



Oconto Falls High School Principal Stuart Russ welcomes seniors, families and friends to the 2024 commencement exercises. Russ was announced March 11 as the next superintendent of the Oconto Falls School District.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

Stuart Russ tabbed as new Oconto Falls superintendent

OFHS principal has administrative experience in Shawano, Witt-Birn

BY WARREN BLUHM
News Editor

Oconto Falls High School Principal Stuart Russ has been chosen as the school district's next superintendent. The school board announced March 11 that Russ, now in his second year as principal at OFHS, will succeed Dean Hess, who is retiring at the end of June after 10 years at the helm. Russ started his teaching career in the Luxemburg-Casco School District, moving to the Rosendale-Brandon School District and then entering administration as an assistant principal at Shawano Community High School. He was principal of Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School before taking the post at OFHS in 2023. He and Lena Superintendent Ben Pytleski were called back for final interviews with the board March 10. The board met in closed session to make the decision after its

"Stuart's multifaceted experience, coupled with his recent tenure as the Oconto Falls High School principal, make him well-positioned to lead our district into the future."

Clint Gardebrecht, Oconto Falls School Board president

regular monthly meeting that evening. "Stuart's multifaceted experience, coupled with his recent tenure as the Oconto Falls High School principal, make him well-positioned to lead our district into the future," said Clint Gardebrecht, board president. "His collaborative approach and demonstrated leadership skills will advance our long history of excellence in education." In a news release, the board said it employed a consensus-based selection process, facilitated by the executive search firm McPherson and Jacobson LLC. "The process included significant input from students, staff and community mem-

bers during earlier phases of the search," the announcement read. "This collaborative approach helped identify the best candidate to lead the district into the future. We are incredibly grateful for the community's participation and the expertise of McPherson and Jacobson." The board also cited Russ' "dedication to student well-being, his commitment to fostering inclusive learning environments, and his proven ability to collaborate effectively with staff and community members" as factors in his selection.

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Driver in fatal crash ruled not competent

Oct. 25 hit-and-run crash killed a retired Green Bay police detective

BY NEW MEDIA STAFF

A Gillett man who was arrested Oct. 28 in Arkansas after allegedly fleeing the scene of a fatal ATV accident in Oconto County has been found not competent to assist in his own defense at this time. After a review of an examiner's report, Oconto County Judge Jay Conley ruled that Obilio Tomas Sargento Roblero, 32, currently is not competent but is likely to become competent within the statutory time line of one year. The case involves a crash involving Roblero's vehicle and a stalled UTV on Oct. 25 that took the life of Thomas Roberts, 60, a retired Green Bay police detective. Conley scheduled a review of the case for June 16. The crash occurred around 7 p.m. Oct. 25 on Shawano Line Road at Nelson Road in the Town of Gillett. According to the criminal complaint, Roberts had stopped to help two other people whose UTV had broken down along the road. Witnesses said Roberts hooked up the disabled vehicle with a tow strap and had

DRIVER, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



OBILIO TOMAS SARGENTO ROBLERO

INSIDE

Early voting underway for April 1 spring election.

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Early voting underway for April 1 spring election

Ballot contains races for state Supreme Court and superintendent; six town chair slots contested

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

Six races for town chairman in Oconto County are on local ballots as early voting begins for the April 1 general election.

Municipal boards and councils are being chosen across the county, although most candidates are running unopposed. Two statewide races and a state referendum question are also on the ballot. Early voting began March 18 and will continue until March 28.

Among the contested races, Little River Town Chairman Thomas Portier is being challenged by Randy Hahn.

Little Suamico Town Chairman Dale Mohr is being challenged by Frank Nowak in a rematch of the 2022 spring election. Little Suamico is also expanding its town board from three members to five, including the chair. Six people are running for the four available slots, including incumbents Liz Paape and Tracey Krumrei, as well as David E. Primly, Penny Helmle, Dan Herzberg and Nowak.

Incumbent Mountain Town Chairman Lindor “Skip” Maletke faces Town Board Supervisor Brenda Carey-Mielke. They were the top two vote-getters in a Feb. xx primary.

In the Town of Oconto Falls, Town Chairman Dave Alsteen faces a challenge from Robert Wolf.

And in the Town of Underhill, Town Chairman Peter Vorpahl is challenged by Mark Winkler.

A race is also on for town chairperson in the Town of Lakewood, where Scott Van Laanen chose not to run for re-election. Mike Musil and Kevin L. Ballangee will square off in April.

In several communities where incumbents decided not to run, only a single candidate stepped forward for a town chairmanship.

Those include the Town of Bagley, where Tom Bauer is running to succeed Town Chairman Greg Lechleitner; the Town of How, where Ken Holmes is unopposed to succeed William Bartz Jr. as chair; and the Town of Maple Valley, where Supervisor Mike Beyer is the only candidate to replace Town Chairman Russel Brock.

In the Town of Pensaukee, Town Clerk Jackie Nelis is not on the ballot, and Trudie Chico is the sole candidate to succeed her.

Voters are asked to make a choice in a handful of other local races.

In Gillett, Alderperson Irene Drake is challenged by Keri Hicks, while incumbents Ashley VanStraten and Jerry Luther are unopposed.

In Oconto, there are seven candidates for four positions on the city council — incumbent Bob LeBreck along with Kim Bronikowski, Rob Gunner Daul, Mike Feldt, Violet McFadden Hornick, Casey Sowle and Wibble Sowle.

Among local school boards, the biggest changes are expected in Gillett,



A sign directs voters to the polling place inside Oconto Falls City Hall in this undated photograph.

FILE | NEW MEDIA

where longtime Treasurer Cliff Gerbers and President Jamie Young opted not to run for another term on the seven-person board. Incumbent Robin Banaszynski is on the ballot along with newcomers Lorrie Beyer, Tonia Kruschke and Trisha Ondik. The top three will earn three-year terms on the board.

Voters in the Suring Area School District are being asked to approve an

extension of the operational referendum approved in 2020 that has allowed the district to exceed state-imposed revenue limits by \$900,000 per year. The new question seeks a \$1.5 million annual limit.

Two statewide races are on the ballot along with a constitutional referendum. With the retirement of Justice Ann Walsh Bradley, two candidates — Susan Crawford and Brad

Schimmel — are running for a 10-year term on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Superintendent of Public Instruction Jill Underly is running for a second four-year term against Brittany Kinser.

The referendum asks whether the state’s Voter ID Law should be enshrined in the state constitution. The question is, “Shall section 1m of Article III of the constitution be created to require that voters present valid photographic identification verifying their identity to vote in any election, subject to exceptions which may be established by law?”

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 1, or voters may contact their municipal clerk for an absentee ballot or to cast an absentee ballot in person.

The written application

must include your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote; the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different from the voting address; your signature; and a copy of your photo identification.

The deadline for submitting an absentee ballot application is March 27, and the last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk’s office is 5 p.m. March 28. By state law no in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.

The municipal clerk will deliver voted absentee ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on April 1. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

Suring School District faces operational referendum

Question extends, increases previously approved referendum

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

In addition to choosing state and local elected officials, voters in the Suring Area School District are being asked to approve an extension of the operational referendum approved in 2020 that has allowed the district to exceed state-imposed revenue limits by \$900,000 per year. The new question seeks a \$1.5 million annual limit.

Since 1993, the state of Wisconsin has put a cap on the amount of revenue that a school district can

receive from the state and from local property taxpayers. The Suring School Board approved the \$1.5 million resolution Jan. 8 in the wake of inflationary pressures that have arisen since the last referendum passed five years ago.

The new five-year resolution asks, “Shall the School Board of Suring Public School District be authorized to exceed the revenue limit under Section 121.91 of the Wisconsin Statutes beginning with the 2025-26 school year through the 2029-30 school

year on a non-recurring basis by an amount of \$1,500,000 each year for the purpose of paying District operations and maintenance costs including upgrades to elementary classroom heating and cooling systems as provided in the foregoing resolution?”

Figures provided by the school district indicate that if the referendum passes, the mill rate for next year is projected to be \$4.59, which would mean an increase of 7 cents per \$1,000 of property value. Therefore, the owner of a

property worth \$100,000 would pay \$459 in taxes, which is up a total of \$7 from this year’s taxes. If the fair market value of a property is \$200,000, the tax for next year would be \$990, up \$14 from this year’s taxes.

A video prepared for the district by CESA 8 says Suring’s mill rate would still be the lowest in the area if the referendum passes, comparing it with White Lake, Niagara, Peshtigo, Gillett, Bowler, Coleman, Crivitz, Shawano and Lena.

DRIVER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

just climbed back into his own ATV when Roblero’s SUV struck him.

Roblero fled the scene on foot after the crash, the complaint said. Deputies conducted an extensive search of the area, including the suspect’s home in Gillett and the dairy farm where he worked but were unable to locate him that night.

It was later learned that he called his wife the

next morning and told her he was on his way back to Mexico and that she should also leave the country, according to the complaint, but she reportedly told him she wanted to stay in Gillett.

Roblero was located and arrested at a hotel in Jacksonville, Arkansas. He was brought back to Oconto County, where he remains jailed in lieu of \$1 million cash bond.

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(USPS 402-780)
Periodicals postage paid at
Oconto Falls, WI 54154

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news@newmedia-wi.com
Classifieds/legal notices
classifieds@newmedia-wi.com

Published weekly
by NEW Media Inc.
d/b/a The Oconto
County Times Herald

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POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to:
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OCONTO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

Proceedings of March 10

▪ Bond was set at \$500 cash for Justin Allen Patch, 32, Lakewood, after he was charged with battery and disorderly conduct as a domestic abuse repeater, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 28. Judge Michael Judge adjourned his initial appearance until April 24.

Proceedings of March 11

▪ Cassandra Ann Brad-dock, 24, Keshena, pleaded guilty to child neglect and misdemeanor counts of possession of THC and resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that occurred May 13, 2024. Judge scheduled sentencing for May 7 and ordered a pre-sentence investigation.

▪ Taythin T. Inrasavongsa, 22, Little Suamico, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to taking and driving a vehicle without consent, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Aug. 29.

Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for May 22.

▪ Jacob J. Prochnow, 31, Crivitz, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over on charges of battery or threat to a law officer, throwing or discharging bodily fluids at a public safety worker or prosecutor, and misdemeanor counts of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (second offense) and resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Nov. 12. Judge Jay Conley scheduled arraignment for April 22.

▪ Jason W. Thielen, 49, Pulaske, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fifth or sixth offense) in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 11. Judge scheduled a pre-trial conference for May 22.

▪ Bond was set at \$4,000 cash for Tiffany L. Champagne, 30, Pound, after she was charged with possession

of methamphetamine, two counts of felony bail jumping and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred March 10. Her initial appearance was adjourned until April 28. She is also charged with possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a drug trafficking place, two counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor or counts of possession of an illegally obtained prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Feb. 18, as well as possession of methamphetamine, misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, and three misdemeanor counts of possession of an illegally obtained prescription, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 21.

Proceedings of March 12

▪ A bench warrant was issued for Alex V. Koebach, 34, Cecil, after he failed to appear for a pre-trial confer-

ence on charges of battery or threat to a law officer, throwing or discharging bodily fluids at a public safety worker, and misdemeanor counts of criminal damage to property, two counts of disorderly conduct and two counts of resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 28.

Proceedings of March 13

▪ A bench warrant was issued for Charlene Lynn Lowry, 44, Oconto, after she failed to appear for a hearing on a charge of driving or operating a vehicle without consent, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 16.

▪ Kimberly Ann Alm, 54, Lena, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer, in connection with an incident that occurred Jan. 30. The charge was amended from a felony in a plea agreement. Judge withheld sentencing and placed

her on one year of probation with conditions.

▪ A Sept. 9-10 jury trial was scheduled for Tyler C. Spice, 38, Lena, on charges of strangulation and suffocation and misdemeanor disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred June 16, 2024. Conley scheduled a final pre-trial conference for Aug. 22.

