

Music, parade highlight Polka Days

Annual summer event draws variety of people from all across the state, country



A line of antique tractors roll down the Streets of Pulaski Sunday mornings for the annual Polka Days Parade. The high anticipated event is always on the final day of the four-day event.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

BY KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

Walk through the nearby village streets or the adjacent campground at Pulaski Polka Days, and you'll see license plates from all corners of the country.

A walk through the park grounds will result in friendly conversations with some of the people attached to those far-flung license plates — and several from Wisconsin as well.

Carol Taft and Karen Schaefer, who both live in Florida now, use Pulaski Polka Days as a backdrop for visiting family in the area.

"This is a great way to come up, see the family," Taft said. "Other family joins us, so it's a great time to get together."

The two women were in charge of holding down the group's eight chairs under one of the music tents while others checked out the snack shop.

Taft is originally from Chicago, and Schaefer is from Thorp. They've been making the trip to Pulaski for about 25 years.

"We grew up with polka music," Schaefer said. "Every Sunday morning, my dad would put on 'Polka Appreciation Hour.' We'd have polka music playing on the radio."

"I'm a polka dancer. I love to dance," Taft added. "I guess my favorite bands are from a long time ago, but as long as they play some old songs, I'm happy. It's a fun time."

On the opposite end are Richard and Kelly Olsen, of Appleton. They were at Pulaski Polka Days this year for the very

POLKA, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

1 injured during shots fired incident at Memorial Park

BY NEW MEDIA STAFF

One person was injured after the Pulaski Police Department had to respond to a call about shots fired on July 18.

Officers responded around 10:38 p.m. to a call at Memorial Park, 651 S. St. Augustine St., Pulaski, about shots being fired with at least one person being injured, one person being armed with a knife, and others fighting, according to Police Chief Kurt Kitzman.

When officers arrived, an 18-year-old man from Green Bay was arrested, while another 18-year-old man from Pulaski was assisted for suffering a single gunshot

wound. The victim was transported to a hospital in Green Bay for non-life-threatening injuries.

The police department received assistance from NEW Paramedic Rescue, Brown County Sheriff's Department and Brown County Rescue Office.

The investigation continues into the incident. According to Kitzman, preliminary information indicates the event was an isolated incident with no ongoing threat to the public. Pulaski Polka Days was taking place at the time of the incident, but the polka grounds is on the other side of the village.

Kitzman said no further details were being released.

Praying and partying at polka Mass



Polka Day Mass on began with a special blessing for all those of Polish descent. Bonnie McDermit, Pulaski and Liz Malek, Angelica laugh when the Rev. James Vacco, pastor at Assumption Church BVM delivers his final remarks.

GREG MELLIS | NEW MEDIA

INSIDE

Plea agreement reached in fatal crash in Town of Mountain.

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Money raised for fire department



From left, Bob Schmacher, Dale Reichwald and Roy Rhode pose with a check after the 17th annual bike ride fundraiser for the Town of Gillett Fire Department. The event raised \$4,253, which will be used for additional equipment for the department.

CONTRIBUTED

No contest pleas entered in fatal crash

Wimber to be sentenced Sept. 12

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

A plea agreement has been reached in the case involving a fatal head-on crash in the Town of Mountain.

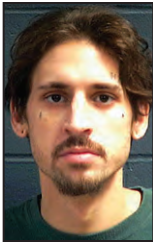
The crash, which occurred Sept. 8, 2024, on state Highway 32-64 near Sparkys Road in the Town of Mountain, killed Lisa Marie Neitzel, 52, of Lake Tomahawk. Her daughter, who was driving the car, and her husband, Ronald Neitzel, were seriously injured.

During a July 15 appearance before Oconto County Circuit Judge Michael Judge, Zackery Dale Wimber, 31, a Wabeno man serving a sentence at Fox Lake Correctional Institution, pleaded no contest to homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle, two counts of operating a motor vehicle causing injury, and possession with intent to distribute amphetamine or methamphetamine.

As part of the agreement, Judge dismissed but read into the record charges of homicide by negligent use of a motor vehicle, possession with intent to distribute cocaine, possession with intent to distribute heroin, possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony, driving or operating a vehicle without consent, and a misdemeanor count of operating while revoked.

Judge scheduled sentencing for 1 p.m. Sept. 12. Wimber faces a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine for the homicide charge, 12½ years and \$25,000 for each of the OWI causing injury counts, and six years and \$10,000 for the drug conviction.

The criminal complaint indicates that the Neitzel family was traveling home after attending a wedding in Shawano. Kaley Neitzel, who holds a valid learner's permit and had completed five of six driving lessons, was driving with her father



ZACKERY WIMBER

in the passenger seat and mother in the back seat.

A witness told deputies that Wimber had been tailgating him and swerving on the road behind him, then passed at a high rate of speed. Moments later, the witness saw a puff of smoke and came upon the crash scene.

Multiple witnesses saw Wimber leave his vehicle and drop something in the woods or ditch before coming back, despite significant injuries, the complaint said. One witness, an ICU nurse, said Wimber's eyes were dilated and he made a comment about being afraid of being caught with items that had been inside his vehicle.

Oconto County K-9 officer Emma was deployed into the woods to search for any contraband and alerted on a partially opened black box, the complaint said. Inside the box, deputies found seven clear plastic bags of a white powder that tested positive for cocaine, as well as two plastic bags with a substance that tested positive for heroin, the complaint said. The box also contained a semi-automatic 9mm pistol.

Wimber admitted to an investigator that he had consumed heroin and cocaine earlier in the day, according to the complaint.

The next day, a friend of Wimber's reported that his SUV had been stolen after he left it at Wimber's overnight because he had been intoxicated.

At the time of his arrest, Wimber was on probation after being convicted in 2021 of possession of methamphetamine, possession of narcotic drugs, and possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony.

A Fond du Lac County judge had imposed and stayed a 7½ year prison sentence, then placed Wimber on five years of probation with conditions including that he not possess or use controlled substances without a prescription.

Changes coming to local churches

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

A continual aging population of priests, along with the traditional summer reassignments, will mean a few changes for local Catholic parishes.

Green Bay Bishop David Ricken announced several changes in the past couple months.

Assumption BVM, Pulaski, St. Casimir, Krakow, and St. Stanislaus, Hofa Park, are served by the Franciscans in Pulaski.

The Rev. Carmen Scuderi, who serves as parochial vicar in Pulaski, Krakow and Hofa Park, is being reassigned to serve a parish in Illinois.

Due to the lack of priests the Franciscans have available, his role as parochial vicar will not be filled, according to a July 11 letter from Deacon Peter Gard,

associate to the vicar of priests and pastoral leaders for the Green Bay Diocese.

"In light of this, Bishop (David) Ricken has asked that the parishes in Cecil, Krakow and Hofa Park be linked temporarily for one year to help us assess the needs of all the parishes affected," Gard wrote.

Ricken appointed Deacon Todd Raether, pastoral coordinator at St. Martin of Tours, Cecil, to serve these parishes as their pastoral coordinator effective Sept. 1. Ricken also appointed the Rev. Peter Onyango as the priest celebrant.

The change will also mean a change in the Mass schedule. Leaders from Cecil, Krakow and Hofa Park have already started developing a new schedule that will be implemented the weekend of Sept. 6-7.

Scuderi's departure means the Rev. James

Vacco will be the only full-time priest for the Pulaski family of parishes, led by the Franciscan Province of our Lady of Guadalupe.

Among those Franciscans, 62.3% of the friars are older than 70. Many of them are dealing with the issues that accompany aging and limitations associated with the aging process, Vacco said.

Only 17% of the friars are younger than 50, which means the number of friars available to staff the number of ministries presently served with friars will not be sustainable within the next 10 years. Added to this is that of the number of men enrolled in the formation process to be a Franciscan friar, there is a significant number who do not feel called to ministry as a priest. These men want to live a Franciscan life-style and spirituality, but

not minister in roles that require ordination.

Of the seven friars in residence at the friary in Pulaski, the age range is 70-89.

Assistance from the other priests in the Pulaski friary will be subject to their availability.

The reassignments could lead to additional changes in Mass schedules.

The Rev. Thomas Pomeroy was appointed pastor of St. Anthony Parish, Oconto Falls, and St. Patrick Parish, Stiles, effective July 1. Formerly, he was pastor of Holy Family Parish, Brillion.

The Rev. Walter Stumpf, who served the Oconto Falls and Stiles parishes until June 30, was appointed pastor of St. Joseph, Wautoma, and priest celebrant for Hispanic Masses at St. Peter and Paul Parish, Weyauwega.

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POLKA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

first time.

"This is my wife's idea," Richard Olsen said, as he was about to dig into a plate of food. "It's a good time."

Before eating, the couple made the rounds at the craft and vendor fair put together by Assumption BVM Church.

"I wanted to check it out for the first time," Kelly Olsen said of the festival. "Neither one of us had been here."

Then there's Roger Neumann, of Pulaski.

He's been at the festival every year since it began nearly a half century ago, but he's judicious about his time at the festival grounds. He doesn't mind the crowds, but he avoids those times when it's shoulder to shoulder under the music tents.

This year, he made it a point to catch Live It Up perform.

"Somebody else said you had to come and see them when they come to Wisconsin," he said, as arrived early Saturday morning to get a good spot on the bleachers.

For him, the bands are the highlight.

"Music and music and music," he said.

Neumann likes the music, but he simply sits and taps his foot to the beat. No dancing for him.

"That's done," he said of his time on the dance floor. "When you become senior citizens ... heart failure and all that," he said.

A quick check of license plates in the campground showed visitors from New York, Pennsylvania and Florida.

"It's a vacation for some," he said. "Some of them with the campers, they go from festival to festival all summer long."

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PUBLIC RECORD

OCONTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

July 17
Deputies responded to 66 incidents, including suspicious activity on County Road K in the Town of Oconto Falls; a fire control burn on Business 41 in the Town of Oconto; drugs in the Town of Lakewood; property damage on Glynn Road in the Town of Oconto; theft on Tom Post Road in the Town of Brazeau; fraud on Cream City Road in the Town of Oconto; theft near North White Potato Lake and Parkway roads in the Town of Brazeau; suspicious activity on Main Street in the Town of Abrams; suspicious activity near County Road S and Oak Orchard Road in the Town of Pensaukee; 10 traffic stops, one traffic hazard, three traffic offenses, two citizen assists, five miscellaneous traffic incidents, two welfare checks; one 911 hangup and two open lines; one ambulance call; three crashes, two involving deer.

July 16
Deputies responded to 52 incidents, including an animal bite on Tower Drive Road in the Town of Lena; harassment on Bennett Lane in the Town of Townsend; theft on state Highway 22-32 in the Town of Gillett; suspicious activity at Shell, 12470 State Highway 64 in the Town of Mountain; suspicious activity on County Road C in the Town of Chase; suspicious activity on Superior Avenue in the Town of Little River; fireworks on South Chase Road in the Town of Chase; suspicious activity near Pine and Red Bank roads in the Town of How; fireworks at Little Suamico Recreation

Park, 1015 County Road J in the Town of Little Suamico; suspicious activity on Leos Road in the Town of Mountain; 10 traffic stops, one traffic hazard, three traffic offenses, two citizen assists, four miscellaneous traffic incidents; five 911 hangups and five open lines; one crash, involving deer.

July 15
Deputies responded to 39 incidents, including a disturbance on Brazeau Avenue in Oconto; theft on Island Lake Road in the Town of Doty; trespassing on Double B Lane in the Town of Riverview; a wanted person on Arbutus Avenue in Oconto; theft on Main Street in the Town of Abrams; trespassing on Bullfrog Bend in the Town of Townsend; one traffic stop, one traffic hazard, two citizen assists, five miscellaneous traffic incidents, six welfare checks; two 911 hangups and five open lines; one ambulance call; four crashes.

July 14
Deputies responded to 49 incidents, including property damage on County Road C in the Town of Oconto Falls; theft on Allen Road in the Town of Little Suamico; a disturbance on Konitzer Road in the Town of Oconto Falls; child enticement in the Town of Abrams; trespassing on Madison Street in Oconto; a wanted person on County Road SS in the Town of Pensaukee; one traffic stop, three traffic hazards, two miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; two 911 hangups and four open lines; two ambulance calls; four crashes, one involving deer.

July 13
Deputies responded

to 62 incidents, including suspicious activity on Francis Street in Gillett; fireworks on West Cedar Street in Gillett; suspicious activity near state Highway 32 and East Chain Lake Road in the Town of Townsend; suspicious activity on Old U Road in the Town of Gillett; suspicious activity on Bowman Lane in the Town of Mountain; an animal bite on Thomas Way in the Town of Little Suamico; a weapon offense on Valley View Road in the Town of Townsend; harassment on County Road I in the Town of Stiles; suspicious activity on Berry Lake North Shore Road in the Town of Underhill; a disturbance on Konitzer Road in the Town of Oconto Falls; fire on Island Lake Road in the Town of Riverview; eight traffic stops, three traffic hazards, four traffic offenses, five miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; one 911 hangup and five open lines; three crashes, two involving deer.

July 12
Deputies responded to 44 incidents, including suspicious activity on East Frontage Road in the Town of Little Suamico; theft on County Road W in the Town of Riverview; a disturbance on Pecor Street in Oconto; a disturbance on Adam Ross Lane in the Town of Lakewood; a missing person on Harris Road in the Town of Breed; suspicious activity on Arbutus Avenue in Oconto; suspicious activity at Procar, 325 Van Buren St. in Oconto Falls; eight traffic stops, two traffic offenses, one citizen assist, four miscellaneous traffic incidents, one welfare check; two 911 hangups and three open lines; two crashes, one involving deer.

