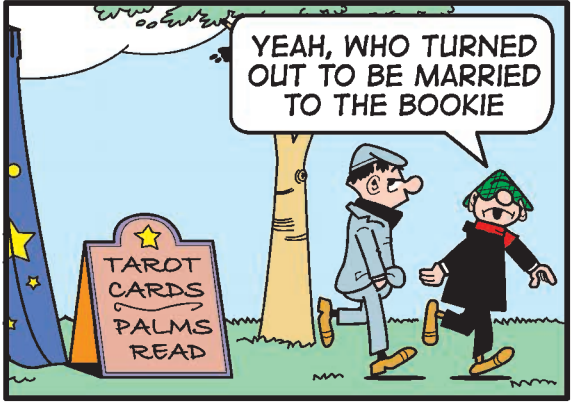
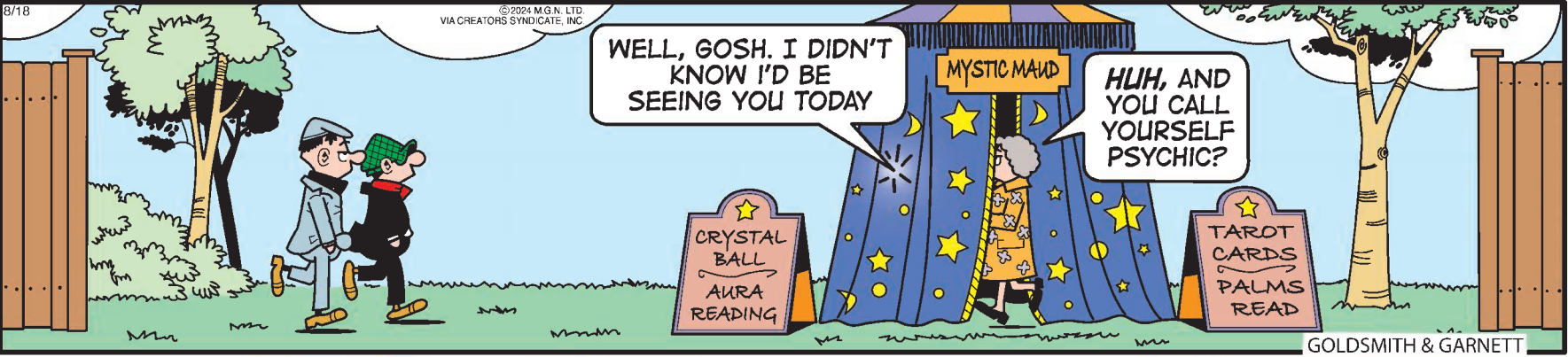
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