▪ A Sept. 9-10 jury trial was scheduled for Kurtis Lee Peters, 28, Keshena, who pleaded not guilty to armed robbery, first-degree recklessly endangering safety and false imprisonment, in connection with an incident that occurred Sept. 13. Conley scheduled a bail/bond conference for March 20 and a final pre-trial conference for Aug. 22.

▪ Kayla Lynn Harris, 29, Oconto, pleaded not guilty to battery or threat to a law officer and misdemeanor counts of resisting or obstructing an officer, criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct, in connection with an in-

cident that allegedly occurred Jan. 1, as well as felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 28. Conley scheduled a pre-trial conference for May 22.

▪ Robert T. Vorpahl, 47, Abrams, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty to felony bail jumping in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Jan. 7. Vorpahl is also charged with stalking in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 23. Conley scheduled a pre-trial conference in both cases for May 22.

▪ Bernie J. Cudnohosky, 77, Pound, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was bound over for a sex offender registry violation that allegedly occurred Aug. 2, and failure to provide information as a sex offender, in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred Dec. 27. Conley scheduled arraignment for April 24.

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

March 13

Deputies responded to 48 incidents, including a wanted person near U.S. Highway 141 and Benser Lane in the Town of Lena, attempted fraud on Wild Rose Lane in the Town of Chase, fire on Goatsville Road in the Town of Spruce; suspicious activity on West Highland Drive in the Town of Oconto Falls, on Hayes Road in the Town of How and near County Roads V and H in the Town of Underhill; six traffic stops, three traffic hazards, two traffic offenses, one citizen assist, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, four welfare checks; two 911 hangups and one open line; two crashes, one involving a turkey.

March 12

Deputies responded to 59 incidents, including trespassing on state Highway 32 in the Town of Breed, criminal damage on Franks Lane in the Town of Chase, a structure fire on Glynn Road in the Town of Oconto and subsequent fire investigation, suspicious activity on South Washington Street in Oconto Falls, trespassing on state Highway 32 in the Town of Breed, 10 traffic stops, one traffic hazard, five traffic offenses, two citizen assists, six miscellaneous traffic incidents, four welfare checks; three 911 hangups; one ambulance call; three crashes, two involving deer.

March 11

Deputies responded to 47 incidents, including internet

fraud on Hoganwood Circle in the Town of Little Suamico, drugs at an undisclosed location, harassment on Hayes Road in the Town of How, a wanted person on County Road VV in the Town of Underhill, suspicious activity near Frog Pond Road and Tadpole Lane in the Town of Oconto, a disturbance on Logan Road in the Town of Breed, two traffic stops, one traffic hazard, three traffic offenses, one citizen assist, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; one 911 hangup and one open line; two ambulance calls; two crashes, one involving deer.

March 10

Deputies responded to 42 incidents, including a disturbance on Main Street in the Town of Abrams, suspicious activity on County Road VV in the Town of Underhill, criminal damage on County Road W in the Town of Mountain, suspicious activity near Smyth Road in the Town of Lakewood, fraud on Main Lane in the Town of Mountain, lewd and lascivious behavior on Sheep Ranch Road in the Town of Doty, an animal bite on South Rosera Street in Lena, theft on Sand Bar Way in the Town of Little Suamico, suspicious activity on Woodlawn Avenue in Gillett, one traffic hazard, one traffic offense, one citizen assist, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; one 911 hangup and two open lines; two ambulance calls; one crash.

March 9

Deputies responded to 50 incidents, including a disturbance on Manor Drive in Suring, property damage on Little Dove Lane in the Town of Little Suamico, a missing person on Adams Street in Oconto, disturbances on Lake Street in the Town of Little Suamico and on Arnston Lane in the Town of Riverview, an animal bite on Poppy Lane in the Town of Little Suamico, suspicious activity on Allen Road in the Town of Little Suamico and near County Road J and Airport Road in the Town of Oconto; a fire control burn on County Road D in the Town of Abrams; 13 traffic stops, four traffic offenses, three miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; three open-line calls; one ambulance call; four crashes, all involving deer.

March 8

Deputies responded to 41 incidents, including a fire near state Highway 32 and Valley View Road in the Town of Townsend, a death investigation in the Town of Mountain; a fire control burn on County Road R in the Town of How; 11 traffic stops, one traffic hazard, five traffic offenses, one citizen assist, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; two open-line 911 calls; two crashes.

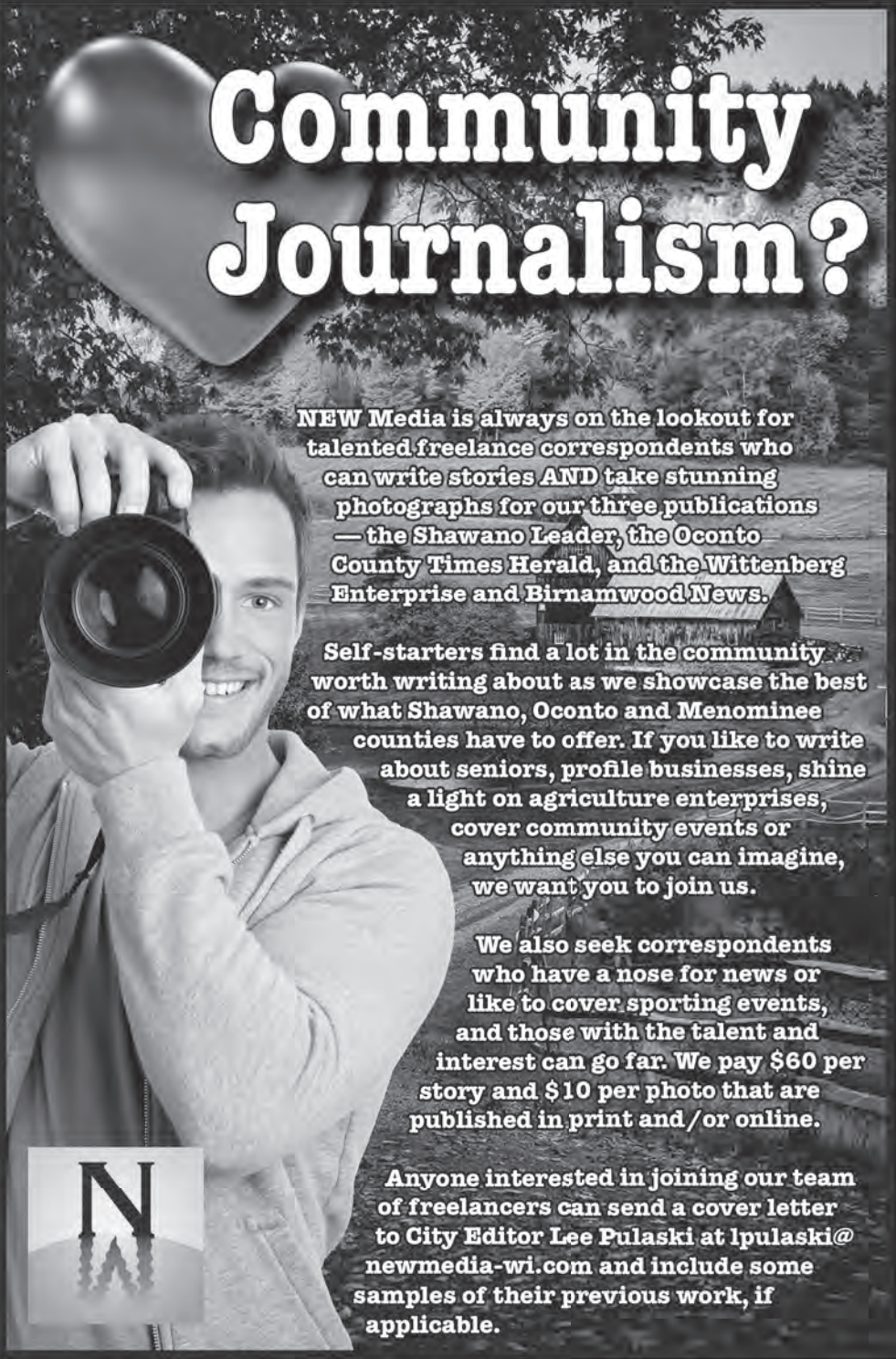
March 7

Deputies responded to 62 incidents, including fraud on Nero Lane in the Town of Little Suamico, suspicious

activity on Main Street in Oconto; identity theft on Wilderness Trail in the Town of Abrams, threatening on Arbutus Avenue in Oconto, burglary on County Road VV in the Town of Underhill, suspicious activity on County Road S in the Town of Little River, a disturbance on Oak Avenue in Gillett, a wanted

person on Club House Lane in the Town of Lakewood, a disturbance on East Frontage Road in the Town of Abrams, suspicious activity on Lucas Road in the Town of Stiles, a noise disturbance on North Center Street in Suring, fire control burns on Logtown Road in the Town of Oconto, Union Lane in the Town of

Little Suamico, Peshtigo Brook Road in Suring, Messenger Road in the Town of Oconto Falls and East Brown Road in the Town of Little Suamico; 17 traffic stops, five traffic offenses, two citizen assists, one miscellaneous traffic incident; four 911 hangups and one open line; one ambulance call; one crash.



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Wind, dry weather mean increased wildfire risk

Spring wildfire season is here, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is urging the public to check fire danger before conducting outdoor burning activities. Nearly 170 wildfires have burned more than 450 acres already this year, according to the DNR, four times more than a typical year at this time. Dry weather and gusty winds lead to the potential for increased wildfire activity. Burn permit suspensions will be in effect in several southern and central Wisconsin counties. Fire officials anticipate the fire danger will be on an upward swing over the

coming weeks until there is significant precipitation. With the onset of the spring fire season and the forecasted conditions, fire officials have begun staffing fire equipment throughout Wisconsin. Areas are especially vulnerable after the snow cover melts and prior to vegetation greening up. Northern Wisconsin still has lingering snow in the woods but it is rapidly melting with the warmer temperatures. The main cause of wildfires this time of year is burning brush and leaf piles, and debris burning continues to be the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin.

Burning permits are required in DNR Protection Areas anytime the ground is not completely snow-covered. Permit holders are authorized to burn vegetative materials, such as leaves, brush and needles, and are designed so that burning is done safely with minimal wildfire risk. Permits are free and can be obtained online or by calling 888-947-2876. Once a burn permit has been obtained, the individual must call or go online after 9 a.m. on the day of the planned burn to check daily burn restrictions, such as the legal burning hours, size limitations or if burning has been sus-



Check conditions before you burn – debris burning continues to be the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin. WISCONSIN DNR

pending for the day. Small campfires for warming or cooking do not require a burning permit. Some areas of the state are not regulated by the DNR so it's important to check with local municipal or fire department officials for any ordinances or other burning restrictions. Sparks from recre-

ational equipment, campfires and hot ashes from fireplaces are also contributing fire causes. Smoldering embers can remain hot for days, even weeks. If using a wood stove or fireplace, empty the ashes into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid or dump them onto bare soil. Then, drown the ashes with water and stir until the embers are completely cold. The same goes for campfires, burn barrels and burned leaf and brush piles. Before leaving the area, drown the ashes, stir and keep adding water until all heat and smoke is gone.