COURT NEWS

▪ Robert S. Presl, 35, an Oconto man serving a sentence at Columbia Correctional Institution in Portage, pleaded no contest May 29 to battery or threat to a law officer, throwing or discharging bodily fluid at a public safety worker, and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. Judge Jay Conley sentenced him July 14 to two additional years in prison followed by three more years of extended supervision with conditions.

▪ Alyssa M. Vanstratten, 32, Gillett, pleaded no contest May 12 to misappropriating ID information to obtain money, three counts of felony bail jumping, and misdemeanor charges of fraudulent use of a credit card, resisting or obstructing an officer, and disorderly conduct. Conley sentenced her July 15 to three years in prison followed by three years of extended supervision with conditions.

▪ Robert V. Julius, 30, Suring, pleaded no contest July 16 to forfeiture counts of operating a motor vehicle without a license and failure to carry or display warning devices. Related criminal charges were dismissed or amended in a plea agreement. Conley levied fines and costs totaling \$640.01.

▪ Justin Joseph Navin, 42, Oconto, was charged July 14 with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated (fourth offense). Judge set a \$1,200 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Aug. 14.

▪ Amanda Amber Monfort, 49, Oconto Falls, was charged July 14 with child abuse intentionally causing harm and misdemeanor counts of battery and disorderly conduct. Judge set a \$1,000 signature bond and adjourned her initial appearance until Aug. 14.

▪ Denesha R. Watson, 30, Green Bay, was charged July 14 with felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of THC. Judge set a \$500 cash bond and adjourned her initial appearance until Aug. 14.

▪ Roemance Larquell Toney, 32, Menasha, was charged July 15 with felony bail jumping and a misdemeanor count of possession of THC. Judge set a \$250 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Aug. 14.

▪ Melissa M. Wolf, 41, Oconto, was charged July 15 with possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge set a \$750 cash bond and adjourned her initial appearance until Aug. 14.

▪ Mandy J. Warrichaiet, 40, Oconto, was charged July 15 with possession of methamphetamine and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Judge set a \$250 cash bond and adjourned her initial appearance until Aug. 14.

▪ Ryan M. Hatzenbeller, 38, Sobieski, was charged July 16 with hit-and-run involving injury. Judge set a \$500 cash bond and adjourned his initial

appearance until Aug. 14.

▪ Gregory Keith Dugan, 33, Little Suamico, was charged July 18 with burglary to a building or dwelling and a misdemeanor count of resisting or obstructing an officer. Conley set a \$5,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Aug. 14.

▪ Nicholas A. Burger, 38, Abrams, was charged July 18 with two counts of second-degree sexual assault, capturing an intimate representation, and misdemeanor counts of fourth-degree sexual assault and lewd and lascivious behavior. Judge set a \$50,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Aug. 14.

▪ Ashley L. Luloff, 41, Abrams, was charged July 18 with possession of THC (second and subsequent offense), felony bail jumping, and a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct. Conley set a \$2,500 cash bond and adjourned her initial appearance until Aug. 14.

▪ Reilly J. McFadden, 27, Oconto, was charged July 18 with burglary to a building or dwelling. Conley set a \$5,000 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Aug. 14.

▪ Jake A. Johnson, 41, Wabeno, was charged July 18 with possession of a firearm by a person convicted of a felony and a misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia. Conley set a \$500 cash bond and adjourned his initial appearance until Aug. 14.



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Vehicle break-ins see uptick on police radar

Police chief urging parents to keep kids home at night

By LEE PULASKI
City Editor

A rash of vehicle break-ins in the city of Shawano has Police Chief Mike Musolff calling for parents to keep closer track of their teenage kids.

“There’s a significant amount of increased calls of people — kids, most likely — breaking into cars and breaking windows around town, which we’re investigating,” Musolff said.

He noted that there were three calls on the night of July 16 alone about broken vehicle windows, and there have been spurts where there are multiple calls in a single night.

“Parents need to be on top of this because their kids, they shouldn’t be out at 1, 2, 3 in the morning,” Musolff said. “I don’t know how they’re getting out of the house. If we could get parents to parent a little bit better, maybe that wouldn’t happen. I’m calling them out, whoever their parents are.”

Musolff noted if it’s the same perpetrators, there could be at least a couple dozen charges levied by the time the police catch them, which could result in serious sentences and fines.

“That’s the part that’s bad for those kids, because they don’t realize that they might have got away with it last night, but they might be caught two nights later and they might have already done three more,” Musolff said. “If they don’t get caught for a couple of weeks, they might have 14 things hanging over their head.”

Musolff said he doesn’t believe parents aren’t aware that their children are leaving the house at night.

“They’ve got to figure out a way to get them to stay in the house,” he said. “That’s not unreasonable to ask that the parents parent so the police don’t have to.”

Locking a vehicle’s doors makes it less likely someone will steal stuff out of it, and Musolff also recommends not having valuable items in the vehicle at night.

“Take the extra time, but at the minimum make

sure to lock your cars to try and prevent any of those crimes from happening,” Musolff said. “Those crimes are the ones that are quality of life issues in the city of Shawano, when they have their space violated. Nobody wants that to happen. Thefts are the worst.”

There can be multiple vehicle burglary calls in a single night, followed by several nights without complaint, and then another night where there are more calls, according to Musolff.

“It seems like every summer we have this different group of kids who break out of their house or whatever they do, or their parents just don’t care, and they vandalize or do graffiti or whatever they do,” Musolff said. “Then we catch them, and then it stops. It seems like it’s rinse and repeat every year. I don’t know where they get this idea from. Do they sit around in the basement and go, ‘Hey, let’s go damage somebody’s window that is unsuspecting of us doing it? What are you getting out of it?’”

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Shawano native named director for public library

Shawano Community High School graduate Staci Rubenzer has been hired as the new director of the Shawano County Library.

At a July 1 meeting of the library board, members voted to recommend to the executive committee that Rubenzer be named library director with a hire date of Aug. 1.



STACI RUBENZER

resignation was accepted by the library board June 9.

Rubenzer will succeed Nancy Bell, who resigned July 3. Bell was director for nearly two years. Her resignation was accepted by the library board June 9.

Mikki Moesch, assistant library director, was named interim director, effective July 7.

Rubenzer is a library media specialist at Green Bay Southwest High School. She will be in charge of the libraries in Shawano, Bonduel, Wittenberg, Birnamwood, Mattoon and Tigerton.

OBITUARIES

Reynold O. Schmidt



Reynold Schmidt, 90, of Bonduel, passed away in Appleton on Wednesday, July 16, 2025.

Reynold was born in Bonduel on Sept. 30, 1934, son of the late Alvin and Gladys (Busch) Schmidt. Reynold grew up on the family farm and graduated from Bonduel High School in 1953. Following graduation, Reynold enlisted in the United States Army and proudly served his country as a tank driver until receiving his honorable discharge.

On May 11, 1968, he married Marlene J. Giese in Gillett. After 56 years of marriage, Marlene preceded him in death on May 31, 2024. Reynold’s faith was an important part of his life, and he was an

active member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel. In his free time, he enjoyed drinking Sun Drop and rooting for the Green Bay Packers and Milwaukee Brewers. He was very proud to have been in attendance and survived the famous Ice Bowl.

Reynold is survived by a brother, Dale (Karen) Schmidt; brother-in-law, Al Jacobs; sister-in-law, Merce Schmidt; and nieces and nephews, Dina (Jeff) Nelson, Sherry (fiancé Mike Johnson) Boreson,

Steve (Tina) Schmidt, Todd (Vicki) Schmidt, Tim (Jen) Schmidt, Melissa (Tyler) Zimmerman and Kristin (Randy) Kohlstedt. He is further survived by numerous great-nieces, great-nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marlene; his parents; two brothers, Donald Schmidt and Victor Schmidt; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Harry and Louise Giese; brothers-in-law, Marvin Giese and Leonard Giese; and sisters-in-law, Shirley Jacobs and Marjoryann Giese.

A funeral service for Reynold was held Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bonduel. Burial was in the church cemetery.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Jena Kloepfel for the care, concern and many hours she spent with Reynold.

www.swedbergfuneral-home.com

James W. Martin

James W. Martin, 85, of Allouez, passed July 19, 2025. Cotter Funeral and Cremation Care, De Pere.

Byron De Fries

Byron Gene De Fries, longtime band director at Bonduel High School from the 1960s to the 1990s, passed away on June 28, 2025, in Boulder, Colorado.

See the full obituary at www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/boulder-co/byron-defries-12435765.





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Marion hosting Heritage Day celebration July 26

County audit shows no fraud concerns in 2024

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Marion Area Historical Society will host its annual Heritage Day on July 26 on the grounds of the historical society at 620 E. Ramsdell St., near the ballpark.

Events start with a car show.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Vehicles include cars, trucks, hot rods, tractors and motorcycles.

Crafters and vendors will be on site from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event will also include basket raffles, a silent auction, children's games, a coloring contest, food and refreshments.

Raffle tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5. First prize is \$500, with \$250 for second prize and \$100 for third.

Music under the bandstand will include Zander's Music RayMakers from 9-11:30 a.m., and Mike Daley and Bill Hurley from

12:30-3 p.m.

Naturally, the museum will be open for viewing.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs.

The Marion Area Historical Society was founded in 1988 by a group of individuals interested in preserving the history of Marion and the surrounding area. The seed was planted with a project by Robert McDevitt's students at Marion High School, which sparked the idea of a dedicated historical society.

From the beginning, its mission has been twofold:

- To collect and preserve historical data and artifacts related to Marion and the surrounding communities, including Caroline, Pella, Grant, Dupont, Wyoming and Big Falls.

- To share this history with the public through museum exhibits, events and educational programs.

The historical grounds

feature a variety of buildings and artifacts, including:

- The Sherry Shop, General Store, Hotel Marion, The Marion Advertiser building and the Caroline Implement building.

- Original Chicago Northwestern Depot, complete with waiting rooms and an office, restored with original furnishings.

- A Soo Line caboose, a wooden cupola-style caboose retired in 1984.

- A one-room log schoolhouse and a log house depicting life around the turn of the century.

- An antique windmill, wishing well and the Marion Bandstand.

- A permanent display featuring crafted items by Harold Wolf — including the Caroline Ballroom, a church and a blacksmith shop.

- A future Badger Amateur Baseball Association building to showcase their memorabilia.

Revenues up, expenses down more than projected

By KEVIN PASSON
Editor-in-Chief

An audit of the Shawano County financial records of 2024 turned up good news for officials.

Revenues were up and expenses were down from the projections, leaving the county with a satisfying general fund balance. The county's debt is all well below state limits and even the county's own tighter restrictions, noted John Rader of Baker Tilly at the executive committee meeting July 16.

County Board Chairman Tom Kautza made it a point to ask if any fraud was detected.

"There is no fraud, correct?" he said. "No missing money?"

"Correct," Rader said. "We're not auditing for fraud. We do fraud risk assessment, and there's nothing that came to light to cause us concern. Now, I can't say there's no fraud — I don't think any firm would ever do that — but we certainly didn't come across anything."

Kautza was referring to accusations made last month by Supervisor Lowel Hammett about \$1 million missing from the county treasury. In his claim, he did not say when the disappearance of the money happened.

As for the audit itself, Rader said unassigned money in the general fund — the primary operating fund — increased from \$11.9 million in 2023 to \$14 million in 2024.

The increase is mainly due to decreases in non-spendable funds, restricted funds and assigned funds. Committed funds increased from 2023 to 2024.

Overall, the general fund decreased from \$19.8 million to \$19.2 million.

"It went down, because you planned on spending it all," Rader said. "You planned on spending it down by about \$3.5 million. It didn't go down that much. It went down \$606,000."

Revenues came in over budget by \$901,311.

"Most of that, \$776,000 of it, is because of invest-

ment income," Rader said.

Expenses came in under budget at \$1,951,023. He said this includes costs associated with jail operations, courthouse maintenance, the sheriff's department, land conservation and other departments.

"The county has a policy of trying to establish between 20-25% of next year's budgeted expenditures for these funds," Rader said. "You've been above that the last four years. You're at 30% this year."

The higher general fund was booked by a low debt amount.

By state law, the county debt ceiling is 5% of its equalized value, which would be \$258,280,475 for 2024. The county debt was \$15,816,763, which included \$2 million in short-term borrowing that was paid off in the first quarter of 2025.

"You're only at 6%, so you're well below the statutory or your own limitations," Rader said.

kpasson@newmedia-wi.com

Shawano, Menominee counties draft hazard mitigation plan

Shawano and Menominee counties, like the rest of the state of Wisconsin, are vulnerable to a variety of disasters. Wisconsin has incurred disaster-related damages totaling \$3 billion in the last three decades, but future losses can be reduced through mitigation activities.

To better prepare Shawano and Menominee counties to manage their vulnerability to disasters, Shawano and Menominee County Emergency Management jointly applied for, received and has completed a pre-disaster mitigation (PDM) update planning grant.

"This plan update will serve as a roadmap that outlines potential cost-effective hazard mitigation

activities, some of which might be available for future grant funding," said Lt. Chris Madle, emergency management director. "The updated plan outlines the risks and vulnerabilities that the counties face from natural disasters and highlights mitigation strategies that might reduce future losses."

A recent study by the Multi-hazard Mitigation Council shows that each average dollar spent on mitigation saves society more than \$6.

Since 1993, more than 400 disasters have occurred in the United States, affecting communities in all 50 states, costing the country more \$500 million per week and killing more 24,000 people.

Mitigation actions

reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. These preventative actions can be as simple as elevating a furnace in a basement that sometimes has water on the floor. Mitigation can also have a comprehensive approach, such as relocating buildings out of the floodplain or strengthening critical facilities to prevent wind damage and provide stronger shelter.