Rec center won't be impacted by Washington turmoil

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

The turmoil in Washington, D.C., over federal funds being frozen and restarted is not expected to impact the city of Shawano when it breaks ground on renovating and expanding its recreation center this summer. According to City Administrator Eddie Sheppard, some concerns were expressed about whether the \$4.25 million Flexible Facilities grant would still be coming to Shawano, even though the state issued the

grant. It came about after the state added some wording to the final agreement signed recently. "They added some language into the state agreement, which is basically that the state doesn't hold these funds," he said. "They're actually held by the (U.S.) Treasury. They added some protection language for themselves. Our agreement is with the state. They administer the program. We then do the project. They submit to the treasury and then are reimbursed." Sheppard said the city checked with other municipalities receiving funds this year from the Flexible Facilities program to gauge if the federal upheaval was giving them indigestion, too. He said that the officials he has spoken with are moving forward on their own projects, because they have not received any notification from the state that the funds won't actually materialize. "We feel good that this is really just legal language that they felt they needed to add to protect themselves," Sheppard said to the Shawano Common Council on March 12. "There has been no indication from the state or any other grant recipients

that funds are actually in jeopardy, but since there was a change from when we signed the draft agreement to now signing the final agreement, we wanted to bring that to your attention." City Attorney Keith Steckbauer supported Sheppard's statements, noting that he also serves as attorney for the city of New London, which recently received a \$3.9 million Flexible Facilities grant to build a new library. "They had the same concerns, because, if you have to front that cost, that's a bad thing," Steckbauer said. "What I did was look at a list of all (federal) pro-

grams, the last known list of what was on the table ... there were 2,600 programs that were cut. Fortunately for us, these monies are held by the Department of Treasury. This is not one of the agencies that has been getting a lot of attention. It's not homeland security, and it's not some of the other agencies that have been getting a lot of publicity." Steckbauer said there was still risk involved, because the state was saying, "We're going to give you this money — if we get it." "That's the risk, but that's always been the case," Steckbauer said, noting the situation is similar in every state where there are improvement funds. Mayor Bruce Milavitz noted that he was in Washington the day after the executive order went out on freezing federal funds, and he was able to sit down with congressional officials. "I can tell you with no hesitation whatsoever is that on the chopping block were the grants that were already awarded," Milavitz said. "The take at Washington's level, from what I understand, is they thought it was the state level turning it into a political football. They were genuinely surprised that it was brought up by many communities."

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Master planning proposals reviewed

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

A dozen firms were expected to offer proposals for design services master planning of county facilities as Shawano County officials continue their quest to potentially build a new courthouse and justice center, along with other facility improvements. Proposals were due Sept. 17, and the public property committee was scheduled to meet Sept. 20

to review them. The master planning process is being coordinated by Kurt Berner of The Samuels Group. Berner told the committee March 13 he will put together a summary of each proposal for the committee to review March 20. Members were scheduled to review the proposals and then decide which ones to interview at a special April 1 meeting, which is likely be held in closed session. "We would bring you a summary of all of the proposals with comparisons of who's including what, fees, allocation of that," he said. The proposals from the design firms include master planning services related to the county's government offices, courts, court of-fices, sheriff's office, jail and library. The Samuels Group will then work with county officials to: • Determine costs of design services for each phase of the design process.

• Provide a fair and objective evaluation of proposals received from design firms. • Collect information necessary for the evaluation of competitive proposals submitted by qualified design firms. • Select a professional design firm acceptable to the county to provide design services for programming and schematic design phases of design for renovations to the current campus.

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Homeschoolers performing arts turns 20

Wolf River performing 'The Little Mermaid' in April

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

It might be traditional for celebrating 20 years of something with china or porcelain, but the Wolf River Homeschoolers are opting to go with seaweed to praise its longstanding performing arts program.

Every spring, the homeschooling group brings together its families to perform a show for area audiences, and this year, the group is presenting "The Little Mermaid." Originally a Danish fairy tale created by Hans Christian Andersen, the story focuses on Ariel, a mermaid who longs to be with a man who lives on land. To make this happen, Ariel makes a deal with a sea witch to replace her fins with legs, and as long as she can get a kiss from her beloved within three days, despite losing her voice in the bargain, she can remain on land forever.

"The Little Mermaid" is one of the homeschoolers' mainstream shows, but the group has also performed some more obscure pieces over the years, including "Willow Blues," "Lady Pirates of Captain Bree," and "The Nifty Fifties." Cheryl Ritter, director for this year's show, noted that the shows are chosen for the amount of children that take part in the show, which for this year is 64.

"We started out with smaller ones from Pioneer Drama, and then some braver people than me started with MTI shows," Ritter said. "We have 64 kids this year, so we basically doubled our cast from last year."

Picking "The Little Mermaid" seemed ideal for a cast where the majority of students performers are down in the lower grades.

"We have a lot of little kids," Ritter said. "It's really hard to pick a show that you can have 15 little boys and 15 little girls. The bulk of our group is under 11, which is why we did 'Seussical' a couple of years ago."

Joseph Kelliher, who plays the crazy Chef Louie, noted that Ariel is a soul who doesn't fit in with everyone's expectations, and that's why she gets pushback from her family and others.

"She has a fondness for the surface, where the air and the land is," Kelliher



ABOVE: Ariel, played by Taya Jannusch, smiles as she hopes that dance lessons from Prince Eric, played by Tristan Herro, might sway him to kiss her and make it possible for her to live on land forever in a scene from "The Little Mermaid." The musical, taking much of its cues from the 1989 Disney film, is being performed by the Wolf River Homeschoolers on April 3-6.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

RIGHT: Sebastian the crab, played by Wilhemina Herro, left, reacts with surprise that the plans to bring Ariel and Prince Eric together aren't working as Scuttle, played by Aubree Wojta, looks on in a scene from "The Little Mermaid."

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA



said. "So she's constantly sneaking away up there."

Kelliher noted that the deal Ariel strikes with Ursula is unfair because of

MERMAID, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Specialist Adrian A. Yunk, an ammunition handler with Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Regiment, swims with his M4 training rifle (or "rubber duck") as part of the combat water survival training event during the Wisconsin Army National Guard State Best Warrior Competition at Fort McCoy on March 8.

EMILY E. HELD

Local soldier competes for Best Warrior title

By **EMILY E. HELD**
Special to NEW Media

Specialist Adrian A. Yunk, of Shawano, an ammunition handler with Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 120th Field Artillery Regiment, competed along with 19 other soldiers at Fort McCoy on March 6-9, where they sought to be crowned winners of the 2025 Wisconsin Army National Guard State Best Warrior Competition.

The four-day competition tested the soldiers on their proficiency in several subjects including their physical and mental stamina, as well as their knowledge of military tactics and procedures.

The nine soldiers and 11 non-commissioned officers who participated in the competition were evaluated on their proficiency in a call-for-fire scenario, M4 rifle and M17 pistol qualification, day and

night land navigation, a written exam, an appearance board, Army Warrior Tasks, a 12-mile ruck march, combat water survival training, an obstacle course and the Army Combat Fitness Test.

"We're looking for the best overall, all-around soldier," said Command Sgt. Maj. Duane Weyer, the state senior enlisted leader for the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

This competition doesn't measure who is the best at their job; it's not about who's the best medic or the best engineer, Weyer added.

Yunk works as an armored-car security guard for his civilian job and enlisted in the Wisconsin Army National Guard in May 2023.

"For me, it's a chance to represent my

WARRIOR, CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Natasha Selle displays some of the unique crystal pieces for sale in her shop, The Heart of Garnet Crystal Shop. The display case next to her shows some of the many natural crystals she has for sale.

LYNN ZAFFRANN

Business crystallizes in downtown Shawano

Handmade jewelry business started in 2020 in Tigerton home

By LYNN ZAFFRANN
Correspondent

A variety of crystals and hand-made jewelry cover every inch of display space in Natasha Selle's inventory at The Heart of Garnet Crystal Shop in Shawano.

Selle, from Tigerton, is a vibrant addition to Shawano's downtown shopping district. She set up her unique shop Feb. 14 in the old State Farm Insurance building at 207 S. Main St.

Among the crystals she sells are rose quartz, amethyst, carnelian and blue celestite.

Many of her hand-made natural crystal necklaces sell for less than \$15. She has pendant necklaces for \$10. Her crystal keychains are priced from \$3-\$5. Crystal balls start at \$10. Worry stones and small carvings start at \$3.

Setting and keeping prices affordable is a priority for Selle.

"Because I do everything myself, I can offer good prices," she said. "It's not all about the money for me. I'm big on having a price range that everyone feels comfortable with."

Selle said that she wants to spread the abundance and joy in what she does.

"I do giveaways of a different crystal every week," she said.

Customers can enter the weekly drawings by filling out entry slips in the store. A large amethyst piece was the giveaway recently.

In addition to the wide variety of crystals, gemstones and jewelry pieces,

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: Heart of Garnet
WHERE: 207 S. Main St., Shawano
WHEN: Noon-5 p.m. Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Hours could expand during the summer.
ONLINE: Learn about daily happenings at Heart of Garnet's Facebook page.

the store also features larger pieces that may be used as home décor or specialty pieces for customers who are interested in the spiritual component of crystals.

"I'm happy to be here and happy to answer anyone's questions," she said. "If someone is interested in getting into crystals, I'm happy to direct them to find their perfect piece."

Selle understands that everyone's beliefs are different. She has combined her own Christian beliefs with the spiritual side of crystals. Crystals have been seen as healing objects in numerous religions for centuries.

According to Selle, some people just like crystals because they are pretty.

"That's cool," she said. "A lot of people aren't into the spiritual side of crystals, and that's awesome, too."

Selle started creating hand-made jewelry in May 2020 and began selling online.

"It grew, and it blew up, and it was amazing," she said.

Selle had to ask her dad to help her so she could finish orders timely. He learned how to make jewelry with her, which she

said was a lot of fun. "I really needed to be out with the people, instead of just online," Selle said after receiving a lot of encouraging and positive feedback about her creations after she started selling them in markets and craft shows.

Selle began looking for a brick-and-mortar location, and chose Shawano.

"There's something beautiful about the energy in downtown," Selle said, adding that there is a small-town feel in Shawano, but that the downtown shopping district has a bigger town feel.

Selle's fiancé, Zachary Krause, is very supportive of her endeavor. Selle said that he helped to remodel the space, building a counter for her and helping to paint and put in shelving.

The store is named after the garnet gemstone. According to Selle, the garnet is known for passion, purpose and a fiery drive inside of people.

"I feel that my purpose is to spread some love and happiness and all that good stuff," Selle said. "One of my favorite stones is blue celestite."

It is believed that its properties support the nervous system, reduce stress and soothe, calm and help with clear decision making.

To help customers identify and choose crystals, Selle displays the names and descriptions of the possible spiritual properties of each type. For example, Selle explained that clear quartz is popular because it is believed that it amplifies

energy and helps cleanse the aura (the energy field that surrounds all living things) and harmonizes the chakras (the way energy moves through the body).

"I like to think of these crystals as our tools and our helpers," Selle said. "I think we can all use a little reminder to be kinder to ourselves, kinder to others."

Selle, mother to Remington, 7, and Aubry, 2, welcomes children into her shop. Children can find animal-carved stones or crystal key chains in the store, for example. She said that some children who come in tell their parents that they want to work there when they grow up, because it is so fun.

"Breakable geodes are some of the favorites of children," Selle said. "They can hammer and crack them open, and they just love them. It's amazing."

Geodes are spherical and hollow and when opened can reveal colorful crystals.

Selle said that she has something for everyone in her store.

"If you don't see something you like, I can always search for it, or I can make it," she said. "That's the fun part about what I do. I get to make pieces that are personalized for people."

Creating custom pieces is one of the services she enjoys offering. She is also available to try to repair jewelry pieces.

"I really love this community," Selle said. "I've loved meeting everyone. I've loved everyone's feedback."

MERMAID, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

the sea witch's interference. "She fails to do so, because the sea witch keeps stopping her and disrupting it," he said. "In the end, the sea witch captures her and drags her down so she can become her slave."

Caleb Bestul, who plays Flounder in the show, described being part of "The Little Mermaid" as "a new experience."

"Usually we do musicals that are on land," Bestul said. "Working together with everybody, it's a really big cast this year, and it's tough to work together, but once you see it all come together, you feel proud that you've managed to get everybody together and doing the same thing."

Bestul had not seen the Disney version of the tale prior to auditioning, and though he planned to do so before the home-schoolers' performance, he said he couldn't find the time.

"As we went through rehearsals, I picked up on some of the quirks of my character and how to react around the scenes so I could be ready," Bestul said.

Timothy Sterns, who plays a chef and other minor characters in the show, likes the teamwork aspect of plays. He noted that being able to be multiple characters requires a certain technique.

"You can be different characters in a show and act differently from the other characters," Sterns said. "I've found it easier if you just make up a story for your character, you give them a name and where they're from, and it kind of comes together. I found that I wrote a

WARRIOR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

unit and push myself to my limits, physically and mentally," Yunk said. "The value of this adds to my unit. I can take back a lot of skills that the standard artilleryman doesn't hold onto."

During the closing ceremony, Brig. Gen. Matthew Strub, Wisconsin's deputy adjutant general for Army, talked about how simply being selected to compete in the State Best Warrior set Yunk and his fellow competitors apart from the rest of the Wisconsin Army National Guard.

"Whether you were the top or the last, it doesn't matter," Strub said. "You were willing to step up, and you have done something most soldiers would never do."

"We have nearly 7,000 soldiers in the Wisconsin Guard, and there are only 20 competitors. You are the best of the best. To step up and be willing to do this, you are putting yourself above your peers."

Specialist Vincent A.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: "The Little Mermaid"
WHEN: 7 p.m. April 3-5, 2 p.m. April 6
WHERE: Auditorium, Clintonville High School, 64 W. Green Tree Road, Clintonville
ADMISSION: Free

paragraph for my character and who we was. One character needs to be a good leader, and when I switch to the chef, he's kind of worried and panicked and rushing all over the place."

Sterns had plenty of good things to say about the performing arts organization and how it has helped him.

"For me, I've enjoyed acting since I was younger," Sterns said. "I've done multiple other plays. When I was little, we moved here and were looking for something to join. I've found that being an actor is not just the acting, but it takes teamwork to move all the sides, to pull it in and show who you are and how to give a good performance."

Ritter, who was a founding member of the performing arts group, noted that shows like this one are not possible without the support of the parents who volunteer and bring their children each week and that the group could not have made it to 20 years without them.

"Every parent has to do so much," Ritter said, noting that it's her last year directing for the group. "Today, there's 20 parents here. They're painting sets in the back and they're doing hair. They're putting on costumes. We couldn't do it without them."

lpulaski@newmedia-wi.com

Bird, a military police officer with the 32nd Military Police Company, from Oshkosh, and Staff Sgt. Brandon M. Byrne, a recruiting and retention non-commissioned officer with Alpha Company, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, from Green Bay, emerged as the top competitors in the enlisted, and NCO categories.

Pfc. Ryan L. Nettesheim, a UH-60 Black Hawk repairer with Detachment 1, Bravo Company, 638th Aviation Support Battalion, and Sgt. Eli W. Koehler, a health care non-commissioned officer with the Wisconsin Medical Detachment, were announced as the runner-ups for this year's competition.

Bird and Bryne will move on to represent the Wisconsin Army National Guard at the regional competition where they will compete against the best warriors from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Ohio, held at Fort McCoy, from April 30 to May 3.

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Grab extra turkey tags now for more chances

As I'm writing this, spring is promising to arrive early, with the weather forecasters getting giddy about a weeklong warm spell that could see temperatures in the low 70s.

By the time you read this, we will all know if they were right or somehow missed a surprise snowstorm that loves to crush our dreams in March or April.

As president of the Winnebago Strutters (Neenah-Menasha) Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, I'm in the midst of last-minute preparations for our annual fundraising banquet March 15 at Pullman's in Appleton.

If you have ever been to a banquet to raise money for turkeys, ducks, deer, pheasants, elk or other critters, you know the drill: great food (we have southern barbecue, which was as amazing last year as it sounds), a few beers, some gun raffles, an auction of outdoors goodies and artwork, and plenty of door prizes. I hope to see you all there next year.

As I drive through my wooded Waupaca County countryside, I'm constantly scanning for critters, main-



Ross Bielema
Columnist

ly the deer that threaten my commutes and trips to town. When I'm not dodging deer, I'm looking for the springtime bird of our dreams: the wild turkey.

I literally drive past my hunting spot almost every day, and I see turkeys there about 50% of the time. It's a good, but not great, spot. I was lucky enough to conduct a successful tungsten shot experiment on a small adult tom last year, taking him with a 20-gauge at 65 paces. I didn't plan it that way, but it just happened.

Because I don't always get a shot every season, I boost my odds of roast wild turkey every year by buying an extra tag or two to help my minor league batting average. Here's how you can do the same.

If you forgot to apply for a turkey license by the Dec. 10 deadline (why they have such an early deadline, I'll never know), or you just want an extra, this week started the sales process for surplus tags.

Zone 1 tags (southwest counties) went on sale March 17.

Zone 2 tags (southeast corner north to Door County, including the portions of Shawano, Oconto and Outagamie counties east or south of state highways 22 and 47; see Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources map) went on sale March 18.

Zone 3 tags (most of us in Shawano and Waupaca counties are in this zone) went on sale March 19.

Zone 4 tags (including a portion of Marathon County) went on sale March 20.

Zone 5 tags (northeast, including most of Oconto County and parts of Menominee, Langlade and Marathon counties) went on sale March 21.

At 10 a.m. March 22, all remaining tags go on sale (you can stand in line at any retail license outlet or wait online and purchase from home). It's a good idea to have a few choices in mind, because your first choice can sell out while you wait.

The first two seasons (April 16-22 and April 23-29) are sold out in all zones. Zones 6 and 7 are also sold out. Don't worry about hunting the later



This is what turkey hunters live for come spring. Buy a few extra turkey tags now to increase your chances of a successful hunt.

seasons. With generally fewer hunters and many bred hens, the toms are searching for more action and often easier to call, although they may come in silently. Be ready when calling and try not to move. Turkeys have one key sense, and it's obviously eyesight.

Click <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/permits/springturkey.html> for details on surplus tags.

Avoid wearing red, white and blue colors while turkey hunting, as these are the hues of a gob-

bler and your calls could attract another hunter, especially on public areas. Sit with your back to a tree wider than your shoulders for an extra margin of safety. If you see a hunter approaching, speak in a soft voice, and don't make a sudden movement. Hunting remains among the safest of all sports, so let's keep it that way.

Decoys or no decoys? I've shot turkeys with and without using them. Hen and jake decoys are fine, but I really don't think it is a safe or effective idea to

use gobbler decoys. You risk spooking smaller toms (which still taste delicious) and also chance taking a load of copper-coated 5's in the posterior or worse.

When transporting decoys, carry them in a bag so they aren't visible in the woods.

Good luck this season. Be sure to send us your photos so we can share them with our readers.

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

FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE

Every year different for collecting maple sap

"Eek!" slipped out through clenched teeth — unbidden yet totally expected, an automatic reflex to what I happened to be doing at the moment.

We are thick into sap season, and every year is different, depending on the weather. It is akin to farming in that respect.

This past winter, my husband diligently thought through easier, more effective and more productive ways to collect sap. Many times, I caught him deep in thought and when he spoke, it was about lines or taps or totes or pickle barrels. The dictionary should literally have my husband's name next to the word "diligent." I mean the guy was unstoppable in his figuring. It's been a project.

The first year we collected sap, we tapped maple trees on our ridge exclusively using pails hung on trees, tapping about 60 trees. That was all it took to grab my husband — hook, line and sinker.

Understanding he could make better use of our woods, he was enthralled with the idea of collecting sap more efficiently. Using gravity as a natural pull, the sun warms the trees up on the south-facing hill, encouraging the sap to run like a faucet turned on full-bore.

The next year we added



Kay Reminger
Columnist

10 pails, and he started pondering.

That offseason had him thinking, and then planning for running lines, so the third year, my husband strung 4,000 feet of 3/16-inch lines, which ran into two stationary totes stuck at the bottom of our ridge. To empty the totes, we simply used natural gravity running a large blue hose funneled into a tote on the trailer. Emptying the pails, (we'd kept a few up) we used a wand pump attached with a hose, running the sap into a 275-gallon tote, which we were hauling on our trailer.

I swear he's thinking, "Go big or go home (relatively speaking)." This year in preparation for sap season, in addition to having strung another 2,000 feet of lines, my husband and a friend put up 300 taps into our maple trees, all running into four, 275-gallon totes. He did away with all pails, making lines do the work.

Along with now four totes, he found two 60-gal pickle barrels on Marketplace as well as a 425-gallon tote to stick on



It took a pickup used to haul wood and a tractor to reach the maple trees where sap needed to be collected on the Reminger farm for 2025.

KAY REMINGER

the back of our truck bed, replacing the trailer of other years. After drilling holes for each line to run into the pickle barrels, they were placed strategically at two productive spots.

This sapping project grabbed him and in turn, I'm totally on board. It's been different every year, with varying weather conditions and the equip-

ment we use. It's something we can do together and feel incredibly grateful that we are able to spend time in our treasured woods, enjoying fresh air and being productive together.

We've also discovered during our treks in the woods, a tap that's been in an old maple for 90 years, factually certified by my husband's uncle. In the

1930s, Grandpa Reminger was the last one to have tapped trees — no one else since my husband has started — so we know this treasure is at least 90 years old.

Back to my little startled cry (or two, who's counting) — with frost still in the ground and getting yet more moisture, but with temps freezing at night and sunny warm above freezing during the day, the sap was running. Despite the awful condition of the line of travel, we needed to collect.

"We'll have to hook the truck up to the tractor to pull it. What do you wanna drive?"

Eyebrows knit together in consternation, I swallowed hard and said, "Do I have a third choice?"

Opting to drive the truck, I was staring at two back tractor tires mere feet from our wood truck (converted at this time into a tote, sap-hauling truck), my foot simultaneously hovering over the brake, the accelerator or both. He had chained the front of the truck to the back of the tractor, fashioning it in a sort of tripod so there would be less sway.

Getting started, it was good going. Presently, he hauled me up a small knoll when we then needed to go back down the same small knoll. "Eek!" I squeaked

when my truck got too close to his back tractor tires. Keeping both white-knuckled hands on the wheel, I had it in low four-wheel drive and getting pulled along with no recourse other than to remain even-keeled rendering every ounce of my physical and emotional strength.

We stopped at our first tote. He saw my face. "You're doing great." Encouragement goes a long way.

We've had to collect this year in this same fashion a few times, with the hope that soon it won't be quite so muddy. I'd rather leave the tractor in the shed.

We sell all our sap to Charlie Wagner in Tilleda, who's been super accommodating with hints and helps throughout our project. As with farming, sapping season is dependent on the weather. With equipment options and my husband always thinking things through, we'll sure to be productive.

("Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil." Ecclesiastes 4:9)

Kay Reminger was born and raised on a dairy farm, and she married her high school sweetheart, who happened to farm for a living in Leopold. Writing for quite a few years, she remains focused on the blessings of living the ups and downs of rural life from a farm wife's perspective.

IN THE KITCHEN WITH FRANCESCA

Homemade soup tastes just like cheeseburger

Soup is one of my favorite things to eat in the winter, or in the treacherous days of pre- and early spring. I especially enjoy creamy soups poured over mashed potatoes. This easy meal stretches the amount of soup while remaining hearty and filling.

Earlier this year, I felt like making a homemade soup. I was considering making some form of potato soup, but my sister urged me to make cheeseburger soup. She found a recipe for me from an old Taste of Home magazine. I was initially hesitant, as the recipe had a long list of ingredients and looked rather complicated. However, I decided to try it.

As I nearly always do, I made some revisions. The recipe calls for onions, but since I am not the biggest fan of onions, I omitted them. If you wish to add onions, simply reduce the amount of celery and carrots and add some chopped onion. I also added bacon, because bacon makes everything better. I have always forgotten to add the sour cream, so I cannot say if it is good in this soup or not.