The completed draft hazard mitigation plan update is available during business hours at the Shawano County Clerk's Office, 311 N. Main St., Shawano, and the Menominee County Clerk's Office at W3269 Courthouse Lane, Keshena, for review and public comment until Aug. 4.

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SUDS, GOLF AND POLKA

Shawano, Cecil, Pulaski were the places to party over the weekend



Prior to the start of this year's scramble July 19 at the Golden Sands Golf Course in Cecil, golfer saluted during the National Anthem.



One hundred seventy-six golfers participated in the annual golf outing July 19 at the Golden Sands Golf Course in Cecil that benefits local veterans' causes.



Steve Vandermause and his son Steve including daughters Brielle and Lainey all of Gillett enjoyed the air show.



The event included a 150 mm M119 Howitzer Cannon courtesy of the Wisconsin National Guard and Sgt. Madalyn Plechocki. The cannon fired blanks during the air show and National Anthem on July 19. The Howitzer shoots 7-10 miles and is part of the Ukrainian Army arsenal courtesy of the United States and the Wisconsin National Guard.



ABOVE: Caleb Bieddess, 10, of Shawano, storms through the foam during the Beach Bash held Friday at Smalley Park.



LEFT: Anxious to add more to their stash, parade goers anticipate the next opportunity to collect candy along the parade route.

PHOTOS BY GREG MELLIS • PUBLISHER

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FAR LEFT: The Northern Aces RC Air Show Team treated the golfers and attendees to a military remote controlled air show synchronized to military themed music. **LEFT:** Don Melbauer and Dan Hartwig enjoyed the air show.



Polka dancing and Polka music fill the tents during the four days of Pulaski Polka Days.



A child enjoys the process of gathering the spoils, parade participants shared candy along the parade route.



Avid polka dancers Elaine Rosquist, of Loveland, Colorado, and Aaron Wrader, of Wisconsin Rapids, kick it up as the polka band Live It Up plays on July 19 at Pulaski Polka Days.



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Kathy Bahrke, Clerk

Mengert has honey of a job at his farm

About a dozen bee hives maintained in Grant

By **KAY REMINGER**
Correspondent

There's a buzz in the air at the Rick Mengert farm, located in the Town of Grant.

Mengert is an apiarist — better known as a beekeeper — maintaining close to a dozen bee hives on his farm. Bees produce honey and provide pollination services.

"Depending on where the bees go for nectar reflects the color, taste and condition of the honey," Mengert said.

Mowing clover keeps the crop fresh for the bees. Locust tree is a source of nectar in Waupaca County, producing extra-light, virtually clear honey. Buckwheat produces honey almost as dark as maple syrup.

Where the best source of nectar there is, the bee will intuitively gravitate to that source, according to Mengert. Dandelions are one of the first flowers that provide a supply of nectar and pollen in the spring.

"There's a job for every bee," Mengert said.

First-born nurse bees clean up the cells, according to Mengert. A worker bee is a female bee that isn't fertilized, and they gather nectar and pollen. Guard bees protect the hive from outsiders such as yellow jackets or ants, etc.

Attendant bees bring food to the queen. If there are dead bees, certain ones have the job of carrying the dead out of the hive. Some are hygienists. Drone bees' only purposes in life are to eat, and to breed queen bees. Once they breed the queen, they die.

Mengert said that, to sustain themselves, the bees fill a bee hive box and deposit the nectar in a cell. They make a bee-bread out of a pollen and nectar mix — ingesting that, they also feed it to larvae, to give them energy. A queen cell gets more room and in 16 days becomes a full-grown queen. She then goes on a mating flight within an airspace called a drone congregation area, to get bred — laying up to 2,000 eggs a day for to two or three years.

Within an hour of a queen bee's death, the bees know they'll die off so they start working to replace her, Mengert said. If there are eggs in the hive, the bees will



Rick Mengert sells some of his Papa's Honey at the Clintonville Farmers Market recently. The honey comes from about a dozen beehives he manages year-round at his farm in the Town of Grant.

KAY REMINGER

start feeding the larvae royal jelly, which is high in nutrients, to replace an expired queen. If after 40 days without a queen, the hive does not survive.

"As long as there are eggs in the hive, there is a live queen," said Mengert.

About the middle of August, Mengert starts to extract honey, getting a box full of honey in a week's time. When the bees get the moisture down far enough, they put a wax coating on to seal it off. Too much moisture in the honey will cause it to ferment.

To extract the honey when it's ready, Mengert cuts the capping off the honeycomb with a knife and puts the frames

into a big drum. As it spins, centrifugal force extracts the honey from the comb. Mengert leaves the boxes outside, and the bees clean all the leftover honey, recycling it back into the hive.

Mengert got started by purchasing a nuc — an all-inclusive starter pack with a five-frame box with bees, a laying queen with a brood, and food to feed the growing hive. After beekeeping for 11 years, Mengert has learned the art by doing.

"My dad's grandpa had bees, so I guess it's sort of in my blood," said Mengert. "I bought a 'Beekeeping for Dummies' book from Fleet Farm. Bees are pretty self-sufficient and take care of themselves, for the

most part — it's best if I just stand back and let them do their own thing."

As far as any maintenance needed, Mengert treats them for mites a couple times a year using a respirator, and a 99.6% pure powder concoction called oxalic acid. It's crystalized and heats up to over 300 degrees — the solid turns into a vapor.

Once a month, Mengert meets with the Portage County Hobbyist Beekeepers Club in Amherst Junction. The group leaders keep members updated on what everyone needs to do or just share infor-

MENGERT, CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Pageant players become new generation's storytellers



Dawn Wilber, right, one of the playwrights for the Menominee pageant "Short Stories From the Elders," talks with other participants, including, from left, Brian Marquardt, Alexis Frieson, Richard Frieson and Lloyd Frieson about some last-minute details in lieu of a rehearsal, delayed due to rain, July 16 at the College of Menominee Nation.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

New Menominee pageant scripted from adaptation of book

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

The Menominee Pageant Players have been reviving old pageants since 2016, but the current generation of tribal members is taking up the mantle of telling cultural stories through words and dance.

The next pageant comes July 30, the night before the annual Menominee Nation Contest Pow Wow, titled "Short Stories From the Elders." The script is an adaptation from Frances Weso Walker's book of the same name, published in 1979 by the late fourth-grade teacher for the Wisconsin Native American Teacher Corps Reading Curriculum Project.

"When we went to write an original pageant, we logically went to look for a book we could use," said Ryan Winn, pageant director. "When we found 'Short Stories From the Elders,' it was right on the nose."

The script was crafted by Winn and

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: "Short Stories from the Elders"
WHEN: 9 p.m. July 30
WHERE: Woodland Bowl, Fairgrounds Road, Keshena
ADMISSION: Free, but donations accepted to fund next summer's pageant

pageant guild members Cedar Fernandez, Lloyd Frieson Jr., Karen Ann Hoffman, Brian Marquardt, Jeremiah Moses Jr., Bruce Wilber Jr. and Dawn Wilber in the spring. More than 25 performers will be part of the production, which is sponsored by the College of Menominee Nation, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and Menominee Tribal Education.

The pageant opens with a family of Menominee storytellers telling visitors of the humor and wisdom subtly woven into the fabric of cultural stories. The actors rise up and portray the characters

PAGEANT, CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

GARDENING WITH MELINDA MYERS

Reduce maintenance; boost garden enjoyment

Every gardener has personal reasons for gardening, whether it be the hope that their garden brings joy, productivity, beauty or peace throughout the growing season. Embrace what makes you happy as you tend, view and enjoy every aspect of your garden.

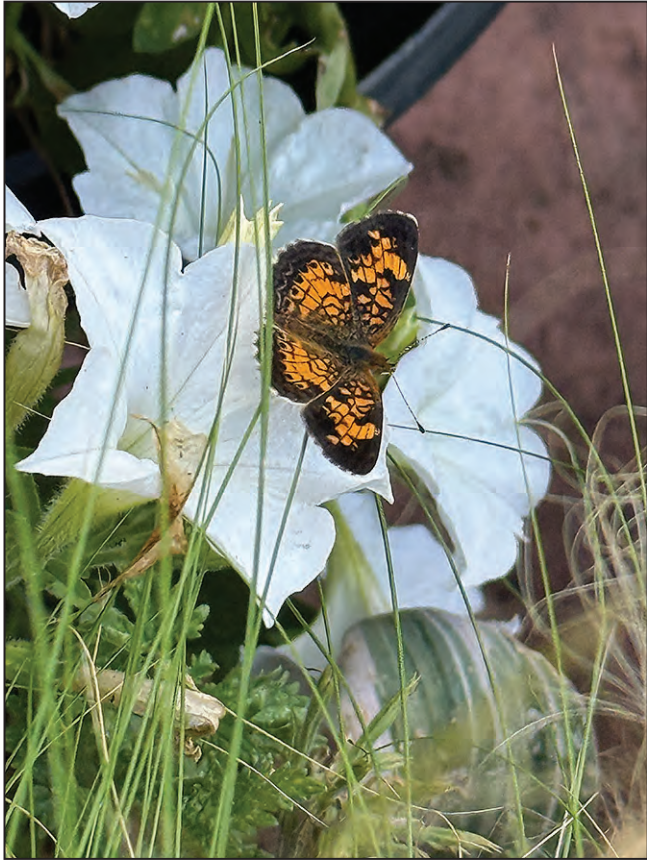
Weather, busy schedules and life in general can interfere with the best laid plans for any garden and landscape. Take some time now to evaluate what is working so you can do more of that and decide what needs changing in your garden plantings, designs and maintenance.

If you are feeling overwhelmed with the maintenance but still want seasonal interest, consider filling garden beds with shrubs. Look for low maintenance varieties suited to your growing conditions and climate. Select those with multiple seasons of beauty from flowers, foliage, fall color, and interesting form and bark. Include some that provide birds with food, shelter and protection from predators. You'll appreciate the beauty and motion these winged visitors provide.

Consider using fewer species of low-maintenance perennials and more of each. You'll have fewer plants to try to identify as the garden comes to life in spring and as you weed throughout the growing season. Look for those that are disease- and insect-pest resistant, need minimal or no deadheading and pruning, and attract and support pollinators as well as provide winter interest and food for songbirds in the winter.

Then add season-long color with pockets or containers of annuals. With fewer to buy and maintain, you may decide your schedule and budget will allow you to change them out as the seasons change.

Accept and embrace the beauty of a less-than-



A pearl crescent butterfly rests on a firefly petunia. MELINDAMYERS.COM



perfect garden. Most visitors won't notice the imperfections unless you point them out. Plus, faded flowers and seed pods can provide unique texture and food for songbirds.

Do minimal cleanup that is better for the plants, pollinators and songbirds. Do remove or cut back diseased and insect-infested plant material as needed. Leave fall leaves in the garden to serve as mulch, a home for some beneficial insects, and insulation for toads, queen bumblebees and others that overwinter underground. Allow perennials to stand for winter, increasing hardiness, providing homes for beneficial insects, food for songbirds, and adding winter interest. Leave some of these stems standing throughout the upcoming growing season to serve

as homes for some of the native bees.

Ask for or hire help if needed. As much as you love gardening, securing help for some of the larger tasks or those that just aren't getting done can help boost your enjoyment.

It can be hard to find gardening help, so you may need to get creative. Consider sharing your gardening space with someone who loves to garden but lacks space. Barter your knowledge and skills for help in your garden. Plan a round robin of fun and gardening with a few friends. Take turns visiting and tending each other's gardens. You'll enjoy the time spent together in each other's gardens as you tackle a gardening task or two. Then top off the visit with a favorite beverage and snack or meal.

Don't let your list of unaccomplished tasks or weeds stop you from enjoying your garden and what you have accomplished. Relish every bloom, fresh tomato, or visiting bird or butterfly.

MENGERT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

mation and help mentor new beekeepers.

"You can ask 10 different beekeepers about how to do something, and you'll probably come up with 11 different ways of doing it," Mengert said. "Everybody's got their own way."

To prepare for winter, the honey is removed in August, and the mite count needs to be as low as possible.

Winter bees are different than summer bees, according to Mengert. Winter bees have stored their honey, and that remains in the hive as food for the winter. Additionally, sugar water

is offered. The bees get the moisture to a certain percentage by fanning the concoction with their wings to dry it.

According to Tech Facts, "Scientists have declared bees the most critical species due to their role in pollinating 70% of crops. Bees have officially been named the most important living species on Earth."

"All our food needs pollinators. Every bee has their own thing they specialize in. Honey bees, bumble bees, wasps, yellow jackets - they are native pollinators and only go to certain plants. They all have their

own purpose in life," said Mengert.

To place an order for Papa's Honey, call Mengert at 715-250-3898. He also sells his wares at the Clintonville Farmers Market at 20 S. Main St., Clintonville, on Thursdays from June through October. The honey is also available at No Boundaries Nutrition, 35 S. Main St., Clintonville.

Raw honey is sold in one-pound, two-pound or three-pound containers, in addition to his homegrown maple syrup. Honey candy and honey sticks, which are straws filled with honey, are also available for purchase.

"Our Native stories are meant to teach lessons, and for us, stories seem to be an everyday thing in life."

MARY WALKER-SANAPAW, daughter of the late Frances Weso Walker



Menominee Pageant Players, from left, Cedar Fernandez, Jeremiah Moses Jr. and Avari Fernandez listen intently as others involved with the pageant "Short Stories From the Elders" about preparing show programs July 16 at the College of Menominee Nation. LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

PAGEANT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

of yarns such as "Muskrat's Tail," "The Great Race," "The Raccoon and the Wolf" and "The Hunter." The players will also perform an original story by Walker that was in the book, "Na'ma Kee sa."