Finally, the amount of cheese is negotiable. The recipe originally called for Velveeta, which I have never used. I decided to use muenster instead. Muenster cheese is a very good mild cheese, and, as I found when I made this soup, it melts very well. I have never measured the cheese when making this soup; I simply add until I can begin to see the melted cheese strings.

The first time I made this soup, there were a few complaints about how thick the soup was, so the second time I made it (I made a double batch) I added about a cup more chicken broth. I would recommend watching the soup — if you feel it needs to be thinner, or that there isn't enough liquid to cover the potatoes, add some more chicken broth or hot water.

Do not worry about adding too much. If it looks like there is too much liquid in



Bacon cheeseburger soup can be quite delicious during the winter months, and it can be served on its own or on top of mashed potatoes.

FRANCESCA ULLMER



the potato boiling stage, that is what the flour mixture is for. The butter-flour mixture acts as a thickener, and it really works — the soup may look too thick after the butter-flour mixture is added. The milk thins it back out again.

This soup does take a fair amount of time to make. However, if you chop the vegetables, shred the cheese, and cook the bacon beforehand, that will greatly cut out the extra time. This soup is not hard to make; it just requires some creative time management. For example, when the vegetables are sauteing, prepare the next ingredients, and when the potatoes are cooking, prepare the last set of ingredients. This soup is totally worth the time, though. It is very rich, hearty, and filling. It is delicious plain



Once the soup dinner is complete, oatmeal scotchies can be quite the treat as the raisins and nuts normally associated with oatmeal cookies are replaced with butterscotch chips.

FRANCESCA ULLMER

or served over mashed potatoes.

Oatmeal scotchies are simply oatmeal cookies with butterscotch chips, rather than the more commonly used raisins and/or nuts. These cookies are delicious, especially when right out of the oven — crispy on the outside and soft and chewy

on the inside. Perfect. My brother even admitted to me that in the space of a few hours he ate five cookies. That is how good they are.

The recipe does call for orange extract, but personally, I think butterscotch chips and orange extract together sound odd. I kept it in the recipe because, for all

I know, it may taste great. I, however, am not going to try it anytime soon. These cookies taste just great without it.

Francesca Ullmer, the second child of a large homeschooled family, is from the Krakow area. She enjoys baking, reading, knitting, raising goats, and entering numerous items in the Oconto County Fair.

BACON CHEESEBURGER SOUP

- 1/2 lb. ground beef
- 4 tbsp. butter
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 tsp. dried basil
- 1 tsp. dried parsley flakes
- 1 3/4 lbs. (about 4 cups) cubed peeled potatoes
- 3 cups chicken broth
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 to 4 cups shredded muenster cheese
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- 1 lb. chopped, cooked bacon
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 cup sour cream (optional)

In a large saucepan over medium/low heat, cook and crumble beef until no longer pink; drain and set aside. In the same sauce pan, melt 1 tbsp. butter over medium heat. Saute carrots, celery, basil, and parsley until vegetables are tender, about 10 minutes. Transfer to a medium/large pot. Add potatoes, ground beef, and broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat, simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender, 10-12 minutes. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, melt the remaining 3 tbsp. butter. Add the flour; cook and stir 3-5 minutes or until bubbly. Add to the soup; bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Reduce heat to low. Stir in cheese, milk, bacon, salt, and pepper; cook until cheese melts. Remove from heat. Mix in sour cream if desired. Garnish with cheese if desired.

OATMEAL SCOTCHIES

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened
 - 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
 - 1 egg
 - 1 1/2 tsp. water
 - 1 cup flour
 - 1 tsp. baking powder
 - 1/2 tsp. baking soda
 - 1/2 tsp. salt
 - 3/4 cup quick oats
 - 1 cup butterscotch chips
 - 1/4 tsp. orange extract (optional)
- Cream the butter and brown sugar. Add the egg and water and beat until creamy. Combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt; mix into the butter mixture until fully incorporated. Add the oatmeal, butterscotch chips, and extract (optional). Drop slightly rounded spoonfuls onto lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 375 degrees for 8-12 minutes.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

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

ABRAMS: "Godspell," 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Adults \$19, senior citizens, youths and veterans \$17. ofps.revtrak.net/pac-ticket-boxoffice/#/list

OCONTO FALLS: "Alice in Wonderland," 7 p.m., Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road, presented by OFHS Drama Club. \$8 adults, \$5 students. <https://ofps.revtrak.net/pac-ticket-boxoffice/#/list>

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

MOUNTAIN: Maple Syrup Days and Wisconsin's First Tap, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bear Paw Scout Camp, 14000 Bear Paw Camp Lane. Learn how maple syrup is made and take part in more than a dozen activities geared toward children 5-11 years old.

SHAWANO: Cooking School and Expo - Shawano Flavorfest, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Shawano Community High School, 220 County Road B. Vendor fair and open house 9 a.m. to noon, cooking school 12:30-2:30 p.m. Registration required, includes swag bag and cookbook, \$15 at 715-526-2192, Ext. 3202, or <https://shawanosd.cr3.schooltoday.com/public/home/#>

GILLET: Spring Craft Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Primal Eats, 14109 County Road VV. Featuring local crafters and artisans.

OCONTO FALLS: "Alice in Wonderland," 7 p.m., Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road, presented by OFHS Drama Club. \$8 adults, \$5 students. <https://ofps.revtrak.net/pac-ticket-boxoffice/#/list>

ABRAMS: "Godspell," 7 p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Adults \$19, senior citizens, youths and veterans \$17. ofps.revtrak.net/pac-ticket-boxoffice/#/list

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

ABRAMS: "Godspell," 1

p.m., Nancy Byng Community Theater, 5852 Maple St., presented by Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. Adults \$19, senior citizens, youths and veterans \$17. ofps.revtrak.net/pac-ticket-boxoffice/#/list

OCONTO FALLS: "Alice in Wonderland," 2 p.m., Oconto Falls High School, 210 N. Farm Road, presented by OFHS Drama Club. \$8 adults, \$5 students. <https://ofps.revtrak.net/pac-ticket-boxoffice/#/list>

MONDAY, MARCH 24

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, MARCH 25

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, MARCH 26

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.

POUND: North Country Kickers line dance lessons,

6:30-9 p.m., Equity Hall, W7403 State Highway 64. \$5 admission. Playing a variety of music. Everyone welcome. For information, call Nancy 920-829-6316 or Charles 920-606-4370.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

OCONTO: Jacob's Well — Oconto All Community small group Bible study, 2:30 p.m. The Shop On Main (rear conference annex), 821 Main St. Information at jacobswellgb.org.

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

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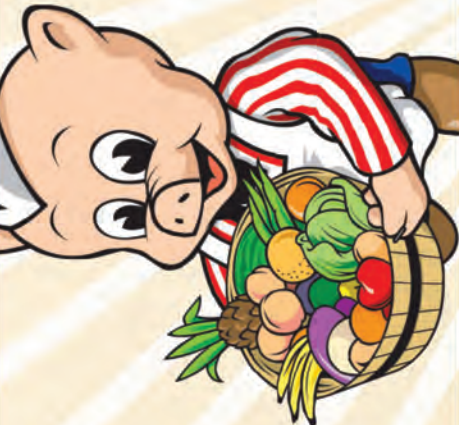
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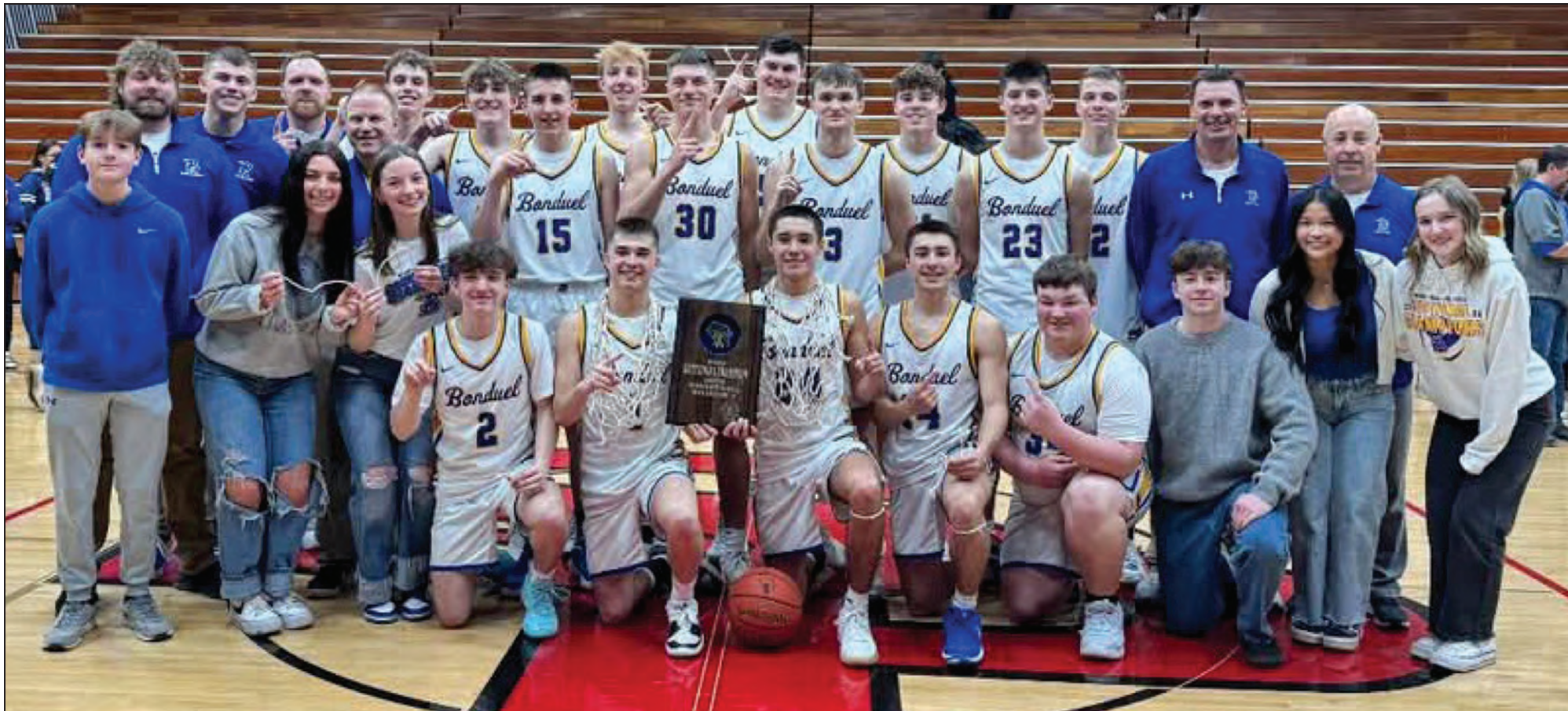
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The Bonduel Bears boys basketball team will play in the WIAA state tournament for the first time in school history. Games will be played in Madison, and the Bears are seeded first in Division 4. CONTRIBUTED

Bonduel boys are statebound!

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

March 15
Bonduel 56, Auburndale 44

For the first time in school history, the Bonduel Bears boys basketball team will participate in the WIAA state tournament. Bonduel defeated Auburndale 56-44 to win their Division 4 sectional and advance to the state tournament. The teams each scored 27 points in the second half, but the Bears' 12-point lead from the first half was plenty to earn the win. Ryan Westrich led Bonduel

with 19 points, and Cade Johnson added 12. Bonduel is 27-1 this season. They are the No. 1 seed going into the tournament, which will be played at the Kohl Center in Madison. Bonduel was scheduled to play No. 4 The Prairie School (14-15) at 6:35 p.m. March 20. No. 2 Mineral Point (27-1) and No. 3 Aquinas (24-3) were scheduled to play after. The championship game will be played 15 minutes after the Division 5 final game, which is set to begin at 11:05 a.m. March

22.
March 13
Bonduel 71, Southern Door 57

With a slim three-point lead at halftime, Bonduel pulled away after the break as they defeated Southern Door 71-57 in the Division 4 sectional semifinal game at Green Bay Southwest. But, the game started with the Eagles in command, at one point going on a 13-point run. After a Bonduel timeout, Carter Moesch's 3-pointer ended the Southern Door scoring streak. Ryan Westrich led the Bears

with 25 points and 11 rebounds. Moesch added another 14 points, and Race Anvelink tossed in another 13. Cade Johnson handed out seven assists, and led with three steals. **Notre Dame 53, Pulaski 52**

The Division 2 sectional semifinal literally went down to the wire, as Notre Dame won 53-52 on a 3-pointer as time expired. The Tritons led 32-25 at one point in the second half, but the Red Raiders battled back with Joseph Mijal's basket giving Pulaski a one-point lead.

The teams went back and forth with Drew Siudzinski hitting the game-winning basket. Pulaski's 2024-25 season included a 10-8 mark in the Fox River Classic Conference and 16-12 record overall. Colin Schultz led the Red Raiders with 20.0 points per game, followed by Mijal with 11.8 and Bryce Wotruba with 11.0. Mijal pulled down an average of 4.3 rebounds per game, while Wotruba averaged 3.6. Wotruba led Pulaski with 2.7 assists per game, and Bohdan Schmidt had 1.8.

Granquist takes third in 3-Point Challenge

Lauren Strifling, a senior from Homestead, won the 2025 girls 3-Point Challenge held March 15 at the Resch Center in conjunction with the WIAA girls basketball tournament. Strifling, representing Division 1, was one of 10 participants. She scored an overtime score of 10 points to win the contest. Senior Kristina Ouimette of Lakeland was runner-up with nine points in the overtime round. Strifling and Ouimette both score 17 points in the final round to force a 30-second overtime period. Strifling scored 13 points in first round and 19 points in the second round to advance to the final round. Ouimette opened with 13 points and followed with 15 in the semifinals. Junior Melaina Granquist of Wittenberg-Birnamwood was third with 14 points in the second round after scoring 13 in the opening round.

DeBauch voted to All-NACC first team

The Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC) announced its all-conference teams and major award winners for the 2024-25 women's basketball season. Concordia University Wisconsin landed one All-NACC first team selection with Aubrey DeBauch. A senior forward from Gillett, DeBauch is claiming her second consecutive selection to the All-NACC first team. DeBauch was a scoring machine for the Falcons in the 2024-25 campaign. She led the Falcons and was third in the NACC with 15.44 points per game. Her 386 points rank third behind two others who have played more games. On Feb. 8, she recorded 30 points against Rockford. The 30 points are the most scored by a student-athlete in a NACC contest this season. DeBauch posted the second-best field goal percentage in the conference at 0.500, making 152 of her 304 shots. She also frustrated NACC opponents as the conference's leading rebounders. DeBauch finished fifth in rebounds per game at 7.12 and collected 178 rebounds on the season.



A senior forward from Gillett, Aubrey DeBauch claimed her second consecutive selection to the All-NACC first team. DeBauch was a scoring machine for Concordia University in the 2024-25 campaign. She led the Falcons and was third in the NACC with 15.44 points per game. Her 386 points rank third behind two others who have played more games. KATELYN CARDINAL

DeBauch proved to be one of the most well-rounded stars of the conference as the only athlete to finish top-five in scoring, rebounding and assists. She finished her senior season fourth in assists per game at 2.8. Her eight-assist night against Wisconsin Lutheran is the second-highest total in a

NACC contest this past year. DeBauch was a menace for NACC offenses and finished fifth in blocks with 15 on the year. The NACC hated to see the pride of Gillett make it to the free-throw line as well. She finished with 81 free throws to rank fifth in the conference. DeBauch was a double-dou-

ble threat on a consistent basis and was third in the conference with seven double-double performances on the year. She did so against Emerson on Dec. 20, Dubuque on Jan. 4, Marian on Jan. 8, Benedictine on Jan. 11, Dominican on Jan. 18, Illinois Tech on Jan. 29 and Alverno on Feb. 13.

Nordin named player of the year

Shawano Community High School junior Leah Nordin is the Bay Conference girls basketball player of the year. Nordin is the all-time leading scorer for the school. She was also a unanimous selection for the all-conference first team.

Senior Ella Stuber was named to the second team, and senior Trinity Popelka earned honorable mentions status. Senior Logan Sipple was a unanimous selection to the all-conference first team for the boys team. He is the all-time

high scorer for boys at the school. Sophomore William Verkuilen was named honorable mention. On the girls wrestling team, junior Jenna Moede and senior Adalyn Barkley were named to the first team. Juniors Gwyn Her-

mann and Vivian Waldburger were named to the second team. For the boys, junior Dane Hodkiewicz and freshman Marcus Brezgel earned first team honors. Juniors Kody Popelka and Drew Chelberg were named to the second team.

Master Angler of the Year



Jesse DeBauch, a Gillett High School student, earned the 2024 Master Angler of the Year award from the Wisconsin Interscholastic Fishing Association for this past year. DeBauch was the only high school student to catch all 34 species of fish designated in the WIFA competition over one calendar year. Each species of fish must be a minimum size to qualify. He spent many hours fishing, and traveled all over Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula.

WIFA

WIAA board adopts new transgender policy

Only athletes designated as females at birth can compete in girls' sports in Wisconsin High School events sanctioned by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), according to a new policy adopted Feb. 19. "Today the WIAA board of control voted to

update the organization's policy regarding student-athlete eligibility – affirming its compliance with federal directives that only students designated as females at birth will be allowed to participate in girls competitions," said Stephanie Hauser, executive director of the WIAA.

"Working in consultation with legal counsel, our board updated this policy to ensure clarity is provided to our membership as they work to comply with new federal guidance from the White House." The WIAA's decision follows similar actions taken recently by the Na-

tional Collegiate Athletic Association. That new policy only allows biological girls to play in women's sports. Both moves come after President Donald Trump signed an executive order intending to ban transgender athletes from playing in women's sports.

Witt-Birn track coach to be inducted into hall of fame

Wittenberg-Birnwood High School cross country coach Cathy Esker is headed to the U.S. College Track & Field/Cross Country Hall of Fame. Esker, then known as Cathy Branta, competed at UW-Madison in the 1980s. She is a five-time national champion and 11-time All-American. The U.S. College Track & Field/Cross Country Hall of Fame has only been around since 2022, and Esker was just announced as a member of the Class of 2025. Born and raised in Slinger, she set Wisconsin's state championship record times (for Division 2 girls) in cross country in both 1979 and 1980 before heading to Madison to

compete in track and cross country for the Badgers. While at Wisconsin, she won the Broderick Award (now the Honda Sports Award) as the country's best female collegiate cross country runner for the 1984-85 season. Esker won the gold medal at the 1985 Summer Universiade in Kobe, Japan, in the women's 3,000-meter event and also set the collegiate record in the 5,000 meters with a time of 15:07. After retiring from professional racing, Esker moved to the Wittenberg-Birnwood area to teach high school physical education, coach track and cross country, and pass along her love of running to the next generation.

Lena's Brooks and Gillett's DeBauch named most outstanding basketball players

Three local girls were among the five named to the Marinette & Oconto Conference all-conference first team for girls basketball. Honored were Lena senior Eva Brooks, Suring senior Bunny Cramer and Lena junior Madilyn Thomson. Brooks was selected as the most outstanding player. Lena senior Kali Fischer and Gillett sophomore Audrey Pate were named to the second team. Honorable mention status was earned by Gillett sophomore Maggie Kaczmarek and Gillett sophomore Hope Soper. For the boys, Gillett's

Jesse DeBauch was named most outstanding player. The senior was also a unanimous selection for the first team. Suring senior Michael Bailey and Lena senior Mason Spice were named to the second team. Suring sophomore Taylor Booth Stoffregen earned honorable mention status. Lena's Lucas Heimke, a junior, was the only non-Coleman athlete named to the all-conference first team for boys wrestling. Among those earning second team honors were Gillett/Suring sophomore Gavin Staszak and Lena junior Max Peterson.

4 Panthers earn all-conference unanimous selections

BY NEW MEDIA STAFF

Several Oconto Falls athletes earned North Eastern Conference all-conference honors for their efforts during the 2024-25 wrestling and basketball seasons. Junior Rylie Shallow was a unanimous selection for the girls basketball first team. Sophomore Ella Jahnke earned honorable mention honors. For the boys, junior Jameson Beaman was a unanimous selection for the first team. Sophomore

JJ Pytleski was named to the second team, and Evan Yuma was honorable mention. Senior Cole Bozile and sophomore Isaiah Holtz were unanimous selections for the first team for boys wrestling. Junior Brandon Romo was named to the second team. Honorable mention status was earned by senior Nick Trepanier, senior Hunter Bozile and sophomore Levi Mommaerts. For the girls, senior Nicole Woosenkraft was named to the second team.



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DNR surveys uncover ‘missing’ walleyes

Biologists finally cracked the case in 2023 during a comprehensive survey that included Loon and Washington lakes

By ROSS BIELEMA
Correspondent

State fisheries biologists have cracked the case of more than 100,000 “missing” walleyes that were not spawning in expected locations – and it may take genetic testing to prove that most of these baffling fish were simply following their natural instinct to return to their native waters.

Like a team of police detectives, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources senior fisheries biologist Elliot Hoffman and his field staff remained persistent on finding about 110,000 walleyes tracked by their clipped fins and PIT tags. They were among more than 221,000 large fingerling fish stocked in Shawano Lake from 2011 to 2017.

Biologists expected to find the clipped-fin fish with most of the other walleyes during their surveys – done with spring netting and fall electroshocking – at two key locations: Schumacher Island and Rosenow’s Point, southeast of the island, Hoffman said. But very few were showing up during that seven-year span, Hoffman explained during a Feb. 11 seminar on fisheries surveys at Shawano Community Middle School.

Biologists finally cracked the case in 2023 during a comprehensive survey that included Loon and Washington lakes. Survey boats hadn’t travelled into the shallow inlets during previous annual surveys. During the 2023 survey, about 60% of the captured walleyes on the 327-acre Loon Lake had fin clips.

Stocked fish from the

state fish hatchery are the Lake Michigan strain and instinctively head for their “home” waters, compared with Lake Winnebago fishery native fish that seek out rocky or marshy areas for spawning, Hoffman explained. He wants to confirm his theory with genetic testing to confirm these wanderlust walleyes are Lake Michigan strain fish.

Biologists began seeing a decline in the Shawano Lake walleye population in the mid-2000s. The DNR began stocking large fingerling fish (6-9 inches) every other year starting in 2011 on Shawano, Loon and Washington lakes. More than 220,000 have been stocked to date.

He praised the Shawano Chapter of Walleyes for Tomorrow, created in 2011, and the Figure 8 Muskie Club of Shawano for helping with stocking efforts and habitat improvements, as well as funding.

Walleyes for Tomorrow has been releasing more than 6 million fry walleyes a year, using a portable hatchery. The group is building a larger portable hatchery that expects to release nearly 12 million fry this year, under its DNR permit. WFT also donated \$3,600 to help fund the genetic testing and has helped fund the dime-sized PIT tags, which are implanted in captured fish and used to monitor their movements.

“I like the teamwork,” Hoffman said.

The club stocking has revealed some secrets, too. They have found that younger 20-inch females produce more eggs than the older 24-inch fish they had used in previous years.

Regulations changes



Karl Peterson, of Waupaca, caught this 25-inch walleye June 4 on the Wolf River near New London, using a musky lure. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources plans to nearly double the stocking of fingerling walleyes on Shawano Lake this year, with help from the Shawano Chapter of Walleyes for Tomorrow.
JOHN FAUCHER

in 2016 dropped the daily walleye bag limit from five to three fish and increased the minimum size limit from 15 inches to 18 inches. Surveys are turning up more older and larger fish since then.