The Wilbers were the driving force behind adapting "Short Stories From the Elders" into a play. Dawn Wilber, who will also be the narrator for the pageant, said that, when she found the book, she felt compelled to bring them alive through the Menominee pageant style. She wrote the adaptation for "Na'ma Kee sa" in Winn's playwriting class.

"I have to say that, when I first started, I was like, 'How am I going to do this?'" Wilber said. "Ryan's teaching walked me right through everything, and pulling in facts and situations within our community."

When writing, Wilber wanted some of Walker's descendants to be a part of "Na'ma Kee sa." At least two family members are slated to be part of the show, she said.

"Serendipitously, it just kind of worked its way in there," Wilber said. "I think that our community is in for something very rich because this is something very new. It hasn't been done before."

Fernandez is eager to jump into the story. Besides being one of the writers, she will play Aehsepan in two of the stories. Aehsepan is one of the two main characters in "The Raccoon and the Wolf," and in "Muskrat's Tail," she is one of the animals of the forest trying to obtain the tail.

"I feel very lucky, especially being a young person who is hoping to help support this through our lives and keep it going and help it adapt," Fernandez said. "Stories are always adapting."

Moses said he also felt lucky, having heard of

some of the stories from Walker's book when he was growing up. He noted that the stories in the book form were short, but the pageant writers were able to flesh them out more in order to fit a two-hour show.

"We started brainstorming and looking at the adaptation of the stories from Frances Weso Walker's book," Moses said. "We started to flesh things out more, because the stories were already there, especially being based on our culture and the things we heard growing up, like 'The Great Race.'"

Moses also recalled finding a rare recording from more than 65 years ago, in 1959, where the performance had traditional Menominee language, something the tribe has spent years trying to revive in all aspects of reservation life.

"It was the only pageant that we've been able to track down that really made a point of using Menominee language, and we're trying to bring that forward this year," Moses said. "I think it's a really wonderful thing."

Moses has a 9-year-old brother who is participating in the pageants for the first time this year, something the elder sibling is very excited about.

The family aspect is something that is common in the Menominee pageants. Frieson has four children that are participating in "Short Stories From the Elders," and he is eager for them to take part in a tradition that he remembers fondly from his childhood. His youngest son, age 3, will be playing a fox chasing a rabbit in one of the scenes.

"Back in the '70s, when I was a little guy, I remember a pageant going on in the (Woodland Bowl), and I was just running around, and they were doing the storytelling and whatnot. I thought that was really

cool," Frieson said. "For me to experience that and get my children involved in doing these stories for the community, we enjoy it. We love doing this, and we wait every year to do it."

Alexis Frieson, Lloyd's daughter, echoed her father's sentiment about the pageant being a family affair.

"I just like to be involved," she said. "I don't do stuff like this, but I think it's really cool to do this with my dad and my brothers."

Richard Frieson, one of the Frieson sons taking part, enjoys being table to take the stage in the Woodland Bowl and tell a story.

"I like the lights, the pow wow grounds," he said.

With this being an adaptation, Walker's family wanted to be sure that the script stayed true to the author's vision. Mary Walker-Sanapaw is an observer and said that the pageant writers did a good job when expanding on her mother's stories to be sure that the additional scripting was spot on with the original stories.

"The book was my mother's baby, and we were always proud, like her, of her book that to see it go to stage now is, I believe, her dream come true," Walker-Sanapaw said. "As a storyteller, I believe everyone wants to see their stories come to life."

The important thing about the book and pageant versions of "Short Stories From the Elders" is that there is something to learn from each story.

"Our Native stories are meant to teach lessons, and for us, stories seem to be an everyday thing in life," Walker-Sanapaw said. "There are many things in life, so there are many stories."

Purple martins need good homes in Oconto County

A good home, secure from the weather and a solid place to raise a family not only works for us humans, but also for the birds. One species of birds that especially needs our help with home building is the purple martin.

The purple martin is hard to miss. It's North America's largest swallow. According to The Cornell Lab All About Birds (AAB) website, it is one of the earliest South American migrants to arrive in the spring. Older males arrive in Wisconsin as early as late March, the females a bit later. The adult male is a striking glossy bluish purple that seems to glow in the sunlight; the wings and tail are brownish black. Females are duller in color with varying amounts of gray on their heads and whitish lower belly.

Masters of flight, purple martins get their food (insects) and water, according to AAB, on the wing. They snap up insects (e.g., mayflies, wasps, dragonflies, etc.) while in flight but also water by scooping it up in their lower bill as they skim along its surface.

Purple martins are considered cavity nesters. Herein lies the rub. Natural cavities such as those occurring in older trees or the tops of old wooden fence posts are lacking in our modern developed landscape.

In addition to the lack of housing, according to AAB, the martins suffer from competition for nesting sites and predation of eggs and young from aggressive house sparrow and European starlings. Fewer insects due to pesticide use has reduced the amount of food available to the birds.

What is helping to



A purple martin chick is banded by Dick Nikolai during MartinFest in June.

CATHY CARNES



conserve the purple martin population is people, people who put up purple martin houses and tend them. According to AAB, in eastern North America purple martins nest almost exclusively in human-built nest boxes near cities and towns. Providing housing for purple martins is an age-old tradition; even the early Native Americans hung empty gourds for purple martins to use as nest sites.

Over the last several

years, Bird City Oconto has been helping to boost purple martin numbers by providing three purple martin houses at City Park, and another two houses at City Docks. This year, the houses provided homes for 122 adult martins and 250-300 young, a record year.

Banding purple martins helps us learn more about these birds and how to help them. This year the Wisconsin Purple Martin Association's (WPMA) 15th annual MartinFest held at City Park in Oconto on June 28 provided information on bird banding.

Dick Nikolai, an expert on purple martins and board member of the WPMA, demonstrated

how he bands the martins. While gently cradling the bird in his hand, he affixes a numbered band onto one of the bird's legs using a special bird banding pliers that prevents injury to the leg. All the purple martin chicks at City Park and the city docks in Oconto are fitted with bands, as are some of the adult birds.

Bird banding is an important conservation tool within the Migratory Bird Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The bands provide information on breeding and wintering locations, behavior, migratory routes, survival and reproduction that is used to help manage and conserve birds. You can contribute

to this effort, by reporting bird bands you find on any species of dead birds including those legally harvested during hunting seasons. To report bird bands, go to <http://www.reportband.gov>.

Since 2013, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has listed the purple martin as a species of special concern.

According to Dick Nikolai, the purple martin population has declined 5-6% annually over the last 55 years in Wisconsin. There are no longer purple martins in the northern one-quarter of Wisconsin, and the population in the northwest part of Wisconsin has declined due to the tornados that passed through this area

from 2021-2023. If you are interested in helping purple martins, check out the WPMA's website, which provides a wealth of information and guidance on how to construct and manage purple martin houses. It is a time commitment, but well worth it and with lots of great support.

You can also donate to Bird City Oconto. Because the purple martin houses at the City Docks are full, they would like to purchase another martin house for this site. Donations can be made to Bird City Oconto at the Oconto City Hall by calling 920-834-7711.

The reward in helping these birds is seeing them move into new housing and the satisfaction of knowing you are part of a larger conservation effort. And the purple martins will certainly repay your efforts with their lively company, chatty songs and calls, and their aerial acrobats as they pursue and catch a myriad of insects in your own backyard. Cathy Carnes is a retired biologist in Oconto who worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Green Bay Field Office and prior to that with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch in Buffalo, New York. As endangered species coordinator for the USFWS, she helped conserve and recover federally listed threatened and endangered species in Wisconsin.

Cathy Carnes is a retired biologist in Oconto who worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Green Bay Field Office and prior to that with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch in Buffalo, New York. As endangered species coordinator for the USFWS, she helped conserve and recover federally listed threatened and endangered species in Wisconsin.

Digital disorder inflicted on good husband by his wife

My husband has fallen ill with DD (digital disorder), a very prevalent and highly contagious illness. Indeed, chances are you already have DD. What? You've never heard of digital disorder? It's been plaguing the population for years. Luckily, Jon has a relatively mild case.

As much as I hate to admit it, this is totally my fault. He was perfectly happy with his flip-phone, but no, I had to introduce him to the wonders of having a search engine in the palm of his hand. Things got out of control when I taught him to use my iPad, a device he affectionately calls Blue.

What else is blue? Me. He's not what I would call addicted to YouTube and our Apple devices, but I have had to institute a "No Phones at the Table" rule here at Otter Run. I suspected something was wrong for quite a while, but I have clearly been



in digital oblivion. Come to find out my otherwise healthy husband has three of the five DD variations. It's not a life-threatening condition, but there's relief in putting a name to the problem.

Full disclosure: it was Jon who discovered DD while browsing the web when he should have been cleaning his Dead Animals Room downstairs. "Hey, Wifey, you have got to hear this." When he insists on sharing something he's found online, I know he means business. The topic was DD, and though he reluctantly admitted he fit the profile, he said a visit to a digital health care provider was not necessary.

The first DD variant Jon

has is TCNF (technoference), a disorder where digital technology disrupts daily routines, leisure time and close relationships. When in the company of others, he can avoid the temptation to sneak a peek at his smartphone, but at home? Not so much. If I complain, he retorts that he's just doing what everyone else does, including our beloved granddaughter who calls him Papa.

Jon isn't wrong to point that out as said granddaughter has TCNF. Almost 12, her time on the tablet has eclipsed baking cookies with Grandma, pairing up to write and stage a dramatic production in our living room or taking a woods walk to see my pet doe Sedona who comes out when I call her name.

Thankfully, pontoon rides, swimming at Bass Lake Beach and shopping at Sweet Memories Candy Shop in Lakewood still

make the cut. Sure, coming in a distant second for her attention is not flattering, but it has an upside. She never says, "I'm bored" anymore, and I have committed to memory every hair on the top of her adorable head that holds her amazing brain. Since there's no cure for technoference, I settle for whatever attention I can get.

In addition to technoference, Jon has been exhibiting mild symptoms of the DD variant cyberchondria, a compulsive need to research health symptoms online and self-diagnose. Medical experts sternly warn about doing this, but at least WebMD and Cleveland Clinic are his go-to websites. It's not all bad. It often saves time, trouble and treasure as we avoid needlessly accessing the excellent health care providers we are blessed to have here in the rural Wisconsin Northwoods. A particularly virulent

variant of DD is nomophobia, a state of pure panic induced by misplacing your cellphone. Jon is not susceptible, but I have it in spades. I can spiral into total despair when I can't locate my phone. For a while, I deleted the Find My Phone app, which can be an open invitation for cyber criminals to make your life cyber-hell. So is misplacing my phone, especially when in silence mode. Yet that's nothing compared to when Jon leaves and forgets his. The resulting distress is hazardous to our household health.

Good news. Neither one of us has ringxiety: the false perception that your phone is ringing or vibrating when it isn't. And we haven't come down with TSD (Truman Show Delusion), a narcissistic state of paranoia caused by an obsession with social media. Those afflicted actually believe their lives are being recorded and broadcast

across multiple platforms. I know — certifiable.

You may be wondering if DD is treatable. Nope. The only remedy is going cold turkey by moving totally offline, and I doubt that will ever happen. But we've had some success with nomophobia. I often misplace my phone at home, but it's always in my purse when I go out.

Posting a "Do You Have Your Phone?" sign on the garage access door proved futile, so I always ask Jon if he has his phone when he leaves. I did that an hour ago when he went to Pintsch's Hardware. You know, I really should call and remind him to pick up the eggs I ordered from Rosemary. Uh oh, I can't find my phone. Now where the heck did I put it?

Kathleen Marsh is a lifelong educator, writer, and community advocate. She has published eight books, four on the history of Townsend, where she and husband Jon are happily retired on the beautiful Townsend Flowage.

CMN, MNHS stage short original production on drug addiction

One of College of Menominee Nation’s high school cohorts staged an original short play last week.
Written by CMN and

Menominee Nation High School student Rikki Latender, the play “You’re Not Alone” shares the story of a high school valedictorian and track

star who is struggling with a hidden addiction.
The play was created in CMN’s spring 2025 play-writing course under the tutelage of Adjunct Profes-

sor Justin Eagle Gauthier. CMN’s Liberal Studies Chair Ryan Winn is teaching the summer 2025 theater production course producing the show. The

script was chosen by students who enrolled in both courses.
Besides Latender, students featured in the show included Kenew Awono-

hopay, Madyson Mikle, Sydney Mitchell, Michael Peters, Natalie Peters and Urijah Reevis.
The play was staged at MNHS on July 17.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, JULY 25

NAVARINO: Lego Day Camp, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Ages 3-8; chaperones required for ages 3-4. Members \$40, non-members \$50, information at navarino.org.

SHAWANO: SMEC Lightning on the Wolf, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., USAir Motorsports Raceway, W5901 County Road BE. \$20.

SHAWANO: American Red Cross blood drive, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., City Hall, 127 S. Sawyer St. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

CECIL: Sunflower Fest, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bergsbaken Farms, W2095 County Road E. Live music noon to 4 p.m., family-friendly activities, local vendors, sunflower trails, wagon rides, concessions available.

KESHENA: Kehtekaewak Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., College of Menominee Nation, N172 State Highway 47-55.

LENA: Thunder On Main, 5:30-8 p.m., Main Street. Race cars, food trucks, vendors, live music.

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

OCONTO FALLS: Music by the River, 6-9 p.m., East Side Beach, North Main Street. Live music by Drive West.

OCONTO: Movie Night Under the Stars, dusk, Joel’s Reel Inn, 400 Holtwood Way. Adult Night: “The Great Outdoors.”