The seminar also discussed populations of Northern pike, muskies, panfish, trout and flathead catfish.

Hoffman encouraged area anglers to attend or provide input on panfishing during the April 14 DNR and Wisconsin Conservation Congress spring hearings held statewide.

Surveys show no black crappies more than 5 years old on Shawano Lake, primarily due to heavy harvests. The DNR is proposing an aggregate daily limit of 10 panfish to encourage the growth of crappies and bluegills.

For information on northern Wisconsin fisheries surveys, go to <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/north/springsurveys>.

The 2024 Shawano Lake survey slides from the Feb. 11 presentation can be found at file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/Shawano%20LakeWalleyeMovement_SurveyResults2024.pdf.

Curious about fish stocking on a particular lake? Check the DNR stocking database at <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/fisheriesmanagement/Public/Summary/Index>.

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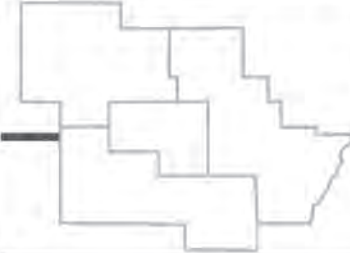
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03/21/2025

Public Notice
Town of Lena Residents

The Town of Lena will conduct their public testing of voting equipment on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Lena Town Hall, 6087 Goatsville Rd. The test is open to the public.

The Spring Election will be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Polls are open from 7 AM until 8 PM. A photo ID is now required to receive a ballot in all elections.

Dawn VanArk
Town Clerk
WNAXLP

03/14, 03/21/2025

Town of Morgan
Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Morgan Town Board of the Town of Morgan will hold a public hearing on Monday April 14, 2025 beginning at 6:30 PM, at 3276 County Road C, Oconto Falls, WI 54154 to consider:

An update to the Ordinance "04-03-28-2003 Town of Morgan Land Division Ordinance Regulating Lot Sizes."

The public may review copies of the ordinance by contacting the Town Clerk at (920) 846-0699 or emailing their request to morgantownclerk@gmail.com.

During the Public Hearing, the public is invited to speak on the proposed change. Written comments can be submitted to the Town Clerk at 6:30 PM on Monday April 14, 2025, and shall become part of the record.

Upon the close of the Public Hearing, a meeting of the Town Board shall be called to order, and the amendment shall be addressed per the agenda.

WNAXLP

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03/21/2025

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Date of publication or posting: 3/21/2025

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TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

The above-named grantee has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the following project. The EA is on file at Gillett City Hall and is available for public examination and copying. Electronic files can be requested by email at jthelen@msa-ps.com.

Project Name: Zippel Park Improvement Project
Project Location: SW ¼, NW ¼ T28N, R19E, S22, City of Gillett, Oconto County, Wisconsin
Estimated Cost of Project: Over \$1,500,00

Nature/Purpose of Project: The City of Gillett, Oconto County, Wisconsin will be committing Community Development Block Grant funds to undertake the project known as the Zippel Park Improvement including the construction of 8' wide paved trails, open-air shelters or shade sails, playground improvements, park lighting, information kiosks, sand volleyball court improvements, and the development and installation of pickleball and basketball courts, as well as restroom facilities.

The UGLG has determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and, accordingly, the UGLG has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reason for such a decision is because the project will have no/low impact on the environment. A FONSI is necessary to document environmental assessment findings. The environmental assessment findings are regarding Manmade Hazards and Hazardous Industrial Operations. The proposed project is near multiple manmade hazards, none of which will require mitigation measures, but are noted in the environmental report. The prime construction contractor for the proposed project would be made aware of the manmade hazards in the unlikely event that hazardous materials are present.

All agencies, groups or individuals disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments to the above address. Such written comments should be received on or before 4/6/2025. All such comments will be considered, and the UGLG will not request the release of federal funds or begin the project prior to such date.

On or about 4/24/2025, the UGLG will request the Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR) to release Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) as amended for this project.

The UGLG is certifying to DEHCR that it and its chief executive officer, in his/her official capacity as Mayor, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the federal courts if an action is brought to enforce environmental review responsibilities, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. Upon certification, the UGLG may use the CDBG funds, and DEHCR will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. DEHCR will accept an objection to the release of funds and certification only if (a) the certification was not executed by the chief executive officer or other officer of the UGLG approved by DEHCR; or (b) the UGLG's EA indicates omissions of a required decision, finding, or step. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with 24 CFR 58, and may be addressed to the Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources, Attention: Environmental Desk, P.O. Box 7970, Madison, WI 53707-7970.

Objections for reasons other than those stated above will not be considered by DEHCR. No objections received after 4/23/2025 will be considered by DEHCR.

Jon Blaskowski, Mayor, 150 N. McKenzie Avenue, Gillett, WI 54124
WNAXLP

03/21/2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST
TOWN OF MAPLE VALLEY

A PUBLIC TEST OF THE ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT FOR THE April 1, 2025 SPRING ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 25TH, 2025 AT 5:30 pm AT THE MAPLE VALLEY TOWN HALL 9088 CNTY HWY Z SURING, WI 54174
WNAXLP

03/21/2025

Public Notice to the Electors of the Town of Breed

Notice is hereby given that the PUBLIC TEST of the Automatic Tabulating Equipment to be used at the April 1st, 2025 Spring Election will be conducted for the Town of Breed on March 27th, 2025, at 1:00PM at the Breed Community Building, 11155 State Hwy 32 Suring, WI 54174.

Kristen Telford, Clerk
Town of Breed
WNAXLP

03/21/2025

Public Notice
Village of Lena Residents

Time: 10 am
Date: Tuesday, March 25, 2025
Location: 117 E Main Street, Lena, WI 54139

There will be Public Testing of the election/voting equipment at the above time and place. This test is open to the public. The General Election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Jodi Marquardt
Clerk/Treasurer
WNAXLP

03/21/2024

Town of How
Notice of PUBLIC TEST

Notice is hereby given that the Public Test for the Voting Equipment to be used at the Spring Election on Tuesday, April 1, 2025,

will be conducted on Friday, March 28 at 9:30 a.m. at the Town of How Community Building in accordance with the Wisconsin State Statues, Ch. 5.84(1).

The Public Test is open to the general public.

Becky Dickson, Clerk
Town of How, Oconto County, WI
WNAXLP

School Bus Drivers Needed
Lena, Gillett, and Suring

Are you ready to make a positive impact in your community while enjoying flexible work hours and great benefits?

Lamers Bus Lines is hiring school bus drivers to transport students safely to and from school and drivers for charter trips like group shuttles, sports events, and more.

Great pay and bonuses up to \$2,400 each year!

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✓ Parents: Save on daycare, bring your kids with you

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Workshop looks at corn silage, pests

A workshop is being held March 26 to assist farm decision-making regarding corn pest management and corn silage management.

Corn is grown on more acres in Wisconsin than any other crop. Corn silage forms the largest ration component on most Wisconsin dairy farms and is a particularly

important crop in north-eastern Wisconsin.

The upcoming workshop will assist farmers as they make final plans for the 2025 production season. The workshop is sponsored by the Shawano County Forage Council, University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program. The event

will take place in the hog barn at Doc's Harley-Davidson, W2709 state Highway 29, Bonduel.

The program features corn disease and mycotoxin management; weed management; new corn silage forage quality testing procedures and loss reduction strategies; short stature corn's fit as silage; and optimizing nutrient

management, with an emphasis on NOPP results from northeast Wisconsin. At the conclusion of the program, a fundraising auction of donated ag items will be held by the Shawano County Forage Council.

Registration opens at 9:30 a.m., with the educational program taking place from 10 a.m. to 2

p.m. A full meal and all events are included in the \$20 per person registration fee.

Midwest Forage Association membership benefits will be discussed at the event but is not a prerequisite for attending. Certified Crop Advisor CEUs will be available.

Register in advance by calling the Shawano

County Extension Office at 715-526-6136; downloading the registration form from the Ag Newsletter at <https://marinette.extension.wisc.edu/agriculture/agriculture-newsletter/complete-february-2025-newsletter>; or emailing contact information and number of persons attending to scott.reuss@wisc.edu.

OBITUARIES

Gail A. Cole

Gail A. Cole, 75, of Gillett, passed away on Monday, March 10, 2025, after battling with Parkinson's disease for 24 years.

Gail was born Sept. 24, 1949, to the late Nathan and Juanita Horne in Waukesha. She graduated from Hartland Arrowhead High School in 1967 and UW-Stout in 1971. Gail received her master's of special education from UW-Oshkosh in 1990.

After spending several years at home taking care of her kids, Gail entered the workforce at CESA 8 in Gillett. She worked first as a secretary in the office, then as a teacher's aide, and finally as a special education teacher at Gillett High School, in a career that spanned 28 years.

After high school, Gail attended UW-Stout where she met her husband, Bill. They married in 1971 and moved to Gillett in 1972, where they raised their two children and became very involved in the community.

Gail was on the original committee that founded the Sunshine Childcare Center. She was involved with the Gillett Civic Club food stand and was a member of the Finnegan Lake Walleye Club. Gail also enjoyed helping with the We Believe Christmas program in Gillett.

Gail and Bill enjoyed traveling with family and friends. They visited all



50 states. The couple also served as grand marshals for the Gillett Fourth of July Celebration one year.

In her spare time, Gail enjoyed gardening, crafting, fishing, bird watching and playing a horse racing game monthly with friends. She especially loved all of the time spent with her four grandchildren, attending sporting events, hosting tea parties, creating treasure hunts and playing Yahtzee.

She will be remembered for her kindness, wit and sense of humor.

Gail is survived by her husband of 54 years, Bill; son, James (Trisha) Cole, of Janesville; daughter, Heather (Brek) Zortman, of Mukwonago; grandchildren, Luke (Kendra Elgin) Zortman, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Julia Zortman, of Madison, and Anna and Ally Cole, of Janesville; sisters, Sandie Horne, of Hartland, and Jeri (Mike) Henman, of Mayville. She

is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nathan and Juanita Horne; mother- and father-in-law, John and Mary Cole; brother, Duane Horne; sister-in-law, Susan Cole; and brother-in-law, John E. Cole.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at the Oconto County Fair Expo Hall in Zippel Park from 10 a.m. until the memorial service at noon. A celebration of life will follow the service.

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

The family would like to thank the staffs of Evergreen Health Services in Shawano, ThedaCare at Home and ThedaCare Hospice for the wonderful care and compassion shown to Gail and her family during their time of need. Further thanks to Gail's sister, Sandie, for her dedicated and compassionate care.



In Loving Memory of
Wendi L. Krueger
who went to heaven 26 years ago March 21, 1999

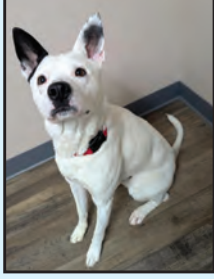
"We Little Knew"

We little knew that morning that God had called you name,
In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same.
It broke our hearts lose you. You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories. Your love is still our guide.
And though we cannot see you, you are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

Miss you every day! We know you are looking down
on your grandchildren, Willow and Forest.

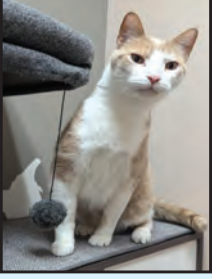
Love you always,
Mom, Dad, Sisters, Dustin, Dillon & Friends

APOLLO



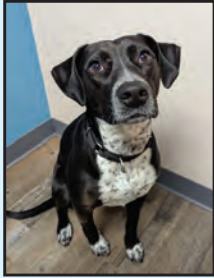
Meet Apollo. He is a young petite pitbull with playful energy. He has done well in his kennel and is potty trained. He is treat motivated and smart.