SATURDAY, JULY 26

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

LENA: Dirt City Off-Road Nationals, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dirt City Motorplex, 414 E. Main St. All-pro and sportsman truck, buggy, SXS and kart champ off-road classes. Admission \$37.95 daily, \$64.25 weekend, military discount.

SHAWANO: SMEC Lightning

on the Wolf, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., USAir Motorsports Raceway, W5901 County Road BE. \$20.

MARION: Heritage Day, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Marion Historical Society, 620 E. Ramsdell St. Car show, live music, buildings open to tour, basket raffles, silent auction, food and refreshments.

CECIL: Sunflower Fest, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bergsbaken Farms, W2095 County Road E. Live music noon to 4 p.m., family-friendly activities, local vendors, sunflower trails, wagon rides, concessions available.

SHAWANO: Shawano Has History Walking Tours, 10 a.m., Tours start at Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St., and end at Stubborn Brothers, 220 S. Main St. Tickets \$10.

CRIVITZ: Crooked Trails ATV Club Hamburger and Brat Fry, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Crooked Lake Sportmen’s Club, 15526 County Road W. Hamburger and brat fry, raffles.

LAKEWOOD: Wienerfest North, noon to 8 p.m., Memorial Park, 17258 North Road. Food, drinks, raffles, music, educational/first aid demonstrations, to benefit northern Oconto County emergency services.

SHAWANO: Naberhood Block Party, 6-8 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Live music with Jesse Fuller Music.

SHAWANO: Shawano Speedway, 6 p.m., 990 E. Green Bay St. Gates open 4 p.m. \$12, ages 12-16 \$6, and younger than 11 free.

SHAWANO: Rock the Links Golf Outing Public Concert, 7-10 p.m., Shawano Lake Golf Course, W5714 Lake Road. Live music with Warden. Suggested donation \$10 to Shawano Hockey. Golf outing shotgun start 11 a.m., \$400 per foursome includes 18 holes, meal and entertainment.

SUNDAY, JULY 27

SHAWANO: Zurko’s Midwest Promotions Flea Market, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Shawano County Fairgrounds, 990 E.

Green Bay St. \$2 admission, 12 and under free with adult.

LENA: Dirt City Off-Road Nationals, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dirt City Motorplex, 414 E. Main St. All-pro and sportsman truck, buggy, SXS and kart champ off-road classes. Admission \$37.95 daily, military discount.

SHAWANO: SMEC Lightning on the Wolf, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., USAir Motorsports Raceway, W5901 County Road BE. \$20.

CECIL: Sunflower Fest, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bergsbaken Farms, W2095 County Road E. Live music noon to 4 p.m., family-friendly activities, local vendors, sunflower trails, wagon rides, concessions available.

WITTENBERG: “Elderon – A Look Back,” 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St. A pictorial exhibit about Elderon’s history. Free admission, donations accepted.

SHAWANO: Music in the Park at Arlington, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Arlington Park, 300 N. Humphrey Circle. Live music with It’s Just Us Band.

MONDAY, JULY 28

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.

SHAWANO: Revive 715, 7-9 p.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Northeast Wisconsin Jazz Ensemble presents a night of big band music.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto County Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., Memorial Field. Vendors, live music, food trucks.

SHAWANO: Naberhood Block Party, 6 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Wesley Waffles.

OCONTO: Tunes on Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m., Beyer House and Carriage Museum, 916 Park Ave. Live music with Gabriel Sanchez Trio. Bring your own food, beverages and chair.

KESHENA: Recovery talking circle, 6-8 p.m. Omaeqnome-newak Wetohkatikamek

Center, 2700 Mianaceqtawak Road. Information: Mindy Thunder at 715-799-3835 or mthunder@mitw.org.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

SHAWANO: Walk Wednesdays, 7-8 a.m., USAir Motorsports Raceway, W5901 County Road BE. Track is open for walkers. Free admission.

BONDUEL: Farmers Market, 4-7 p.m., corner of Cecil and Green Bay streets.

SHAWANO: Ski Sharks, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wolf River Beach at Smalley Park, 211 Riverside Drive; enter ski site from Third Street.

SHAWANO: Shawano Paddlers Evening Paddle, 6 p.m., Huckleberry Harbor, 217 E. Fifth St. Check Facebook page for latest information.

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

THURSDAY, JULY 31

SHAWANO: Shawano Paddlers Morning Paddle, 9 a.m., Washington Lake, W4900 Stark Road. Check Facebook page for latest information.

LITTLE SUAMICO: American Red Cross blood drive, 1-6 p.m., Little Suamico Fire Department, 5974 County Road S. Appointments at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767.

GILLET: Community Market, 5-7 p.m., Ebenreiter Square, 200 E. Main St.

SHAWANO: Thursdayz at Franklin, 6-8:30 p.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Live music with Cherry Pie.

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

FRIDAY, AUG. 1

NAVARINO: Nature Camp, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Navarino Nature Center, W5646 Lindsten Road. Ages 6-11. Members \$40, non-members \$50. Information: www.navarino.org.

KESHENA: Kehtekaewak

Farmers Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., College of Menominee Nation, N172 State Highway 47-55.

SHAWANO: Scrapeyard Presents Friendship Cup 3, 2-11 p.m., USAir Motorsports, W5901 County Road BE. Gates open 1 p.m. Admission \$20.

BONDUEL: 67th annual Corn Roast, 5-11 p.m., Village Park, 214 E. Park St. Admission \$5. All you can eat corn, bean bag toss tournament, live music by New Generation Polka Band.

BOWLER: Bowler Bash, Bowler Pond and Park, 104 E. Main St. Food, refreshments, raffles, music with The Now 8:15-11:45 p.m. All you can eat corn \$8 wristband; AYCE corn and tap beer \$15 wristband.

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

KESHENA: Menominee Nation Contest Pow Wow, grand entry 7 p.m., Woodland Bowl, W3024 Fairgrounds Road. Dance contest in multiple categories. Weekend pass \$15, \$10 day pass, 60 and older and under 5 free.

OCONTO: Movie Night Under the Stars, dusk, Joel’s Reel Inn, 400 Holtwood Way. “Moana 2.”

SATURDAY, AUG. 2

LAKEWOOD: Lakes Country Arts and Crafts Show, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Town Hall and Activity Center, 17258 North Road.

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

MOUNTAIN: Craft and Vendor Fair, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., 13395 State Highway 32-64.

OCONTO: Emplify Health by Bellin Kids Triathlon, 8:30 to noon, Bond Community Center, 1201 Park Ave. Ages 3-14. Registration 7:45 a.m., first race 8:30 a.m. For more information, visit https://www.facebook.com/bellinfitnessbccc.

SURING: Youth Outdoor Fun Day, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Suring Sportsman’s Club Range, 8699 River Road. Trout

fishing, archery, slingshots, shooting, lunch included. Ages 7-17, must be accompanied by adult or guardian, registration required at SSC_Secretary21@outlook.com.

SHAWANO: Scrapeyard Presents Friendship Cup 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., USAir Motorsports, W5901 County Road BE. Gates open 8 a.m. Admission \$20.

KESHENA: Menominee Nation Contest Pow Wow, grand entries noon and 7 p.m., Woodland Bowl, W3024 Fairgrounds Road. Dance contest in multiple categories. Weekend pass \$15, \$10 day pass, 60 and older and under 5 free. 5k Pow Wow Walk/run 9 a.m. at Keshena Pavilion.

DOTY: Doty Firefighters Picnic, noon to 5 p.m., County T and Star Lake Road. Food, ice cream social, games, raffles, beer and brats.

BOWLER: Bowler Bash, Bowler Pond and Park, 104 E. Main St. Food, refreshments, raffles, parade at 2 p.m. FFA Alumni cow and horse drop contests 4 p.m., bike giveaway 4 p.m., music with The 308s 7:30-11:30 p.m., fireworks at dusk.

SHAWANO: Naberhood Block Party, 6-8 p.m., The Naberhood, 214 S. Main St. Live music with Russ Reiser.

SHAWANO: Shawano Speedway, 6 p.m., 990 E. Green Bay St. Gates open 4 p.m. \$12, ages 12-16 \$6, and younger than 11 free. Gates open 4 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUG. 3

SHAWANO: Zurko’s Midwest Promotions Flea Market, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Shawano County Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St. \$2 admission, 12 and under free with adult.

SHAWANO: Scrapeyard Presents Friendship Cup 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., USAir Motorsports, W5901 County Road BE. Gates open 8 a.m. Admission \$20.

BONDUEL: Pie and Ice Cream Social, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bonduel Community Archives, 108 S. First St. Homemade pies, ice cream, barbecue. Music in the gazebo.

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YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Transparency disregarded in two egregious cases

Last month, the Wisconsin Town of Hazelhurst postponed discussion of a proposed ordinance due to a typo. The meeting agenda had incorrectly listed “wake board” instead of the intended “wake boat.” Town chairman Ted Cushing said, “I’m not going to violate the Open Meetings Law.”

It was the right call, one that affirms my belief that public officials in Wisconsin are, by and large, intent on complying with the state’s openness laws.

Sadly, this is not always the case.

Recent weeks have brought forth two of the most egregious violations of the public’s right to know that I have seen in more than three decades of tracking openness issues on the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council.

The first happened in the village of St. Francis, south of Milwaukee, on June 2. Megan Lee, a reporter for television station TMJ4, and photographer Dan Selan tried to attend a meeting of the St. Francis school board. The district superintendent, Deb Kerr, confronted Lee, in an exchange that Selan captured on video (see <https://tinyurl.com/4pwr58z7>).

“You are not allowed to come to our meetings because you did not give us any notice or tell us why you were here,” declared Kerr, saying she had just spoken with the district’s lawyer. “Like you said, it’s an open board meeting, but you’re not filming.” When Lee pressed for an explanation, Kerr replied, “I’m going to ask you to leave now, and if you don’t leave, I’ve already told you, I will call the police.” Thankfully, this did not occur.

For the record, no one is required to give advance notice before attending a public meeting. The state’s Open Meetings Law, at 19.90, expressly directs all public bodies to “make a reasonable effort to accommodate any person desiring to record, film or photograph the meeting,” so long as it is not disruptive.

Kerr, a one-time candidate for state school superintendent, did apologize, sort of, saying “I wish I had handled it differently.” TMJ4 has filed a verified complaint against the school district with Milwaukee County’s Corporation Counsel, the first step toward possible legal action.

The second transgression involves Steven H. Gibbs, a circuit court judge



Bill Lueders
Guest columnist

in Chippewa County. Gibbs recently issued an order that not only barred the media from recording witness testimony at pretrial evidentiary hearings but also instructed that they “may not directly quote the testimony of the witnesses, and may only summarize the content of the testimony,” or else face contempt proceedings.

“Wow, this is quite the court order,” said Robert Drechsel, a UW-Madison professor emeritus of journalism and mass communication and expert on media law and the First Amendment, when I asked for his thoughts. He cited a 1976 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Nebraska Press Association v. Stuart*, which limited judges’ ability to impose constraints on media, requiring that they consider less restrictive alternatives and ponder whether the order would be effective.

That was not done here. In fact, requiring summation over quotation “would be more likely to introduce a risk of error and possible prejudice,” Drechsel said. “So no, I do not think the judge can prohibit the media from directly quoting what they hear during an open court proceeding, and I don’t think it’s a close call.”

Gibbs, asked under what authority he was forbidding direct quotation, cited a Wisconsin Supreme Court Rule that allows judges to “control the conduct of proceedings” before them. Gibbs said he believes in the First Amendment and freedom of the press but “my concern is a fair jury pool in this matter not tainted by any media reports” about evidence that may or may not be introduced.

He did not explain how threatening the media for trying to be as accurate as possible would achieve this end.

The truth is that public officials, even if they’re well-intentioned, sometimes broadly overstep. Let’s just be grateful that this is the exception and not the rule. You can quote me on that.

Bill Lueders is the president of the Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council. Your Right to Know is a monthly column distributed by the council, a group dedicated to open government.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Village wrong to dismantle kayak launch

To the editor:

I am writing to you to express concern over the village of Cecil board’s recent decision to remove the ADA compliant kayak launch — an amenity donated through generous community contributions. This action was taken without public input or opportunity for discussion, and it undermines the values of transparency, accessibility and community collaboration

that define our region.

This launch was more than a piece of infrastructure — it was a symbol of inclusion. It allowed individuals of all abilities, including veterans and seniors, to safely enjoy our local waters. Removing it without engaging the very community that funded and benefited from it is deeply disappointing.

Kayaking and other silent water sports are booming in popularity across Wisconsin. According to the Wisconsin

Office of Outdoor Recreation, outdoor recreation contributes over \$11.2 billion annually to our state’s economy. Silent sport enthusiasts alone generate \$14.7 million in just three northern counties. Trails like the Kickapoo Water Trail attract 16,000 visits per year, bringing in \$1.2 million in local spending. These numbers reflect a growing demand for low-impact, nature based recreation — something our region is perfectly positioned to support.

Instead of dismantling access, we should be expanding it. The removal of this launch sends the wrong message to residents and visitors alike. I urge the village board to reconsider and to engage the public in a transparent dialogue about the future of our shared outdoor spaces.

Let’s work together to preserve and promote the amenities that make our community vibrant, inclusive and economically resilient.

Melanie Curti, Shawano

GUEST COLUMN

Pulling USPS back from brink

The United States Postal Service is on the brink of a self-induced collapse. The failed policies of the Delivering for America Plan have driven away customers through a combination of sky-high rate increases and degraded service. David Steiner, who will take over as postmaster general July 14, has a tough job to do and little time to do it with some estimates indicating the USPS could be insolvent as soon as 2028.

Congress has a key role to play in helping him right the ship but must get off the sidelines and act. A useful step occurred earlier this week with a hearing before the House Oversight Subcommittee on Government Operations. The National Newspaper Association (NNA) provided a statement for the hearing that lays out key actions



Martha Diaz Aszkenazy
Guest columnist

Congress can take to help restore the USPS.

We emphasized that NNA members serve their communities, providing news on local events and civic matters that are not covered anywhere else, and that they depend on the USPS to get their papers to subscribers. The USPS — and by extension the small businesses in the communities they serve — faces an immediate and existential crisis. We urge Congress to act swiftly and compel meaningful reform at the USPS.

Here are three actions Congress can take right now to get the USPS back on track and keep commerce in America

moving:

- Demand the USPS Board halt the Delivering for America Plan including the large rate increase planned for July 13. This increase, far above the rate of inflation will only deepen the hole and ties the hands of Steiner, who should have the opportunity to assess the situation. The same holds true for the network consolidations and service cuts. Every customer that is lost through these increases and service reductions is one less Steiner can rely on in the future.

- Modernize and empower the USPS regulator. Effective checks and balances are needed to keep the USPS on track. Congress needs to update and modernize the postal regulatory process to better safeguard against excessive rates and poor service by passing House

Resolution 3004, The USPS Serves Us Act.

- Measure newspaper costs accurately. Congress should compel accurate measurement of newspaper service and hold the USPS accountable for maintaining and improving service quality by enacting House Bill 2098/Senate Bill 1002, the Deliver for Democracy Act.

These are all common sense steps Congress can take to address what has been clearly a failed approach by USPS management. Steiner has a huge job ahead of him and will need all the help he can get.

Congress must act now to make sure the nation’s next postmaster general is not the last one.

Martha Diaz Aszkenazy is the chairwoman of the National Newspaper Association and publisher for The San Fernando Valley (California) Sun/El Sol Newspapers.



Another batch of winners at the Shawano Speedway



Winners were plentiful July 19 at the weekly Shawano Speedway races. Troy Springborn, above, finished first during the Late Model feature, while Tommy Rindt finished second, Steve Kastning finished third, Andy Karl finished fourth, and Lukas Postl finished fifth. Jeffrey Teske, right, took the top spot for the Sportsmods feature, while Jake Carpenter took second, Josh Fleischnman took third, Tommy Rindt took fourth and Dustin Wudstrack rounded out the top five. In the Mods, Kevin Feck finished first, Marcus Yarie finished second, Lucas Lamberies finished third, Tanner Janke finished fourth and Jordan Bartz finished fifth. Jeremy Christians got the checkered flag for the Stockcars, followed by Dan Michonski in second, Devin Snellenberger in third, Trent Nolan in fourth and Mark Eswein in fifth. In the Mighty Fours, Justin Haufe finished first, followed by Taylor Junk, Brad Wedde, Andrew Yeager and Bo White. The Street Stocks feature, Kyle Genett took the checkered flag, followed by Jacob Ambrosious, Jeff Richards, Derek Schrauth and Paul Ambrosius.

BACKCOUNTRY CAPTURES



Big 3rd inning lifts Cecil to win

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

July 20
Cecil 13, Shawano 1 (7 inn.)

After a slow start by both teams, Cecil erupted for eight runs in the bottom of the third inning and went on to pick up a win over the Lobos in seven innings that ended because of the 10-run rule.

Reese Stoltenow led off the Mudhens' half of the third inning with his team's first hit and Ken Casper followed with a two-run home run over the left-field fence.

Garrett Engel kept the inning alive with a single and scored after a pair of walks and an error that left the bases loaded. A catcher's interference play and another walk led to two more runs. Stoltenow added a sacrifice fly and Casper made it 8-0 with an RBI double.

Singles by Jake Sager and Mason Mevarden got things started for Cecil in the

fourth inning. Brodie Hartmann reached on an error that scored two more runs to make it 10-0.

Casper and Engel would again reach on subsequent singles in the fifth inning and both scored on a single from Noah Beilfuss. The Mudhens added one more run later in the inning to complete the scoring.

Shawano scored its only run in the sixth inning after Chase Henning doubled and scored on Carson Popp's single.

Beilfuss picked up the win on the mound by scattering six hits and striking out six batters over six innings.

Andrew Popp took the loss for the Lobos.

Casper led all hitters with three hits, while Engel and Beilfuss added two each. **Hofa Park 9, Bonduel 4**

Brinton Anderson's big day at the plate helped the Panthers knock off the Broncos in Bonduel.

He drove in four runs on three hits —

including a three-run home run in the first inning — before adding an RBI double in the fourth.

Noah Weier's solo home run for Bonduel in the first inning cut Hofa Park's lead to 3-1.

The Broncos never took the lead, as Hofa Park came up with five runs on three hits in the fourth inning. An error scored one run, Robbie Schuettpelz singled to drive in a pair of runs, Anderson added his RBI double and Tyler Jacobson chipped in with an RBI single.

Schuettpelz picked up the win despite giving up 12 hits and four runs over 8 1/3 innings. Jacobson worked the rest of the ninth inning to pick up a save.

Emitt Hunter, Trevor Cornell, Schuettpelz and Anderson each had three of Hofa Park's 15 hits.

Cade Johnson, Adam Frost, Cooper Camshure and Weier led the Broncos

BABA playoffs to get underway Aug. 10

Top four teams will advance to postseason

By GREG SEUBERT
Correspondent

The regular season is winding down for all 23 teams in the Badger Amateur Baseball Association.

The top four teams in all four divisions — East, West, North and South-Central — will begin postseason play Aug. 10 in the divisional round after regular-season action is scheduled to wrap up Aug. 3.

First-place teams will host fourth-place teams and third-place teams will be on the road to face second-place teams in the opening round.

Division finals are scheduled for Aug. 17.

Semifinals will be played Aug. 24, with the North Division champion heading to the West champion's home field and the East Division champion hosting the South-Central champion.

The BABA Grand Championship is set for Aug. 31, with the North/West winner from Aug. 24 facing the South-Central/East winner.

All playoff games will get underway at 1:30 p.m. and first pitch for the grandchampionship is set for 2 p.m.

Little Falls won last year's championship with a 4-2 win over Scandinavia.

East/West Division

July 20

Tilleda 7, Tigerton 3

Tilleda came up with five runs in the fifth inning and went on to defeat the Tigers.

Braylon Mielke led Tilleda at the plate with two hits and a team-high three RBIs. Zach Fehrman, Adin Brei, Jay Brei and Stephen Reinke added two hits each.

Austin Hoffman, Tyler Steinbach, Dylan Berg, Connor Harris, Pat Provoast, Kaleb Dahlstrom and Logan Wanta all had a hit for Tigerton.

Fehrman picked up the win and Patrick Bailey took the loss.

Marion 10, Shawano 2

Dave Jueds drove in three runs for the Meisters in a win over the Lakers in Marion.

Blake Weatherwax and Joe Weyenberg had three hits each for Marion, while Nick Schoen added two and Ryan Mortensen drove in a pair of runs.

Schoen picked up the win on the mound and Mike Korth took the loss.

Akron Verhein had two hits to lead Shawano.

Caroline 3, Crandon 0

Winning pitcher Klay Barkow struck out 11 Crandon batters over five innings to help lead the Cougars to a win over the Kentucks.

Jack Yeager and Mike Weatherwax had two hits for Caroline and Mason Breitenfeldt added his first BABA hit.

Cole Kupfer, Carsyn Mayer and Braden Brauer had hits for Crandon.

Matty Schallhorn took the loss for the Kentucks despite going the distance and striking out 10 batters.

Little Falls 11, Leopold 1 (8 inn.)

Parker Gullixson had three hits for the Loggers in a win over the Bulldogs.

Jenner Gullixson added two hits for Little

BABA, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Falls and Carter Kurki picked up the win on the mound.

Anderson Schmidt led Leopoldis with two hits and Andrew Kristof scored the Bulldogs' lone run with a solo homer.

Nate Laude took the loss.

Menominee 19, Clintonville 17

The Indians and A's combined for 36 runs in Keshena.

Gresham 12, Neopit 1 (7)

The Gophers needed only seven innings to get the win on the Chiefs' home field.

Winning pitcher Jerzy Broucker led the Gophers at the plate with three hits, while Trevor Granquist and Crew Weisnicht added two each.

Wendell Waukau hit a home run for Neopit and Jamison Beasaw took the loss.

July 18

Little Falls 18, Tilleda 2

Little Falls topped Tilleda in a rescheduled game in Marion.

North Division

July 18

Wittenberg 7, Aniwa 5

Aniwa hosted Wittenberg, but came up two runs short against the Pilots.

Winning pitcher Nathan

Waupekenay led the Pilots at the plate with five hits while holding the Orioles to five hits.

Pierson Potrykus and Zach Urquhart added two hits for Wittenberg.

Wade Farmer, Chris Wiesman and Brennan Boda had a double for Aniwa and Kody Szews took the loss on the mound.

Antigo/Polar 11, Hatley 2

Will Kubeny had three hits, including a home run and a double, to help lead Antigo/Polar to a win over the Braves in Antigo.

Antigo/Polar outhit Hatley 14-5. Eli Fleischman, Mason Gray, Logan Doering and Reed Kuenzli added two hits for Antigo/Polar and Brandon Olson had two hits to lead Hatley. Tanner Kocher also homered for the Braves.

A.J. Kirsch picked up the win on the mound and Ben Cumliffe took the loss.

Birnamwood 5, Elderon 1

Mason Mevarden led Birnamwood with three of his team's eight hits as the Kings defeated the Whiskey Jacks.

Zandyr Barke added two hits for Birnamwood and Logan Thieck picked up the win on the mound.

Elderon had 10 hits, with two each from Trevor

Groshek, Ian Salvesen and Brandon Groshek.

Kaleb Schulist took the loss.

South-Central Division

July 20

New London 8, Scandinavia 3

Winning pitcher Mike Helsten held the Vikings hitless over five innings and struck out five batters.

Cody Behm and Noah Hanson had two hits each to lead the Irish.

Alec Rogalla took the loss after giving up four runs in three innings on the mound.

Weymont 3, Plover 2

Plover 9, Weymont 8

Weymont and Plover split a doubleheader that included a makeup game.

Luke Schwenn picked up the win for the White Bass in the first game, while Caden Adam took the loss.

Chris Gunst scored two of Weymont's three runs.

Brady Houston out-pitched Collin Jorgensen in the second game.

Trevor Wetzell led Weymont with three hits and drove in a pair of runs, while Schwenn and Tyler Wetzell added two hits.

Kaden Thauer had three hits to lead Plover, while Houston added two.

CECIL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

with two hits each.

Navarino 15, Nichols 3

Navarino hosted Nichols for the annual Hall of Fame Game. After the game, the Rangers inducted Dan "Horse" Krause into the team's Hall of Fame.

Nichols took an early lead with a two-run home run in the top of the first inning, but managed only one more run the rest of the game.

Ryan Boettcher reached on an error for Navarino in the bottom of the inning and later scored on a passed ball.

The Rangers added to their lead with three more runs in the third inning. Mason Dingeldein led off with a single, Hunter Larson walked and Nick Dagneau and Ethan Bemowski had back-to-back singles to give Navarino a 4-2 lead.

Owen Weber opened Navarino's half of the fourth inning with a single, Boettcher drew a walk and Hunter added his first home run for the Rangers to give the home team a 7-2 advantage.

Nichols added a run in the fifth inning before the Rangers scored eight more runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Boettcher led off the inning with a double and Larson and Kyle Mrozinski drew walks to load the bases. Singles from Dagneau, Bemowski and Bailey Dingeldein put Navarino up 10-3. Weber drew a bases-loaded walk and Bemowski scored on Braylon Krull's single.

Boettcher's RBI single was his second hit of the inning and Mrozinski's double plated the Rangers' final run.

Mike Nompoggi picked up the win by allowing three earned runs on seven

hits and striking out eight batters over six innings.

Boettcher, Mrozinski, Dagneau, Bemowski and Weber each had two hits for the Rangers.

Pulaski 7, Marinette 4

The Reds improved to 8-5 in Dairyland League play with a road win over the Redbirds.

Easton Vertz picked up the win on the mound for Pulaski, Kyle Olson had two of Pulaski's seven hits.

Hortonville at Waupaca

Results not reported.

July 18

Navarino 4, Hortonville 1

Navarino broke a scoreless tie in the bottom of the fourth inning as Owen Weber doubled with two outs and scored on a wild pitch.

Hortonville loaded the bases in the next inning, but only scored one run to tie the game.

Navarino came up with three runs in the seventh. James Mutchie singled to score Weber, who had walked, to give the Rangers the lead for good. Jackson Young scored on Ryan Boettcher's RBI single to make it 3-1 and Mutchie scored the game's final run on a throwing error.

Hortonville loaded the bases in the top of the ninth with nobody out, but reliever Mike Nompoggi worked out of the jam and the game ended with a double play.

Mutchie held Hortonville to one hit over seven innings to get the win on the mound.

Mutchie, Boettcher and Mason Dingeldein led Navarino with two hits each.



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The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

OFF THE GROUND: By various means

by Billie Truitt

ACROSS

1 Sour-tasting

6 Longstocking of kid lit

11 Way of walking

15 Fake quarter

19 Part of USNA

20 Colloquial phrase

21 In the remote past

22 Light fog

23 Climate activist Thunberg

24 Attribute to, as blame

25 Strong smell

26 Off-ramp

27 Treating to supper out

31 Experiment analysis input

32 ___ Mahal

33 Contemporary witchcraft

37 "Yuck!"

38 With slots for quarters

41 Half a "You're excused" phrase

42 Air Force decoration: Abbr.

45 Leaving for work without eating

49 Gone with the Wind guy

51 Banister

52 ___ Baba

53 Abbr. like mlle.

54 Top-rated

55 Moral misstep

56 Steam iron's target

60 Sun. speech

61 Refusing payment due to insufficient funds

65 Impostors

67 Common Russian female name

68 Bath sponge

69 Bring on board

70 On ___ (fleeing)

73 Berating

78 Harry Potter pal

79 Anesthetizes

81 Deploy

82 Bestow upon

83 Mine: Fr.

85 Faulty firecracker

86 No longer fizzy

88 Still to come

89 Overcoming obstacles

95 ___-cone (icy treat)

96 Incites

97 Quick trip to the store

98 Faux ___

100 Operetta composer Franz

101 Make public

102 Varsity rowers

107 Accepting an offer eagerly

113 Boyfriend

116 Okra portions

117 Jazz (up)

118 Synthetic fiber

119 Amenable (to)

120 Creme-filled cookie

121 Freddy Krueger's addr.

122 Some corporate jets

123 Rhymester

124 Stitched line

125 Les ___-Unis

126 Minneapolis suburb

DOWN

1 Fearful feeling

2 ___ diem (seize the day: Lat.)

3 Civil rights leader Medgar

4 Ostrich or kiwi, to zoologists

5 Least spicy

6 Small songbird

7 Menzel of Frozen

8 Sonar sound

9 "And it's gone!"

10 Voicemail phrase

11 "Well done!"

12 Me, myself ___

13 Much-admired figure

14 Gull cousin

15 Old West officers

16 Hardly attentive

17 Commando film weapon

18 Figure out

28 Rubberneck

29 Pressed a doorbell

30 Star Wars series creature

34 Rough-textured

35 "Last Stand" general

36 Wedding vow venues

38 Cost-of-living no.

39 Dressing ingredient

40 Practical joke

41 Manicurist's tool

42 Nondescript

43 Wave off

44 List of choices

46 Common Russian female name

47 Regretful feeling

48 Antlered beast

50 Operatic voice

55 Registered as a guest

56 Defeats soundly

57 Modified mortgage, for short

58 Optimistic assertion

59 Countess' husband

62 Dues recipient

63 Grad

64 Grooming tool

66 IRA alternative

69 Reckless speed

70 See the world

71 Public tribute

72 Sufficient

73 Dog show official

74 Green dip, briefly

75 Is a contender

76 Welsh John

77 Overhaul

80 Habit wearer

84 Casablanca heroine

86 Enjoyable

87 TV display

88 All things considered

90 Pulled apart

91 Window over a door

92 Etymology abbr.

93 Frozen dessert brand

94 Proposal detail

99 Rubbernecked

102 Pirate's repository

103 Monopoly payments

104 Mao associate Zhou ___

105 Oak, formerly

106 Brainy group

108 GI addresses

109 Study, with "over"

110 Creative thought

111 Incline a bit

112 Game of Thrones rating

113 Short haircut

114 MPG rating agency

115 Prefix like atmo-

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8	3	1	5	6	7	4	9	2	
7	6	2	4	9	3	8	5	1	
9	2	5	6	4	8	3	1	7	
3	7	8	2	1	9	5	4	6	
1	4	6	3	7	5	2	8	9	
2	5	7	1	8	6	9	3	4	
6	8	9	7	3	4	1	2	5	
4	3	1	4	9	5	2	7	6	8

KNOPE

Heating and Air Conditioning

1473 E. Green Bay St., Shawano

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8 Years Running...

2024 PRESIDENTS AWARD

FACILITY AUTHORIZED DEALER

CARRIER

13 Years In A Row!

BEST OF SHAWANO LEADER

2024

CALL US TODAY AND EXPERIENCE OUR AWARD WINNING SERVICE FOR YOURSELF!

U.S. News and World Report

#1 HVAC COMPANY

2 YEARS IN A ROW

Best for:

✓ Industry Leadership

✓ Quiet Systems

✓ Energy Efficiency

Carrier

Turn to the experts

Think that's scary?

Sharks can be terrifying.
But what's really scary, and even
deadly, is distracted driving.

Eyes forward.
Don't drive distracted.



NHTSA



Don't
store it
in the
attic.
SELL
IT!




NEW MEDIA INC.
715-526-6188

Legals
WNAXLP

9d20b8bc
07/18/25, 07/25/25
CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given, that The City of Oconto Falls Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on August 12, 2025 at 5:00 PM in the Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 500 North Chestnut Avenue, Oconto Falls, Wisconsin. The purpose of this hearing is for the consideration of:
1. Town of Stiles Petition to Annex portion of County I from City boundary south of South Main Street north to the northside of Columbia Street 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.

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BUSINESS • FARM

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OCONTO FALLS, WI 54154
(920) 848-2341


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AGENCY, INC.

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MUTUAL INSURANCE
An Equal Opportunity Employer

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PARKVIEW
APARTMENTS

Oconto Falls
WHEDA
Subsidized Housing
1, 2, 3, Bedroom Apts.
MERIDIAN GROUP

920-846-3009
Equal Opportunity
Housing


EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

07/18/2025, 07/25/2025
BIDS WANTED

The Suring Public School District is accepting bids for milk to be delivered to the school and for a food distributor and bids for snow plowing/snow removal at the Suring School for the 2025-2026 school year.

To request bid specifications please call the district office 920-842-2178 ext. 1041. The deadline to receive bids will be Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 4pm.
WNAXLP

07/04, 11, 18, 25 /2025:
HELP WANTED!
Chief of Police
Village of Suring, Wisconsin

The Village of Suring is seeking a Full-Time Chief of Police. See Village of Suring website at <https://ci.suring.wi.us/employment-opportunities/> for details. Candidates should apply by submitting the following: completed dj-le300 application, resume and cover letter to: Clerk-Treasurer, P.O. Box 31, Suring, WI 54174. Posting will be open until filled.

Date Posted at Village Hall and on website 6/20/2025.
WNAXLP

Oconto County Medication Drop Boxes

Protect our kids, our community, and our environment
by getting rid of unwanted medications from your home.



Drop Box Locations:



✓ Gillett Police Department

✓ Suring Police Department

✓ Oconto Falls Police Department

✓ Oconto County Sheriff's Office, Oconto

✓ Nicolet Pharmacy, Lakewood

✓ Riverview Community Center, Mountain

visit www.ocph.info for more information.


OCONTO COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

Barbie



Meet Barbie. She is a year old pit looking for her forever home! She is a sweet and fun young dog. She does well in her kennel, is potty trained, walks well, and knows sit/shake.

HENRY



Meet Henry! He has recently finished a 4 month long heartworm treatment and is now ready for adoption. He has your typical hound dog personality. Stop by if you would like to meet this big boy.

DOWNY



Downy- Meet Downy. She is a 4 year old cat looking for a home. She is good with meeting new people, good with kids, and is well behaved in her home. She lived with other cats previously so she may be a good match for a multiple cat household.

DAWN



Meet Dawn! Dawn was surrendered to the shelter through no fault of her own. She is a friendly girl looking for a forever home! She can be a tad vocal but only when she wants some pets!


Champion Collision, Inc.
Larry's Towing & Recovery
Phone: 920-846-0430
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,
Sat. & Sun.
8am-11am.

To place your ad here
call 920-360-3450

39th ANNUAL
OCONTO FALLS City-Wide
RUMMAGE SALE WEEKEND
August 7,8,9,10
WELCOME TO THE
CITY WIDE GARAGE AND YARD SALE

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
THERE ARE 3 EASY WAYS TO REGISTER: Email us at tmurphy@newmedia-wi.com, or Call Us at: 715-526-2121, or Stop By Our Office at, 420 N. Chestnut Avenue, Oconto Falls. any Friday from 8am until noon. There will be a \$20.00 registration fee which includes an ad of up to 30 words, (over 30 words, add 50¢ per word), your approximate location published on a map in the August 1st and 8th Oconto County Times Herald, and one large rummage sale sign. Make checks payable to New Media.
The deadline is Noon, Friday, July 25, 2025.
No "on the map" Ads Will Be Accepted After This Date.

Name: _____
City: _____
Phone: _____
Address of Sale: _____
Thurs. Hrs: _____ Fri. Hrs.: _____ Sat. Hrs.: _____ Sun. Hrs: _____
List type of merchandise offered (any special items).
Please separate items with a comma, or a period. 30 words or less \$20.00. Over 30 words add 50¢ per word. Make checks payable to New Media.
DEADLINE: Noon Friday, July 25, to be on the map.

ONE WORD IN EACH SPACE

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30

OCONTO COUNTY
TIMES HERALD
420 N. Chestnut Avenue,
Oconto Falls WI 54154

Pat's Market

GILLETT (920) 855-6040

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

Deli Closing at 6:00 pm**

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

HSBS PHARMACY HOURS:

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

These prices good July 28th thru Aug 3rd

While Supplies Last!

Accepting Mastercard, Visa, Discover and Quest Cards
We reserve the right to limit quantities.



Crav'n Potato Chips



2/\$3

Asst Variety
7.75-8.5oz

Brew Pub Lotzza Motzza Pizza



\$5.99

Asst Variety
20-26.82oz

Gerber Amish Leg Quarters



\$1.99
lb

Pork Back Ribs

\$3.49^{lb}

USDA Choice T-Bone Steak



\$15.59
lb

Sea Farer Imitation Crab

\$3.49

16oz
Flakes or
Chunks

USDA Choice Boneless Sirloin Sizzler Steaks



\$8.59
lb

Kraft Macaroni & Cheese

99¢ Asst Variety
5.5-7.25oz

Heinz Easy Squeeze Ketchup

\$2.99 20oz

Green Giant Russet Potatoes



\$2.39
5lb Bag

Beefsteak Tomatoes



\$1.69
lb

Naval Oranges



\$4.99
3lb Bag

Lemons



79¢
each

Red Raspberries



\$2.99
6oz

Kretschmar Virginia Smoked Regular or Honey Ham



\$4.99

lb
Shaved or Sliced

Niagara Drinking Water



\$2.99

24pk/16.9oz

Banquet Pot Pies



\$1.19

Asst Variety
5.5-6.4oz

Prairie Farms Sour Cream



\$2.29

16oz

Keebler Club or Town House Crackers



2/\$5

Asst Variety
9.5-13.58oz

Doritos



2/\$8

Asst Variety
7.25-10.75oz

Sunny D



\$2.99

Asst Variety
128oz

Old Orchard 100% Juice



2/\$5

Asst Variety
64oz

Assorted Post Cereals



2/\$6

11-14.75oz

Food Club Frozen Fruit



2/\$5

Asst Variety
12-16oz



HAULIN' CASH!

HAUL AWAY UP TO
\$3,000
EVERY FRIDAY (5PM - 11PM)



GRAND PRIZE DRAWING
FOR CAMPER @ 11:45PM ON AUG 1st, 15th & 29th.

**Weekly Free
Entertainment**



**AUGUST
LINEUP:**

Big Snake 1 & 2
Around Town 8 & 9
Monro 15 & 16
The Hucksters 22
Curious Crow 23
DJ Liz & the Karaoke Killers 29 & 30

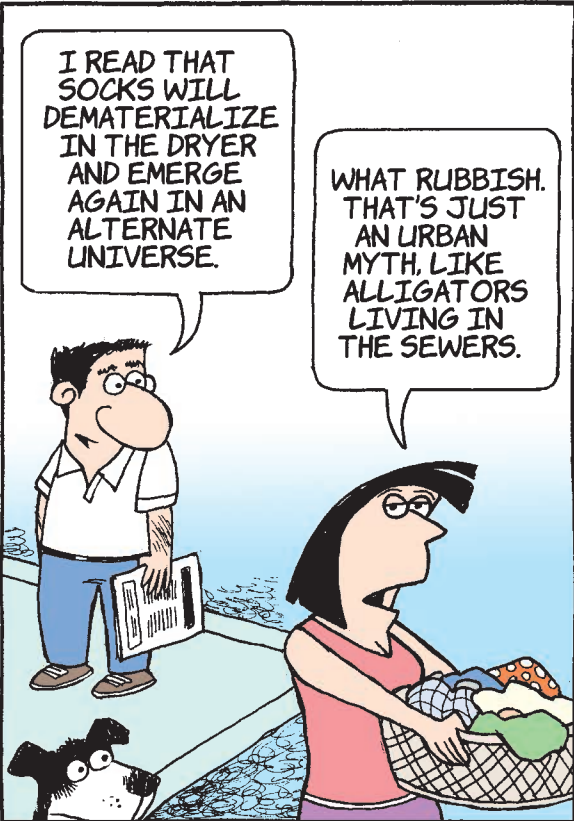
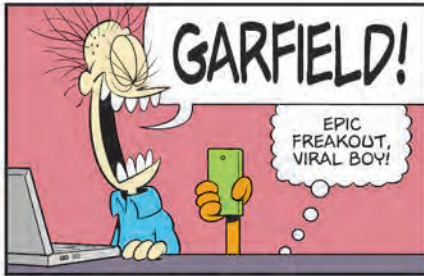
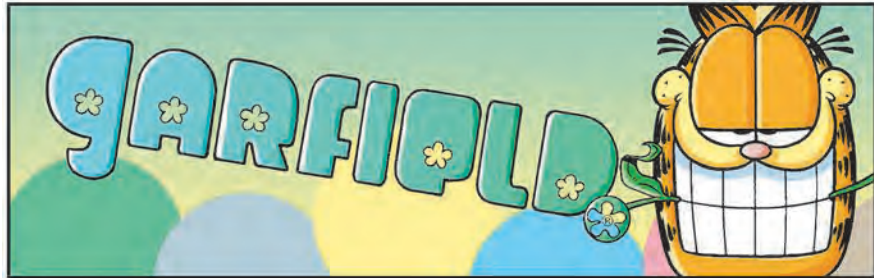
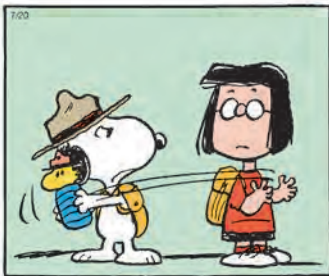
All Shows Are 21 And Older.