HAMLET



Meet Hamlet. He is a 10 year old senior boy looking for a home. Overall, he is a friendly and calm cat who has done well with other cats in his previous home. He would do great adopted with another buddy.

DAYTONA



Daytona is a very sweet dog, who has been well behaved for staff. She is good with other dogs and likes the outdoors. She has done well in her kennel and is potty trained

SQUIRREL



Squirrel is an adventurous and curious cat. He adjusts well to new environments and is great with meeting new people. He will make a great addition to his new home.

03/21, 03/28, 04/4/2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Discontinuance of a Part of Duame Road in the Town of Stiles

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing shall be held by the Town Board of the Town of Stiles at the Town of Stiles Town Hall, 5718 Watercress Road, Lena, Wisconsin, on April 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., to discuss the proposed discontinuance of the following described Town road initiated by introduction of a resolution by the Town Board of the Town of Stiles under § 66.1003(4)(b), Wis. Stats., specifically:

Twenty-seven (27) feet of the East and West sides of Duame Road commencing at Olson Road and continuing North approximately One Thousand Three Hundred (1,300) feet to the North section line of the Southeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 15, Township 28 North Range 20 East Town of Stiles, Oconto County, Wisconsin.

Anyone interested in the proposed discontinuance of this portion of Duame Road may attend and comment on the proposed action. The Town Board shall act on the resolution at a duly scheduled meeting following the public hearing.

The Town Clerk shall properly post or publish this resolution as required under § 60.80, Wis. Stats.

Dated this 11th day of March, 2025.

TOWN OF STILES

BY: /s/ Terrah Patton
Terrah Patton, Town Clerk

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the Town Clerk at ((920) 516-7381 at least one business day prior to the meeting.

WNAXLP



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535 Locust Ave.,
Oconto Falls
Hours: 8-5
Monday - Friday

Bob & Chris Walters Jr.

Larry & Janice McGray



Antique Automotive
(920) 834-4447
Stiles Junction

Oconto Area Humane Society and Animal Shelter

920-830-1738
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.

HOURS:
Mon Wed. Fri.
11am-4pm,
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Happy St. Patrick's Day



Coachlight Bar and Grill was among the many featured entries in the St. Patrick's Day parade held March 15 along Lake Drive in the Mooseyards. Area residents lined the road to watch the annual event despite a falling rain that began about 20 minutes before the parade kicked off. With the luck of the Irish, it pretty much went away when the entries started rolling out of the Shawano Lake Golf Course lot to get things underway.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA



Marty Pecha and Micki Hoskins, of Gillett, were decked out in green from head to toe as they watched the annual St. Patrick's Day parade March 15. The parade featured plenty of business floats and vehicles, music, candy and just about anything you could make green.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA



Morganne Milprim, left, and fiance Kiana Van Dorrick were ready to celebrate St. Patrick's Day prior to the start of the traditional Mooseyards parade held March 15.

KEVIN PASSON | NEW MEDIA

Will Mielke Arts Center, park revert back to private property?

Group wants to operate site as for-profit business

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Last year's shuttering of The Gathering banquet hall and a general lack of other large venues in the Shawano area has prompted a pair of local business owners to team up in hopes of filling that gap, and they hope to do it by turning the Mielke Arts Center and Mielke County Park into a for-profit business.

Kelli Penfold, from Sakom Netanak LLC, and Lori Mathwich, from Fire Fitness Camp Shawano, recently established Mission 1st Event Management LLC with plans to reform the Mielke Arts Center into a private venue for local groups and individuals.

"The plan would be to leave the Mielke as it is as far as the arts council would have their three opportunities to do their plays, leave the Olde Time Music Festival, not touch anything that's there as far as what has been there," Mathwich told the county's public property committee March 13. "We have so much music stuff in this town ... and we just don't use it. I just see so much opportunity there."

This 31.5-acre site hosts a 250-seat theater, picnic area, playground, outdoor amphitheater, shelter with restrooms and parking area.

Penfold created a proposal for Mission 1st Event Management and noted they have met with the Mielke Family Foundation, which supports their venture.

"Our goal is to maximize the usage of this property while minimizing Shawano County's responsibility, resources and costs," Penfold wrote

in the proposal.

Target audiences would include community groups such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, theater groups, youth groups, 4-H, school classes and other educational groups. It could also host private events such as weddings, baby showers, meetings, recitals and concerts.

Mission 1st Event Management is proposing a two-year lease of the site, during which it would assume all responsibilities and upkeep costs of the Mielke Arts Center and surrounding areas to include bathrooms, playground area, trails and parking lot.

The company would hire a full-time manager for marketing and sales.

All profits during those two years would be reinvested back into the property and used for maintenance and improvements, such as securing access to the parking lot, upgrading public trails and installing security cameras to cover areas that are a known hub for illegal activity.

Upon successful

completion of these two years, Mission 1st Event Management would obtain complete control over the property.

Supervisor Tom Kautza said he likes the proposal but believes the two-year lease is too short.

"I still think that's a little too soon," he said. "We're better off with a longer lease, like a seven-, 10-year lease, and see how that goes."

He said he'd also want to work with the current leaseholder, the Shawano County Arts Council, to guarantee their continued use of the facility.

The current lease with the arts council expires Aug. 31, and the county would need to provide a 90-day notice if it intends not to renew the lease.

Mathwich said the park and theater are underutilized.

"There's a lot of homeless living behind it," she said. "When you drive out there, the cops are dealing with drugs. We would clean it up. It's just losing its way without someone

being out there managing it."

The proposal also noted the creation of a committee that would include two members of Mission 1st Event Management and at least one member each of the Shawano County Board, Wescott Town Board, Mielke Family Foundation and local law enforcement.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Legals
WNAXLP

be042ddb
03/21/25
CITY OF OCONTO FALLS NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST In accordance to Wis. Stats 5.84(1), Notice is hereby given that a Public Test for the voting machine to be used at the Spring Election on April 1, 2025 will be conducted for the City of Oconto Falls on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 9:00 AM at the City Municipal Building, 500 N Chestnut Avenue. The Public Test is open to the general public. Jenny Friedman Deputy Clerk

2dc89e79
03/21/25
TOWN OF OCONTO FALLS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC TEST In accordance to Wis. Stats 5.84(1), Notice is hereby given that the Public Test of voting equipment to be used at the Spring Election on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, will be conducted for the Town of Oconto Falls on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Town of Oconto Falls Town Hall, 8680 State Hwy 22 West, Oconto Falls. The Public Test is open to the general public. Susan L. Mogged Town of Oconto Falls, clerk

5b5da441
03/21/25, 03/28/25
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 April 8, 2025 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 25-001 Amending 480-8, Zoning General Commercial District (C-1)
Public Hearing NO. 2 immediately following NO. 1 estimated 5:40 pm
Ordinance 25-002 Amend Ch 455-49 Cross Connection Inspections
Public Hearing NO. 3 immediately following NO. 2 estimated 5:50pm
Ordinance 25-003 Designation of Michael McDermid Family Park
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.
WNAXLP

ATTENTION
LAND OWNERS:

The Town of Oconto Falls
Town Board is looking for
2 acres to purchase
for a Recycling Center.

Call Dave Alsteen at
#920-373-7435 or
Robert Wolf at #920-664-0686

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

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\$5.29

lb

Bone-In Frying
Chicken Thighs

\$2.99

lb

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85% Lean
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\$4.79

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5#s & Up

Whole Pork
Tenderloins

\$3.29

lb

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\$10.99

lb

Food Club
Canned Soups

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Asst Variety
10.5-10.75oz

Food Club
Canned Fruit

\$1.29

Asst Variety
14.5-15.25oz

Fresh Strawberries



\$2.99

#1

Sunkist Lemons



2/\$1

Beefsteak Tomatoes



\$1.59

lb

Super Select
Cucumbers



69¢

each

Wisconsin
Russet Potatoes



\$3.99

10# bag

Mrs. Gerry's
Extra Creamy
Coleslaw



\$2.99

lb

Sweet P's
Muffins



2/\$6

Asst Variety
16oz

Flav-R Pac
Frozen Vegetables



99¢

Asst Variety
10-12oz

Van de Kamp
Battered or Breaded
Fish Fillets or Sticks



\$4.99

Asst Variety
18-24.6oz

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Pretzels



\$4.99

Asst Variety
16oz

XL Lays or
Kettle Cooked
Potato Chips



2/\$8

Asst Variety
5-8oz

Gold Medal
Flour



\$3.49

5lb Bag
Bleached or Unbleached

Yoplait
Go-Gurt



2/\$5

Asst Variety
8pk

Sunny Delight



\$1.49

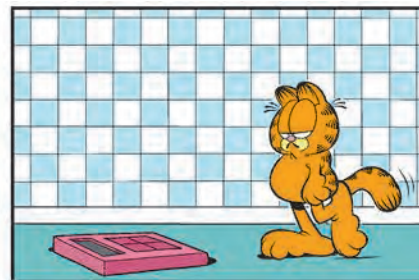
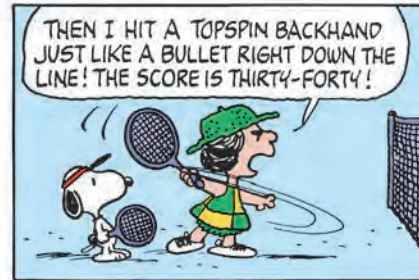
Asst Variety
64oz

Prairie Farms
Chocolate Milk



\$4.29

Gallon
1% or Whole



Agnes

by TONY COCHRAN



YOU SURE READ THE JOBS PAGE A LOT, GRANDMA.

JUST KEEPING MY OPTIONS OPEN.

ANYTHING LOOK PROMISING?

THIS ONE HAS FREE COAT LOCKERS AND FREE CHEESE SANDWICHES ON FRIDAY.

WHAT DOES IT PAY?

DO I NEED TO SPEAK UP?

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The BARN

by Ralph Hagen



GO VEGETARIAN!

HONK IF YOU LIKE SALAD!

SNORT..

START YOUR DIET TODAY!

HA!

RED MEAT IS BAD FOR YOU!

VEGAN, BABY!

WHAT'S NEW, STAN?

OH, NOTHING.

SIGH

SAVE ME

Hagen

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Diamond Lil

by Brett Koth

And now, a briefs message:

HAVE A NICE DAY!



This has been a briefs message.

© 2025 creators.com www.lilcomics.blogspot.com www.creators.com 3/16 Brett Koth

ANDY CAPP

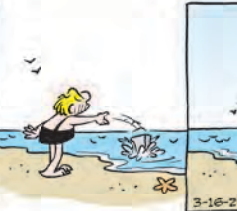
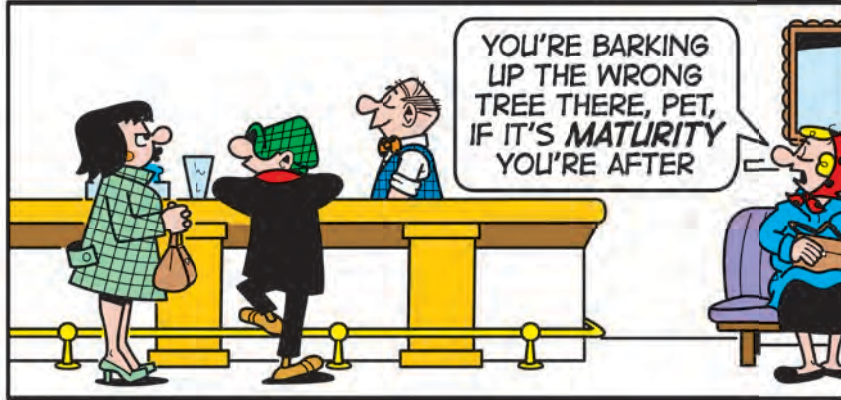
by Smythe



3/16



GOLDSMITH & GARNETT



DOGS OF C-KENNEL

BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI