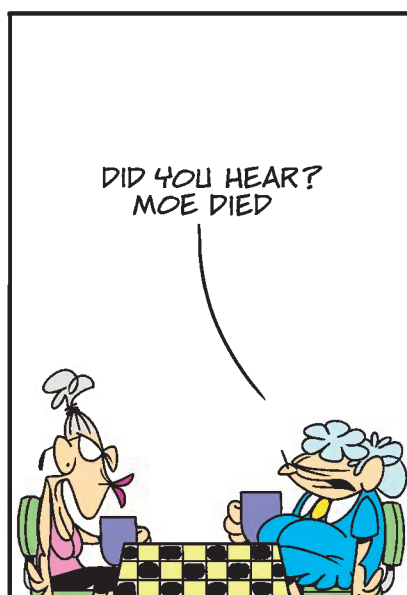
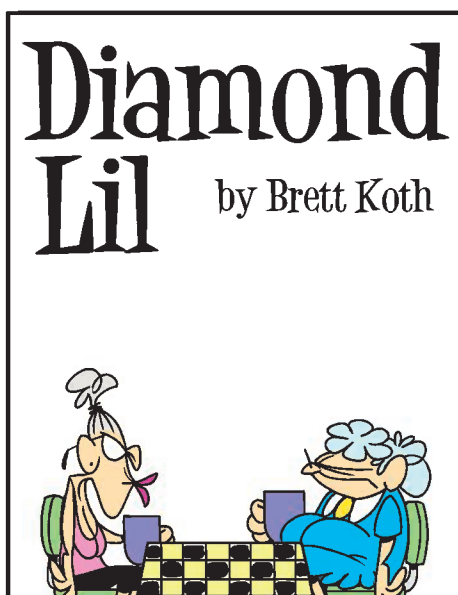
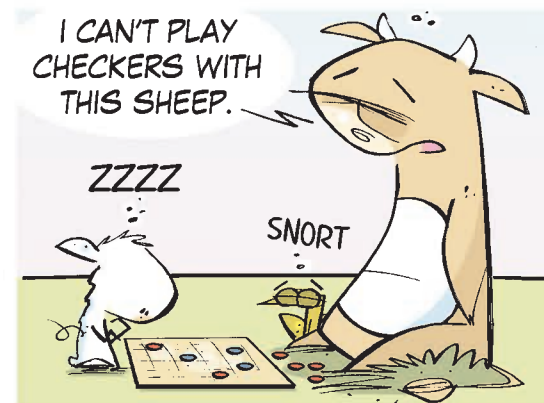
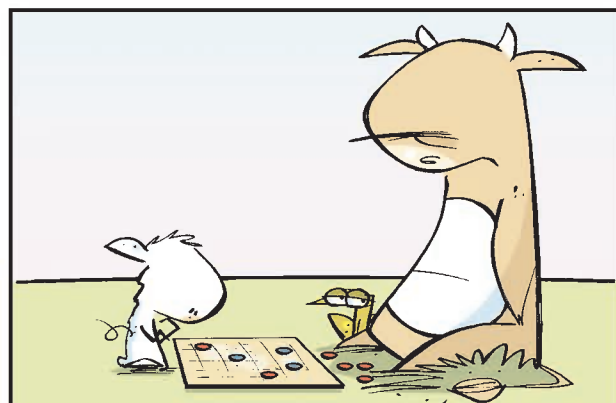
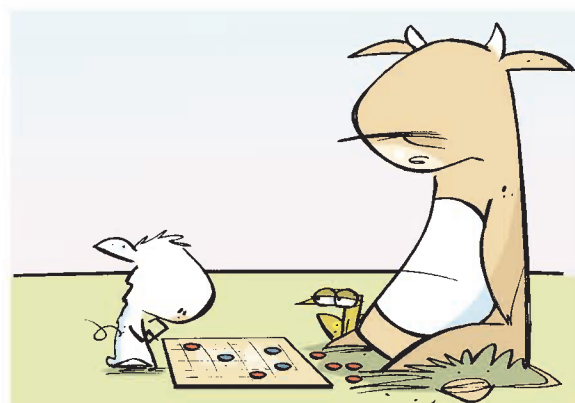
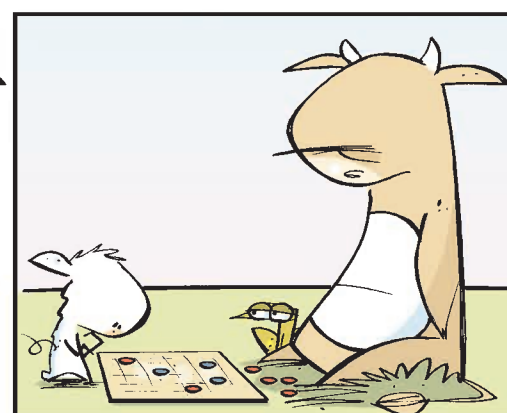
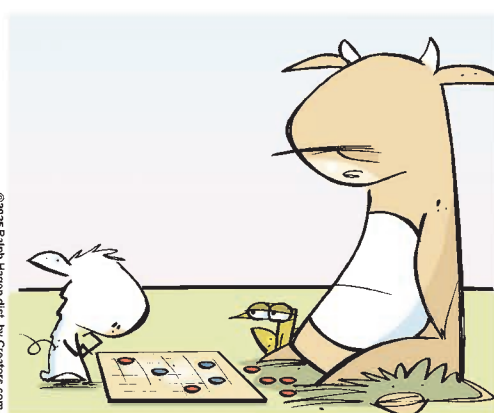
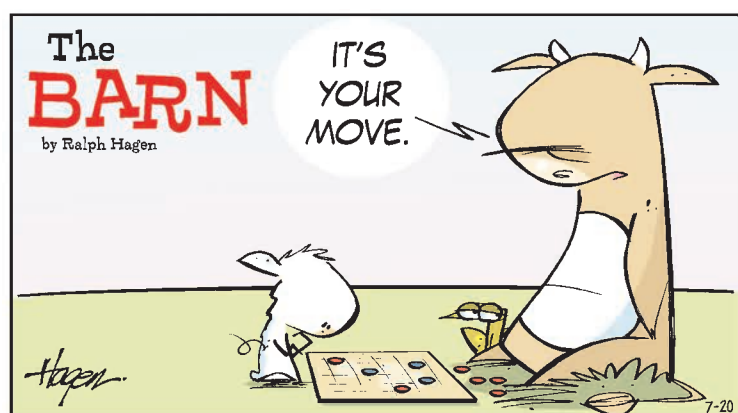
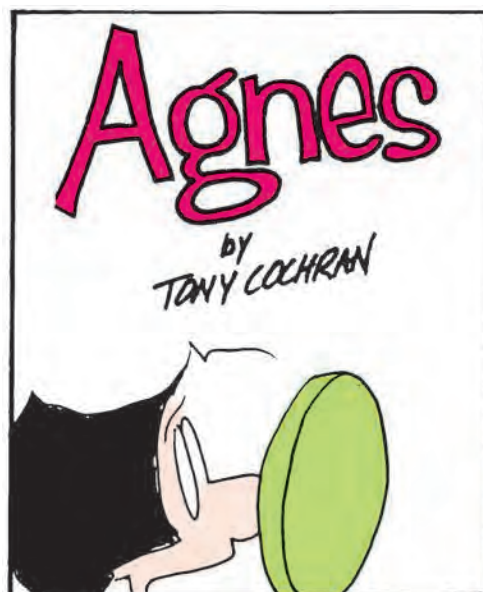
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WHERE THE
STARS ALIGN

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1.800.952.0195
northstarcasinoresort.com

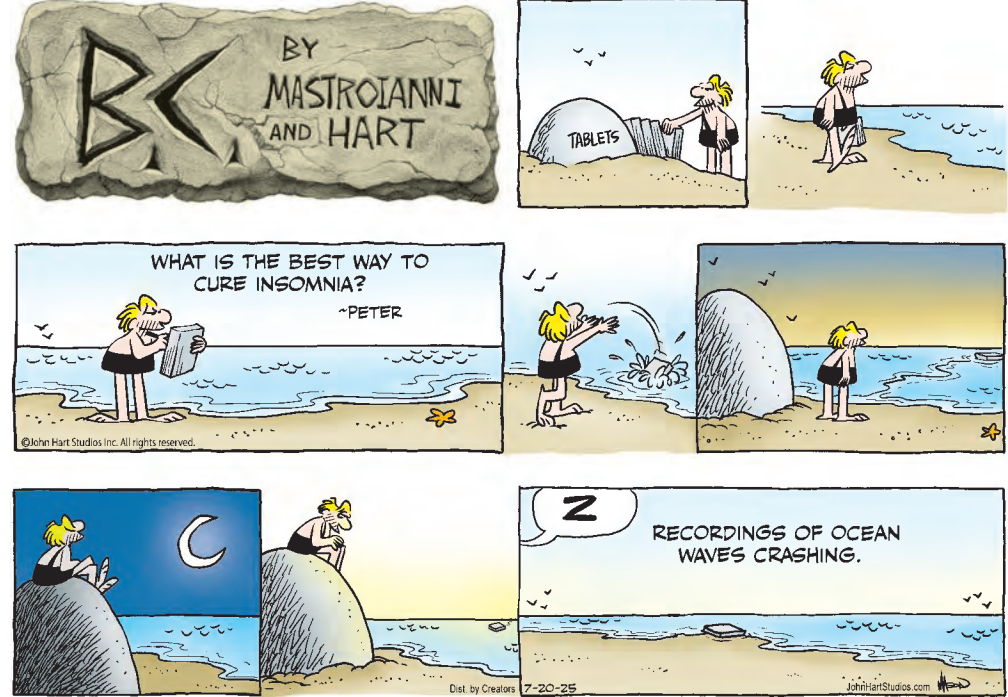
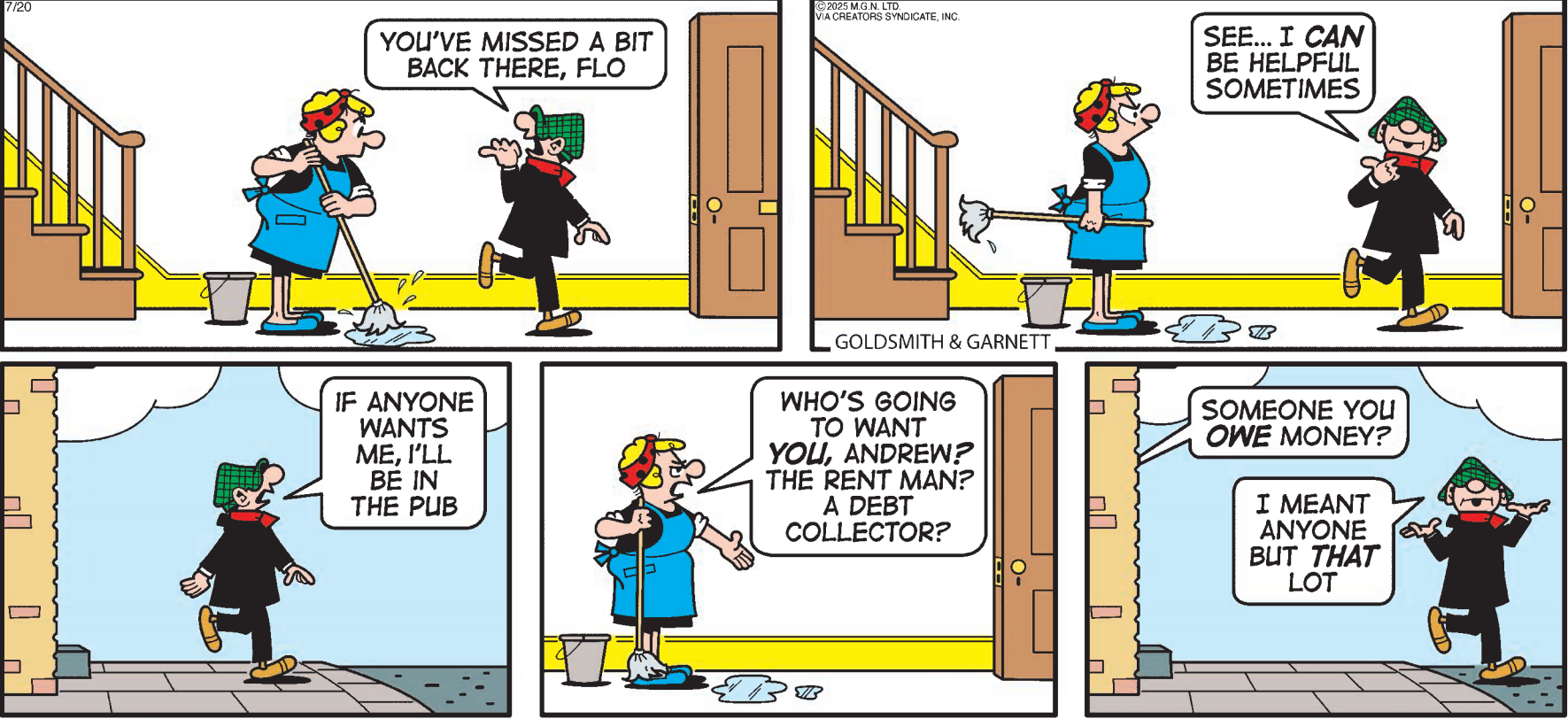






ANDY CAPP

by Smythe



DOGS OF C-KENNEL BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI

